

The Warren Report



Warren County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

ANNUAL TREE SALE Reforestation Efforts in Warren County

Time to start thinking about what trees you would like to purchase through our Annual Tree Sale! We have 30 different trees and shrubs to pick from at heights ranging from 6 to 24 inches. Orders will be placed online again this year. We will be taking orders up until March 14 and tree pickup will be April 5 and 6. Please call us with any questions or if you need help with the online process.

Our tree seedling program is an effort in soil conservation and reforestation. We are not a nursery, but we are excited to leverage our cost saving ability as a government agency and pass it along to homeowners in our area. This year we will again make live stakes available for purchase! Live stakes are cuttings from a tree that can be planted directly into moist soil in the early spring. These stakes are recommended to help stabilize areas of the stream bank with erosion issues.

We had personnel from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry review and provide input on the trees we offer to ensure that we are offering locally beneficial choices. Knowing this, homeowners are encouraged to research tree descriptions on their own because our knowledge is often based on the same sources of information that you can find. We also want to remind you that we sell very young tree seedlings. As a result, not all seedlings will survive, which is why we include high counts in each pack to increase survival rates. Thank you for joining us in our conservation efforts; it is a joy to work with you!

Order your trees online today!
<https://www.warrenswcd.com/tree-sale.html>

Annual Meeting, August 2017



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Tree Sale Dates

March 14 - Order Deadline

April 5 and 6 - Tree Pickup

Rain Barrel Art Project

January 22 - Artwork Entry Deadline

February 10 - Artist Workshop

April 19 - Party for the Planet

Visit SaveLocalWaters.org for more information

For more information about upcoming events or important dates, please visit our website or sign up for our email newsletter on the homepage.

For more information and helpful tips on what you can do to protect our local water and soil resources, please visit our website and conservation blog at:

WarrenSWCD.com

WINTER WONDERLAND

Conservation Tips for the Winter Months



Winter weather is approaching, so we would like to share some ways to enjoy the snow and protect the environment all at the same time! Consider these friendly tips for weathering the winter while staying conservation minded.

Reusable Bags

While you are out purchasing your holiday gifts and groceries, remember to bring along your reusable bags! During our stream cleanups we always find plastic bags caught up in the stream or wrapped around trees. By using reusable bags, you are reducing the number of plastic bags in our landfills and in our environment.

Tree Recycling

If you have a natural Christmas tree this year, please consider recycling or reusing your tree instead of sending it to a landfill. Warren County has a number of drop-off points where you can take your tree to be composted. Visit the Warren County Solid Waste District site for a list of locations: www.co.warren.oh.us/solidwaste

Ice and Snow

To avoid ice buildup, try to remove snow from hard surfaces before it becomes compacted into ice. Shovel your snow into areas that are level and able to absorb the water once the snow has melted. This allows potential pollutants from roadways and driveways to be filtered out by plants before reaching our streams.

Putting salt on walkways, driveways and sidewalks helps to keep everyone safe from ice. However, keep in mind that the salt only works when pavement temperatures are 20 degrees or higher. This means the product won't melt snow and ice during extreme cold temperatures. Also, more salt doesn't mean it will work better. Make sure to follow proper application guidelines when using the product.

If you still have piles of salt on your hard surfaces after the snow and ice clears, make sure to sweep up and dispose of the extra salt that didn't get used. If salt isn't cleaned up, rain or snow melt will carry the salt to our local streams where it is harmful to the fish and other aquatic life.

WISHING ALL THE BEST TO CAITLIN

We are grateful for your 10 years of service to the District!



After ten years of loyal service to the District, Caitlin Botschner is saying goodbye in order to spend more time at home with her young family. Caitlin began as an intern at the District in 2008, and was then hired full-time after completion of her master's degree from Miami University. Her position focused on the County's stormwater program and data collection and she split her time between Soil and Water and the Engineer's office.

In 2014, Caitlin began serving as the Assistant Director helping to lead the office in transition to new technologies and efficiencies. We thank Caitlin for her leadership roles with the Ohio Stormwater Association, Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Employees, Little Miami Scenic River Advisory Council, and the OFSWCD Urban Stormwater Committee. During her time at the District, Caitlin has especially enjoyed meeting some of the most involved and conscientious residents of Warren County and traveling throughout Ohio and out to the east coast to see conservation in action.

She will always hold dear the time she spent in the field, staff kayaking outings, the day in and day out time in the office, and many other adventures here at the District. We wish her the best of luck and will miss her greatly!

Cover Crop Flyover, September 2017





Conservation Educator: Keith Vinson, Franklin High School
Hottest Day: Madison Smith: winning guess July 27, 2017, 89 degrees
Biggest Tree 2017 - American Beech: Judy Fisher's tree located off Wilmington Rd. in Oregonia measured 162' tall and 97" circumference.
Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp Award: Mitchell Stacey, Little Miami HS
Thomas C Spellmire Conservation Leader Scholarships: Shelby Shank, Little Miami graduate and Alex Koopmans, Goshen graduate
Conservationist of the Year: Mike Schumacher
Cooperator of the Year: Richard B. Furnas

Liz Cline announced the results of the election with Roy Miller and John Tkatschenko being elected to serve three year terms to commence January 1, 2018. The entertainment for the evening was provided by a local blue grass band, Jake Speed and the Freddie's. The band had everyone tapping their feet to old timey river songs. The performance was followed by the door prize drawing, which concluded the evening.

Thank you again to our Annual Meeting Donors!

Prus Construction, Golden Turtle Chocolate Factory, Morgan's Canoe, Ohio Renaissance Festival, Skyline Chili, Berns Garden Center, Warren County Historical Society, River's Edge Canoe Livery and Outfitters, The Secret Garden, Lebanon Candy and Sports Cards, The Countryside YMCA, Flavors Eatery, Beverage Brothers, McHenry Equipment Co, Lebanon Feed Store, Lebanon Electric Motor and Clarksville Ag Service

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at Valley Vineyards in Morrow, Ohio. The nominees for the two available supervisor positions were Dan Koopmans, Roy Miller and John Tkatschenko. With no additional petitions submitted, voting was held from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Our Chairman, Roy Miller, welcomed members to the 73rd Annual Meeting, calling the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roy Miller introduced guests: Former State Representative Ron Maag, Liz Cline Area IV Program Specialist with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, District staff and supervisors. During the program, the Board Supervisors and staff recognized the individuals that made outstanding contributions to District conservation activities this year.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Preserving Warren County Farmland for Generations to Come

The Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) provides funding to assist landowners in preserving farmland in our county. The program purchases agricultural easements from landowners who volunteer to keep their land in agricultural production in perpetuity.

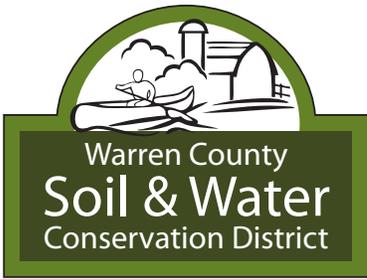
Each year, Warren County SWCD applies to be a Certified Local Sponsor under Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to administer the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) in Warren County. Being a Local Sponsor allows the District to accept applications for landowners to preserve valuable farmland in Warren

County. The District was approved as a local sponsor for 2018 with an allocation of more than \$300,000. Interested landowners should contact the District to set up an in-person meeting to discuss your eligibility for the program. The application round for 2018 will open at the end of January and run through mid-April. The District is available to assist landowners through the application process. In addition to the LAEPP program, the District also works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for additional easement funding for landowners.

For more details, please visit our website at warrenswcd.com or contact our office at (513)695-1337.

Backyard Conservation Workshop, October 2017





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Dan Koopmans
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DISTRICT STAFF

Caitlin Botschner
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Kara Schirmer
Shaun Stephens
Dawn Stiles
Jeff Thomas

**NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Layne Garringer
John Lafferty
Beth Lessick

WELCOME, DAN KOOPMANS!

We are pleased to welcome our newest member of the Board of Supervisors, Dan Koopmans!

Dan and his wife, Vonda, are owners and operators of Mohrfield Farms, LLC located in Pleasant Plain. They farm a little over 1,000 acres of crops consisting of corn, beans, wheat and hay. Dan also manages a hay packaging company that produces packaged hay products for the pet food industry.

Dan has been a Warren County resident for the past 22 years and has served on the Warren County Farm Bureau board, the Ohio Holstein Association board and served on several committees for National Holstein Association, World Dairy Expo.

We are happy to have Dan as part of the team!

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.