



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

September 2019

Fall Pond Fish Sale

The deadline to order fish for your pond is this Friday, October 4!

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



Pick-up is Friday, October 11, 2019, from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. 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

If pay by credit card, please add 4% processing fee

Details and an order form may be found on our [website](#) or by calling 419.747.8686.

Save the Date!



Save the Date for our [Annual Meeting](#) on 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 award and Volunteer of the Year. Both of the recipients advocate and support conservation. We are fortunate to have both of them make Richland County their home.

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

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 begins 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



This is the first year we have raised [monarch butterflies](#) and we released our first monarch last week. If you haven't done this yourself, we strongly recommend it. It will bring an automatic smile to your face and is an instant stress-reliever!

Milkweed seed pods are starting to mature to the point where they can be harvested. Start scouting fields and if

pods appear slightly gray and are dried out they are ready to pick. 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!

Tech Corner

Today we are debuting a new section, Tech Corner. We receive great questions from citizens and contractors who work and build here in Richland County. When we get questions that we think will be of interest to you, we will share them in this section. Who knows, it may be a question you have, too!

Q: Why does it make a difference where and how water is discharged off my roof and downspouts?



A: When you apply for a [stormwater](#) permit for a structure, we may ask you to install gutters and downspouts. Whether or not we ask you to install them is determined by how much impervious surface (the size of the area that cannot absorb water, i.e. roofs, sidewalks and parking lots) that is created. Also, erosion can occur when rainwater comes off your roof and drips onto the ground. Did you know that one (1) inch of rain that falls over a one thousand (1000) square foot roof equates to six hundred twenty (620) gallons of water?! That's a lot of water!

We want to control the water so when it comes off the roof it does not cause any damage to you or your neighbor's property. We may also ask you to incorporate practices that will further reduce the potential for problems due to too much water or cause soil erosion. For instance, we may require that you cannot discharge your roof water any closer than thirty (30) feet from your property line or your downspouts discharge onto a splash block or install a rock bed at the end of your daylighted tile from the roof water runoff. All of these practices are put into place to control erosion and to hopefully avoid upset neighbors. If you have any questions on where and how you should discharge your stormwater please call us at 419.747.8686.

Spring Semester Intern Opportunities



Thanks to grants we received from the Richland County Foundation, we are looking for two college interns to start in January 2020. One intern will assist with the MS4 program and another intern will assist with 9-Element plans. Full details for each intern position are available on our website. The pay for each position is based on experience and level of education and will range from 9-\$12/hour. Interested students are asked to send a resume, cover letter, transcript and class schedule to Richland SWCD, 1495 W. Longview Suite 205B, Mansfield OH 44906 or to SWCD.DATA@RichlandSWCD.net by **November 1, 2019**. Include your work experience and level of education, including specific coursework you have taken related to the position. Details for each position are

available on the [website](#).

Only Rain Down the Drain

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

Here are things we can do to make sure that there is "Only Rain Down the Drain":

Plant bare spots in your yard for these benefits:

1. Enhances aesthetics for your property.
2. Adds value to your home.
3. Provides habitat.
4. Reduces stormwater runoff.
5. Creates erosion control, reducing loss of soils in waterways.
6. Reduces evaporation and soil degradation.
7. Grass will help in filtering deposits and contaminants from the water before it goes into your stormwater system. There are a lot of stormwater systems that just drain directly to a river or tributary without any water treatment.



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

Here's the Dirt on Soil Testing



We have exciting news to share! After researching many options, we have selected a new vendor to work with for soil testing. Also, we now soil test for gardens, lawns, hobby farms and farms. Plus the cost has been reduced.

The other good news is that you still have time to have your soil tested before winter.

Why is soil testing important? Time and money may be saved if the soil composition is known prior to planting. Knowing your soil's composition is the first step toward attaining healthy plants. If you over-apply nutrients, you run the risk of causing soil imbalance, adversely affecting the environment, contaminating water and harming aquatic life. It is estimated that each year around 24 billion tons of soil is lost due to erosion, which could be caused by unbalanced soil management.

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

Volunteers Continue to Monitor

Even though the calendar says Fall, the weather has been as warm as summer. Volunteers continue to monitor precipitation, our lakes and streams. To find out what's happening in your watershed go to the [Water Data Map](#). Thank you, volunteers!

Upcoming Activities

September 30: [Business Friendly Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Longview Center](#)

October: Milkweed Seed Pod Collection

October 4: [Fish orders due](#)

October 11: Fish pick up

November 1: [Intern Applications Due](#)

November 7: [Annual Celebration](#)

Other News

[Richland Rural Life Center Annual Dinner](#)

[Business Friendly Meetings](#)

[Erica and Matt at Farm Science Review](#)

[Naturalist on Duty series](#)

[Richland County Land Judging Competition](#)

[Reduce Stormwater Runoff](#)

[Know Your Apples](#)

[Hike a Richland County Trail](#)

[Learn about the jobs of worker honeybees](#)

Erica Thomas, District Administrator
419-747-8684
thomas.eric@richlandswcd.net

Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician
419-747-8077
herrold.dan@richlandswcd.net

Jordan Keller, Urban Technician
419-774-5238
keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net

Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator
419-747-8685
sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net

Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician
419-747-8687
wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net

NRCS Staff

Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist
419-747-8691
jason.ruhl@oh.usda.gov

Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist
567-280-6058
dbenner@pheasantsforever.org

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 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.