



Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027

Newsletter Issue 4

muskingumswcd.org

Fall 2024, Published Quarterly

Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District

Invitation To

80TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CONSERVATION MEETING AND BANQUET

Thursday, November 7, 2024

**Lindsley's Banquet Barn
4060 New Riley Road
Dresden, Ohio 43821**

- SUPERVISOR ELECTION - 5:30PM TO 6:30PM
- DINNER - 6:00PM, CATERED BY DOUG LINDSLEY

Guest Speaker: Greg Burns, Nature's Image Farm

Ticket cost is \$20.00 per person. Purchase tickets on-line at www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Conservation-Banquet/; at the office, 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville; or call to reserve your tickets, 740-454-2027.

**Deadline to Purchase Tickets
October 28, 2024**

80th Annual Meeting and Banquet

MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORM

Please reserve the following 2024 Annual Celebration of Conservation ticket(s) for:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number of Ticket(s) _____ X \$20.00= _____

Deadline to order ticket(s) is October 28, 2024

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

Ticket(s) may also be purchased on-line at www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Conservation-Banquet/ (there is a 4% service fee for credit card purchase) or reserve ticket(s) by calling 740-454-2027.



Summertime Fun



On July 11th, 54 youth participated in our second annual Earth Camp, a collaboration of MSWCD, Muskingum County Library System, and Muskingum Valley Park District. This year's theme was Adventure Begins Here. Throughout the camp, participants experienced adventures of both the mind and body by exploring the Aquatic Education Trailer (a mobile museum all about water), hiking, geocaching, nature journaling, playing games to learn about wild animals, and even competing in an obstacle course!

In addition to our partners, we would like to thank the following entities for making this possible:

- Muskingum Valley Health Center
- Domino's Pizza
- Buckeye Valley Family YMCA
- Monica Mohr, OSU SNAPed Nutrition Educator
- Ohio University Zanesville Campus
- Zane State College
- and all of our Awesome Volunteers!



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 10/09/24 until 11/07/2024 during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Lindsley's Banquet Barn, on Thursday, November 07, 2024 from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from 10/09/2024 until 11/07/2024, 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 11/07/2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Two Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027. Nominees are: Mark Sterling, Mark Weiser, and Rod McDaniel.



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 publicly 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!

2024 SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES



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 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 has served on the Board of Supervisors for the MSWCD from 2022 to present. He has recently been selected to serve as an Area 3 Director for the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Districts

Mark's conservation philosophy is to use the best management practices to enable the most profitable benefits for today, 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 and is a second generation Supervisor with his mother, Joyce, serving from 1981 to 1998.



Rod McDaniel

Rodney (Rod) resides in Zanesville, Ohio with his wife, Amy. They have two grown children. He is a graduate of West Muskingum High School and attended MATC (Zane State College). Rod is retired and currently is the owner/operator of a small family farm.

Rod is a Muskingum County Sheep Improvement Association Board member. He is a retired member of the Local 637 Teamsters Union, and he is a member of the Rolling Plains Church.

Soil and water conservation and stewardship involves integrating methods that prevent erosion, enhance soil fertility and manage water sustainability. Rodney believes by adopting such practices, we uphold our responsibility to preserve natural resources, ensuring **their availability for our children's children and beyond.**

BREAKING

NEWS

FOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS HAVE NEW TOOLS FOR PATHWAYS TO AGRICULTURE

The Muskingum SWCD received a competitive grant from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation for Pathways to Agriculture. The grant pulls together four schools, which include Foxfire, Maysville, Philo, and New Lexington. Maysville and Foxfire are starting new programs while Philo is expanding into their junior high school. New Lexington will be adding additional programming.



Maysville



Foxfire

New Lexington has the largest FFA program in the State of Ohio and will act as mentors to the other schools.

A centerpiece of the grant was the installation of a high tunnel greenhouse at each of the school sites. In July, construction began on the high tunnels, and these structures were completed in early August. The schools are

planning on using them for food production to flower production. They are still a work in progress as the finishing touches are being applied.



Philo

High tunnels are designed for season extension. You can plant earlier in the spring and fall by about three weeks. They are naturally ventilated structures that use side curtains to maintain a constant temperature. The students, teachers, and school administrators are all excited about the potential this new project will have for their students. What better way to get students connected to agriculture than down a dirt path in the middle of a high tunnel greenhouse!



New Lexington

The grant also allowed for new curriculum, cooperative education, and eventually product development. This grant is an outreach of the SWCD's Urban Agriculture program, Urban Greens. We look forward to working with the local schools on their endeavors.

We want to thank our local County Farm Bureau for their support and for the investment that the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation made in our local schools and future agricultural professionals!



2024 Big Tree Contest

A Sycamore 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 Jamie and Krista Campbell scored 339.375 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (234 inches or 6.2 feet in diameter), the height (85 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (81.5 ft x .25). Congratulations, Jamie and Krista Campbell.

This year's winner is the first big tree since 2020 to break the 300 barrier, but still just over half of the state record of 561 points.

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 backyard! For more information on big trees, you can contact Robert Boehle at (740) 454-2027.



Name	Species	Height	Crown Average	Circumference	Points	Rank
Jamie and Krista Campbell	Sycamore	85	81.5	234	339.375	1st
Muskingum Valley Miracle League	Catalpa	75	72	240	333	2nd
Bob and Gail Deitrick	White Oak	100	96.5	181	305.125	3rd
Phillip Allen	Silver Maple	80	67	189	285.75	4th
John and Carol Smith	Red Oak	95	75	128	241.75	5th
Jaye and Melodie Hayes	Gingko	75	65	140	231.25	6th
Jeff Roberts	Norway Spruce	80	59	136	230.75	7th
First Christian Church	Dawn Redwood	80	52	122	215	8th
Stover Deitrick Farm LLC	Sugar Maple	65	56	113	192	9th

2025 GRAZING EVENTS



We will meet monthly to discuss different topics associated with grazing animals. These topics will include soil, grass ID, water and fence needs, stocking rates, and animal health. We will be meeting the fourth (4th) Thursday of the month. The first meeting will be held on January 23, 2025, at 6:30pm, in the Rural Service Building Meeting Room. The meeting location will vary month to month, depending on the weather and topic. Watch our social media for speakers/topics and a link to register.



2024 Forestry and Wildlife Roundtable



Muskingum SWCD An Equal Opportunity Employer

THE IMPACTS OF POLLINATOR HABITAT

November 14, 2024 - 6PM to 8PM

Via ZOOM

Please Register at www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Forestry-Wildlife-Roundtable/
or by calling 740-454-2027

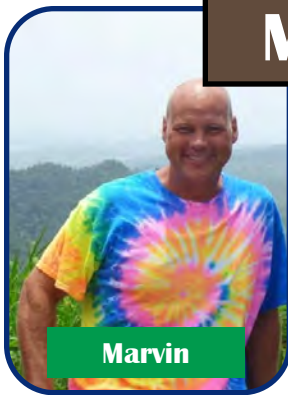
In recent years, the importance of pollinating insects and native plants has become more widely known. Less frequently discussed are the benefits of pollinator habitat to other wildlife of interest, such as pheasants, quail, songbirds, deer, and rabbits. Join Muskingum SWCD and Pheasants Forever biologist Abby Prieur for a webinar to discuss what pollinator habitat is, how it is created, and how building habitat for bugs impacts other Ohio wildlife.



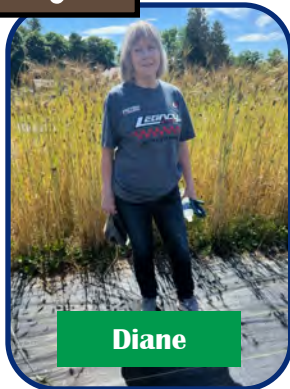
This year we implemented a Volunteer of the Month program to recognize our hardworking volunteers. So far this season, we have recognized Marvin Gill, Diane Altman, Jim Stafford, Elizabeth Reeb, Arlene Weaver, and Adam Keirns, who have volunteered almost 400 hours combined and counting! Volunteers play a huge role in the success of our program; we couldn't do it without them and truly appreciate the many hours they donate to the Urban Greens program and this community. Volunteers learn about growing food (and sometimes even teach us some new things), are encouraged to take home harvested produce, experience the mental and physical benefits of working in the soil, and enjoy the opportunity to connect with new people.

We are still in need of volunteers to help with harvesting and garden clean-up for the year. Please give us a call at 740-454-2027 or send us an email at abriana.newsom@muskingumswcd.org to volunteer with us this season!

May



Marvin



Diane

June



Elizabeth

Jim

July



Arlene

August



Adam

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 wildlife 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 2025 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.

2024 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 10, 2025 or Wednesday, January 15, 2025 with Melissa Devore, Ag Resource Specialist. You may also email your appointment request to 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.

2025 Tree Sale

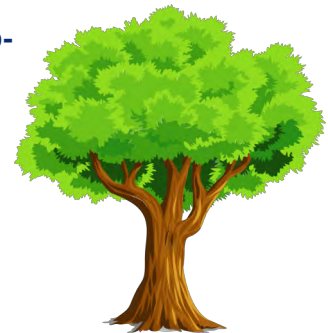
The tree sale order form and information will be available in our Winter Newsletter, which will be published January 2025.

The tree sale order form and information will be available on our website prior to the Winter Newsletter release date, at www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Seedling-Tree-Sale/

Online ordering will be available on January 1, 2025.

Follow our social media sites for more information.

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



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS



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www.mccflegacy.org



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**Check our website for drought
resource information at**
www.muskingumswcd.org

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.



MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100
 ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

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 LISA CROCK
 MELISSA DEVORE
 DOREEN MAURER
 ABRIANA NEWSOM
 VAN SLACK
 BETSY ROSSER

NRCS PERSONNEL:

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN
 JENCEL RODRIGUEZ-CRUZ
 DEE WISEMAN

Save the Date

Mid-Day News	October 8	Forestry & Wildlife Rd Table	November 14
MSWCD Board Meeting	October 8	Radio AM 1240 & FM103.7	November 19
Supervisor Election Begins	October 9	Farming After Dark	November 20
Columbus Day, Office Closed	October 14	Mid-Day News	November 26
Radio - AM 1240 & FM 103.7	October 15	Conservation Craft Night	November 26
Farming After Dark	October 16	Thanksgiving, Office Closed	November 28-29
Live at Noon	October 22	MSWCD Board Meeting	December 10
Conservation Craft Night	October 22	Mid-Day News	December 10
MSWCD Annual Meeting	November 7	Radio AM 1240 & FM 103.7	December 17
Supervisor Election Ends	November 7	Mid-Day News	December 24
Veterans' Day, Office Closed	November 11	Christmas, Office Closed	December 24 & 25
MSWCD Board Meeting	November 12	Mid-Day News	December 30
Mid-Day News	November 12	New Years, Office Closed	December 30, & January 1, 2025



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