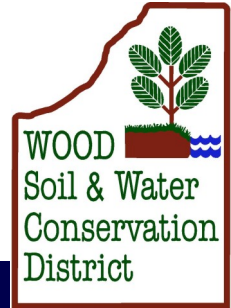


Eye on Conservation

WORKING LOCALLY, THINKING REGIONALLY



Wood Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

Winter 2019



Meet Gnorm

Gnorm is the newest addition to the Wood SWCD conservation family. Gnorm is the gnome who brings conservation home.

Look for Gnorm through out the county at district events and follow the district on Facebook @woodswcd to see what Gnorm is up to.

Gnorm will share conservation topics, fun facts, tips and tricks, updates on programs, and so much more! If there's a conservation topic you'd like to learn more about, contact the district

office and talk to the staff.

If you see Gnorm out and about, be sure to take a selfie and post tagging the district @woodswcd!

Looking forward to sharing the adventures.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."—Theodore Roosevelt

1949-2019

The Wood Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating 70 years of conservation in Wood County.



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.



Family Reunion—R to L: Scarlett, Cassady, King, Gunner

Wood County is comprised of nineteen townships, twenty one villages and five cities.

It has population of over 130,000 (2017) and is a total of 620 square miles.

Interested to know who owns a part of Wood County?

The Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce distributes the Wood County plat book. Copies are available at the Wood SWCD office.

Each book is \$20.

“Boots on the Ground” - Jim Carter

It seems like a struggle to dedicate eight hours in a vehicle for a family reunion. This reunion however; was not your typical family reunion.

It all started with an October phone call from Bill... “Hey Jim, do you want to go to Iowa November 17th thru the 21st?” “Why Iowa and for what purpose”, I ask. “Well to go pheasant hunting of course! It will be fun!” I’m a little apprehensive at first because my harvest is not complete but the 17th is three weeks away, and soybean harvest is near complete, corn harvest should be finished by then or only a little remaining and I have never been pheasant hunting for wild birds in my life. “Sure, why not? Are we taking your dog? Who else is going along?” “Yes, I will be taking my dog Scarlet along. I want you to bring along your dog Cassady,” said Bill. “Bill, Cassady hasn’t been in the field yet to prove she knows what she is doing and she only knows a few commands. I don’t want to ruin anybody’s hunt because my dog doesn’t know proper hunting etiquette. I am also nervous that she may run off and not want to come back being in a new environment. Bill you know how determined a German shorthaired pointer can be.” “Cassady will be fine, just bring her along. She can ride in the dog box with Scarlet.”

November 17th, 1:00 p.m., seven hours into our drive. Muscatine Iowa is first spot to hunt. Sleeting/snowing and a receding flooded river bottom to hunt. Not what I had pictured to hunt but why not try? Cassady is excited and I’m nervous. After trudging around for two hours in swamp, briars, and six foot tall grass the dog and I both exited the hunt with a nice little workout, not lost, and unscathed.

Day two: Up at 5 a.m. to tend to the dogs’ needs and prepare for the days hunt. The weather forecaster missed again. 17 degrees and four inches of snow. Out to hunt IHAP areas (Iowa Habitat and Access Program). The IHAP areas are fields/farms that landowners receive (funding and expertise for habitat improvements conditional (*Continued*))



Learn more about Wood County at the *Wood County Historical Center & Museum*.

woodcountyhistory.org

UPCOMING Events

January

Tree Seedling Sale

Orders due February 28

February

Northern Ohio Crops Day

Feb. 7 8 AM—4 PM

Ole Zim's Wagon Shed

Northwest Ohio Crops Day

Feb. 8 7:30— 3:30 PM

Bavarian Haus, Deshler

Ag Update Breakfast

February 20 7AM

Bob Evans, Bowling

Green

Soil Health Workshop

Feb. 28 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

Ole Zims's Wagon Shed

March

WNOL

March 7

Luckey Farmers,

Woodville

Forbs Workshop

March 28 6— 8 PM

Wood SWCD office

*Digging Deeper Soils
Workshop*

March 29 9 AM-3:30 PM

Fulton Ag Center

Wauseon

Women in Ag

March 29

Nazareth Hall, Grand

Rapids

*Check Facebook the website
for details about each event.*

(Continued from "Boots on the Ground") that they allow the public access to their land for hunting. First site and all I can see is a grass and snow covered mountain. The native lowans call them a rise. Again, six feet tall grass, four inches of fresh snow, and excited dogs. Did I mention it is now 19 degrees since the sun is now up and a slight breeze makes it even more enjoyable? I put a twenty foot section of rope on Cassidy's collar because I am going to attempt to let her run a bit on this hunt to see what she can do. Nobody told me that all of Iowa is straight up on these "rises". When I get to the top of this rise (a change in elevation exceeding 80 feet) what a site to see. Cattle grazing on winter wheat in an adjacent farm, both standing corn and corn stalks boxed in with fence, terraces, draws, meandering streams with riparian corridors on either side, and this tall grass with food plots nestled in among it all. Excellent habitat for pheasants.

At the end of the day Cassidy was remarkable. She listened, returned, pointed birds, and has incredible energy (the owner on the other hand is another story). We hunted several of these IHAP sites and they all had birds present.

November 18th through the 21st were very similar. Different areas; some with IHAP area and some State wildlife areas. We hunted no private lands, although that is on the "to do" list for next year. The last two days in Iowa were spent mostly at Belva Deer Recreation Area (approximately 1,700 acres with a 260 acre lake). My hunting partners had GPS collars for their dogs and tracked routes and distances traveled. This proved that hunting is good exercise. The GPS collars indicated the "hunters" walked six to ten miles daily in tall grass and the dogs averaged four to five times that amount.

It was a very enjoyable time spent with friends and hunting companions. I almost forgot about the reunion. It was for the dogs. Scarlet was hunting with her pups.

"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.



Take a walk on the wild side at the **Ohio Outdoor and Wildlife Expo**. Learn about exciting ways to experience the great outdoors here in Ohio.

The Expo, hosted by Erie Basin Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), is being held in Sawmill Creek Resort's Wilderness Hall on **March 30th, 2019 10 AM—7 PM**. It is free and open to the public.

There will be educational presentations throughout the day for adults and children. Speakers will cover topics that include Wild Things, Lake Erie Water Snakes, Outdoor survivorship skills, and back yard conservation.

Come and see live Ohio animals! Try your hand at the indoor archery and BB gun ranges and casting game. Come and sing along with a 6-foot animatronic earth worm. You can also tryout our Ohio wildlife safari where you will learn fun facts about Ohio animals while searching for the animals on your check off list.

Sawmill Creek Resort is providing a limited number of rooms available at a discounted rate of \$99.00 plus tax on March 29th and 30th for those attending the Expo.



Meagan with Vanity

WLEB—Nutrient Management Technician

Hi my name is Meagan Grammer. I am the new Western Lake Erie Basin Technician for Sandusky, Ottawa, and Wood County. I grew up in Fremont, OH on my family's dairy farm where I am still actively involved. I went to The Ohio State University ATI for two years where I received my Associates Degree in Dairy Science and went onto main campus and received my Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science.

I will be assisting farmers in the Tri-County with writing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and Nutrient Management Plans. Also, I am in charge of manure management for livestock producers and regulation reinforcement. I assist in EQIP contracts for manure storage structures. I am excited to get the opportunity to work with producers who appreciate and are passionate about the Agriculture industry.

Wildlife in the Winter

No need to worry about Ohio wildlife in the winter. They are savvy creatures.

When the temps get dangerously cold raccoons, opossums, skunks, and chipmunks will temporarily hibernate.

Frogs, snakes, turtles, and most other cold blooded animals will crawl into holes or burrows where they ride out the winter.

Migratory birds fly far, far way. The non-migratory birds pack on a few extra pounds.

You might be tempted to feed and care for the wildlife, but wildlife experts do not recommend it.



Enjoy the wildlife in their natural habitat and know that you could cause more harm than good.

Read more at:

<http://ohiodnr.gov/winter-recreation/wildlife/ohios-wildlife>



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 www.woodswcd.com

Ag Update Breakfast

Your cup of coffee is on us!

Join us at **Bob Evans in Bowling Green on Wednesday, February 20, 7 to 8 AM** to talk shop on Nutrient Management.



Kip Studer, Nutrient Management Specialist with ODA, will start the discussion on what it means to manage nutrients on your land and why it is important for all farmers to have a plan; the dollars and sense of having a nutrient management plan for your operation and the environment.

RSVP to 419-354-5517 or email abbywensink@woodswcd.com. Your cup of coffee or beverage of choice is compliments of the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District. Breakfast is to be purchased by the attendee.

Text @19breakfas to 810-10 for a text reminder of the meeting and other upcoming meetings.



Pond Clinic

The Wood SWCD and Ag Incubator Foundation are hosting a Pond Clinic on **Monday, April 15, 2019 6:30—8:30 PM at the Ag Incubator Foundation - 13737 Middleton Pike (SR582) Bowling Green, OH 43402.**

Zak Reinhart of Aqua Doc is the guest speaker. Topics include general pond management, how a typical pond system functions, and common issues and

potential solutions to the issues.

This event is free and open to the public. Please contact the district to RSVP: 419-354-5517 or wcdswcd@woodswcd.com

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" 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

\$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

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419-354-5517 wcdswcd@woodswcd.com

www.woodswcd.com

