



Conservation Notes

January 2018

"Local leadership for soil and water conservation"

Newsletter for the

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District

2017 Annual Report

The Board of Supervisors are pleased to present the District's accomplishments for 2017. 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

Access Road	2,487 feet
Ag Pollution Abatement Sites	6
Bluebird Houses	50
Comp Nutrient Management	2
Concept Plan Reviews	8
Cover Crops	324 acres
Conservation Plans	7,172 acres
Conservation Tillage	500 acres
Conservation Crop Rotation	500 acres
Cropland Nutrient Management	3,133 acres
CRP Contracts	2
CSP Contracts	4
Drainage/Flooding Assistance	39
Erosion Issues	8
EQIP Contracts Completed	22
Farmland Preservation	47 acres
Fence	3,850 feet
Fish Fingerlings	44,383
Forage Biomass Planting	36 acres
Forest Stand Improvement	18 acres
Forest Management Plans	6
Grassed Waterways	1,000 feet
Natural Resource Reviews	12
Pipeline	2,630 feet
Plant Tissue Testing	400 acres
Pollinator Habitat	12 acres
Pond Management	4
Ponds Site Investigations	29
Ponds	21
Pumping Plant	1
Reduced Air Drifting	1,196 acres
Riparian Forest Buffer	1.7 acres
Seasonal High Tunnel	4
Strawblower Rentals	6
Streams	9
Tile	1,100 feet
Tree Planting	17,490 seedlings
Water Facility	4
Well Decommission	1
Well	1
Wildlife Upland Habitat	30 acres

Landowner Training

Farmland Preservation workshop
Forestry Event
Pollinators
Pond Clinic
Soil Testing Clinic/4R's
Water Quality Event

Community Involvement

73rd 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
County Expo
Cover Crops
Drainage
Erosion
Officials Conservation Tour
Pollinator Demos
Pond Permits
Soil Testing
Streamside Naming Signs
Tree seedling and Fish sales



2017 Annual Meeting & Election

The Medina County SWCD 73rd Annual Meeting and Banquet was held Wednesday October 25th, 2017, at the Medina County Career Center. Board Chairman Steve Fulton welcomed a crowd of 130 people to the event which included Emcee; Commissioner Pat Geissman.



Commissioner Pat Geissman

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

Morlock Grain Farms was presented the 2017 Conservation Steward of the Year. They farm over 3000 acres of corn, soybeans, barley, wheat and hay. They have been utilizing conservation practices for many years.



Left to right: Jim and Cory Morlock

Including crop rotation, nutrient management, tile drainage, cover crops, no-till, integrated pest management, nutrient management and grassed waterways. Morlock Grain Farms is operated by Jim Morlock and his sons Jim and Cory.



Ed Kelly

Ed Kelly was presented with the Special Volunteer award for 2017. Ed served on the Brunswick Hills Township Storm Water Commission, is the acting Chairman of the Rocky River Watershed Council and has participated in and organized "stream teams" to carryout stream cleanups, storm drain catch basin marking and tree plantings.



Left to right: Celia Kruggel, Cheryl Carlisle and Beth Schnabel

Larry and Nancy Steiner, from Litchfield Township were the winners of the Big Tree Contest, for their white oak tree, which measured in at 19 feet 11 inches circumference, 70 feet tall and a crown spread of 102 feet!



Left to right: Zach Albrecht, Nancy & Larry Steiner and Jim Dieter

Conservation Educator for 2017 was given to Cheryl Carlisle from Visintainer Middle School in Brunswick.



Miles Reed

Guest Speaker, Miles Reed is a film maker, Naturalist, Adventurer, Musician and Speaker who has spent time in some of the wildest places on our planet. He also has an in depth knowledge of our area's natural history. Brought his unique prospective on the value of what we do as a group with the Medina County SWCD.



ODA, PT Tom Holmes, with some of the students from the Medina County Career Center



New Supervisor

Medina County Commissioner, Pat Geissman administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Supervisor Charles Pope.

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

Charles Pope was elected to serve a three year term starting January 1, 2018 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.

Did you Know?

- ◆ Soil is a living system
- ◆ Soil that is not covered with vegetative matter is vulnerable: Soil is being swept and washed away 10 to 40 times faster than it is being replenished
 - ◆ It can take more than 500 years to form just one inch of topsoil
 - ◆ There are 70,000 Different types of soil in the U.S.
- ◆ One Tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on earth

Upcoming Events.....


FARMLAND PRESERVATION MEETING

On Thursday, February 8th at the Western Reserve Land Conservancy located at the Medina Marsh Conservation Center, 4266 Fenn Road, Medina 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 N Nitrogen</p>	<p>SOIL TESTING – HOW TO DO IT</p> <p>The Medina Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an evening training event, Tuesday, March 27th from 6:30-7:30 pm on soil testing.</p>	
<p>15 P Phosphorus</p>	<p>The location is at Lafayette Township Hall, 6776 Wedgewood Road (St. Rte. 162), Medina.</p>	
<p>19 K Potassium</p>	<p>The information will be helpful for cropland, pastures, hayfields, market gardens, home gardens, lawns and fruit production. If you are interested in improving your nutrient management efforts, this will get you going in the right direction.</p>	
<p>pH Potential of Hydrogen</p>	<p>Topics covered will be, why take a soil sample, how to take a soil sample, where do I take it, what do the numbers mean, what is soil health and the 4R program.</p>	
<p>OM Organic Matter</p>	<p>Speakers will be several employees of the Medina SWCD. The event is free but please register by contacting us at 330-722-9316</p>	

More upcoming events.....

Ohio Forest Tax Law

The event will be held Tuesday, January 30th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Lafayette Township Hall located at 6776 Wedgewood Road (St. Rte. 162), Medina.

The speaker will be John Jolliff ODNR Division of Forestry, Area Service Forester. He will explain the tax benefits if enrolled, how to get enrolled, responsibilities of the landowner, the county auditor and the division of Forestry.

The event is free to attend but please contact the Medina SWCD office to register at 330-722-9316



Soil Testing



Medina County SWCD is now accepting soil samples for testing.

Cost: \$18.00 per sample (includes shipping and handling)

For more information call the office at 330-722-9316

Big Tree Contest

The last sixteen years the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District along with the Medina County Gazette has sponsored a big tree contest for Medina County. Winning trees have been the White Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Sycamore, Beach, Black Walnut, Ash, Black Cherry, Eastern Cottonwood, Northern Catalpa, Northern Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Yellow Poplar, Buckeye, American Sweetgum, and for 2018 the **Pin Oak**. We have had hundreds of trees over the years. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the staff to meet the proud stewards of these County Champions. We would like to thank all of those who entered the big tree contest over the last fifteen years.

The Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) is this year's tree. The Pin Oak primarily grows in bottom lands and prefers moist soils. Over the years it has been planted in many yards. The lower limbs of a pin oak tend to bend down while the middle limbs grow out and the upper limbs grow up. Its mature bark is smooth and light gray brown.

This year's winner will receive a plaque with the tree dimensions and a \$25.00 gift certificate to the District's 2019 tree seedling sale.

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. Nominations will be accepted through the closing of business on August 31, 2018.

For more information on the Pin Oak or any Ohio tree, log onto the State forestry website, www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry

For an entry form or questions please give Jim a call at the office (330) 722-9316 or you can download an entry form from our website. www.medinaco.org

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 Envirothon will be held in Cuyahoga County.

For more information call 216-524-6580.



Lakes, Ponds and Blue Green Algae

Chippewa Lake for the second known year has been dealing with the nasty blue-green algae. Regular testing has been performed and confirms the existence of the nasty algae. Residents are actively questioning, who can do something about it and who will?

Ironically, Lake Medina over a number of years ago has seen the same situation and the City of Medina was able to control the algae in certain portions of the Lake. The watershed for Lake Medina has virtually no agricultural runoff. So, what conclusions can be drawn.

Perhaps in some cases agricultural nutrient runoff does contribute to the problem but when it is not involved then who do we look at. There can be other sources such as nature itself, septage, nitrogen applied lawn fertilizer, and long term accumulation of all the above with warmer weather conditions. Even ponds are not immune from the blue green algae. There have been several in the county over the years.

There are few quick fixes. It took us a long time to get where we are at and odds are it will take us a while to turn the corner and reverse the conditions.

HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM

Using High Tunnel Systems allows farmers to expand the growing season and earn more revenue. The difference of a high tunnel as opposed to open field conditions is that plastic-covered high tunnels result in a warmer environment during late fall, winter and early spring. Producers can start crops earlier in the spring and continue harvesting them later in the fall. Production during the winter season is possible in most situations, but one may experience concerns because of the potential severity of winter, what crops are grown, and availability of supplemental heat. Some of the crops that are commonly grown in High Tunnel Systems are tomatoes, asparagus, and leafy greens among others. You can use supplemental heat if needed but the system is meant to maintain the temperature within the high tunnel while ensuring the vegetables can tolerate the temperatures within the facility.

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service is receiving applications at this time through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) in an effort to provide financial and technical assistance to agriculture producers.

The maximum size of a High Tunnel System for funding is 2,160 (30 X 72) square feet with a minimum of 6 feet in height & 6 mil plastic cover.

Eligible applicants include individuals, legal entities, Indian Tribes, or joint operations engaged in agricultural production, as well as organic producers who grow agricultural commodities on eligible land and have natural resource concerns which may be addressed by a seasonal high tunnel.

Call your NRCS office today at (330)241-6428 find out more about seasonal high tunnel.

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

**Seedling Sale
Information Enclosed**

Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage
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Medina, Ohio
Permit 62

CURRENT RESIDENT or



Board of Supervisors

Celia Kruggel—*Chairman*
Bill Jordan—*Vice Chairman*
Zach Albrecht—*Secretary*
Steve Fulton—*Treasurer*
Charles Pope—*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

