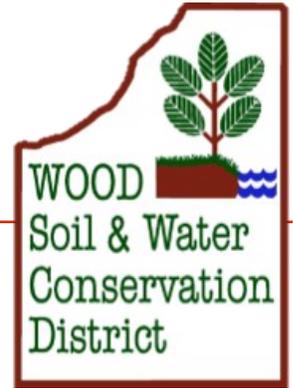


Eye On Conservation



Wood Soil & Water Conservation District



Celebrating 70 years of Conservation in Wood County

The Wood SWCD 70th annual banquet and election was an evening of recognition and entertainment at Nazareth Hall in Grand Rapids, OH. Local TV personality and WTOL 11 meteorologist Ryan Wichman was the guest speaker. Ryan featured a top weather event from each decade and as a self-declared weather geek, Ryan shared his weather event memories and experiences as well.



It was a honor to have in attendance the former and current Wood County legislators. Senator

Gavarone and Representative Ghanbari each presented a commendation to the district on celebrating 70 years. Tim Brown, former Representative and current president of TMACOG and Chancellor Gardner were also in attendance.



As a long-time supporter of the conservation programs in Ohio, Randy Gardner, Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and former State Senator, was recognized by the district for his "Commitment to Conservation."

(continued on page 3)



WOOD SWCD
OFFICE HOURS
7:30 AM —4:30 PM
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.



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

“Boots on the Ground” by Nicki Kale

While there’s certainly “no place like home!”, it’s great to get away, travel and experience what the world has to offer! We have a great deal to see and do right here in Wood County, our state, and BEYOND!

On one of my most recent treks, to one of my “new favorite destinations” – Traverse City, Michigan, I discovered and found, one of the “coveted” Petoskey stones! My years of working at the Wood SWCD have fostered my curiosity and interest in things such as rocks and soil. We “pick” rocks from our farm fields, most of which end up in the pile



behind the barn. My husband grimaces when on occasion, I find the perfect “gem” that deserves a place somewhere other than “the pile”.

The “gem” we find in our fields are often times very interesting, though not quite a Petoskey stone! Petoskey stones are found in the Traverse area, and are actually fragments of a coral reef from the Devonian period – 419.2 – 359.9 million years ago. While difficult to spot when dry, when wet - just under the water’s surface, it’s then that their distinctive pattern of six-sided coral fossil is beautifully visible!

Upon finding my first Petoskey stone, to say I was equally as excited as my grandkids finding Easter eggs, would be an understatement! Combing the shoreline of Lake Michigan, I discovered not only a Petoskey stone, but the beauty of the lake itself, its shorelines and dunes. Best of all – it’s less than a day’s drive from home! The water of Lake Michigan in spots is tropical in brilliant shades of blue and aqua. The enormity of the surrounding water is breathtaking!

If you decide to make the trip, I hope you find a Petoskey stone. While there, might I also suggest a visit to The Grand Traverse Pie Company? After exploring the great outdoors, you’ll need to satisfy your hunger! The Grand Traverse Pie Company offers breakfast fare, soups, salads, sandwiches, etc. and of course PIE! I highly recommend the Cherry Ganache a la mode. If you’re not a chocolate fan – the Cherry Crumb is equally delicious.



Happy exploring the great outdoors!

“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.



“Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own.”

–Charles Dickens

70 Years (continued)

As a fellow Wood county resident, Randy continues to engage the current administration in carrying on the work of conservation.

The 2018 Wood County Ag-Venture Self-Driving Farm Tour featured seven family farms and ag-businesses. The Wood SWCD received recognition at the OFSWCD partnership meeting as the District of the Year and the USDA NRCS awarded the district the 2018 National Earth Team Partnership award. Senator Gavarone paid tribute to these awards with a letter from the statehouse.

Moser Farms in Perrysburg was one of the seven stops on the tour. Bob Moser was awarded the USDA NRCS Northeast Region individual volunteer award. The district recognized the efforts of the all of the Ag-Venture hosts. Bob and Maribeth Moser were in attendance to accept their certificate.

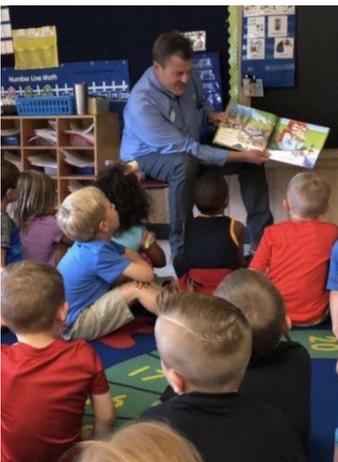


The Wood SWCD is governed by a board of supervisors elected in a special election. Dylan Baer, Steve Benner, and incumbent Lee E. Sundermeier were the nominees. Lee and Dylan were elected to each serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2020. Dennis Ferrell chose not to run for re-election and was recognized for his 18 years of dedicated service on the board.

A few of the district program highlights included partnering with AIF for a pond clinic, classroom presentations in county elementary and middle schools, Wood County FFA soil judgings, soil health outreach meetings, and tree seedling and fingerling fish sales.

Wood SWCD collaborates with local landowners, ag-businesses, educators, and state officials to fulfill the district's mission of promoting *the wise use of local natural resources to address regional concerns.*

National Read a Book Day – September 6



September 6 is National Read a Book Day. To continue promoting Ag-Venture, the Wood SWCD organized 20 local farmers and agricultural professionals who volunteered their time to read “Right This Very Minute: A table to farm book about food and farming” By Lisl H. Detlefsen.

Conneaut, Frank, Fort Meigs, Lake, Otsego and Rossford elementary schools welcomed the guest readers allowing the students to interact with agricultural professionals while listening to a book that accurately portrays farms. This helps students to understand how their food gets to the store and what ingredients are used to produce their favorites.

Each school received a hardback copy of the book and the accompanying resource manual. Thank you to our ag professionals and educators. Look for another Ag-Venture in 2022!

Prevent Plant Cover Crop Program

As Northwest Ohio, Wood County in particular, experienced a devastating spring planting season, the Wood SWCD supervisors and staff brainstormed options to help the local producer. In an effort to keep the unplanted fields covered for weed suppression, control erosion, and encourage soil health, a Prevent Plant Cover Crop (PPCC) program was offered.



The program offered cost share up to \$10 on a maximum of 100 acres (not to exceed %50 of the total seed cost). The cover crop must be a mix of

overwintering and winter kill species and left on until March 15, 2020. Examples of seed mixes were provided and the local co-ops and seed dealers stepped up to help the novice cover crop farmer. Again due to weather, producers found it difficult to meet the September 3 planting deadline so it was extended to November 1.

The district set aside \$30,000 in cost share funds for the PPCC program. Due to the positive response from producers the first 3,000 acres were signed up quickly. Because of the good working relationship with our Board of County Commissioners, the district reached out to them requesting a match in funds. With the given situation and importance of agriculture in Wood County, the commissioners not only matched the funds but increased it by \$10,000. With the additional funds, 7,000 acres of Wood County farmland could be covered and protected.

Thank you to the Wood County commissioners for your commitment to the farmers and the natural resources in Wood County.

Funds are still available. Contact the district office at 419-354-5517 #4 or email abbywensink@woodswcd.com for more information.

CRP Mid Contract Management



Thank you to Bostdorff Greenhouse Acres for partnering with the Wood SWCD as a local vendor for the Conservation Reserve Program Mid Contract Management forbs planting. Over 20,000 native forbs were planted in the CRP grass filter strips in an effort to improve wildlife habitat and increase plant diversity in an otherwise grass dominated area.

UDSA-FSA, USDA-NRCS, and Wood SWCD offered a workshop and small group meetings for landowners to clarify the contract requirements and order forbs.

The local ag agencies work together to meet contract requirements and promote best management practices for conservation and quality crop production.

Ohio's Historic Family Farms



Wood County is honored to have 49 Historic Family Farms awarded 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. A hard copy may be requested by calling 614-752-4505. Contact the Wood SWCD for assistance: 419-354-5517 #4 or wcdswcd@woodswcd.com

Pop-Up Meetings

Pop-Up producer meetings are generally held the last Wednesday of each month. They have been held in producer's shops, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Bob Evans. Topics have included nutrient management, LEBOR, SB 299 Working Lands programs, and cover crops.

If you have a topic of discussion for a pop-up meeting, contact the district office.

Follow the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District on **Facebook** or **TEXT @swcdfarm to 810-10** to be added to a text message group that will keep you up to date on producer programs and happenings.



Healthy Soil, Healthy Water, Healthy You!



It was a pleasure to have fair weather at the fair. Kids and adults alike enjoyed the soil tunnel and the pollinator game. A few visitors were surprised to see what products are made from local crops.

Thank you to Home Depot for providing the Kids' Workshop. It is always a hit. See you next year!

Water Quality: It's Everyone's Business



The Black Swamp Educators of the Northwest Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts is hosting Water Quality Workshop at the University of Toledo Lake Erie Center, 6200 Bay Shore Rd, Oregon, OH 43616 on **Friday, October 26, 2019, 9 AM to 3:30 PM.**

Water Quality: It's Everyone's Business is a one day educator's workshop covering water quality education topics for all grade levels with make-it-take-it back to your classroom activities, education models, and curriculum activities.

Cost is \$25 to attend and includes lunch, refreshments, and resource materials.

The registration form is online at www.woodswcd.com/educators, by email at wcsxcd@woodswcd.com, or at the district office. **Registration deadline is Friday, October 11.**

Milkweed Pod Collection

Many flowers, native plants in particular, are terrific sources of nectar for monarch butterflies, but milkweed leaves are the only food monarch caterpillars eat. Milkweed is the host plant. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed plants so the tiny caterpillars will have access to food the moment they hatch.

Due to the drastic decline in monarch butterfly populations, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts are again seeking public involvement to collect common milkweed seed pods from established plants **September 1 through October 30.**



Tips for picking pods:

- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. Green pods won't be able to be used.
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Wood SWCD office.

American Farmland Trust (AFT)



Over half of our farmland here in Wood County is rented or leased. Sometimes that's a handshake agreement between two producers that saves someone from hauling his equipment clear across the township, but it is becoming more common for a farmer to be renting from a landlord who isn't as familiar with a modern farm operation and hasn't kept up on changing methods and approaches.

For the last three years, Wood SWCD has been working with American Farmland Trust to provide targeted, day-long workshops for women who own farmland but perhaps haven't been a part of the day-to-day decision-making that farming involves. Sessions have focused on how to include conservation practices in a lease agreement, land transition and leaving a legacy, and practices that improve soil health and water quality. While we haven't seen direct data on our local events yet, other similar programs in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa have found that about half of the women who have participated in these learning circles have gone on to discuss conservation with a family member, 1 in 3 changed a practice on their farm, and 1 in 5 reached out to a resource professional for additional information.

If you own farmland that you rent or lease and would like to participate in future workshops, please contact us so we can make sure you know when the next learning circles are happening. And if you rent farmland and wish your landlord understood more about agriculture and conservation, check with us and we'll make sure we have their contact information.

Education and Outreach

The Wood SWCD staff and supervisors organize and present an array of educational and outreach programs on soils and water quality for adult and youth. These include, but are not limited to, classroom programs, producer meetings, educator workshops, and field days. The resource specialists consult on surveying and engineering for drainage. Ohio curriculum standards are considered in choosing the school programs and producer workshops host experts in soil health and improving water quality.

Over the past few months the staff presented at Kids' Outdoor Science Camp, Elmwood Farm Fest, North Baltimore Enviroday, Montessori, Paulding Farm Fest and county and district soil judgings.

It's not too early to contact the district to schedule an event or request a presentation for 2020.



Need to Know...

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 | \$ 63.00 |
| 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" mild steel | \$ 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

(for large planting projects)

\$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

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 14
OFFICE CLOSED

OCTOBER 25
Water Quality Wksp
Lake Erie Center
9:00 AM—3:30 PM

OCTOBER 30
Pop Up Meeting
BW3
6:00 PM

NOVEMBER 11, 28, 29
OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 25
OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 1
OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY-FEBRUARY
Tree Seedling Sale

CONTACT US

Wood SWCD

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43402

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www.woodswcd.com

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Jeremy Gerwin, Resource Protection Specialist

Meagan Grammer, WLEB Nutrient Management Specialist

Beth Landers, Resource Protection Watershed Specialist

Julie Lause, Administrative Assistant & Outreach Coordinator

Abby Wensink, Resource Protection SWAT Technician

NRCS Staff

Becky Duncan, District Conservationist

Kelly Copeland, Resource Conservationist

Cheryl Rice, Area Resource Conservationist

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