



Annual Celebration



In case you weren't able to attend the Annual Celebration or watch virtually, you can watch the Facebook Live video [here](#) and [here](#). We have also posted [photos](#) on the website. Congratulations to the award recipients and election winners. You'll read more about them in the following articles. Thank you to the Richland County Commissioners, Board Supervisors, the Ohio Soil and

Water Commission; ODA, Soil and Water Conservation, USDA-NRCS, our partners, donors, supporters and volunteers for contributing to a successful year.

Photo (L to R): Commissioner Tony Vero, Cass Gwirtz, Lisa Gwirtz, Brianna Gwirtz, Commissioner Darrell Banks. Cass Gwirtz and his family enrolled 155 acres into the Farmland Preservation Program.

Alt and McConkie, Jr. Elected as Board Supervisors

Congratulations to Brian Alt for being re-elected as Board Supervisor and to Robert McConkie, Jr. for being elected as Board Supervisor. Both will begin three-year terms on January 1, 2021. They will join other current Board Supervisors Fred Cooke, Lanny Hopkins and David Krichbaum. Thank you to Jodie Dees, Daniel Fletcher and Michael Graham for running.

Randy and Eileen Eisenhower, Eisenhower Family Farm Cooperators of the Year

Randy and Eileen Eisenhower, Eisenhower Family Farm was recognized as the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) Cooperator of the Year at the Annual Celebration held November 5, 2020. The Eisenhower's dedication to numerous conservation practices serve to protect and preserve Richland County's natural resources. Randy and Eileen Eisenhower have been committed to agriculture and conservation their entire lives.



In addition to being recognized by the District, Randy and Eileen received commendations from Senator Larry Obhof on behalf of the Ohio Senate, Representative Mark Romanchuk on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives and Richland County Commissioners. Darrell Banks, Marilyn John and Tony Vero.

[Learn more](#) about Randy, Eileen and the many conservation practices their family has implemented. Thank you, Randy and Eileen!

Denise Tenison Named Volunteer of the Year



Also announced at the Annual Celebration was Denise Tenison, the Richland SWCD 2020 Volunteer of the Year. Denise is a long-time volunteer with Richland SWCD. She is a Precipitation, Lake and Stream Monitor Volunteer.

Denise was born in Mansfield. She and her husband of 34 years, Denny, live outside Lexington not far from Clear Fork Reservoir and have two adult children.

Prior to 1998, Denise conducted lake monitoring for the District while on Clear Fork Reservoir. She resumed volunteering again for the District in 2015. She has been joined by her husband, Denny, and her daughter Christina, on her volunteer activities. She and Denny now kayak out to two sites on the Clear Fork to collect data twice a month. She also developed an interest in daily precipitation monitoring in 2015 and lastly began stream monitoring, with this being her second season. She collects data at four different sites on the Black Fork outside of Shelby each month. Denise volunteered approximately 85 hours so far this year.

All data collected from volunteers across Richland County is entered into the computer for easy use and reference.

Thanks to Rob and Amy Workman for donating paw paw tree seedlings in Denise's honor. Visit the Stoller Road Trail at Clear Fork Reservoir to see the paw paw's. To learn more about Denise and see additional photos, please visit

[here.](#)

Milkweed Seed Pod Collection a Success

Thank you to everyone who collected and dropped off milkweed seed pods. Pete Holmes is in the process of removing seeds from the pods. The seeds will be available at Kingwood Center in the coming weeks in conjunction with a Christmas tree we are decorating as part of their Christmas celebration. The remaining pods were picked up by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and will be shared with correctional institutions for the seeds to be removed from the pods and will be sent back to us for re-packaging and distributions.



If you want free milkweed seeds and planting instructions, please contact [Theresa.](#)

Fall is a good time to plant milkweed seeds because the cold ground in winter will stratify the seeds.

Thank you for supporting the Monarch Butterfly and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

Volunteers Integral To Richland SWCD Success



At the Annual Celebration, the 77-member volunteer team was recognized for their many contributions to Richland SWCD. Together this year, volunteers have contributed more than 2,200 hours, which has saved the General Fund approximately \$23,000. Volunteers contribute high quality data that is used to track soil and water health

in Richland County's 8 watersheds and may be viewed on the Water Data Map of the Richland SWCD [website.](#)

2020 Accomplishments and 2021 Plans

2020 Accomplishments

- Richland SWCD became a local sponsor for the Farmland Preservation Program in 2020. Two farms for a total of 310 acres were preserved in Richland County in 2020.
- Started selling native plants and rain barrels. Held online rain barrel workshop.
- Completed MS4 stormwater system mapping--help from interns from Richland Foundation grant.
- Recognized Volunteer of the Year, Denise Tenison
- Recognized Cooperator of the Year, Randy and Eileen Eisenhauer, Eisenhauer Family Farm

- Butterfly and Bee Kits and Milkweed Seed handed out at Pollinator Festival held at Gorman Nature Center
- Served as collection site for the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative Milkweed Seed Pod Collection.
- Held pond fish sale
- Assisted with Rain garden installation
- Started Local Food Producer list with partners from Destination Mansfield, NECIC, OSU Extension - Richland County, Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Richland County Farm Bureau
- Coordinated Longview Center plant bed clean up with volunteers
- The Richland County Stormwater Program issued 150 Residential Fee Permits, 135 Residential Non-Fee Permits, and 88 Commercial Permits so far in 2020.

Coming up in 2021

- Awarded another Richland Foundation grant for additional interns to work on MS4 outfall mapping and communications to develop more online resources for Richland SWCD
- H2Ohio program (ODA) to kick off in Richland County, we will be getting additional state money to administer the program and provide incentives to farmers to participate. Look for incentives to do Nutrient Management Plans in 2021!
- Ohio Farm Bureau grant will sponsor a tour bus for Richland SWCD to take residents to the Farm Science Review (Sept 21-23)



Does Leaf Litter Affect Stormwater?

To verify this was a concern, there was a study conducted in Madison Wisconsin by the USGS. What they found was quite interesting. Organic materials such as leaf litter can release additional nutrients into local streams, rivers and bodies of water causing eutrophication and algal blooms. Leaf litter was in fact found to be a significant source of phosphorus in urban stormwater.

- Almost sixty percent (60%) of the annual load of phosphorus came from all the uncollected leaf litter in the fall.
- If the leaf litter was removed from streets and storm drains it was found to reduce the load by eighty percent (80%)
- The leaves must be removed from the streets, storm drains, public and private property to reduce the load of dissolved phosphorus.

The long-term effects of not addressing this excessive amount of dissolved phosphorus and nitrogen is that it will assist in accelerating algal blooms which remove sunlight for aquatic plants, clog the gills of fish, reduce levels of dissolved oxygen and even produce some toxins that are harmful to ingest. Just think of all the other possible sources that may be adding to these excessive amounts of nutrients in our stormwater. For example: wastewater, fossil fuels, agriculture and in the urban setting fertilization, yard and pet waste, certain soaps and detergents, hard surfaces and certain types of landscaping just to name a few. If we all take steps both the public and private sectors to reduce these excessive nutrient loads, we should be able to help reduce the damage it is causing to our environment.

Fertilizers and You

Many homeowners want to have the greenest lawn on the block and that may lead to adding more fertilizer to obtain a lush, carpet thick, beautiful, green grass. You may turn to a commercial fertilizer company or apply commercial fertilizer yourself to achieve the desired look. Before you employ either of these methods, we encourage you to have your soil tested first so you are properly advised on what your soil truly needs.

Farmers are encouraged to not only have the soil tested, but have manure tested too. Often in large operations, the feed for large grower operations are supplied by the contractor. They adjust the feed formula to meet their needs to dictate how the animal will grow. Sometimes these changes in the feed stocks can change the end product from the animal.. This can change what the nutrient value of that animal manure is and can change what would need to be applied to your fields. We recommend that you obtain a soil test and manure test at least every three to five years. The more often these tests are performed the more potential savings you will see.

We also recommend you follow the Tri-State fertilizer recommendations to help with nutrient applications. Please contact the Ohio State University office in [Richland County](#) or your local Ohio State University Extension office for the latest edition and be on the lookout for the upcoming edition. We also encourage farmers to periodically review the NRCS-590 Standard for the recommended setbacks when applying additional nutrients. Remember, manure on your field is your bonus so don't let it be someone else's.

Implementing the results from soil and manure tests will not only help keep your lawn and fields looking good, but will keep unnecessary nutrients from entering waterways and keep some green in your wallet, too.

Richland SWCD soil tests for gardens, lawns, hobby farms and farms at an inexpensive cost. For instructions on how to pull a soil sample and pricing information, please visit our [website](#).

Milkweed for Monarchs Tree Theme at Kingwood Center

Richland SWCD decorated a Christmas tree at Kingwood Center Gardens for their Christmas at Kingwood Community Tree Walk which will be held November 28 through January 3, Tuesday through Sunday. More information about the event and tickets are found [here](#).

The theme for the Richland SWCD tree is “**Milkweed for Monarchs**” and our goal is to help people learn about the importance of milkweed to monarch butterflies and encourage common milkweed to be planted. If you get a chance to go see Christmas at Kingwood, be sure to look for our tree and don't forget to take a packet of milkweed seeds to plant!



Lake Erie CREP H2Ohio Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a USDA Farm Bill conservation program that offers farmers and landowners financial compensation for taking cropland out of production and establishing conservation practices such as buffer strips, grasslands, and wetlands to improve water quality for a contract period of 15 years. The new H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program is being offered in combination with Lake Erie CREP and provides a onetime payment of \$2,000 per acre for new Lake Erie CREP wetlands and forested riparian buffers (buffer strip with trees) to help improve water quality in the Lake Erie watershed. More wetlands and forested riparian buffers will help reduce phosphorus runoff into Lake Erie. Both conservation practices are on the H2Ohio top 10 list of phosphorus reduction practices. Enrollment begins December 1. For more information, visit this [webpage](#).

Winter Interns

Due to funding received from the Richland County Foundation, we were able to hire two Winter interns. Natalie Snyder will be helping with the Communications arm and Kourtney Van Wagner will assist with the Ms4 Program. Thank you to the Richland County Foundation for providing this opportunity. We are looking forward to Natalie and Kourtney starting.

Important Dates

November 26 and 27: Office closed for Thanksgiving

November 28 to January: Christmas at Kingwood

December 1: Enrollment begins for Lake Erie CREP H2Ohio Program

December 17: Board Supervisor Meeting

December 24 & 25: Office closed for Holiday

December 31 & January 1: Office closed for New Year's

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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.

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
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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!**

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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.