

Eye on Conservation

Working Locally, Thinking Regionally



Wood Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

Fall 2018

Annual Banquet & Election

Thursday, August 30, 2018, the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District celebrated 69 years as a district in Wood County. Held at the Wood County Junior Fair Building, the banquet included a guest speaker, presentation of awards, and the annual election of the Board of Supervisors. Dinner was catered by Country Lane BBQ.

Guest speaker, Justin Marx, owner of Bowling Green Beer Works, shared his challenges and successes in being a small, local brewer in Ohio. He brought spelt, hops, and barley to smell and taste. Justin explained his brewing process and expressed how necessary good soil and clean water are to the process.



***"Look deep into nature, and
then you will understand
everything better."***

- Albert Einstein



The "Friend of the District" award was presented to Andy Lang for his time and efforts in maintaining the Wood SWCD demonstration plots at the Agricultural Incubator Foundation.



(continued on page 3)



L to R: Lee Sundermeier, Bernie Scott, Ron Snyder, Dennis Ferrell, and Kris Swartz

**WOOD SWCD
OFFICE HOURS
7:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
MONDAY—FRIDAY**



The Wood SWCD Board of Supervisors holds regular monthly meetings the third Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the district office.



Forbs planted within the grass buffer strip.

“Boots on the Ground”

Management of an Oak Savanna - By Lee E Sundermeier,
Wood County Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor

My goal was simple. Find a piece of property that offers hunting and fishing opportunities for my family. When I found the property in Henry County, along the Turkey Foot Creek, I thought this would be easy! I did not plan on dredging and deepening a two acre pond that was surrounded by brush. I also did not plan on building a windmill and stocking fish in this pond.

The property included about three acres of tillable ground that I enrolled as an OAK SAVANNA with TALL PRAIRIE GRASS PLUS FORBS AND LEGUMES. A mixture of five grasses and 12 forbs and legumes were planted in May, 2013 with OATS as a cover crop. In November of 2013, 70 potted, native trees were planted. Within three years I had a dominant stand of Mare’s Tail weeds and a limited stand of some native grasses. It was time for drastic action so a Bush Hog was used to control the Mare’s Tail and a brush killer was sprayed on the regrowth.

It is now summer, 2018 and only a very limited number of forbs/legumes have survived. The idea of planting seeds of forbs and legumes seemed like a waste of time in the now thick grass. The Wood Soil and Water District implemented a plan to have forbs grown in plugs by a local greenhouse. September, 2018 was quite hot and dry, so I waited until late September to plant these plugs in my OAK SAVANNA.

First I sprayed 16” x 16” squares in the sod with ROUNDUP, waited 12 days, removed the sod and mixed in a garden peat. To mix the peat, I used a battery powered drill with a 20” auger and left holes to be filled with three green house plugs per square. All plugs were watered well and every 5 days after planting. I flagged each square so the deer and I can find the plugs. Mother Nature is now in charge as we progress toward winter.

*Thank you for supporting the
Monarch butterfly and other
pollinators!*

The Wood SWCD partnered with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative in collecting common milkweed seed pods. The seed in the pods collected will be cleaned and stratified for planting in the spring.

However, the district has free seeds available for planting this fall. Stop the district office to pick up a few seed packets to sow in your garden or landscape.



UPCOMING Events

November

11/12—Office closed

11/14—Women Non-Operator Landowner Workshop, "Farming for Clean Water" 9AM-3PM, Woodville

11/15—"Communicating with Your Landowner" 9AM- 12PM, Woodville

11/22-23—Office Closed

December

12/25-Office Closed

January

1/1—Office Closed

1/8-2/28—Tree Seedling Sale

1/21—Office Closed

1/22—Women Non-Operator Landowner Workshop, "Your Land is Your Legacy" 9AM-12PM

1/22—Legacy Planning Workshop 6PM-8PM

Follow the Wood Soil and Water Conservation



The annual banquet...a good time for all ages.

(Annual Banquet, continued)

This year's candidates for the election were Dylan Baer of Jackson Township and Kris Swartz of Perrysburg Township. Kris was re-elected to serve a three year term beginning in January. Thank you to candidates and past and present supervisors who volunteer their time to protect our local natural resources.

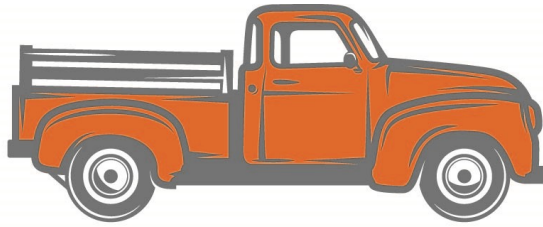
Guests had the opportunity to learn about each of the sites with the Ag-Venture Self-Driving Farm Tour. The first county wide farm tour. The district also took the opportunity to promote *Farm with Grit*; a campaign to inform producers and the public about Best Management Practices.

A delicious BBQ dinner was catered by Country Lane BBQ where they offered their award winning ribs from the 2018 Cleveland St. Rib Fest hosted in Antwerp.



The district staff and supervisors thank you for supporting your local Soil and Water Conservation District. The staff and supervisors work locally, but think regionally in service to both the agricultural producers and residential landowners.

Look for details to come as we celebrate 70 years of conservation in Wood County in 2019!



WOOD COUNTY AG-VENTURE

A SELF-DRIVING FARM TOUR

Promoting Conservation from Ag to Urban Communities

More than a year in planning. Nearly 150 volunteers. Well over 3,000 volunteer hours. Over 1,700 visits to the seven sites. The first Wood County Ag-Venture Self-driving Farm Tour was a success!

Seven families and ag-businesses opened their farms and businesses to the public to share what happens with their operations and get a first hand, behind the scenes glimpse of the agriculture in Wood County—Hirzel Canning Co., Vetter Family Farm, Luckey Farmers, Inc., Moser Farms, Black Swamp Ag, Schooner Farm, and Pioneer. The goal was to educate the public, entertain the children, and provide a platform for producers and ag-business professionals to answer questions.

People of all ages and geographic regions toured the county. One visitor and her daughter were visiting from England. Some visited all seven sites, while others could only fit one or two in their schedules. With the beautiful weather and gracious hosts, the day was fun and educational for all.

The next Wood County Ag-Venture is planned for 2022. Until then, look for other counties hosting similar events highlighting agriculture in their neck of the woods. Follow Ag-Venture on Facebook and visit the webpage for pictures from the day's events.

Thank you for supporting agriculture and natural resources in Wood County!



***Congratulations,
Jean!***

Recipient of the
Honorary
American FFA Degree



Photo taken from the Otsego
FFA Chapter Newsletter -
smore.com

For “individuals who have provided exceptional service on a national level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA.”

(ffa.org)

Congratulations to Jean Scott, on receiving the National Honorary American FFA degree. A well deserved honor for her years of dedication and commitment to the community at large as well as agriculture.

Thank you to Jean and Bernie for all they do in for Wood County!

THANK YOU to all our sponsors



Black Swamp Ag; Scott, Deb, Henry & Mason Apple
Moser Farms; Bob, Maribeth, John & Casey Moser
Schooner Farms; Don and Rebecca Schooner
Vetter Family Farms; Fred, Amy, Shane, Ashley, Garrett & Melissa Vetter
Pioneer- Grand Rapids
Luckey Farmers Inc.- Perrysburg
Hirzel Canning Co.- Northwood

Conservation Action Project
Dekalb/ Asgrow
Visit Perrysburg
Pioneer
Corteva Agriscience
Hancock Wood Electric Cooperative

Ag Credit
Luckey Farmers Inc
Wood County Farm Bureau
Wood County Implement
Wood County 4-H Committee

C&L Sanitation
The Andersons
First Federal Bank
Ohioans Home Healthcare
Lamar
Redline Equipment

Erie Basin Council Poet- Fostoria
Paul Martin & Sons Wolf's Blooms and Berries
Anderson Farms Bowling Green Convention & Visitors Bureau
Legacy Farmers Cooperative Meijer
Wood County Beef Producers Ohio Pork Council
Shroyer Insurance Agency



Women walking in a no-till field. Rather than cultivating the field prior to planting, which disturbs soil and can increase soil loss during rainfall and snowmelt events, the farmer instead plants into the stubble from the prior season's crop.

Photo credit American Farmland Trust.

Landowner-Tenant Relationships: Creating a Dialogue

Fruitful conversations between landowners and farmers about long-term productivity and protecting natural resources can be helped by a mutual understanding of goals. Landowners sometimes have a poor appreciation for the realities of farming including capital investments, slim financial returns, unpredictable weather risks and narrow windows for timing critical operations. Farmers may be very much interested in making improvements that generate long-term returns, but feel constrained by short-term leases, which don't guarantee farmers will have the chance to participate in the benefits of those investments.

Where to begin for landowners

A good first step for landowners is to compile a list of goals for your land. Reaching out to other landowners and farmers can help build a practical, effective list. Working with experts to identify specific conservation practices to meet those goals, including costs, can help translate goals into action steps, timelines and budgets.

Next is identifying prospective tenants for conversations, including any farmers currently farming or pursuing access to your land. Entering those conversations with goals and plans in place provides a framework for discussion and consideration of interests and concerns from candidate tenants. Typically, the landowner-tenant relationship is formalized with an agreement, which can be verbal, an informal written document, or a formal lease. An agreement that reflects the goals of both parties is more likely to be sustainable and productive over time. Whatever form the agreement takes, oversight is important, especially for new relationships where trust may not already be established. "If you see something being done that you don't like to your land, bring it to the attention of the renter immediately, but approach as nicely as possible," one landowner stated.

In all conversations, be sure to ask clarifying questions if you don't understand anything. This will help reduce the potential for miscommunication and conflict.

Continuing the conversation

After an agreement is created, conversations to check in with your tenant will continue to build the relationship, and identify and work to resolve any issues. Ask about what your tenant is seeing that might need attention. An effort to meet on the land in person at least once a year can return long-term dividends. Being respectful of critical times of year when farmers have little time to spare, such as planting and harvest, is important. Starting out conversations on a positive note and ending with an appreciation for something going well can be helpful regardless of the overall agenda.

If you are a female landowner with land in the Portage River watershed, you are invited to join a series of learning circles. Each session will focus on a different topic, from water quality practices to legacy and estate planning. The next Learning Circle is Wednesday, November 14 9 AM– 3PM at Luckey Farmers, Woodville. Please call 419-354-5517 to RSVP.

Great Lakes Conservation Connect




American Farmland Trust
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

INVITATION FOR FARMERS COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LANDOWNER

Rented land is vital to the viability and profitability of our farms. As ownership of rented farmland is changing to individuals more removed from agriculture, establishing a sound relationship with you landowner will be key. Open lines of communication will directly affect gaining, retaining and even improving these important fields. It can also be effective in removing barriers as they relate to soil health and conservation practices that could enhance your profitability on rented land.

Please join us to learn more about strategies and tools for communicating more effectively with your landowners. Information to be presented by Alan Sundermeier, OSU Extension and American Farmland Trust staff. A lunch will be provided immediately following the presentations.

FARMER TALKS
November 15, 2018, 9am – noon

Luckey Farmers, Inc.
1200 Main St.

Woodville, OH 43469

*For more information or to RSVP call: Wood County Soil & Water
Conservation District: (419) 354-5517*

At Your Service

District Staff

Nicki Kale, District Administrator/Education Coordinator
Jim Carter, District Administrator/Engineering & Technical Coordinator
Jeremy Gerwin, District Technician
Beth Landers, Portage River Watershed Coordinator
Abby Wensink, Strategic Watershed Action Team Conservationist
Julie Lause, Administrative Assistant

NRCS Staff

Becky Duncan, District Conservationist
Kelly Copeland, Resource Conservationist

Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Items for Sale

Floating Pond Filter	\$250.00
Pond Filter Float	\$140.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 60.00
Pond Safety Kit	\$150.00
Ring Buoy	\$ 70.00
Deep Water Sign	\$ 14.00
Rope (per foot)	\$ 0.25
Tile Probes	\$34 & 35
Soil Test Probe	\$63 & 95
Garden Soil Test Kit	\$ 25.00
Tree Wraps with Stake	\$ 4.00
Flags	\$ 0.10 ea
100 5x8	\$ 10.00
6' field flag	\$ 7.00
Nut Wizards®	\$ 40-45
Compost Bin	\$ 50.00
Rat Guards	
4"	\$ 5.00
6" stainless steel	\$ 10.00
8" stainless steel	\$ 12.00
10" stainless steel	\$10 & 18
12" stainless steel	\$15 & 28
15"	\$ 25.00

(Cash or Check payable upon receipt)

Equipment for Rent

Great Plains Drill

(for CRP Practices only)

- 10' working width
- 7 1/2' row spacing
- Minimum 65 hp with live hydraulics

Rental Rate is \$10.00/acre
((\$50 minimum))

Delivery Charge \$20.00

Cleanout Charge \$25.00
(if applicable)

Dibble Bar

\$40 Refundable Deposit

Tree Planter

\$25.00 First Day

\$45.00 Each Additional Day

Weed Wrench

\$225 Refundable Deposit

\$20 Rental 1-3 Days

\$20 Each Additional Day

***For Use by Wood County
Residents and Landowners***

Contact Us

Wood SWCD
1616 E. Wooster St.
Suite 32
Bowling Green, OH 43402

419-354-5517

wcswcd@woodswcd.com

www.woodswcd.com

