

# The Warren Report



Warren County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

## FALL CONSERVATION TIPS

### Keeping Your Leaves Out of the Gutters

In case the warm colors of the leaves, cool air, bonfire smells, and festivals did not give it away - fall is in full swing! While fall is a great time to beautify the outside of your homes, it is also a great time to protect the health of our streams and rivers. As you enjoy everything nature has to offer during the fall months, Warren County SWCD would like to offer some tips to prevent stormwater pollution. Stormwater is formed when rainwater flows from our properties or storm drains directly into nearby streams, lakes or rivers. On its way to the stream, stormwater can pick up harmful substances that pollute the water and harm the wildlife.

As the leaves are falling as fast as we rake them, it is important to remember the effect yard debris has on the health of our streams. When yard debris makes its way to streams, excess nutrients accumulate in the water, increasing algae growth which can deplete the water of dissolved oxygen and harm aquatic wildlife. Leaves and other yard debris should be disposed of properly to avoid degrading the health of our waterways. Many communities in Warren County have designated leaf and brush pickup times. Check your local public works website for more details. Alternatively, you may consider letting your leaves stay where they fall this year and mulching them with your lawnmower. The National Wildlife Federation states that leaves provide a natural mulch and fertilizer for your lawn and vital habitat for small critters such as turtles, toads, and birds. Just make sure you start the process before the leaves get too thick and wet with rain.

If your yard needs fertilized this fall, consider testing your soil so you know how much fertilizer, if needed, to use. When excess fertilizer, even compost, is applied, soil will not absorb the nutrients and will be washed away with the rain flowing into the nearest stream. By testing your soil, you will know how much fertilizer is needed, protecting our streams and potentially saving you money. A little extra caution while you keep up with your fall to-do list can make a big difference for the health of our waterways!

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## Looking for more conservation tips?

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)

## Farmland Preservation Open Houses

Tuesday, December 13 from 8:30am to  
10:30am

Monday, December 19 from 4:00pm to  
6:00pm

Held at Warren County SWCD offices  
320 E. Silver St., Suite 300  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036



Living Lands & Waters Ohio River Cleanup, August 2016

# ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION RECAP

## Connecting the Community with Local Food



Liz Cline announced the results of the 72nd Annual Meeting Election with Dan Uetrecht being elected to serve a three year term to commence January 1, 2017. Guest Panel of Speakers consisted of Local Food Representatives in and around Warren County: Jon Branstrator a 5th generation farmer, Todd Hudson owner and chef of a farm to table café, Dennis Chrisman VP of Dorothy Lane Market, Marissa Redenbaugh owner operator of a Community Supported Agriculture Farm and Leslie Ratlif creator of the regions first agri-based community. Followed by the door prize drawing, which concluded the evening.

### *In Memoriam...*

This year we lost two very special members of our community. Thank you for sharing your support and sadness for the families and friends of Carol Uetrecht and Bob Chace.

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at Valley Vineyards, Morrow, Ohio. Nominees for one supervisor position were Scott Costello and Dan Uetrecht. With no additional petitions submitted, voting was held from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Chairwoman, Samantha Steiner welcomed members to the 72nd Annual Meeting calling the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Samantha Steiner introduced guests: Representative for Senator Rob Portman and State Representative Ron Maag, Liz Cline Area IV Program Specialist with ODA, District staff and supervisors. Board Supervisors and staff recognized individuals for their contribution to District conservation activities. The awards are as follows:

**Conservation Educator:** Stephanie Baldwin (Little Miami Schools)

**Hottest Day:** Carole Goodwin (winning guess 95°F on July 24, 2016)

**Biggest Shagbark Hickory Tree:** Jim and Denise Trammel's tree measured 123' tall and 118" circumference

**Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp Award:** Mitchell Stacey (Little Miami HS)

**Thomas C Spellmire Conservation Leader Scholarships:** Emilie Fisher (Clinton Massie graduate), Aaron Koch (Goshen Graduate), and Jaime Reeves (Waynesville graduate)

**Conservationist of the Year:** Friends of the Little Miami State Park

**Cooperator of the Year:** David O'Banion

### Thank You Again to Our Annual Meeting Donors This Year!

- B&B Carryout
- Ohio Renaissance Festival
- River's Edge Canoe
- Lebanon Electric Motor
- Lebanon Feed Store
- Clarksville Ag Service
- Ed's Feed and Seed
- Morgan's Canoe
- Aponte's Pizzeria
- Golden Turtle Chocolate Factory
- Whit's Custard
- Black Barn
- Natorp's Nursery Outlet
- Countryside YMCA
- Dorothy Lane Market
- Creech's Landscaping
- Berns Garden Center
- McHenry Equipment
- Tri-State Brandz

### Cover Crop Application, September 2016



## Place Your Spring Orders on our Website



Say goodbye to paper forms—we are updating our tree sale process for 2017! Starting in December, orders can be placed on our

website only. We will be taking orders up until March 17, 2017. Tree pickup will be April 6, 7, and 8, 2017. We know this is a big change and want to serve our customers while reducing paper use and waste. Please call us with any questions or if you need help with the online process.

This year we are also making 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. Purchasing a tree through your local SWCD means you are getting a tree that is priced at-cost. Also, you can feel good knowing your tree is recommended for the area, giving it the best chance of survival here in Warren County. If you are looking to place an order of 100 trees or more for a park, school, or for yourself you must contact our office by January 13, 2017 so we can ensure large quantities will be available.

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## CLEAN OHIO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM

### Farmland Preservation

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. LAEPP provides funding to assist landowners and communities in preserving Ohio's farmland, our most vital resource. The program purchases agricultural easements from landowners who volunteer to keep their land in agricultural production in perpetuity. Once the District is approved to be a Local Sponsor through ODA, we can begin working with interested landowners on 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.

The District will be notified in November of 2016 if approved to be a Certified Local Sponsor for the 2017 LAEPP funding round. If you are an interested landowner, please consider attending one of our Farmland Preservation open houses on Tuesday, December 13 from 8:30am-10:30am and Monday, December 19 from 4:00pm-6:00pm or schedule a meeting with our staff. For more details, please visit our website at [warrenswcd.com](http://warrenswcd.com) or contact our office at (513)695-1337.

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## GREAT MIAMI RIVER JOINT BOARD

### 2016 Dominion Watershed Mini Grant

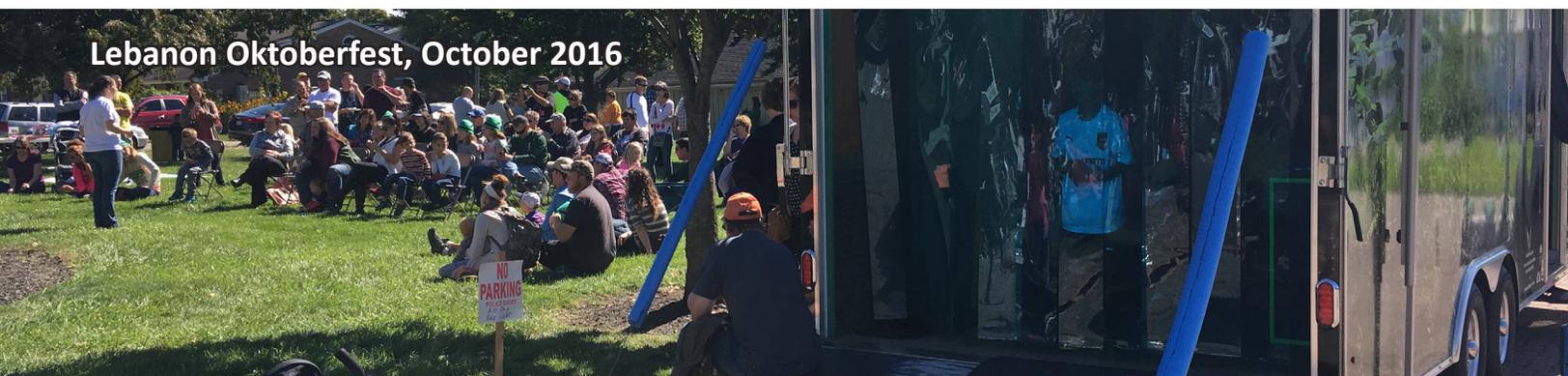
The Great Miami River Joint Board (Joint Board) serves as an instrument for watershed scale conservation planning in the Great Miami River Watershed. A total of 14 Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts along the Great Miami River plan and prioritize water quality projects for the entire watershed.

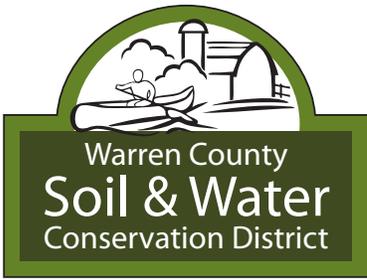
As the administrator/facilitator of the Joint Board, Warren County SWCD recently sought funding for a floating treatment wetland (FTW)

project in the Indian Lake Watershed. Our grant request through the 2016 Dominion Watershed Mini Grant program was approved in October! The FTW is a preventative best management practice that will filter sediment, nutrients and other pollutants before entering the lake at the headwaters of the Great Miami River. It is the goal of the Joint Board and Indian Lake Watershed Project to decrease the amount of sediment and nutrients reaching the lake and the Great Miami River. Visit our website for updates on this project.

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## Lebanon Oktoberfest, October 2016





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USDA/SWCD are Equal  
Opportunity Providers and  
Employers.



#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bruce Goodwin  
Roy Miller  
Samantha Steiner  
John Tkatschenko  
Dan Uetrecht

#### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Marian Chace  
Mark Steiner  
Vince Uetrecht

#### DISTRICT STAFF

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

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Layne Garringer  
John Lafferty  
Beth Lessick

## TREE SALE REMINDER

Paper forms are a thing of the past! Order and purchase your trees on our website and pick them up at the Warren County Fairgrounds in April.

## WANT TO GO PAPERLESS?

Sign up for our email newsletter on the homepage of our website.

[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.*