



# Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027

FAX (740)454-1451

Newsletter Issue 3

[muskingumswcd.org](http://muskingumswcd.org)

Fall 2021, Published Quarterly



## 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Banquet

Come celebrate with us at our Annual  
Celebration of Conservation!

**When:**

Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

**Where:**

Bryan Place  
49 N 6th St, Zanesville, OH 43701

**Speaker:**


Neal Kinsey  
Author of "Hands on Agronomy"

**Cost:**

\$20 per person

Ticket information can be found on our website at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) or  
contact Doreen at (740) 454-2027.

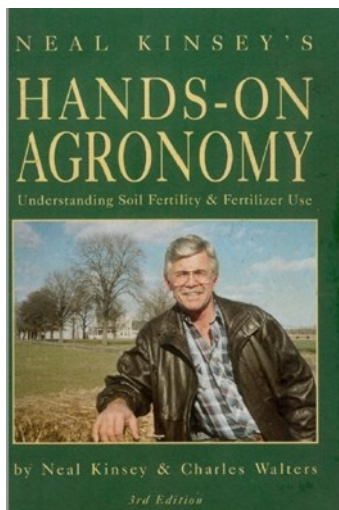
Deadline to register is October 22, 2021.





## “Special Daytime Edition”

**Featuring, internationally known agronomist Neal Kinsey in person  
November 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 3:00pm.**



This is one of those once in a lifetime opportunities. Thanks to the generosity of the Muskingum County Commissioners, we are able to have Neal Kinsey in Zanesville, live and in person. Mr. Kinsey consults in over 75 countries around the world on everything from row crops to nut trees. He was trained in the Albrecht system of soil balancing and uses that system today to make nutrient recommendations for crops.

The Albrecht system of soil balancing was developed by Professor William Albrecht at the University of Missouri. His theory was that if the soil was in a nutrient balance, the soil would be healthier, crops would yield more, there would be less weed pressure and ultimately a more nutritious product would be produced in the end.

Mr. Kinsey will be sharing his experience on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. That experience encompasses almost 50 years. He started as a consultant in 1973 and he authored a book in 1993 called *Hands-On*

*Agronomy, Understanding Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Use*. Mr. Kinsey takes the subject of soil fertility and breaks it down into an easy-to-understand process. You will learn about the importance of Calcium, Magnesium and Potassium (Base Saturation) and how that ties in with the other primary and micronutrients to meet crop needs. Mr. Kinsey’s information can be used by everyone from the home gardener to the farmer with hundreds of acres.

Please join us and Neal Kinsey at the Rolling Plains United Methodist Church located at 3350 Moxahala Park Rd., Zanesville, Ohio 43701 on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. This will be a hybrid event, both in person and utilizing YouTube. The cost for the event will be \$20.00 per person for live or virtual option. Registrations are required. To order your tickets go to the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District website [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) and to the **Sales and Services** then **Shop** section to choose Live or Virtual Event. Or you can stop by the office at 225 Underwood St. Ste. 100 Zanesville, Ohio to purchase them also. For more information contact the district office at 740-454-2027 . Deadline for registrations for in person will be Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Those registering for the virtual event can register up to the day of the event.

This small investment could pay huge dividends for your future! Look forward to seeing you on November 4<sup>th</sup>!

# WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS



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# Volunteer Summer Intern Scholarships Awarded

The Volunteer Summer Interns were awarded their intern scholarships during the August 2021 Board Meeting. Kristen Roessler and Daniel Odette-Spilliner were the summer interns who assisted in the gardens for Urban Greens. They were also able to assist with other projects with the forestry, agriculture, and education department; including the first Camp WILD experience. Kristin is an Environmental Science student attending Marietta College and Daniel is also an Environmental Science student attending Muskingum University.



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## Meet the New Face of Muskingum Soil and Water

Thank you for finishing out the 2021 garden season!

### Allie Murphy

I graduated from Zanesville High School in 2017. I grew an appreciation for the outdoors through my involvement in Muskingum County 4H and went on to study at Marietta College, where I earned a B.S. in environmental science with a minor in leadership studies. I worked at the Wilds as an educator and realized I wanted to pursue a career teaching others about the wonderful things our planet provides us. During the summer of 2020 I was an intern for MSWCD and gained experience with the community gardens. At the end of this internship, I, along with another intern, presented the Urban Greens program's past, present, and future plans at a national conservation conference. This fall, I began working as the Urban Ag Tech at MSWCD and am very excited to connect with the community through urban agriculture and to further develop our community gardens program.



# If you plant it, they will come!

In the movie “Field of Dreams” there is a line “If you build it, they will come”. In this case, if you plant it, they will come. “They” are not deceased baseball players. “They,” in this instance, are Monarch butterflies and a host of other characters. This year the District partnered with the City of Zanesville to establish a pollinator planting at the wastewater treatment plant, located in the Putnam area on Moxahala Avenue. Thanks to the cooperation and hard work of Scott Brown and the employees of the wastewater treatment plant, over 1600 native pollinator plants were planted in two different areas. The wastewater treatment plant was looking for a way to utilize open space to help benefit the property and community.



The pollinator plants used in the planting were started as seeds in a local greenhouse and transplanted by the City. The plants are all native to the area and are beneficial to different bees, butterflies, and other insects. The plants were chosen because they have different bloom times, colors, and attract different insects.

The planting took place at the end of June and by the middle of September there were a number of bees, beetles, flies, wasps, butterflies, and caterpillars. On one day we counted at least 90 Monarch caterpillars, 12 chrysalises, and nine caterpillars getting ready to go into chrysalises (“J caterpillars”) in the two plantings.

We are also working with the City on installing a pollinator planting at Riverside Park. The area that will be planted is in an area that is wet part of the year and is difficult to keep mowed.



## Upcoming Rural Services Building Pollinator Garden

In August, Muskingum SWCD was awarded a grant through the Zanesville Neighbor Grant Program to install a pollinator garden outside the Rural Services Building. The pollinator garden will feature native wildflowers that can be found in Muskingum County and that are beneficial to pollinators. All of the site preparation will take place this year, and the flowers will be planted next spring.

Once the garden is installed, it will be used by Muskingum SWCD and Muskingum County Master Gardeners for educational events. The garden will also be open to the public to walk through at anytime. Besides working in cooperation with the City of Zanesville, the District is partnering with the Muskingum County Commissioners, Muskingum County Master Gardeners, the Muskingum County Community Foundation, and numerous community volunteers to install this beneficial garden.

# Monarch Butterfly Tagging



Monarch butterflies have been the topic of conversation due to their decline in population. For the first year ever, we embarked on a new adventure, Monarch Tagging!

Monarch butterflies are one of the only species of butterflies that migrate. They will migrate from the north down south to one of three overwintering sites in Florida, California, and the largest overwintering spot in Tamaulipas, Mexico. The importance of tagging is to help support the Monarch butterflies and their existence. We tag using a recapture tag, which means they are meant to be caught again to gather information. They do not have GPS-enabled tags because they are not a dangerous or rare species that would be difficult to catch compared to that of a Leatherback Sea Turtle or a Great White Shark.

The tags are small and like a sticker, placed gently on the central cell of the wing. We also note the gender of the Monarch, their condition, location, and whether they are wild or raised indoors (reared).

By tagging we can learn how far a Monarch has traveled and where. We want to also capture those already tagged because the more times a tagged Monarch is caught the more information it tells us about its specific travel. Migration patterns are directly related to climate as well, so this information tells us more about climate during the migration season.

This year we are proud to announce we have tagged over 20 Monarchs throughout Muskingum County at four different locations.

Next September we hope to increase the amount that we are able to tag and have more people involved in the process. If you would like to be a part of next year's tagging endeavors, please contact Ashlee at [ashlee.kopchak@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:ashlee.kopchak@muskingumswcd.org) or by phone at (740) 454-2027.



## A Special Thank You!



We want to give a special thanks to the seniors of Summit Christian Academy from Lee's Summit, Missouri, for spending their senior mission trip and coming to help us get our gardens cleaned up and ready to go. We could not have done it without your help!



# Do you have Spotted knapweed in Your Pasture and Hay Fields?

## STOP IT NOW!



Are you seeing patches of Spotted knapweed creeping into your pastures or permanent hayfields? If so, now is the time to take action to stop it before it invades the entire field!

It's not just a "pretty wildflower"! Spotted knapweed is one of the most aggressive perennial weeds attacking the roadsides, permanent hayfields and pastures in southeastern Ohio. One Spotted knapweed plant can live for several years and drop 1000 seeds annually. Each plant also will secrete chemicals in the soil to keep other plants from growing near it. Eventually, Spotted knapweed just takes over entire fields and crowds out the other desirable forage plants, such as clover. Most livestock do not like to graze it.

If you discover that you have just a few plants, then you can hand pull them and burn them. If you have more than that in your pastures and hayfields, then you should contact the Muskingum SWCD or NRCS office to ask about the special funding available for chemical treatments through the RCPP- Spotted knapweed Treatment for Ohio Producers (STOP) Program. This special funding is available for pastures and permanent hayfields located in Muskingum, Morgan, Guernsey and Noble Counties.

Following chemical recommendations from The Ohio State University Extension, the Spotted knapweed Treatment Program provides funding for three back-to-back years of broadleaf chemical treatment. The first year is a whole-field treatment, the second year is a 10% spot treatment, and the third year is a whole-field treatment.



The very best control program for Spotted knapweed is to know what it looks like and treat it promptly if you find it in your fields or headed your direction along the roadsides.

During most of the year, Spotted knapweed is hard to see. The basal leaves at the bottom of the plant are long and narrow, and they form a rosette shape on the ground surface. The plant's stem is wiry-looking and resembles the stem of the blue-flowered Chicory plants found along the roadside. Spotted Knapweed is the easiest to identify once it starts blooming in late July. It has a flat flower head that is a purplish-pink in color with a radiating white center. The flowers also have a pineapple-like bulb at their base. The plants tend to retain these bulbs even in the winter.

Upcoming 2022 will be the last year to apply for the special funding available through the Spotted knapweed Treatment Program. Please call the Muskingum SWCD office at 740-454-2027 or NRCS at 740-454-2767 Extn 3 for more information about the application deadline and how to apply.

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## Election Notice

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

There are 3 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the SWCD office from Wednesday, October 6, 2021 until Thursday, November 4, 2021 during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; or
- 2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Bryan Place, 49 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Zanesville on November 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.; or
- 3.) Voting absentee from October 6, 2021 until November 4, 2021, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address;  
225 Underwood Street, Ste. 100, Zanesville, Ohio 43701, by calling 740-454-2027, or email [doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org). Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by November 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Two (2) Supervisors will be elected to a three year term commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024. Nominees are:

1. Keith M. Dilley

2. Mark A. Sterling

3. Mark D. Weiser

# Meet the Board Candidates!

## Keith Dilley

Keith Dilley resides in Blue Rock, Ohio with his wife, Joyce. He is a graduate of Philo High school and Muskingum Area Technical College (Zane State College) with an Associates Degree in Water Pollution and has completed continuing education sources in accounting and bookkeeping.

Keith and his wife reside on a 100 acre farm. He worked 30 years as a bus driver for the Franklin Local School District and is now retired. He is a member of the Muskingum River Watershed Group. He has served on the MSWCD Board in the past and is currently finishing a three-year term.

Keith's soil and water conservation philosophy is to use resources wisely, release what you can, and leave the environment better than you found it.



## Mark Sterling



Mark resides in Frazeytsburg, Ohio and is married to Cathy. They have two grown children, Whitney (Tyler) Kopchak and Caleb Sterling. Mark is a graduate of Tri-Valley High School in Dresden, Ohio and the Ohio Diesel Technical Institute.

Mark is a self-employed farmer and contractor. He was an oil and gas industry fleet manager for 30 years. Mark and his family farm 40 acres in Jackson Township and 258 acres in Meigs Township, where they have a cow/calf operation. They also raise hay and small grains. He is involved with the Muskingum County Junior Livestock Committee. He served as Chairman of the Ohio Trucking Associations Maintenance Council and the Muskingum County Sheep Improvement Association. Mark's conservation philosophy is to use the best management practices to enable the most profitable benefits for today, and while preserving land and water resources for future generations.

## Mark Weiser

Mark resides in Zanesville, Ohio with his wife Debra. They have two grown children. Mark is a graduate of West Muskingum High School, Zane State College and Hondros College. He attends the St. Nicholas Church.

Mark and his family operate Weiser Farms, a cow/calf farm with 600 acres of owned and leased ground. They raise corn, soybeans, and hay.

Mark is a member of the Muskingum County Farm Bureau and the Timber Run Grange. He is also a member of the Newark Ski Club. Mark has served on the Board of Supervisors for the MSWCD from 2018 to present.

Mark's soil and water conservation philosophy is to co-exist in an everchanging, sustainable environment.





# 2021 Big Tree Contest

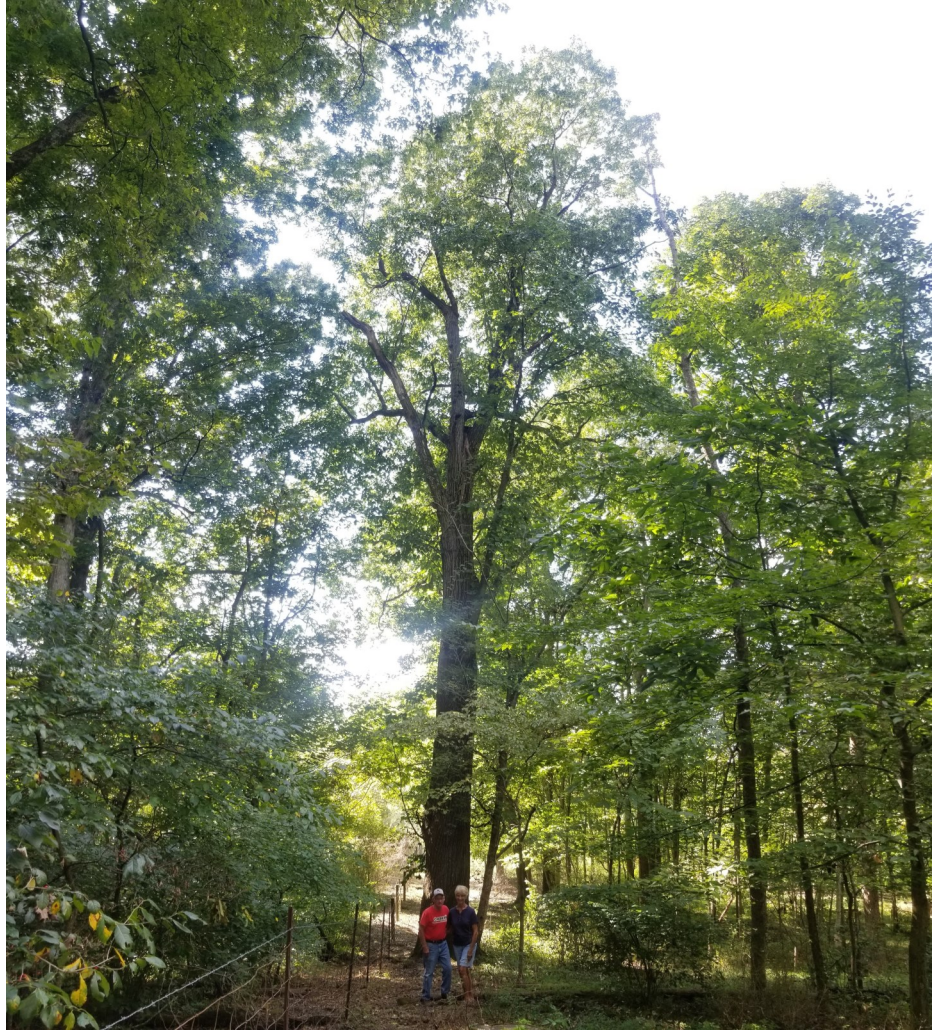
A Red Oak wins this year's prize for the biggest tree in Muskingum County. The tree was measured by Muskingum SWCD staff this spring. The tree, owned by Wilbur and Betty Rambo, scored 292.75 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (169 inches or 4.48 feet in diameter), the height (115 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (35 ft x .25). Congratulations, Wilbur and Betty Rambo!

This year's winner is kind of unique as it is in a forested area. The majority of the winning trees are found in open areas due to a large availability of sunlight allowing for increased growth. In woodlands you typically end up with trees that are tall and straight, versus the wide spreading growth forms of field grown trees.

Everyone out there knows of a tree that they have thought for years "That may be the largest tree I've ever seen in Muskingum County". Let's round up as many big trees as possible. All of the non-winners this year will be entered into the contest next year, so that's a mark to beat. Let's find the biggest tree in Muskingum County.

If you are interested in submitting a tree for next year's contest you may want to log on to the state's website to see how your tree might measure up.

This site can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/bigtrees/nativechamps/tabid/4810/Default.aspx>



You may be surprised to find that you have the next Ohio big tree sitting right in your back yard! For more information on big trees you can contact Robert Boehle at (740) 454-2027.

Owner	Species	Circumference	Crown Average	Height	Score
Wilbur & Betty Rambo	Red Oak	169	35	115	292.75
Stovertown Lutheran	Red Oak	160	100	85	270
Wilbur & Betty Rambo	White Oak	140	68.5	95	252.125
Ruth Kennel	Norway Spruce	140	58	75	229.5

# Environmental Quality Incentive Program

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is offered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps producers and landowners apply conservation practices on the land. Working together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations.

NRCS provides producers/landowners with one-on-one help that includes making farm visits, determining needed conservation practices, and then developing a plan for applying the practices. Through the competitive EQIP Program, the producers/landowners can then apply for financial assistance to install the needed practices.

EQIP funding is offered for a variety of conservation practices for woodland management, pasture/livestock operations, cropland management, wildlife/pollinator habitat, organic operations and more.

To participate in the EQIP Program, applicants must be owners or operators of the land where the practices will be applied, must establish farm records at the Farm Service Agency, and meet other eligibility criteria.

To learn more about EQIP, or other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, contact Lori Ryan-Griffin at your local NRCS Office at 740-454-2767 Extn 3. The NRCS office is located at the USDA Zanesville Service Center at 225 Underwood St., Suite 100, Zanesville, OH 43701.

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## Annual Milkweed Pod Collection

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative is calling on all Ohioans for another year of milkweed pod collections! This project started in 2015 as a seven county pilot and since that time hundreds of Ohioans have worked together collecting thousands of pods across the state. Volunteers have collected approximately 5000 gallons of common milkweed seed pods, totaling over 22 million 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 as well as many other pollinator species. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern Monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard in Ohio to change this, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts even better by following these simple tips!

- Make sure that before you collect seed, you become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.
- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS.
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.
- You can drop your pods off at Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation Office, Monday– Friday, 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Collections start September 1st and goes until October 30th. For more information on Milkweeds refer to this video! <http://u.osu.edu/beelab/milkweed-seed/>



# 2022 Farmland Preservation

The Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) provides funding to assist landowners and communities in preserving Ohio's farmland, our most vital resource. The program purchases agricultural easements from landowners who volunteer to keep their land in agricultural production in perpetuity. In 2013 the program was changed to the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) to reflect the increased role of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) local sponsors in farmland preservation: counties, cities, townships, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and land trusts.

Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District is a local sponsor. Please look on our website, [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org), for more information as it becomes available. Also, check out Ohio Department of Agriculture Website. <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/programs/farmland-preservation-office>

We will be holding an informational meeting on January 13th, 2022 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

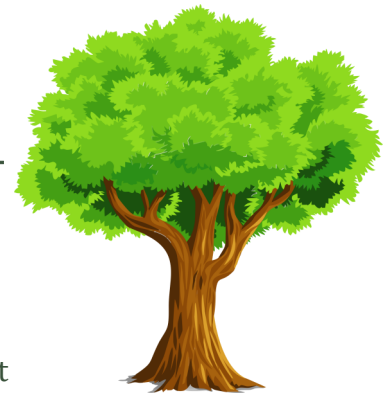
## 2022 Tree Sale

Due to how Newsletter publications are now released, the tree sale order form and information will be available in our Winter Newsletter, which will be published on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

The tree sale order form and information will be available on our website prior to the Winter Newsletter release date.

NEW THIS YEAR! Online ordering and payment!

Follow our social medias or subscribe to our website at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) for more information. You can also contact Robert Boehle at (740) 454-2027.



## Virtual Programs

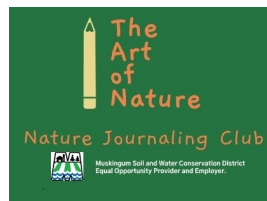
As Covid-19 continues, we are still offering our virtual programs: Farming After Dark, The Art of Nature and Back to Basics.

Follow our social medias or subscribe to our website at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) for more information. You can also contact us at (740) 454-2027.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month



3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month



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MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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*Save the Date*

Supervisor Elections Begin	October 6	The Art of Nature Meeting	November 15
MSWCD Office Closed	October 11	WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	November 16
MSWCD Board Meeting	October 12	Farming After Dark	November 17
Live at Noon	October 12	Live at Noon	November 23
The Art of Nature Meeting	October 18	MSWCD Office Closed	November 25-26
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	October 19	Live at Noon	November 29
Farming After Dark	October 20	MSWCD Board Meeting	December 14
Live at Noon	October 26	Live at Noon	December 14
MSWCD Annual Meeting	November 4	Farming After Dark	December 15
Special Edition FAD with Neal Kinsey	November 4	The Art of Nature Meeting	December 20
Supervisor Elections End	November 4	WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	December 21
MSWCD Board Meeting	November 9	MSWCD Office Closed	December 23-24
Live at Noon	November 9	Live at Noon	December 28
MSWCD Office Closed	November 11	MSWCD Office Closed	December 30-31



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