

Eye On Conservation

Wood Soil & Water Conservation District



**Thank you to
Wood County
Commissioners Dr.
Ted Bowlus, Craig
LaHote, and Doris I.
Herringshaw for the
continued support and
concern of your local
natural resources.**

Spring Forward

The Wood SWCD is springing forward. Conservation events for youth and adults, agricultural cost share conservation programs, ditch projects, tree seedling and fingerling fish sales. The Wood SWCD assessed over 30 miles of ditches currently being cleaned through private ditch cleanouts. With the H2Ohio initiative rolling out in 2020, it is the most recent and largest of the district's agricultural conservation cost share programs. Many of the events and programs have become tradition, too, in the soil and water districts' world. Tree seedling sales encourage windbreaks to curb erosion and promote wildlife habitat. Fingerling fish sales help to stock local farm ponds used for drinking water.

The district board of supervisors and staff work together with local state and federal agencies as well as local producers, educators, citizens, and landowners to address local natural resource issues and priorities. To make the greatest impact with the available staff and funding, the group looks at past and current work being done with the struggles and successes. The group works to identify potential issues and establish potential solutions, prioritize and rank the criteria used to address the issues, and discuss where the best investment can be made with the natural resource concerns.

Strengthening conservation education and awareness for youth and adults is a key strategy to improving soil health and water quality, while at the same time presents a big challenge. Reaching the public in an effective and efficient manner does not have a simple solution.

Since 1949 the Wood County Soil and Water Conservation District serves the residents and landowners in conservation of the local natural resources. Our daily life activities all rely on healthy soils and healthy water. Your comments and suggestions are helpful and welcome. Please contact the district office with your natural resource concerns, questions, ideas, and even complaints. We are here to serve the community from ag to urban.

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 AM at the district office.

2023 Board of Supervisors

L to R: Dylan Baer, Matt Davis, Marc Schaller, Logan Riker-Chamberlain, and Kris Swartz



“Boots on the Ground” by Marc Schaller

This past July I had a chance to take a bucket list trip to Africa which had to wait until my retirement.

The vastness of the land and the countless variety of African animals is something that I will never forget. The days were made up of driving and then stalking animals into camera range. From tree and scrub covered valleys to huge plains the animals just appeared, sometimes a single animal and many times large herds running from one place to another. Who knows what motivated them to move and some species just like running. My pictures will remind me forever of this tremendous adventure.

But what struck me most was the admiration of America and questions about politics we are currently experiencing. During my trip I learned about just how important the prosperity of American is as it trickles down to smaller countries around the world. When the U.S. succeeds, it lifts up the rest of the World. At the camp that I was they said that Americans represented about 90% of their customers. When Covid hit, they were shut down for over 18 months and almost went bankrupt but thankfully were able to stay open for business until the Covid restrictions were lifted.



Roan Bull

The area of South Africa that I visited was settled by mostly Dutch descendants at about the time of our Civil War as settlers traveled by Ox cart through this immense country. Sheep and cattle were grazed on the lands and fences are still in place where they once roamed. In recent years through massive conservation efforts African wild game now roams areas where their numbers were once very limited. They have replaced sheep and cattle in many areas and the fences are still up only this time it is to keep the sheep and wild game separate. The revenue from the wild African animals now supports many more families, reduces rampant poaching and harvested animals feeds local villagers and supplies markets with meat.



South Africa was once a very prosperous country with great infrastructure and a vibrant economy with the backdrop of Apartheid tarnishing it's reputation. Today it is a nation with “load sharing” (we might call them scheduled brownouts) and a struggling infrastructure that no longer provides enough electricity nor public water to serve it's citizens. Where railroads once crossed the country, I understand that only one small portion remains. Nevertheless, my experiences with all the people were excellent and I would instantly grab a chance to visit again and experience a place like no other on earth.

“Boots on the Ground” highlights experiences, quotes, quips, and commentary offered by the supervisors and staff of the district.

Landowner Ditch Maintenance Q & A

Who owns the drainage ditches in front of my house? Who maintains the ditches near my property? Why do I have to pay for ditch cleanings?

Wood County has over 3,000 miles of ditches and open waterways. Regular ditch maintenance is essential in maintaining a residential lot as well as farm fields.

The Wood Soil & Water Conservation District is hosting a ditch maintenance Q & A for Wood County property owners.

**Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00 PM at
Middleton Township Building
21745 N Dixie Hwy
Bowling Green, OH 43402**

*Free & Open to
the Community*

Jim Carter, Wood SWCD Ditch Technician, and Duane Abke, Wood County Engineer Drainage Construction Coordinator, will present on the necessity of maintaining ditches and waterways and the how-to of ditch maintenance.

Please RSVP online at woodswcd.com, 419-354-5517 #4, or email



Soil Testing...get the scoop on your soil

Make the most of your time, energy, and dollars spent in your garden and yard by knowing the health of your soil. The Wood SWCD and Wood County OSU Extension have basic soil test kits available from Penn State Extension for \$10.68 each (includes sales tax). The standard fertility report for home vegetable, fruit, and flower gardens, turf, and landscape plants includes results for pH, acidity, Mehlich 3 phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium and lime and fertilizer recommendations. Additional testing is available for additional fees through Penn State Extension.



Wood SWCD is hosting a soil test workshop on Tuesday, May 2 at the Wood SWCD office. A flyer is included or find more information at woodswcd.com or on Facebook at Wood Soil & Water Conservation District.



Need a spot to garden?

The Agricultural Incubator Foundation 13737 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green has organic and conventional garden plots available for a seasonal fee. Plots range in size from a 4'x8' raised bed to a 40'x40' plot and range in cost from (\$20-\$75). Water and a storage shed are provided. The application, contract, and guidelines at agincubator.org.



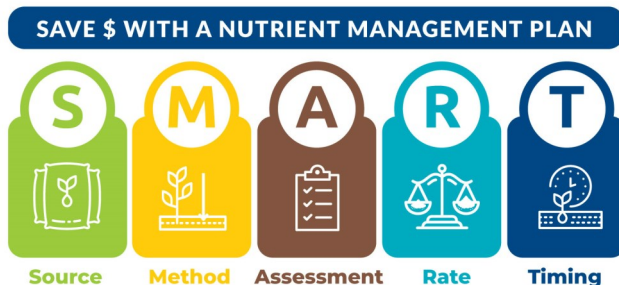
Is a Nutrient Management Plan SMART for Your Farm?

Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMPs) play a big part in many state and local government programs like H2Ohio and EQIP, and will likely continue to for years to come. But you don't have to participate in a program to benefit from developing your own VNMP.

USDA estimates that with fertilizer costs more than doubling in 2022, that farmers can save nearly \$30 per acre, on average, on land currently receiving excess nutrients by implementing a nutrient management plan (NRCS 590 Conservation Practice Effects – 08/25/2022). Although these programs are often implemented with conservation in mind, a nutrient management plan can help reduce input costs, maximize yields, and manage your nutrients more efficiently. So, not only are VNMPs good for the environment, they also help to support your bottom line.

USDA's SMART Nutrient Management includes the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship- right **Source**, right **Method**, right **Rate**, and right **Timing**; with an emphasis on smart activities to reduce nutrient loss by **Assessment** of site-specific conditions.

Want to get started? We're here to help! Many producers avoid developing nutrient management plans because they have the reputation of being time consuming or difficult to understand, but there's a ton of resources and tools available that help to make it simple. You'll need soil tests less than three years old, the planned crop, and a yield goal to get started. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, OSU Extension agent or 4R Certified Ag Retailer for assistance!



The Scoop on Soil Tests for your Yard & Garden



The Wood Soil & Water Conservation District is hosting a soil testing workshop for yard and garden soils. Craig Everett, Wood County OSU Extension, will present on testing soil and understanding the results.

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at
the Wood SWCD office
1616 E Wooster St, Suite 32
Bowling Green, OH 43402**

Doors open at 6:00 PM with the presentation at 6:30 PM

*Free and
open to the
community!*

Test kits and instructions will be available for \$10 each.

Please RSVP online at woodswcd.com, 419-354-5517 #4,
or email julielausa@woodswcd.com
to ensure enough materials and snacks.



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES





Coming Soon: H2Ohio Enrollment

As we come to the final year of the original H2Ohio signup, the next round H2Ohio enrollment will be coming soon to Wood County. Enrollment will be open to all producers!

Many of the H2Ohio practices will be updated based on feedback from producers and others. The goal of the program will still be phosphorus reduction, but with a more streamlined approach for easier delivery and program participation.

Some planned changes are;

- Incorporating VRT into Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans, with different cost share amounts for Basic Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans and Precision Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans.
- Combining Small Grains, Forage, and Cover Crop practices under one Overwintering Cover standard.
- Offering a broader range of application methods and dates for Manure Incorporation and Utilization, especially benefitting producers who use a no-till approach.
- Developing incentives in fertilizer application practices that will focus on management of nutrients, not just nutrient application
- The integration of H2Ohio MyFarms; a web-based application for agreement management, plan development, documentation submission, progress tracking, and more.

ODA staff are still in the process of finalizing some of these changes, but developing and following a Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan will remain the foundation of the program. **The next enrollment for H2Ohio is expected to begin in Summer of 2023.**

What can you to prepare for H2Ohio enrollment? Get organized!

- Make sure your soil tests for fields you plan to enroll are less than 4 years old (2021 or newer).
- Have a rough plan of what you intend to plant for crop year 2024.
- Think about what practices will work with your operation.
- Start your manure plan. If your operation produces more than 350 tons or 100,000 gallons of manure annually, you will need a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) to participate in H2Ohio. We can help you develop this plan, but please contact us as soon as possible to get the processes started.

Most importantly; **contact Sarah St. John or Beth Landers to being added to the H2Ohio communication list to stay informed about future meetings and enrollment dates.**

From the Farm Meetings

Wood county producers met in February and March for Wood SWCD's "From the Farm" meetings held at Buffalo Wild Wings in Bowling Green. The purpose of the meetings is to get area farmers and Wood SWCD staff together for casual conversations on current topics of interest in the agricultural community.

In February the group heard from BGSU Assistant Professors Dr. Vazquez-Ortega and Dr. Soto-Lopez about their research on beneficial re-use of dredge material from Toledo Harbor and the effects of lake dredged sediment on soil health. They presented their research, answered questions and discussed concerns from the group, and talked about ideal characteristics of field sites for the next phase of their research.

With spring planting just around the corner, OSU Extension educator Nick Eckel was the guest speaker at the March meeting. He shared some research and discussed planting corn and soybeans ahead of cold fronts and how soil temp, moisture, and timing can affect crop yields.

After taking a break this spring for planting, we plan to resume the monthly meetings in July. In the warmer months we like to hold the meetings at different farms around Wood County. If you're interested in attending or hosting one of the meetings at your farm and would like to be included on any future communication, please contact us! The meetings are free and open to the public.



PLANT EXCHANGE

April 29, 2023

Plant Drop Off: 8:30 am (no early birds!) Exchange: 10:00 am
 Wood County Fairgrounds Home and Garden Building
 13800 Poe Road, Bowling Green

- * Bring LABELED plants and gently used gardening items!
- * 3 FREE plants, based on availability
- * Exhibitors and Vendors
- * Kids activities! Free plant for kids!

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Questions? Call the Extension Office at 419-354-9050

Live
Music!

f

Wood County Plant Exchange

#wcplantexchange



Wild Toledo

Toledo Zoo Native Plant Sales

We are now accepting pre-orders for Wild Toledo's native plant sale.

Visit wildtoledo.org to browse our selection of over 500 species of native wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs!

Order pickups and in-person shopping will begin on Saturday, April 29th 10am-2pm and continue each Saturday through the end of June.

The Wild Toledo nursery is accessible through the Toledo Zoo's Anthony Wayne Trail parking lot (follow signage from entrance).

Friends of Wood County Parks Native Plant Sale

Purchase quality native plants for your yard or office. Grown by the Stewardship Department of the Wood County Park District, these local genome native plants will bring pollinators to your yard, help create a raingarden (areas that are both drought and flood resistant), sequester carbon, replenish nutrients in the soil, and filter out toxins. Native plants are also a beautiful addition to a garden and can incorporate well with most landscaping plans.

Saturday, May 13, 10 AM - 1 PM

Wood County Fairgrounds

Forbs \$5 Shrubs \$10

wcparks.org

Oak Openings Blue Week Native Plant Sale

All locally grown natives.
 \$6 for flowers and grasses. \$10 for shrubs.

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 12 - 4 PM

Sunday, May 21, 2023, 10 AM - 2 PM

Blue Creek Seed Nursery

(Big white barn)

7790 Schadel Rd

Whitehouse, OH

Visit wildonesoakopenings.org for free native garden designs, understanding and choosing native, increasing good garden yields with native plants, and so much more.

Items for Sale

Floating Pond Filter	\$160.00
Pond Filter Float	\$100.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 45.00
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 Kit	\$ 10.00
Soil Test Probe	\$ 63.00
Flags	\$ 0.10 ea
100 5x 8	\$ 10.00
6' field flag	\$ 7.00
Tree Protectors	\$ 3.00
Nut Wizards®	\$ 40-45
Compost Bin	\$ 50.00
Rat Guards	
4" stainless steel	\$ 8.00
6" stainless steel	\$ 10.00
8" stainless steel	\$ 12.00
10" stainless steel	\$ 18.00
12" stainless steel	\$ 28.00
15" mild steel	\$ 25.00
Wood County Plat Book	\$ 20.00

6.75 % sales tax not included

(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

*For Use by Wood County
Residents and Landowners*

UPCOMING EVENTS

POND CLINIC

April 12

Doors Open at 6:00 PM
with the program at 6:30
PM at the SWCD office

LANDOWNER DITCH MAINTENANCE Q & A

April 18

Middleton Township
Building
7:00 PM

FISH SALE

Orders and Payment due
April 17

FISH PICK-UP

April 25 9:30 AM

Wood County
Fairgrounds

THE SCOOP ON YARD & GARDEN SOIL TESTS

May 2 6:30 PM

Wood SWCD office

POSTER CONTEST

Deadline May 5

Youth Programs -
woodswcd.com

OFFICES CLOSED

May 30

CONTACT US

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

419-354-5517 #4
wcsxcd@woodswcd.com
www.woodswcd.com
NRCS
kelly.copeland@usda.gov



District Staff

Jim Carter, District Administrator/Drainage & Engineering Coordinator

Jeremy Gerwin, Lead Technician

Beth Landers, Resource Technician

Julie Lause, Administrative & Outreach Manager

Sarah St. John, District Technician

Beth Anne Hermes, WLEB Nutrient Management Technician

NRCS Staff

Kelly Copeland, Resource Conservationist

Josh Gerwin, Area Resource Conservationist

Joe Rumschlag, Civil Engineering Technician

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Please contact the district office to update contact information or to be added to the email contact list. The majority of correspondence from the Wood SWCD is through email and social media.