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VOLUME 71  
ISSUE 1

# The Warren Report

WARREN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION MOBILE EXHIBIT



**Cincinnati  
Museum  
Center**

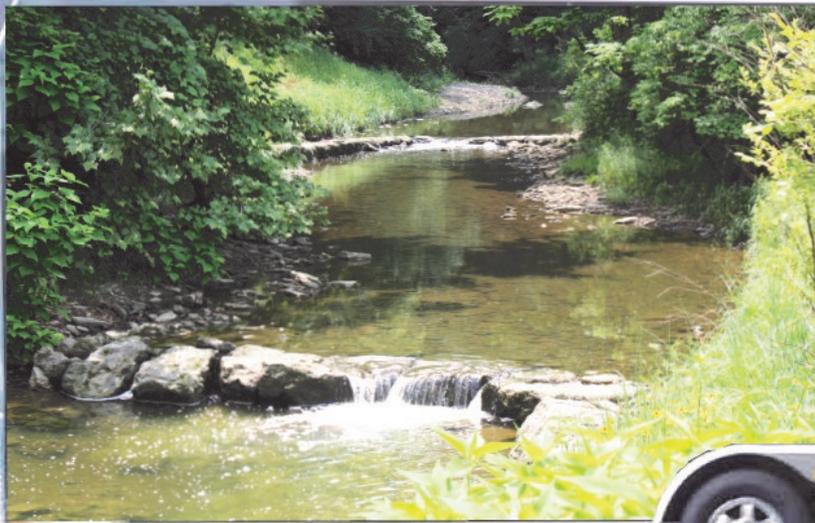
The District has been thrilled to work with the prestigious Cincinnati Museum Center on an innovative project that promotes and protects water quality through community education and outreach. The project began as a vision of past board member Thomas C. Spellmire. Tom was a driving force behind the educational programs at the District and believed that success in forming conservation awareness begins at a young age.

In remembrance of Tom's hard work and to continue his legacy, the District is developing an interactive water-themed educational trailer. The goal of the project is that visitors to the exhibit will leave knowing that they are connected to our streams and watersheds.

The trailer is scheduled to be completed this spring. Upon completion it will be used at community events and school programs to engage learners and encourage the protection of one of our most valuable resources. To schedule the exhibit at your school or event contact our

office. We hope you will visit us and tour the trailer at an upcoming event such as the Warren County Fair, July 20-25, 2015, or the Farm Science Review, September 22-24, 2015.

Additionally, we would like to thank the communities, agencies, and businesses that have partnered with the District by sponsoring this project through donations and grants. We look forward to displaying their logos on the completed trailer in recognition of their contributions.



**Thomas C. Spellmire**  
Water Conservation Education Exhibit

Providing education about how water shapes our land,  
supports all life, and needs to be protected.



## TREE ORDER PICK UP

Remember to pick up your pre-ordered trees Thursday April 16th – Saturday April 18th at the Warren County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall B.

## RAIN BARREL ART EVENT AT THE CINCINNATI ZOO

April 1st – 23rd Rain Barrels will be on display at the Zoo.  
April 23rd is the Rain Barrel Art Benefit Auction.

## WARREN COUNTY FAIR

Visit our Water Trailer at the Fair July 20th – 25th .

## ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Join us Wednesday August 26th at Valley Vineyards in Morrow.

## FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

Visit Federation Park and our Water Trailer September 22nd – 24th in London, Ohio.

This past year, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife with the help of Warren County SWCD sought out barns in targeted townships to install three barn owl boxes. The goal of the project is to change the status of barn owls from "Threatened" to a "Species of Concern." Harlan, Salem, and Turtlecreek Townships were chosen as ideal sites based on having at least 25% grassland habitat and being adjacent to another township with as much grassland habitat. Within each target township, property owners were asked to install barn owl boxes and to become citizen scientists that help monitor the boxes.

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden own property in Turtlecreek Township. Their property was an ideal location particularly because they have a wetland, grassland and farmland habitat at that location. Sure enough, a barn owl agreed and moved in a few months after the box was installed!

State Representative Ron Maag and his wife Janet own property in Salem Township. Their barn is an ideal site with a natural prairie that the Maags planted to attract wildlife. Janet Maag has always been a fan of owls and was very excited to have the opportunity to draw them to their property.

In Harlan Township the Oeder family has several barns on their property and they were also very excited to be a host for a box. Barn owls do a fabulous job keeping mice and pigeon populations from overtaking a barn.

The ONDR Division of Wildlife is looking for help tracking barn owls. If you see one please call 1-800-WILDLIFE or email wild-info@dnr.state.oh.us to report a barn owl living near you.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT THE DISTRICT

**ROY MILLER**  
VICE CHAIR

**JOHN TKATSCHENKO**  
SECRETARY / ALTERNATE FISCAL AGENT



Bruce Goodwin swearing in new board members on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO STEVE HALL

The Staff and Supervisors of the District would like to wish a fond farewell and best wishes to Steve Hall on his retirement at the end of February. Steve was the District Conservationist in Greene County with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service for the past 24 years. In addition to his service in Greene County, Steve has also been the District Conservationist covering Warren County for the past 6+ years. Steve is a true professional and a pleasure to work with. Thank you Steve for all you have done. Enjoy life!



# SPRING INTO ACTION!

## SOIL TESTING



SPRING IS THE PERFECT TIME TO HAVE YOUR SOIL TESTED. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU TEST BEFORE YOU PLANT.

Streams are flowing, birds are singing, and you may have already noticed fresh mulch in some areas. Spring is upon us! Along with the excitement of warmer weather, comes the excitement to plant. Whether you are planting a garden or just filling in bare patches on your lawn, knowing what the plants need, and how much of it is needed will not only be beneficial for the plants, but will also help keep our streams healthy. Fertilizers, both chemical and organic, can be over-used or used at the wrong times, contributing to nutrient runoff into our streams, decreasing the health of the water and wildlife. So, how do you know what your soil needs? A soil test! By testing your soil in the area you want to plant, you will become aware of what your soil needs. This can better the health of your yard or garden, potentially

saving you from spending too much on fertilizer and helping protect our streams!

Testing your soil is a simple and cost effective way to improve your garden or lawn. The District offers soil tests available for purchase during business hours. Regular soil tests are \$15.00 and tests that include organic matter are \$20.00. The soil test you receive from our office will allow you to send a sample of your soil to Michigan State University's lab where it can be analyzed. In return you will receive information to guide you in proper care for your soil. Knowing what your soil already contains gives you the powerful information that you need when deciding what to apply to it while protecting our environment from unnecessary fertilizer application.

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION



### 2015 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM UPDATE

Warren County SWCD was awarded \$251,181 to work with Warren County landowners who wish to preserve their farmland through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). So far, the program has been well received in Warren County, having five applications submitted this round (January 15-April 15, 2015). With the support of the County Commissioners and Township Trustees, Warren County SWCD is excited to work together to preserve our farmland! We will continue to provide program updates, including 2016 program information, throughout the year.

Please contact Amy Cameron, (513) 695-3086, if you are interested in more information regarding LAEPP. Additionally, more information about the program can be found at: [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov).



Warren County residents are now able to recycle latex paint thanks to a service provided by the Warren County Solid Waste District.

To recycle your unwanted paint simply take it to the collection location at the Warren County Administration Building located at 406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio 45036. The drop-off center is located in the rear of the parking lot. If you have any questions you can contact the Solid Waste District at (513) 695-1209.

## BIG TREE CONTEST SYCAMORE

### DO YOU HAVE THE LARGEST SYCAMORE TREE IN WARREN COUNTY?

To enter the contest:

1. Measure the circumference of your tree at four feet up from the base and make a rough estimate of the tree's height.
2. Call the District with the tree's measurements and your contact information between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Deadline to enter is August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
3. If your entry is among the largest we will contact you to make arrangements to have the tree measured by our judges.

The winner will receive a plaque commemorating the tree which will be presented at the District's Annual Banquet Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Valley Vineyards.

An American Sycamore tree can often be easily distinguished from other trees by its exfoliating bark which flakes off in irregular masses, leaving the surface mottled, and greenish-white, gray and brown. The explanation for this characteristic is found in the rigid texture of the bark tissue which lacks the elasticity of the bark or other trees, so it is incapable of stretching to accommodate the growth of wood underneath. A Sycamore tree can grow to massive proportion, typically reaching up to 100-130 ft. high and 5-7 ft. in diameter when grown in deep soils. The largest of the species have been measured to 167 ft. and nearly 13 ft. in diameter!





**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Bruce Goodwin  
Roy Miller  
Samantha Steiner  
John Tkatschenko  
Vince Uetrecht

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS**

Marian Chace  
Robert Chace  
Mark Steiner

**DISTRICT STAFF**

Caitlin Botschner  
Amy Cameron  
Molly Conley  
Marta Farrell  
Don Norman  
Amy Pond  
Dawn Stiles  
Shaun Stephens  
Jeff Thomas

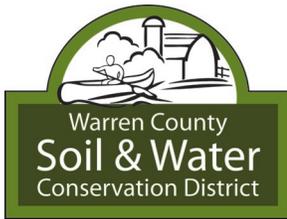
**NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Justin Armintrout  
John Lafferty  
Beth Lessick

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY**

[WarrenSWCD.com](http://WarrenSWCD.com)

“ Our mission is to promote the wise stewardship of our natural resources through cooperative partnerships, educational programs and technical assistance in land and water management.



320 E. Silver St., Suite 300  
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USDA/SWCD are Equal  
Opportunity Providers and  
Employers.

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