



Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

August 2023

2789 US RT 35 E.
West Alexandria, OH 45381
(937) 456-5159
www.prebleswcd.org

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Annual Meeting at Hueston Woods

Our 74th Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and we would love to have you join us for an evening of recreation and education! It will be held on Tuesday, August 22, at Hueston Woods State Park. Please read closely, as there are many things going on at this event that you won't want to miss.

- 3:00 p.m. - Guided Hike to the Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve to see some of the largest Tulip Poplar trees in the state of Ohio. Meet at the Blue Heron Trail parking lot.
- All afternoon - The new Hueston Woods Nature Center will be open. It is located near the park office.
- 4:00 p.m. - Pontoon Boat Tours on Acton Lake, departing from the dock behind the Lodge. Advance reservations are required for the boat tours. Water Quality Educational Exhibits will also be set up between the Lodge and the dock.
- 5:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting and Banquet in the Teepee Room at the Lodge. The Board of Supervisor's Election will take place, followed by a meal and the evening program. Our after-dinner speaker will be the Ohio Department of Agriculture H2Ohio Program Director Terry Mescher, who will speak on water quality in Ohio. We will recognize this year's Outstanding Cooperator and our newest Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee. We will round out the evening with Conservation Trivia and a boatload of door prizes. Reservations are required.

The Pontoon Boat Tours and the Annual Meeting and Banquet will take place at the Hueston Woods State Park Lodge, 5201 Lodge Road, College Corner, OH 45003. Watch for signs when traveling through the park. Please RSVP for both of these events by calling (937) 456-5159.

Conservation Day Camp 2023

Preble SWCD recently held our eighth annual Conservation Day Camp from June 20th - 22nd at the Preble County Historical Society. This year we welcomed 168 campers ranging in age from 6-12 years old, as well as nearly 40 former campers who joined us as counselors and youth helpers.

Presenters brought a variety of hands-on activities for campers, including wilderness survival, worm farming, wetland ecology, Native American history, and manufacturing. This year's craft project involved boomerang throwing lessons followed by painting the boomerangs. The ever-popular archery and creeking were back again this year as well. Informal camper surveys indicate that lunch time remains one of the favorite parts of camp. Thursday was filled with traditions from years past including wagon rides through the woods and group games. Ice cream after lunch the last day proved to be a big hit. Camp concluded with camper groups performing hilarious skits for their fellow campers and parents alike.

This event would not be possible without our fantastic presenters and generous sponsors, including The Preble County Historical Society, Christian Bowhunter Association, Mamma Mac's Pizza, Miami University, and Wildcat Sports and Graphics. We are glad to see that our Day Camp continues to grow in numbers and we thank all of you who support us by sending your kids and grandkids to Conservation Day Camp.

Group photo from last day of camp with well over 200 campers, helpers, counselors, staff, and adult volunteers.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Broermann
Brian Deaton
Kip Denlinger
Donald Hays
James Leedy

DISTRICT STAFF

BJ Price - District Administrator & Technician
Jason Chappel - Technician
Austin Kosier - Intern

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeff Barnes - District Conservationist
Tyler White - Soil Conservationist
Brooke White - Soil Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

Renee Buck


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2023 Supervisor Candidates

Mike Broermann

Mike Broermann is a self-employed farmer who also works as a crop insurance adjuster. He and his family farm 950 acres of corn, soybeans, and hay, along with raising 20-30 feeder calves per year. Mike, and his wife, Lisa live outside of Camden and have two children. Over the past 10 years, Mike has installed several grassed waterways on his own property as well as his family's property. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agriculture. Mike is a member of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, American Soybean Association, and St. Mary's Catholic Church.



Kip Denlinger



Kip Denlinger is a self-employed farmer, growing 1,600 acres of corn and soybeans in Preble County. He lives in Jackson Township and is a member of Farm Bureau, where he served six years as a Board Member. Kip has taken coursework in Grain Marketing from The Ohio State University. He no-tills his crops and has installed several grassed waterways.

Mark Menke

Mark Menke is an Agronomist for Wilbur-Ellis. He and his family grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay, as well as a vegetable and flower garden on the family farm in Lanier Township. He and his wife, Shari, have four children at home. They have done grassed waterway work on his family's property. He is a Certified Crop Advisor with an M.S. in Crop Science from The Ohio State University. He serves on the Church Council at Salem Lutheran Church where he helps teach Bible studies and Sunday School.



ELECTION NOTICE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Preble 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 Preble 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, 2789 US RT 35 E, West Alexandria, OH 45381, from 7/24/2023 until 8/21/2023 during normal business hours; or
- 2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Hueston Woods Lodge, 5201 Lodge Rd, College Corner, OH 45003 on 8/22/2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; or
- 3.) Voting absentee from 7/24/2023 until 8/21/2023, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address 2789 US RT 35 E, West Alexandria, OH 45381, by calling (937) 456-5159, or email bjprice@prebleswcd.org. Absentee ballots must be received at the SWCD office by 8/21/2023 at 3:30 p.m.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

Nominees are:
Mike Broermann
Kip Denlinger
Mark Menke



On August 8, the Preble County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an Agriculture Outlook Luncheon at the Preble County Fairgrounds Expo Center. Barry Ward from OSU Extension will speak on Land Valuation and Taxation. RSVP by calling (937) 456-4949.

Fall Forestry Workshop

Mark your calendars for an upcoming Forestry Workshop to be held on Wednesday, September 6th at Chenoweth Trails in Darke County. It is hosted by the Darke Soil and Water Conservation District and partners will include the Ohio Division of Forestry, The National Wild Turkey Federation, and Pheasants Forever. The event features a walk through the diverse woods of Chenoweth Trails, so come prepared. The workshop will begin at 5:30 p.m. and conclude by 8:00 p.m. Chenoweth Trails is located at 440 Greenville Nashville Rd, Greenville, OH 45331. For more details, contact the Darke Soil and Water Conservation District at (937) 548-1715, or visit www.darkeswcd.com

2023 Scholarship Recipients

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors typically awards just one scholarship to a current college student. This year, the board chose to award two scholarships to two very deserving students. The District would like to congratulate our 2023 Preble SWCD Scholarship Winners Libby Giffen and Abbi Whitesell!

Libby is a 2021 graduate of Eaton High School and will be a Junior at Wilmington College this fall, majoring in Animal Science.

Abbi is a National Trail class of 2022 graduate, and will be starting her Sophomore year at Wilmington College this fall with a major in Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

Best wishes to Libby and Abbi in their college studies.

2023 Fish Sale

Our Annual Fish Sale is going on now! We have a large selection of fish species and sizes available. You can find out more information about each species on the back of the order form. Orders and payment by cash or check made payable to Preble SWCD are due Friday, September 15th. Please mail your form and payment to 2789 US Rt. 35 E., West Alexandria, OH 45381. Additional forms are available in our office or on our website at www.prebleswcd.org. The pick-up date for fish orders is Thursday, October 12th at 2:00 p.m. at the office. A pick-up reminder postcard will be mailed in late September. For any questions or additional information, please call our office at (937) 456-5159.



BJ's Philosophy Box

Don't get the cart before the horse.

-Unknown

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Dates to Remember:

August 16 - Board Meeting 7:00 a.m.
August 22 - Annual Meeting
September 4 - Labor Day - Office Closed
September 20 - Board Meeting 7:00 a.m.
October 4 - Fish Pickup 2:00 p.m.
October 18 - Board Meeting 7:00 a.m.

*All programs and services of the Preble SWCD are offered on a nondiscrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.
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Conservation Migrations

They say that only a wet baby likes change. Like it or not, there's been some change in the staff lineup at Preble SWCD.

Savannah Ballweg departed from the District in early June to pursue her dream job as the Conservatory Manager at the Miami University Hamilton Campus. She will be overseeing the plant collection there in addition to teaching classes. If you had the chance to spend any time at all around her, you already know that Savannah takes to trees and plants like a fish takes to water.

In early August, our Technician Intern Austin Kosier will report for fall term at Hocking College, where he will be majoring in Forestry Management. He began working for the District in May 2022 and he's gotten to experience a full year's worth of everything that goes on at the District. In the office, he helped digitize thousands of sheets of old engineering plans and always was glad to pitch in wherever needed. He has been especially helpful when it comes to doing field work for grassed waterways.

We wish them both the best in the future.

We are happy to report that our current staff members Jason Chappel and BJ Price are keeping the wheels rolling at the District. Jason continues to design and draft conservation projects and write conservation plans. In addition, he still handles site reviews for zoning applications, completes farmland preservation applications, and takes on a host of other projects that come across his desk.

In the absence of a District Educator, BJ Price will be assuming the role of Educator in addition to his regular duties. Those of you who have been familiar with the District for some time will recall that BJ was hired as an Educator/Technician 16 years ago, so he's no stranger to that role.

Our list of grassed waterway requests continues to grow with each passing year. With that in mind, the Board of Supervisors plans to hire an additional District Technician very soon. Stay tuned for more details.

Milkweed Pod Collection

This fall we will once again be holding our annual Milkweed Pod Collection through the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI). Decline in Milkweed plant populations is detrimental to Monarch butterflies as their caterpillars cannot survive without this species. The collection program both distributes seeds for new plantings across the state and provides free seed packets for our cooperators.

Milkweed pods are typically ready to harvest in early fall near September. To check maturity of the pod, look inside and determine that the seeds are brownish and dry, rather than white and milky. The best storage for pods is in a cool, dry place using paper bags which will allow them to dry without trapping moisture inside which leads to rot.

Pods can be brought to our office at 2789 US RT 35 E, West Alexandria, OH. The collection bin in our lobby will be accessible Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We appreciate your contributions to this important mission!

