

CONSERVATION NOTES

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



IMPACTful River Round Up IMPACT

"For as many as 10,000 years, explorers have been following the current of the Licking River from the shallow flats of Newark to the massive rock gorges of the Licking Valley and beyond," said Explore Licking County's Suzanne Bressoud. She continued, "It's a beautiful, ancient piece of who we are, and visitors and residents alike find the calm peace of its waters one of the best things about a long weekend or day trip to Licking County."

Suzanne then presented the 2016 *Collaboration of the Year* IMPACT Award to the Licking County River Round Up.

This award celebrates the extensive community partnerships and hundreds of volunteers who make the annual waterway clean ups successful.

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Celebrating Cooperator of the Year

Diamond Hill Farm was started by Larry and Bonnie Coe in 1970. Their son Lawton Coe has been the general manager of the farm since 2004. They have been at the current location near St. Louisville since 2009.

Lawton, his wife Kelsey, and their two young children live on the farm. Lawton believes that every moment not working should be spent with their kids. Their small family farm specializes in raising high quality Hereford cattle. They also raise corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, hay, and straw. More recently, the Coe family started producing and selling pumpkins, gourds, and other fall products.

Over the years the Coes have maintained and installed many best management practices to conserve natural resources

on their land. Agricultural Conservation Specialist with Licking Soil & Water, Chodd Armfelt summed it up when he said, "Larry and Lawton Coe portray the highest standards of conservation on their farm, continuously considering the impact on land, air, and water when making decisions for their operation." Some of these practices include: investing in a waterer and heavy use pad where cattle congregate so they don't damage the soil, building fence to segregate pastures as part of a prescribed grazing plan, and maintaining contour strips to work in harmony with the natural rise and fall of the land. Many of these projects were in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Licking County Soil & Water Conservation
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Savvy Salting

We all understand the importance and necessity of road salt to our public safety during the winter time. Applying road salt lowers the freezing point of water on roadways, melting ice and providing better traction and control while driving.

But have you considered the environmental impact of applying road salt?

Though the Ohio EPA has requirements for the storage of salt, there are no regulations on the amount of salt applied to roadways. Professional salt applicators recognize that rock salt is expensive and therefore use it judiciously. During wet winters, salt application increases. According to the Salt Institute, the U.S. applies roughly 17-20 million tons of salt each winter. All of this salt is eventually dissolved in stormwater. The stormwater runoff then washes the dissolved salt into our streams and waterways, temporarily changing fresh water into salt water. Eventually the salt is flushed out or diluted, but not before causing die-off of vegetation and fish kills.



Honoring Volunteerism

Pataskala resident Scott Snyder first got involved with natural resource conservation efforts during the Pataskala-area River Round Up in 2014. His positive attitude and willingness to push, pull, and pick up junk of all kinds helped make the event a success. And he has helped make sure River Round Up continues to take place in Pataskala. He is not bashful, rallying City of Pataskala Mayor Mike Compton to stay committed to the once-a-year county-wide waterway clean up. This past September, Scott donated the use of his truck and box trailer to haul

trash and even recruited the help of a towing company to get a washing machine out of the river.

After connecting to his area waterways, South Fork Licking River and Muddy Fork, Scott participated in Stream Team training so he could adopt a local waterway and test its water quality. He has since recruited more Stream Team members and helped train new volunteers too.

Scott also has been a tremendous help with the annual tree sale. He managed many boxes of seedling trees, getting them to the right group of FFA students, Master Gardeners, and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists eagerly waiting to package the trees for sale. In one morning, Scott moved over 30,000 trees.

Licking Soil & Water depends on many community members donating countless hours of volunteer time to promote conservation of natural resources. Scott is definitely a volunteer we can count on and can't thank enough for his service to Licking Soil & Water and the community. Congratulation to our Volunteer of the Year, Scott Snyder.

When applying salt this winter

- **Follow the 4R Principles of Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place**
- **Don't apply more salt than necessary. At 30 degrees Fahrenheit, 1 lb. of salt will melt 46 lbs. of ice.**
- **Apply salt only when temperatures will reach below freezing. If rain does not freeze, it will just wash away the salt and render it useless.**
- **Apply salt to heavily trafficked areas, inclines, and stairs, before less-used and flatter locations.**
- **In vegetated areas near heavy salt application, plant salt-tolerant plants.**

Excellence in Environmental Education

Jim Reding teaches AP environmental science, ecology and a summer class on sustainable agriculture. His classes are relevant and thought-provoking. Students are encouraged to wonder why and seek answers to their questions. Jim is a natural facilitator of inquiry-based learning and energizes his students to ask questions that he does not



were responses to problems identified by students. Jim mentored students as they came up with solutions to real-life problems. The garden extends far beyond its fences – produce is sold to community members and students eat the fresh food when dining in the school cafeteria. Since 2013 to present, his students are working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Licking Soil & Water, and other community

know the answer to. Many of his students have gone on to pursue degrees, internships and careers in the environmental sciences. This fact alone is testament to his distinguished service in environmental education.

Along with his students, he developed the school's organic garden including raised beds, fruit trees, a hoop house, greenhouse, aquaponics, a rain garden and

partners to develop a 50-acre land lab complete with prairies and wetlands. According to Superintendent Jeff Brown, the land lab "essentially adds another classroom that can provide learning and research opportunities for all students." Granville students and Denison University are already conducting research on what wildlife recolonizes the new land lab habitat.

Some of Jim Reding's notable accomplishments include:

- 2016 K-12 Educator of the Year, NAAEE
- 2015 Formal Educator of the Year, EECO
- Advised a group of 33 high school students at the Global Student Leaders Summit on Sustainability in Costa Rica
- Coached many Envirothon teams that qualified for state competition and took home top prizes. One extraordinary team qualified for the North American competition.
- Recognized in 2015 by US Fish & Wildlife Service's Ohio Private Lands Office as a Premier Educational Partner for all the work he does for kids, and for conservation at Granville Intermediate School Land Lab for this generation and beyond.
- And he still finds time to serve as: National Honor Society Committee member, High School Science Team Leader, Assistant Coach for Boys Track Team, loving husband and father, and respected community member.

Why Support Your Conservation District?

Licking Soil & Water Conservation District provides numerous educational programs that help advance natural resource conservation in our community.

All funds raised through this sponsorship program are put directly into sustaining mission-based education initiatives. Please consider a contribution today. Together, we can make a tremendous difference for natural resource conservation.

Find sponsorship benefit information at lickingswcd.com.



Licking Soil & Water continues to maintain its 72-year commitment to promote conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education, and technical assistance.

Yes! I'll help Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District with a gift of:

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NRCS Accepting Conservation Stewardship Program Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications, through February 3, 2017, for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest conservation program.

People interested in the additional opportunities the updated CSP will offer can find information on the new CSP portal, located at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp>.

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land.

CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

Information about CSP is available on the Ohio NRCS website. In Licking County, contact Joe, NRCS, joe.koehler@oh.usda.gov, 740-670-5329.



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(IMPACT, continued from page 1)

Denise Natoli Brooks, Program Administrator at Licking Soil & Water, emphasized River Round Up is more than a one-day waterway clean up. "It's a year-round initiative to keep our beautiful rivers and streams clean."

Currently, students are invited to create River Round Up posters and compete for prizes. The winning school will receive a \$500 scholarship for advancing science and art programs. The grand prize includes using the winning poster as the primary electronic marketing picture for the 2017 River Round Up. All entries will be displayed on the River Round Up Facebook page. See article to left for more contest information.

Individuals and community groups interested in joining the 2017 River Round Up committee should contact Denise, denisebrooks@lickingSWCD.com, (740) 670-5330.



One Poster, Two Contests

The Licking County River Round Up Poster Contest is partnering with the Fairchild Challenge.



The Fairchild Challenge is a multidisciplinary, free, standards-based and STEAM focused environmental education outreach program. By appealing to middle and high school students' innate sense of competition, creativity and curiosity, the Challenge invites students to investigate environmental issues, to devise imaginative and effective responses to issues and to take action to address them. The Dawes Arboretum is the local partner for The Fairchild Challenge.

Poster entries for the Fairchild Challenge are due Thursday, January 5th and should reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the River Round Up. For more information about the Fairchild Challenge, contact Nancy, nrgregory@dawesarb.org, (740) 323-2355.

After the Fairchild Challenge panel judges River Round Up posters, they will go to the River Round Up Committee for additional judging. This portion of the contest is open to all school-aged youth in primary or secondary schools (public, private, and home school; K-12) in Licking County. The deadline for this portion of the competition is Friday, January 13th. More details and entry form are available at www.lickingSWCD.com.

A Message from Outgoing Board Chair Fred Ernest

Thank you for your support of Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Giving Campaign for education and outreach efforts. In our 72-year history, we have helped thousands of Licking County residents make wise use of our land and water. Exciting plans for 2017 include unveiling a new logo and website. A strategic plan will also be developed to ensure another 72 years of meaningful service.

In 2017, the Licking Soil & Water Annual Giving Campaign will help support many mission-based programs planned including:

- Adult education through the

- Conservation Learning Series
 - Stream Team training for volunteer water monitors
 - Tree Resource Kit for educators and free Seedling Trees for youth and schools
 - Workshops and outreach for Farmland Preservation
 - Envirothon competitions for 6th-12th graders
 - Storm water education
 - Internships for college students pursuing natural resource and agriculture degrees
 - Educator workshops
 - FFA Soil Judging competition
 - Volunteer Recognition and Annual Banquet
- As a new year begins, we ask

for your continued support with a tax-deductible donation to help us continue cultivating a natural resource conservation focused community.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss these programs in more detail, please feel free to call Denise Natoli Brooks, Program Administrator, (740) 670-5330. I look forward to your continued partnership and support for efforts to promote conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education and technical assistance.

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(Cooperator, continued from page 1)

District. In fact, Chodd reflected that he recently worked with the Coes to ensure a timber harvest would have minimal impact on the land.

According to Joe Koehler, District Conservationist for our local NRCS office, "Larry and Lawton Coe have implemented many conservation practices on their land, and have shown that they are good stewards of the land." Jim Kiracofe, retired District Program Administrator at Licking Soil & Water shared that when Larry was a Knox Soil & Water Board member in the 1970s, he was so successful promoting no-till to reduce soil erosion that Knox County was widely known as the No-Till Capital of Ohio.

Most recently, the Coes participated in a cover crop cost share program in partnership with Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Chodd Armfelt reported that by planting cover crops after corn and soybeans and by keeping the soil covered with plant material, Larry can save over 40 tons of soil from washing off the farm and into the nearby stream. Lisa McCutcheon, OSU Extension Director used the word *advocate* to describe Larry and went on to say, "Larry is always real supportive and involved on the Extension Advisory Committee." In fact, Larry is somewhat infamous for his interest in conservation-related practices, programs and educational efforts to better the land. He is so well known in the Ag Service Center that he announces his arrival by proclaiming "Here's Trouble."

The Coes have also always allowed their farm to be a welcoming place for people to learn about farming. They partnered with Licking Soil & Water to host a Forage Field Day and have hosted tours for interested groups young and old. More recently, Lawton spearheaded the effort to add agri-tourism to Diamond Hill Farm's list of activities. Visitors to the farm may not see all the conservation practices, but in September and October, they are sure to see lots of pumpkins, gourds and mums, as well as enjoy a hayride, explore a kiddie corn maze and ride a barrel train. They also hosted PK-college age group activities during the week, in addition to the weekend fun. Lawton reflected his surprise when parents and teachers who have no connection to farming learned more and asked more questions than the children visiting the farm. Lawton's realization really emphasized the importance of

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(Cooperator, continued from page 6)

having accurate information and wording answers in a way that is understandable to the non-farming public. When asked about the Coe's influence in the community, Chodd Armfelt said, "their influence reaches much farther than their land; with the new pumpkin patch they are able to create a connection between individuals and nature. This connection will create a desire for these individuals to take better care of natural resources."

Even though the barrel train ride and hay ride, farm animals, slides, corn bus, straw mountain, and kiddy corn maze are closed for the season, Diamond Hill Farm will keep their website and Facebook page active so folks can follow what is happening on the farm twelve months of the year. Make sure to check them out! The Coes are astonished at the outreach and education value that social media has on their pumpkin venture. A single Facebook post this fall reached over 10,000 people!

In addition to continuing to install and maintain conservation practices on Diamond Hill Farm, Lawton and Larry hope that providing kid-friendly, on-farm activities will connect non-rural families to agriculture for years to come.

Let's face it, they believe in conservation and just can't help be excellent conservation educators too. Licking Soil & Water is so pleased to honor our 2016 Cooperators of the Year, Lawton and Larry Coe.

State Commits Funding for Farmland Preservation Funding

Licking Soil & Water will receive over \$400,000 for farmland preservation as a 2017 Certified Local Sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. Farmland owners interested in applying or learning more can visit ODA's website: www.agri.ohio.gov/farmland, or contact Pat, 740-670-5330, pmdeering@lickingSWCD.com.

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Issue 4
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Consider electronic delivery to help conserve natural resources and reduce postage costs. Email adminassist@lickingSWCD.com to sign up. For updates and more activities, visit www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar.

Tree Sale Sneak Peak

It's never too early to start planning for spring planting. The annual seedling tree sale includes twenty native tree species (see list to right), plus wildflower seeds, boundary marking paint, tree tubes, marking flags, dibble bars, and rainbarrels.

All species are available in quantities of 5, 25 or 100. New in 2017, 5-count packets will have larger (12"-18") seedlings. For major tree planting projects and for trees not listed to right, contact Denise, denisebrooks@lickingSWCD.com, (740) 670-5330. There are limited quantities of trees, so ordering early is important. Look for more details and order form online and in the next newsletter.

- *American Beech*
- *American Plum*
- *Bald Cypress*
- *Black Walnut*
- *Black Willow*
- *E. White Cedar/Amer. Arborvitae*
- *Hackberry*
- *Northern Pecan*
- *Ohio Buckeye*
- *Persimmon*
- *Red Oak*
- *Redbud*
- *River Birch*
- *Shellbark Hickory*
- *Sugar Maple*
- *Swamp White Oak*
- *Tuliptree*
- *White Flowering Dogwood*
- *White Oak*
- *White Pine*

Important Dates

NOW through Jan 13:

River Round Up Poster Contest

NOW through Jan 27:

Accepting Farmland

Preservation Applications

Jan 11: LCSWCD Board Meeting

Feb 1 - Mar 29: Seedling Tree Sale

Feb 1: Storm Water Consortium Meeting

Feb 3: CSP Application Deadline

Feb 8: LCSWCD Board Meeting

Feb 18-19: @STEMfest

Apr 28: Locally Grown & Gathered Dinner

Aug 6-12: @ Hartford Fair Natural

Resources Area

Sep 9: Licking County River Round Up

More events at lickingSWCD.com/calendar.