

FAIRFIELD FEATURES



August 2017

Volume 19 Issue 2

The Fairfield Features is published quarterly by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District
831 College Avenue, Suite B, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 (740) 653-8154

74TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET

When: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Where: Alley Park/Goslin Nature Education Center
2805 Old Logan Road SE, Lancaster

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$14 for adults, \$7 for children 10 and under

Agenda: 5:30 - 6 p.m. -- Board of Supervisors Election
6 - 7 p.m. -- Buffet meal of lasagna/stuffed pork chops, whipped potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, fresh fruit, rolls with butter, drinks and desserts
7 - 7:45 p.m. -- Mark Thomas, Photographer
7:45 - 8:30 p.m. -- Conservation awards and door prizes

Speaker: Mark Thomas

Mark started his passion for exploring the underwater at an early age of 14. The last four decades, he has been exploring cave systems from Florida to Mexico, shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, a sunken German U-Boat off the coast of North Carolina and plunging under Ohio ice over 300 times. His camera has taken him to photo shoots with Discovery Channel, Learning Channel and *National Geographic*. Mark is a self taught photographer with a passion to photograph what few people could imagine. He will take you back to 1995 where he was involved in a scuba accident that nearly killed him and opened his eyes to a new world he had never seen before. Mark would like to

share with you the unseen world where many thought could never be photographed in Ohio.



Please visit us October 8-14 at the Fairfield County Fair. We will be located again this year in the AGmazing Agri-Center (Ed Sands Farm Bureau Building).

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM WATERWAYS FUNDING CHANGES

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cost-shares on grassed waterways to minimize erosion, reduce sediment into bodies of water, and create wildlife habitat. There have been recent changes in the funding procedure for waterways. Previously, cost-share was immediately available when making a request; however, now funds are approved in batches, meaning projects cannot begin until funding has been appropriated.

Current eligibility requirements are as follows: land needs cropping history four (4) years between 2008 and 2013, is not drawn out of farm reporting acreage on Farm Service Agency (FSA) map, must have been owned for more than a year, etc. FSA will ultimately determine eligibility.

Cost-share is 50% plus a 40% incentive payment on component flat rates. Your contract will spell out the amount of cost-share available based on the waterway plan. Participants receive 10 years of annual rental payments after construction is completed.

If you are interested in a CRP grassed waterway, here are the steps to follow:

- Contact FSA with location to determine eligibility for the water pattern(s) of concern. If eligible, sign paperwork at the FSA office stating interest (good for 6 months).
- FSA will bring your request to the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office for SWCD/Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to visit the site to verify erosion in the field. If there is no erosion present, a waterway can't move forward at this stage.
- CRP is funded in batches. FSA will notify you when cost-share is available for your project.
- Once erosion is verified and funding is available, SWCD staff will survey and start design on the waterway. (If you are not approved for funding, but still want to construct a waterway, SWCD can still design a plan. Let SWCD know if you are interested.)
- FSA will request an archeological study which takes 30 days. Typically this involves looking at a map that shows historical archeological findings. If the site is near such an area, it may need a visual, more detailed inspection.
- Upon finishing the waterway design plan, SWCD will send two copies to the landowner to start the bid process if needed. Additional copies may be purchased. SWCD will give NRCS a list of components designed for the waterway so that NRCS can begin writing the conservation plan/contract.
- NRCS will give FSA the written contract and conservation plan.
- FSA will contact the landowner to schedule an appointment to have it signed.
- Once the contract is signed, construction can begin. SWCD can meet with the contractor/landowner to review the plan.
- Contractor or landowner will need to contact SWCD a few days prior to construction to request layout. SWCD will stake/flag what is needed.
- SWCD will follow construction through and approve the waterway to be seeded when all specs have been met from the as-built. After completion, the appropriate NRCS or SWCD engineer or technician will sign off on construction.
- Landowner submits bills to FSA and signs request for payment.
- FSA and SWCD review bills.
- SWCD submits list of approved components installed to NRCS and FSA for final payment.
- FSA makes payment.
- Landowner maintains the waterway for the contracted life of 10 years with the potential to renew at expiration depending on program changes and the waterway condition.

Seeding dates are March 15 to May 31 and August 1 to September 15. If seeding is completed outside of these dates (unless there was an extension by USDA), payment will be held until the next seeding date opening. If grass is established at that time, payment can be made. If not, the waterway will need to be reseeded.

Please contact the following agencies for more information:

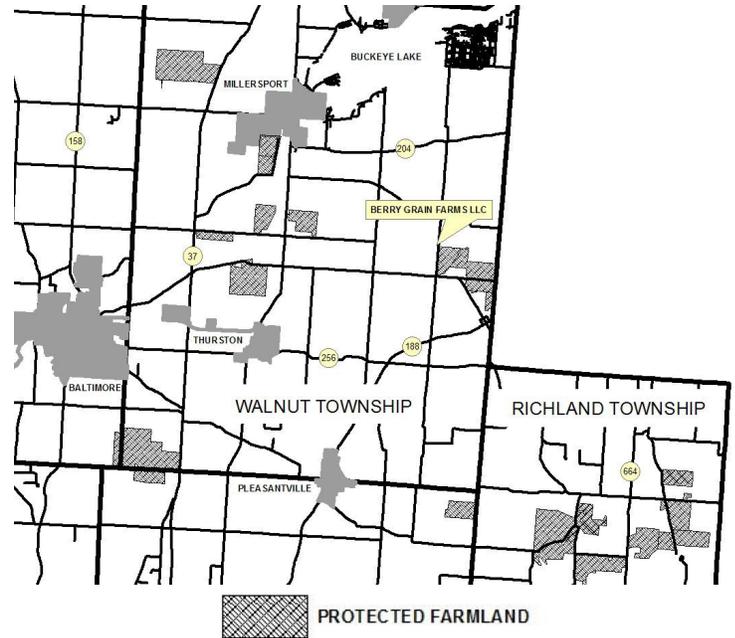
SWCD (740) 653-8154 Amy Boyer or Nikki Drake
NRCS (740) 653-5320 Dave Libben or Brice Shaw
FSA (740) 653-4012 Michelle Smith or Tina Karr

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

The Board of Fairfield County Commissioners closed another agricultural easement with the Ohio Department of Agriculture/Clean Ohio Fund and Berry Grain Farms LLC. The 80.15 acres in Walnut Township brings the total of protected farmland in the township to 1,440 acres. This easement represents a third generation of the same family choosing to protect our prime and locally unique soils for the future of agriculture.



Pictured left to right: Josh Berry; Mike Kiger, Fairfield County Commissioner; Curtis Berry



A LOOK BACK....REFLECTIONS ON FLOODING SOLUTIONS

On September 14, 1954, the community got their first aerial view of efforts to reduce flooding in Lancaster through an air tour of the Upper Hocking Watershed. Highlights of the air tours which launched from the Anchor Hocking Glass Corporations Airport (now the Fairfield County Airport) included the recent completion of the first two dams in the system (today includes 29 wet and dry dams), improvements in on-farm conservation practices that all aid and protect the industrialized area of Lancaster (now a much larger retail and commercial corridor we know as the River Valley Mall and Ety Road).

The efforts of the community were an example to the rest of the United States and demonstrated a unified approach to flood control and conservation that serves us today. We encourage you to share with younger generations our community's story. A quick YouTube search for "From the Ridge to the River: The Story of a Watershed" tells this amazing story. We must support our conservancy districts and remind residents we all have a role in flooding issues.



Kneeling: Pearl L. Fogle, SCS. Left to right: Howard Johnson, Ohio Aviation Board; Horton Alger, U.S. SCS deputy state conservationist; Frank Carr, FSWCD farm planner; A. Paul Porter, Field Day general chairman; Carl Cruitt, ASCC Office Manager; and Floyd Wolfe, *Eagle-Gazette* circulation manager.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

MARK BOVING

Mark is a lifelong resident of Fairfield County and currently lives near Canal Winchester with his wife and best friend Sandy. They have a son, Joel. Mark attended Bloom Carroll Schools and ATI in Wooster. He is an OSU Ohio LEAD Alumni and a fourth generation farmer.

Mark has a grain operation and farms with his brother Matthew. He is a member of Farm Bureau and Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association. His board experience includes OSU Ohio LEAD, church boards, and he is currently serving as Chair of the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Mark has participated in the EQIP program (waterways, fencing, filter strips and heavy use pads). He is currently participating in the USDA's Conservation Security Program (CSP). Mark enjoys reading, WWII history and astronomy. He teaches a small group at his church and has been on mission trips to Mexico, Haiti and China. He would someday like to visit the beaches of Normandy, Iwo Jima and Israel.



PAUL KEMMER



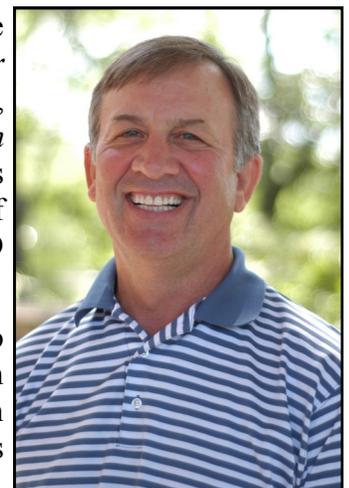
Paul and his wife Annabelle moved to Fairfield County in 2006 with their 3 children. Their youngest son is an honor student at Fairfield Union High School and their eldest children have graduated from Fairfield Union and Fairfield Career Center.

Paul has worked for a family owned construction business for over 15 years. He is an avid gardener specializing in growing heirloom tomatoes and saving seeds from over 25 different cultivars. Paul has been a member of the Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association and has completed over 80 state certified continuing education hours in the past 3 years. He is well versed in state and local rules and regulations and has completed State of Ohio training and testing for both sewage treatment installers and service providers, as well as being active in the state's rule making process. Paul enjoys fishing, camping, grilling out and spending time with his family.

TIM WHITE

Tim and his wife Kathy live on their farm in Berne Township. They have three children, Joe, Ginny, and Allie. Tim retired as the editor of the *Ohio Farmer* magazine. He has also been the agribusiness reporter for the *Columbus Dispatch*, farm management editor for *Successful Farming*, and editor for the *Michigan Farmer*. Memberships include the Ohio Ag Council, Ohio Ag Communications Association and he is an Ohio 4-H media representative. He is a past president of the National Association of Ag Journalists. Tim is a recipient of the NACD Communicators Award.

Tim served two terms on the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors from 2003 to 2009 and is currently in his third term. He has learned much about conservation from the many farmers he has interviewed, especially the Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award winners. He tries to follow their examples of conservation on his farm.



SWCD ELECTION...CAST YOUR VOTE

The Fairfield SWCD will be holding an election for two Board supervisors on Thursday, September 14, 2017, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. at the 74th Annual Meeting/Banquet being held at Alley Park. The nominees for this year's election are Mark Boving of Canal Winchester, Paul Kemmer of Lancaster and Tim White 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. There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: 1) at the annual meeting; 2) at the SWCD office until 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2017; 3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address: Fairfield SWCD, 831 College Ave., Suite B, Lancaster, OH 43130, by calling (740) 653-8154 or downloading the form from our website at www.fairfieldswcd.org.

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



2017 SWCD SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Fairfield SWCD offers two college scholarships each year to graduating seniors. Criteria and applications can be found on the SWCD website at www.fairfieldswcd.org and are due to the SWCD office by March 31st.

Alexis Kougher of Stoutsville and Desirae Logsdon of Amanda were chosen to be the recipients of the Fairfield SWCD 2017 annual college scholarships.

Alexis is a graduate of Amanda-Clearcreek High School, where she was very active in her FFA Chapter. She will be attending The Ohio State University campus in Newark and plans to study Agriscience Education.

Desirae is a graduate of Amanda-Clearcreek High School. She also was very involved with her FFA Chapter and 4-H. Desirae is attending Wilmington College and is studying Agribusiness.



Alexis Kougher



Desirae Logsdon

FAIRFIELD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 74TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PLEASE MAIL AND MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *Fairfield SWCD*
831 College Ave., Suite B
Lancaster, OH 43130

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS:

_____ ADULTS @ \$14 ea. = \$ _____

_____ CHILDREN @ \$7 ea. = \$ _____
(10 years and under)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017.**

(Space is limited so make your reservation early)

SORRY, TICKETS CANNOT BE REFUNDED.

Please note: You will not receive a confirmation notice.



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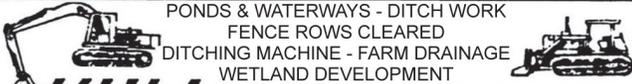
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WHERE DOES MY DRAIN GO?

Kelly L. Spindler, RS, Director of Environmental Health, Fairfield Department of Health

If someone asked you, “When you flush your toilet, where does it go?” could you quickly answer the question? In densely populated areas like the Lancaster area or Violet Township, you might be connected to a central sewer system. However, if you are not paying a monthly sewer bill, you have your own private underground septic system or Home Sewage Treatment System (HSTS) in your yard. It is estimated that about 1 million households in Ohio are located beyond central sewer.

A lot of homeowners have an out of sight – out of mind relationship with their septic system. You might never give a thought to what goes down the drain. But if you rely on a HSTS to treat and dispose of your waste water, what you don’t know could hurt you. Proper operation and maintenance of your system can have a significant impact on how well it works and how long it lasts. In Ohio, the homeowner is responsible for providing the care and maintenance for their system. Knowing what type of system you have will help you in that process.

To learn more about septic and leach field or aerator (pretreatment) systems please visit myfdh.org and click “environmental health”.

Maintain your system for the health of our Watersheds!

Your septic system can last a long time if it is properly located, installed and maintained. However, even the best designed and constructed system can have problems without periodic maintenance. Here are a few tips that can help extend the life of your system:

- Have your household sewage treatment system regularly pumped every 3 to 5 years by a septage hauler registered with the Fairfield Department of Health. Pumping the tank removes the build-up of sediments that reduces the performance of the tank that could lead to failure of the leach field.
- Keep your septic tank/aerator tank cover accessible for inspection and cleaning. Install risers if necessary to aid in bringing the access above ground in your yard.
- Divert sources of water such as roof drains, footer drains and sump pump discharge away from your leach field. Excessive water can saturate your soil, leading to system failure.
- Keep a good grass cover over your leach field to soak up excess water and prevent erosion.
- DO NOT let anyone drive over your system (typical lawn equipment is fine). Do not dig or build buildings, decks or patios, or place swimming pools over your system. Plant trees far enough away so that the roots will not grow into the leach lines.
- Conserve Water! Repair leaky faucets and toilets. Install low-flow faucet aerators, shower heads, toilets and high efficiency washing machines. Try not to wash all of your laundry in one day. Spread it out throughout the week, and stagger your use of water-generating appliances.
- DO NOT use septic tank additives. The effectiveness of additives has not been determined; in fact, many studies show that additives have no significant effects on a tank’s bacterial populations.
- Your septic system is not a trash can! Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic system. Limit the use of a garbage disposal. They place more solids in your tank and will require more maintenance to your system. Avoid disposing items such as grease, fat, oil, coffee grounds, diapers, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, paper towels, etc.
- Be gentle! Don’t flush harsh chemicals such as drain cleaners, paint, paint thinner, solvents or pesticides into your system. Harsh chemicals can destroy the helpful bacteria that treat the waste.

Remember, as the owner of a home sewage treatment system, you play an important role in protecting your community’s water quality. Streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater are the sources of our drinking water whether it comes from the local water treatment plant or your own drilled well. By maintaining your septic system properly, you are doing your part in protecting one of our most precious natural resources!

If you have questions concerning your septic system, or you want to report a problem, contact the Fairfield Department of Health at 740-652-2813. If you live in Pickerington or Canal Winchester City Limits, contact Franklin County Public Health at 614-525-3909 or visit myfcph.org and click “environment” to learn more.



In addition to calling our main phone numbers at 740-653-8154 and 740-653-5320, the staff of the Fairfield SWCD/NRCS office can be contacted directly by dialing the following phone numbers:

- Amy Boyer..... 740-415-3920
- Nikki Drake..... 740-415-3924
- Jonathan Ferbrache 740-415-3925
- Christina Holt..... 740-415-3910
- Dave Libben..... 740-415-3921
- Chad Lucht..... 740-415-3919
- Brice Shaw 740-415-3907
- Tommy Springer 740-415-3905

Before visiting the SWCD/NRCS office, please call ahead to be sure that the staff member you are wanting to see will be in the office to assist you. With the considerable amount of field work, our employees are not always in the office.

Contact information for other agencies located in the Ag Center:

- Farm Service Agency (FSA).....740-653-4012
- Ohio State University Extension740-652-7260

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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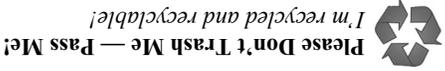
- Mark Boving
- Wendy LaRue
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- Matt Reese
- Tim White

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