

The Warren Report



ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

August 25, 2021

Back Together Again!

Our Annual Meeting is BACK! Celebrate with us and enjoy great food and excellent company. This year's annual meeting and celebration will be held at the Event Center at the Warren County Fairgrounds

This year's summer contests include Hottest Day Contest, Coloring Contest and Biggest Tree Contest (Tree: American Elm). All winners will be recognized during the program. We will also honor our conservation award winners in the categories of Educator of the Year, Conservationist of the Year, and Cooperator of the Year. Throughout the evening, attendees are encouraged to check out the table of this year's door prizes. All door prizes are donated by generous businesses in Warren County who are friends of conservation. We encourage you to visit these wonderful businesses in our community. Plus do not miss live music from the River Valley Ramblers and play some Hometown Trivia!

This celebration will kick off with our Board of Supervisor election voting at 5pm, with dinner following at 5:30pm and our awards program will start at 7pm. Live entertainment will accompany dinner! Voting in the election is free. To stay and participate in the dinner and entertainment segment of the annual meeting, tickets can be pre-purchased until **August 15th** at a cost of \$20.00 per person. We hope that you will join us this year!

RSVP Online

www.warrenswcd.com/annual-meeting.html

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Annual Meeting Details

Date: Wednesday, August 25

Location: Warren County Fairgrounds
Event Center
665 N Broadway St,
Lebanon, OH 45036

Voting: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Entertainment: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Trivia: 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Awards Program: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Menu: Catered by Watkins Catering

Entree options: Chicken Chardonnay
(\$20.00) Roasted Beef Tenderloin
Grilled Salmon

**ADVANCED TICKET PURCHASE
REQUIRED**

Pre-purchase tickets at:
www.warrenswcd.com



2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



Tom Bensman. Tom grew up in Shelby County, OH on a farm where his family raised beef cattle, hay, wheat and row crops. A graduate of The University of Dayton, Tom and his family own 50 acres where his three children grew up and participated in 4-H at the Warren County Fair. Tom served for 6 years on the 4-H Committee and is in his sixth year on the board of the Warren County Farm Bureau where he served for two years as President. His main endeavor these days is feeding out beef cattle and growing their hay as well as using rotational grazing to build soil health and control weeds.

Topsoil is a farm's most vital commodity and we cannot afford to continue practices which put it at risk. With the explosive development that Warren County has seen over the past decades, it is increasingly important for all sectors to take responsibility for soil health and water quality. He is asking for your vote so that he can be part of the solution to ensure the next generation has the option for a local career in agriculture.



Bruce Goodwin. Bruce, current Fiscal Officer for the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District believes that "Soil is Life." The Goodwin Family can trace their Harlan Township farming roots all the way back to the 1820's when their family came from West Virginia. Bruce is a graduate of Wilmington College, has three daughters and 5 grandsons. He and his wife, Carole, farm 2400 acres near Pleasant Plain as the Goodwin Farms Grain and Beef Operation. Farming's connection to soil has prompted Bruce to protect the soil resource base and water quality by installing installed waterways, WASCOD's, manure storage and heavy use pads for livestock. He has been no-tilling since 1984 and uses cover crops when at all possible. Bruce has been a Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed Sales Representative since 1984 and a council member for the Village of Pleasant Plain for over 30 years.

When asked about his work on the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation Board, Bruce responds that, "It is about giving back to the community, keeping water clean and soil on the ground." He believes that there is a disconnect between today's youth and our natural resources. He believes the solution is "kids need to turn off the screens and get outside." He also wants to re-connect residents back to soil. Bruce Goodwin was elected to the Board in 1995 and hopes for re-election so that he can continue to serve the community while promoting the wise use of Warren County's natural resources.



Samantha Steiner. Samantha is a lifelong resident of Warren County. She is a graduate of Fenwick High School and attended The Ohio State University where she received her B.S. in Animal Sciences and minored in Ag Business.

She is the owner of Dogwood Farm, where she raises and sells beef, chickens, goats, Thanksgiving turkeys, fresh eggs, and grows produce.

Samantha is a member of Farm Bureau and an advisor of the West Turtlecreek Hustlers 4-H Club. Over the past 6 years, she has served as chairman of WCSWCD, been an Area 4 Director, and served on committees at the state level for the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. She is currently serving as the 2nd Vice President for OFSWCD.

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission Election Legal Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:
(1) at the SWCD annual meeting/election event, which will take place on August 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm at Warren County Fairgrounds, 665 N. Broadway St., Lebanon, OH 45036
(2) at the SWCD office until 3:00 p.m. on August 25, 2021
(3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address:

Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District
320 East Silver St.,
Lebanon, Ohio 45036
513-695-1337

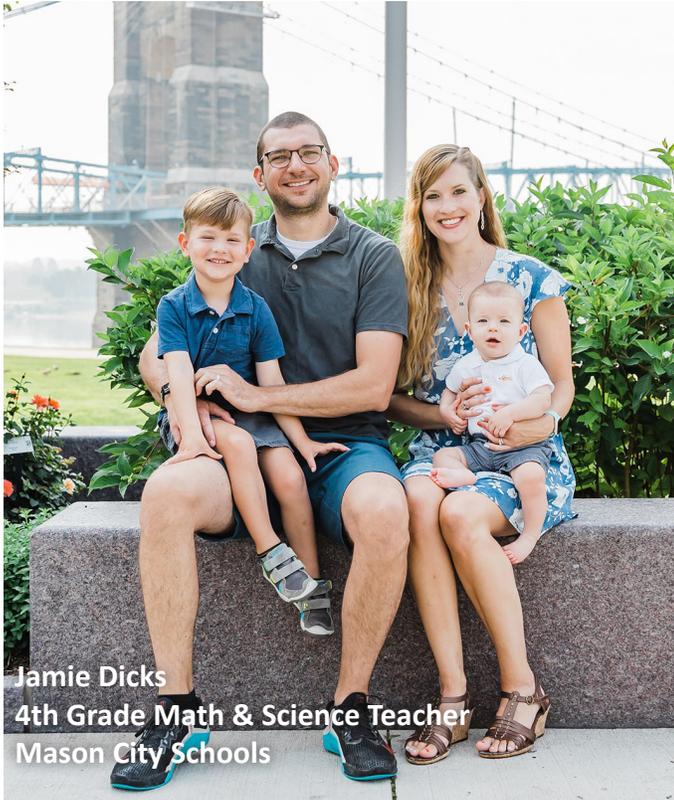
Two(2) Supervisors will be elected to a three year term.
Nominees are:

1. Tom Bensman
2. Bruce Goodwin
3. Samantha Steiner

Earth Day live stake planting, April 2021



WARREN COUNTY SWCD EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Jamie Dicks
4th Grade Math & Science Teacher
Mason City Schools

Jamie Dicks has just completed her 13th year of teaching. For the past four years, she has taught 4th grade math and science and is currently the co-teacher leader of the 4th grade math and science department for Mason City Schools. Previously, she taught 7th and 8th grade math in West Clermont as well as Oak Hills. She graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Middle Childhood Education from the University of Cincinnati. This past school year, Jamie was the online content designer for all of the 4th grade Mason Elementary online students. She created the content for 4th grade online instructors to use with their students and also had an online class of her own. With the challenges of online learning, she made a point to seek out connections between students and the community by setting up Zoom calls with scientists and other experts around the country. As part of the final ecocolumns unit in science, Jamie has created an integrated unit all about saving the bees in order to teach students about the interrelationships among species in an ecosystem and the impact that abiotic and biotic factors have on these systems. Through this unit, Jamie has given students an opportunity to seek positive change in our own ecosystem and educate others about the impact one organism can have on everything around us.

Jamie is passionate about finding new and innovative ways to bring the content standards to life by relating science and math to the real world and finding connections to students so that they can unlock their true potential!

WARREN COUNTY SWCD CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu is a Research Assistant Professor of Soil Science and Agronomy at Central State University. Dr. Subburayalu received his B.Sc. Agriculture and M.Sc. Soil Science degrees from Tamilnadu Agricultural University (Coimbatore, India) and PhD from the Ohio State University (OSU). Prior to his work at Central State University, he worked as a Research Scientist at OSU with projects in digital soil mapping, water quality and urban forestry. Presently, Dr. Subburayalu is a project lead for a soil health and water quality project in the Great and Little Miami watersheds in Ohio. His research interests include soil and water conservation, data science in digital agriculture, application of machine learning and remote sensing for precision agricultural management. He is the liaison for Central State University's partnership with the Caesar Creek Collaborative (CCC). Dr. Subburayalu has been essential in progressing the conservation work in our region!



Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu
Assistant Professor of Soil Science, Central State
University

Water Quality Monitoring on Little Miami River, June 2021



2021 SUMMER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

In my time at Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, I've learned so much about what this department does and why it is so vital to the health and safety of this community. As an Eagle Scout, it's important to me that I do meaningful work that has a positive impact on someone everyday. While interning I was reassured that what I was doing had a concrete impact on the communities that are so close to my hometown. My favorite moments when interning came from when a homeowner wanted to have a conversation about conservation. At first, the homeowner would be concerned about why I was there. I would explain what I was doing and who I worked for and then they would look relieved and tell me all about their experiences with rainwater and how it is affecting their daily life. When I would mark a basin that needed attention and a homeowner explained that it was flooding their backyard; I felt like my evaluations were impactful and that, if it wasn't for the work we do, a family wouldn't be able to enjoy the creek in their backyard or their local pond. I've also enjoyed the people in the office who have been extremely hospitable and helped me at every turn and answered every question I had. They have carefully instructed me as well as being genuinely friendly and sometimes very funny. I've thoroughly enjoyed my experience here and it has opened my eyes to what my degree will lead me to in the future. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and the people I've met along the way. - **Evan Jones**

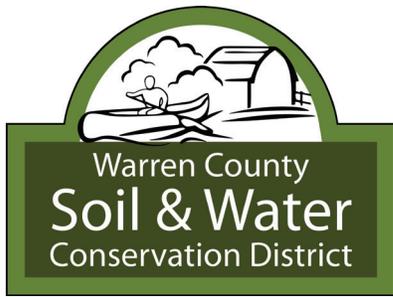
Interning with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District this summer has been such an influential learning experience for me. As an agronomy major, learning about the district's responsibilities has helped me to navigate job opportunities in natural resource conservation. Most of the summer was spent inspecting rainfall basins and talking with homeowners about any concerns. It's a very rewarding feeling to listen to the homeowners input about a basin near them and be able to mark that in my report so their basin can get the attention it requires. One of my favorite parts of this internship has been monitoring the quality of streams. Stream quality monitoring consists of surveying temperature, turbidity and macroinvertebrates on the bottom of the stream. It was incredibly interesting to learn about the relationship the macroinvertebrates we sorted and identified had with the level of pollution in the water. From talking to homeowners about their rainfall basins to working public events and helping teach children and their parents about the natural world, this internship has greatly strengthened my communication skills. I am looking forward to taking the skills and knowledge I have gained from this internship down the road to my future career in environmental stewardship. - **Caroline Bensman**

Starting my position as a Natural Resource Intern for Warren County SWCD was a big step for me. I have never worked full time before, especially for a government agency, or in a role that aligns with my schoolwork. That being said I was quite nervous and intimidated. I remember on my first day I approached the entrance to the office building, and it was locked. Little had I known a badge was required to enter before 8 a.m. I completely panicked; I called my parents, went back and forth to my car, and triple checked that I was at the right place. When I finally built up the courage to phone the office, they were very friendly and helpful. While reflecting on this summer after that first day, a few things come to mind: the many great experiences and people I have encountered, the things I have learned, and the growth I have endured. Learning about soil and water conservation and how these practices function locally was very mind opening. I was able to make numerous connections between things I have learned in my classes and the observations I was making in the field. My favorite part of this role was the amazing opportunities we were fortunate enough to take part in. We attended events involving water quality testing, environmental education, scientific data collection and analysis, and many more. A memory in particular that comes to mind is when we kayaked at Caesar Creek to do lake water quality sampling. In general, I thoroughly enjoyed working outdoors and exploring the beautiful places in Warren County. I am very thankful for the staff and supervisors at Warren SWCD for their help, guidance, and support. I would also like to thank the other wonderful mentors we met along the way during our time here. This experience was very helpful in highlighting my passions, guiding my career path, and accentuating my personal interests in the field of science. I am very appreciative of this internship and will forever cherish the memories made this summer! - **Taylor Wood**

I had an excellent internship experience at Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District. My time as an intern provided ample opportunities to increase both my knowledge and passion for conservation. Just a few examples include performing stormwater basin and outfall inspections throughout the county, Stream Quality Monitoring along the Little Miami River and other local waterways, conducting a Conservation Camp at local parks, and sampling of Caesar Creek Lake with Travis Luncan, the Source Water Protection Coordinator at City of Wilmington. It was also a privilege to work alongside the full-time staff at Warren SWCD. From the start of my internship, I was struck by the dedication and passion each employee has for the work they do. Each employee genuinely seeks to serve the people of Warren County, as well as protect its natural environment. As a student majoring in Environmental Engineering at University of Cincinnati, I am seeking a career in which I can make a difference in the world around me -- particularly in protection of our natural resources. This internship allowed me to do just that, and it was special to be able to practice conservation so close to home in Warren County. I am very thankful for the support, relationships, and experience I gained through my internship with Warren SWCD. - **Joel Steimle**

Future Conservationists Day Camp, June 2021





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Lebanon, OH 45036

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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.

WANT TO GO PAPERLESS?

Sign up for our email newsletter by clicking the link on the bottom of the homepage of our website:

warrenswcd.com

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

Wednesday, August 25

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Dinner: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Awards Program: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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