

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News January 2020

2019 Accomplishments



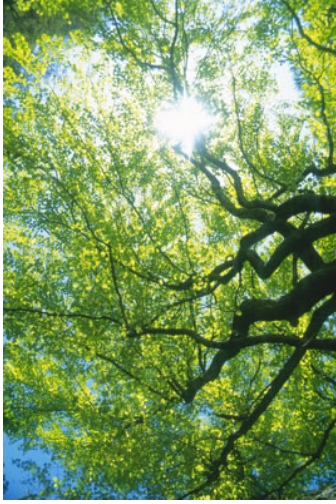
Thank you to everyone who helped make 2019 such a remarkable year! Some highlights were becoming the local certified sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Program, partnering on the first Manure & You Workshop and sharing news of available Western Lake Erie Basin Funding. The MS4 and stormwater permit programs continue to gain momentum. There were Board Supervisor changes, staff added and we heard news that we were granted funds by the Richland County Foundation for 2 interns. Our volunteer team is 70 members strong and growing. Their hardwork and dedication were rewarded by being notified that they were recipients of the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Awards. The Annual Celebration was well attended, the Milkweed Seed Pod collection netted 22 pounds of pods from the public and many packets of milkweed seeds were given away for planting. We began working with the newly formed Business Friendly Environment Committee (now called Build Richland) and a partnership with Mansfield Christian School on stream monitoring was formed. We were fortunate to partner with a number of additional organizations in 2019 and are looking forward to continuing and increasing our partnerships in 2020. If you're interested in partnering with Richland SWCD, please contact [us](#). Please read the [2019 Report](#) for details. Happy New Year!

What's In Store for 2020?

We have many events, programs and partners on tap for this year. Some events are originating with us and others we are partnering throughout the county. More may be added by the time the year ends, but this is what we are anticipating so far. For a list of what Richland SWCD has in store for you this year, click on this [schedule](#).

NEW YEAR, NEW MS4 Theme

The 2020 MS4 (Runoff is commonly transported through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Theme is "Trees – Reduce and Clean Stormwater" so this year you will be learning how trees help manage stormwater. Did you know trees are the most productive filters on the planet, starting from their canopy down to their roots? They help



improve water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes by reducing flooding and minimizing chemical/ sediment runoff. The tree's canopy acts as a large umbrella capturing rainwater as it falls, which reduces the speed and amount that reaches the ground and becomes stormwater runoff. Trees root system takes up various pollutants and reduces the effects of erosion. An average tree can catch and hold onto 700 to 1000 gallons of rainwater a year. (Multiple Sources)
Find out more, [here](#).

February Deadline for CREP Program Bonus

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program or CREP, is a federal and state conservation partnership designed to address agriculture-related environmental concerns. Participants receive financial incentives from USDA to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive cropland or pastureland in contracts for 15 years. In return for annual rental payments that average about \$154 per acre and financial incentives, participants convert the land to native grasses, trees and other conservation vegetation. Enrollment is on a continuous basis, as funding permits. Eligible land must be in the portion of the Lake Erie Watershed and must meet basic eligibility criteria for USDA's Conservation Reserve Program.



BONUS!!!

· An additional \$200 per acre incentive will be provided for all newly enrolled filter strip and riparian area practices through February 20, 2020.

Click here for [CREP Program Information](#).

Introducing New Interns



We're pleased to introduce Will Trombley and Hayley Hoot, this semester's interns. They both attend the University of Toledo and their positions are funded by the Richland County Foundation. Welcome, Will and Hayley!

Will: I am a sophomore, majoring in environmental engineering. My hometown is Willoughby Hills Ohio. I decided to intern at

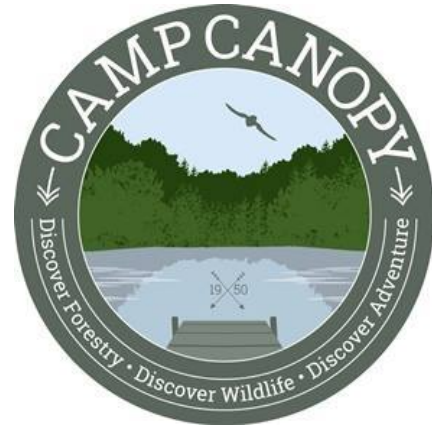
Richland SWCD for the opportunity to get hands on engineering and environmental experience, as well as increase my knowledge of engineering programs and government work. I hope to learn what it takes to be successful in the day to day life of not only a government worker, but and engineer as well.

Hayley: I am in my senior year of college, studying environmental engineering at the University of Toledo. I was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. I wanted to intern with Richland SWCD because I was very interested in surveying the land and analyzing soil and water samples. I like how for this internship you are exposed to many different parts of the job such as permit work, event planning, surveying, ARCGIS, and more. I am hoping to learn and be exposed to as much as I can.

See more [photos](#) of Will and Hayley.

Camp Canopy Scholarship

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) is sponsoring two scholarships to the 2020 Camp Canopy from [June 7 to 12](#), 2020, at the FFA Camp Muskingum at Leesville Lake in Carroll County. This week long residential camp for high school students explores forestry and wildlife education in addition to traditional camp activities—campfires, watersports, ropes courses and more.



Scholarship applicants must be a Richland County, Ohio resident, a high school student and at least 15 years old at the time of camp. The value of each scholarship is \$375.00.

Scholarship ([application](#)) and a one-page statement explaining in detail why the applicant wishes to attend camp, what the applicant hopes to gain from the experience and how it will benefit the applicant's future are due by **April 6, 2020**. Application and statement should be mailed to 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205 B, Mansfield, Ohio 44906. Attention: Camp Canopy Scholarship.

The scholarship recipients may be asked by the Richland SWCD Board of Supervisors to provide a short report and/or presentation at a Richland SWCD event with photos highlighting their camp experiences.

Precipitation Monitor Volunteers Busy

We've had a roller-coaster ride of weather in the last few months and it looks as though that is going to continue in the near future. See the precipitation amounts volunteers have been reporting in our 8 watersheds on the [Water Data Map](#). Thank you, volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering as a Precipitation Monitor, volunteer training will be held Tuesday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Activities

February 4: [Precipitation Monitor Volunteer Training](#)

February 17: Offices closed in observation of Presidents Day

February 24 and 25: Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District Partner Meeting, Columbus

March 12: [Raising Richland](#): Save the Date - details to be announced

See "What's In Store in 2020" section above for complete list of upcoming events.

Other Events and News

[Gorman Nature Center](#) Family Friendly Bird Day & the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15, 8:00 a.m.

Farm Bureau [Farmers Share Breakfast - Shelby High School](#), February 29, 7 to 10:30 a.m.

[OSU Syrup and Salamanders](#), February 29, 9 am to 12 noon

[Establish a Pollinator Habitat](#)

[Tips to Consider Before Starting Spring Agriculture Field Work](#)

[Reminder About Using the Right S.A.L.T. This Winter](#)

[Bald Eagle Population Improving in Ohio](#)

SWCD Staff

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson
Fred Cooke, Treasurer
Aaron Dearth, At Large
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary
Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44906. The meetings are open to the public. Call to confirm meeting date, time and attendance. If you plan to attend a board meeting, please contact Erica Thomas, District Administrator, in advance so that enough meeting packets will be prepared.

NEW!!!

To be more efficient in answering and managing phone calls, we are using an automated answering system. If you call

NRCS Staff

Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist

419-747-8691

jason.ruhl@oh.usda.gov

our main number at 419-747-8686 you will be given the opportunity to connect with a staff member or partnering office.

Individual phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the left. If you have any questions, please [let us know](#).

Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist

567-280-6058

dbenner@pheasantsforever.org

RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906
419.747.8686 | www.RichlandSWCD.net

See what's happening on our social sites:



For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including scanning and archiving historical photos and documents, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Quality Monitor, Office Assistant, Photographer, help with Special Events or be an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#). **Congratulations to volunteers for being awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Chief's Field Office awards!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability or veteran status.

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"