



Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialist"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740) 454-2027

Newsletter Issue 4

muskingumswcd.org

Fall 2025, Published Quarterly

Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District

Invitation To

81ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CONSERVATION MEETING AND BANQUET

Thursday, October 30, 2025

**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: Dr. Henry Anton Peller

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 ticket(s), 740-454-2027.

**Deadline to Purchase Tickets
October 20, 2025**

81st Annual Meeting and Banquet Mail-In Registration Form

Please reserve the following 2025 Annual Celebration of Conservation ticket(s) for:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Deadline to order tickets is October 20th, 2025.

Mail ticket reservation request
and payment to:

Muskingum SWCD
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, OH 43701

Ticket(s) may also be purchased online at
muskingumswcd.org/Events/Conservation-Banquet/ (there is a 4%
service charge for credit card purchases) or you can reserve
ticket(s) by calling (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 10/01/2025 until 10/30/2025 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, October 30, 2025 from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from 10/01/2025 until 10/30/2025, 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 10/30/2025 at 4:00 p.m.

One Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028. Nominees are: Lance Deal 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!

SUPERVISOR ELECTION CANDIDATES

LANCE DEAL

Lance resides on Salt Creek Drive in Chandlersville, with his wife Darla. They have three grown children: Lane, Lyndsay, and Levi. 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, 2025.

His soil and water philosophy is to promote and encourage putting conservation on the ground.



RODNEY 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. Rod believes by adopting such practices, we uphold our responsibility to preserve natural resources, ensuring their availability for our children's children and beyond.



We are thrilled to announce that we have received a grant from the JW & MH Straker Charitable Foundation to establish an outdoor classroom and kitchen, featuring a pergola that will grow grapevines. With the support of this grant and the collaboration of skilled builders, including Adam Keirns, the Muskingum University wrestling team, and Mark Sterling, who brought wooden stools and desks, we have successfully brought this vision to life.



Raymond Ramos has enriched the inspiration and educational atmosphere of this space with his vibrant murals. We look forward to utilizing this area for teaching and facilitating a farm-to-table experience through our “Enjoy the Harvest” series within our flourishing garden. This initiative embodies a harmonious blend of community engagement, education, and sustainable food production. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all contributors for their invaluable support!



2025 Big Tree Contest Winner

The winner of this year's biggest tree in Muskingum County is a Catalpa. The tree was measured by Muskingum SWCD staff over the summer. The tree is owned by the Muskingum Valley Miracle League and scored 333 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (240 inches or 6.37 feet in diameter), the height (75 feet), and the crown spread average times .25 (72 ft x .25). Congratulations to the Muskingum Valley Miracle League.

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



All of the non-winners from this year will be entered into next year's contest. If you are interested in submitting a tree for next year, you can log on to the state's website to see how your tree might measure up: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/bigtrees/nativechamps/tabid/4810/Default.aspx>

Name	Species	Height	Crown Average	Circumference	Points	Rank
Muskingum Valley Miracle	Catalpa	75	72	240	333	1st
Bob and Gail Deitrick	White Oak	100	96.5	181	305.125	2nd
Phillip Allen	Silver Maple	80	67	189	285.75	3rd
Wilbur and Betty Rambo	White Oak	80	78	158	257.5	4th
Jeff Roberts	Norway Spruce	80	59	136	230.75	5th

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.

2026 Tree Sale

The tree sale order form and information will be available in our Winter Newsletter, which will be published January 2026.

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, 2026.

Follow our social media sites for more information.

You can also contact Dylan McNabb at (740) 454-2027.



PH Outdoors 3' No-till Drill



Through the “Grow Native” grant we received from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, we were able to purchase a 3' no-till drill to promote landowners to grow native. This drill is perfect for smaller acreage projects including food plots, pollinator plantings, buffer strips, etc. This drill can be used with a UTV or small tractor.

Contact Us



740-454-2027

225 Underwood St. Suite 100
Zanesville, Ohio 43701



<https://www.muskingumswcd.org/>

Grow Native

Species Trade-in

The purpose of this species trade-in is for homeowners to remove invasive, non-native species from their yard or landscaping and replace this invasive with a native species. Through the “Grow Native” grant we received from Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, we are able to offer the first 40 people that remove invasive, non-native species from their landscaping a gift card up to \$100 to replace this invasive species. To receive a gift card, contact the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District office to have someone from the office come to your property and see where an invasive, non-native species has been removed. Some of the non-native, invasive species include Callery pear, non-native bush and vine honeysuckles, burning bush, barberry, etc.

2025

MONTHLY JOINT GRAZING & WILDLIFE EVENT



October 23- 4 pm
3405 Licking Lane, Zanesville, Ohio
Update on the demonstration plots, and John Morton, Wildlife Management Consultant with ODNR will be speaking on wildlife management and funding opportunities.

Use this QR Code to register and get more information or call
740-454-2027



Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org

Muskingum SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.



MUSKINGUM
WATERSHED
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2025
SUMMER INTERN SCHOLARSHIP
PRESENTATION



Sarah Lutz
Pictured w/Mark Weiser



Syrena Mann
Pictured w/Mark Weiser



Erin Oberle
Pictured w/Lacey Harrier



Welcome back Abrianna Newsom as the 2025-2026 AmeriCorps VISTA member. We look forward to all the exciting things you will accomplish for the Urban Greens program.

ON SALE
NOW

2025 Plat Book

Muskingum County, Ohio

Backed by experience, driven by technology.

This Book Sponsored By:
Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District
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Zanesville, Ohio 43701
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Available for purchase in the office, 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville or online at www.muskingumswcd.org. Call 740-454-2027 for more information.

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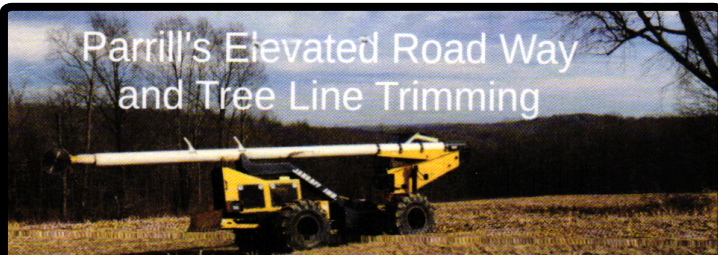
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Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

Board of Supervisors:

Lance Deal, Secretary
Wayne Kilpatrick, Member
Doug McConnell, Chairperson
Mark Sterling, V. Chairperson
Mark Weiser, Treasurer/Fiscal Agent

District Personnel:

Lacey Harrier
Melissa Devore
Doreen Maurer
Dylan McNabb
Carah Mladek
Van Slack
Betsy Rosser
LaTrell Davis,
AmeriCorps VISTA Member
Abrianna Newsom,
AmeriCorps VISTA Member

NRCS Personnel:

Mathew Hursey
Jencel Rodriguez-Cruz
Dee Wiseman

Save the Date

Office Closed - Columbus Day	10/13
Board Meeting	10/14
Mid-Day News	10/14
WHIZ Radio	10/21
Farming After Dark	10/22
Grazing Event	10/23
Mid-Day News	10/28
Annual Meeting and Banquet	10/30
Board Meeting	11/04
Office Closed - Veterans Day	11/11
Mid-Day News	11/11
WHIZ Radio	11/18
Farming After Dark	11/19

Mid-Day News	11/25
Office Closed - Thanksgiving	11/27
Office Closed - Thanksgiving	11/28
Board Meeting	12/09
Mid-Day News	12/09
WHIZ Radio	12/16
Mid-Day News	12/23
Office Closes at 12:00PM	12/24
Office Closed - Christmas	12/25-26
Mid-Day News	12/29
Office Closed - New Years Eve	12/31
Office Closed - New Years Day	01/01/26
Office Open - Happy New Year	01/02/26



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