



CONSERVATION NEWS



Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

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Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District, 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, Ohio 43113

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Upcoming Events

November 10th
Veterans Day Holiday
OFFICE CLOSED

November 21th
Board of Supervisors Meeting
7:30 am



November 23rd & 24th
Thanksgiving Holidays
OFFICE CLOSED

December 12th
Board of Supervisors Meeting
9:00 am



December 25th
Christmas Holiday
OFFICE CLOSED

January 1st
New Years Holiday
OFFICE CLOSED



Conservationist of the Year 2016

Charles Frank



Charles Frank received the homestead sign to display at his farm from Aaron Mosley, District Technician

Aaron Mosley, District Technician presented the homestead sign to our “2016 Conservationist of the Year”, Charles Frank. Mr. Frank has an operation where all of his own ground has been systematically tilled. He’s installed waterways where needed, along with surface drainage plans. All of Mr. Franks’ acreage has a method of conservation tillage, whether it is vertical tillage, or no till. He also utilized variable rate fertilizer application across his various soil types to reduce the overapplication of nutrients. With cooperation, our office has designed berm drains, wascobs, just under 400,000 feet of sub surface drainage, and just over 12,000 feet of waterways. Our office would like to thank Charles Frank for his continued efforts to promote conservation practices.

Black & Hawkins Re-Elected to Conservation Board



Current Supervisors Bill Black and Steve Hawkins were re-elected to a 3 year term starting January 1, 2018. Congratulations Bill and Steve!

73rd Annual Meeting Highlights



The 2017 Overall 4-H Natural Resource winner was Braden Fairbanks. He is 13 years old, and is an 8th grader at Teays Valley East Middle School. He is the son of Pat and Mandy Shea. Braden is a member of the Madison Livewires 4-H Club and his winning projects were “Fishing for the Intermediate” and “Exploring Ponds”. Braden told the group about his passion for both of his projects and how he made the connection between pond habitats and management to fishing. He also informed the group that he competed with his fishing project at the Ohio State Fair.



The 2017 Overall 4-H Runner-Up was Ambrosia Havan. She is 16 years old, is an 11th grader at TREEA Digital Academy. She is the daughter of Alicia Hall. She is a member of the Scioto Scrappin’ & More 4-H Club and her winning projects were “Ohio Birds” and “We All Need Trees”. Ambrosia told the group about her passion for conservation and interesting finds that she discovered throughout her projects. She also informed the group that she competed with her project “We All Need Trees” at the Ohio State Fair and received an Outstanding of the Day award.

Jacob Hawkes was chosen as our sponsored forestry camper. He attends Westfall High School and is the son of April Hawkes. Jacob spoke to the audience about his trip to FFA Camp Muskingum and all that he learned throughout the week at camp.

73rd Annual Meeting Highlights



Above: Mr. Pierce describing the map of his travels

Below: Mr. Pierce sharing his photographs of the total solar eclipse



A big thank you to the following businesses for helping sponsor the 73rd Annual Meeting:

- ADM**
- Anderson Equipment**
- JD Equipment**
- Ohio Ag Net**
- Two Old Broads & a Geezer LLC**
- Seed Consultants, Inc.**
- Nancy's Blankets**
- Leist Mercantile**

James Pierce was the featured speaker at this year's event. Pierce is originally from Dayton, Ohio and has lived on his farm in Pickaway County since 2008. His interests in adventure travel have taken him around the world for over 40 years. He is most interested in the natural history of the places he visits. Some of the highlights of his trips include an 18 month long tandem bicycle ride around the world, building sea kayaks and kayaking a self-supported trip for over a hundred miles through the Florida Everglades, being dropped off by float plane in the remote reaches of Alaska and rowing a 700 pound loaded raft down a wilderness river 120 miles to a pick up point in the Bering Sea, staying with native Indians in the Amazon basin jungles of Guyana, exploration of the forests of Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, southeast Asia, Borneo, and the viewing of the icy landscapes of the Arctic and Antarctic. He has been charged by a grizzly bear and by a white rhino and has used up about 6 of his 7 lives. He is most interested in conservation and has placed his farm in a conservation easement. 62 solar panels provide power for his home and car. Through various NRCS programs such as EQIP, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Field Border Program, he and his partner Sharon have removed invasive plant species, built vernal pools, restored stream banks, and planted prairies along with hundreds of native trees and bushes. He recently retired after a 38 year career as a physician in the fields of emergency medicine, occupational medicine, and family practice. Pierce captivated the audience with his narrated slideshow comprised of photographs from his two trips to Africa.



Years of Service Awards



Three individuals were honored with “Years of Service” awards at this years banquet. Rob Skidmore (pictured left) received a 36 year service award plaque for service NRCS for 33 years and Pickaway SWCD for 3 years. Aaron Mosley (pictured center) received an engraved clock for his 10 years of service as a technician. Barbara Martindale received a certificate for her 5 years of service as a Pickaway SWCD Board Supervisor. We would like to thank each of these three individual's for their dedication and hard work in service to Pickaway County’s conservation efforts.

District 7 FFA Land Judging Contest



The District 7 FFA Land judging contest was held at the Mount Oval historical farm here in Pickaway County. Teams from 16 FFA chapters (131 students) participated in judging 4 pits for Urban and Agricultural purposes. Our three county teams; Logan Elm, Westfall and Teays Valley participated. For Ag Soils, East Knox placed first, with Teays Valley second, and for Urban Soils Fredericktown placed first with East Knox in second. The top teams in each area moved onto the state contest. The contest was hosted by the Westfall FFA Chapter. Congratulations to all that participated.



Pickaway County Ag Day 2017



The 2017 Pickaway County Ag Day was held on September 8th at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds. This year, approximately 765 4th grade students from Circleville, Logan Elm, New Hope, Teays Valley, and Westfall schools participated in the event. Ag Day is led by the Pickaway County Farm Bureau with help from Pickaway SWCD.

FFA students from Logan Elm, Stoneridge, Teays Valley and Westfall served as presenters for the students. They led presentations on hogs, beef and dairy cattle, water, corn, soybeans, drones, vet tech and even outdoor equipment.

Every 4th grader was able to attend each presentation and an additional presentation about Agriculture 101 from Bob Horton, Ohio 4-H Extension Specialist. Volunteers and FFA students served as guides, leading groups to the different stations around the fairgrounds.



Special **THANKS** to the sponsors and participants who made Ag Day 2017 a Success!

Leist Mercantile
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Kelli Hartman
Kingston National Bank

Pickaway County Community Foundation
Corky Que
Logan Elm FFA
Stoneridge FFA
Teays Valley FFA
Westfall FFA
4-H Extension
Pickaway County Farm Bureau
4th Grade Teachers and Students

Milkweed Pod Collection

Thru October 30th

Pollinator species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, the Monarch butterfly has drastically declined in Ohio, the Eastern U.S., and in their wintering grounds of Mexico. Experts estimate that over the past 20 years, the eastern population of Monarchs has decreased by 90%.

To help foster habitats for the Monarch butterflies, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is organizing a statewide milkweed pod collection, which began on September 1st and will run until October 30th.

Everyone is encouraged to collect Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) pods. Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch butterflies. It is where they lay their eggs and, once the eggs have hatched, caterpillars depend on the milkweed leaves as their main source of food.

This collection is taking place in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts, where milkweed pods can be dropped off through the 30th. Simply stop into the SWCD office during regular business hours (Monday thru Friday, 8:00am until 4:30pm), to drop off your milkweed pods in the large bin by the front desk.

All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seeds collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch butterfly throughout Ohio.

Helpful Hints for Milkweed Collection



- ✿ **Pick pods when they are dry and when they are grey or brown in color. Green seedpods are NOT ready for collection.**
- ✿ **Center seam of pod should pop with gentle pressure when it is time to collect.**
- ✿ **Collect pods in paper lunch bags or paper grocery bags. Avoid using plastic bags, as they attract moisture.**
- ✿ **Please mark paper bag with the collection details: county where milkweed was collected, date and time of the collection, species (if something other than Common Milkweed).**
- ✿ **Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the SWCD office.**
- ✿ **Harvesting milkweed pods does not destroy or have any lasting impact on the milkweed in an established area.**



NRCS News

NRCS Announces Ohio EQIP Application Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced Friday, November 17, 2017, as the deadline to submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers protect the environment while promoting agricultural production. With EQIP, NRCS conservation experts provide technical assistance to implement environmentally beneficial conservation practices on working agricultural land.

Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, high tunnels, organic, and many more listed on the Ohio NRCS website under "[EQIP Application Deadlines](#)."

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest landowners and must meet eligibility criteria. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the November 17 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2018 funding.

Applications for EQIP submitted by entities, such as agricultural producers applying as a corporation, must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and an active SAM (System for Award Management) registration status when applying, a process that may take several weeks. Applications cannot be processed without this information.

Do you want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest managers. Please visit our website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/oh/home/> or contact our office today at 740-477-1691.

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Affiliate Annual Membership

Future Conservationist (Student) \$10.00

Soil & Water Protector \$ 30.00

Steward of the Land \$100.00

Corporate Member \$250.00

If you are interested in becoming an Affiliate Member, please [contact the SWCD office](#). All affiliate members receive recognition in the Conservation News, on the District website, and at the Annual Meeting. Stewards of the Land receive a Certificate and a complimentary ticket to the Annual Meeting. Corporate Members will receive two complimentary tickets to the Annual Meeting and a framed Certificate.

Your membership contribution is tax deductible and is used to help provide educational opportunities on soil and water

In the Next Issue of Conservation News

Information on
ordering tree
seedlings and fish
fingerlings from the
PSWCD!



www.facebook.com/PickawaySoilandWater

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone: 740-477-1693 Fax: 740-477-3327 Website: <http://pickawayswcd.org>

Board of Supervisors

Bill Black
Matt Anderson
Clyde Ohnewehr
Steve Hawkins
Barbara Martindale

SWCD Staff

Aaron Mosley, District Technician
Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Lindsey Shaffer, Deputy Administrator
Arista Hartzler, District Technician
Montana McFarland, Education/Outreach Coordinator

Natural Resources Conservation Services Staff

Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Soil Conservationist
Phil Roe, Agriculture Conservation Experienced Service Enrollee

Will Newman, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Pheasants/Quail Forever

Affiliate Members

Corporate Members-C. Randal and Cindy Metzger, Ohnewehr Family Farms, Pickaway Farms, The Savings Bank, Wayne Vickers, and Gregg & Teresa Mayberry
Steward of The Land-John & Curtis Drummond, Hartsock Ag-Tim & Tom Hartsock, and Shaw Farms
Soil and Water Protector-Doug & Vicki Kohli, Wiseheart Farms, and Ashley Hansen

All programs, services and assistance provided by the Pickaway SWCD are available to everyone without regard to race, creed, color, handicap, sex, age, or national origin.
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer