

Eye on Conservation

WORKING LOCALLY, THINKING REGIONALLY



Wood Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

SPRING 2018

A Leader in Local Conservation

By Mindy Bankey, CEO, OFSWCD

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) honored conservation leaders from across the country during the organization's 72nd Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

The NACD along with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) "Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award" is presented annually to an individual, district or organization that has gone above and beyond in promoting conservation on private lands. This year's award was presented by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting Chief Leonard Jordan to Kris Swartz, a Wood Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor.

Swartz is a fifth-generation farmer from Perrysburg, Ohio. He and his wife, Sue, operate a 2,000-acre farm in Wood County where they grow soybeans, corn and wheat. Swartz is the past president of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD). Under his leadership, Ohio became one of the leading states in adding Soil Health Champions to NACD's Soil Health Champion Network. Additionally, his efforts have brought more attention, funding, training, and education centered on water quality, 4Rs, and nutrient stewardship activities carried out by Ohio's SWCDs.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award," said Swartz. "This award belongs to my conservation family in Ohio and our efforts to strive daily to make a positive impact on our soils and water," continued Swartz. "Thanks to NACD and NRCS for this recognition. Our collaboration is vitally important as we seek to keep lands productive and waters clean for future generations."



Kris Swartz

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."

~ Aldo Leopold



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.



San Juan Conservation Services

“Boots on the Ground”

A Conservation Family – Ron Snyder, NACD Soil Health Champion and Wood SWCD Board Supervisor

On a recent family trip to New Mexico, I had the opportunity to stop in at the San Juan County SWCD. I was greeted by two great ladies, Melissa May, District Coordinator, and Kristi Gunter, Business Manager. As a farmer and Wood SWCD board supervisor, I wanted to know the concerns of their district. One of the issues is water **quantity** rather than water **quality**. They both started telling me that San Juan County receives only 6”- 8” of rain a year so crops are irrigated. The second largest problem is invasive species. They stated that pipeline workers were carrying the seeds of the invasive species on the trucks and equipment. Seeds are also carried in the area through cattle which is grazed out of the area and brought back.

Melissa then turned the attention to Ohio and Indiana on the work being done with soil health. As we continued discussing topics, she suddenly looked at me funny and asked if I was in Denver two years ago at the NACD Annual Conference. I said, “Yes. I presented there.” Melissa and Kristi both asked if it was *Soil Your Undies*? I said yes. We were all laughing. Melissa turned her chair around and starting showing me the results of *Soil Your Undies New Mexico*. Even with limited rainfall the healthy soils devoured the cotton briefs. We all agreed that this was a fun attention getter showing the difference in healthy soils from depleted soils.

Congratulations to San Juan County SWCD for winning 3rd place on you booth at the county fair with *Soil Your Undies*!

“Boots on the Ground” is an addition to our quarterly newsletter highlighting an experience, quotes, quips, and commentary offered by the supervisors and staff of the district.

Over 10,000 trees for conservation practices and landscapes were purchased and distributed during the annual wood SWCD tree seedling sale.

4,000 cubic yards of compost was purchased for the yards, gardens, and seedlings.

The 2019 tree seedling order form will be available in January.

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Over 11,000 fingerling fish were purchased during the annual spring fish sale for homeowner ponds.

Thank you to Steve Fender of Fender's Fish Hatchery for presenting at this year's pond clinic.

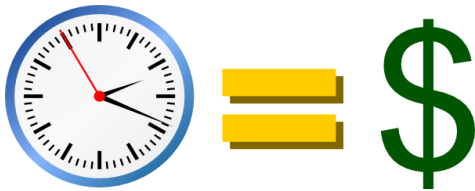
The fall fish sale is in September.



A drop of water entering Lake Erie from the Detroit River will take only 2.6 years to reach Niagara Falls.

Compare this short time to Lake Superior where a drop of water will take 191 years to move out of the lake.

ohioseagrant.osu



Time is money!

This year the Wood SWCD will be hosting “pop-up” meetings. These meetings will be held around the county in different shops or fields. The goal of these meetings is to get you relevant information in a timely matter.

We will be announcing these meeting on our Facebook page and would like to send text messages with the meeting info. If you would like to be added to the list please text 810-10 with @18pops in the message.

If you are interested in hosting a pop-up meeting, would like to hear a specific topic or have any other questions, please contact the office at 419-354-5517.

The Story of America's Private Lands Conservation Movement

UDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) presents a documentary on soil conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett, the history of the agency and the birth of the private lands conservation movement in the U.S.

The 21-minute documentary can be viewed on YouTube. Cut and paste this link into your browser: <https://youtu.be/G78ihulTxIk>



Wood County Economic Development Commission

presents



WOOD COUNTY

AG-VENTURE

A SELF-DRIVING FARM TOUR

September 15, 2018

 [woodswcd.com/ag-venture](https://www.woodswcd.com/ag-venture)



Ohio's Historic Family Farms

Wood County is honored to have 48 of the Century Farms recognized in the state of Ohio. The United States agricultural industry remains an essential part of the global economy. Recognizing the history of our local family farms reminds us of the determination, ingenuity, and

challenges the generations before us endured as the many farmers immigrated to the U.S. seeking a new life.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture recognizes the many social, economic, and historic contributions made by Ohio's founding farm families. Ohio's Historic Family Farms program was developed as a way to honor these families for their enduring legacy to our state.

The program grants three designations based on the number of years of same-family ownership:

- Century Farms (100-149 years);
- Sesquicentennial Farms (150-199 years); and
- Bicentennial Farms (200 years and more).

Qualified registrants receive an heirloom certificate signed by the Governor of Ohio and the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Follow the link on the Wood SWCD website to download and print the registration form to apply or contact the Wood SWCD for assistance. www.woodswcd.com



Clear Choices, Clean Water - Greater Toledo

Lake Erie is a campaign to increase awareness about choices we make and the impact they have on our streams and lakes. Water friendly practices such as using phosphorus-free fertilizer, landscaping with native plants, managing yard and pet wastes, and volunteering to clean up our waterways help make clear clean water available to us. By educating individuals on these important actions and providing citizens with water-focused volunteer opportunities, we empower everyone to do their part for water quality and conservation.

Each month, we will feature a specific content area to highlight even more ways to get involved while connecting you with partners who can help your pledges be a success. June is the first **Super Kids Month** of 2018! Kick off the summer by learning about all of the steps YOU can take in your house and yard to make our water healthier. Visit our Super Kids page for lots of information, and then take a pledge to do your part. Be a Clean Water Super Hero!

toledolakeerie.clearchoicescleanwater.org

Northwest Ohio Ag-Business Breakfast Forum



The Northwest Ohio Ag-Business Breakfast forum, held every third Thursday, is an opportunity to gain information on current issues, trends and programs in the agricultural community and those who support the agricultural economy.

The Forums are hosted by the Center for Innovative Food Technology and are held at the Agricultural Incubator Foundation; 13737 Middleton Pike; Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Arrive early, as breakfast and informal networking will start at 8 a.m., with the program to follow at 8:30 a.m. The cost is just \$10 per person when you RSVP in advance, or \$12 per person at the door (cash or check; **make check payable to CIFT**) which includes breakfast and networking opportunities. Guests are encouraged to reserve a seat in advance. Register online at <http://ciftinnovation.org>.



UPCOMING Events

June

June 1-First Friday,
Downtown Perrysburg

June 4-7 - Kids' Outdoor
Science Camp,
Camp Palmer, Fayette

June 21- OARDC Field
Day, Custar

June 23-Woodland
Wildlife Family Festival,
Pontiac Park, Defiance

July

July 15-17 Summer
Supervisors School,
Renaissance Hotel,
Downtown Toledo

July 30-August 6
Wood County Fair

*Follow the Wood Soil and
Water Conservation
District on Facebook, the
blog and check the
website for additional
details on each event.*



Ron Snyder, Wood SWCD Supervisor & Soil Health Champion

Women Non-Operator Landowners

Wood SWCD has begun a collaboration with American Farmland Trust (AFT) to reach out to non-operator landowners in the Portage and Toussaint watersheds. The pilot project focuses on women who own farmland but are not involved in the day-to-day farming operations. These are often year-to-year cash rent agreements that do not encourage the producer to invest in long-term conservation practices. Our goals are to bring the conservation message to a population that soil and water conservation districts have traditionally missed, and make it easier for a producer and a landowner to discuss what practices are appropriate for their specific situation. Long-term, we hope to see landowners and farmers create working agreements that encourage the adoption of conservation and equitably share the investment in those practices.

Last November, we started a series of day-long learning circles. The first session introduced participants to soil quality and some of the techniques that farmers use to improve the soil and its biology. Over the winter, two more sessions helped participants identify short-term and long-term goals for their land, and encouraged them to take the next steps needed for legacy planning. They also learned about different types of leases, and how to develop a conservation strategy with their farmer.

Later this summer, we will be starting a new series of learning circles. If you are an interested landowner, or if you are a farmer who thinks your landowner would be interested, please contact the district office to be added to the mailing list.

Contact Us

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43402

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wcswcd@woodswcd.com

Visit our website at
www.woodswcd.com

Like the district on
Facebook at **Wood Soil**
and Water Conservation
District.

Check out the current
topics on the Wood SWCD
blog at
woodswcd.blogspot.com

Find topics, projects, and
activities from Ag to Urban
on Pinterest at **Wood**
SWCD



Visit **fam4cleanwater.com**

Like **Farm 4 Clean Water**



Board of Supervisors

Dennis Ferrell, Chairman
Ron Snyder, Vice Chairman
Kris Swartz, Fiscal Agent
Lee Sundermeier, Secretary
Bernie Scott, Member

District Staff

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

NRCS Staff

Becky Duncan, District Conservationist
Kelly Copeland, Resource Conservationist

Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

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

Items for Sale

Floating Pond Filter	\$245.00
Pond Filter Float	\$ 92.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 55.00
Pond Safety Kit	\$150.00
Ring Buoy	\$ 70.00
Deep Water Sign	\$ 14.00
Rope (per foot)	\$ 0.25
Tile Probes	\$ 33-35
Soil Test Probe	\$63 & 95
Garden Soil Test Kits	\$ 25.00
Tree Protectors	\$ 2.50
Tree Wraps with Stake	\$ 4.00
Flags	\$0.10 ea
100 4x5	\$ 8.00
100 5x8	\$ 9.00
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 & 20
15"	\$ 25.00

For Wood County
Residents Use Only

(Cash or Check payable upon receipt)