

## 69TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET

- When:** Thursday, September 6, 2012
- Where:** Alley Park/Goslin Nature Education Center  
2805 Old Logan Road SE, Lancaster
- Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Cost:** \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under
- Agenda:** 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. -- Board of Supervisor's Election  
6 - 7 p.m. -- Buffet meal of lasagna/baked ham, red skin  
potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, fresh fruit, rolls with butter,  
drinks and desserts  
7 - 7:45 p.m. -- Donna Daniel, Wildlife Biologist with ODNR, Div. of Wildlife  
"Birds of Prey"  
7:45 - 8:30 p.m. -- Conservation awards, election results and door prizes

**Speaker:** Donna Daniel

Donna earned a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University and works as a wildlife biologist for the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. She oversees public land management in Central Ohio, conducts wildlife surveys and monitors populations of birds of prey including bald eagles and peregrine falcons. For several years she hosted the "Backyards for Wildlife" feature on the *Wild Ohio* TV show. Donna enjoys the outdoors in many ways, including gardening to attract wildlife and hunting for wild game and geocaches.



Photo from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

### 2012 Plat Books Available

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## PAST SUPERVISOR RECOGNIZED

Roger Wolfe was inducted into the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Hall of Fame at the OFSWCD 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Partnership Conference held in February in Columbus.

Roger served as a Supervisor for the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District from 1983 to 1998. Roger's stewardship for our prime soils and water resources began at an early age where he heard from his father, "take care of the land and the land will take care of you." While in high school, Roger rented an 83 acre farm where he worked toward developing his own farm management strategy. Through these experiences he was first noticed by the agriculture community when he received a State Farmer Degree with the FFA at the recently formed Liberty Union High School.

It is best to summarize Roger as a lifelong student, a sponge for knowledge if you will, and a servant to his community and family.

Roger's dedication to his 208 acre farm on the prime farmland of Walnut Township has spoken to the community at large what conservation is. From his tillage practices, to waterways, stream buffers and cover crop practices to the mounds of topsoil that were in his front yard for many years that demonstrated topsoil loss from an acre each year and in a farmer's lifetime; the "professor" is happy to explain. Roger proudly displays his farm signage collection with one for Preserved Farmland from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Fairfield County Commissioners. This crowning achievement recognizes the value of prime soils, the conservation efforts of the Wolfe family and value of agriculture to our local economy and future generations. As Roger said "I think I'll paint it on the barn for people to see off State Route 37 - Farmland Forever." He never lets a moment pass to educate a neighbor, government official or lifelong friend on the importance of prime soils to sustain us.

Roger's recent efforts have shown him to be an example of someone who will "test drive" and clear the way in new programs to show others it can be done. He joined with the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District to organize the first Agricultural Security Area in Fairfield County and apply for the first tax abatement in the area for agri-business growth. Roger is a "pioneer" in many areas and we believe his efforts will help guide sustainability in Fairfield County and Ohio.

Roger's dedication and achievements have come with the support of a strong family who has supported his efforts to learn, demonstrate and educate. Roger's wife of over 40 years, Doris served as his secretary, cheerleader and outreach coordinator. Roger is part of the first "father and son" Supervisors in the history of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. Roger's children have supported his efforts and his son Michael farms by his side today. Michael was elected in 2009 to serve on the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Congratulations to the Wolfe family for this honor.



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### Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District's 69th Annual Meeting/Banquet Thursday, September 6, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Number of reservations:</i>	
_____ Adults @ \$12 ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Children @ \$6 ea. = \$ _____ <small>(10 years and under)</small>	
Total Enclosed \$ _____	

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

Reservation deadline is **Friday, August 31, 2012**  
Sorry, tickets cannot be refunded.

*Please note: You will not receive a confirmation notice.*

# SWCD ELECTION.....*Cast Your Vote*

The Fairfield SWCD will hold an election for two Board supervisors from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012, at the 69th Annual Meeting/Banquet being held at Alley Park. The nominees for this year's election are John Albert and Tom Darfus, both of Lancaster.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Fairfield County and are 18 years of age and older may vote. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. Fairfield County residents and landowners have three ways to cast a ballot: 1) at the annual meeting; 2) at the SWCD office until 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012; or 3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the Fairfield SWCD office at 831 College Ave., Suite B, Lancaster, OH 43130 or by calling (740) 653-8154.

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

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### *John Albert*



John and his wife Cindy, together with their four daughters (Caitlin, Abby, Emma and Ava) live in Pleasant Township. John spent four years in the USAF before taking a position with General Dynamics which he held for fifteen years. John founded Advint in 1999, after deciding to raise their family in Ohio, and is VP of Engineering and Operations. Advint is a rapidly growing engineering firm with 15 employees. John holds a BSEET from Franklin University. He and his family are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lancaster and his children attend St. Mary and Fisher Catholic schools.

John and his family own Ruffwing Farms, a small berry and specialty crop farm in Pleasant Township. In addition to supporting and promoting local foods, he has been active in habitat restoration and conservation practices for over ten years and a member of many different conservation organizations.

John has applied many of these practices on his farm, such as wetland restoration, buffer strips, food plots, etc. in order to gain knowledge on their inner workings and now assists others through various public and private funding mechanisms. John has been very vocal in promoting CP33 to local landowners in order to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to restore critical buffer strips to our landscape. He has also been active in youth activities, coordinating and hosting youth hunts, shoots and dog training sessions. He will be hosting various wildlife activities on his farm for local youth school projects. John has been on the SWCD Board for two three-year terms, serving in all capacities and currently is serving as Treasurer-Fiscal Agent.

### *Tom Darfus*

Tom has been a lifelong resident of Fairfield County. The last forty-four years he has lived on 30 acres in Pleasant Township. He has been married for 47 years to his wife Elaine, and they have three grown children and eight grandchildren.

Tom was a tool and die maker for 30 plus years and a supervisor at various manufacturing companies. He also taught precision machining at Lancaster High School for four years. Tom is currently retired but still works as a substitute teacher's aide and school bus driver. He also worked for Mid-Sate Wool Growers as their truck driver.

Tom is a member of St. Bernadette church, charity newsies, N.R.A Life Goodguys, and Amateur Trap Shooters. He is a member of Lancaster City Parks (Friends of the Parks), Christian Family Pioneers and Frontier Players.

Tom enjoys seeing his grandchildren grow and helping them develop new skills, building muzzle loading guns, hunting and spending time with family and friends.



# GRANTS HELPTO STUDY, PROTECT AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AT BUCKEYE LAKE

## **Buckeye Lake Nutrient Reduction Project**

In further support of local efforts to assess, protect and improve water quality at Buckeye Lake, Ohio EPA sought and received a \$425,000 grant from U.S. EPA to conduct two years of comprehensive monitoring in the 3,200-acre lake and its tributaries. Ohio EPA, in turn, will award sub-grants as part of a newly launched, four-pronged Buckeye Lake Nutrient Reduction Project. Partners include Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow (BLT), a local watershed planning group, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Recreation and Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The cooperation of residents, businesses, farmers, organizations, visitors and government agencies is essential to preserve this recreational resource.

## **Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow**

BLT is utilizing a sub-grant to develop a Buckeye Lake management and nutrient reduction plan in the next year. In shallow lakes across Ohio, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen from many different sources can contribute to declines in water quality.

BLT will conduct public outreach and educational workshops with lakefront homeowners to raise awareness about nutrient loading to the lake and encourage individual responsibility such as phosphorus-free fertilizing, picking up after a pet, managing storm water, and keeping the lake clear of carp, unwanted discharges and dumped materials (even grass clippings and other organic matter).

## **Buckeye Lake State Park, ODNR**

ODNR is using grant money to retrofit a boat launch with permeable pavement at Buckeye Lake State Park's Fairfield Beach. A gravel base allows storm water to infiltrate the ground, and run-off will be redirected from the parking lot through a constructed wetland to filter pollutants. Rain gardens, informational signs and a workshop for marina operators will demonstrate the effective, passive control of run-off to keep nutrients from entering the lake.

## **Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District**

Fairfield SWCD received a sub-grant to document existing land uses and surface cover along more than 70 stream miles in the watershed, educate lakeside homeowners about rain barrels and make barrels available, place educational signs about rain barrels, and install 200 rain barrel systems in Fairfield, Licking and Perry Counties. The District will also work with a number of local producers to plant cover crops on 200 acres in the Buckeye Lake watershed to reduce both phosphorus and sediment from flowing into Buckeye Lake and its tributaries. Demonstration projects will be planted in several fields this fall after harvest. Tyler Bobo, an Ohio University graduate, was hired on a part-time basis as a water quality technician to assist the SWCD staff with field work and data collection.

# COLLECTION DAY SET

The Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District in cooperation with Violet Township, Fairfield County Sheriff's Department and Lancaster-Fairfield County Recycling & Litter Prevention will be conducting another prescription drug, electronics collection and shredding event. This event will be held on September 29, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Violet Township Service Center located at 490 N. Center Street in Pickerington (at the corner of Stemen Road and Center Street).

Prescription pills, capsules, liquids, creams, gels, ointments, patches, suppositories, powders, syringes and IVs will be collected. No aerosols or inhalers will be accepted. Electronics that may be dropped off include: computers, laptops, printers, cables, mouses, keyboards, discs, electronic clocks, VCR and DVD players, radios and cell phones. Computer monitors will be accepted at no additional cost if they are included as part of an entire computer system. Otherwise there will be a \$3 disposal fee for computer monitors not brought in with a processor or tower. Televisions will be accepted at the event at a cost of \$1 per diagonal inch.

There will also be document shredding offered at this event. Participants wishing to shred documents are asked to observe a limit of three (3) boxes sized 10"x15"x24".

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## **GOVDELIVERY AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is rolling out a new tool that will improve the way they share information with the public, partners and each other. It's called GovDelivery.

You can opt in to receive as much or as little information as you want on topics you choose -- from NRCS Programs or Initiatives (including sign-up deadlines), events in specific states, or on specific topic areas like "Farm Bill." This is done simply by entering your name, e-mail and then clicking on the boxes next to the corresponding topic areas.

You can subscribe by going to the NRCS homepage at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home), click on the GovDelivery icon in the right-hand navigation bar, and subscribe to receive updates on topics that interest you.

**The Fairfield SWCD office has copies of the *Ground Water Resources of Fairfield County* published in 1981, revised in 1992 and *Ground Water Pollution Potential of Fairfield County Ohio* published in 1996. Both are available at the SWCD office and can be obtained free of charge for those interested.**

## JOIN US FOR "A TASTE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY" EVENT

The agricultural community is invited to "A Taste of Fairfield County" on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the Agriculture Service Center in Lancaster from 5 to 7 p.m. This event is "open house" in nature and will showcase producers and growers from within Fairfield County. We will be tasting foods, produce, commodity group products, dairy items, wines, brews and the like, all grown and produced in Fairfield County.

This open house event will replace the annual Fairfield County Ag Breakfast that was held the last three years in early September. If there is a fee, it will be nominal. Please join us for this fun, informative, and relaxing event and see what we have to offer to each other locally!

## COME SEE US AT THE FAIR

The Fairfield County Fair will run October 7 through 13, 2012. Don't miss this year's display and your chance to win some great giveaways!

