

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News June 2021

Stormwater H2Ohio Technician Joins Staff

Evan Stern is the latest addition to Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. Evan is originally from Upstate New York, where he grew up and attended Houghton College (NY) for environmental biology. His adventures, both during and after school, have taken him from Latin America to Alaska, to East Africa. His conservation endeavors included stints with the New York State Parks, the National Park Service, Tiff Nature Preserve (Buffalo, NY) and The Wilds. These positions taught him a great deal about the hard work and dedication it takes to preserve our natural resources, and he is excited to join the Richland County SWCD to do just that. Evan will be taking on responsibilities regarding our stormwater and H2Ohio programs. You can often find him staring into the tops of trees (he is a birder!), taking hikes with his lovely fiancé, or occasionally rock climbing. Please join us in welcoming [Evan](#) and don't hesitate to stop by and introduce yourself.



Summer Intern Hits the Ground Running

Mary Thomas is our summer intern and hails from Fredericktown. She is going to Ohio State University this year for her first year in their Civil Engineering program. Some of Mary's



responsibilities are helping out with Soil & Water events, marketing, and assisting our technicians.

Funding for the position is provided from the Richland County Foundation Fran and Warren Rupp Advised Fund.

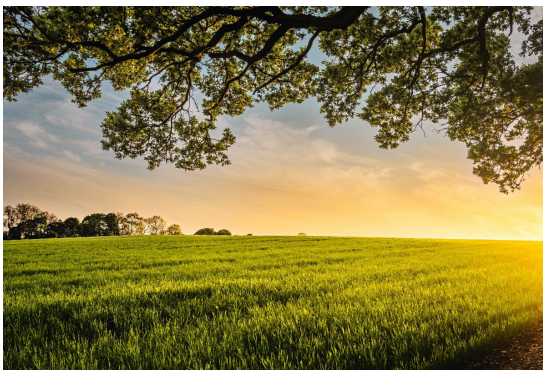
While a student at Highland High School, Mary was heavily involved in the FFA chapter and participated in the soil judging contest. Through the contest, her knowledge and interest in conservation were increased and contributed to her interest in the internship.

Through volunteering with Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD), Mary has learned the names and faces of the Richland SWCD team. Mary stated, "My volunteer work has been fun and engaging. It not only meets the needs of the District, but also my interest and skill."

After obtaining her degree in Civil Engineering, Mary hopes to pursue a career in surveying. Through the internship, she hopes to gain more knowledge and experience in surveying, plus meet people in the surveying field.

Mary is enjoying her internship and looking forward to continuing her work on a variety of projects and with staff. The next event you'll find Mary at is the [Family Fun on the Farm Festival](#) on July 3. Please join us in welcoming, Mary, and don't hesitate to stop by to introduce yourself.

Manure & You and H2Ohio, too!



Join Richland Soil and Water Conservation District for Manure & You and H2Ohio, too! on **July 13** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield.

Please register by July 6. For special needs or accommodations please call 419-747-8691 ext. 7120 or 3

by July 6.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes a pizza lunch. Click [here](#) for a flyer and registration form.

Learn more about soil and manure testing, installation and benefits of filter beds, grassed waterways, planning for extreme weather and more. Certified Crop Adviser and Certified Livestock Manager Continuing Ed Credits (pending.)

Speakers are Terry Mescher and Justin McBride, Ohio Department of Agriculture; Matt Wallace, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, Jason Ruhl and Nick Lee, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cody Beacom, Bird Agronomics and Aaron Wilson, The Ohio State University.

The workshop is being sponsored by Richland, Ashland, Crawford, and Huron Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) – Ashland and Richland Counties, Ohio Farm Bureau - Crawford and Richland Counties, and East of Chicago Pizza – Shelby and Galion are sponsoring the workshop. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Only Rain Down the Drain: Don't Leave Your Yard Bare

This month's [Only Rain Down the Drain](#) tip is about sweeping, not washing off, driveways and sidewalk debris.

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes, Lake Erie or the Ohio River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico so we want to do everything we can to keep them clear of debris, litter, and pollutants.



One way we can help is to plant bare spots in our yards. Here are some of the benefits of covering bare soil:

1. Planting bare spots can reduce erosion of soils.
2. If the bare spot is caused by excess water in your yard, consider building a [rain garden](#). This will help control the flooding by absorbing a lot of the excess water. Contact [Dan](#) or [Jordan](#) for assistance.
3. Planting a tree or grass can help to make the soil healthier and help to filter pollutants from the stormwater.
4. Native plant species can attract native insects and will give you a beautiful garden. This will also help with pollinators and if you plant milkweed you will attract the endangered Monarch Butterfly. We recommend Common Milkweed for Monarch butterflies

To find out more about Only Rain Down the Drain and the MS4 program, contact [Dan](#) or visit the MS4 page on the [website](#).

H2Ohio Program Coming to Richland County

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's comprehensive, data-driven water quality plan to reduce harmful algal blooms, improve wastewater infrastructure, and prevent lead contamination.

Governor DeWine's H2Ohio plan



is an investment in targeted solutions to help reduce phosphorus runoff and prevent algal blooms through increased implementation of agricultural best practices and the creation of wetlands; improve wastewater infrastructure; replace failing home septic systems; and prevent lead contamination in high-risk daycare centers and schools. The

Ohio General Assembly invested \$172 million in the plan in July, and since then, H2Ohio experts have been developing strategies for long-term, cost-effective, and permanent water quality solutions.

There are four Virtual roll out meetings planned. The meetings are an opportunity to learn more about the H2Ohio program and the incentive dollars available.

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 6 to 8 p.m. – watch on your own

Thursday, July 22, 2021 – 9 to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 29, 2021 – 1 to 3 p.m.

The deadline to apply for H2Ohio is August 31 so you want to make sure to attend one of the roll out meetings and apply right away.

All Workshops are at the Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield except for July 20. Visit the [website](#) or call 419-747-8686 for details.

Family Fun on the Farm Festival



FAMILY FUN ON THE FARM FESTIVAL
July 3, 2021
Malabar Farm State Park
3 to 6 p.m.
7 p.m. Barn Dance
Free to Public and Fun for Whole Family!
Archery, Imagination Stations, Fishing, Music, Farmers Market, Food Trucks and More!

Join Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, Malabar Farm State Park and our partners for the first Family Fun on the Farm Festival on Saturday, July 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be farm activities, free fishing for children, wagon rides, food trucks, make and take projects, agriculture and conservation trivia and a whole lot more! Contact [Theresa](#) or get more details [here](#).

USDA Announces Another Round of Funding

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Ohio is accepting applications for a second round of funding for the Classic Conservation Stewardship

Program (CSP). Agricultural producers wanting to enhance current conservation efforts are encouraged to **apply by the July 9, 2021 deadline.**

Through CSP, conventional and organic agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. Click [here](#) for more information.



Important Dates

July 3: [Family Fun on the Farm Festival](#), 3 to 6 p.m., Malabar Farm

July 5: Office closed in observance of July 4

July 13: [Manure & You and H2Ohio, too!](#), Longview Center

July 20: [H2Ohio Virtual Meeting](#), 6 to 8 p.m. – watch on your own

July 22: [H2Ohio Virtual Meeting](#), 9 to 11 a.m., Longview Center

July 28: [H2Ohio Virtual Meeting](#), 6 to 8 p.m., Longview Center

July 28: [Oh Crap!](#), July 28, 6 p.m., Valley Vista Farms, 1567 CR 175, Jeromesville.

July 29: [H2Ohio Virtual Meeting](#), 1 to 3 p.m., Longview Center

July 30: Office closed for professional development

July 31: [Pollinator Festival](#), Gorman Nature Center

August 1: [Pollinator Festival](#), Gorman Nature Center

August 5: [Black Fork Ditch Petition Meeting](#), 6:30 p.m., Longview Center

August 8 to 15: [Richland County Fair](#)

SWCD Staff

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson
Fred Cooke, Treasurer
Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary
David Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at

Jordan Keller, Urban Technician
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Evan Stern
H2Ohio Stormwater Technician
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NRCS Staff

Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist
419-747-8691
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Noah Cable, Farm Bill Biologist
419-707-2940
ncable@pheasantsforever.org

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.

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

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.