

# The Warren Report



Warren County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

## WHERE DOES ALL THE WATER GO?

### Only Rain in the Storm Drain

The summertime heat is beginning to set-in and as a result we rely on water to keep us cool, keep our plants healthy, and keep our cars clean. When it rains, or when you turn on your hose from your house, are you aware of where the water goes? Some of the water soaks into the ground and recharges our groundwater, some of the water evaporates to be collected in the sky creating more rain, but most of our rain water eventually makes its way to streams, rivers, oceans and lakes.

Our storm sewer systems do the job of collecting and conveying the rain water to its destination. There is a common misconception that the catch basins and yard inlets actually flow to a treatment facility. Some people think the water is taken to the same location that our sanitary sewers take and treat our sewage. This is not true. The catch basins and yard inlets you see around town flow directly to ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans.

Because everything that is put into a storm sewer eventually makes its way to our important natural features, you should never dump anything other than water into a catch basin or yard/street inlet. Never dump yard debris, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, vehicle wash, paints and other chemicals into a storm drain.

Warren SWCD is committed to educating the community about our storm sewer systems and protecting our wetlands, lakes, streams and rivers. One of our first jobs for our summer interns this year was installing storm drain tags! These tags let people know where the storm water flows and reminds them that dumping anything other than water will cause environmental pollution.



## Inside this Issue

2017 Envirothon - *page 2*

Summer Contests - *page 2*

Project Update - *page 3*

Farm Service Agency News - *page 3*

## Upcoming Events in 2017

**Hamilton Township Touch-A-Truck**  
Saturday, June 24  
Fellowship Baptist Church  
Maineville, Ohio

**Warren County Fair**  
Monday-Saturday, July 17-22  
Warren County Fairgrounds  
Lebanon, Ohio

**Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, August 23  
Valley Vineyards  
Morrow, Ohio

*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](http://warrenswcd.com)

**Save the Date! 2017 Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 23 at Valley Vineyards**

## Franklin High School Team Competes in State-Wide Competition



This year, two Franklin High School teams in Warren County competed in the Area 4 Envirothon competition held at Fernald Preserve on April 25, 2017. One of the two Franklin High School student teams (Team 1) advanced to the state competition by placing fourth out of 83 teams. Team 1 participants include Kelsea Penny,

Joshua Storms, Corbon Moss, Rowan Karrick and Sidnie Penny. Kelsea Penny is the only student who has participated all four years of her high school career at Franklin. Kelsea highlighted that this is the first year students from her team moved on to the state competition.

The Envirothon is an environmental high school competition designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. Students are tested on their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues.

Team 1 advanced to the State Envirothon at Ohio Christian University on June 12-13, 2017. Only one top ranking team from each state Envirothon competition advances to the National Envirothon, and the Franklin team ranked 14 overall.

Paul Ostermann and Peggy Irvine are the advisors for the team. Ostermann said he was most impressed with the group's motivating attitude and leadership skills. Franklin High School plans to participate in the Envirothon again next year.

## SUMMER CONTESTS

### Check Out This Year's Hottest Day, Coloring Sheet, and Biggest Tree Contests!



This summer join in the fun in one or all of our summer contests. All contest winners will be announced at our upcoming Annual Meeting in August.

**Big Tree Contest - Beech:** We are looking for the largest Beech tree in Warren County. If you think your tree is the one, measure the circumference of your tree at four feet up from the base and make a rough estimate of the tree's height. Call the District during normal business hours or email us with the tree's measurements and your contact information. All entries must be in by August 4.

**Hottest Day:** Guess when the hottest day will be this summer from July 23 to August 13, and win a prize! Visit our booth at the upcoming

Warren County Fair or stop by the office to make your guess. The official high temperature will be taken from temperatures recorded in Cincinnati by the National Weather Service.

**Coloring Contest:** This year's coloring contest is farm animal themed. One winner will be chosen out of each of the following age categories: 6 and under, 7-9, and 10-12 years. Each winner will be given a \$25 Target gift card. All coloring contest entries must be dropped off or postmarked by Monday, August 7 to the Warren SWCD: 320 East Silver St., Lebanon, Ohio 45036.

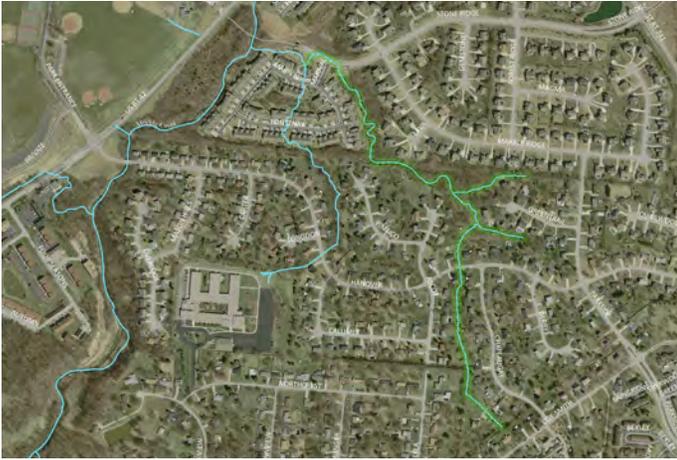
Entries may also be submitted at the Warren County SWCD fairgrounds display during exhibit hours. Submitted artwork will be judged randomly by a panel of District employees and/or board members.



## Rain Barrel Art Auction, April 2017



**Marival and Broadview Stream Restoration Project Construction Kick-off**



The Marival and Broadview Stream Restoration Project kicked-off construction in the spring to address stream bank erosion and water quality in an unnamed tributary to Muddy Creek. The restoration is located within the City of Mason in a residential neighborhood near the end of Stone Ridge Drive off SR 741.

The unnamed tributary involved in this restoration project flows into Muddy Creek and then on to the Little Miami River. Bank erosion on the unnamed tributary has been severe, and in some cases eroded banks exceed 10 ft in height. Eroded banks increase the amount of sediment in the water causing the water to be turbid and muddy. High quality fish and other wildlife do not survive well in these conditions. This project will make a positive impact on the ongoing improvements made to Muddy Creek.

Over the next few months a number of in-stream structures will be installed on approximately 3,200 linear feet of stream to protect banks from instability and failure. Currently, a large amount of the mostly invasive vegetation is being removed and will be replaced in the fall with native vegetation to further stabilize the bank and provide quality habitat for wildlife.

Throughout the restoration process there will be opportunities for the public to tour the site and learn about the improvements being made to this stretch of stream. Sign-up for our bi-monthly emails or visit our website for announcements on these educational opportunities.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS**  
**Nominations for County Committee**

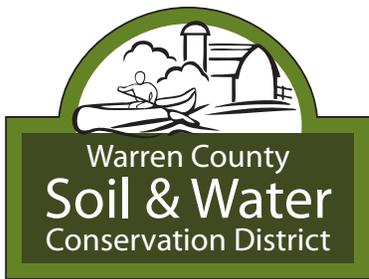


The Warren County FSA staff is busy receiving producer Acreage Reports as farmers begin to finish the 2017 planting season. We would like to remind producers of the July 15 deadline to report all spring planted crops. If you have not yet certified your acreage report with FSA, please contact the Warren County Office at 513-282-2957.

In addition, it is again time for County Committee Nominations. Beginning each June, nominations will be accepted from eligible voters within a Local Administrative Area (LAA) holding an election. This year an election will be held representing LAA #2 comprised of the Warren County Townships of Hamilton, Harlan, Salem and Union. Any agricultural producer who participate or cooperate in an FSA program within LAA #2 may be nominated. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign and submit nomination form FSA-669A to the Warren County FSA Office by August 1, 2017. For more information regarding COC elections or for roles of a committee member please contact the Warren County FSA Office.



**Education Program with Kings Local Schools at Armco Park, May 2017**



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CINCINNATI, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 4403

320 E. Silver St.  
Lebanon, OH 45036

USDA/SWCD are Equal  
Opportunity Providers and  
Employers.

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bruce Goodwin  
Roy Miller  
Samantha Steiner  
John Tkatschenko

#### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Marian Chace  
Mark Steiner  
Vince Uetrecht

#### DISTRICT STAFF

Caitlin Botschner  
Molly Conley  
Marta Farrell  
Don Norman  
Melissa Proffitt  
Kara Schirmer  
Shaun Stephens  
Dawn Stiles  
Jeff Thomas

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Layne Garringer  
John Lafferty  
Beth Lessick

*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.*

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 23 at Valley Vineyards. Voting will take place from 5:00-6:30pm and the program will start at 7:00pm. More details and registration information will be announced later this summer. Make sure you save the date!

## BACKYARD CONSERVATION

We have been awarded a 2017 Healthy Soils Mini Grant! As a result, we will be hosting a workshop for all Warren County residents titled Rediscovering and Harnessing the Nature in Your Yard this fall. Look for more details soon!