

JOE YOUNG MOVES ON AFTER SIX YEARS ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Joe Young (right) accepted his service award from fellow board member John Albert for his service on the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Joe served for six years on the District Board from 2006 through 2011. During his two terms, Joe served as Member, Vice-Chair, Chair and Treasurer/Fiscal Agent this past year. In spite of running his busy crop insurance business and being a father and grandfather (with a granddaughter in Texas), he always made time to attend our monthly meetings, often coming straight in from the planter or combine.

Joe knew our staff well before he became a board member, having worked with the District on several conservation projects prior to his term on the board. These included several grassed waterways, tile plans and a chemical containment system. Joe is currently enrolled in USDA's Conservation Stewardship Program, which rewards producers for conservation practices such as use of no-till and cover crops, precision farming, and nutrient analysis. Joe has also been a champion for farmland preservation and "walked the talk" enrolling two of his home farms totaling 265 acres into Ohio's Agriculture Easement Purchase Program (AEPP) over the past two years, ensuring the land will remain in agriculture in perpetuity.

One of Joe's colleagues on the board, current Chair John Albert offered that "Joe has been a tremendous asset to not only the District, but the citizens of Fairfield County. Joe has been a stalwart and the backbone of the Board since I joined the District five years ago. His knowledge and application of conservation practices, his involvement in farmland preservation programs and his willingness to promote and communicate the message of the District have truly set a level of service for all to admire. He truly practices what he preaches. I am honored to have had the privilege of serving with Joe and I, along with the entire office, will miss his wisdom and many contributions."

Best Wishes Joe, we thank you for all of your service!



Happy Holidays

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET



Mike Wolfe, SWCD Supervisor (right) presented Don Sharp (Sharp Family Dairy) with a 2010 Cooperator of the Year Award. He received this award for the installation of many conservation practices.



Rosemary Pierce and her son Tim Pierce were presented with a 2010 Cooperator of the Year Award. They were one of the first producers in the county to install an agrichemical containment facility.



Rod and Josh Schultz were presented with a 2010 Cooperator of the Year Award. They installed a spring development and utilize contour strip farming.



Vicki Kohli (right), Fairfield SWCD Education Specialist, presented Cathy Trimmer, teacher at Sanderson Elementary, with the 2010 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award.



Perry Orndorff (left), District Manager, presented Art Brate with the 2010 Hockhockin Award for his work with the Lancaster Sensory Trail.



Perry Orndorff, District Manager, presented Harry Myers (left) and Bill Yapple (right) of Violet Township with the Inaugural Conservation Partner Award for their efforts in promoting conservation programs in Violet Township.

68TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

This year marked the 68th anniversary of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. The annual meeting/banquet was held on September 8, 2011, at the Goslin Nature Education Center on the grounds of Alley Park. The evening started off with a Board of Supervisors election. After dinner Jeff Johnson with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources presented a program on Zane's Trace and its history in Fairfield County.

The 2010 Cooperator of the Year Awards were presented to the following: Rosemary & Tim Pierce (E.H. Pierce Farm), Rod & Josh Schultz (Schultz Valley Farm), and Don Sharp (Sharp Dairy Farms).

The Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually to a Fairfield County teacher who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to teaching conservation, environmental awareness, and natural resource education to students in Fairfield County. This year the 2010 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award was given to Cathy Trimmer, a teacher at Sanderson Elementary.

A Conservation Partner Award was created this year to honor a partner that has demonstrated outstanding efforts in promoting conservation programs here in Fairfield County. The first recipient of this award was the Violet Township Trustees. They have shown great insight in providing conservation programs for Violet Township residents. Harry Myers and Bill Yaple accepted the award for the Violet Township Trustees.

Macie Young (not in attendance) and Nina Hicks were recognized as being chosen as winners in the 2011 NACD Conservation Poster Contest at the SWCD level. The winners of the 2011 Photo Contest ("Fairfield Features" theme) were: 1st place - Bruce Babcock, 2nd place - Chris Angel, 3rd place - Jack Tilley. All of the photo contest winners were given gift certificates to Cord Camera.

Mark Boving was elected and Bob Hoffman was re-elected to serve another three-year term on the Board of Supervisors starting January 1, 2012.



Vicki Kohli (right), FSWCD Education Specialist, recognized Nina Hicks as 1st place winner of the 2011 NACD Conservation Poster Contest in her age group at the SWCD level.

2012 SWCD PHOTO CONTEST

This year's theme is **BIRDS!** So get out your camera this winter, spring and summer! The rules for the contest are as follows:

- You must be a **Fairfield County resident** to compete (both adults & children are eligible)
- **Amateurs** only, no professional photographers please!
- **One entry per person**
- Photographs can be from prints, slides, or digital format
- Photographs must be your own original work
- Photographs can be color or black and white
- Photographs must be 8x10 format and **not framed and not matted**
- Please list your name, address and phone number on the back of your entry
- Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes (\$100, \$75 & \$50 Cord Camera Gift Certificates)
- All entries will be displayed at the Fairfield SWCD Annual Meeting/Banquet and in the SWCD fair booth at the Fairfield County Fair
- **DEADLINE** to submit photos to the SWCD office is **Friday, August 17, 2012, at 4:30 p.m.**



All photographs will become the property of the Fairfield SWCD. Please call (740) 653-8154 if you have additional questions.

2011-12 Ohio Hunting & Trapping Seasons

| <u>Game Species</u> | <u>Opening Date</u> | <u>Closing Date</u> | <u>Bag Limit</u> |
|---|---|---------------------|------------------|
| <i>Squirrel</i> | <i>Sept. 1</i> | <i>Jan. 31</i> | <i>6</i> |
| Whitetail Deer | | | |
| Archery | Sept. 24 | Feb. 5 | |
| Gun (bonus weekend) | Dec. 17 | Dec. 18 | |
| Muzzleloader | Jan. 7 | Jan. 10 | |
| <i>Ruffed Grouse</i> | <i>Oct. 8</i> | <i>Jan. 31</i> | <i>2</i> |
| Wild Turkey (Spring) | April 23, 2012 | 5/20/12 | |
| <i>Cottontail Rabbit</i> | <i>Nov. 4</i> | <i>Feb. 29</i> | <i>4</i> |
| Ringneck Pheasant | Nov. 4 | Jan. 8 | 2 |
| <i>Fox, Raccoon,</i> <i>Opossum, Skunk,</i> <i>Weasel</i> | <i>Nov. 10</i> | <i>Jan. 31</i> | <i>None</i> |
| Coyote | No closed season for hunting or trapping | | None |
| <i>Groundhog</i> | <i>Closed during deer gun season only</i> | | <i>None</i> |
| Wild Boar | No closed season | | None |

2012 AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has indicated the opening of the 2012 Agricultural Easement Purchase Program will be January 2012. Because of the popularity of this program in Fairfield County, we ask that you indicate your intention to apply to the SWCD office no later than Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

Fairfield SWCD hopes to complete applications for all eligible applicants with the understanding that time and staff resources available will be the ultimate deciding factor.

Program Guidelines for 2012

- FSWCD will apply no more than 30 applications for the AEPP annually (they may be of the same ownerships but meeting the individual application requirements).
- Those applicants who have applied the year prior are given first priority to apply but must decide to re-apply within the first 15 days the application is open each year or will lose this opportunity.
- Those in waiting will be placed on a first-come first-serve list.

If you have questions or would like to talk about the programs or other alternatives to protect your farm, please call Jonathan Ferbrache, Resource Specialist, at (740) 653-8154.

ANOTHER FAIRFIELD COUNTY CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATED

The Fairfield Land Preservation Association is proud to announce that an additional 69 acres of Fairfield County prime soils will be protected from non-agricultural development. Trillium Health Center has placed this conservation easement, along with prohibition of future subdivision of the other half of their property in Pleasant Township as they transition ownership of their nonprofit facility. We thank them for their dedication to the future of Fairfield County's natural resources.



Norm Boyd (left), President of Trillium Health Center & Ed Pool, Chairman of the Fairfield Land Preservation Association

SOLVING WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROBLEMS THROUGH LEGAL HARVEST SEASONS

Many Fairfield County producers may have experienced deer damage this year in row crops, orchards or nurseries. Landowners can have an important role in regulating deer herd size because they control access to their property. If landowners allow access to hunters, they may be able to reduce deer numbers locally, especially if adjacent neighbors also allow hunting. Because Ohio has a high deer birth rate, with many does producing twins, harvesting a single doe effectively reduces the local deer herd by a factor of two or three.

One of the best tools for dealing with deer damage is fall hunting seasons. Archery season for whitetail deer opened on Saturday, September 24, 2011, and runs through Sunday, February 5, 2012. This year Fairfield County is in Deer Management Zone C, which allows harvest of up to six deer, only one of which may be antlered. Harvesting bucks does little to control population levels. Some landowners specify that hunters harvest a doe while hunting on their property before a buck may be taken.

One additional tool available again this year to increase the harvest of does is the increased use period for antlerless deer permits. These tags can be purchased for (\$15) and a full price deer tag (either sex, \$24) does not have to be purchased first. These reduced price antlerless tags are legal to use through the last day of shotgun season (Sunday, December 4, 2011). For further information, please refer to pages 6, 7 and 8 of the 2011-12 Ohio Hunting Regulations Digest or on-line at www.wildohio.com.

If you harvest deer from your property, but do not want the venison, Farmers and Hunters Feeding The Hungry (FHFH.org) accepts donations at three area locations: Bower and Sons, Millersport (740-467-3800), Bay Packing in Pleasantville (740-862-6686) and Lazy Acre Meats in Junction City (740-342-2677). For all locations the deer must first be field-dressed. There is no processing fee charged to donors.

If you had crop damage this year caused by raccoons, most likely in corn, having some hunters this fall might pay dividends next growing season. The season for raccoons and other furbearers is from November 10th through January 31, 2012. There is no daily bag limit. Remember that all hunters must have written permission. If you would like some permission forms or contact information for interested hunters, please contact Perry Orndorff, FSWCD wildlife specialist.

2011 FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to Kelly Justice for winning a 4ft. Serbian Pine Tree donated by Albert Family Tree Farm & Nursery and Tylor Tipple for winning "The Giving Tree" book. Thanks to everyone who visited the Fairfield SWCD fair booth at the 2011 Fairfield County Fair.



EDUCATOR'S WORKSHOP BEING HELD

A Pre-K through 12 Project WILD workshop for teachers and non-formal educators will be held on Monday, February 20, 2012, at Alley Park from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Growing up Wild, Project Wild, and Wild Aquatic will all be introduced and corresponding curriculum available to attendees. Cost is \$10 and will include coffee, tea, snacks, and lunch. There will be .7 hours of CEU's available. Call the FSWCD office at (740) 653-8154 to register.

RAIN BARRELS...Recycle the Rain

Would you like to learn the benefits of capturing rain water while helping to prevent flooding and pollution downstream? The Fairfield SWCD will be holding workshops in 2012 on rain barrels. Participants will receive a terracotta colored "EarthMinded™ RainStation™" 60-gallon capacity rain barrel, which includes all parts for easy installation.

Future workshop dates and costs will be posted on the SWCD website at www.fairfieldswcd.org. Call the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District at (740) 653-8154 or e-mail us at rainbarrel@fairfieldswcd.org for more information.

JUST A REMINDER to those who already own rain barrels, they need to be disconnected for winter storage.

District Supervisors

John Albert
Bonny Calderwood
Bob Hoffman
Mike Wolfe
Joe Young

District Personnel

Amy Boyer
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Jonathan Ferbrache
Christina Holt
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