2018 Annual Report
The Board of Supervisors are pleased to present the District’s accomplishments for 2018. 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.

**Landowner Training**
- Farmland Preservation workshop
- Forestry Event
- Pollinators
- Pond Clinic
- Soil Testing Clinic/4R’s
- Spencer Feed Open House
- Water Quality Event

**Community Involvement**
- 74th 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
- National Wildlife Federation BYH Newsletters and News Releases
- New Phase II Stormwater activities
- Rocky River Watershed Council
- Science Olympiad, Envirothon
- Teacher Trainings
- Wild School sites

**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.

Look for fish sale information in our upcoming newsletter!
Our Annual meeting was held on Wednesday, October 24th at the Medina County Career Center, with 112 people in attendance. Medina County Commissioner, Bill Hutson served as emcee for the night. The meeting began with a delicious buffet dinner that was prepared and served by the Chef Tony and the Medina County Career Center chef and restaurant management students.

Conservation awards were given to Jacob and Clayton Boyert for their Conservation Stewardship of the land. Bree McNeill from the Sacred Heart of Jesus School received the award as Conservation Educator of the year for her work in the classroom. Woodlawn Cemetery received the award for the Big Tree Contest for their Pin Oak, which measured in at 120 feet tall, 151 inches in circumference, and a crown spread of 86 feet. The Education Specialist announced that the American Basswood will be the big tree for 2019.

Historical presenter, Kathy Kraus portrayed Jeanette Jenkins, an Ohio woman who was a Women Air Force Service Pilot (W.A.S.P.) and explained the often forgotten story how officials decided to implement an experimental program to recruit women and train them to ferry military aircraft from factories to military bases and departure points across the country, which would release male pilots for combat duty overseas. More than 25,000 young women responded and of that only about 1,000 were selected.

Incumbents Steve Fulton and Celia Kruggel were re-elected to a three year term as Board Supervisors, starting January 1st 2019. A Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor has the important task of coordinating the efforts of all agencies, organizations, and individuals with responsibilities in natural resource conservation and development.

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.
Big Tree Contest

The last seventeen 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, Beech, Black Walnut, Ash, Black Cherry, Eastern Cottonwood, Northern Catalpa, Northern Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Yellow Poplar, Buckeye, American Sweetgum, Pin Oak and for 2019 the American Basswood (*Tilia Americana*). We have had hundreds entries 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 Seventeen years.

American Basswood has alternate, ovate leave that are about as wide as long, with a truncate (flattened) or heart-shaped base, finely serrated margins, and a short tip at the apex of the leaf. American Basswood has perfect, small, creamy flowers that open in early summer. These are noted for both their fragrance and for their nectar, which is a favorite of bees in the production of honey. Flowering is obvious from a distance—not because of the actual flowers, but due to the showy, lime-colored, curving bracts that contrast against the background of dark-green foliage.

This year’s winner will receive a plaque with the tree dimensions and a $25.00 gift certificate to the District’s 2020 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 15, 2019.

For more information on the American Basswood or any Ohio tree, log onto the State forestry website, [www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry](http://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](http://www.medinaco.org)

Moving on down the road………

Community Coordinator, Gary Norcia has been with the District since 2002. He has decided to move on down the road to be closer to his children and grand kids. Gary’s last day was December 12, 2018. We wish Gary well in his continuing life as a full time grandparent.

New to the District

Eric Hange was hire by the District as the new District Technician this past October. Eric will work to promote, assist and educate landowners about best management practices for maintaining clean water, healthy soils, and a sustainable landscape on behalf of the District Board of Supervisors.

Eric can be reached at (330) 722-9315.