

FAIRFIELD FEATURES



February 2016
Volume 18 Issue 1

72nd ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

The 72nd annual meeting/banquet was held on September 10, 2015, at the Goslin Nature Education Center on the grounds of Alley Park. The evening started off with a Board of Supervisors election. Dr. Jarrod Burks was the featured speaker. He specializes in geophysically detecting the unseen archaeological wonders that surround us, including ancient earthwork sites.

The 2014 Cooperator of the Year Awards were presented to the following: Joe and Cathy Young (Young Family Farms) and Mike and Margaret Thomas. Cooperators are selected annually based on their consistent work to improve their land by reducing soil loss due to erosion, installing conservation practices and participating in educational outreach to the community. Each cooperator received a sign to post on their farm.

The Conservation Partner Award honors partners that have demonstrated outstanding efforts in promoting conservation programs here in Fairfield County. Kelly Robberts with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office was awarded the Conservation Partner of the Year Award for their cooperation in offering Fairfield County residents a safe way to dispose of unused and expired medication by co-hosting drug collection events.

The Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually to a Fairfield County educator who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to teaching conservation, environmental awareness, and natural resource education to students in Fairfield County. The 2014 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award was given to Lee Wright, Coordinator of the Hosler Trust.

John Albert and Jim Krile were recognized for their terms served on the Board of Supervisors. Matt Reese and Don Rector were both elected to three-year terms on the Board of Supervisors beginning January 1, 2016.

SAVE THE DATE!

The next Fairfield SWCD Annual Meeting/Banquet will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at Alley Park. Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter or our website.



Spring is almost here! It's time again for the Tree & Wildlife Packet Sale. See inside for descriptions and order form.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET



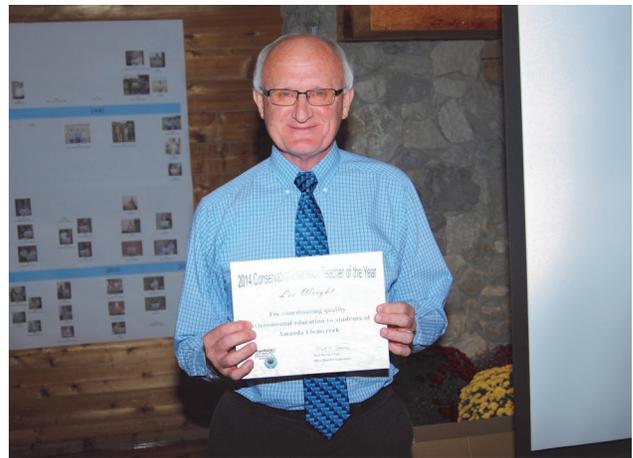
Michael Thomas was presented with a 2014 Cooperator of the Year Award.



Young Family Farms was awarded a 2014 Cooperator of the Year Award. Pictured are Ryan and Joe Young (back) and Vicki & Cathy Young



Kelly Robbets with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office was presented the 2014 Conservation Partner of the Year Award.



Lee Wright, Coordinator of the Hosler Trust, was awarded the 2014 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award.

FAIRFIELD SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZE

On January 14, 2016, the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors selected the following officers for 2016:

- Mark Boving - Chair
- Tim White - Vice Chair
- Don Rector - Secretary
- Mike Wolfe - Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
- Matt Reese - Member

The regular monthly Board meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Fairfield County Ag Center. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Since the time and date of the meetings can sometimes vary, please contact our office for information on any changes to the schedule.

SUPERVISORS SWORN IN DURING REGULAR MEETING



Don Rector (left) and Matt Reese (right), recently elected Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors, were sworn into office by State Senator Troy Balderson prior to the January 14, 2016, regular Board meeting.

2016 SWCD PHOTO CONTEST

This year we are asking you to submit photos that you feel represent the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District (past, present or future!). 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 must be digital format only with good resolution
- Photographs can be color or black and white
- Please e-mail your entry to photocontest@fairfieldswcd.org and give your name, address and phone number
- Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes
- 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 19, 2016, at 4 p.m.**

All photographs will become the property of the Fairfield SWCD and may be used on our website and social media. Please call the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154 if you have additional questions.

NEW SERVICE FORESTER FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Do you have a woods or want to establish one? Fairfield County has a new ODNR Service Forester available to assist you. Jason Van Houten has been an ODNR forester for 5 years, helping landowners prepare for and minimize negative impacts from the emerald ash borer, maintaining small woodlots and woodland benefits in urbanizing areas, and helping out other ODNR service foresters.

ODNR service forestry assistance is available in every Ohio county regarding forest management, watershed protection, insect and disease control, forest recreation, tree planting, and wildlife habitat development. ODNR service foresters also assist Ohio landowners with Ohio Forest Tax Law and cost-share incentive programs. Ohio landowners considering a timber harvest can utilize ODNR service foresters to decide if a harvest is appropriate, how a harvest can support their objectives, trees to harvest and protect, how to protect soil and water, and how to maximize money received from the sale of timber.

Jason can be reached by calling (614) 265-6703 or by emailing at Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us.

FARMS PROTECTED WITH CLEAN OHIO FUNDS

The Board of Fairfield County Commissioners in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture have closed two more agricultural easements.

Fairfield County's 15th easement was with the Nickerson-Howard families on 220 acres in Richland Township.



Pictured left to right: Scott Nickerson, Don Nickerson, Commissioner Mike Kiger, Holly Mattei (Regional Planning) and Mike Wolfe (SWCD Board)

Fairfield County's 16th agriculture easement was on the Starner property, consisting of 81.92 acres, also located in Richland Township.



Pictured left to right: Mary Forsythe, Jennifer and Gabe Starner

This brings the total of protected land in Richland Township alone to 1,101.46 acres with 1/3 of that being floodplain/floodway and areas below dams which means farmland preservation helps mitigate the risk for future loss of life or property damaged along the Little Rush Creek.

Tree Descriptions

Tree Name (seedling size)	Mature Height	Mature Width	Soil Moisture	Soil pH	Growth Rate	Light	Comments/Uses
Eastern White Cedar (8"-15")	20' - 60'	10' - 15'	M,W	A	S-M	S	well-adapted to wide-range of soil types and moisture levels, wildlife, wood products
Norway Spruce (10"-18")	60' - 80'	20' - 40'	D,M,W	N, A	F	S	landscaping, windbreaks, wildlife
White Pine (10"-16")	60' - 80'	20' - 40'	M	N, A	F	S	windbreaks, timber, wildlife
American Basswood (6"-12")	50' - 80'	30' - 50'	M	B,N,A	M	S, P	bees, pollinator, large leaves, interesting fruits
American Hazelnut (6"-12")	10' - 15'	10' - 15'	D,M,W	N,A	M	S	shrub-like tree, nuts, wildlife
Bald Cypress (6"-12")	50' - 100'	20' - 40'	D,M,W	A	M	S	deciduous conifer, wetland species, timber, wildlife
Black Walnut (6"-12")	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	D,M,W	N, A	F	S, P	nuts, timber, wildlife
Bur Oak (6"-12")	60' - 90'	60' - 80'	D,M	B,N	S	S,P	wildlife, specimen tree, interesting leaves & large acorns
Buttonbush (6"-12")	5' - 12'	4' - 15'	W	N	M	S	pollinator, wildlife, spherical white flowers, ornamental, wetland species
Pawpaw (6"-12")	20' - 25'	10' - 15'	M,W	N	M	S,P, SH	maroon flowers, edible fruit, wildlife, seedling needs some shade
Persimmon (6"-12")	40' - 50'	25' - 30'	M,W	N	S-M	S,P	edible fruits, fall color, specialty lumber
Pin Oak (6"-12")	50' - 70'	40' - 60'	M,W	A	M-F	S,P	AKA Swamp Oak, russet fall color, great shade tree with dense branches & leaves
Red Maple (6"-12")	40' - 70'	30' - 50'	M,W	N,A	M-F	S,P	brilliant red fall color, shade tree, does well along creeks & in bottomlands
Red Oak (6"-12")	50' - 60'	50' - 60'	D, M	N	F	S	tolerates dry conditions, landscape, timber
Redbud (6"-12")	25' - 30'	26' - 33'	M, W	B	M	S, P	adaptable, abundant lavender flowers
Shellbark Hickory (6"-12")	100'-120'	74' - 80'	W	A	M	S, P	does great in bottomlands, flatlands that do not drain quickly, and floodplains
Sugar Maple (6"-12")	60' - 80'	20' - 40'	M	N	S-M	S	landscaping, timber, orange fall color, maple syrup
Sweet Shrub (6"-12")	6' - 9'	6' - 12'	M		S	S,P	fragrant, maroon flowers, adaptable, yellow fall foliage
White Flowering Dogwood (6"-12")	20' - 30'	20' - 25'	M	A	S-M	S,P	four-season appeal, white flowers, red-purple fall color
White Oak (6"-12")	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	D,M,W	N	S-M	S, P	timber, very beneficial to wildlife and ecosystems
Soil Moisture (W = wet, M = medium, D = dry)			Light (S = sun, P = part sun/shade, SH = shade)				
Soil pH (N = normal pH range 6.5 - 7.5, A - acidic 6.5 or less, B = basic/alkaline 7.5 or higher)							
Growth Rate (F = fast 12+ inches/year, M = medium 6"-12"/year, S = slow 2"-6"/year)							

PLEASE NOTE: All orders are subject to availability. There is no limit to the number of packets you may order; however, payment must be included with your order. Orders are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. You will receive notice in April as to when the orders may be picked up. **Tentative pick-up date is Friday, April 8, 2016.** The Fairfield SWCD will not be liable for any seedlings not picked up within three working days of the original pick-up date. All trees and shrubs are state and federally inspected. We may need to make reasonable substitutions based on availability of certain species. All trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings 6 to 18 inches in height. **Orders must be received by Wednesday, March 23, 2016.**

2016 Tree & Wildlife Packet Order Form

Evergreen Trees	Packets of 5			Packets of 25			Packets of 100		
	# of pkts.	Cost	Total	# of pkts.	Cost	Total	# of pkts.	Cost	Total
Eastern White Cedar	x	\$4		x	\$17		x	\$50	
Norway Spruce (Non-native)	x	\$4		x	\$17		x	\$50	
White Pine	x	\$4		x	\$17		x	\$50	
Deciduous Trees									
American Basswood	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
American Hazelnut	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
Bald Cypress	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Black Walnut	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Bur Oak	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Buttonbush	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Pawpaw	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
Persimmon	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Pin Oak	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Red Maple	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Red Oak	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
Redbud	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
Shellbark Hickory	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
Sugar Maple	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
Sweet Shrub	x	\$7		x	\$30		x	\$90	
White Flowering Dogwood	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	
White Oak	x	\$6		x	\$25		x	\$82	

Wildflower Seed Packet # ____ x \$4.25 ea. = \$____
 1 ounce; plants up to 200 sq. ft. of showy annuals and native perennials

TOTAL ORDER ENCLOSED \$

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

(needed if you would like to receive notice as to when you can pick up your packets - if you do not supply an e-mail, you will receive a post card in the mail)

Orders must be received by:

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Send payment to: Fairfield SWCD
 831 College Ave., Suite B
 Lancaster, OH 43130

For Office Use Only:

Date Paid: _____ Receipt # _____

Check # _____ Cash



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ALBERT & KRILE MOVE ON AFTER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SERVICE



John Albert has served on the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors for three terms starting in 2007. John held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Chair, and Vice Chair over the past nine years as a Board Supervisor.

Jim Krile served on our Board of Supervisors for one term starting in 2013. During his term, Jim held the positions of Member and Secretary.



We would like to thank both John and Jim for their commitment and dedication to the SWCD office.

NEW DEER DAMAGE PROCEDURE

The way you get deer crop damage permits has changed. The new procedure is as follows:

1. File a complaint at www.wildohio.gov. If you do not have computer access, contact Tommy Springer, Fairfield SWCD Wildlife Specialist, and he will make arrangements to get the permit through the SWCD office.
2. An e-mail will be sent to the SWCD office stating you have deer damage. A field investigation will be done.
3. If damage is occurring, Tommy will fill out and file the permit.
4. You will receive an e-mail telling you that you have a deer damage permit and the number of tags issued. (You will no longer have paper tags.)
5. You will still have to provide a copy of the permit to each shooter. It is the responsibility of your shooters to make sure tags are still available before shooting. Before shooting they need to check on-line and make sure there are tags left.
6. Once they harvest a deer they have five days to check in the deer. The most effective way is to tag deer in on-line.

Please call Tommy Springer at (740) 653-8154 Ext. 101, if you have additional questions.

FAIRFIELD SWCD OFFERS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fairfield SWCD awarded two college scholarships in 2015. The recipients were Joseph McCandlish and Autumn Miller.

Joseph is a graduate of Fairfield Union and is attending Ohio University-Lancaster studying Soil Science/Conservation.



Autumn is a graduate of Liberty Union and is attending The Ohio State University studying Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

The SWCD will again offer two college scholarships of \$500 for any graduating senior that plans to study Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation, Environmental Education, Geology and Biology. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application.

Applications for this scholarship can be acquired from high school guidance counselors, the SWCD office or through the Fairfield SWCD website at www.fairfieldswcd.org under the Education tab. Along with the application, an official high school transcript, 400 word essay and two letters of recommendation are required.

Scholarship money will be awarded after the applicant successfully completes the first semester of college and has maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The deadline to apply is March 31. Please contact the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154 with questions.

PLEASE NOTE:

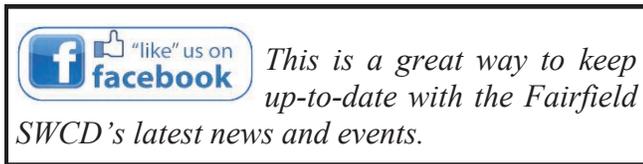
Tommy Springer, our Conservation Tech./Wildlife Specialist, has taken on the education duties of the SWCD and is now our Education/Wildlife Specialist.

The price for a bundle of 30" marking flags has increased to \$10 per bundle of 100. We currently have them in blue, lime, pink, orange, red, yellow and purple.

POND CLINIC....SAVE THE DATE!

The Fairfield SWCD is currently planning a pond clinic on Thursday, April 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. It will take place at Sycamore Creek Park Pond at 500 Hereford Drive in Pickerington.

If you would like to attend, please send an e-mail with your name and phone number to pondclinic@fairfieldswcd.org or call the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154.



SMALL WOODLOT MEETING BEING HELD IN FEBRUARY

There will be a Central Ohio Small Woodlot Interest Meeting on Saturday, February 27, at Blacklick Woods Metro Park from 10 a.m. to noon. Walk the trails and learn keys to identifying trees and shrubs during the wintertime.

This is a free event; however, it is limited to the first 20 participants. To RSVP, or get more information, please contact Jason Van Houten at (614) 265-6703 or Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us.

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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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