

CONSERVATION NOTES

Mission: To promote conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education and technical assistance.

Ohio Division of Wildlife Grant funds Education Programs

Licking Soil & Water and the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area (HFNRA) received two Ohio Division of Wildlife Aquatic Education grants. One grant supports daily Fishing on the Pond and the Youth Fishing Derby during the Hartford Fair, August 7-13. As part of the grant, the HFNRA pond was also stocked with crappie, perch and bluegill.

The second grant supports the Stream Team program including Stream Team trainings for aspiring citizen scientists, and water testing equipment and supplies. The next Stream Team program is scheduled for August 31st at Licking Park



District's Riverview Preserve.

The aquatic education grants' programming goal is to provide a safe and fun way to experience aquatic environments through interactive programs. Long-term, the programs may inspire youth to consider careers in natural resources, specifically aquatic biology and ecology.

Outdoor Learning Open House



Teaching Resources for Environmental Education Study Site (T.R.E.E.S) includes the land around the Ag. Service Center. This county-owned property is an outdoor learning space where the agencies in and around the Ag. Service Center can demonstrate best practices. See what's new during the Master Gardener's and T.R.E.E.S. Open House on Saturday, July 16th.

Locally-led Conservation

Local Work Groups (LWG) identify regional agricultural and natural resource issues and provide information and feedback to direct Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

Participants include agricultural producers; owners of non-industrial private forest land; representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and representatives of governmental agencies carrying out environmental, agricultural, or natural resource conservation programs and activities.

Local landowners, conservation district leadership, and NRCS assess natural resource conditions and needs, set goals, identify ways to solve resource problems, utilize a broad array of programs to implement solutions, and measure success.

Locally-led conservation is based on the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own community. NRCS's goal is to develop and implement conservation programs that fully reflect local needs and priorities.

Licking Soil & Water and NRCS welcome your input year round - call us at 740 670-5330.

River Round Up - Register at eventbrite.com

Conservation Crew in Downtown Newark

The Downtown Newark Renovation Project created an exciting partnership opportunity between Licking Soil & Water, the City of Newark's Stormwater Utility, and the Proteen Center of Kairos Academy.

The Downtown Project includes approximately 14,000 sq. ft. of bioswales, 2,000 sq. ft. of shade trees, and 130 sidewalk planters. All these plants need daily care and the newly created Licking Soil & Water Conservation Crew is

providing the much needed weeding, watering, and trash removal. Donny King (pictured right) leads the Crew of five 16-18 year olds.

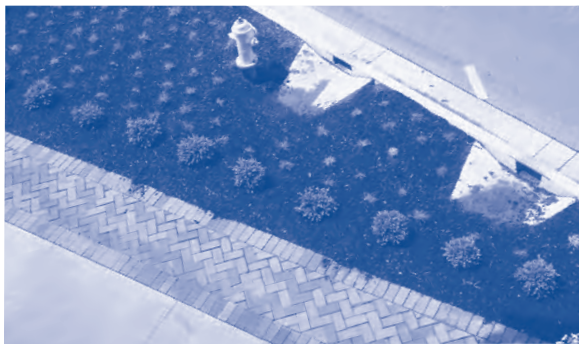
The Crew members are learning transferrable job skills such as a good work ethic, following directions, showing up on time as well as landscaping-specific skills. One Crew member asked early on if there were really jobs doing weeding and watering because she "could do this all day."

How rewarding it is to see the Crew grow and appreciate their contribution to the community. One Crew member said, "I think it is amazing what is happening downtown... the flowers and trees we



are watering makes everything beautiful and makes people *want* to be there." Proteen Center Director, Lea Anderson said the Crew "is learning a lot about plants." She also appreciates having "such a wonderful site for participants to gain work experience."

Stop by and say hi to the Conservation Crew next time you are in Downtown Newark.



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Welcome Interns

District Program Administrator Denise Natoli Brooks says “Interns should have the opportunity to diversify their skill set as well as focus on a special project.” Interns Lindsay and Ryan (pictured above) have already learned to identify native and invasive plants at T.R.E.E.S. and have been instrumental in removing garlic mustard and thistle. They used their new knowledge to mentor the Conservation Crew as they learned how to maintain green infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioswales.

Lindsay Dillon is a resident of Pataskala and graduate of Watkins High School. She earned an Associate of Applied Science in Forensic Science from COTC in 2014 and an Associate of Applied Science in Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife from Zane State College in 2016. Lindsay hopes to use the internship experience as “a means of broadening [her] skills to help [her] find a permanent job later.” Her special project is using GIS technology to map the stormwater plantings in downtown Newark.

Ryan Shearer is a Newark resident and sophomore at Ohio University. He is majoring in Geographic Information Science and has experience collecting and cataloging GPS data into a computer. During his internship, Ryan will concentrate on updating stormwater maps as part of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Program that Soil & Water manages for Licking County.

Green Infrastructure is the Future

New construction and redevelopment practices are changing. As new subdivisions or businesses are built, or older properties are given new life, these developments are required to meet building codes, zoning requirements, and in more recent times, water quality standards for stormwater. Since the onset of the Ohio EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater program in 1990, the typical practice for treating stormwater has been to install retention or detention basins. These basins are common sites near big-box stores, industrial areas, and residential subdivisions. But over the past few years, innovative stormwater management practices have emerged.

One of these changes has been a push towards what has come to be called green infrastructure. This includes pervious asphalts, cements, and pavers that allow water to flow through them and into the soil, to vegetated green roofs that allow plants to soak up and use water that would otherwise have been sent into a stormwater system via a roadside drain or ditch and into a waterway.

A great new local installation of green infrastructure is downtown Newark’s Utility Upgrade and Streetscape Project, where tree boxes and bioswales capture and treat stormwater runoff from the nearby rooftops, roads, and sidewalks. Licking Soil & Water is overseeing the health and establishment of thousands of new plants in and around the green infrastructure.

Another recent shift has been the increased popularity of voluntary home stormwater treatment. Inexpensive rain gardens, vegetated swales, and rain barrels manage and clean stormwater on properties of all sizes. Teaching Resources for Environmental Education Study Site (T.R.E.E.S.) adjacent to the Ag. Service Center has demonstration rain gardens available for viewing. Rain barrels are also for sale. Additionally, Licking Soil & Water employs a stormwater expert to help homeowners and businesses considering green infrastructure as a means to help reduce flooding and keep pollution out of our waterways. For more information, contact Zach Bollheimer at zachbollheimer@lickingSWCD.com or 740 670-5330.



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Celebrate Local Food

Licking County is home to many farmer's markets where fresh, healthy food is available nearly every day of the week. The newest market space is in downtown Newark, the Canal Market District which opened on May 27th with thousands of people attending the dedication event. The Market District is now hosting a farmer's market every Tuesday and Friday from 4 - 7 p.m. until October.

Various communities across Licking County host farmers' markets. Visit lickingSWCD.com for a complete list of community farmers markets and locally grown products resource list.

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Funds raised during the Annual Giving Campaign help support many mission-based programs for youth and adults. For more information or to make a donation, call 740 670-5330 or visit lickingSWCD.com.



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River Round Up Opportunities

Annually, River Round Up collects and properly disposes of over 8,000 pounds of trash and recyclables. Without the efforts brought forth by River Round Up, it is unfortunate to think of the amount of trash that might pile up year after year in Licking County waterways – near our schools, parks and neighborhoods. Water quality and availability are essential for a healthy. Clean water leads to an overall healthy food chain and healthy humans.

How can you get involved?

- Volunteer on September 10th.
- Form a volunteer team with friends or co-workers.
- Adopt a waterway to increase the number of miles cleaned up.
- Sponsor the River Round Up.
- Ask your mayor or trustee to proclaim September 10th River Round Up Day.
- Like River Round Up on Facebook (@RiverRoundUp).
- Help spread the word via social media (#LCRiverRoundUp).
- Hang flyers at local stores and restaurants.
- Volunteer on land for set-up or tear-down.

Thank you to Presenting Sponsor Shackleford's Disposal and many other sponsors whose generosity add to the event's success. On Saturday, September 10, the River Round Up committee invites you to be part of our community-based conservation tradition of cleaning Licking County waterways. Register at Eventbrite.com.



which would you rather see?



let's clean our rivers

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Saturday
September 10th

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Artwork Honored

A poster showing both clean and dirty water was selected as the 2016 River Round Up contest winner. Margeaux LeVere, a junior in the C-TEC Visual Communications Program created the artwork. Her poster was selected from nearly 50 entries. LeVere's instructor, Jennifer Kinsley's has had her students participate in the contest for the past three years as an exercise to build the students' portfolios. As part of the prize package, the River Round Up Committee presented a \$500 scholarship check to C-TEC.

Hayven Thomas, a 5th grade McGuffey Elementary student received an honorable mention for her poster. McGuffey Elementary received a \$250 scholarship check. The scholarships will be used to advance science and art programs in the respective schools.

The annual poster contest was open to all school-aged youth in primary or secondary schools in Licking County. Posters were to reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the River Round Up on Saturday, September 10th.



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Flying on Cover Crops

Aerial application is an option for establishing a cover crop after soybeans. Using an airplane to fly on cover crop seed, before soybeans are harvested, gives the seed time to germinate and establish itself while the soybeans dry in the field.

Long-term use of cover crops can increase yields and reduce fertilizer inputs.

“Cover crops are great because they reduce soil erosion, hold nutrients and put more organic matter into the soil,” said Dave Felumlee, a Madison Township farmer and user of cover crops.

Cover crops also help address soil needs such as fixing nitrogen, reducing compaction and managing soil moisture.

Chodd Armfelt, Agricultural Conservation Specialist said “Licking Soil & Water plans to buy bulk seed and pass the savings on to producers. Producers do not have to be enrolled in a cover crop cost share program to participate in aerial planting.”

Producers should contact Chodd at choddarmfelt@lickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330, for pricing and details.



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**Volunteer Recognition
& Annual Banquet**

Wednesday, November 9th

Milkweed for Monarchs

Pollinator species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, the monarch butterfly has drastically declined in Ohio and in the wintering grounds of Mexico. In an effort to increase habitat for migrating monarch butterflies, Licking Soil & Water has complimentary common milkweed seeds available for pick up in the office.

Additionally, common milkweed seeds were started by many organizations and individuals this spring and the seedlings are now in the process of being planted throughout the county. This pilot project has been a success and will be significantly expanded to include the entire state of Ohio.

Licking Soil & Water and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) announce the 1st Annual Statewide Common Milkweed Pod Collection scheduled from September 1st- October 30th. Ohio is host to seven species of milkweed and is a priority area for monarch habitat conservation. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is the species of focus for the first Annual Statewide Common Milkweed Pod Collection.

This effort has the potential to increase milkweed, the sole host plant for monarch butterflies. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring.

To make the Common Milkweed Pod Collection successful, local involvement is needed and that is where the Licking County community can play a major role. In partnership with OPHI, Licking Soil & Water is promoting the Common Milkweed Pod Collection, providing pollinator education and designating the Soil & Water office as a drop off site for common milkweed pods during the months of September and October. Please join Licking Soil & Water in this effort to replenish an essential plant in Ohio and thus benefit Monarch populations.



Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Annual Milkweed Pod Collection
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Spring
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Seeking Conservation Minded Leaders



As a political subdivision of the State, Licking Soil & Water is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, elected by Licking County residents and landowners. The Board is actively seeking interested, conservation-minded and qualified community members to be candidates for the 2016 Board of Supervisors election.

Candidates must be willing to give their time and talents to help promote natural resources conservation and oversee Soil & Water activities. One candidate will be elected for a three-year term (starting January 1, 2017) at the Soil & Water Annual Banquet on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

To be considered for candidacy by the Nominating Committee, submit an application by September 15, 2016. For more information or to request an application, contact Nominating Committee Chair, Fred Ernest at (740) 670-5330 or adminassist@lickingswcd.com.

Important Dates

- Jul 13: LCSWCD Board Meeting
 - Jul 14: Project WET Educator Workshop
 - Jul 15: LCSWCD @ the Works Green Thumbs
 - Jul 16: Master Gardener & Land Lab Open House
 - Aug 1-31: Local Food Month
 - Aug 2: Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop
 - Aug 3: Stormwater Consortium Meeting
 - Aug 17: LCSWCD Board Meeting
 - Aug 7-13: Nat. Resources Area Programs @ Hart. Fair
 - Aug 31: Stream Team
 - Sep 5: Labor Day - Office Closed
 - Sep 10: Licking County River Round Up
 - Sep 17: Farmland Preservation Celebration
 - Sep 21: LCSWCD Board Meeting
 - Nov 9: LCSWCD Annual Banquet
- More events at lickingSWCD.com/calendar.