

CELEBRATING SOIL & WATER'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Since 1944, Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District exists to promote wise use of our land and water. During those 75 years, Licking Soil & Water has worked with countless landowners to manage and protect natural resources on public and private lands. This year, for our 75th birthday, Licking Soil & Water is reflecting on our history in and impact on Licking County. Below is Part Two of a four-part series celebrating our legacy.

During the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s Licking County's population doubled to 120,000. The Board of Supervisors hired paid employees to fully serve the community's conservation assistance needs.

During the 1950s, the Board of Supervisors received numerous requests for technical assistance from landowners. They helped install contour strips and farm ponds, tree



plantings, diversions and drainage enhancements, pasture and forest improvements, and wildlife plantings.

In 1951, Ohio House Bill 161 allowed the Licking County Commissioners to use local monies to fund Licking Soil & Water. Additionally, the bill established the local and state partnership whereby the state matched every dollar the county commissioners allocated to Licking Soil & Water. This unique partnership continues to this day.

The Supervisors established working committees and recruited community members to serve on Program, Finance, Education, Publicity, and Legislative Committees. They began nominating deserving farmers and themselves for conservation awards including the Goodyear Award for soil conservation sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and the B & O Railroad soil conservation contest.

By 1966, each of Ohio's 88 counties had their own conservation district, but they lacked a good umbrella agency to tie them together. In 1969, Ohio Senate Bill 160 nested all districts under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and created the Division of Soil and Water Districts. Conservation education programs

grew rapidly during this period and field days hosted by local farmers, like Orville Felumlee pictured above, became social events that folks looked forward to. Topics included Farm Plans, Conservation Days, Forestry, Fishing and Ponds, and Conservation Tours by Air.

In the 1970s, technology on the farm advanced and conservation tillage changed how we planted our fields. No-till, a practice still in use today, promoted less labor, lower fuel costs, less equipment investment and lower tractor horsepower when compared to other farming practices.

Previously, most conservation practices centered on soil, but as rivers became seriously polluted and some literally caught on fire, soil and water conservation districts were a natural group to assist landowners with non-point source pollution management. The Environmental Protection Agency, established in 1970, and the Clean Water Act of 1972, opened a new education opportunity for Licking Soil & Water to begin reaching the entire community. Water quality and soil health concerns were clearly no longer limited to the farm. 🌱

Sources include:
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Licking County Records and Archives

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Check out the Mini-Grant program on page 4.



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

Denise Natoli Brooks
Dave Grum
Kristy Hawthorne
Briana Hodgson
Michelle Illing
Josh Troyer

BOARD MEMBERS

Seth Dobbelaer
Bill Goodman
Mamie Hollenback
Ron Thompson
John Wagy

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Baker
Jeff Bates
Dee Hammel
Matt Hazelton

USDA NRCS STAFF

Joe Koehler
Danielle Meggyesy
Emily Price

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

The Soil & Water Board meets on the second Wednesday 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.

A TRIBUTE TO PAT DEERING

We recently lost a friend. We lost a nature lover. We lost a land preservation advocate. We lost a conservationist. We lost a local food supporter. We lost Pat Deering, far too soon.

Pat joined the Licking Soil & Water team in 2008 as the Information Assistant. She was immediately handed a huge assignment. Create a book celebrating Licking County's century farms. Pat's *Licking County Century Farms: A Celebration of the Licking County, Ohio, 2008 Bicentennial* book beautifully captured the families and the land that are the foundation of our agriculture community. Pat's roots are in Licking County and in agriculture. She grew up spending time on her family's farm, land that is still farmed and in her family.

Her love of nature and her Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) credential allowed her to lead design and plant selection of the rain gardens and native plantings around the Ag Service Center in Newark and at the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area. She was active in native tree selection for the annual tree sale and provided extensive education about native plants. At home she cultivated a backyard wildlife habitat and food garden. Her interest in local food and the people that produce it led her to become a founding member of the Licking County Local Food Council and supporter of the 30 Mile Meal. She was always sharing her garden's bounty with the Licking Soil & Water team and loved talking about

what was growing or blooming.

With Licking Soil & Water Board approval and encouragement in 2008, Pat began developing and expanding the fledgling farmland preservation program. Self-trained and hungry for knowledge, Pat became a farmland preservation expert and is recognized statewide for her expertise. From 2009 to present, Pat brought nearly 4.8 million dollars to Licking County in state and federal funds for farmland preservation.

Pat served on the Licking Land Trust (LLT) Board and collaborated with LLT on education and outreach efforts. In 2016, the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts (COLT) recruited Pat to serve on their Steering Committee. When asked to reflect on her service to Licking Soil & Water in 2018, Pat wrote, "I continue to enjoy working for a conservation-based organization and I am passionate about land preservation!" She appreciated that Licking Soil & Water is a mission-based organization and encourages ethics and integrity. She was a natural servant leader and always had the philosophy of treating people the way she would want to be treated. 🌱



LAND PRESERVATION BY THE NUMBERS

- 24** Farmland Preservation Purchased Easements (closed or in process of closing) totaling **2195.11** acres
- 6** Farmland Preservation Donated Easements totaling **969.24** acres
- 1** Conservation Easement held totaling **4.31** acres

BILL GOODMAN APPOINTED TO OFSWCD BOARD

Licking Soil & Water is pleased to announce the election of Board Supervisor Bill Goodman to the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) Board of Directors beginning March 1, 2019.

“Our county SWCD Supervisors give their time and energy to make an impact on their communities,” stated OFSWCD President Bob Short. “I am pleased Bill Goodman has stepped up to serve in this capacity. To further give time and expertise to assist the OFSWCD Board of Directors is

commendable. I thank Bill for the dedication shown to ensure that our conservation efforts not only make a difference today, but also for future generations.”

The OFSWCD Board of Supervisors represents Ohio’s 88 county SWCDs and meet quarterly to address conservation issues, programs, and gain training to better assist the counties and communities represented on a statewide basis. 🌍



RENT OUR NO-TILL DRILL



Have a pasture or hay field to replant? Small soybean field? Other planting needs? Our no-till drills rent for only \$12 per acre.

Call to schedule:
740-670-5330

Great Plains 706NT Drill

Planting Width – 7 feet
Total Width – 9 feet 10 inches

John Deere 1590 Grain Drill

Planting Width – 10 feet
Total Width – 10 feet 6 inches

LOVE YOUR SOIL MICROBES

As we anxiously wait for tomatoes, corn, and beans to grow, take some time to give your soil some tender love and care. Basic soil TLC is the same, regardless of whether you cultivate acres of land or you tend a small backyard garden. Improve the health, function and productivity of your soil with these four steps:

- 1. Mix It Up:** Rotate and diversify crops through-out the growing season and from year to year. Each type of plant adds valuable organic matter to the soil and feeds unique soil microbes. Soil with high organic matter and healthy microbe populations reduce plant stress and disease pressure. Want fresh, juicy vine-ripe tomatoes every year? Go for it; just plant them in a different part of the garden.
- 2. Chill with the Till:** Do you really need to plow or rototill every year? Probably not. Shout out to the no-tillers of Licking County. These farmers use no-till seed drills to carefully slice a narrow hole in the ground, drop a seed in, and cover the hole without disturbing the soil. Stop by the Licking Soil & Water office to see a no-till drill up close; see page 4 for information on renting a no-till drill. No-till works in the garden too. Simply dig small holes to accommodate seedlings

or small trenches to accommodate seeds. Disturb the soil as little as possible.

- 3. Keep It Under Cover:** It may sound counterproductive, but growing crops that will never be harvested is a good use of your time. The unharvested cover crops provide nutrients to soil microbes by keeping living roots in the soil, before and after the harvest of your primary crop. While reducing microbe stress is pretty impactful, cover crops also increase the soil’s ability to hold water and can improve pollinator habitat during the growing season.
- 4. Be a Microbiologic Magician:** This magic trick is pretty easy. Mulch in leftover plant parts (stems, leaves and roots) or other organic material on the soil surface and the soil microbial activity will increase. Mulching regulates soil temperature, reduces evaporation and erosion, while also improving water quality. And that is microbe magic.

Keep these pointers in mind and remember that with a little TLC, your soil, and the millions of microbes in it, will reward you with an abundant harvest. 🌍

Adapted from the USDA; Natural Resource Conservation Service, Love the Soil brochure, November 2016

NEW CONSERVATION MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The Licking Soil & Water Conservation Mini-Grant program offers up to \$1000 to Licking County non-profits that demonstrate the need and ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects.

As part of the Licking Soil & Water 75th anniversary, this new program will award up to \$5000 in 2019 to deserving community groups for local conservation projects. Projects are limited to Licking County and must align with the Licking Soil & Water mission to promote conservation of natural resources through

local leadership, education and technical assistance. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

The mini-grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, local government entities, municipalities, community groups (including governing bodies and associations such as HOAs and condo associations) and civic associations.

Interested in learning more? Visit <https://lickingswcd.com/what-we-do/conservation-mini-grants.html>.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Preferred projects may include but are not limited to:

- Habitat improvement or landscaping with native trees and plants, including installation or enhancement of outdoor classrooms and pollinator habitat
- Professional development such as attending a conference or training
- Classroom equipment and supplies to teach about soil and/or water conservation
- Streambank or riparian zone stabilization or revegetation with native plants
- Reducing or slowing stormwater runoff by planting rain gardens, buffer zones, or installing green infrastructure
- Soil improvements such as the addition of compost, green manures or cover crops

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM
MAY 1 – DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

CONSERVATION LEARNING SERIES

DIY RAIN BARRELS AND RAIN GARDENS

Why plant rain gardens? The news has recently been saturated (pun intended) with water-related headlines about elevated nitrate levels and localized flooding from heavy rainfall and stormwater runoff. Toxic algae continues to be a problem at Buckeye Lake and around Ohio. Rain gardens allow rain water to slowly soak into the ground and reduce the amount of polluted stormwater flowing into nearby streams.



What is a rain barrel? Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops, thereby reducing runoff and flooding during storms. Use rain barrel water to irrigate landscaping and gardens while saving money on water bills.

At the workshop, view a well-established rain garden; then learn how to design and install a rain garden on your property. Next, build your own rain barrel so you can start harvesting rainwater from your roof.

\$50 fee, registration required.

Thursday, June 13th at 6 PM at Infirmary Mound Park, Granville

Tuesday, July 16th at 6 PM at Freedom Park, Pataskala

Tuesday, August 13th at 6 PM at Infirmary Mound Park, Granville

STREAM TEAM

Stream Team is a volunteer water quality monitoring program that raises awareness and understanding of how water quality relates to environmental health and our community's health.

Joining the Stream Team includes attending a 2-hour workshop to learn how to evaluate stream habitat, perform chemical and physical water tests, and identify aquatic life to determine pollution levels.

Stream Team members receive a complimentary kit that includes all the equipment and supplies needed to collect credible data. Licking Soil & Water uses the data to keep tabs on river health today and compare results from one year to the next.

Please consider joining our dedicated team of citizen scientists.

Thursday, June 27 at 5:30 PM at Taft Reserve South, Newark

Thursday, July 25 at 6:00 PM at Foundation Park, Pataskala

Thursday, August 15 at 5:30 PM at Riverview Preserve, Newark

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 5:30 PM at Lobdell Reserve Disc Golf Course, Alexandria



LEARN MORE & REGISTER ONLINE

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SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES FOR EDUCATORS

Join us for our Educator Workshop Series! This series offers 5 days of activities correlated to state and national education standards and a one-day stormwater related tour. All workshops facilitated by Licking Soil & Water, Licking Park District, and The Dawes Arboretum. All workshops start at 8:30 AM and end by 4 PM. Graduate and Step Up to Quality credits available. Workshops are filling fast and space is limited; pre-registration is required. Cost: \$5/ workshop. Register online at <https://forms.gle/VXiFDteFkd2QhJ9YA>. Questions call 740-670-5330 or email education@LickingSWCD.com.



PROJECT WET / HEALTHY WATER, HEALTHY PEOPLE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH AT INFIRMARY MOUND PARK

Project WET is a water-focused conservation education program for K–12 educators and their students. *Healthy Water, Healthy People* focuses on grades six through university level to raise the awareness and understanding of water quality issues and their relationship to personal, public and environmental health.



NEWARK WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH WITH LICKING SOIL AND WATER

Do you know how your water reaches the faucet? Or where water travels after you flush your toilet? How does stormwater affect your watershed? What can citizens, educators, and landowners do to help? Find these answers while exploring water facilities in Newark.



CITIZEN SCIENCE WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH AT INFIRMARY MOUND PARK

We will offer ways to experience project-based learning that are accessible in any setting. This fun and interactive workshop covers a variety of topics while using the scientific method, critical thinking, technology, and our senses to connect ways to bring the classroom into nature.

SOLD OUT



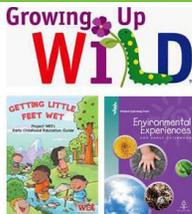
PROJECT LEARNING TREE WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH AT THE DAWES ARBORETUM

Through the use of over 90 hands-on activities, *Project Learning Tree* (PLT) covers topics in both the natural and built environments – forests, wildlife, water, air, energy, waste, climate change, invasive species, community planning, and culture.



PROJECT WILD/AQUATIC WILD WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH AT INFIRMARY MOUND PARK

Project WILD is concerned with providing information as well as helping students evaluate choices and make responsible decisions about wildlife and the environment. Aquatic WILD focuses on aquatic wildlife and ecosystems.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD WEDNESDAY JULY 31ST AT THE DAWES ARBORETUM

This workshop includes three curricula to connect young children with nature and the outdoors using Project WILD's *Growing Up WILD*, Project Learning Tree's *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood*, and Project WET's *Getting Little Feet WET*.



Graduate Credit through Ashland University
Attend 2 full-day workshops and complete homework assignment to receive 1 graduate credit from Ashland University. (Additional fee required).



Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) Approved Professional Development for Early Childhood Workshop

Be the Change for Clean Water is a central Ohio initiative that includes ten counties and a multitude of partners to provide education, resources, and opportunities to make it easier for all Central Ohio residents to Be the Change for Clean Water. Licking Soil & Water is proud to partner with Be the Change for Clean Water because when it comes to protecting our water resources, we all need to be part of the solution. To highlight the Be The Change campaign, we will explore a unique Be The Change message in each edition of our newsletter. More information about Be the Change for Clean Water is available at www.bethechangeformcleanwater.org.

LEAF IT ON YOUR LAWN

Save time and provide nutrients for your lawn by mulching leaves in the fall and leaving grass clippings on the lawn. Shredded leaf material and grass clippings block weeds and quickly break down into free fertilizer! This means less time and money spent caring for your lawn. Do your part by keeping leaves and grass out of your street where they can clog storm drains and feed algae.

Not ready to give up fertilizer yet? Keep these notes in mind to prevent accidentally fertilizing the water. When using fertilizer, remember sparingly and caringly. That means making sure the fertilizer stays on the lawn and does not wash into the storm sewer system. The storm

sewer system connects directly to our rivers. A little care will save you money and will also protect our rivers and lakes.

First, use only as much fertilizer as you need. A simple soil test will tell you if you need to add nutrients. If you do want to fertilize, use a no- or low-phosphorus fertilizer, and select a slow release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble.

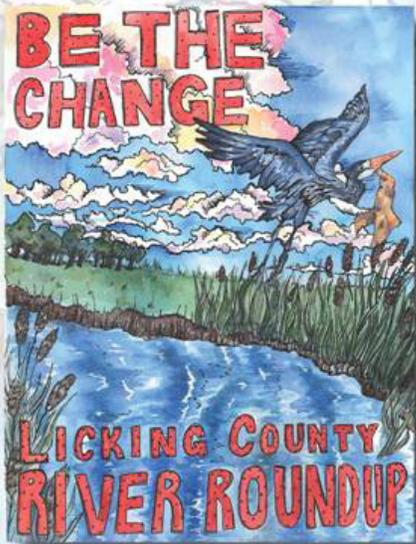
Then, do not let your fertilizer wash away into the storm sewers where it will end up in streams and lakes. If we get a rain right after you fertilize, you'll watch your investment flow right to the storm sewers, and fertilizer does not belong in the water supply. Do use a broom to sweep excess or spilled fertilizer off the sidewalks and back onto your lawn. Don't use a hose to wash fertilizer into the street and then into storm sewers.

Excess amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus can cause blooms of algae like we are familiar with in Buckeye Lake. These algae blooms can occur in rivers too. Some algae is natural and is part of the food chain, but overgrowth of algae forms mats of goo that clog water inlets and block sunlight to the water. As algae decay, they use up tremendous amounts of oxygen in the water that fish, frogs, and other wildlife need.

There are ways to keep a lawn green and healthy that are 100 percent free and ecologically sound. Next time you are considering fertilizing the lawn, take a moment to ponder if you are ready to Leaf It on Your Lawn.

Information provided by Be the Change for Clean Water and the Stormwater Coalition, a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments.





Join us!

Licking County River Round Up Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019



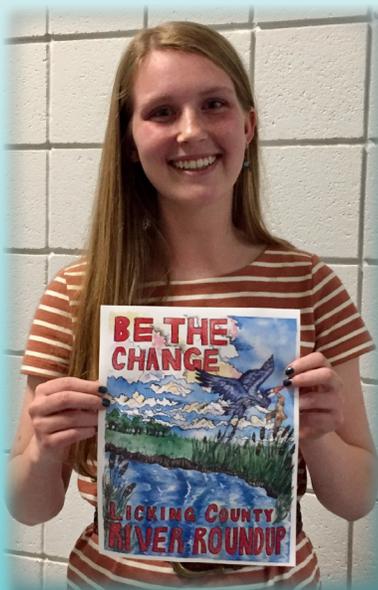
Licking County River Round Up is an annual, county-wide, waterway cleanup event in the Licking River Watershed. Hundreds of volunteers participate in the event by collecting trash and debris along shorelines and in the water. Each year volunteers remove over 1,500 pounds of trash, 700 pounds of recyclable materials and about 300 tires from the Licking River and its tributaries. River Round Up is co-hosted by numerous local government agencies and community organizations. 🌍

**REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1ST
AT [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com).**

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Over 330 students from across Licking County submitted posters for the annual Licking County River Round Up poster contest. Winning posters were selected for highlighting water pollution awareness and encouraging volunteer participation in the River Round Up.



Emma Reamer earned first place with her poster. Emma received \$100 in prize money and Granville High School received \$500 to use for advancing science and art programs. The grand prize included a prize package and use of the winning poster as the primary electronic marketing picture for the 2019 River Round Up.

1st Place Poster Winner
Emma Reamer from
Granville High School

HONORABLE MENTION

Middle School Winner:
Andrew Lane from
Blessed Sacrament

Elementary School Winner:
Addison Mead from
Johnstown Elementary

Honorable Mention winners received a prize package and their schools each received \$250 to use for advancing science and art programs.

All poster contest entries are displayed on the River Round Up Facebook page. A selection of posters will be displayed around the county throughout the year.



 Find us on
Facebook

For locations and dates
follow us on Facebook.

LICKING COUNTY FARM TOUR

JULY 13, 2019



8 AM - 1 PM

Meeting at Lynd Fruit Farm
9393 Morse Road, Pataskala

Cost to attend is \$10 per Farm Bureau member or
\$15 for non-members.

Sponsored by Farm Bureau, Soil & Water Conservation District, and OSU Extension

*Please RSVP to 740-452-2356 or email licking@ofbf.org
to make your reservations. Deadline is July 10.*

Lynd Fruit Farm

This year Lynd Fruit Farm will celebrate 100 years of growing apples in Licking County. Fourth generation orchardist, Alton Lynd, brought wife, Vesta and 6 sons from South Point Ohio to purchase an 80 acre orchard near Pataskala. Today generations 6, 7, & 8 take care of approximately 300 acres of apples, peaches, pears, plums, sweet corn, pumpkins, corn maze, and a farm market. In 1980, they established the 200-acre Blue Frog Farm, near Johnstown, which supplies the market with apples and also serves as a blackberry, raspberry, and peach u-pick farm. The family has been a pioneer in the apple industry, introducing the concept of U-Pick to the public, building controlled atmosphere storages, and developing new apples through the Midwest Apple Improvement Association co-founded in 1998 by Mitch Lynd. High-density plantings are found throughout the property as are prairies used to help maintain a balance of pollinators as integrated pest management practices are used throughout the farm.

South Fork Dairy

South Fork Dairy is one of the largest dairy operations in this part of the state. Operator Evan Barton has been able to make expansions to his herd despite an economy with low milk prices and a record number of dairy farms going out of business in recent years. Use of multiple breeds to help achieve premium prices and improve quality of milk going into cheese and other products has helped South Fork Dairy be successful.

Evan has been able to use his nutrition knowledge to find ways to keep the herd healthy and productive. Through use of energy efficient equipment and buildings, Evan has been able to expand the herd while maintaining cow comfort and minimizing energy use.

Legends Lane Reproductive Services

Legends Lane Reproductive Services is dedicated, (through science and technology), to assist cattle producers to maximize the genetic potential of their livestock. Advanced reproductive technologies such as Conventional (in vivo) donor collection, Embryo transfer, and In Vitro fertilization (IVF), are utilized to more predictably reproduce offspring exhibiting desired traits. Dr. Rob Stout opened his facility in Licking County in 2016. Attention to details and use of technology are exhibited in his facilities. We will see a large monoslope building that at first glance may seem like just another large barn but we will learn about how these state of the art barns utilize the environment to provide the best animal welfare practices while remaining environmentally friendly.



MORE EVENT DATES

*Conservation Learning Series on page 4
Summer Educator Workshop Series on page 5*

*Check out the
Display celebrating
the 75th Anniversary
at the Licking County
Administration Building,
20 South Second Street,
Newark, OH*

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jun 4 OCVN Final Presentations at Infirmary Mound Park, Granville
- Jun 12 Board Meeting at Soil & Water office
- Jun 22 @ Outdoor Family Adventure Day at Foundation Park, Pataskala
- Jun 28 Managing Your Woodlands Field Day at Swinehart Farm, Heath
- Jul 4 @ Granville 4th of July Parade at Downtown Granville
- Aug 4-10 Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area programs at Hartford Fair, Croton
- Sep 7 Licking County River Round Up at various locations

For details, visit www.LickingSWCD.com.

