

August 2007
Volume 9 Issue 3

64TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET

- When:** Thursday, September 13, 2007
- Where:** Alley Park/Goslin Nature Education Center
2805 Old Logan Road SE, Lancaster
- Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Cost:** \$11 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under
- Agenda:** 5:30 - 6 p.m. -- Board of Supervisor's Election
6 - 7 p.m. -- Buffet meal of grilled chicken/roast beef, red skin potatoes, green beans, romaine salad, rolls with butter, drinks, and desserts
7 - 7:45 p.m. -- Stanley Gehrt, PhD, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology
Ohio State University
7:45 - 8:30 p.m. -- Conservation awards, election results, and door prizes

Entertainment: Stanley Gehrt, PhD

Stanley Gehrt is currently Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at Ohio State University and adjunct Senior Scientist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. Prior to his current position, he was Director of Research at the Foundation where he focused on urban wildlife research in the Chicago area. Dr. Gehrt holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany College (Lindsborg, Kansas), Master of Science degree in Biology from Emporia State University (Emporia, Kansas), and received a PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research program has focused on various aspects of mammalian ecology, and he has published multiple papers on carnivores and bats. He is principal investigator of the largest urban coyote study conducted to date, which began in 2000 and is ongoing (as of 2007), with nearly 300 coyotes captured and monitored. We think you will enjoy his presentation!



www.fairfieldswcd.org



Come See Us at the Fair

We will be in our usual spot at the Fairfield County Fair from October 8 through 14, 2007, in the 4-H building. Don't miss this year's display and your chance to win some great giveaways!

Request for Absentee Ballot

Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District

Please send an absentee ballot for the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors election that will be held on September 13, 2007.

I am a qualified voter of the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District because:

- I live within the borders of Fairfield County.
- I own property within the borders of Fairfield County.

Please send a ballot to:

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Note: Thank you for your interest in the election of the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors. In order to allow sufficient time for mailings, this form must be postmarked by September 1, 2007. If you are unable to meet this deadline, you may come in person and vote absentee at the Fairfield SWCD office at 831 College Avenue in Lancaster until 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2007. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To be eligible to vote, you must be 18 years of age or older on the day of the election. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at (740) 653-8154 or 653-5320.

Return this form to: Fairfield SWCD
831 College Avenue, Suite B
Lancaster, OH 43130

SWCD Election

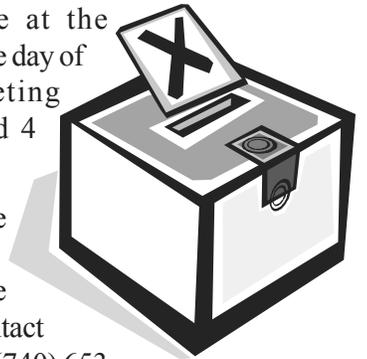
Fairfield County residents attending this year's Annual Meeting/Banquet will find the voting process for SWCD board members to be very similar to voting in the general election.

Upon arriving at the Annual Meeting/Banquet, attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the election registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify their eligibility, be given a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth, where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

This year's election will be held from 5:30 to 6 p.m. We will be electing one board member. The nominees are Bonny Calderwood of Lancaster and Bob Hoffman of Stoutsville.

Fairfield County residents and landowners have two other options for voting for Fairfield SWCD board members. They may call or stop by the Fairfield SWCD office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the FSWCD office on the day of the annual meeting between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

If you would like more information about the election or have questions, please contact the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154.



Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District's 64th Annual Meeting/Banquet Thursday, September 13, 2007

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please mail and make checks payable to: *Fairfield SWCD*
831 College Ave., Suite B
Lancaster, OH 43130

<p><i>Number of reservations:</i></p> <p>_____ Adults @ \$11 ea. = \$ _____</p> <p>_____ Children @ \$6 ea. = \$ _____ <i>(10 years and under)</i></p> <p>Total Enclosed \$ _____</p>

Reservation deadline is **Friday, September 7, 2007.**
Sorry, tickets cannot be refunded.

Please note: You will not receive a confirmation notice.

Meet The Candidates

Bonny Calderwood



Bonny lives in Pleasant Township with her husband, Kevin, and two children, Melinda and Robert. She teaches second grade at Liberty Union-Thurston School District and will begin her 30th year this school term.

Bonny has been active with the K-9 Krazy 4-H Club as an advisor and on the County 4-H Dog Committee. She belongs to the Ohio Valley Muzzleloaders, the National Muzzleloading Rifle Association, and the Christian Family Pioneers. Her muzzleloading experience keeps her active with organizing shooting events as well as helping Pheasants Forever with their muzzleloading activities. Bonny is also very active on the Education Subcommittee for the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District.

Bonny enjoys music and is an active member of the Lancaster Community Band where she plays French Horn. She is also a member of the Millersport Community Theatre where she participates in the Millersport Minstrel. She also enjoys singing at the Little Country Church where she and her family are members.

In the year 2006, Bonny was chosen as the Conservation Education Teacher of the Year by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District and also by the Fairfield County Recycling District.

Robert "Bob" Hoffman



Bob and his wife, Val, live in Clearcreek Township with their daughter, Olivia, and their twin sons, Alexander and Christian. Olivia attends Amanda Clearcreek High School, Alexander attends Ohio Northern University, and Christian attends Ohio State University.

Bob and his family are members of David Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canal Winchester, where Bob is currently the chairman of the Board of Education and a member of the Preschool Advisory Committee. He has served as President of the congregation in the past. He is a member of the Fairfield Cattlemen Association, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, and the Farm Bureau. He served as a committee member of Boy Scout Troop 170 in Circleville.

Bob attended OSU-ATI, received the American Farmer Degree from the FFA Foundation, and began farming at the age of 19 when he bought his farm in Stoutsville with his parents. He has spent many years incorporating conservation practices into the farm, ranging from building a manure storage facility, developing waterways, practicing no-till, installing buffer strips, building a creek crossing for cattle, and installing fence to keep cattle out of Salt Creek and off its banks.

Bob raises corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. In addition, he runs a 75 head cow-calf operation. Bob received the Cooperator of the Year Award from the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District in 2004 for his conservation practices implemented at Hoffman Farms.

BRADY MILLER RECEIVES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Brady Miller, son of Karla and Craig Miller, was selected to be one of the 2007 recipients of the Fairfield SWCD \$500 college scholarships. Brady lives on Stemen Road in Baltimore. He graduated from Liberty Union High School this past June, and will be attending ATI in Wooster this coming fall. Brady will study Agronomy and Crop Management Services.

Brady was very active in FFA and was the state first place winner in grain production. He also was a long term 4-H member, played varsity football and ran track.

Brady credits his interest in natural resources conservation to his father who frequently took him to the neighbor's farm since he was a very small boy. "I really liked the farm and have been able to visit and work there over the last 15 years which has given me a sincere understanding of the importance of farming," said Brady.

We wish Brady well in his agricultural endeavors!

BRANDON THOMAS RECEIVES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Brandon Thomas, son of Tim Thomas, was selected to be one of the 2007 recipients of the Fairfield SWCD \$500 college scholarships. He lives on Lancaster-New Lexington Road in Bremen.

Brandon graduated from Fairfield Union High School this past June, and will be attending Ohio State University this coming fall. Brandon will study Agricultural Education.

Brandon was very active in FFA in school, but 4-H and dairy cattle were his passion. He was involved with the county dairy judging team. In 2005 he was a member of the first place senior division team in the state dairy judging contest. Brandon also played soccer.

Brandon credits his interest in natural resource conservation to his family farm and the Ag Ed program at his high school. "At school and at home on the farm, I learned why crop rotations, sod waterways, and saving tillable land are important," said Brandon.

We also wish Brandon well in his agricultural endeavors!

Applications for next year are available at the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District office in Lancaster, on-line from our website at www.fairfieldswcd.org or your high school guidance office. They are due to the District office by March 31st of any current calendar year. Applicants need to be pursuing a degree in the fields of Agriculture, Conservation, or Natural Resources, and must be a graduating senior.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Set

The annual Fairfield County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on **Saturday, August 18, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds in Lancaster. Residents in the Coshocton/Fairfield/Licking/Perry Solid Waste District may attend the event.

Items labeled flammable, corrosive, reactive, toxic, or poisonous typically found in your garage, basement, under sinks, and in your bathrooms will be accepted. **DO NOT BRING EMPTY CONTAINERS, DRIED PAINT OR OTHER NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE.**

No business, school or industry waste will be accepted. Also, **TIRES, APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS AND PAINT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** When paint is dried out into a solid form, it is no longer hazardous and can be thrown out with your normal trash. It can be dried out by pouring kitty litter, saw dust, oil absorb or commercial paint hardeners into the paint can and mixing it with the paint. Also, if there is not much paint left in the can, the lid can be left off to let it dry out.

This event is sponsored by the Solid Waste District and coordinated by the local litter prevention program. For more information on the kinds of items accepted at the collection day, please call the Fairfield County Community Action Recycling & Litter Prevention Office at (740) 681-4423.



www.fairfieldrecycles.org

Photo Contest

The Fairfield SWCD is offering something new this year to its annual meeting agenda. We are going to sponsor an Ohio wildlife photo contest, so get out your camera this summer! Here are the rules:

- You must be a Fairfield County resident to compete (children are eligible, too)
- One entry per person
- Photos can be color or black and white
- Photos can either be 8x10 or 11x14
- Finished photos need to be framed with matting optional
- Photo must be a picture of *native* Ohio wildlife (no pets or plants please)
- Photos can be from prints, slides, or digital format
- Must be your own original work
- Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes (\$100, \$75, and \$50 gift certificates to Cord Camera)
- *All* entries will be displayed at the annual meeting and in our fair booth in October
- **DEADLINE** to submit photos to the SWCD office is **Friday, August 31st at 4:30 p.m.**
- Please list your name, phone number, and location the photo was taken on the back of your entry. Entries will be returned after the fair. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting on September 13.

We hope to see many entries! Call us at 653-8154, if you have questions.

WANTED: Custom Seeders

The Fairfield SWCD is looking for individuals who want to be listed on our custom seeder list. Many times we have customers who do not have the equipment to plant a conservation cover such as cool season or warm season (prairie) grass or a hay/pasture seed mix. These landowners need to hire someone who has the equipment (drill, broadcast seeder, cultipacker) to plant the grass and clover mixes. If you would like to be added to the list, submit your name, address, phone number(s), and the types (prairie, cool season, hay, pasture) of seeding you can plant.

New Wildlife Officer in Fairfield County

State Wildlife Officer Brad St. Clair began active duty in Fairfield County in June, according to the ODNR Division of Wildlife. "I am excited to continue my service to Ohio's sportsmen and women and wildlife enthusiasts in Fairfield County," said St. Clair. He will reside within the county.

Officer St. Clair is originally from Cambridge. He earned an Associates Degree in Fish and Wildlife Management from Hocking College. Before attending the State Wildlife Officer Academy, St. Clair served for six years as a seasonal worker at Salt Fork and Woodbury Wildlife Areas. He comes to our county after serving as a Wildlife Officer in Van Wert County for four years.

Officer St. Clair's duties as a state wildlife officer include wildlife law enforcement tasks along with educational outreach. Other tasks include enforcing Ohio's stream litter law and state criminal laws on property owned or controlled by the Division of Wildlife. St. Clair will also contact many Ohio sportsmen and women in the field, perform fish and wildlife surveys, advise on nuisance wildlife issues, and give presentations on wildlife management, hunter education, trapping, and fishing.

Officer St. Clair replaces Officer Kirk Kiefer who was promoted to an investigator position with the Division of Wildlife. His phone number is (614) 644-3929 ext. 1203.



Andrea Gibson, Student Trainee

Andrea Gibson, a second year student trainee with NRCS, has been working with us this summer. Raised on a grain farm in Clinton County, she will be a senior at Wilmington College this fall, studying agronomy. She actively participates on the soil judging and tennis teams there. When speaking of her experience thus far this summer, Andrea notes, "This has been a great learning experience. Fairfield County is a beautiful area with lots of nice people and a largely diversified agricultural base". She will be here until mid August.

The Building Blocks of Agriculture Conservation

The protection and preservation of agri-business and the farmlands in Fairfield County can be accomplished through many programs. If we look at how each of these programs are meant to be used, we find that they form the most basic of building blocks. From the bottom to the top we find the following:

FOUNDATION Current Agriculture Use Valuation - renewed every year

CAUV protects the farm parcels from “unreasonable” real-estate taxes.

CAUV assures agriculture land is taxed at its agriculture value not at its potential market value. Without this, the farm could quickly crumble under a tax burden. CAUV is administered through the County Auditor.

MORTAR Agriculture Districts - renewed every five years

Ag Districts provide basic protection for an individual farm and help close the gaps and avoid the forces that can easily destroy a farm.

Ag Districts are basic protection from utility assessments, nuisance lawsuits and legal assistance in eminent domain cases. This helps preserve the integrity of the farm and protects it from unexpected costs. This holds the farm together year to year and helps protect the bottom line. Ag Districts are administered through the County Auditor.

WALLS Agriculture Security Areas - renewed every ten years

ASA's provide basic protection of the farming community from the pressure to develop.

Agriculture Security Areas can be the perimeter defense of the farm community. ASA's encourage 500 acre or larger tracts of contiguous land to help keep farming a viable business. Townships and Counties agree to not extend utilities and roads into the ASA for a period of 10 years if they accept the proposal which must comply with the local planning approach. Properly assembled ASA's keep utilities and roads from invading the farming community which helps discourage intense development. Landowners may be eligible for a 10-year tax abatement on new real-property Ag-structures if granted by the County and Township.

ROOF Agriculture Easements – forever

Protection of a farm from intensive non-agricultural uses.

Easements are the culmination of all the above programs with a “forever” factor.

When placed over the farm it is the ultimate protection available for the entire agricultural structure. The landowners release the right to develop or alter the land in any manner that is not consistent with the conservation minded nature of the easement. The Easement grantors are eligible for state and federal income tax charitable deductions.

- **Ohio Agriculture Easement Donation Program – Fixed/Predetermined**

The landowners release the right to develop or alter the land in any manner that is not consistent with the conservation minded nature of the easement. There is strong government involvement in OAEDP. Tax benefits may apply.

- **Land Trusts and Associations - Flexible**

Easements can be written or crafted to allow the landowners to allow limited development activities on the farm as long as they are consistent with the conservation minded nature of the easement. There is limited government involvement in incorporated Land Trusts and Associations. Locally the Fairfield Land Preservation Association is still forming and the Licking Land Trust and Hocking Hills Land Trust have been running for years. Tax benefits may apply.

- **Clean Ohio Agriculture Easement Purchase Program - Fixed/Predetermined**

OAEPP is available to a limited number of farms. The Ohio Department of Agriculture pays qualifying farms much of the difference between agriculture value and full market value of the land. The landowners release the right to develop or alter the land in any manner that is not consistent with the conservation minded nature of the easement. There is strong government involvement in OAEPP. Tax benefits may apply.

For information on any of the above programs, or to specifically discuss farmland preservation opportunities for your land, please contact Jonathan Ferbrache with the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District.