

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

March 2019

Meet the New ODA Director

We're partnering with Morrow and Knox Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the Meet and Greets the Ohio Department of Agriculture has scheduled with Director Pelanda. This is your chance to meet the new Director in an informal setting. It will last about an hour with a brief introduction by Director Pelanda and the remaining time doing Q & A with guests. The Director wants to hear the issues that matter to Ohioians and what they think ODA and state government could do.

The Meet and Greet will be held at Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District this **Friday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m. The address is 5362 US Highway 42, Suite 202, Mt. Gilead, OH 43338.**



Tree Seedling Sale

We are partnering with Clear Fork FFA Alumni to hold the annual [Tree Seedling Sale](#).

April 5 locations: Clear Fork High School, Planktown Market and Richland County Fairgrounds.

April 6 location: Richland County Fairgrounds.

Choose from Norway Spruce, White Pine, Douglas Fir, Arborvitae, Balsam Fir, Flowering Dogwood, Red Mulberry, Ohio Buckeye, White Oak, Sugar Maple, Persimmon, Tulip Poplar, Red Oak, Black Walnut, Scarlet Oak, Black Cherry and Dawn Redwood.

COST: \$10.00 per Bundle of 8

For further details and an order form, please visit our [website](#).

Pond Fish Sale

It's Time to Stock Your Pond!

Choose from Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Bluegill, Channel Catfish, White Amur and Fathead Minnows.

Orders and payment are due by Friday, April 19, 2019.

Pick-up is Friday, April 26, 2019, at 10:00 at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

Cost: \$1.00 each other than White Amur (\$14 each) and Fathead Minnows (\$6.00 per 100, minimum order of 100)

Total minimum order: \$20.00

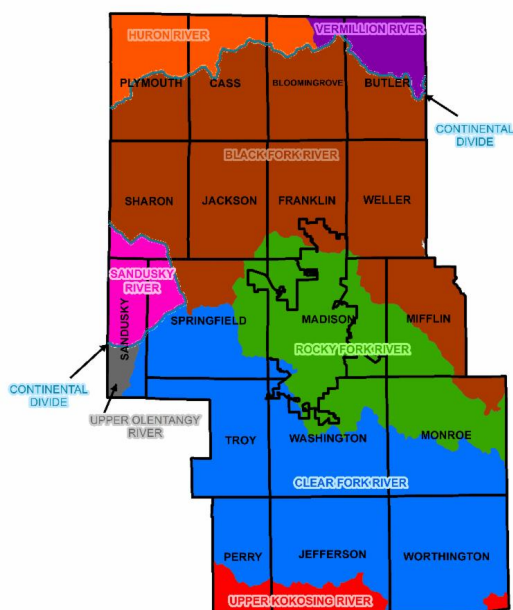
Further details and an order may be found on our [website](#).



Western Lake Erie Basin Help

The new [Ohio Working Lands](#) program is available to encourage producers to establish year-round vegetative cover on eligible crop land in the Sandusky River - Western Basin of Lake Erie. The program will promote conversion, establishment and maintenance of forage/hay land on certain cropland acres.

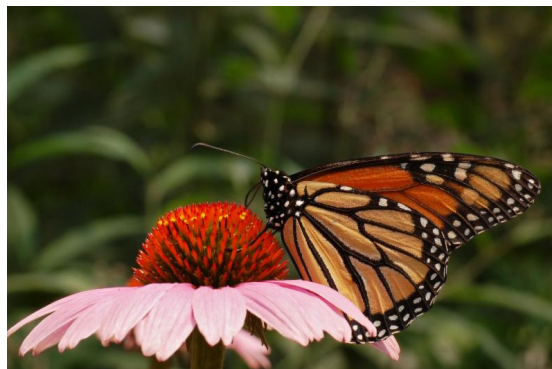
Richland SWCD office staff will assist landowners on putting together a plan for installing these buffers. Landowners will be eligible to receive up to \$120/acre/year for a 5-year contract. The goal of the program is to reduce nutrients entering Ohio waterways to lessen harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. Program enrollment is underway and **runs through May 1**.



Free Milkweed Seeds

Help the Monarch butterfly by planting milkweed seeds. Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch Butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing. It also serves as a food source for Monarchs and many other pollinator species.

Pick up free milkweed seeds and planting instructions at our office while supplies last.



Precipitation Monitors

March has been another active month for Precipitation Monitors. To follow what rain and snowfall amounts they have reported, check out the [Water Data Map](#). Precipitation Monitors report rain and



snow amounts from work or home. This volunteer program doesn't require a lot of time. We provide the equipment and training. You just need to have access to the internet. If you want to join the Precipitation Monitor volunteer program, please [contact us](#).

Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans

We recommend that producers follow a Nutrient Management Plan to help prevent nutrient runoff. We will work with you to create the plan. If you implement and follow the plan, you'll reap the benefits.

Reasons to have a plan in place:

- Potential to reduce fertilizer costs
- Potential to increase yields
- Maximize nutrient use efficiency and minimize nutrients leaving the field
- Potentially qualify for Environmental Quality Incentive Program funding for conservation practices
- Have an "affirmative defense" as stated in Ohio law against private civil lawsuits such as those brought by environmental groups if a nutrient management plan is created and the objectives of the plan are met.

The farming community is working together with Richland SWCD and others – to lead the way and show others the importance of doing their part to protect water quality. As land stewards, we are addressing a higher level of land management which will affect future generations. [Contact us](#) today to get started on creating a Nutrient Management Plan.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

Learn about the Water Cycle, Stormwater and Runoff and how you can reduce stormwater pollution in our lakes, rivers and streams in this interactive and educational video, plus quiz. Click on [Only Rain Down the Drain Interactive Demo](#).

Test Your Soil Before You Plant



Before you plant this spring, have your soil tested. Knowing your soil's composition before planting will save you time, money and frustration. Bring in your soil sample from your garden, landscaped beds or lawn and we will send it to a certified lab to be tested. To get more information, click [here](#).

Upcoming Activities

March 28: [Earth Stewardship Celebration](#) Kick-Off, Richland Public Health

March 29: ODA Director Pelanda Meet & Greet

April 5 & 6: [Clear Fork Tree Seedling Sale](#)

April 19: [Fish Sale Orders Due](#)

April 26: Fish Sale Pick Up, 10:00 a.m., Richland County Fairgrounds

April 28 to May 4: Soil and Water Stewardship Week

November 7: Annual Celebration-**Save the Date!!!!**

Other News

[The Vernal Poolooza Wetland Science Conference](#)

[Environmental Education Council of Ohio \(EECO\) Annual Conference](#)

[Cover Crop field day](#)

[Wake up your raised bed garden](#)

[What do gardens bring to urban ecosystems?](#)

[What are the factors that determine seed germination?](#)

[Keep storm drains clean](#)

[Attract songbirds through forestation](#)

[Keeping phosphorous out of waterways](#)

[Pollinators keep Humanity fed and healthy](#)

SWCD Staff

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson

Kyle Bailey, Secretary

Fred Cooke, Treasurer

Lanny Hopkins, At Large

Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 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 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 or an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#).

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.