

## GET OUT AND VOTE! 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District has a five-member Board of Supervisors elected by landowners and residents of Licking County. As unpaid Public Officials, the Board members are responsible for conducting business within the scope of the laws and administrative rules that govern LCSWCD. Board members also help guide Soil & Water's mission with professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2024.

### MEET THE CANDIDATES:

Each candidate provided their thoughts on why the Soil & Water mission was meaningful and explained what they saw as the three biggest natural resource challenges facing Licking County.

#### Bill Goodman (Incumbent):

Bill serves as a member of the State of Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Board, member of the Licking County Professional Agrarian Club, member of Licking County Farm Bureau, member of Bennington Township Board of Zoning Appeals.

1. Making sure that growth from development does not have negative effects on water and soil within the county. Whether you agree or not with companies like Intel, we all have to abide by the law.
2. Logjams within the creeks and rivers of the county create many problems within the watershed. Finding ways to fund the removal of these logjams is a challenge for all involved.
3. Continue with cost share programs to conserve soil. Cover crop assistance and assistance with fencing are two good examples of such cost share programs.

#### Kevin Black:

Licking County Planning Commission Board Member, small farm owner with previously owned cattle, chickens and hay.

1. Intel and urban sprawl is going to be the biggest challenge facing Licking county for many years to come. As a landowner, a lifetime agriculture nut, and a long time Licking County resident, I will ensure we preserve our wetlands and protect our water and land.
2. With the large amount of growth facing Licking County, protecting our water sources, especially from storm water pollutants.
3. Education. I have a great relationship with all of the local and state elected officials and we need to make sure we keep them educated and informed to get the assistance we need to preserve our natural resources.

#### Kimberly Byce (Incumbent):

Permaculture Design Certificate holder, member of Denison Sustainability Committee, member of OEFFA, member of AASHE, member of Climate Reality Leadership Corps., Granville Parent

Co-op Preschool, League of Women Voters, and Columbus Arts Festival.

1. Protecting soil, water and other natural resources in the face of unprecedented development in Licking County.
2. Guiding the development of large-scale solar projects
3. Continuing to draw connections among like-minded people and organizations to create a countywide culture of conservation. 🌍

### WHERE TO VOTE

Individuals who own or occupy land within the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District and are 18 years or older may vote for Supervisor.

Cast a ballot:

1. At the Soil & Water office from October 2 – 31, 2023 during normal business hours; or
2. After hours voting at: The Licking County Soil & Water office, 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055  
October 4, 2023 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm  
October 20, 2023 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm  
The Hebron Municipal Complex, 934 West Main St, Hebron, OH 43055  
October 25, 2023 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
3. Annual Banquet Voting:  
The Grove by the River  
Oct 10, 2023 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
4. Requesting absentee ballot:  
From October 2 – 25, 2023  
Mail: 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055,  
Call: 740-670-5330, or  
Email: [info@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:info@LickingSWCD.com).  
Absentee ballots must be received in the Soil & Water office by October 31, 2023.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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- How to take Care of Leafs
- Milkweed Pod Collection
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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

Brent Dennis  
Nick Garavuso  
Kristy Hawthorne  
Briana Hodgson  
Abbie Hogue  
Joe Jarvis  
Harley Kirkingburg  
Linda Nichodemus  
Kyle Seitz  
Britney Stuller  
Deidre Wetmore

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Byce  
Seth Dobbelaer  
Bill Goodman  
Ron Thompson  
Rodney Tornes

#### ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Baker  
Jeff Bates  
Mamie Hollenback

#### USDA NRCS STAFF

Joe Koehler  
Carlton Howard  
740-670-5340  
www.nrcs.usda.gov

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

The Soil & Water Board meets on the second Tuesday 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.

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF

**Abbie Hogue** is the Outreach Coordinator and Stormwater Educator for Soil & Water. Abbie is from Licking County and attended Heath City schools. She grew up playing in the woods and creek near her home and always had a love for the outdoors.

She recently graduated from the University of Toledo with a BS in Environmental Science and minors in Environmental Biology and Economics. Abbie has worked in a variety of areas, like the H2Ohio Wetland project, and on campus in a program coordinator position. She has experience in surveying wetland sites, collecting vegetation data, and identifying plant species, as well as programming and event planning.

Abbie will be handling our social media, newsletter, and community outreach. She'll assist in stormwater and educational programming, coordinating the community outreach initiatives.

**Nick Garavuso** is Soil & Water's Urban District Technician. Raised here in Licking County, Nick was raised around nature and agriculture his whole life and is familiar with the area.

Nick graduated from Hocking College in 2018 with an associate degree in wildlife management and is currently working on a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from Unity College. Nick has worked in a variety of positions, including The City of Pataskala Parks department. He spent time in Haliburton Nature Preserve in Canada while at Hocking College for a research project, Lopez Island Washington in Spencer Spit State Park, and worked as a research technician in West Virginia taking turtle and small mammal data.

Nick will assist with urbanized communities' stormwater requirements, inspecting erosion and sediment control measures on construction

sites, helping landowners with questions and concerns on their land, and working with various committees and partnering organizations.

**Harley Kirkingburg** is one of Soil & Water's Urban District Technicians. Harley was born and raised in Licking County. She grew up spending all of her childhood outdoors hunting, fishing, and camping.

Harley is a Zane State graduate with an Associate's degree in Wildlife Conservation. Past experiences with schooling and organizations have provided her with a strong background in conservation and habitat restoration.

Harley will be assisting with urbanized communities' stormwater requirements, inspecting erosion and sediment control measures on construction sites, helping landowners with questions and concerns on their land and working with various committees and partnering organizations.

**Deirdre Wetmore** is Soil and Water's Conservation Educator. She is originally from Licking county and grew up in a family that loves the outdoors.

After completing a BS degree in Early Childhood Education at Ohio University, Deirdre taught elementary students for three years. After deciding to go back to school, Deirdre earned a BS in Environmental Science from The Ohio State University. Most recently she was a Natural Resource Education Specialist for the City of Columbus' Recreation and Parks Department.

Deirdre will be leading conservation education to the school districts within Licking County by going into classrooms and teaching workshops for teachers. She will also be helping to educate the public on conservation topics during various events within the county throughout the year.



### Channel Catfish

4-5" fingerling- a sport and food fish; spawns are forage for bass; can grow up to 14"; easier to catch after a hard rain



### Fathead Minnow

1-2" fingerling- a forage fish; can grow to 3"; readily consumed by predatory species



### Hybrid Bluegill

2-4" fingerling- a forage and sport fish; know for their rapid growth to 10"; the primary prey of largemouth bass



### Largemouth Bass

2-3" fingerling- primarily a sport fish; can grow over 25" and 14 lbs.; ravenous predatory feeder; will eat anything that fits in mouth



### Japanese Koi

6-8"- Maximum length is 3 ft; do best in ponds with more than one koi; get along well with other, non-aggressive fish; great for controlling duckweed and other aquatic weeds



### Red Ear Shellcracker

2-4"- closely related to the bluegill; popular pan fish; can grow up to 11"; eats snails, crayfish and small fish



### White Amur (Grass Carp)

8-14"- good for aquatic weed control



### Yellow Perch

2-3" fingerling- requires brush or weeds to lay eggs during the first part of April



### Bluegill

2-3" fingerling- a forage and sport fish; can grow to 10"; the primary prey of largemouth bass

### Recommended Stocking Rates Number Per Pond Surface Acre

Fathead Minnow	1000
Bluegill	200
Hybrid Bluegill	100
Redear Shellcracker	100
Largemouth Bass	100
Channel Catfish	50-100
Yellow Perch	100
White Amur 20-40% Pond Cover: 5 Fish 40-60% Pond Cover: 10 Fish	

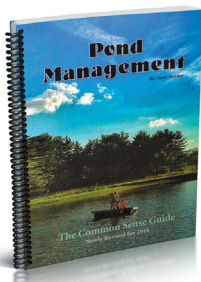
For more information on any of the items sold in this year's sale, you may visit our supplier's website:  
**Fender's Fish Hatchery**  
[www.fendersfishhatchery.com](http://www.fendersfishhatchery.com)

### Pond Conditioner

Nature's Pond Conditioner by Koenders is a two in one bottle product.

### Pond Management Book— The Common

Sense Guide Written by Steve Fender



## ***Fish Sale Pick Up Information***

Order forms are due by **October 3, 2023** with payment  
Fish pick up: **Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023 from 9:30am-10:30am**  
Location: **Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**771 E Main Street Newark, Ohio 43050**

- Bring a 10-20-gallon garbage can or 5-gallon bucket
- Line container with non-deodorized plastic liner
- Fill half full of **your own pond water**

Approx. 10 gallons of water holds 100 fingerlings. Each White Amur and Koi requires 2 gallons of water and must be placed in a container with a lid or a liner that can be tied at the top. All fish guaranteed to be delivered in good condition, however, we cannot guarantee survival after being picked up.

# 2023 Fish Fingerling Order Form

Order online at [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)

Return this form with payments by October 3, 2023  
Licking SWCD, 771 E Main Street Newark, Ohio 43050  
Cash and Checks (payable to Licking SWCD) accepted



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

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

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

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

Species	Size	Quantity	Price	Item Total
Fathead Minnow	1-2"		\$8.00 / 100	
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"		.95 ¢	
Red Ear Shellcracker	2-4"		.95 ¢	
Largemouth Bass	2-3"		\$1.05	
Channel Catfish	4-5"		.90 ¢	
Bluegill	2-4"		.95 ¢	
Japanese Koi	6-8"		\$13.00	
White Amur	8-14"		\$15.00	
Perch	2-3"		\$1.05	
Nature's Pond Cond	1/5 GAL		\$95/\$375	
Pond Management Book			\$20.00	
Optimal Fish Food	40# bag		\$45.00	
			<b>Subtotal</b>	\$
			<b>*Tax 7.25%</b>	\$
			<b>Total Due</b>	\$

\*If you are tax exempt you must provide our office with your exemption form for our records.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

CASH \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_



# LEAVE THE LEAVES!

Full leaf cleanup consists of raking leaves into piles, bagging leaves, and sending the bags to a landfill. Some communities have leaf collection which consists of raking the leaves to the curb and the Street crew collects and either disposes of them in a compost or the landfill.

The U.S. EPA states that leaves and other yard debris account for more than 13 percent of the nation's solid wastes. That equates to nearly 33 million tons of waste a year. And contrary to popular belief, even though leaves are organic matter, there isn't enough oxygen in a landfill for leaves to decompose. This results in a release of methane—a major greenhouse gas.

Most people don't know that raking or blowing fallen leaves into the street or storm drains is considered littering and is illegal (littering includes leaves, yard waste, dirt, etc.). When leaves get in street drains, they accumulate on the surface of the body of water that the drain dumps. This degrades the overall health of waterways by increasing nutrient loads and increasing turbidity.

Leaving the leaves on the ground allows them to biodegrade naturally and return nutrients to the soil. All of the leaves will eventually be decomposed by worms and bacteria, and turn into a nutrient-rich humus, which will feed trees and other plants in your yard. Your leaves will decompose faster if you mulch or shred the big leaves into smaller pieces. Mulching the leaves will enhance how the leaves give nutrients back to the soil.

If you decide to leave your leaves, the amount of yard work you will have to do this fall will drastically decrease. Leaves can be raked into small piles around trees, or into garden beds—where they can still undergo their natural processes, but make your lawn look tidier.

Here are some more fall stormwater tips to help keep local watercourses clean and healthy.

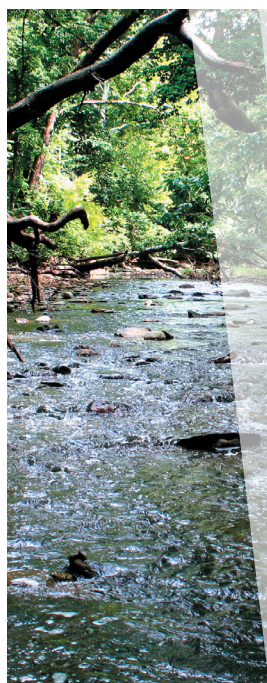


- Sweep up grass clippings from driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Don't forget to sweep along the curb.
- Remove leaves from your gutters, ditches, driveways, sidewalks, streets, and storm drains.
- Clean up that pet waste. Pet waste contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and harmful bacteria.

- Do a fall tune-up on your car, lawnmower and other power equipment, looking for and fixing leaks.

Hopefully this Autumn you will decide to let the leaves fall and use them to make your lawn and gardens healthier.

Visit [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com). 




## OHIO STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK

October 1st-7th, 2023

### Clean Streams Start With You!


What we do at home and work affects water quality. You can help keep water clean by:

- ♦ Planting native plants and trees.
- ♦ Properly disposing of chemicals and hazardous waste.
- ♦ Keeping storm drains clear of debris like leaves & litter.
- ♦ Always picking up and throwing away pet waste.
- ♦ Volunteering at or organizing a stream or roadside cleanup.



Scan the QR code to learn more & get involved!

[ohiostormwaterweek.org](http://ohiostormwaterweek.org)





# ANNUAL MILKWEED POD COLLECTION

Once again Licking Soil & Water is participating in the milkweed seed pod collection and we need your help. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard in Ohio to change this, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts even better by following these simple tips!

It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, gray, or brown. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS!** (Since pod collection starts September 1st and runs through November 12th... please use September as the time to locate milkweed plants and to keep an eye on the pods while they ripen and then pick them once they look like the picture shown.)

1. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
2. Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
3. Please put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.



4. Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.

You can drop your pods off at the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation Office, Monday–Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055. Contact us at 740-670-5330 with questions. 🌍

## MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The Soil and Water Conservation Mini-Grant program is an excellent opportunity to help fund a conservation-based service learning project for schools.

In celebration of Soil and Water's 75th Anniversary, the Board established a Community Mini-Grant program in 2019. Each year, the program offers up to \$1000 to Licking County non-profits that demonstrate the need and ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects.

Last year, eight applications were received from Licking County non-profits, local entities, and schools for local conservation projects. Just over \$5000 was distributed to all eight organizations!

The Mini-Grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools,

watershed groups, local government entities, municipalities, community groups, and civic associations within Licking County. The deadline to apply for the 2023 Conservation Mini-Grant is September 29, 2023.

To learn more about Soil and Water's Mini-Grant program, please visit the Conservation Mini-Grant page of our website. To apply for a Conservation Mini-Grant, please visit the Conservation Mini-Grant Online Application page of our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Britney Stuller at [BritneyStuller@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:BritneyStuller@LickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5330. 🌍



### Pollinator Pathway Licking County



#### BEE A PART OF IT!

Connecting corridors of native plants that provide habitat for pollinating insects, birds and other wildlife. Your garden and even the smallest green spaces can be part of the pathway. Learn How!

[LickingPollinatorPathway.org](http://LickingPollinatorPathway.org)

**Connecting natural corridors  
for pollinators & other wildlife  
to survive & thrive**

#### *Pollinator Pathway partners include:*

Licking Land Trust | The Dawes Arboretum | Licking Park District | Denison University | The Ohio State University Newark | Granville Public Library | Sanctuary Garden at Newark High School | Licking Soil & Water Conservation District | Granville Schools Sustainability Project | Ace of Clubs 4-H | Otterbein Granville | 1500 Trees | Grange Insurance Audubon Center | Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers | Wild Ones Columbus



# NATURAL RESOURCES AREA RECAP!

We had a blast at the Hartford Fair August 6–11th! The Natural Resources Area consists of 4 acres, including a pond, a man made wetland, a pavilion, and multiple rain gardens. For six days, we have a lineup of great programming and displays. Our most popular events include the Velvet Ice Cream Eating Contest, Fishing Contest, and the FFA Challenge. Check out some fun pictures from the Natural Resources Area!





## LOVE THE NEWSLETTER BUT HATE THE PAPER?

Take a simple step to help us accomplish our mission. Save paper and receive our monthly newsletter via email. Visit [LickingSWCD.com/who-we-are](http://LickingSWCD.com/who-we-are) to sign up or contact 740-670-5330



771 East Main Street  
Suite 100  
Newark, Ohio 43055-6971

Return Service Requested  
DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
Paid  
Newark, Ohio  
Permit No. 326

## SOIL & WATER BANQUET OCTOBER 10TH

Join us in celebrating our wonderful Community Conservation efforts! The Streams and Wetland Foundation will be our featured presenter, discussing Bloody Run Swamp, located on Swamp Road just north of interstate 70. The former swamp included more than 600 acres and was drained during the 1820's when the Erie & Ohio Canal was established. In 2019, the Stream & Wetlands Foundation acquired an 82-acre parcel that is located near the center of the historic swamp. After a few years of planning and securing

regulatory approval, their construction and habitat restoration efforts began in fall of 2022.

5:30 pm ~ Community Celebration Reception and election voting.

Enjoy complimentary appetizers and cash bar, and thank-you gifts for our partners, volunteers, and supporters who attend.

6:30 ~ Dinner and Awards Celebration

Awards presented for Cooperator, Volunteer, and Educator of the Year.

County and District FFA Soil Judging winning teams will be recognized.

Dinner tickets are \$10. Preregistration is required. Order tickets online at [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com) the deadline to order is October 6th.



Location: The Grove by the River, 840 Hollander Street, Newark, OH.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Sep. 19	Soil & Water Board Meeting
Sep. 29	Conservation Mini-Grant Application Deadline
Oct. 1-30	Soil & Water Board Election
Oct. 10	Soil & Water Annual Banquet*
Nov. 10	Veterans Day (observed) – Office closed
Nov. 14	Soil & Water Board Meeting
Nov. 28	Office closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 16	Board Meeting
Dec. 25	Office closed for Christmas
Jan. 1	Office closed for New Year's

\*Events require RSVP. Please visit our website at [LickingSWCD.com](http://LickingSWCD.com), or call our office at 740-670-5330.

## 2024 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE SET

Initial application deadline is Friday, January 12, 2024. For additional information and the application contact Briana Hodgson, 740-670-5330, [brianahodgson@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:brianahodgson@LickingSWCD.com).

The Licking Soil & Water Farmland Preservation Program:

- Has been preserving farmland since 2009,
- Holds 29 Agriculture Easements totaling 4,158 acres, and
- Has brought in over \$5 million in Clean Ohio funds to Licking County.