



# Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

November 2023

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

## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

### 74th Annual Meeting Held at Hueston Woods

Tuesday, August 22 turned out to be a beautiful day for an Annual Meeting at Hueston Woods. Attendees who arrived mid-afternoon had the chance to take a walking tour of the Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve to get close to Ohio's largest Tulip Poplar tree. Later on that afternoon, our guests took guided pontoon boat tours of Acton Lake departing from the dock down the hill from the lodge.

The buffet-style dinner began at 6:00 p.m. and over 140 guests enjoyed a great meal of pulled pork barbeque with all the fixin's. Following the meal, Ohio Department of Agriculture H2Ohio Program Director Terry Mescher spoke on water quality improvements taking place across Ohio.

Doug Fark was recognized as the 2023 Outstanding Cooperator for the many conservation improvements he has made through the years on his livestock operation and on his cropland acreage.



Educational programs staffed by Hueston Woods State Park staff

When Preble SWCD announced the Big Tree Contest a year ago, little did we know that the largest Tulip Polar in the county (and in the whole state of Ohio) would be found right here in the Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve. A hand-made plaque made out of Tulip Poplar wood was presented to the Nature Preserve in recognition of their very own big tree.

Rounding out the evening was the Conservation Trivia Contest, with the winner getting first dibs on a door prize. Door prizes this year were donated by: Quality Tile and Drainage Systems, LLC, John's Tire, LCNB National Bank, Wilmington College, Farm Credit Mid-America, the Preble County Historical Society, and Eaton Hometown Furniture.

Three candidates vied for two spots in the Board of Supervisors election. Congratulations were extended to current supervisors Mike Broermann and Kip Denlinger who were each re-elected to serve another three-year term on the Preble SWCD Board of Supervisors.



Outstanding Cooperator  
Doug Fark

A special thanks goes out to Hueston Woods State Park Manager Kathryn Conner and all her helpful staff for working behind the scenes to coordinate the event, and to Amy Weber from Miami University for partnering with the District to provide pontoon boat tours and educational exhibits at the park that afternoon.

Looking ahead, we have already selected a date for our 2024 Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 17th, 2024 at the Preble County Historical Farm for our 75th Anniversary Celebration. You won't want to miss it! More details to come.



Miami University Associate  
Professor Bart Grudzinski  
demonstrating a rainfall simulator

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Broermann  
Brian Deaton  
Kip Denlinger  
Donald Hays  
James Leedy

#### DISTRICT STAFF

BJ Price - District  
Administrator & Technician  
Jason Chappel - Technician  
Bobby Hansford -  
Technician  
Sophy Moseley - 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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Get updates on our website:  
[www.prebleswcd.org](http://www.prebleswcd.org)

### 2024 Plat Book

Not sure what to get for that hard-to-buy-for dad or grandpa? Just in time for Christmas, the Preble Soil and Water Conservation District will soon be selling our BRAND NEW 2024 Preble County Plat Book! Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the District, these plat books are loaded with all the latest features, including updated property ownership, current aerial photos, historical aerial photos from the District's birth year of 1949, and a few other things you might not usually find in a plat book. The new Plat Books should be available by mid-December and will retail for \$30.00, cash or check, and will be sold right here at the District office, at the Land Use Management Office in the Preble County courthouse, and at the Preble County Historical Society. Please call before you stop by to make sure we have them on hand.

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## Private Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicators Recertification Course

Save the date for our upcoming Private Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Class! Cooperators must renew their private pesticide applicator licenses every three years. This three-hour course is approved by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and fulfills all core and specialty requirements needed for license renewal. Morning refreshments and lunch are provided for all attendees who pre-register. Flyers will be sent in the mail to private pesticide applicators with licenses expiring in 2024. Registration forms are available online at [prebleswcd.org](http://prebleswcd.org) or by calling the office at (937) 456-5159.

Tuesday, January 30th, 2024

Eaton First Church of God

601 East Lexington Road, Eaton, OH 45320

**Please note, payment for this course is in addition to the payment made to ODA for your license renewal.**

## Leave the Leaves

Renee Buck, Pheasants Forever-Senior Farm Bill Biologist

“Leave the Leaves” is a campaign to encourage landowners to keep the leaves on their property and put them to work for soil health and wildlife habitat instead of sending them to the landfill. Plants grow the leaves by using nutrients and water from your soil. Allowing those nutrients to return to the soil completes that cycle and can help build soil organic matter. Microorganisms and invertebrates in the soil break those leaves down and incorporate them into the soil for next year’s plant growth, literally investing in their future! In addition to soil health, many of our native pollinators and other invertebrates rely on that leaf litter for overwintering. Ideas to consider: rake leaves into landscaped beds as free mulch, rake them around tree bases, make a leaf pile in corners of the yard, and avoid shredding or mulching all of them (as many pollinators and beneficial insects have laid their eggs on the whole leaves). So go ahead, put that rake away, and spend that time enjoying the beautiful fall colors that are upon us!

## Meet the New Faces

Bobby Hansford came to Preble SWCD in August, 2023 as a District Technician.

Bobby is a graduate of Twin Valley South and has a B.A. in Botany from Miami University; he plans to use his love of the outdoors to continue conservation in Preble County. As District Technician, he assists coworkers in the development and upkeep of CRP and EQIP projects across the county. Bobby enjoys traveling and exploring new places and foods to eat. He continues to reside in his hometown of West Alexandria.



Tyler White joined NRCS in July of 2023 as a Soil Conservationist. After growing up in Germantown, he earned a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Agronomy from Wilmington College in 2019 and Master’s Degree in Crop Production and Physiology from Iowa State University in 2021. During his spare time, he enjoys spending time outdoors attending antique tractor shows and local auctions.

As a soil conservationist, Tyler is looking forward to assisting farmers and landowners in both Preble and Montgomery Counties develop, implement, and improve conservation practices.

Sophy Moseley is a district outreach intern at the Conservation office. Having a huge interest in Agriculture since she was young, she took all the opportunities she could to learn and grow her Ag mindset.

She recently graduated high school from MVCTC/Valley View in 2023. Sophy enjoys being outdoors and anything to do with agriculture. Having heard of our district from her family, she joined our team in the summer of 2023. She grew up in Farmersville, but spends most of her time in the Preble County lines. Outside of work, she enjoys being with her boyfriend, Mason, and her family and friends.



## Poet’s Corner

BJ Price, Preble SWCD

When preparing our Annual Report to be presented at the Annual Meeting, we added six asterisks next to the list of names. Those asterisks represent cooperators who have passed on and aren’t with us any more. One of the asterisks was next to my grandfather’s name. You might say that conservation runs in my blood.

It got me to thinkin’, and then I knew that I had to put some words down on paper. This does not surprise many of you. These words speak to a life’s work and what’s important when all is said and done. Johnny Cash said “The best way to say anything is just to say it.” This is my way of saying it.

Long after the ponds get overtaken by cattails  
 Long after the waterways silt in  
 Long after the woven wire fence stretches and sags  
 Long after the brush and briars overtake the pasture  
 Long after the tree roots plug up the tile

Who gets the tools  
 Who gets the pictures  
 Who gets the books  
 Who gets the folded flag  
 Who gets the family Bible

Does your family name live on  
 Does your faith live on  
 Does your work ethic live on  
 Does your sense of place live on  
 Does your spirit live on

Live on in your kids, grandkids, great grandkids  
 Live on in those you met but once  
 Live on in those you worked with every day  
 Live on in those you helped along the way  
 Live on in those you inspired to find a better way

## BJ’s Philosophy Box

Life’s not fair, and the sooner you learn to accept that, the happier you’ll be.

-Uncle Kenny Adams

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### Dates to Remember:

Nov. 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving - Office Closed  
December 13 - Board Meeting 7:00 a.m.  
December 25 - Christmas Day - Office Closed  
January 1 - New Year's Day - Office Closed

*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.  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender*

## Manure Stockpiling Reminders

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District would like to take a moment to remind producers to use best management practices on your land while stockpiling manure. Please keep in mind these requirements and siting setbacks when you temporarily stockpile manure:

### **Requirements for a manure stockpile:**

1. Must be solid manure with bedding (minimum of 25% solids) or dry poultry manure.
2. Planned stockpile cannot be stored for more than a 6-month period.
3. If the storage period will extend beyond 4 months or over winter, a 75-foot-wide vegetative buffer will be required.
4. Must be located on soils that are deep to bedrock (>40 inches to bedrock).
5. May not be located on soils with a rapid or very rapid permeability (>2.0 in./hr.) in the topsoil, subsoil, or substratum to a depth of 40 in.
6. May not be located on slopes greater than 6%.
7. May not be located on occasionally or frequently flooded soils or below the 100-year floodplain elevation.
8. Limit the height of the pile to 7' and shape it to shed precipitation.
9. Locate manure stockpiles in or near the field in which the manure is to be applied. The volume of manure should approximately equal the amount that will be applied to the field at agronomic rates.
10. Consider covering the manure stockpile if storing more than 4 months, or over winter.

### **Siting Setback Requirements:**

1. Must be located a minimum of 300 feet from spring water collection systems, wells, or sink holes.
2. Must be located a minimum of 1500 feet from any public surface water drinking intakes.
3. Must be located a minimum of 500 feet from neighboring residences.
4. Must be located a minimum of 300 feet from areas of concentrated flow such as waterways or surface drains.
5. Must be located a minimum of 300 feet from any ponds, streams, or waters of the state.
6. Must be a minimum of 300 feet from a tile inlet or broken tile.
7. Must be a minimum of 100 feet from a public road.

Farmers and applicators need to guard water quality throughout the year by following the current USDA/NRCS Practice Standards for manure application. These guidelines, if implemented, will greatly reduce the potential for nutrients to enter into watercourses. Anyone stockpiling and applying manure should be aware of all catch basins, watercourses, concentrated flow areas, grassed waterways, riser pipes, tile inlets, culverts, and tile blowouts in the application area.