



Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

August 2022

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

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

You Are Invited to Our 73rd Annual Meeting

It is nearly time for the Preble SWCD 73rd Annual Meeting, and you are invited to join us!

Wilderness Ridge Retreat Center

1259 Swann Beatty Rd, Camden, OH 45311

Thursday, September 1st, 2022

The meeting will held at 5:30 p.m., beginning with the Board of Supervisors Election and followed by a free dinner at 6:00 p.m. We are pleased to have Emily Mullen of Mullen Dairy and Creamery joining us as guest speaker. Attendees can look forward to raffle prizes and fun Conservation Trivia. We will also be inducting a new member to the Conservation Hall of Fame and awarding an Outstanding Cooperator of the year. To RSVP, please call the SWCD office at (937)456-5159 with the names and ages of those planning to attend. Please RSVP no later than **Friday, August 27th**.



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Mike Broermann
Brian Deaton
Kip Denlinger
Donald Hays
James Leedy

DISTRICT STAFF

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeff Barnes - District Conservationist
Karen McCalister - Resource Conservationist
Brooke White - Soil Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

Renee Buck

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Get updates on our website:

www.prebleswcd.org

Conservation Day Camp 2022

Preble SWCD recently held our seventh annual Conservation Day Camp on June 21st-23rd at the Preble County Historical Society. This year we welcomed 130 campers from ages 7-12 years old, as well as 51 former campers who rejoined us as counselors and youth helpers. This years camp certainly brought summer heat, but thankfully no rain interrupted the activities!


Presenters brought a variety of hands on activities for campers, including manufacturing, homesteading, recycling, photography, nature hikes, and painting, The kids also received engaging lessons in history and land stewardship principles. Camper favorites like archery and exploring the biology of Aukerman Creek were featured again this year as well. The last day of camp was filled with traditions from years past include wagon rides, nature hikes, and games. Camp concluded with each group of kids 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, Mama Mac's Pizza, Miami University, Preble County Solid Waste Management District, and Wildcat Sports and Graphics. We are greatly pleased with the continued yearly participation of our local youth and are thankful for the opportunity to enrich children with fun and memorable outdoor experiences to spark their interest in conservation!

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2022 Forestry Workshop

Come join us for a Forestry Utilization Workshop exploring local woodlands and informing forest owners of their management and marketing options!

Price Farm

46 Kayler Rd, Eaton, OH 45320

September 27th at 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

Participants will learn the identification and significance of our resident tree species on a hiking tour of the property, and gain insight into management practices for Southwest Ohio forest owners. The Price family will speak on their work with Black Walnut, and give a sawmill demonstration. ODNR Service Forester Justin Law will be cohosting and fielding any forest management questions.

Meet the 2022 Supervisor Candidate

Donald Hays and his wife, Sarah, live in Jackson Township and have two sons, Caleb and Jackson. Donald manages the farming operations of Geeding Farms and operates a seed sales and treatment business. Donald has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Crop Science with a minor in Animal Science and Agriculture Education from The Ohio State University. He is an active member of Eaton First Church of God where he has served on the Facilities Team. He has a heart for conservation improvements and has aided in numerous conservation projects including several large grassed waterway installations.



Voting for the Board of Supervisors will take place at the Preble SWCD Annual Meeting on September 1st at 5:30 pm. For further information about the Board of Supervisors and the election process, stop in the office or call 937-456-5159.

ELECTION LEGAL 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 from August 3rd, 2021 until August 31st, 2021 during normal business hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; or
- 2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Wilderness Ridge Retreat Center located on 1259 Swann Beatty Rd, Camden, OH 45311 on September 1st, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.; or
- 3.) Voting absentee from August 3rd, 2022 until August 31st, 2021, 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 emailing bjprice@prebleswcd.org. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office no later than August 31st, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

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

2022 Scholarship Recipient

The District would like to congratulate our 2022 Preble SWCD Scholarship Winner Abigail Whitesell. Abbi is a National Trail class of 2022 Alumna, and will be attending Wilmington College this fall with a major in Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

Abbi aspires to gain a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, and start her own practice to serve the large breed livestock needs of our community. We are very excited to see all that she will accomplish in the years to come and wish her the best!

BJ's Philosophy Box

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and lightning bug.
-Mark Twain

2022 Fish Fingerling Sale

Our Annual Fish Sale is going on now! We have a large selection of fish species and sizes available. You can also find out more information about each species and stocking rates on the back of the order form. Order forms and payment to **Preble SWCD** are due Friday, September 16th. 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 6th at 2:00 p.m. at the office. The reminder postcards for pick-up will be mailed in late September. For any questions or additional information, please call our office at (937)456-5159.

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To be removed from our mailing list or add someone new, call (937) 456-5159 or email sballweg@prebleswcd.org.

Dates to Remember:

September 1 - Annual Meeting 5:30 p.m.
September 5 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
September 21 - Board Meeting 7 a.m.
October 6 - Fish Sale Pick-Up at the Office
October 10- Columbus Day (Office Closed)
October 19 - Board Meeting 7 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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Preble SWCD Welcomes New Employee

Preble SWCD is pleased to welcome Austin Kosier as our newest staff member. He is joining us as a full-time technical intern through the Summer of 2022 and will continue his internship on a part-time basis once he returns to school this Fall. Austin will be entering his senior year at Miami Valley Career



Technical Center through Tri-Village High School. He is from Eaton, Ohio where he lives on a small farm. As a member of the Natural Resource Lab at CTC he has been involved in soil judging and surveying. Austin is passionate about FFA and has performed competitively at the state contest in Urban Land Judging for the past three years, which helped spark his interest in soil and water conservation. His background as a ranch hand and customer service provider at Quiet Harmony Ranch also demonstrates his work ethic and investment in agriculture.

After high school he plans to attend Hocking College to obtain an Associate's degree in Forest Management. In his free time, you can find him raising 4-H Lambs, participating in boy scouts, and enjoying the outdoors.

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 are 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 for this important mission!



**Ohio Pollinator
Habitat Initiative**