



Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District
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The County Cooperator

A PUBLICATION OF
THE JEFFERSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

September
2020



Ohio Ag Fun Fact

With 2,200 dairy farms, Ohio leads the U.S. in Swiss cheese production, producing nearly half of the country's Swiss cheese. Overall, the agricultural industry contributes \$93 billion to the state's economic growth. Check out more fun agriculture facts about Ohio below.
<https://aghires.com/agriculture-facts/>

Annual Meeting & Special Election

After carefully weighing the COVID-19 facts as well as our duties as a District to our conservation partners, meeting attendees and the local community, we have made the difficult, but necessary decision to cancel the traditional Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Voting for Board of Supervisors will take place from September 4th to October 17th. Voting can be done in person at the District office or ballot requests can be made by phone, mail, or email. See page 6 for more information.



Photographer: Gary Bush

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Quaker Ridge Groundbreaking

County Commissioner, Dave Maple, board members and staff of the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District joined attendees from the community at a groundbreaking ceremony for Quaker Ridge Arboretum and Nature Trails located on State Route 152, Richmond. JSWCD board member Mark Nelson said, "Today, we break ground on a new chapter for Jefferson County where restoration, conservation, preservation and education will guide the county into a new age."

Mark Nelson, JSWCD Board Chair stated "JSWCD was given a great gift in this property" and thanked the county commissioners, Salem Township trustees and a \$599,800 grant from Clean Ohio Green Space. The initial bulk of the money was used for obtaining the property and for some infrastructure including a planned parking lot. Part of the grant will be used for planting native plant species that will host a variety of birds.

Quaker Ridge will be developed in a series of phases and will be a place where trails will cross throughout the interior of the property allowing people of all ages an opportunity to interact with nature. The goal also is to make it a place for schools and universities to bring students to teach them and to let them experience nature.

Development phases will depend on funding. According to Dodds, fundraisers, sponsorship opportunities and donations will be available as a way to generate future funding. Those interested in learning more about sponsorship or donating can contact the district office at 740-264-9790.

"We look forward to completing the first phase of this project with the main trails being cut in and wildflowers planted. When this phase is complete, it will be open and free to the public from dawn until dusk."
Aaron Dodds, Project Manager



Wendee Dodds, Ken Perkins, Jodee Verhovec, Duayne Wetherell, Mark Nelson, Irene Moore, Dave Maple, Aaron Dodds

JSWCD Mission Statement "Promoting Conservation of Our Lands and Waters"

JSWCD BOARD:
Mark Nelson, Chair
Ken Perkins, Vice Chair
Stephanie Vance, Secretary
Jodee Verhovec, Treasurer
Duayne Wetherell, Public Relations

JSWCD STAFF:
Irene Moore, District Administrator
Wendee Dodds, Operations Manager/Natural Resources Specialist
Brandon Andresen, Water Quality Coordinator
Aaron Dodds, Projects Manager
Logan Moon, Cross Creek/Yellow Creek Watershed Coordinator
Amy Browning, Bookkeeping Manager/Program Assistant

JSWCD ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Eric Haenni & Paul Sweeney
NRCS STAFF: Beth Krupczak, Clint Finney and Hans Baltzly

We are online and on Facebook
www.jeffersonswcd.org



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- Supervisor Voting · September 4 - October 17
- JSWCD Board Meeting · September 21
- Farm Science Review (Virtual) · September 22 - 24
- Columbus Day · Office Closed · October 12
- JSWCD Board Meeting · October 19
- JSWCD Board Meeting · November 16
- JSWCD Board Meeting · December 21

CUSTOMER NEEDS SURVEY

We want to hear from you...

The Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) Board of Supervisors is offering an invitation to all Jefferson County residents to comment on the District's current services and to identify their local conservation needs by completing the JSWCD Customer Needs Survey.

With the information gained from this survey and other outreach channels, the District board and staff will be able to address and improve their technical and educational services in the most logical and efficient ways possible.

The survey link will be available in October on the Districts' website and Facebook page. However, if you would like to have the survey emailed to you, please send request to abrowning@jeffersoncountyoh.com or to request a printed copy contact our office at 740-264-9790.



“Like” us on Facebook to receive the latest conservation updates in your newsfeed!



Fall Planting

As fall fast approaches, some gardeners feel that spending time in the garden is no longer needed, but for gardeners looking to extend the growing season, it is an opportunity for new planting. Between now and the time we turn back the clocks in early November is one of the best times of year to plant spring-blooming bulbs, cool-season annuals, vegetables, many trees, shrubs and perennials.

Here are 6 reasons why you should consider planting in the fall.

Warm Soil + Cool Air = Happy Plants. Just about every plant hardy in this area prefers moderate temperatures to summer's scorching heat. Fall is the only time of year you get conditions where the soil is still warm from the summer sun but average temperatures are more comfortable for plants.

Less Insect Pest and Disease Pressure. Insects are more active in spring and summer months than fall, making for less-stressed plants that root in better.

Less Water Stress. Even if the fall brings only moderate rains, it's still easier to keep newly-planted plants watered when it's 70F than when it's 90F.

Planting is More Pleasant. Although digging a hole is never pleasant, it's an easier job when the temperatures are moderate and the soil is not saturated from spring rains.

Head Start for Next Spring. After spending the fall and winter rooting into the soil, plants are ready to grow faster and produce more flowers in spring and summer instead of having to devote energy to rooting.

So if you make an investment in a tree, extensive shrub or perennial plantings,

Planning for a “Hybrid” School Year

It's that time of year again, when teachers and students come back together with excitement for the upcoming academic school year. As we all know, this year also comes with uncertainties. JSWCD would like to help ease the stress for teachers and parents planning for a “hybrid” teaching approach by teaming together and offering our resources.

While our previous outdoor classroom activities have been postponed, we have brought together a collection of online resources for your convenience on topics such as the importance of soil and water conservation, recycling, forestry management and pollination. Resources can be found on our website at <http://www.jeffersonswcd.org/interactive-playground.html>.

We would like to provide useable resources tailored to meet academic needs. We look forward to receiving feedback on virtual programming topics - whether it be through webinars, podcasts or articles - that are of interest to you.



Meet Your SWCD Board of Supervisor Candidates

Paul D. Sweeney is a retired information technology professional, who has worked for several international corporations doing large software installations in Europe, Canada, and the United States. He is a graduate of the University of Phoenix in 2004 with a bachelor of science degree in Information Technology. Paul is an avid woodworker who also enjoys hunting and fishing within Jefferson County.

He currently resides in Steubenville with his wife of 40 years, Tammy. They have three sons, one grandson and three granddaughters. In the last several years, Paul has volunteered with numerous projects and activities around the county including the Friendship Wine and Food Festival and

the Nutcracker Village and Advent Market. Paul is currently active with the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District as an associate board member. He and Tammy have attended Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District programs and are regular attendees during the District's annual bus tours.

Paul is excited to get further involved with the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and bring his many experiences to the table.



Stephanie A. Vance is completing her third term as an elected Jefferson SWCD board member. During her tenure on the board, she has taught the wetlands/watershed classes to over 1500 5th grade students at the annual Fernwood State Forest Outdoor Days program. She has also written the test questions and facilitated the water management testing station for Area III Environthons, and the State Envirothon, a national high school academic and natural

resources competition coordinated through soil and water conservation districts.

Vance has been a Professor of Biology, Program Director for the Environmental Science ASS at Eastern Gateway Community College for 20 years and is an adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Wheeling University. She received a BS in Natural Sciences from Shawnee State University, MS in Plant Pathology & Entomology from the University of Tennessee and MS in Human Nutrition & Metabolism from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

She and her husband Rob have 4 children and raise a diversity of heritage animals on a small farm in Cross Creek Township.

Duayne Wetherell is completing his first term as an elected Jefferson SWCD board member. He was born and raised in Jefferson and resides just outside of New Alexandria. He is a former dairy farmer now living and operating a small farm with his wife, Monica and their five children. Together they raise livestock and harvest and sell hay.

He graduated from Buckeye Local High School and received a Natural Resources Historical Interpretive Services degree from Hocking College. While attending college, he volunteered at the historical Robbins Crossing Village.

Duayne is presently employed by Crummitt and Sons' Vault Co. He is a member of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau, has served as President and on the Board of Trustees. He has represented the Farm Bureau membership in Columbus and in Washington D.C. He also has served on the Young

Agriculture Professionals Committee.

He is an Assistant Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America where he volunteers as a leader in Steubenville Troop 3 and plans to participate with the scouts on a fishing adventure in Florida.

Duayne grew up in the 4-H program as a youth and has now been an adult advisor for the Liberty Gals and Guys 4-H club for 20 years. He enjoys spending time outdoors, as well as hiking, kayaking and spending time with family.



Jefferson SWCD Board of Supervisors

Election Notice and Procedures

Five county residents serve as supervisors on the Jefferson SWCD Board. Each supervisor serves a three-year term and may run for re-election at the end of their term. The Board of Supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs which address management and conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Paul D. Sweeney, Stephanie A. Vance and Duayne Wetherell have accepted the nomination to run for the Jefferson SWCD Board of Supervisors. The two elected supervisors will begin their term January 1, 2021.

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. To be eligible to vote the applicant must be 18 years of age or older, a resident or own land in Jefferson County or own a corporation, partnership, association, or other entity registered with the Ohio Secretary of State in Jefferson County.

The JSWCD Annual Supervisor Election will be held from Friday, September 4th to Saturday, October 17th.

Voting

Voting period is from Friday, September 4th thru Saturday, October 17th.

Residents wishing to vote may request a ballot application and ballot from Jefferson SWCD by any of the following ways:

- Mail - 500 Market Street, Mezzanine, Suite 4, Steubenville, Ohio 43952
- Email - imoore@jeffersoncountyoh.com
- Phone - 740-264-9790
- In person at the SWCD office (**During normal office hours: Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**) Face Mask Recommended

Upon request to vote, the SWCD will provide a ballot application, election ballot, and ballot envelope.

Ballots must be received (not postmarked) in the SWCD office by Saturday, October 17, 2020.

Successful candidates will be announced on the District website as soon as the vote is certified by a representative of the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR

Name Change

Since 1962, the District has given out the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to recognize agricultural producers showcasing conservation on their farms. Throughout the years, the agricultural producers who have been chosen for the award are those that were and are in a constant state of learning, and who haven't been afraid to take a risk and try something for the good of soil and water, even though it might not produce an immediate result. They were and are in the habit of 'practicing what they preach,' and have an excitement to share that knowledge with others.

Over the years, the face of Jefferson County has changed and continues to change. Traditional farms don't cover the landscape as much as they once did. But that isn't to say that conservation isn't still taking place –sometimes, it is just

taking a different shape, in the form of forest stand management, wildlife habitat management, watershed management, hobby farms and more – all in addition to the agricultural producers we still have in the county. To incorporate this land management diversity, the District will be changing the 'Conservation Farmer of the Year' award to the

'Conservation Cooperator Award'

The name change takes the District back to its cooperator roots, and allows the Board to recognize land stewards that might not be considered traditional farmers.

So, to all of you who practice conservation of natural resources, thank you. We appreciate all that our conservation farmer of the year award families have done and

will continue to do throughout the coming years, and we look forward to the opportunity to broaden the scope of conservation acknowledgement in the future.

Over the next several weeks the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Board will be reviewing potential candidates to in order to recognize their land stewardship efforts. We welcome your recommendations of conservation stewards for consideration. If you know an individual or group who meet the criteria for the JSWCD Conservation Cooperator of the Year please email your recommendation to imoore@jeffersoncountyoh.com with a summary of their conservation efforts or send the information to the JSWCD office by September 18, 2020.

Criteria for selection of the JSWCD Conservation Cooperator of the Year

A recognition of land stewardship for individuals or groups who work in partnership with the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District to protect and conserve natural resources in Jefferson County.

- Landowner/landuser/land manager has worked with the Jefferson SWCD and/or their conservation partners for a minimum of 3 years.
- The cooperator shows evidence of a commitment to improve agriculture; forestry; water quality and other land use activities that reflect good management practices.
- Landowner/landuser/land manager has shown engagement in public involvement and education that supports their interest in improving natural resources. For Example: Participation in and/or hosting field days, pasture walks and/or conservation-based seminars and workshops; and willingness to communicate well-reasoned land management decisions, challenges and outcomes/successes.

A Forest Means Different Things to Different People

Examples of landowner objectives are increased species diversity, wildlife habitat, recreation, inheritance, aesthetics, and source of income

Taking proper care of your woods is necessary in order to maintain the health of the woodlot thereby providing the products and/or amenities desired by the landowner. Forest management is a process and with assistance from partnering agencies and experienced professionals you can develop a management plan and work toward achieving your objectives.



ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Forest resource agencies and professionals throughout Ohio have information available to assist woodlot owners with their decision as to whether a harvest is the right choice for their woods. There is guidance on developing a harvest contract to protect you and your forest; on the selection of harvesting the proper trees based on your objectives; on saving dollars on taxes; and how to protect your soil and water resources. These topics and many more areas to help in the informed decision making process are available from the Jefferson SWCD; Ohio State University Extension; ODNR, Division of Forestry; the Ohio Forestry Association and various other partners.

University Extension; ODNR, Division of Forestry; the Ohio Forestry Association and various other partners.

CONSIDERING A HARVEST?

Timber cutting is one of a foresters' major management tools and is useful not only for generating income, but also for accomplishing other ownership objectives such as improving the health of the forest, developing wildlife habitat, altering species composition or establishing planting areas.

Many people have a difficult time accepting timber harvesting because of the physical and visual chaos that often characterizes the aftermath of a harvest. However, the impact of cutting and removing timber commercially can be minimized by integrating the harvest plan with Best Management Practices (BMP's) to reduce sediment that enters the natural drainage system as a result of logging, tree planting, site preparations or other cultural activities required to grow or harvest forest products.

WOODLOT OWNERS RESOURCE PACKET

The Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District has compiled many of the fact sheets and documents in one packet to introduce landowners with the facts to ask informed questions. To receive a copy of the compilation of resources, contact imoore@jeffersoncountyoh.com or call the JSWCD office at 740 264-9790

Protect Yourself & Our Waterways



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Disposal

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has become an integral part of keeping us safe during a global pandemic and a growing source of litter around the world. We are all using more gloves, masks and wipes than ever before and most of these products are made of plastics, polymers and non-biodegradable material. When plastic products become litter, they end up in storm drains, many of which lead directly to local creeks, rivers and eventually to the oceans. These items slowly break apart into smaller bits of plastic known as microplastics. These microplastics can wreak havoc on local fish and wildlife species.

A New Type of Pollution

What can you do:

- Properly dispose of all PPE. This means throw them into the garbage. It is best to put them in a tightly closed bag to avoid creating more litter and harming sanitary workers.
- Do not put PPE in the recycling bin. PPE is not recyclable or reusable (some masks can be reused).
- Do not litter. If no garbage can nearby, take a bag to put your PPE in until you can dispose of properly.
- If you pick up littered PPE, be careful—assume it is contaminated. Use grabbers if possible and disinfect with a wipe/spray when finished.

Storm drains are not garbage cans.

Article exerts from Hamilton Soil & Water Conservation District.

2020 ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

RULES and CATEGORIES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30th

Who is Eligible?

Only amateur photographers are eligible. (An amateur photographer does not possess a professional photographer tax identification number for the sale of photographs). **The photos must be taken at a location in Jefferson County however the photographer is not required to reside in the county.** The contest is not open to any JSWCD Supervisor, staff, or immediate family members.

Entry and Judging Format

Submit digital photo to abrowning@jeffersoncountyoh.com. Include name, brief description of photo with location, email address and phone number. Digital photo submission is encouraged but if you prefer to submit a printed photo, the photo will be digitally scanned for voting purposes. There will be no entry fee and you may enter your work in any of the categories offered. Choose what you feel is the appropriate category for your submission. **A total of three (3) photos may be submitted per photographer.** Photos must be taken within Jefferson County.

Judging Criteria

- Technical excellence (sharpness, lighting, composition, exposure)
- Originality/creativity
- Interest (photo features a recognizable center of interest in relationship to the category)

First Round of Judging

Entries will be judged internally to determine appropriate category entry and to select up to the top ten (10) winners in each topic category. First round judges reserve the right to switch prints to a more appropriate category or to disqualify if the entry is not suitable for any of the categories.

Categories

Wings in Flight

(Nature's creatures that have the capacity to take flight)

Barnapalooza

(Agricultural structures that portray images of farm life and/or history)

Second Round of Judging

Top ten winners in each category will be posted on the district Facebook page and website where viewers can vote for their favorite photo. Participants are encouraged to solicit votes by sharing the contest voting link with others. Online voting will run from October 19th through October 31st. Winners will be announced on the district Facebook page and website on Monday, November 2nd.

Awards

A 1st Place \$50.00 Cash Award will be given in each category.

Use of Prints by the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District

All entrants agree that any photo submitted to the photo competition may be used for marketing and promotion purposes directly related to the mission of the conservation district. Credit will be given to the photographer when possible.