



Conservation Notes

January 2017

"Local leadership for soil and water conservation"

Newsletter for the

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District

2016 Annual Report

The Board of Supervisors are pleased to present the District's accomplishments for 2016. We would like to thank the Commissioners, the State legislature, our NRCS partners, county agencies, and most importantly, the citizens of Medina County for helping us continue to conserve our natural resources.

District / NRCS Accomplishments

Landowner Direct Assistance

Ag Pollution Abatement Sites	8
Bluebird Houses	50
Carbon Dioxide Soil Testing	36
Comp Nutrient Management	1
Cover Crops	4,230 acres
Conservation Plans	19,500 acres
Conservation Tillage	3,480 acres
Conservation Crop Rotation	2,000 acres
Cropland Nutrient Management	6,348 acres
CSP Contracts	6
CRP Contracts	6
Drainage/Flooding Assistance	36
EQIP Contracts completed	22
Fence	21,210 feet
Fish Fingerlings	40,634
Forage Biomass Planting	54 acres
Forest Stand Improvement	18 acres
Forest Management Plans	3
Grassed Waterways	1 acre
Heavy Use Protection	1,000 sq. ft
Natural Resource Reviews	8
Plant Tissue Testing	400 acres
Pond Management	10
Pond Site Investigations	27
Ponds	24
Pond Sealing	1
Reduced Air Drifting	1,196 acres
Seasonal High Tunnel	3
Straw Blower Rental	9
Tree Planting	15,770 seedlings
Urban Reviews	3
Wetlands	4
Wildlife Upland Habitat	500 acres

Landowner Training

Backyard Woodland/Wildlife
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Testing
Composting
Farmland Preservation workshop
Pollinators
Pond Clinic
Soil Testing Clinic/4R's
Stream Owners

Community Involvement

72nd Annual Meeting
Classroom Presentations
Concept Plan Reviews
County Fair & Hay Show
Countywide Milkweed Pod Collection
Displays
Earth Day event
Facebook, webpage
Fall Foliage Tour
Garden Clubs, Libraries and Parks
Monarch/Butterfly Promotions
Newsletters and News Releases
New Phase II Stormwater activities
Rocky River Watershed Council
Science Olympiad, Envirothon
Teacher Trainings
Wild School sites

Special Emphasis

4R Tomorrow Nutrient Concerns
Big Tree contest
Carbon Dioxide Emissions
County Expo
Cover Crops
Drainage
Erosion
Officials Conservation Tour
Pollinators
Pond Permits
Soil Testing
Streamside Naming Signs
Tree seedling and Fish sales



2016 Annual Meeting & Election

The Medina County SWCD 72nd Annual Meeting and Banquet was held Wednesday October 26th, 2016, at the Medina County Career Center. Board Chairman Justin Wolff welcomed a crowd of 120 people to the event which included Emcee; Commissioner Tim Smith.

A delicious dinner was prepared by Chef Tony and the chef and restaurant management students of the Medina County Career Center.



Pictured left to right: SWCD Manager; Jeff Van Loon, and Master of Ceremonies Commissioner; Tim Smith



Left to right: Jim Dieter, John Kruggel, Steve Fulton, Justin Reusch, and Bob Reusch

Kruggel Farms, Inc. of Litchfield was presented with the Conservation Stewardship Award, they have installed many conservation practices over the years, including manure storage structures along with manure management, cover crops, grassed waterways and woodland management. They also produce maple syrup in the spring.

Conservation Educator for 2016 was given to Anita Barnhart from Buckeye Intermediate.



Left to right: Celia Kruggel, Anita Barnhart and Beth Schnabel



Left to right: Lisa Houser, Jim Kamps, Kevin Houser and Jim Dieter

Kevin & Lisa Houser, from Medina Township were the winners of the Big Tree Contest, for their American Sweet Gum tree, which measured in at 5 feet 10 inch circumference, 87 feet tall and a crown spread of 48 feet!

Guest Speaker, Kim Flottum, Editor of Bee Culture Magazine gave an informative speech on what our dinner would have been like without pollinators.



Kim Flottum



Supervisors

Medina County Commissioner, Adam Friedrich administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Board Supervisor Bill Jordan and newly elected Board Supervisor Zach Albrecht.

The Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors re-organized at their December Board meeting. Steve Fulton will serve as Chairman, Celia Kruggel will serve as Vice Chairman, Bill Jordan will serve as Secretary, Justin Wolff will serve as Treasurer, and Zach Albrecht will serve as Fiscal Officer.

Zach Albrecht and Bill Jordan were elected to serve a three year term starting January 1, 2017 at Medina Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Banquet held in October.

Regular Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room at the office of the Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District located at 6090 Wedgewood Road in Medina.

2017 Board of Supervisors



Pictured back row (left to right) Bill Jordan; Secretary, Justin Wolff; Treasurer and Zach Albrecht; Fiscal Officer

Pictured front row (left to right) Celia Kruggel; Vice Chairman and Steve Fulton; Chairman

Congratulations.....



Left to Right; President of Ohio Federation of SWCD; Kris Swartz, Jim Kamps, and Chief of Division Soil Water Conservation-ODA; Kirk Hines

Jim Kamps of Hinckley Township, who is ending his 23 years of service and retiring from the board of supervisors. Jim has served on the board fulfilling all the officer positions including chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, fiscal agent and secretary.

Over those years Jim has attended statewide, areawide and local meetings of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts providing guidance, policy and decision making to the operation of the District.

His embracement of Board governance was key as the District program and capacity evolved during his terms of office. Jim provided leadership and continuity for the district as Board members and staff moved on. Good luck to Jim!

State of Ohio Technician of the Year

District Technician, Jim Dieter was awarded “Technician of the Year” honors during the Water Management Association of Ohio convention in Columbus.

Presenting the award is WMAO president Alex Covert a biologist with the USGS.



Jim was honored for his career work in stormwater, drainage, erosion control, pond installations, nutrient management and water quality activities.



Educator of the Year

Education Specialist, Beth Schnabel was awarded “Excellence in Education Leadership” honors during the Leadership Medina County Celebration of Excellence Awards Program.

Beth was honored for her career work in school teacher trainings, youth involvement and participation, getting kids outdoors for conservation activities, adult events and trainings, Fall Foliage Tours, Earth Day, and High School Envirothons.


Upcoming Events.....

FARMLAND PRESERVATION MEETING

On Thursday, February 23rd at the Lodi Library Community Room located at 635 Wooster Street in Lodi from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. An informational session will be provided by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Medina SWCD.

Topics covered will be Ohio’s Agricultural Easement Program and local voluntary conservation easement programs available for landowners to preserve and protect their properties.

The event is free but please register by contacting us at
330-722-9316

<p>7</p> <p>N</p> <p>Nitrogen</p>	<p>SOIL TESTING – HOW TO DO IT</p> <p>The Medina Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an evening training event,</p> <p>Tuesday, March 28th from 6:30-7:30 pm on soil testing.</p> <p>The location is at the A. I. Root Community Room at 623 West Liberty Street in Medina.</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>P</p>	<p>The information will be helpful for cropland, pastures, hayfields, market gardens, home gardens, lawns and fruit production.</p> <p>If you are interested in improving your nutrient management efforts, this will get you going in the right direction.</p> <p>Topics covered will be, why take a soil sample, how to take a soil sample, who do I send it to, what do the numbers mean, what is soil health.</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>K</p> <p>Potassium</p>	<p>Speakers will be several employees of the Medina SWCD.</p> <p>The event is free but please register by contacting us at 330-722-9316</p>	

Big Tree Contest

The Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) along with the Medina County Gazette will sponsor the fourteenth annual Big Tree Contest.

In this contest, entrants submit a nomination for a predetermined type of tree they believe might be the largest in the county. Qualified personnel will measure the trees to determine the winner.

The contest procedures are based on requirements of the Ohio Division of Forestry, since winners may be submitted for the Ohio Big Tree Program as a state champion. You may not have a state champion, but the tree could be Medina County's champ.

The White Oak (*Quercus alba*) is this year's tree.
The tree must be located in Medina County but does not have to be owned by the nominator.
Permission must be obtained from landowner.

Qualified District personnel will measure the tree and the decision of the District will be final. Grand prize will be a \$25.00 coupon to be used for the Districts' 2018 tree seedling sale along with a plaque with the trees statistics.

Nominations will be accepted through the closing of business on July 28, 2017.

For an entry form or questions please give Jim (330) 722-9317 a call at the office or you can download an entry form from our website. www.medinaco.org

Beginning Beekeeping Classes

The Medina County Beekeepers Association will be sponsoring two beginning beekeeping classes.

First Class

Saturday, February 11th from 9:00-5:00 and Saturday, February 25th from 9:00 to 5:00

Second Class

On February 21st, 28th and March 7th, 14th, 21st from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM

Classes include

- best-selling text book
- one year membership in Medina County Beekeepers Association
- 15+ hours of instruction

Cost: \$85 for single person or \$100 for a family

For more information and registration form go to:
<http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/images/BeeHerder201611.pdf>



Envirothon - What is it?

A high school environmental marathon test

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UScAswsQSo>

The 2017 Envirothon event is **Co-hosted by: Medina and Summit County Soil & Water Conservation Districts.** The event is taking place in **Medina County** this year! The Area II Envirothon will be held May 3, 2017 at Buffalo Creek Retreat, 8708 Hubbard Valley Road in Seville, Ohio.

SUMMARY: The Envirothon is an academic, outdoor environmental competition for students in grades 9-12. Teams are tested on their knowledge of *soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and a current environmental issue.* This year's current environmental issue is: *Agricultural Conservation.*

TEACHERS AND HOME SCHOOL PARENTS

Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. A competitive outdoor team event consists of 5 students, all from the same high school. Can be set up as an after school club.

Teacher & home school parents in Medina County, email me for registration forms

BUSINESSES

This event is financed **SOLELY** by donations from area businesses. Many local businesses also provide services and products in support. There are various sponsorship levels available to agencies & businesses. Some of the items purchased with donations are: awards for participating teams, testing materials, food and state competition travel expenses. *We expect to receive excellent media coverage for this event and appreciate all levels of sponsorship!*

Business can email for sponsor forms

Many students who participate in this event go on to find environmental careers.

Questions and forms contact Linda Schneider · 330-722-9321 · lschneider@medinaco.org

**Yes! We want to support the
2017 Area 2 Envirothon!
2017 Theme: *Agricultural Conservation Practices***



Platinum Sponsor (\$1,000+) _____ Gold Sponsor (\$500-\$999) _____
Station Sponsor (\$250) _____ Program Sponsor (\$100) _____
Program Sponsor (\$50) _____ Program Sponsor (\$25) _____
Other Amount _____

Name (Company or Individual) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Website _____

Your contribution is tax deductible because Medina SWCD is a unit of government.

Mail to check to:
Medina SWCD
6090 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256

****Please return commitment form and/or contribution by March 2, 2017****

**Medina County Soil & Water
Conservation District**
6090 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
330-722-9322
www.medinaswcd.org

**Seedling Sale
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CURRENT RESIDENT or



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Steve Fulton—*Chairman*
Celia Kruggel—*Vice Chairman*
Bill Jordan—*Secretary*
Justin Wolff—*Treasurer*
Zach Albrecht—*Fiscal Officer*

District Staff

Jeff Van Loon—*District Manager*
Mary Aungst—*Administrative Assistant*
Jim Dieter —*District Technician*
Linda Schneider—*Education Coordinator*
Beth Schnabel—*Education Specialist*
Gary Norcia—*Community Coordinator*

NRCS Staff

Derrick Harmon—*District Conservationist*

Member of:

Medina County Farm Bureau
Medina County Township Association
National Association of Conservation Districts
Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Rocky River Watershed Council

6090 Wedgewood Road, Medina, OH 44256

Phone: 330-722-9322

Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.medinaswcd.org

Farm Service Agency: 330-722-2628 option 2

NRCS: 330-722-2628 extension 110

