



# 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](http://muskingumswcd.org)

Fall 2023, Published Quarterly



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**79th Annual  
Celebration of Conservation  
Meeting & Banquet**

**LINDSLEY'S BANQUET BARN  
4060 NEW RILEY ROAD  
DRESDEN, OHIO**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
SUPERVISOR ELECTION 5:30 PM TO 6:30 PM  
DINNER AT 6:00 PM**

**TICKETS \$20 EACH**

TO KEEP COST TO A MINIMUM THE MSWCD SUPERVISOR BOARD HAS COVERED TICKET COST OVER \$20.00

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
REGISTRATION INFORMATION IN THE FALL  
NEWSLETTER**

# 79th Annual Meeting and Banquet



**Speaker for the evening will be Danae Wolfe.**

Danae Wolfe is a writer, photographer, and content creator focused on fostering appreciation and stewardship of backyard bugs and wildlife. Through her website, social media, children's books, and talks, she has reached global audiences with science-based education about the importance of gardening for wildlife. Her community conservation initiative, Chasing Bugs, has inspired countless individuals to appreciate the beauty of our natural world and embrace their role in its preservation.

**The meal will be catered by Doug Lindsley of Lindsley's Banquet Barn.**

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Please reserve the following 2023 Annual Celebration of Conservation ticket(s) for:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline to order ticket(s) is  
**October 20, 2023**  
Tickets must be pre-ordered. Reservation is required.

Number of Ticket(s) at \$20.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00= \_\_\_\_\_

To keep cost to a minimum, the MSWCD Supervisor Board has covered ticket cost over \$20.00.

Mail ticket reservation request and payment to: Muskingum SWCD  
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100  
Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) (there is a 4% service charge for credit care purchase) or reserve ticket(s) by calling 740-454-2027.

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## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Our 2023 volunteer summer intern, Bryce Miskovich, volunteered over 200 hours this summer and learned about agriculture, urban agriculture, forestry, and water quality. Our Board of Supervisors awarded him a \$2,000 scholarship for all the work he did this summer. We appreciate all Bryce accomplished! We also want to thank Dr. Lois Zook-Gerdau for our continued partnership with her and Muskingum University in securing volunteer interns for the past ten years! Bryce is a Junior majoring in environmental and earth science at Muskingum University. Supervisor Becky Vansickle presented Bryce is scholarship.



# WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS



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**We believe in growing more than crops.**

Produce a new legacy with us. Right here in our community.



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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, 225 Underwood Street, St. 100, Zanesville, from 10/04/2023 until 11/02/2023 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 02, 2023 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from 10/04/2023 until 11/02/2023, 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](mailto:doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org). Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 11/02/2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Two Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027. Nominees are: Doug McConnell and Larry Daniels.



## **Why Your Vote Matters!**



SWCD Supervisors are the key to the success of a district and you, as a resident or non-resident landowner, have the power to determine who serves as a Supervisor by casting your vote!

Why vote, you ask? Supervisors determine the local priorities and direction of your soil and water conservation district. They develop both long-range and annual plans of work for their staff and coordinate efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals with responsibilities in natural resource conservation in your county. They set policies and hire capable staff who are charged with taking care of the day-to-day operations of the district.

Supervisors serve a three-year term and are publically elected officials. They meet monthly to handle the regular business of the district and may hold special or emergency meetings on occasion. Many Supervisors choose to attend one or both of the state-wide meetings and training sessions offered each year in January and July. Supervisors regularly meet with the County Commissioners and other local and state officials to keep them informed of the district programs, goals, and accomplishments.

The SWCD Supervisors represent all residents and landowners in your county, including you, so exercise your right to vote!

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## 2023 Supervisor Candidate

### Larry Daniels

Larry is a lifelong resident of Zanesville, Ohio and resides with his wife, Mary. He is a graduate of Zanesville High School and attended Muskingum Area Technical College (Zane State College) from 1975 to 1977. He has also taken numerous courses at the University of Maryland, Central Texas College, and the University of South Carolina-Beaufort. Larry served in the United States Marine Corps for 20 years and is currently employed with the Veterans Administration as a Veteran Service Officer. He is planning to retire from this position in February 2024.

Larry has always had an interest in soil, gardening, livestock, and the basic conservation of our natural resources. His conservation philosophy is our natural resources have been placed in our care, and we need to identify ways to conserve our resources and improve our use of these natural resources for future generations.



## 2023 Supervisor Candidate

### Doug McConnell

Doug resides in Zanesville, Ohio with his wife, Beth. They have two daughters, Landyn and Kendyl. He is a graduate of Maysville High School and Muskingum/Perry Career Center where he majored in welding.

Doug is a full-time farmer. He raises food grade soybeans, hard white wheat, pinto beans as well as farrow to finish pork with an emphasis on direct local marketing for all the crops and livestock. He also operates three-fourths (3/4) of the farm as either certified organic or are in the second to third year transitioning to organic certification.

Doug has worked with the District for several years on various conservation practices and hosted several District events. For the past three years, Doug has served on the MSWCD Board of Supervisors. Doug and his family received the District's 2018 Resource Conservation Award (Ag Division) and the 2019 Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award. Doug is a member of the Muskingum County Farm Bureau and served as Policy Development Chair and Board of Trustees Vice President.



# Environmental Quality Incentive Program



**The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) On-Farm Energy Initiative** helps farmers make improvements that can boost energy efficiency on the farm.

This emerging agricultural trend produces benefits, including reduced input costs, increased productivity per unit of energy consumed by equipment and lighting, and reduced air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions caused when energy is generated for agricultural use.

Financial assistance is available to inventory and analyze farm systems that use energy and identify opportunities to improve efficiency through the development of an energy audit. The energy audit you receive will include:

- Itemized energy use by individual systems to establish a baseline for electricity and other fuel improvements,
- Recommendations for equipment improvements and upgrades,
- Potential energy reductions and financial savings for each recommendation,
- Cost estimates of potential improvements, and
- Length of expected payback for energy efficiency upgrades.

**Once a qualifying energy audit has been completed**, producers can apply for EQIP assistance for the purchase, installation, or retrofit of certain building materials or equipment to improve energy efficiency. Examples of items eligible for energy efficiency improvements include:

- Lighting
- Plate coolers
- Ventilation and fans
- Irrigation pumps
- Grain dryers
- Greenhouse improvements
- Maple syrup evaporators
- Heating and refrigeration units
- Insulation and building envelope sealing.
- Motor controls and variable speed drive



If you wish to learn more about how NRCS can help you with energy consumption contact the Lori Ryan Griffin or Joe Lehman at 740-454-2767

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## Yet Another Invasive Insect



Anyone who has watched the news in the last year or so has seen the pictures and video from New York and Pennsylvania of Spotted Lanternfly. This invasive species was first discovered in the US in 2014 and in Ohio in 2020. Last summer egg masses were found here in Muskingum County and larvae and adults have been discovered this summer. This insect is an huge concern in the orchard and vineyard industry due to their feeding greatly reducing tree vigor. Their preferred host is Ailanthus, giving us just another reason to hate this invasive plant. Be on the lookout for this invasive and if you see it, you should take a picture, smash it and then report it through Ohio Plant Pest Reporter. If you have other questions feel free to reach out to us or to Ohio Department of Agriculture Plant Pest Control Division.



# 2023 Big Tree Contest

A Silver Maple wins this year's prize for the biggest tree in Muskingum County. The tree was measured by Muskingum SWCD staff this summer. The tree, owned by John and Ann Janusz scored 281.75 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (174 inches or 3.34 feet in diameter), the height (90 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (71 ft x .25). Congratulations, John and Ann Janusz.

This years winner is in a local subdivision, which is surprising. This area is an older community, which provided the opportunity. Most modern subdivisions clear out the trees that provide great benefits.

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
John and Ann Janusz	Silver Maple	90	71	174	281.75	1st
John and Carol Smith	Red Oak	95	75	128	241.75	2nd
Jaye and Melodie Hayes	Gingko	75	65	140	231.25	3rd
Judy McAllister	Norway Spruce	85	61	126	226.25	4th
First Christian Church	Dawn Redwood	80	52	122	215	5th
Stover Deitrick Farm LLC	Sugar Maple	65	56	113	192	6th



## What is AmeriCorps?

As we welcome Abriana Newsom, our AmeriCorps VISTA Member for one year, you might be wondering what AmeriCorps is and what a VISTA Member does, and how one will benefit our programs and county.

AmeriCorps is a national service option and the domestic version of the Peace Corps. It is administered by the Corporation of National and Community Service and engages Americans in service to meet critical needs in the areas of education, healthy futures, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, veterans and military families, and disaster services.

The VISTA program is one of four branches of domestic service. AmeriCorps Members serving in the VISTA positions offer indirect services that are focused on poverty alleviation, empowering communities, building capacity, and creating sustainable solutions. The program began in 1965 as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty" and was incorporated into AmeriCorps in 1993. VISTAs serve as professional volunteers, receiving a small living stipend and end-of-service educational award (or a much lower cash option). They work behind the scenes to assess needs, develop programs and partnerships, recruit and train volunteers, create community awareness and program capacity, and overall build sustainability into programs.

Our sponsor is ShareCorps: Ohio Association of Foodbanks VISTA Program. They launched in 2006 and have placed over 1500 members in summer and year-long positions across the state. ShareCorps' focus is on food insecurity and access, and capacity building. Our Urban Greens program fit perfectly with the ShareCorps focus, since our goal is to teach people how to grow some of their own food while helping to support those most affected by food insecurity in our county. We are very fortunate to have Abriana placed with us for the next year!

Because Urban Greens has grown to far exceed what we expected when we began the program in 2017, Abriana will work to build some of the background capacity we need to maintain the program in the future. She will be working to build a resilient volunteer base to assist our Garden Coordinators in gardens we manage; creating a sponsorship plan so that businesses, organizations and individuals can give of their time, talents, and resource, to support the gardens; finding a curriculum that we can use with groups in our dedicated youth garden; and searching for grant funding for current needs. It's a pretty tall order for one person to accomplish in a year, but Abriana is up to the challenge. Please help us welcome Abriana if you are by the office!



Meet Abriana Newsom.

I am immensely proud and eager to work indirectly feeding our community. I live in Zanesville and attend college full time online at Ohio University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in business studies. I have two dogs, a chiweenie and a Doberman. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family.

Pictured: Abriana picking beans at Marshall Greens.



## “Growing Food, Growing Community, Growing with Purpose”

Muskingum SWCD was awarded a \$50,000 grant through the NACD’s Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative in 2016. With this funding, the Urban Greens program was created. The Urban Greens program started with three community gardens in the Putnam Historic District in Zanesville, Ohio. The original mission of Urban Greens was to provide fresh produce and gardening opportunities to those in the area designated as a “food desert”. As the program has expanded, we have transitioned our mission to focus on “Growing with a Purpose”. With this initiative, we are connecting with food pantries in the county to grow to their specific needs.

- **Marshall Greens** is our largest garden (with an acre and a half of growing space) and is located on Licking Lane. Out of this site we have been able to donate over **9,000lbs** of produce to local food pantries so far this year!
- **Maple-Harding** consists of 58 raised beds available for community use (specifically residents of the Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority site for senior citizens) in addition to in-ground growing space used to grow food for the community. A garden pantry is placed just outside the garden for folks to take and use the fresh produce for free. We have been able to donate almost **900lbs** of produce from this site so far this year!
- **Zanesville Community High School Garden** is used both to provide food for Zanesville City Schools summer lunch program and also as an educational site for ZMS/ZHS Vocational Agriculture students. This site has donated around **700lbs** of produce this year!
- **Brighton Grows** is located at the corner of Cliffwood Avenue and Baker Street, behind the Coopermill Manor. A garden pantry was also installed at this site, which has produced almost **600lbs** of produce so far this year!
- **Restoration Park** consists of 32 raised beds available for community use and is located on Muskingum Avenue. There is also a garden pantry at this site.

This program would not be possible without our volunteers! As of the end of August, we’ve had a total of **741** volunteer hours, with a total of **202** volunteers! **We extend a heartfelt thanks to all people, teams, and businesses who have worked to support Urban Greens and our mission to increase access to healthy food within our community!**



Here is what one of our corporate volunteers had to say about their volunteer experience. “Part of the Rea Way is investing in our community. It was an honor to utilize our annual service day to plant A LOT of tomato plants at Marshall Greens. We enjoyed the team experience and having an opportunity to make a difference in our community.”

*Rea & Associates , Inc.*



Another corporate volunteer shared. "Giving back to the community is a Core Value of The Home Depot. We are very proud to be a part of this project taking care of people."

*Team Home Depot*



Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30 PM, Henry Peller - Henry has his doctorate degree from The Ohio State University in soils and worked on his Thesis in Belize. He is now farming on his family farm. Always with an eye on soil health and profitability Henry is a wealth of knowledge and an entertaining speaker!

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM, John Wallace – Assistant Professor of Weed Science and Extension Specialist for field and forage crops will be our speaker. I've had the opportunity to hear John at a Pennsylvania No-till Alliance meeting and at the Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference. John brings a lot of practical information when it comes to dealing with weeds!

There will not be an episode of Farming After Dark in December.

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## 2023 Farmland Preservation

MSWCD Serves as LAEPP Local Sponsor

The Muskingum SWCD will serve as a Local Sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, better known to us as Farmland Preservation. As a Local Sponsor, we partner with landowners and the Ohio Department of Agriculture to permanently preserve Ohio farms in agricultural easements. The program is voluntary, and the property can still be sold or passed on, but the restrictions of the easement will prohibit non-agricultural development on the land.

We have reserved two days to privately meet with interested landowners about the program. If you are interested, please call the office to schedule an appointment either on Friday, January 12, 2024 or Wednesday, January 17, 2024 with Melissa Devore, Ag Resource Specialist. You may also email your appointment request to [melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org).

Additional information about the program can be found at: <https://agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office/questions>

# 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 visit <https://www.ohiopollinator.org/>.

## 2024 Tree Sale

The tree sale order form and information will be available in our Winter Newsletter, which will be published January 2024.

**The tree sale order form and information will be available on our website prior to the Winter Newsletter release date, at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org).**

Online ordering will be available on January 1, 2023.

Follow our social media sites for more information.

You can also contact Robert Boehle at (740) 454-2027.







MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100  
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DEE WISEMAN  
JOE LEHMAN

*Save the Date*

Supervisor Election Begins	October 4	Live at Noon	November 14
Columbus Day, Office Closed	October 9	Radio AM 1240 & FM 103.7	November 14
MSWCD Board Meeting	October 10	Farming After Dark	November 15
Live at Noon	October 10	Thanksgiving Office, Closed	November 23-24
Radio - AM 1240 & FM 103.7	October 17	Craft Night	November 28
Farming After Dark	October 18	Live at Noon	November 28
Live at Noon	October 24	MSWCD Board Meeting	December 12
Live at Noon	October 30	Live at Noon	December 12
MSWCD Annual Meeting	November 2	Radio AM 1240 & FM 103.7	December 19
Supervisor Election End	November 2	Christmas, Office Closed	December 25 & 26
Veterans' Day, Office Closed	November 10	Live at Noon	December 26
MSWCD Board Meeting	November 14	New Years, Office Closed	January 1 & 2

