

# 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 4

muskingumswcd.org

Fall 2022, Published Quarterly



# 78th Annual Celebration of Conservation

# **Meeting and Banquet**

Growing with a Purpose . . .

Join us

When: Thursday, November 3, 2022

Where: Lindsley's Banquet Barn

4060 New Riley Road

Dresden, OH

Time: Supervisor Elections 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Ticket Price \$20 per person

Tickets can be purchased via our website or at the office.

Please call 740-454-2027 if you have questions or to reserve tickets.





### WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS





























Muskingum\_SWCD

The SWCD and NRCS prohibit discrimination in any program activity or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, retaliation, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or genetic information. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (Braille, large print, etc.) or who need special accommodations for meetings should contact the SWCD office at (740) 454-2027.

# **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 the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

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

- 1. At the SWCD office, at 225 Underwood Street, St. 100, Zanesville, from 10/05/2022 until 11/03/2022 during normal business hours of 8:00 am. to 4:30 p.m.; or
- 2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Lindsley's Banquet Barn, on Thursday, November 03, 2022 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; or
- 3. Voting absentee from 10/05/2022 until 11/03/2022, by requesting ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address: 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701, by calling 740-454-2027, or email doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 11/03/2022 at 4:00 p.m.

One Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

Nominees are: Lance Deal and Dean Holtsclaw.

# **Meet the Board Candidates!**

### Lance Deal



Lance resides on Salt Creek Drive in Chandlersville, with his wife Darla. They have three grown children: Lane (23), Lyndsay (20), and Levi (20). Lance is a 1993 graduate of Philo High School and a 1997 graduate of Muskingum College with a Bachelors' Degree in Business. He is a full-time beef and crop farmer. Lance is a current supervisor of the Muskingum County Soil and Water District with his term ending on December 31, 2022. His soil and water philosophy is to promote and encourage putting conservation on the ground.

### Dean Holtsclaw

Dean resides on Coopermill Road in Zanesville. He is married to Nora, and they have four grown children. He graduated from Frontier High School Class of 1976. Dean retired from Walmart as a store manager. He is currently a hobby farmer raising goats and chickens. He currently volunteers as coordinator of the South Zanesville Food Pantry. He attends the Rolling Plains United Methodist Church and is a Lead Team Member. Dean's past experience includes being a Rotarian and board member for nine years, serving four years as a member and president of a Chamber of Commerce, and being a member and chairman of Area 16 Workforce Investment Board for three years. Dean's soil and water conservation philosophy is to simply support farmers and embrace new ideas while protecting nature and working to meet the needs of our community.



# Volunteer Summer Intern Scholarships Awarded



Dylan McNabb, Volunteer Summer Intern, was awarded his intern scholarship during the August 2022 Board meeting. Dylan's assistance in the Rural Services Building Native Pollinator Garden was instrumental in getting the garden to completion. Dylan also worked in the community gardens and was able to experience various aspects of the soil and water field. After his internship, Dylan accepted the position of Seasonal Part-Time Garden Coordinator, and continued his work in the Zanesville Community School garden. He is a sophomore at Zane State College, studying wildlife conservation. Pictured are Dylan and supervisor Becky Vansickle.

Our second Volunteer Summer Intern was Jade Kimberlin. Jade was also awarded her intern scholarship in August 2022. Jade has recently accepted the position of Seasonal Part-Time Garden Coordinator to help finish the gardening season. Jade is in her senior year of college, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Conservation.



# **Conservation School Scholarships Awarded**



Avery Vasko received the Conservation School Scholarship at the August 2022 Board meeting. Avery attends Mid East Career and Technology Center in the Large Animal Science field and will graduate in 2023. She enrolled in Conservation School to learn how the different paths of environmental science could impact the agricultural field. She enjoyed the visit to the Wilds. She was able to observe the large animal veterinarians apply their education to provide better care for the animals. The experience of conservation school gave her a wider view on how different environ-

ments affect the field of agriculture. Avery plans to attend college after graduation and become a large animal veterinarian. Pictured are Avery and supervisor, Becky Vansickle.



Quin McGee received the Conservation School Scholarship at the September 2022 Board meeting. She went into Conservation School because she was not quite sure what she wanted to do in college or a future career. However, she did know that she wanted to do something with environmental science or with natural resources regarding soil quality. Through conservation school, Quin was able to learn more about animal management from her visit to the Wilds. Quin's experience with conservation school extended her interest and knowledge of the environmental sciences. Quin is a 2022 Maysville Graduate and is attending Arizona State University remotely. Pictured are Quin and supervisor, Becky Vansickle.

The Conservation School Scholarships were made possible through a grant from the Straker Foundation.



# Rural Service Building Pollinator Garden

With the growing season winding down for the year, the pollinator garden will start to look different in the next couple of months. The bright colorful flowers will start to die and not look as pretty, but the insects and invertebrates will still use the garden space. The fallen leaves and hollow stems will provide a place to nest and call home for the winter.

You can also help with over winter habitat for the insects and invertebrates at your house by not cleaning up everything this fall. Leaves are often a place that the wooly bear caterpillar hide to find protection from the cold and predators that are looking for a quick meal.

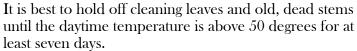


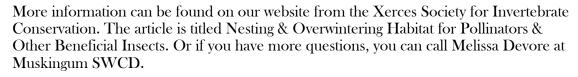
The stems of plants are also another great place for cavity-nesting insects to spend the cold winter months.



These insects include the small and large carpenter bee, stem-boring moths, and some spiders. Besides living in the stem, some insects lay their eggs in the stem to stay safe over winter.

The seeds from many of the plants are also a food source for birds and other wildlife over winter. You can prune the dead flowers in early spring.







### Introducing Joe Lehman, NRCS Soil Conservationist



Joe Lehman is an experienced NRCS Soil Conservationist. He knows how important conservation of our natural resources is for long-term sustainability of our agricultural and forested community and has invested his career in assisting people to reach those conservation measure on their own land.

Joe was driven to pursue conservation from his time as a young man growing up in a rural community in Hocking County. He's worked in agriculture and the forestry industry for 13 years and 9 years with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In that time, he has assisted people in over 15 counties from Ohio to West Virginia find long-term sustainable and profitable conservation opportunities.

He was educated at Zane State College then went on to Southern New Hampshire University, graduating with a Bachelor's in environmental science. Joe has earned his Certified Conservation Planner certificate through the United States Department of Agriculture and served as part of the national training cadre for NRCS employees in 2019.

Joe loves the culture of southeastern Ohio and has been living here for the past 20 years. He, his wife Ginger and two young boys, William and Fritz, feel the sense of belonging here in Muskingum County.

You can find Joe's office located in NRCS/SWCD Conservation Office located in the Rural Services Building at 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701. You can also email him at <u>Joe.lehman@usda.gov</u>.

# **Environmental Quality Incentive Program**

### What's your passion?

Are you into reducing pollution? Conserving water? Reducing emissions? How about soil loss- does that keep you up at night? Do thoughts of invasive species run through your mind? Are you consumed with the idea of creating more wild-life habitat? Or maybe you're interested in saving money and maintaining production. Whatever your passion might be we have a conservation program that works for you.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that helps land managers with the conservation of our natural resources while improving production and providing financial assistance. Conservation opportunities exist in cropland, forestry, pasture operations, seasonal high tunnels, socially disadvantaged producers, conservation activity plans, on-farm energy and organic. Several special projects are also available that address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations and wildlife habitat, pasture improvements and many more. Last year EQIP offered 28 different funding category opportunities to land managers in Ohio. Each funding category is filled with a catalog of practices that the landowner can use to fix the issues they might be facing. Practices such as weed control, vegetative plantings, access roadways, and water developments for livestock are just a few examples.

To participate in the USDA conservation programs, contact the local NRCS/SWCD Conservation office as soon as possible. We want to talk to you, come visit with you, and help you find the opportunities that match your passion and solve conservation problems. NRCS will announce the application submission deadline date for Round 1 of 2023 EQIP funding later this Fall. This is a competitive program, so application does not guarantee funding. All applications will be evaluated and ranked. The highest scoring applications will be selected for funding. Be sure to contact us soon at 740-454-2767 Extn. 3 or stop by the office to set an appointment for a farm visit.



# **Spotted Knapweed**Can you spot it?

More than likely if you take a ride around southeastern Ohio right now you will see a pink-purple flower. Don't let this beauty fool you, because it's probably Spotted Knapweed. This weed is a pest to, say the least. It has been persistent in Ohio's hayfield, pastures, and roadsides for several years now. This highly invasive plant has a two-part attack on our native grasses. Once the plant gets estab-

lished, it shades out preferred grasses. This weed also has an allelopathic effect, meaning it releases a chemical that inhibits the growth of other plants around it. Spotted Knapweed can also produce up to 1,800 seeds per year which makes it even harder to control once it gets establish.

Do not fear for there is help! The NRCS/SWCD Conservation office offers technical and financial assistance. With years of expertise, the employees can help you prevent an infestation, manage an existing one and, restore your grassland once the weed is eliminated. Through a conservation partnership among multiple agencies, financial assistance is available for agricultural producers. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP) is one way that land managers can get help fighting this invasive plant. RCPP is a voluntary conservation program that helps producers make conservation work for them. The NRCS/SWCD Conservation office is wrapping up its funding for the current five-year project and is waiting to hear if there will be additional federal funds available for next year. Producers are encouraged to contact the NRCS/SWCD Conservation office to get their names on the contact list for future funding. Contact the NRCS/SWCD office at 740-454-2767 Extn. 3 or stop in Monday-Friday at 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville Ohio.

# 2022 Big Tree Contest

A White 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 Stovertown St. John's Lutheran Church scored 270 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (126 inches or 3.34 feet in diameter), the height (85 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (61 ft x .25). Congratulations, Stovertown St. John's Lutheran Church!

This year's winner is located in a cemetery, which have a tendency to hold large trees. The church and cemetery were established in the early 1800s so it is possible this tree is well over 200 years old. Although they are a small congregation of under 50 people, they continue to lovingly care for this tree so it can be enjoyed by generations to come.

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.

Name	Species	Height	Crown Average	Circumference	Points	Rank
Stovertown Lutheran Church	White Oak	85	100	160	270	1st
Wilbur Rambo	White Oak	95	68.5	140	252.125	2nd
Ruth Kennel	Norway Spruce	75	58	140	229.5	3rd
Judy McAllister	Norway Spruce	85	61	126	226.25	4th

# **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Bus Tour**



**July 12, 2022** - The first stop of day one was the **Hoover Family Farm** in Blain, PA. They farm approximately 400 acres and have a 750 sow farrow-to-finish hog operation. Kenneth and Amos

Hoover shared how they have had to change many of their farming practices over the years to comply with Pennsylvania's water quality regulations. Using the Neal Kinsey methods, they are working to steadily build up their soil health and fertility.

The second stop was the 600+ acre **Hershey Farm** in Elizabethtown, PA. Jim Hershey joined us on the bus as we drove through the farm where they raise crops, broilers and hogs (at another operation). They have two solar arrays to produce electricity for their facilities.



Jim talked about their project with The Stroud Water Research Center; they are planting over 3000 trees in the stream buffer areas to capture nutrients and slow erosion. The jewel of the farm is the Harvest View Barn, a beautifully renovated barn surrounded by manicured grounds that the Hershey Family rents out for weddings and other events. After a catered dinner in the barn, several members of the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance talked about the importance of no-till in Pennsylvania, particularly in Lancaster County, which contributes a great deal of the water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay.



**July 13, 2022** - The first stop of the second day was the **Mt. Cuba Center**, where we were treated to a presentation on year-round native plantings. The group was divided into smaller groups and given tours of the formal garden, the meadow, the woodland plantings, the pond gardens, and their research plots. Tour participants learned how important native plants are to pollinators and the ecosystems.

After Mt. Cuba we traveled to **Harborview Farms** in Rock Hall, Maryland, which is owned and operated by Trey Hill

and his father, Herman Hill. Between owned and rented land, they farm 13,000 acres of grain crops. They are committed to producing grain in a responsible and environmentally friendly manner and use solar power. We learned that Maryland has a very short window when livestock manure can be applied to fields, and that Harborview brings in manure from other farms to use as a natural fertilizer. They cover crop all their acres and plant exclusively using no-till practices.





From there we stopped at the **Harry Green Nature Preserve**, which is owned and managed by the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**. CBF staff talked about taking marginal farmland and letting it revert back to wetlands and other habitats for native wildlife. The wetland areas act as a nature's filtration system so that less nutrients from the farm fields are released into the Bay.

Part of the CBF land that is on the water is leased to **Orchard Point Oyster Company**. There we met Scott Budden, company founder, aboard one of the company's oyster boats. Orchard Point is committed to a sustainable, environmentally friendly oyster harvest. They begin with seeds and plant them in surface floats that

are gently tumbled in the waves until maturity. It was interesting to hear how the weather affects his oyster crops and harvest, and how oysters are selected for genetics the same as many of our farm animals.

July 14, 2022 - Our first stop on the last day of the trip was the **Stroud Water Research Center** in Avondale, PA. Founded in 1967, their focus is freshwater research and education, and watershed restoration. We toured their research facility and the grounds, where we were able to see some of their conservation practices in the research trials.



### **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Bus Tour Continued**

Our last stop on the trip was the **Rodale Institute**, a leader in organic agriculture research. It is the home to the longest running side-by-side comparison of organic versus conventional farming practices. Their research is focused on develop-



ing organic solutions to pests, diseases, and weeds, and growing nutrient dense foods. Entrepreneur J.I. Rodale wrote "Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People" on a blackboard back in the 1940s and founded what is now the Rodale Institute. We were able to tour the farm and see their organic apple orchard trials, pastured heritage hog facility, the vegetable trails, and the 72 corn and soybean trails, where information was presented on conventional farming versus organic and versus no-till.

This trip was sponsored by a grant from The J.W. & M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation

# **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 November 5. For more information on Milkweeds refer to this video! <a href="http://u.osu.edu/beelab/milkweed-seed/">http://u.osu.edu/beelab/milkweed-seed/</a>

You don't want to miss this!



In conjunction with the Muskingum County Library System, join us to learn the basics of canning and preserving your own foods at home.

> Where: John McIntire Library Date: October 4, 2022 Time: 5:30p–6:30p Presenter: Joyce Dilley, MSWCD Garden Coordinator

Register for this event at muskingumlibrary.org.





# Grant Writing Workshop Hosted by Ohio EPA

Rolling Plains United Methodist Church

3350 Moxahala Park Rd, Zanesville, OH 43701

Thursday, October 6

10am-4pm

Registration is required for this FREE workshop at dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov or call 614-644-2048 for additional information

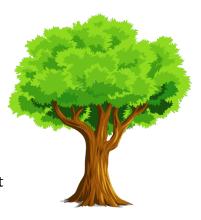
# 2023 Tree Sale

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, 2023.

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

Online ordering will be available on January 1, 2023.

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



## #5 Minute Nature Challenge

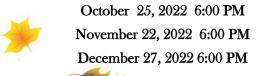
Autum is the time to get outdoors, enjoy the sun, and water, and explore nature. This quarter your #5minutenaturechallenge is to take just 5 minutes to get outside and enjoy the excitement of autumn.

- October Pumpkins and Gourds
- November—Fall Leaves
- December—Pine (Christmas) Trees

You can submit your photos to our Facebook page, <a href="https://www.a.ebook.com/">https://www.a.ebook.com/</a>
<a href="MuskingumSWCD">MuskingumSWCD</a>, Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/">https://twitter.com/</a>
<a href="https://twitter.com/">home</a> or post to Instagram using #5mintuenaturechallenge. Once you submit your photos, you will be entered into the quarterly drawing for an insulated water bottle.

### "Don't Throw That Away" Craft Night

Come join us for an evening of fun, laughs, and making something new again.





Rural Services Building Meeting Room 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville

Space is limited, and registration is required. To register, visit our website at <a href="https://www.muskingumswcd.org">www.muskingumswcd.org</a> or call the office at 740-454-2027.

Join Muskingum and Perry Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ODNR

Division of Forestry and OSU Extension

For An Invasive Species Workshop
Tuesday October, 18th From 6pm—8pm
212 S Main Street, New Lexington, Ohio
Registration is required for this event.



Contact Perry Soil and Water Conservation District at Dsniderperryswcd64.yahoo.com

# 2023 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, for more information as it becomes available. Also, check out Ohio Department of

 $\textbf{Agriculture Website.} \ \underline{\textbf{https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/programs/farmland-preservation-office} \\$ 

We will be holding an informational meeting on January 12th, 2023.

Please register by January 11th, 2023 by calling 740-454-2027 or email melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org.

### MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100 ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

LANCE DEAL, CHAIRPERSON
MARK WEISER, TREASURER/FISCAL AGENT
DOUG MCCONNELL, V. CHAIRPERSON
BECKY VANSICKLE, SECRETARY
MARK STERLING, MEMBER

### **DISTRICT PERSONNEL:**

ROBERT BOEHLE LISA CROCK MELISSA DEVORE DOREEN MAURER VAN SLACK

### **NRCS PERSONNEL:**

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN DEE WISEMAN JOE LEHMAN

# Save the Date

Basic Canning & Preserving	October 4		
Supervisor Elections Begin	October 5		
MSWCD Office Closed	October 10		
MSWCD Board Meeting	October 11		
Live at Noon	October 11		
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	October 18		
Farming After Dark	October 19		
Craft Night	October 25		
Live at Noon	October 25		
Live at Noon	October 31		
MSWCD Annual Meeting	November 3		
Supervisor Elections End	November 3		
MSWCD Board Meeting	November 8		
Live at Noon	November 8		

MSWCD Office Closed	November 11		
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	November 15		
Farming After Dark	November 16		
Live at Noon	November 22		
Craft Night	November 22		
MSWCD Office Closed	November 24-25		
MSWCD Board Meeting	December 13		
Live at Noon	December 13		
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	December 20		
MSWCD Office Closed	December 23 & 26		
Craft Night	December 27		
Live at Noon	December 28		
MSWCD Office Closed	December 30		
MSWCD Office Closed	January 2		









