

# Eye On Conservation

## Wood Soil & Water Conservation District



## Wood SWCD Board of Supervisors

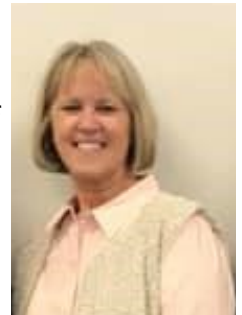


Prior to the first 2020 Wood SWCD Board of Supervisors regular meeting, Commissioner Theodore Bowlus administered the Oath of Office to newly elected board supervisor Dylan Baer and incumbent, Lee E. Sundermeier. Lee E. Sundermeier will serve as the Chair; Bernie Scott, Vice-Chair; Kris Swartz, Fiscal Agent; Ron Snyder, Secretary; and Dylan Baer, member.

Collectively, the Board of Supervisors offer the Wood Country residents over 60 years of

volunteer service to conservation in Wood County.

Nicki Kale, District Administrator, after over 30 years of service, is retiring at the end of February. We want to thank her for her years of service to public and the district employees. Best wishes to her in retirement! Join us for an Open House on Friday, February 28 from 11 AM to 3 PM at the district office for refreshments. Surely there are a few memorable moments to share!



**OFFICE HOURS**  
7:30 AM —4:30 PM  
MONDAY—FRIDAY

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The Wood SWCD

Board of Supervisors holds regular monthly meetings the third Friday of each month at 8:00 AM at the district office.

### 2020 Board of Supervisors

Front L to R: Bernie Scott, Lee E. Sundermeier, and Kris Swartz

Back L to R: Ron Snyder and Dylan Baer



## Eye On Conservation

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### “Boots on the Ground” by Abby Wensink

As you would imagine, water conservation is an important topic in Death Valley. But I wasn't expecting to find a timer in the shower! While staying in Stovepipe Wells, we learned that much of their water is ground water and very little surface water exists in the National Park. To further complicate that they only have access to groundwater, they are also home to the endangered Devils Hole Pupfish. The pupfish only lives in Death Valley and is at the mercy of available ground water. At one time the pupfish population had dropped to just 35 from a peak population of 550. In the Spring of 2019 that number had increased back to 136.

In order to maintain water levels, the Park implemented many water saving measures to reduce consumption. That's where the timer in the shower comes in.

A seven-minute shower consumes 8.75 gallons of water; cutting your shower by 2 minutes will save 2.5 gallons. The timer in the shower ran out at 5 minutes!



*“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.*

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## Annual Tree Seedling Sale & Workshop

The Wood SWCD annual tree seedling sale ends **Friday, February 28**. Conifers offered are American Arborvitae, Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, and Bald Cypress. Hardwoods include Red Maple, Shagbark Hickory, Swamp White Oak, and Tulip Poplar; Wildflower shrubs include Black Chokeberry, Butterfly Bush, and Redbud. Each seedling packet is \$12 with 10 seedlings per packet. Find the order form and tree descriptions online at [woodswcd.com](http://woodswcd.com) or stop by the district office.

Tree order pick up is Thursday, April 16 10:00 AM—6:00 PM at the Exhibition/Champion Barn located in the northeast area of the Wood County Fairgrounds. For your convenience when picking up trees, enter the building from the north and drive through into the building. From there, the staff will have your order for to put in your vehicle.

In partnership with the Agricultural Incubator Foundation (AIF), the district is hosting a **tree workshop** on **Tuesday, February 11** at the AIF - 13737

Middleton Pike, Bowling Green. **Doors open at 6:00 PM** with a presentation and Q & A session with Sam Kaiser, ODNR Service Forester, beginning at 6:30 PM. The event is free and open to the community. Registration is appreciated to ensure enough materials are available. Contact the district office at 419-354-5517 #4 or register online at [woodswcd.com](http://woodswcd.com).





## Reflections from Nicki

Wow - how quickly the past 30 years have slipped by! I've reached the point in life often referred to as "retirement", "the golden years" among other titles. I prefer to look at this next chapter as time to devote to "the best years".



More time for family, friends and adventure!

As I reflect, there are many fond memories of some really great folks who helped bring the Soil and Water organization to the place we see it today. Some are still with us; others have moved on to other great things! The focus of our efforts remains improved soil health and clean water – "let's leave this place better than we found it". "New" programs have come and gone – often the same programs with new names, striving still to help achieve that that goal. I believe we continue to make progress!

I was hired as the Program Coordinator in 1989, with an emphasis on developing an education program for the district. The Division of Soil and Water had a dedicated education staff and really helped districts to grow their educational efforts. Statewide the number of employees

### ***First day on the job!***

was small, small enough to be "family" and we all knew one another. Today the numbers have

increased tremendously allowing more programs, efforts, and accomplishments. As I move on, I will remember fondly my days in classrooms, teacher workshops, and Envirothons as some of the best days.

I began this journey when my children were 10 and 8 years of age. I recently had the joy of providing classroom programs for my grandchildren who are now that very age. So, I think this marks a good time to move on and spend more time working on family ventures!

It's been a pleasure and I will watch eagerly as SWCDs continue to forge forward making this a better place!



***Nicki presenting in the classroom with her two granddaughters. Which two are they?***

## Fingerling Fish Sale

The Wood Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a spring fingerling fish sale.

Fish species offered include: Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Fathead Minnows, and White Amur.

Order forms are available online at [woodswcd.com](http://woodswcd.com) or by stopping by the district office. Fish pick-up is Tuesday, April 28 at 9:30 AM at the Wood County Fairgrounds. Please have orders to the district office no later than Tuesday, April 21. A pond clinic date is yet to be determined. Follow the district on Facebook or online for further details.

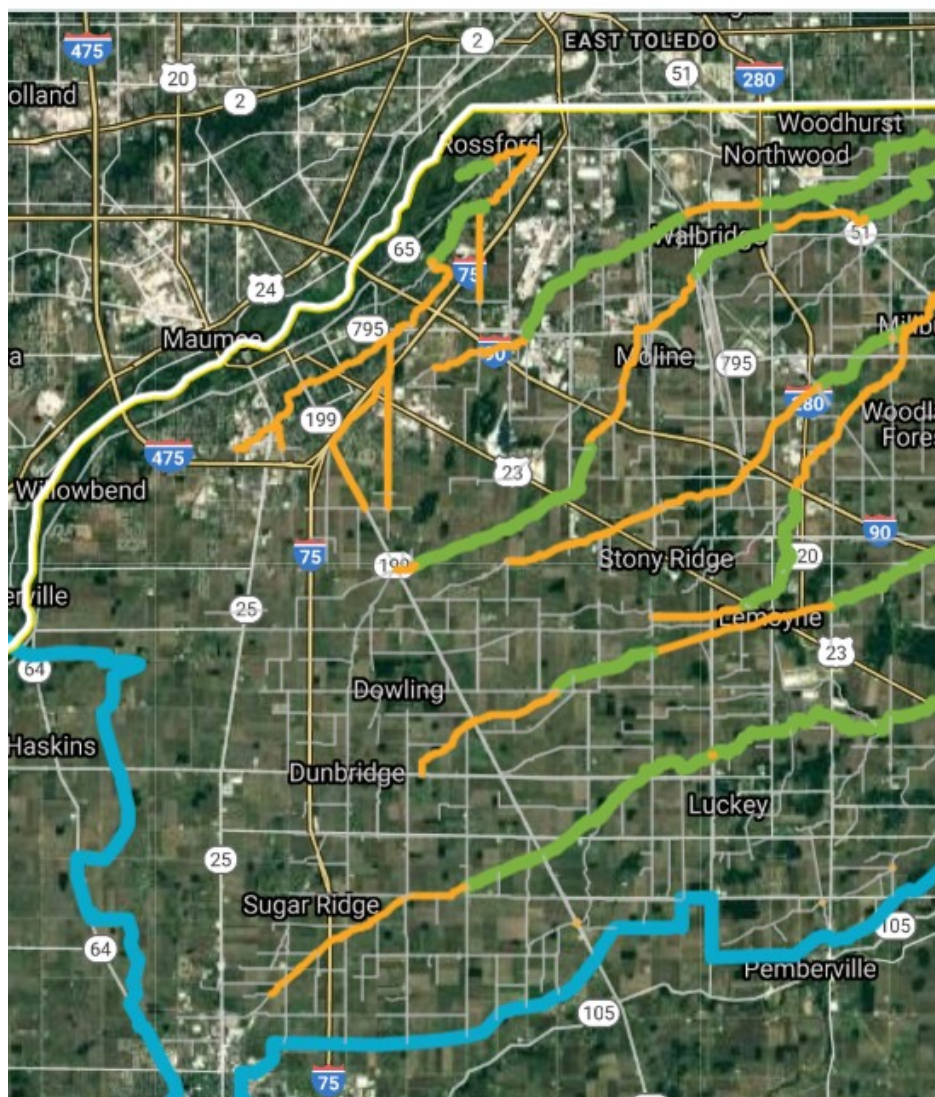


## Maumee Area of Concern

In an effort to improve aquatic habitat, The Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee (MAAC) is seeking willing riparian landowners for purchase of land and/or (potentially) placement of conservation easements along the highlighted streams on the map. The green color is the higher priority followed by the orange and finally the gray.

Property owners willing to discuss possible projects adjacent to these areas please contact Jim Carter at the Wood SWCD office to further discuss possibilities.

To learn more about MAAC and the work being done provide fishable, swimmable, and drinkable waters within the Maumee Area of Concern visit the website at [maumeeaoc.org](http://maumeeaoc.org).



## CRP 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.

Planting forb plugs is the default option for the 2020 CRP Management. Bostdorff Greenhouse Acres is partnering with the district again this year to provide a local vendor. A list of additional vendors is available online at [www.woodswcd.com](http://www.woodswcd.com).

The new order form will be available online, at the district office, and FSA.



## Ohio's Historic Family Farms

Wood County is honored to have 51 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](mailto:wcdswcd@woodswcd.com)

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## Let's Talk Shop

Shop Talk 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.

Mark your calendar the Shop Talk meetings scheduled for 2020—February 26, March, 25, June 24, August 26, and September 30. Locations are to be determined.

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.

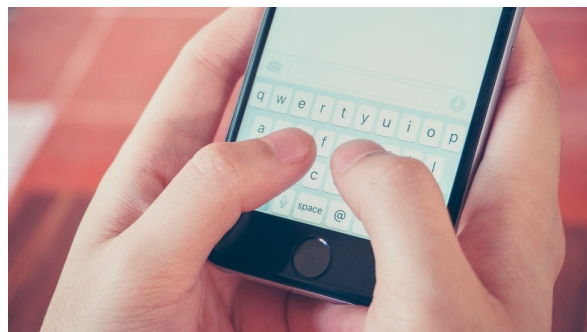


If your farm is part of a NRCS, state, or district program please provide maps, seed tags, receipts, etc. in a timely manner to the Wood SWCD office. In order to receive payment on cost share programs, agreement and contract requirements need to be met.

Contact the district office to verify that all of your information has been submitted.

## Communication is Key

The fastest way for us to get information to you is through a text message. Wood SWCD uses *Remind* to contact people through text messages. With the overwhelming amount of emails and the reduction in snail mail, text messaging is preferred for reminders and new releases.



Signing up for text message reminders is a couple of steps. Text the @message of your choice to the 'phone number' 810-10. You will be asked to reply with your name and birthday to verify you are over the age of 13. There is no need to reply to the teacher or student message. Once you have verified your name and birthday, your phone number will be added to the group.

To receive reminders and updates from the following programs and groups **text**:

**@swcdfarm** (updates and reminders on new programs and meetings that are farm related. Ex. H2Ohio updates, Shop Talk reminders)

**@pondinfo** (updates and reminders with the district fish sale and pond clinics)

**@treeinfo** (updates and reminders with the tree sale and tree workshops)

The district utilizes multiple forms of media to do our best in getting information to the public. [woodswcd.com](http://woodswcd.com), Facebook at Wood Soil & Water Conservation District, email, and the local county newspapers. Please let the district know if you have a preferred way to be contacted and updated.



The Ohio Department of Agriculture, in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI), hosted informational meetings outlining the application process, explaining the H2Ohio certification process, and answered questions.

**The district is hosting additional Q & A meetings: Thursday, February 13 at 8:00 AM at AIF; Tuesday, February 18 at 11:30 AM at the district office; Wednesday, February, 26 at 6:00 PM at Buffalo Wild Wings, Bowling Green.**

Wood County producers are encouraged to contact the Wood SWCD to schedule an appointment to discuss the options available for their operation. For your convenience, fact sheets, checklists, and a Farmer Field Worksheet are available on the district website, [woodswcd.com](http://woodswcd.com).

To enroll in the OACI Farmer Certification Program and to receive Year 1 H2Ohio funding, farmers must register and complete a farmer profile online at [ohioaci.org](http://ohioaci.org). Steps by step instructions will guide you through the questionnaire.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO RECOGNIZE OHIO'S FARMERS AND PROTECT OHIO'S WATERWAYS

The Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI) is an unprecedented partnership between agriculture, conservation, environmental, and research communities to recognize farmers for their dedication to utilize established methods to improve water quality in Ohio and to increase the number of best management practices being implemented on farms.

The H2Ohio initiative was developed to ensure safe and clean water for all Ohioans. The plan invests in targeted solutions to help farmers implement best management practices on their farms. OACI will work with the H2Ohio program to ensure funds get to farmers who demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement through the implementation of science-based practices.

By collaboratively learning and sharing information, Ohio's water quality advocates stand as a united front dedicated to identifying solutions and helping farmers implement them.

**OACI was formed to accomplish two key goals:**

- » Assess farm practices in Ohio to better understand current on-farm conservation and nutrient management efforts.
- » Create a new, voluntary certification program for farmers to promote continuous improvement and increase adoption of best management practices to improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

**OACI partners include a diverse group of organizations:**



**For more information, please visit [OhioACI.org](http://OhioACI.org)**

# 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	\$37 & 39
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	\$ 18.00
12" stainless steel	\$ 28.00
15" stainless steel	\$ 25.00
2018 Plat Book	\$ 20.00

(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

**FEBRUARY 28**  
**Tree Seedling Sale**  
order deadline

**FEBRUARY 11**  
**Tree Workshop**  
6:00 PM at AIF

**MARCH 12**  
**Cover Crop Panel**  
Napoleon, TBA

**APRIL 16**  
**Tree Sale Pick-up**  
**Wood County**  
**Fairgrounds**

**APRIL 22**  
**Fish Order Deadline**

**APRIL 28**  
**Fish Pick-up**  
**9:30 AM Wood County**  
**Fairgrounds**

## CONTACT US

Wood SWCD

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

419-354-5517 #4  
wcdswcd@woodswcd.com  
www.woodswcd.com



## District Staff

Nicki Kale, District Administrator/Education Coordinator

Jim Carter, District Administrator/Drainage & Engineering Coordinator

Jeremy Gerwin, Resource Protection 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

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