

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

October 2019

Join Us November 7 for the Annual Celebration



Make your reservations for the [Annual Celebration](#) by October 31. The Celebration takes place the following Thursday, November 7.

In addition to our guest speaker, Guy Denny, delivering a captivating program on Tallgrass Prairies of Ohio, we will announce the recipients of the Cooperator of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards. Both recipients advocate for

and support conservation. We are fortunate to have both of them make Richland County their home. We will also recognize our volunteers, without whom we wouldn't be able to collect valuable data.

The dinner will be catered by The Vault Wine Bar and they have also donated a \$20 gift card to be given away as a door prize.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District will also give away a copy of **Prairie Peninsula**, a book Guy Denny co-authored with Gary Meszaros.

Thank you to Annual Celebration Donors: Amy Beth Crutchfield and Rob Workman, Richard and Janet Shellhouse, [Alta Florist & Greenhouse](#), [DRM Productions Inc.](#), [Farm Credit Mid-America](#) and [The Vault Wine Bar](#)

Cost: \$20 per adult, \$15 for Richland SWCD Volunteers and \$10 for children 12 and under.

Another important part of the evening is the public election for one Board of Supervisor seat. Details on how to vote appear below.

How to Vote For a Board Supervisor

An Election of a Board Supervisor of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District will be held in accordance with Chapter 940.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. One (1) supervisor will be elected to a three-year term beginning January 2020.

[Board Supervisors](#) serve without pay. The Board of Supervisors create an annual and long-term plan of operation that protects the District's vision and participate in monthly board meetings, assist with programs and attend area and state meetings.

Residents or landowners, firms and corporations that own land or occupy land in Richland County and are 18 years of age or older may vote for supervisors. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

Absentee voting started Thursday, October 17, 2019. You have two ways to vote via absentee ballot:

- Stop in our office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and complete the [SEL-2 Form Request](#)
- Once the SEL-2 Form is complete, mail it or bring it to our office. Our address is 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906.

Absentee ballot requests must be received at our office by October 31, 2019.

Completed absentee ballots must be received in our office by November 7, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.

You may also vote at the Annual Celebration on November 7, 2019, from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m.

Questions may be directed to Erica Thomas, District Administrator, at 419.747.8686.

Milkweed Seed Pod Collection Continues Until Nov. 7



We are getting many milkweed seed pods and we thank everyone who has collected and dropped them off. There is still plenty of time to collect, so if you haven't started yet, it's not too late. If anything, the season seems to be a little behind.

When collecting, look for pods that appear slightly gray and are dried out before picking. Seeds inside should be brown before harvesting. Please

remember, if you want to pick on private property, you need to ask for permission first.

Last year's massive statewide seed collection effort was spearheaded by the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI), which is working to get the word out about why monarch butterflies are disappearing and help partners create monarch habitat. The disappearance of milkweed, the only host plant for monarch caterpillars, across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years: <http://ow.ly/newE3ofwsKC>

Collect the pods in a brown paper bag and drop them off at our office in the green and yellow container. During winter, the seeds will be removed from the pods and we will distribute them for planting. We support saving the Monarch Butterfly and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative and know you do, too!

Tech Corner

Tech Corner is the section in the E-Newsletter that we answer questions from residents and contractors who work and build here in Richland County.

Q: How Do I Know Which Soil Types Are On My Property?

A: Great question! USDA-NRCS has a simple yet powerful online tool which you can use to access soil data information called the Web Soil Survey (WSS). You can access the home page for the WSS at this link: <https://richlandswcd.net/services/soil/soil-in-your-backyard>. Once you've successfully navigated to the site, the home page provides some basic information on the WSS and has some helpful links if you want to get more in-depth information about soils or need help using the WSS tool. Also on the home page is a quick overview of how to use the soil survey tool. The site breaks it down into four basic steps, but first you'll want to click the green button that says "Start WSS" or click on the "Start Web Soil Survey" link under the I Want To... sidebar. After clicking Start WSS, you'll first need to define your area of interest (AOI). Under the Quick Navigation header is a drop-down arrow next to address which you can click on and enter the address of the property that you'd like to know soils info for. The program will then zoom to the area of



the entered address. Once you've navigated the program to the property you're inquiring about, you'll need to define the area of interest by selecting the AOI rectangle and trace out the area you're interested in on the Area of Interest Interactive Map. The program will then create the AOI and highlight the selected area in blue with diagonal lines shading in the AOI. After successfully defining your AOI, you'll want to select the Soil Map tab next to the Area of Interest (AOI) tab. This is where you'll find a breakdown of the different soil types located within your defined area of interest. From here you can print the information by selecting "printable version" in the upper right-hand corner of the window. A pop-up window will then appear where you can name the map and then select the view option in the lower right-hand corner of that window. A new tab will then be created in your web browser where a map of your AOI and a map unit legend with the breakdown of the soil types in your AOI can then be printed. If this seems too complicated or if you'd like assistance interpreting the results of the WSS please call us to set up a demonstration time and we'll be more than happy to help!

Intern Application Deadline Extended to November 22



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RichlandSWCD) is pleased to announce applications are being accepted from current college students for two (2) paid internship positions. The internships are being funded with assistance from the Richland County Foundation. Both internships begin January 2020. One position will assist with the Clean Water Act's Municipal Stormwater MS4 program and the second will assist with the 9-Element Plan program. The application deadline for both internships has been extended to November 22, 2019. Details and how to apply for each position are available on the [website](#).

This Month's Only Rain Down the Drain Tip

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes and the Ohio River.

Compost your yard waste:

1. It will add nutrients to the soil.
2. Introduces valuable organisms and microorganisms such as bacteria to the soil.
3. Allows for yard waste and kitchen waste to be recycled.
4. Reduces wasted space at your local landfill.
5. Composting is good for the environment.
6. Composting and then adding to your soil will help reduce acids and alkaline levels in your soil



Learn more about managing stormwater at [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).

Soil Test Before Winter

In order to have good, healthy, productive plants you must start with fertile, healthy soil. Good soil retains water, releases nutrients and drains well. It must contain adequate nutrients, optimum pH and organic matter to be healthy and fertile. Guessing about additives for your lawn, garden or farm field usually means too little or too much fertilizer gets added. Too little fertilizer may result in healthy



plants. Too much is wasteful and can threaten our lakes and wetlands. Also, soils vary within the state, your neighborhood, and even your yard or farm field. What may be good for your neighbor or brother's lawn, garden or farm field may not be right for yours.

For instructions on how to pull a soil sample and pricing information, please visit our [website](#).

Some Volunteers Wrapping Up the Season

Lake Monitors are wrapping up their monitoring season and stream monitors will be soon due to approaching cool weather. Precipitation Monitors report rain and/or snow throughout the year so make sure you continue to see what's happening in your watershed through the [Water Data Map](#). Thank you, volunteers!

Wildlife Management

With winter approaching, some critters may try to get inside your home to escape the weather. Here are some tips from ODNR-Div. of Wildlife about how you can manage them properly:

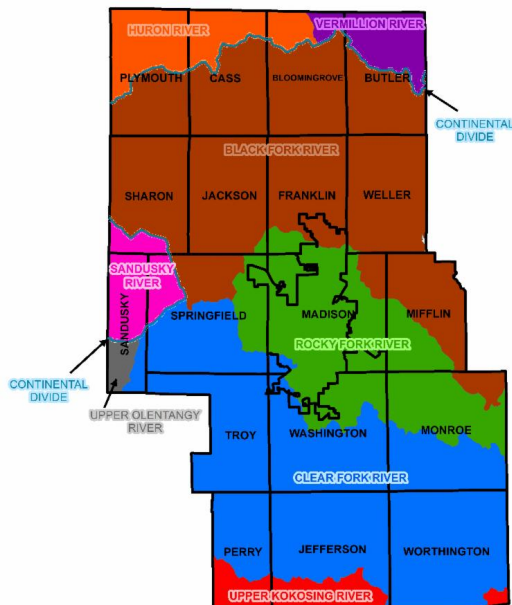
<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/information/pubo83.pdf>



Watershed Project Ideas Sought

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District created a brief survey to help identify potential areas in Richland County's watersheds that you feel need protected or improved water quality. Please take the 5 question survey by clicking on the link below. Please respond by November 15, 2019. Thank you for your feedback!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D52FK7Z>





We had a warm, sunny day for Fall pond fish pick up a few weeks ago. Thanks to everyone who purchased fish during our pond fish sale.

Here are the totals by species of fish sold:

Bluegill: 471, Largemouth Bass: 256
 Yellow Perch: 262, Hybrid Bluegill: 297
 Redear Bluegill: 204, Channel
 Catfish: 250, White Amurs: 42
 Fathead Minnows: 9100

Thanks to Fender's and volunteers,
 Craig and Jim for helping out that day!

We'll see you in April!

Upcoming Activities

October: Milkweed Seed Pod Collection

October 22: Watershed Planning Meeting

November 7: [Annual Celebration](#)

November 22: [Intern Applications Due](#)

November 11: Offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day

November 14: OSU/NCSC Intern Speed Networking

November 28 & 29: Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Other News

[OSU Mansfield Nature Film Night](#)

[OSU Mansfield Microfarm Symposium](#)

[Managing stormwater and stream restoration projects together](#)

[The key to saving the family farm is in the soil](#)

[Easy ways to help keep streams and rivers clean](#)

[Learn about Bats \(the furry kind!\)](#)

[Ocean trash collecting system working](#)

SWCD Staff

Erica Thomas, District Administrator
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Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician
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Jordan Keller, Urban Technician
 419-774-5238

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 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

keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net

Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator

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Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician

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NRCS Staff

Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist

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Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist

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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, 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.