

## MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Licking Soil & Water welcomes two newly-elected Supervisors, Ron Thompson and Seth Dobbelaer. Ron and Seth were elected to serve 3-year terms starting in January 2019. They are active members of the community who volunteer with local non-profits, while maintaining their own farms.

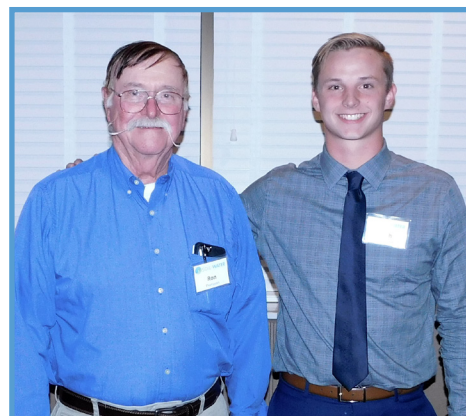
Ron Thompson is a retired agricultural educator who has “always considered conservation as an important part of agriculture.” Visit his farm and you will see many conservation practices. For 45 years, Ron has been farming in the Utica area. During that time, he has served on the Hartford Senior Fair Board (since 1974) and has been involved with the Steer Pool. Ron was a key person behind the new beef building at the Hartford Fair.

Earlier in 2018, Ron was inducted into the Licking County Agriculture Hall of Fame. During the induction, he said, “It was in the military, it hit me, that’s what I wanted to do, teach school and change some kids lives, and I think we did that.” During his 30-year teaching career he earned multiple education awards. His formal and informal education experience as an ag educator and FFA Advisor will be much appreciated for Licking Soil & Water education program planning.

As a Supervisor, Ron would like to help Licking Soil & Water safeguard land and water by providing residents with education, especially related to fertilizer and nutrient runoff in both urban and rural landscapes.

Seth Dobbelaer is thrilled to serve on the Board of Supervisors because he is “committed to Licking County and intends to farm and live here the rest of his life.” He believes his deep drive to help others enables him to balance multiple public service commitments while laboring full-time as a farmer and general contractor. He has been co-owner of Charlie’s Apples since 2013, raising organic apples and producing apple cider. Earlier in 2018, Seth received The Newark Advocate’s 20 Under 40 recognition.

While not farming, Seth’s volunteer service includes United Church of Granville Board, Canal Market District Vendor Advisory Committee, the Weathervane Playhouse Board, and Licking County River Round Up. He also ran for Newark City Council in 2017. During his campaign, Seth was one of a small contingent of Ohioans selected to represent the state at that year’s Young Democrats



of America convention in Dallas, Texas. This coalition-building experience and communication skills related to policy issues will be of great service to Licking Soil & Water.

Seth looks forward to using his 3-year term to address uncontrolled runoff from various sources and its detrimental environmental impacts. 🌍

### THANK YOU TO MEGAN AND MIKE

Thank you to Megan Evans and Mike Birkmeyer for serving on the Board of Supervisors for the past 3 years.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication to promoting conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education, and technical assistance. 🌱



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Promoting conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education, and technical assistance.

771 East Main Street  
Suite 100  
Newark, Ohio 43055-6971  
740-670-5330  
LickingSWCD.com



**SOIL & WATER STAFF**

Denise Natoli Brooks  
Pat Deering  
Dave Grum  
Kristy Hawthorne  
Michelle Illing  
Briana Leach  
Josh Troyer

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Aaron Ambrosio

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Megan Evans  
Bill Goodman  
Mamie Hollenback  
John Wagy

**ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS**

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Jeff Bates  
Matt Hazelton

**USDA NRCS STAFF**

Joe Koehler  
Danielle Meggyesy  
Emily Price

Office Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Monday-Friday  
Closed Federal Holidays

The Soil & Water Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:30 PM at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# 2018 RIVER ROUND UP, A RAINY DAY SUCCESS!

**37 Generous Sponsors including Presenting Sponsor Shackleford's Disposal and Keep America Beautiful Sponsor Matesich Distributing**



## Enter Your Poster. Win Cash Prizes.

The 2019 River Round Up Poster Contest is open to all school-aged youth living in Licking County.

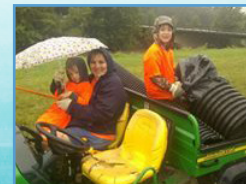
Posters should reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the 25th Annual River Round Up.

The winning individual will receive \$100 in prize money and winner's school will receive a \$500 scholarship to use for advancing science and art programs. Up to two honorable mentions will receive a \$250 scholarship each for their school.

The winning poster is used as the primary electronic marketing picture for the 2019 River Round Up.

Submit posters to LCSWCD, 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH before 4:30 PM Friday, February 1, 2019.

Visit us at [www.facebook.com/RiverRoundUp/](http://www.facebook.com/RiverRoundUp/).



# THANK YOU SPONSORS

## SURFS UP TSUNAMI (\$1000 & UP)



**Kiwaniis**  
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Fackler Country Gardens  
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## RIDE THE WAVE (\$250-\$499)

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## RIPPLES ON THE POND (\$100-\$249)

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## EVERY DROP COUNTS (UP TO \$99)

Jeff Baker  
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Ron & Carol Thompson,  
Carron Farm  
Kathy Durbin  
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Robert Rush  
Ernie Staugh  
Lori Stevenson  
Mary Jane Thompson  
Russell Thompson  
Terry Van Offeren  
John Wagy

**THANK YOU!**

Funds raised support many mission-based programs for youth and adult education.



Conservation Based Competitions



Educating Educators



Inspiring Future Scientists



Mentoring Future Environmental Educators

No matter how large or small, your donation to Soil & Water can have an impact that extends beyond your lifetime. Licking Soil & Water continues to maintain its long standing commitment to promote conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education and technical assistance.

**DONATE NOW**

# Agriculture Cooperator of the Year

Licking Soil & Water honors an individual, family or business annually for their commendable efforts to wisely use our natural resources. Over the decades, many familiar Licking County farm families have been recognized for their voluntary efforts to improve their operation by improving the land and water. This year, David Felumlee of Claylick Run Farm deservingly joins the ranks.

Receiving recognition is not new for Claylick Run Farm and the Felumlees. In 2009, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association honored Dave with the Young Cattleman of the Year award. In 2017, the farm earned the Ohio Cattlemen's Association Seedstock (breeding cattle) Producer of the Year.

Dave has farmed his whole life. As a youth, his family operated a dairy

farm and Dave showed beef cattle through 4H. Today, Dave and his family focus on Claylick Run Angus Genetics, one of the elite Angus seedstock farms in the country. He participates in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to improve pasture, manage manure storage and install vegetative filter strips between the edge of field and the Licking River. Through participation in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District' Cover Crop Cost-share Program and Licking Soil & Water, soil and nutrients are staying on the farm instead of washing into the river.

Not only does Dave use cover crops, he and his father, Orville, host other farmers, school-aged youth and non-farmers for educational programs



related to farming. For 2019, Licking Soil & Water and the Felumlees are already planning a cover crop workshop to highlight various cover crop varieties and planting options.

Dave is passionate about his work and admits that some days he takes better care of the cattle than he does himself. But he loves what he is doing. He also believes in communication and mentoring the next generation. Dave says, "Don't be afraid or ashamed of what you are doing. Tell the story, why you do things, why you do things right." 🌱

# Urban Cooperators of the Year

Licking Soil & Water introduced the Urban Cooperator of the Year award in 2017 in an effort to recognize wise use of our land and water in more developed landscapes. In urban settings, natural resource conservation-focused projects are often referred to as green infrastructure and low impact design. A green infrastructure practice that Licking Soil & Water has promoted for many years is the use of rain gardens. Rain gardens are designed to hold rainwater runoff for up to 48 hours, letting the rain water slowly soak into the ground. Grasses, flowering plants, shrubs or trees are all acceptable rain garden plant choices. Regardless of the type of plant, the plants have to be able to tolerate both very wet conditions and periods of drought. These carefully selected, and preferably native plants provide wildlife habitat. Most rain gardens are small and absorb the water from a rooftop via a downspout. Our Urban Cooperators of the Year are in the process of installing the largest rain garden in Licking County.

Congratulations to Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District and Shook Construction for being named 2018 Urban Cooperators of the Year. Southwest Licking Community

Water and Sewer District currently serves over 4,700 water customers and 6,000 wastewater customers. In support of current and future growth in Licking County, the District is committed to providing economical and environmentally compliant water and wastewater services to customers in Etna Township, Harrison Township, and the City of Pataskala. The District is in the process of building a new water treatment plant along the South Fork Licking River and east of York Rd. When complete, the new plant will have the capacity to treat 3 million gallons of drinking water per day using a reverse osmosis treatment method. The reverse osmosis process uses less water and salt compared to the current salt treatment system. While this water saving method is notable, Licking Soil & Water is more excited about the spacious rooftop of the new water plant. Rainwater from the roof will be directed into a large rain garden on the west side of the water plant. The rain garden will hold and filter up to 5 inches of rain, as well as support butterflies, birds and other small wildlife.

Shook Construction is contributing to sustainable growth in Licking County through the construction



of the new water treatment plant, including the rain garden. Shook Construction recently celebrated its 90th year providing construction services to communities throughout Ohio. The employee-owned firm specializes in schools, hospitals, and municipal water projects. As part of their company culture, they believe in giving back to the communities they serve. This year they became a proud sponsor of Licking County River Round Up and had a team ready to clean up the Licking River. Hopefully the weather will cooperate next year and Shook Construction can join in the community-based conservation fun on River Round Up day.

Congratulations to Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District and Shook Construction for your outstanding contributions to natural resource conservation in urban landscapes! 🌱

## Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Debbie Pound, our 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Debbie connected with Licking Soil & Water shortly after retiring from the Licking County Board of MRDD. One of her first volunteer experiences with us was handing out seedling trees at the Dawes Arboretum's Arbor Day event. Her big smile and contagious laugh reflect her attitude of friendliness and her gift for making everyone around her feel welcome.

Debbie is adventurous. When not paddle boarding in the summer or skiing in Colorado in the winter, you may see her assist Hartford Fair-goers at the Natural Resources

Area try out canoeing or kayaking. When thanked for her volunteer service, Debbie said she "gets more out of volunteering" herself and she "should be thanking Licking Soil & Water for all they provide for the community."

In addition to being humble, Debbie is an active Stream Team citizen scientist, carefully organizes and distributes seedling trees during the annual tree sale, picks up trash (even in the rain) on River Round Up day, and presents conservation education programs for youth. When not volunteering with Licking Soil & Water, she is volunteering with the Licking Park District. In fact, she



was recognized earlier this year as the Licking Park District Volunteer of the Year.

What's next for Debbie? Rumor has it that she might be interested in serving on the Licking Soil & Water Associate Board. 🌍

## Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Anne Balogh, 2018 Licking Soil & Water Educator of the Year. Anne has a passion for wildlife and connecting people with nature. For over 15 years, she has traveled around the United States working as a biologist and educator for the Smithsonian, the National Audubon Society, and the Yellowstone Association. In 2015, Anne began her adventure as Program Coordinator for the Licking Park District.

Anne has forged a strong partnership with Licking Soil & Water that benefits the residents of Licking County. Her ability to create, schedule, and instruct programming is impressive, especially programming related to citizen science. Visitors to Licking Park District properties have the opportunity to participate in real science and credible data collection. Hosting Stream Team trainings in partnership with Licking Soil & Water teaches volunteers how to monitor water quality in our streams and rivers.

As a talented and award-winning artist, Anne uses nature as inspiration. Her Paint-the-Parks program has been incredibly popular. Not only do participants learn to paint, they also learn about the plants and animals, and other natural features in their paintings. In 2017, Anne

received the Charley Harper Award from the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. This award is given to an artist who has made a significant or outstanding contribution to environmental education in Ohio through various forms of art.

In partnership with Licking Soil & Water and the Dawes Arboretum, Anne offers a series of teacher workshops and adult education programs, bringing internationally-recognized curriculum to Licking County. Formal and informal educators had five workshops to choose from this past summer alone. Anne is a Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) facilitator and is currently graduating her first class of OCVNs.

Another highly-respected program that Anne introduced to Licking County is Landscape for Life. When Anne asked Denise Natoli Brooks, Program Administrator at Licking Soil & Water if she wanted to co-facilitate the first Landscape for Life course for the COTC Lifelong Learning Institute, Anne impressed us yet again. Of course Denise said yes to co-teaching a sustainable landscaping curriculum designed through a collaboration between the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden.

When asked why environmental education is important, Anne replied,



***"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." –Baba Dioum, 1968***

"I feel environmental education is crucial to the health of future generations and this beautiful Earth we call home. The children of today will be the decision makers in the future and environmental education helps build connections to the natural world and develops critical problem solving skills. The importance of environmental education is not limited to children. Many studies have shown that being exposed to nature benefits human health and wellness, and that nature is crucial for clean air, water, and communities." 🌍

# STREAM-FRIENDLY SNOW REMOVAL

As the snowflakes start to fly here in Ohio, like it or not snow and ice removal are on the minds of many homeowners. Before you dust off your trusty snow shovel and replenish your salt supply,

consider the impact that snow and ice removal practices can have on our land and water. Here are a few tips to help you get the most out of your S.A.L.T. and minimize your home's environmental impact this winter:



**Stuff:** Road salt (sodium chloride) only works above 15°F. For colder temperatures use a small amount of sand for added traction, or switch to an ice melting product designed to work at colder temperatures. Products containing calcium chloride can melt ice in temperatures as low as -25°F, but should be used judiciously as they can deteriorate concrete surface and even burn your pets' paws.

**Amount:** More salt does not equal more melting! One 12 ounce cup of salt is enough to cover about 10 sidewalk squares, or about 250 square feet. Properly applied, there should be about 3 inches between salt granules. Excess salt damages soil and pollutes water, so be sure to sweep up granules from clear pavement.

**Location:** Spread salt only on the surfaces of your driveway and sidewalk that need to be deiced and never on the lawn, at the base of trees, or near a stream or storm drain. One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water.

**Time:** Salt works best when it is applied right before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from your driveway or sidewalk, and never when rain is in the forecast. Shoveling before you apply reduces the amount of salt required for deicing, and in turn saves you money!

*Adapted from Cuyahoga and Geauga Soil and Water Conservation Districts*

# BUCKEYE LAKE WATERSHED COORDINATOR TO FOCUS ON WATER QUALITY

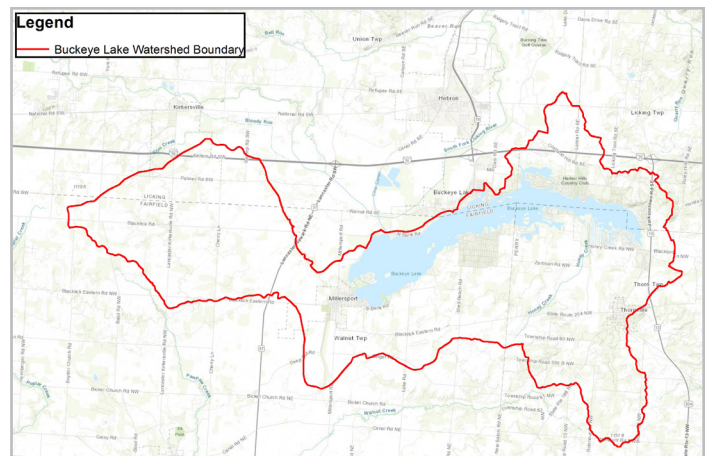


Claire Donley of Lancaster is the new Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator. Claire earned a B.S. in Environmental Science from Muskingum College. Her work experience with federal, state and local governments includes serving with the National Park Service, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Franklin SWCD, Ohio EPA and The Nature Conservancy.

The principal priority of the Watershed Coordinator is to improve water quality in the streams feeding the lake. Implementing best management and conservation practices on public and private lands are the preferred methods to improve water quality.

The Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator position is grant-funded and administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Matching funds and in-kind services are being leveraged from many Licking County entities including Licking Soil & Water, Licking County Board of Commissioners, and Licking County Health

Department. Counterparts in Fairfield and Perry Counties are also important collaborators. Regional supporters include, but are not limited to, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Ohio EPA, OSU Extension, Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow, Buckeye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and the Buckeye Lake Foundation.



# MANURE: NUISANCE OR NUTRIENT?

With a growing number of individuals building homes in a rural setting increasing, the number of complaints will also go up. The majority of complaints reported to local soil and water districts are nuisance or odor complaints. Many of these types of complaints can be avoided by simply working with the complainant. It is always a good idea to speak with the residents prior to application and give a timeline for the application of manure. Let them know that you will be willing to work with them on best days to apply and that you will be following the regulations and setbacks required through the state of Ohio. By doing this, the “WOW” factor will be eliminated from a sudden unexpected odor. If possible, avoid application on days that the wind will be blowing directly to a resident and on hot sultry days in order to minimize the smell. It is impossible to satisfy everyone, but the effort goes a long way.

In order to decrease the probability of an application discharge going into the waters of the state, always have tile plugs on hand to immediately stop or reduce the amount of discharge. It is best to plug all tiles leaving the field prior to application and leave them in for at least 24 hours after the discharge has occurred. If a discharge does take place, immediately contact your local soil and water office and/or health department so that proper procedure can take place. It is best for the applicator to make a call rather than for a complaint to be issued. Always use the mandatory setback if not more than is mandated. The closer you apply to waters of the state, the greater the chance for pollution. In addition, if there is any question whether the soil is too saturated or frozen to apply manure on, then it is probably good idea not to risk it. Whenever manure is applied, an option to work the manure in it is advised to do so.

By pushing the regulations given, it will increase the probability of pollution and as the rate of pollution increases the mandated rules will also be increased. As a reminder, always follow the guidelines for the application of fertilizer and manure given in Senate Bill 1, 150 and the 590 regulations.

Reprinted from Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District.

## The Licking County Agriculture Hall of Fame

Applications Due December 31.

Contact Dean Kreager, OSU Extension at 740-670-5315, for details and application.

## RENT OUR NO-TILL DRILL



Have a pasture or hay field to replant?  
Small soybean field? Other planting needs?  
Our no-till drills rent for only \$12 per acre.

Call to schedule: 740-670-5330

### Great Plains 706NT Drill

Planting Width - 7 feet  
Total Width - 9 feet 10 inches

### John Deere 1590 Grain Drill

Planting Width - 10 feet  
Total Width - 10 feet 6 inches

## 2019 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE SET

Initial application deadline is Monday, February 4, 2019. For additional information and the application, contact Pat Deering, 740-670-5330, [pmdeering@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:pmdeering@LickingSWCD.com).

The Licking Soil & Water Farmland Preservation Program:

- Has been preserving farmland since 2009,
- Holds 18 Agriculture Easements totaling 2,900 acres,
- Has brought \$4.75 million in Clean Ohio and federal funds to Licking County, and
- Has been allocated \$337,000 for 2019 to purchase agricultural easements.

# OHIO CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALIST LICKING COUNTY

The Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program promotes awareness and citizen stewardship of Ohio's natural resources through science-based education and community service. Since 2017, The Dawes Arboretum, Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Licking Park District work together to co-host the Licking County OCVN course. This collaboration includes coordinating the 40-hour OCVN course on the biology, ecology and natural history of Ohio. The host organizations also provide continuing education and volunteer opportunities for OCVNs in the Licking County area.

The training program is to provide a balanced, integrated practical course in natural resource science.

Volunteer Naturalist Certification Requirements:

- 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction
- 40 hours of approved volunteer service projects.
- After certification, requires 20 hours volunteer service and 8 hours advanced training annually.



Contact Leslie Blaine at [labline@dawesarb.org](mailto:labline@dawesarb.org) or 740-323-2355 Ext. 1209 for application and details, or visit [www.facebook.com/OCVNLC/](http://www.facebook.com/OCVNLC/).

## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 31	Ag Hall of Fame Application deadline	Ag Center
Jan 9	Board Meeting	Ag Center
Jan 31	OCVN 2019 Class Application Due	Dawes Arboretum
Feb 1	River Round Up Poster Entries Due	SWCD Office
Feb 4	Farmland Preservation Application Deadline	SWCD Office
Feb 15	Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission Meeting	Ohio Department of Agriculture
Mar 2	Farmer Share Breakfast	C-TEC of Licking County
Mar 25	Tree Sale Order Deadline	SWCD Office
Apr 12	Tree Sale Pick Up	SWCD Office
Apr 26	Locally Grown and Gathered Dinner	Reese Center

For details, visit [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)



**Pass it along!**

*Feel free to share this issue and its resources with friends and colleagues.*