

# CONSERVATION NOTES

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

## Internship

### Experience

Licking Soil & Water seeks up to 3 interns to assist with natural resource conservation programs. Interns assist with water quality monitoring, public education programs, data collection and reporting, demonstration garden maintenance, electronic media, and special projects.

The internship is unpaid, but after completing 160 volunteer hours, the intern will be eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Internship candidates must be at least 18 years old by the start of the internship and be pursuing a degree or have graduated within the past year in natural resources management, environmental or agricultural education, regional planning or other related field.

For more information including how to apply, visit [www.lickingSWCD.com](http://www.lickingSWCD.com).



## New Board Members Sworn In

Licking Soil & Water welcomes new Board of Supervisors members, Fred Ernest (above left) and Jeff Baker (above right). They were elected to office this past fall and sworn in by Judge Hoover during Soil & Water's January 19th Board of Supervisors meeting and open house.

Ernest would like to explore dependable and sustainable funding for the organization as well as increase public awareness of the services Licking Soil & Water provides to the community. Baker would like to increase public information and thus expand public support for the seventy-year old organization. Ernest will serve as Board Chair and Baker will serve as Secretary/Treasurer. They

join Charles Warthen, Fiscal Officer who has served on the Board for over ten years.

Board Vice Chair, Mike Bauer has resigned his position. Licking Soil & Water thanks Bauer for his time and talents and wishes him well. Conservation-minded individuals interested in filling Board vacancies must be willing to give their time and talents to help promote natural resources conservation and oversee Licking Soil & Water initiatives. To be considered for appointment or for more information, contact Denise Natoli Brooks, 740-670-5330, or [denisebrooks@lickingswcd.com](mailto:denisebrooks@lickingswcd.com).

**Tree Sale Details**  
**Page 4 and 5**

## Hollenback Named Beck's Young Farm Leader

**A**ndrew Hollenback can be seen harvesting crops in the evening, coaching little league football on Saturday mornings and working full-time for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) as the Regional Manager for the Division of Watercraft during the week. The Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and Beck's Hybrids named Andrew as the fourth quarter Beck's Young Farm Leader in December.

Andrew currently farms soybeans, corn, wheat and alfalfa in Licking and Knox Counties. With a degree in Natural Resources Management and his role with ODNR, Andrew understands first-hand the importance of being a good steward of the land. Andrew has utilized several government programs including the Environmental Quality

Incentives Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Stewardship Program. Andrew has also utilized several Licking and Knox Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) programs to improve their waterways, field tiling, and cattle lot for their registered Hereford Herd cow and calf operation. As a result, Andrew was awarded "2010 Conservationist of the Year" by the Licking County SWCD.

"Agriculture has an important history in this country and continues to play a vital role today" Andrew states. "I try to be an ambassador for Ohio agriculture," he added. "It's important to realize the effort and time that goes into producing and selling products like soybeans."

*Reprinted with permission from the Ohio Soybean Association.*



## Discover Licking County Cover Crops

**S**everal producers in Licking County took advantage of two programs in 2014 that assisted with planting cover crops. Eleven individuals planted 960 acres through the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District cost-share program. Five individuals planted 2,400 acres through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). According to data averages for this part of Ohio, the estimated benefits to the enrolled acres are: 14,640 tons of soil saved; 12,768 pounds of phosphorus and 25,536 pounds of nitrogen retained.

There are many different types of cover crop plant species available to address particular needs such as erosion control, recycling of nutrients, fixing of nitrogen, reducing compaction, managing soil moisture, and forage production. Long-term use of cover crops can increase yields and reduce fertilizer inputs. To learn more about cover crops, contact Licking Soil & Water or the Natural Resources Conservation Service at (740) 670-5330.







## Cooperator of the Year

The Cooperator of the Year award is given to an individual or family who demonstrates an outstanding example of protecting and conserving our natural resources. The award-winner is an individual or family who works to develop a conservation plan, implements conservation practices, and promotes conservation to others throughout the county.

In October 2014, Licking Soil & Water, NRCS, the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Farm Credit Mid-America presented Valley Run Dairy with this prestigious award. Valley Run Dairy recently installed a technologically-advanced dairy facility. They also invited the public to tour their Glenford facility when they hosted a Dairy Field Day in 2013.

Congratulations and thank you Valley Run Dairy for setting a great example of conservation practices and your outstanding commitment to protecting and conserving soil, water, and related natural resources in Licking County.



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## 2015 Seedling Tree Sale

Seedling sizes are listed in parenthesis next to species in inches.

All trees are available in quantities of 5, 25, or 100.

### Native Evergreen Trees

Eastern White Cedar (4"-7") ♡, ⊖, ♣  
White Pine (7"-10") ♡, ↑

### Non-native Evergreen Trees

Norway Spruce (10"-18") ♡, ↑, ☼, ♣

### Wildflower Seeds

1 ounce; plants 100 to 200 sq. ft.  
Mix of annuals and perennials

### Bulk Trees

100 Count or More

Interested in a species that you don't see listed? It may be available. Please call (740) 670-5330 for more information.

### Native Deciduous Trees

American Redbud (6"-12") ⌘, ♣  
American Sweetgum (6"-12") ↑, ♣  
Bald Cypress (10"-18") ♡, ☼, ♣  
Black Gum (6"-12") ♣  
Black Walnut (6"-12") ☺, ♡, ↑, ☼, ♣  
Hackberry (6"-12") ♡, ↑, ☼, ♣  
Kentucky Coffeetree (6"-12") ⊖, ♣  
Ohio Buckeye (6"-12") ⌘, ↑  
Red Oak (6"-12") ↑, ☼  
Sassafras (6"-12") ↑, ♣  
Shellbark Hickory (6"-12") ☺, ♣  
Smooth Sumac (6"-12") ⌘, ♡, ↑, ☼  
Sugar Maple (6"-12") ⊖  
Sycamore (6"-12") ↑, ♣  
Tuliptree (6"-12") ⌘, ↑  
White Flowering Dogwood (6"-12") ⌘, ⊖, ♣  
White Oak (6"-12") ♡, ⊖, ☼, ♣

### Legend

☺ - Edible Nuts  
⌘ - Flowering  
♡ - Attract Wildlife  
↑ - Fast Growing  
⊖ - Slow Growing  
☼ - Likes Dry Soil  
♣ - Likes Wet Soil



All orders are subject to availability. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no limit on the number of seedling trees ordered. Please include payment with your order. Notices will be sent by e-mail in April specifying order pick-up location. **Pick-up date is Friday, April 10, 2015.**

NOTE: All trees are state and federally inspected. Reasonable substitutions may be necessary based on availability of certain species. All trees are bare-root seedlings. Planting guides are included with purchase. For more plant information, visit: <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/trees>, <http://plants.usda.gov/java> or search the web for a specific plant.

### 2015 Seedling Tree Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail is needed for a friendly pick-up reminder.

#### Mail with Payment to:

LCSWCD

771 East Main St., Suite 100  
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Or Order Online at  
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100-ct. Evergreen _____	@ \$	42.00 ea.	_____
5-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	6.00 ea.	_____
5-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	6.00 ea.	_____
5-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	6.00 ea.	_____
5-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	6.00 ea.	_____
25-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	25.00 ea.	_____
25-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	25.00 ea.	_____
25-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	25.00 ea.	_____
100-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	82.00 ea.	_____
100-ct. Deciduous _____	@ \$	82.00 ea.	_____
Wildflower Seeds _____	# _____ @ \$	4.00 ea.	_____
Marking Flags _____	# _____ @ \$	.10 ea.	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Order deadline is **March 27, 2015** subject to availability.

**Pick-up date is Friday, April 10, 2015.**

## Trees for Youth

Licking Soil & Water Conservation District offers free seedling trees for students. In the past, elementary and middle school students from participating schools received a seedling tree to take home. This option is still available as a result of funds raised through our annual giving campaign. For this option, native white pine seedlings will be provided.

This year there is a second option to raise the school community's appreciation of trees and the natural world. Principals or teachers can choose to have a certain number of trees donated for planting on the school grounds. The new option allows schools to start a land lab or enhance an existing outdoor learning space. Furthermore, planting a few trees would fit in with Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations. For this option, a variety of native tree species will be provided.

These opportunities are available to all Licking County elementary and middle schools. Please order trees no later than March 20, 2015. The seedling trees will be available for pick-up on Monday, April 13, 2015. In addition to the seedling trees, schools will receive tree planting guides and tree education resources for the classroom. Most importantly the free seedling trees program is an opportunity to show students how important trees are to their health, their community, and their environment.

For more information or to reserve trees, contact Denise Natoli Brooks at (740) 670-5330 or [denisebrooks@lickingswcd.com](mailto:denisebrooks@lickingswcd.com).



**Pancake Breakfast  
Fundraiser**

**Saturday, March 7th  
8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

## Trees Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Native trees provide numerous benefits including improved air quality and reduced carbon dioxide, as well as landscape beauty. Another benefit that is often overlooked is trees' ability to reduce stormwater runoff and flooding. Above ground, trees slow down rain before it hits the ground, thus reducing soil erosion and sediment being washed away by stormwater. Rain water also soaks into the tree bark and leaves, reducing the total rainfall that reaches the ground. Below ground, tree roots help loosen the soil allowing stormwater to soak into the ground instead of flowing over the ground creating rills and gullies.

According to the USEPA, trees are mini-reservoirs because they control stormwater at the source, thus reducing the amount of runoff that enters the stormwater and combined sewer systems. Make sure to choose trees that fit the site. For example, a mature tree with a 30 foot wide canopy needs about 1000 cubic feet of soil to spread its roots. Try to picture what a tree will look like full grown before selecting a planting site. Trees come in all shapes and sizes. The bigger the tree, the greater the stormwater runoff reduction. Regardless of what species fits the site best, the tree will serve as a best management practice for reducing stormwater runoff.



### Staff Picks: Favorite Tree

Sycamore - Denise Natoli Brooks

All of them! - Pat Deering

White Oak - Bill Evans

Bald Cypress - Kristy Hawthorne

### Annual Giving Campaign Going on Now

Please consider supporting education and outreach initiatives. See enclosed envelop for more information and to donate.





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## Soil & Waters Receive Grant

In response to concerns about atrazine levels in Hoover Reservoir, the Upper Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Partnership was formed in 1996 as a community based approach to watershed management focusing on voluntary strategies. The goal of the partnership is to improve the water quality of the Upper Big Walnut Creek and tributaries through effective conservation practices while sustaining profitable agriculture within the watershed.

Licking Soil & Water is one of many agencies in the Partnership who recently applied for and received a \$700,000 grant through the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Funds will be used to address phosphorus use and management in the Scioto River watershed, with special emphasis on the Upper Big Walnut Creek watershed. The Upper Big Walnut Creek watershed includes northwest Licking County.

This project includes the installation of an enriched bioreactor in Delaware County upstream of the City of Columbus drinking water reservoirs. Monitoring and lab analysis of the bioreactor will be conducted throughout the five-year project. Another project component includes EQIP practices that promote best management practices for phosphorus use and management in the Upper Big Walnut Creek watershed (Delaware, Knox, Licking, and Morrow Counties).

The majority of the project focus will be on cropland and ag. producers in the Upper Big Walnut Creek watershed will be targeted with promotional materials to encourage their participation in EQIP practices. For this RCPP project the primary natural resource concern is water quality and the secondary natural resource concern is soil quality. The ultimate goal of the project is to prevent algal blooms from happening in downstream reservoirs through the reduction of phosphorus in the water.



## Leadership Changes

Justin Hunter, District Conservationist (DC) for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Licking County, is no longer serving our county. We wish Hunter well as he focuses more on farming and thank him for his commitment to helping producers install best management practices on agricultural lands.

The DC position is scheduled to be filled later this year. In the interim, Knox County NRCS DC Doug Gifford is Acting District Conservationist for our county. He splits his time between Knox and Licking County with two days per week on average being spent in the Newark office.

Since the NRCS team is not always in the Newark office, consider calling to schedule a time to meet with any of the NRCS professionals.

## Agronomy

### Workshop and Expo

This February 26th workshop features keynote speaker Tom Bruulsema, Ph.D., from the International Plant Nutrition Institute who will speak on Sustainable Crop Nutrition: Improving Global and Local Performance. Workshop sessions delve into nutrient management, soil testing, soybean pathology, and the latest in Ohio research. Visit vendor displays and learn about cover crops, equipment, fertilizer, herbicides, and more prior to the start of the workshop, at breaks, and during lunch.

New this year is the opportunity to earn your Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification. Certified Crop Advisors may earn CEUs. One hour of core credit toward your private pesticide applicator license may also be earned.

This free event at All Occasions Catering in Waldo, Ohio includes complimentary refreshments and lunch. Reservations are required by February 20. Call (740) 368-1921 for more information and to register.



**Upper Big Walnut Creek  
Water Quality Partnership**

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John Chacey\*\*  
Tod Froelking\*\*  
Jennifer Tomlinson\*\*

### Soil & Water Staff

Denise Natoli Brooks  
Pat Deering  
Bill Evans  
Kristy Hawthorne\*\*\*

\* Board Member  
\*\* Associate Board Member  
\*\*\* Part-time

### NRCS Staff

Patty Dyer  
Melissa Horton



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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District  
771 E. Main Street, Suite 100  
Newark, OH 43055  
740-670-5330  
www.lickingSWCD.com

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Winter  
2015



Licking County Soil & Water  
Conservation District Office  
740-670-5330 \* [www.lickingSWCD.com](http://www.lickingSWCD.com)

Consider electronic delivery to help conserve natural resources and reduce postage costs. Email information@lickingSWCD.com to sign up. For updates and more activities, visit [www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar](http://www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar).

LICKING  
COUNTY  
**RIVER  
ROUNDUP**



## Round Up Your Posters

The River Round Up is an annual event where volunteers remove trash and tires from the Licking River and its tributaries. River Round Up is co-hosted by Licking County townships, villages, cities and county agencies, including Licking Soil & Water. The 2015 River Round Up is Saturday, September 12. Visit [www.facebook.com/RiverRoundUp](http://www.facebook.com/RiverRoundUp) to learn more about the event.

The River Round Up Poster Contest is open to all school-aged youth in primary or secondary schools (public, private, and home school; K-12) in Licking County. Posters should reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the River Round Up. Prizes packages will be awarded and the grand prize includes having the winning poster used as the primary electronic marketing picture on the 2015 River Round Up signage. All accepted entries will be displayed at the River Round Up registration site on Saturday, September 12, 2015. For full contest details visit <http://lickingswcd.com/news/2014/12/30/river-round-up-poster-contest-deadline-set> or contact Denise Natoli Brooks at (740) 670-5330 or [denisebrooks@lickingswcd.com](mailto:denisebrooks@lickingswcd.com).

## Important Dates

NOW: Tree Sale

Feb 9: LCSWCD Board Meeting

Feb 14: Ohio Farm and Food Policy Meet-up

Feb 14-15: OEFFA Conference

Feb. 16: Presidents' Day-Office Closed

Feb 19: Pesticide Recertification Class

Feb 26: Agronomy Wksp. & Expo

Mar 2: CAUV Deadline

Mar 7: Natural Resources Area Breakfast

Mar 14: Farmers' Share Breakfast

Mar 9: LCSWCD Board Meeting

Mar 16: Fertilizer App Certification

Mar 24: Fertilizer App Certification

Mar 27: Seedling Tree Sale Order Deadline

More events at [www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar](http://www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar).