

# The Warren Report



Warren County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

## ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION Connecting the Community with Local Food

Across Warren County's rich landscape and vibrant waters, you will find a vast variety of local food options. From farm markets to CSAs, deep inside a chef's kitchen and on the shelves of your local grocery store, your local food choices are growing and growing - literally!

Join us for an evening at Valley Vineyards with great food, excellent company and lots of local food information! We have gathered a Local Food Panel who will speak to you about their mission and answer all the questions you might have. The Panel consists of a farmer, a chef, a grocery store manager, a CSA owner and Warren County's first agri-community manager. Read more about the panelists and their local food backgrounds inside this issue. Thank you to Valley Vineyards for allowing us to hold our meeting at their beautiful space in Morrow.

This year's summer contests include Hottest Day Contest, Coloring Contest and Biggest Tree Contest (2016 Tree: Shagbark Hickory). All winners will be recognized during the program. 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.

Voting begins at 5pm, dinner is at 6pm and our program will start at 7pm. Attending the event and the election is free and the meal is optional at a cost of \$17.95 per person. We hope that you will join us this year!

**NEW! RSVP Online**

[www.warrenswcd.com/annual-meeting.html](http://www.warrenswcd.com/annual-meeting.html)

or call us at 513-695-1337

### Inside this Issue

2016 Board of Supervisors  
Candidates - page 2

Local Food Panel - page 3

Educator of the Year - page 4

Annual Meeting Donors - page 4

2016 Summer Interns - page 5

Events and Announcements - page 5

### Annual Meeting Details

**Date:** Wednesday, August 24

**Location:** Valley Vineyards, 2276 E. US 22  
& 3 Morrow, Ohio 45152

**Voting:** 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

**Dinner:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
(\$17.95 per meal, pay Valley Vineyards at the door)

**Program:** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Menu: Private cookout—steak or salmon, salad, green beans or corn on the cob, baked potato, fresh bread, dessert.



# 2016 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



**Dan Uetrecht.** Dan Uetrecht grew up working on his family’s farm in Massie Township. Upon graduation from Ohio State, he worked for Procter and Gamble in the beverage division in Cleveland. He returned to the farm a few years later to partner with his father, Vince, while working as a district manager for Mycogen Seeds/Dow Chemical.

He has carried on the tradition of practicing no-till farming and planting cover crops to preserve the soil on his 1275 acre farm. He has participated in the conservation stewardship program for the past six years where over 80% of his acres have something green growing over the winter. In 2012 he won the Conservation Farmer of the Year award for Warren County.

He and his wife, Jodi, have three children: Tyler, a senior at the University of Kentucky majoring in agricultural economics; Kasey, a junior playing basketball and majoring in environmental sciences at Northern Kentucky University; and Trey, a junior at Clinton-Massie High School.



**Scott Costello.** Scott grew up in Northern Kentucky. He received a B.S. in Forest Management from the University of Kentucky and an M.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech. Scott worked 9 years for the ODNR Division of Forestry as a service forester, and has worked as a private consulting forester for the last 10 years (Costello Forestry Consulting).

Scott has resided in Warren County for the past 16 years and he and his wife Chelsea and daughter Emily live in Clearcreek Township. Scott served as Chairman of the Ohio Society of American Foresters in 2003. He is an SAF Certified Forester and member of the Association of Consulting Foresters where he currently serves as secretary for the Ohio chapter. He was a regular contributor to the Ohio Woodland Journal from 2001 through 2013.

In 2013, He and Chelsea acquired 16 acres near their home and have been developing the property as a horse and tree farm. Scott’s interests include gardening and just about all things relating to trees and wood, and killing bush honeysuckle.

## 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 Warren County 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 annual meeting, which will take place August 24, 2016 at Valley Vineyards,

2276 E US Hwy 22 & 3 Morrow, OH 45152 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.; (2) at the SWCD office until 3:30 p.m. on August 24, 2016; or (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., Ste. 300  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036  
513-695-1337

One(1) Supervisors will be elected. Nominees are:

- 1. Scott Costello
- 2. Dan Uetrecht

## Franklin High School Envirothon Team, May 2016





**Jon Branstrator.** Jon is a fifth generation Warren County farmer whose goal is to leave the soil better than he found it. After a 10-year effort, Jon preserved his family farm through the Clinton County Open Lands. On his farm, Jon grows fruit, vegetables, grains and soil carbon. Jon employs youth at risk and ships more than 20,000 lbs of produce to foodbanks through The Ohio Association of Foodbanks. He is involved with the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission and is an advocate of Clinton County Open Lands (now known as Cardinal Land Conservancy) and local SWCDs. In 2013 and 2014, Jon traveled to Washington DC to meet with Congress members and Department of Agriculture leaders to advocate for farmland preservation.



**Todd Hudson.** When Todd puts food on a plate, he wants to tell you something. Todd, the chef and owner of The Wildflower Café in Mason, is passionate about serving organic and locally grown food at his popular Farm to Table Café in northern Cincinnati. He's an ardent storyteller of his food, and the farmers who grew it. As a great-grandchild of chefs, farmers and restaurant owners, he has been cooking in professional kitchens since the age of 15. After earning a business degree from Miami University, he bought the century old building that is, today, The Wildflower Café. Hudson and his family live on a 6-acre mini farm, which supplies the café with fresh fruit, produce, eggs and more.



**Dennis Chrisman.** Dennis started his career at Dorothy Lane Market (DLM) in 1978 at the age of 14. Oftentimes he would ride to work with his Dad (former Store Director at Washington Square and Oakwood) and sweep the basement of the Oakwood store. At the age of 16, Dennis was promoted to carry out. Throughout the years, he has worked in various departments contributing to the success of DLM. Dennis helps build relationships with local farmers to bring fresh quality produce to DLM all summer long. He firmly believes that good customer service is the lifeblood of any business, and he can often be seen helping customers. The Chrisman legacy continues, as all three of his children have worked at Dorothy Lane Market. Dennis is the Vice President of Produce and Store Director at DLM in Springboro.



**Marissa Redenbaugh.** Marissa grew up in Morrow, Ohio and attended Little Miami High School, graduating in 2009. She then went on to the University of Kentucky and graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science in Sustainable Agriculture and in 2014 with a Master's of Science in Nutritional Sciences. In collaboration with her family, she has owned and operated, the Kruthaup Family Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for the past eight years. Marissa has also done work as a surveyor and grant reviewer for USDA's SARE. Currently she works at the Lebanon Public Library as the Juvenile Services Librarian.



**Leslie Ratlif.** Leslie has always been passionate about connecting her clients to the right home. After many years of experience in the real estate industry, she launched her own homebuilding company, Pendragon Homes, in 2004. Her company creates personalized homes for her clients throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. Out of this venture, Leslie was motivated to conduct a three year research study on the idea of marrying an organic farm with a residential community development. She wanted to create a community for family and friends and to conserve a special piece of land in Warren County. This led to her next inspiration--Aberlin Springs, the regions first agri-community. This conservation community, located in the heart of Warren County, will provide its members a place to grow, restore and reconnect to the land that feeds them. The existing family village will have a new role as the community center, and Pendragon Homes will design and build new homes for the Aberlin Springs residents.

# WARREN COUNTY SWCD EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



**Stephanie Baldwin**  
Sixth Grade Science Teacher  
Little Miami Schools

Stephanie Baldwin has been a Sixth Grade Science Teacher at Little Miami Schools for the past 12 years. She is especially committed to connecting her students with the outdoors.

Whether it is taking students to test water quality of the Little Miami River, observing bird behavior with her after-school bird watching course or cataloging species found on school grounds, Mrs. Baldwin likes to take her students outside.

Mrs. Baldwin has twice been awarded grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to establish Wild School Sites on the grounds of Little Miami Intermediate School and Little Miami Junior High.

This year Mrs. Baldwin's students worked with the Cincinnati Nature Center to create a Monarch Waystation on school grounds. Her students planned and then planted native flowering plants as well as milkweed to attract monarch butterflies to the school yard habitat. Students observed monarchs from egg to butterfly and studied their migration.

Mrs. Baldwin has plans to continue her environmental education efforts this coming school year by certifying a part of the school yard at Little Miami Intermediate School as a wildlife habitat in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation.

## THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING DONORS

We encourage you to visit these wonderful businesses in our community!



Lebanon Electric Motor

Lebanon Feed Store

Clarksville Ag Service

McHenry Equipment Co

## Stream Cleanup Volunteers, June 2016





**Kaylin Brodzki**  
University of Cincinnati

With the heat of summer starting to let up (sort of...), I can tell my time as an intern is coming to an end and I'll soon be back to study at the University of Cincinnati. When I began in May, we spent hours driving around the county to tag storm drains. Together, Johnathon and I tagged about 500 storm drains this summer! By June, the heat was getting to us, but we didn't let that slow us down. With the help of Amy and Shaun, we began my favorite part of the summer—stream walks!

Implementing the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) project in the City of Mason was, by far, my favorite project. Our main goal during these stream walks was to look for possible illicit discharges into the streams and to help the City of Mason inventory their storm water outfalls—no small task given the size of Mason! Besides being a job of major importance in protecting our local waters, it reminds us that we are never too far from nature. It wasn't rare to be in the thick of a stream bed only to push through the brush into a giant subdivision! Though it was brief, my time at the District was such an incredible and unique opportunity to learn more about what goes into protecting our water. Not only am I thankful for the experience, but I come away from it knowing that this is exactly what I want to do.



**Johnathon Sturgis**  
University of Cincinnati

Interning for Soil and Water has been a dream come true. As I start my journey back to the University of Cincinnati for the Fall Semester I am more than grateful for the learning opportunities Soil and Water has given me. This summer at Warren County I have helped with various jobs such as basin inspections, IDDE, drain tagging, and stream quality monitoring.

This summer we began IDDE, a new project taken in by the District. This project required us to go out into the streams of Mason and look for outfalls that could be producing potential illicit discharges. Also towards the beginning of the summer we tagged close to 500 storm drains in Warren County with "No Dumping Drains To Stream" metal drain tags.

The highlight of my summer was the always fun stream quality monitoring program. Since I am a biology major, searching for macro-invertebrates in the Little Miami River has probably benefited me the most. Perhaps the most interesting thing I got involved in was the bat acoustic monitoring. For three nights in the month of July we would go out with a bat echolocation device and identify bat species. All of these different projects will benefit me greatly as I continue to work towards earning a degree.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

### Water Education Trailer

**August 24:** Valley Vineyards, Warren SWCD Annual Meeting

**September 10:** Deerfield Towne Center, Touch-A-Truck Event

**September 24:** Learning Tree Farm (Dayton), Autumn Fest

**October 1:** Hisey Park, Hisey Fall Festival

**October 8:** Downtown Lebanon, Lebanon Oktoberfest

**October 22:** Caesar Creek Visitor Center, Watershed Festival

*Event dates subject to change. See our online calendar for more information at [warrenswcd.com](http://warrenswcd.com)*

## NAME THAT STREAM

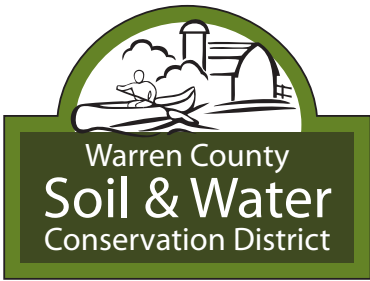
### Wayne Township

**Have you ever wondered how a stream got its name or where the stream flows?** Wayne Township is placing signs around the community where many streams cross roadways to highlight the route of these streams as they flow into the Little Miami River. These smaller streams make up the Little Miami River Watershed.

The signs also call attention to the waterways that have yet to be named. If the sign does not have a stream name on it, then it needs a name! Visit [www.waynetownship.us](http://www.waynetownship.us) to learn more.

## Warren County Fair, July 2016





NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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320 E. Silver St., Suite 300  
Lebanon, OH 45036

USDA/SWCD are Equal  
Opportunity Providers and  
Employers.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Roy Miller  
Samantha Steiner  
John Tkatschenko  
Dan Uetrecht

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS**

Marian Chace  
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Mark Steiner  
Vince Uetrecht

**DISTRICT STAFF**

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Molly Conley  
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Kara Scheerhorn  
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Jeff Thomas

**NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Layne Garringer  
John Lafferty  
Beth Lessick

## WANT TO GO PAPERLESS?

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

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

## WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

Wednesday, August 24

Voting: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Program: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Valley Vineyards, 2276 E. US 22 & 3 Morrow,  
Ohio 45152

*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.*