

# CONSERVATION NOTES

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

## Board of Supervisor Elections and Annual Banquet

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Volunteer Recognition Reception 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Supervisor Election 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall, 1058 E. Main St., Newark, OH 43055

*Purchase  
tickets  
online!*

Tickets:  
\$15 each

**Reservation deadline:  
Monday, November 2, 2015**

Purchase tickets online at [www.lickingswcd.com](http://www.lickingswcd.com)  
or mail form with check or money order to:  
Licking SWCD,  
771 E. Main St., Suite 100, Newark Ohio 43055



## Celebrating Volunteers

Thank you for helping make 2015 a great year for Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District. Join us for a complimentary Volunteer and Sponsor Recognition on Thursday, November 5th at 5:30 pm. Register via [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) or call 740-670-5330. During this social hour, light snacks and drinks will be served. Voting for the Licking Soil & Water Board of Supervisors will also be open. Stay for the Annual Banquet (see info to left) starting at 6:30 pm to find out who will be recognized as Volunteer of the Year.

Pictured on this page (from top to bottom) are the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists at a 'fossil dig' at the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area (HFNRA), Licking County River Round Up volunteers, students receiving seedling trees that were packaged by volunteers, and the loudest quacker and duck race MC at the HFNRA.



### 2015 Soil & Water Annual Banquet Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Additional Attendee(s) for Name Tags:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tickets: \_\_\_\_ x \$15 each                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Licking SWCD Education Programs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## The 21st Annual Licking County River Round Up

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**C**ast your vote for two Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Learn about candidate below. See details on casting votes to the right.



## Meet the Supervisor Candidates

**M**ike Birkmeyer would like to see an increase in public awareness of the LCSWCD by continuing strong education and outreach programs, building partnerships within the community, and secure sustainable funding for the organization. Mike resides in Granville Township and is an Independent Insurance Agent at Madison-Collins-Stephen's Agency. He has a B.S. in Business Administration and holds leadership roles in the Licking County Chamber of Commerce and Granville Kiwanis, as well as being a member of Newark Heath Rotary and the Downtown Newark Association.



## Your Vote Counts

**T**he Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) has a five member Board of Supervisors elected by landowners and residents of Licking County to help guide the District's mission. The elected members are responsible for conducting business within the scope of the laws and rules that govern LCSWCD with professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness. The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of two (2) Supervisors of the LCSWCD to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code on November 5, 2015. The three year terms will begin January 1, 2016. The two candidates with the most votes will be announced at the end of LCSWCD Annual Banquet on November 5, 2015.



**M**egan Evans sees the challenges for LCSWCD as identifying funding streams for the organization, protecting water resources and increasing awareness of the services offered to the community. Megan is the Grants Administrator for the Licking County Foundation. She holds a B.A. in Biology from Ohio Wesleyan University and resides in Newark.

**H**arold Martin sees opportunities to improve Licking County's conservation efforts by sharing information in a timely manner, control invasive species and increase the use of cover crops. Harold resides in Harrison Township and currently operates the family farm. He retired from H.W. Martin & Son Co. and is a member of several agricultural related associations. Martin graduated from OSU with a B.S. in Agronomy. He was appointed to the Board in April 2015 and currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer.



### Voters may cast their ballot one of the following three ways:

1. Vote on Thursday, November 5, 2015 from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., at Heritage Hall, 1058 E. Main St, Newark, Ohio.

2. Cast an absentee ballot at the LCSWCD office on or before 3:00 p.m., Thursday, November 5, 2015.

3. Cast an absentee ballot by mail by completing Licking County Resident Request for Absentee Ballot form (on other side); mail to LCSWCD office by October 30, 2015.

\*If you DO NOT reside in Licking County, contact office at 740-670-5330 for the proper absentee ballot request form. \*



**C**harles Warthen would like to continue to support farmland preservation and promote healthy water and soils in Licking County. He is a resident of Newark Township, a retired Life Science teacher from Utica Junior High where he coordinated the Outdoor Education program. He owns and operates a family farm near St. Louisville. Warthen has served on the Board since 2004 and is currently its Fiscal Officer. He holds a B.A. from Marietta College and a Master of Education degree from Ohio University.

# SUPERVISOR ELECTION

SEL- 2

## OHIO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### RESIDENT REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT LICKING COUNTY

**\*\*If you own property but DO NOT reside in Licking County, please contact office at 740-670-5330 for the proper form. \*\***

Residents wishing to vote absentee by mail must request this absentee ballot application no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and the District office must receive the request no later than 5 days prior to the election. The election for **Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District** will be held on **November 5, 2015**.

Residents wishing to vote absentee at the office must complete the resident request for absentee ballot form no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and no later than **3:00 p.m. on November 5, 2015 in person at office**. **If requesting ballot by mail, request form must be received in the office by October 30, 2015.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby apply for absentee voter ballot and registration envelope from the **Licking County** Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

I am an eligible voter of the **Licking County** SWCD because I am at least 18 years old and reside within the District.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please mail absentee ballot to the following address (if applicable):**

Resident Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

If requesting this ballot by mail, please submit this request form to:

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District  
771 E. Main St., Suite 100  
Newark, OH 43055

**Please Note: Submitted request forms for absentee ballots must contain original signature to be valid. Faxes will not be accepted. Absentee ballot request forms sent to the District by mail must be received at the office by October 30, 2015.**

Questions?

Contact Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District by phone at (740) 670-5330.

Revised July 2009





## Brooks Appointed Administrator

Licking Soil & Water is pleased to announce that Denise Natoli Brooks has been appointed District Program Administrator. Denise has served as Acting Administrator since July 2014. She joined Licking Soil & Water in February 2012 as the Environmental Education Specialist and continues to serve in that roll.

Denise has a B.S. in Recreation Resource Management from Utah State University, and a Master's in Zoology with a focus in Inquiry-based Learning from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

She is an Adjunct Instructor at Zane State College and Hocking College. Before coming to Licking Soil & Water, Denise worked for the Wilds, YMCA Storer Camps in Michigan, the Delaware Nature Society and the National Park Service in Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, Utah, Colorado, California, and Hawaii.

Denise said she looks forward to building meaningful partnerships with individuals and organizations that share common goals, especially related to responsibly using our natural resources in and beyond Licking County.

## Evans Moves to Engineer's Office

After almost 17 years with Licking Soil & Water, Bill Evans accepted a position with the Licking County Engineer's Office. During his tenure, Bill provided many hours of hands-on, technical conservation assistance to farmers and other landowners. He created engineering plans and oversaw construction of many *best management practices* including grassed waterway buffers, stream crossings, livestock heavy use pads and manure management facilities. Bill also completed many site visits to evaluate resource concerns and recommend solutions. Customers, staff and board members admire Bill's commitment to excellence in soil and water conservation.



## Koehler Hired as NRCS District Conservationist



Joe Koehler was recently hired by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as the District Conservationist for Licking and Perry Counties. He has a bachelor's degree in Crop Science and has worked for NRCS for 12 years in Highland, Fairfield and Hocking Counties. Joe grew up on a beef and grain farm near Rushville in Fairfield County. He and his wife, Azure, have two young girls, Evelyn and Stella. He looks forward to working with Licking County farm owners.

## Houston Hired as NRCS Soil Conservationist

David Houston was recently hired as the Licking County NRCS Soil Conservationist. David earned an Environmental Science B.S. in May 2015, with a focus on environmental health, from Alabama A&M University. He also played defensive back for the football team, and was a decathlete on the track team. David is interested in soil conservation and its positive results for farmers' crops, which leads to positive results for the nation's food supply. He enjoys exercising, music and hiking.



## Targeted Pollutant: SEDIMENT

When discussing water pollution there are several pollutants that are most often brought up: trash and litter; chemicals, oil. These substances undoubtedly have negative impacts on our waterways. Interestingly, none of them are actually top contaminants of water. Listed by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the top pollutants in our streams and rivers are bacteria, nutrients, and the number one cause of polluted waters... sediment.

Often called soil, dirt, or earth, sediment is the naturally occurring material created by erosional forces. Though it is the result of a natural process, it becomes a nasty pollutant when it enters our waterways. As sediment makes water cloudy (turbid), it increases water temperature, because the suspended particles absorb more heat from sunlight. The increased temperature then lowers the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, because oxygen dissolves in



colder water. These interactions reduce habitat quality for many aquatic species, especially those that require colder water or higher dissolved oxygen concentrations.

Licking Soil & Water is committed to protecting our water resources from sediment. For example, Licking Soil & Water reviews and inspects proper sediment and erosion controls on new construction sites. In cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil & Water works to implement various conservation techniques on agricultural

operations that reduce erosion and runoff. Through the Stream Team program, trained volunteers monitor water quality in rivers and streams throughout the county.

Here are some ways that you can help in promoting good sediment controls at home:

- Let lawns and yards grow longer and don't mow the grass as short. More vegetation means slower water flow over your yard after it rains, which results in less potential for erosion.
- Leave vegetated buffer zones along streams on your property. Removing trees and brush next to streams will kill the roots that hold that stream-side soil in place. Keeping vegetated buffers will also allow you to keep your soil.
- Utilize rain barrels and rain gardens to control stormwater. Increased stormwater, caused by impervious surfaces like roofs and driveways, causes more potential for sediment to be picked up and deposited in streams. Reducing the amount of stormwater will reduce sedimentation.

To learn more about sediment pollution and the programs mentioned in this article, contact Zach Bollheimer at [zachbollheimer@lickingSWCD.com](mailto:zachbollheimer@lickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5330.

## Ag. Easement Sign Up Coming Soon

Farmland preservation has been a tremendously successful program in Licking County. Since 2009, Licking Soil & Water has helped bring nearly 3 million dollars of farmland preservation funding into the county.

Licking Soil & Water plans to be a Certified Local Sponsor for the 2016 funding round of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). Licking Soil & Water will hold two Landowner Information Meetings, at the Ag Services Center, 6-8p on October 28, 2015 and January 12, 2016. Farmland owners interested in applying or learning more can visit ODA's web site: [www.agri.ohio.gov/farmland](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/farmland), or contact Pat at [pmdeering@lickingSWCD.com](mailto:pmdeering@lickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5330.





## Thank You Sponsors

*Granville Kiwanis - Platinum Plus Sponsor*

*The Energy Coop - Platinum Sponsor*

Funds raised during the Licking Soil & Water Annual Giving Campaign help support many mission-based programs for youth and adults. For more information or to make a campaign donation, call 740-670-5330 or visit [www.lickingSWCD.com](http://www.lickingSWCD.com).

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### Soil & Water Staff

Zach Bollheimer  
Denise Natoli Brooks  
Pat Deering  
Kristy Hawthorne

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

### NRCS Staff

Patty Dyer  
Melissa Horton  
David Houston  
Joe Koehler



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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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Fall 2015



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

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LICKING  
COUNTY  
**RIVER  
ROUNDUP**



## Accepting Poster Entries through January 8th

The River Round Up is an annual, county-wide, waterway cleanup event in the Licking River Watershed. The 2016 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 will be awarded to students and their respective schools. The winning school will receive a \$500 scholarship for use to advance science and art programs. Two honorable mention schools will receive a \$250 scholarship each. The grand prize includes having the winning poster used as the primary electronic marketing picture for the 2016 River Round Up. All entries will be displayed on the River Round Up Facebook page. Winning posters will be displayed at a River Round Up registration site on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Complete contest details and entry form are available through Facebook, [www.lickingSWCD.com](http://www.lickingSWCD.com) and in the Soil & Water office.

## Important Dates

Now-Nov 5: Supervisor Election Absentee Voting  
Oct 27: LCSWCD @ Ag. Coffee  
Oct 28: Farmland Preservation Info Mtg  
Nov 5: 3:00 pm: LCSWCD Office Closes  
Nov 5: LCSWCD Volunteer & Sponsor Recognition  
Nov 5: Supervisor Election  
Nov 5: LCSWCD Annual Banquet  
Nov 11: Veterans' Day-Office closed  
Nov 17: MS4 Partner Meeting  
Nov 18: Local Work Group Meeting  
Nov 18: LCSWCD Board Meeting  
Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day-Office Closed  
Nov 30: Stream Team Data Due  
Dec 9: LCSWCD Board Meeting

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