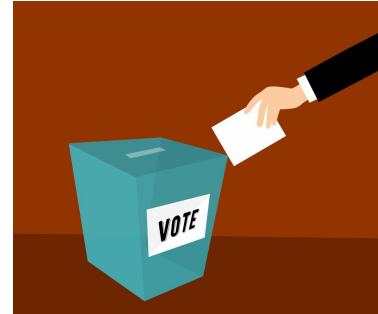


Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

September 2020

Board Supervisor Election Underway

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Board Supervisors of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District Commission (Richland SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for the supervisor.



Absentee voting began September 21 and will continue until November 3, 2020. Election ballots may be obtained from the Richland SWCD office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906, by calling 419-747-8686, or [email](#). Absentee ballots must be received by the Richland SWCD office by November 3, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Two supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021. Click on this [link](#) to meet the candidates: Brian Alt, Jodie Dees, Daniel Fletcher, Michael Graham, and Robert McConkie, Jr.

Annual Celebration Modified



Due to COVID-19, the Board of Supervisors decided it is best to modify this year's Celebration to protect the health and safety of participants.

The Annual Celebration will be held at the Longview Center on Thursday, November 5 from 6 to 7 p.m. You may attend the Celebration in-person or watch via Facebook Live on the Richland SWCD [Facebook page](#). If you plan to attend the Celebration in-person, please register by October 29. Watching on Facebook Live does not require registration.

Soil and Water update, Election results, and the Cooperator and Volunteer of the Year and Farmland Preservation recipients will be announced. There will not be a dinner or guest speaker. There will be light refreshments and there is no cost to attend. Covid-19 protocol will be followed.

We want to thank Rob and Amy Workman for sponsoring the Annual Celebration and for their ongoing support of District programs. For questions concerning the Celebration, please contact [Theresa](#).

Milkweed Seed Pod Collection - Help the Monarch Butterflies -



The Richland County-wide Common milkweed seed pod collection takes place from October 1 until November 5. The disappearance of milkweed, the only host plant for monarch caterpillars, across the U.S. has contributed to a 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years.

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 dry, 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 collection effort in Richland County resulted in 184 milkweed seed packets with planting instructions. Thanks to volunteer Pete Holmes for removing the seeds from the pods and Ella Hafenstein, Darla Komora and Barbara Watkins for packaging them with planting instructions. If you want free milkweed seeds with planting instructions, please contact [Theresa](#).

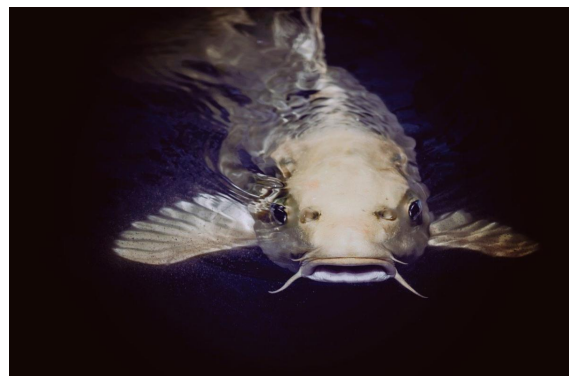
Fall is a good time to plant milkweed seeds because the cold ground in winter will stratify the seeds. If you need milkweed seeds, contact Theresa (insert email address: sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net) . To learn how to make a milkweed seed bomb, watch this [video](#).

To join the common milkweed seed collection, collect the pods in a brown paper bag and drop them off at our office in the green and yellow container. Please don't put them in plastic bags, because they will mold. Here is more [information](#) on how to collect. After the collection, the seeds will be removed from the pods and we will distribute them for planting. Thank you for helping support saving the Monarch Butterfly and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

Fish Sale

It's Time to Stock Your Pond with help from Richland Soil and Water Conservation District!

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



Orders and payment are due by Friday, October 9, 2020.

Pick-up is Friday, October 16, 2020, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Richland

County Fairgrounds.

Cost: \$1.00 each other than White Amur (\$14 each) and Fathead Minnows (\$7.00 per 100, minimum order of 100)

Total minimum order: \$20.00

If pay by credit card, please add 6% processing fee
Details and an order form may be found [here](#) or by calling 419.747.8686.



Rain Barrel Webinar

Join Dan Herrold, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District MS4 Technician, for a webinar on Tuesday, October 20 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. to learn about the benefits of a rain barrel and how you can easily install it at home and other buildings. The webinar will be on the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District [Facebook](#) page. Dan will be available to answer questions during and after the webinar.

[Buy](#) a barrel like the one shown in this photo of the Berry's, from our office in advance of the workshop for \$70.00 and you will be able to mimic Dan's easy instructions. Included with the Barrel is a Diverter, Spigot, and Inlet. We only have a few of these barrels left and once they are gone, we won't get anymore. We are closing them out because we found a barrel that has a removable top you can plant in, will be easily installed and will fit in well with your landscape. They will cost \$100.00.

Where Does the Rain Go?

When the clouds let go of their moisture it comes down in the form of a liquid known as rain or a solid known as snow or hail. Once that moisture hits the earth it can either seep into the ground in a pervious area such as grass and soft dirt or it will runoff the surface in a sheet flow on an impervious surface such as the roof of a home, parking lot, driveway or hard packed dirt or clay and cause erosion.



Our concern is the amount and speed at which runoff has been created in urbanized areas. The runoff will have pollutants such as fertilizers, car wash soap, petroleum products, chemicals, sediment, and litter. As this runoff flows downhill it carries these pollutants with it into our tributaries, streams, rivers lakes and oceans causing degradation of those natural resources.

Help reduce runoff and erosion by installing a rain barrel, rain garden or even look at letting water from your downspouts go onto a splash block and seep into your lawn. Thank you!

Mark your calendar for the Rain Barrel workshop on October 20 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. on our [Facebook page](#) with Dan Herrold, [MS4 Technician](#).

Fall for a Soil Test

Now, is a great time of year to have your soil tested. If the soil test recommends amendments be made to the soil, your plants will have all winter to uptake the nutrients.

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 each year around 24 billion tons of soil is lost due to erosion, which could be caused by unbalanced soil management.

We soil test 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](#).

Volunteer Update

After a dry spell, Precipitation Monitor Volunteers were happy to report a number other than 0 in late August and early September. Stream and Lake monitors continue to report. Some streams have been dry, and the hope is for fall rain. To see what they are reporting, check out the [Water Data Map](#). We still need more rain, but are hopeful we'll get it during the fall. Jason, Brayden and Greg were a big help this summer with the MS4 program and continue to help with stream monitoring. Office volunteers are returning and have been assisting with stormwater permits, scanning, and archiving historical documents and special projects. Thank you to all volunteers for supporting Richland SWCD! If you are interested in volunteering, Precipitation, Stream and Lake Monitors and Photography volunteers work independently and do not come into the office. If you volunteer in the office, Covid-19 protocols are followed. [Learn more](#) about volunteering with Richland SWCD.



Important Dates

September 21: [Absentee voting](#) began for Board Supervisor Election

October 1: Richland County-wide [Common Milkweed Seed Pod Collection](#) begins

October 9: [Fish Orders Due](#)

October 16: Fish Order Pick Up

October 20: Rain Barrel Workshop, 12 noon, Richland SWCD [Facebook](#) page

November 5: Save the Date for the Annual Celebration! See details above.

SWCD Staff

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NRCS Staff

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Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist
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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 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
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.