

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2016

Volume 66

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Please join us for our
70th
Annual Election



Thursday, November 10, 2016

Garden Meeting Room 6970 State Route 88

Ravenna, OH, 44266 7:00 –10:00 pm

6:30-8:00 pm - SWCD Board of Supervisors Voting

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the **PORTAGE** Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in PORTAGE COUNTY and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. 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, which will take place November 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Garden Meeting Room at 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH 44266; or
- (2) at the SWCD office until 4:00 p.m. on November 10, 2016; or
- (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address: Portage SWCD, 6970 St. Rt, 88, Ravenna, Ohio, 44266

The Portage SWCD will have the annual banquet and election on November 10, 2016 with voting from 6:30 –8:00 pm and dinner provided by Ravenna's own Guido's Restaurant starting at 7:00 pm. In addition, Mr. Eugene Braig will inform us of harmful algae blooms and what we all can do to reduce and prevent them.

Tickets for the event are **\$10.00**. Please preorder Banquet tickets by using the **order form in this newsletter**. Reservation requests should be received by this office **no later than November 4, 2016**. If you have any questions you can call Marybeth Willett 330.297.7633 X101. If you are unable to attend the banquet we would encourage you to consider voting absentee!!!

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

August 23-28

Portage County
Randolph Fair
Come see us at the Fair!!!

Sept 9

Fish Sale Order Deadline

Sept 15

Amur Pick Up 11:00 a.m.
Randolph Fairgrounds

Sept 21

Farm Science Review Bus Trip

November 10

70th Portage SWCD
Annual Banquet &
Election 6:30 -10 p.m.

A Time To Review Our History

It is not often we can quote a rock-guitarist in an article about conservation, but Steven Van Zandt, member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band has this to say about timing, "Timing really is nearly everything. And what it isn't, circumstance makes up for." Timing certainly influences the outcomes of almost any situation. Generally good timing is really the result of good planning. Sitting in rush-hour traffic or standing in long lines at the grocery store might motivate some of us to alter our "timing" when we have the flexibility to do so. But we can't always manipulate things to create ideal timing.

Farmers are especially burdened with the task of utilizing good timing. Mother Nature is not easily manipulated and fluctuating weather patterns and temperatures make clocks and calendars almost useless tools for farmers when trying to optimize "timing" of various tasks. To start with, planting too early might result in frost damage. Planting when soils are too dry or too wet will also result in poor crop response. Temperatures not only determine plant development, but insect development too. Insects are more easily controlled during some periods of their life cycle than in others, so "timing" a pesticide application is crucial. Additionally, the timing of herbicides and fertilizers must also be properly timed with weather patterns. Improper timing can result in additional pollution entering our waterways through storm water run-off. After attempting to properly "time" a multitude of steps to produce our nation's crops, farmers must once again work with Mother Nature to time their harvest.

Since natural resource conservation efforts are often linked to agriculture, "timing" has always been a hurdle for conservation agencies to cross. However, conservation efforts in the U.S. had one glorious moment of "perfect timing". This moment led to the creation of federal, state and eventually local agencies to assist landowners with conservation practices that help protect the shared natural resources that extend beyond our personal property boundaries.

In March of 1935, Hugh Hammond Bennett, a soil scientist who is referred to as the father of soil conservation was scheduled to testify before Congress about the need for soil conservation. Years of drought coupled with unsustainable farming practices caused an environmental and financial disaster now known as the "Dust Bowl". This national disaster led to a public awakening to the ravages of soil erosion. Bennett fully understood the benefits of good timing, and delayed his testimony with graphs, reports, and all the minutia that good scientists gather to defend their positions. You see, Bennett knew that a dust storm was heading east. But he did not have the advantage of smart phones with weather apps. So he continued to drag out his testimony until congressional members started commenting about the encroaching darkness and brewing storm. But this was not an ordinary storm, it was a dust storm. As the remnants of the Midwest plains and prairies descended upon Washington, our nation's capitol was blanketed with the indisputable evidence that soil, a life-sustaining resource, demands stewardship. Bennett had to employ some stalling tactics, but his efforts resulted in perfect timing and shortly thereafter, the Soil Conservation Act was passed by Congress without a dissenting vote and signed by Congress on April 27, 1935. The act established the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service), as a permanent department of the USDA. As the department's first chief, Hugh Hammond Bennett was also vital to the implementation of conservation practices, and the development of local soil and water conservation districts.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts were formed as local government subdivisions to serve as liaisons between private landowners and federal agencies. Since their formation by the Ohio General Assembly in 1941, Ohio's 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have been at the forefront of protecting and managing our soil, water, and related natural resources. Portage SWCD is governed by a five-member local Board of Supervisors and elections are held yearly at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Supervisors has the ethical and legal responsibility to ensure that the SWCD meets its mission.

Continued next page

A Time To Renew Our Commitment

Acting as volunteers, board members serve staggered, three-year terms and are granted specific powers under Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. This strategic structure and design of districts enable the unique ability to provide landowners with education and conservation programs that address local needs, while advancing state and federal objectives for natural resource protection.

Agriculture remains at the heart of many local SWCD's, but as our communities change land use changes, but timing is still crucial. Decisions of property owners impact our natural resources. By developing outreach programs and providing education, Portage SWCD provides information and guidance on natural resource management issues including but not limited to: soils, streams, wetlands, drainage, ponds, wildlife, plants, and forests. By providing technical assistance to residents, agencies, townships, and county government, the District helps others comply with current environmental regulations such as erosion and sediment control, agricultural pollution, water pollution, and wetlands protection. In addition, Portage SWCD offers a variety of services including plan reviews, education programs and workshops, annual tree and fish sales, aerial photographs, and general property site information.

During this election year we are on the verge of political changes that might once again change our national environmental policies. But on Thursday, November 10th, it is time for the Portage SWCD to hold its Annual Meeting and election. Every Portage County resident has the opportunity to take part in this local government process that provides services to help conserve the natural resources in your community. Please take the time to join us.



The Lincoln Memorial in the middle of a dust storm March 1935

Amur Fish Sale

White Amurs are sterile, plant-eating fish used to control submerged aquatic vegetation such as pondweeds, coontail, and milfoil. They **do not prefer** to eat algae and are not a good control option for floating weeds such as duckweed. Use the form in this newsletter to place your **prepaid** order by

Friday, September 9, 2016

**Pick up
Thursday, September 15, 2016
11:00 am - sharp!**

Randolph Fairgrounds (4215 Fairgrounds Rd, Randolph 44265)

Bring a covered container, lined with a plastic bag, and recently filled with your own pond water

- ◆ (use one 5-gallon bucket per 2-3 Amur).
- ◆ Stock 5-10 amurs per acre, depending on weed problem
- ◆ Arrive promptly—the fish truck will be there a short time
- ◆ Please mark pick up dates and location on your calendar.
 - ◆ NO reminders will be sent.

Contact Marybeth at 330-297-7633 x101 with questions.

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 11:00 am SHARP!!

Randolph Fairgrounds—4215 Fairgrounds Road, Randolph 44265

**Please fill out this form & send it with your check payable to
Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Order Deadline: Friday, September 9, 2016

****Office Use Only****

Check # _____

M.O# _____

Cash _____

Certificate _____

SWCD Employee Initials _____

Date _____

Receipt # _____

Meet the PORTAGE SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Beth Padisak - Beth was born in Portage County and currently lives in Deerfield Ohio with her husband and 13 year old son, Alex. Beth is Co-Owner of Deerfield Farms Service in Deerfield Ohio. She has served on the Ohio Agribusiness Association Board. Beth currently serves as Board Chairman on the Portage SWCD Board of Supervisors. Beth enjoys gardening, reading and biking. Beth, her husband Bill and son Alex attend Old North Church in Canfield.

Kenneth Rufener - Kenny's family has been involved in agriculture in Portage County, specifically in Suffield Township, since 1854. Kenny is a life-long resident of Portage County and currently resides in Suffield with his wife Linda. The Rufener's have four children and eight grandchildren. He also serves on the Dairy Committee as their president. He has been a 4-H advisor for over 26 years, and is a member of the Farm Bureau. Kenny currently serves as Vice-President of the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Kenny enjoys attending High School sporting events.



Dennis Wise—Dennis operates a 400 acre farm on Shaffer Road in Randolph Township. He raises such crops as wheat, soybeans, oats, corn and hay. Dennis is also a member of the Portage County Farm Bureau, Knights of Columbus, the St. Joseph's Church in Randolph and is a former Randolph volunteer fireman. He has been on the SWCD Board of Supervisor's for 27 years and currently serves as Treasurer. He and his wife, Linda, have three daughters.

Zach Alger - Zach is a lifelong resident of Ravenna, Ohio. Zach is a dairy farmer and works with his father, uncle, and cousin at Grac-Glen Farms in Ravenna, Ohio. Zach also raises beef cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Zach received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a minor in Agricultural Economics. Zach enjoys farming and being in the outdoors. He and his wife DeAnna and their son Hunter live in Ravenna, Ohio. Zach currently serves as the District's Fiscal Agent.



Fred Rodenbucher— Fred is a third generation farmer in Portage County. Fred has been a full time farmer for the last thirteen years in Randolph. He raises heifers for Herchek Dairy Farm. He raises cash grain crops, corn, beans and wheat, and hay in rotation. Fred has been involved with the Farm Bureau and Farmland Preservation. Fred currently serves as the District Secretary.

Farm Science Review Bus Trip

It's that time of year...time to sign up for the Farm Science Review Bus Trip! This year we will be meeting on **WEDNESDAY** at Maplewood Career Center parking lot (like always!) and heading to the Farm Science Review on

Wednesday, September 21st, 2016.

Please register by using the order form in this newsletter .

Bus departs at 6:00am from Maplewood Career Center & returns around 9:30pm,

\$40.00 per person - A Great Deal !!

Deadline for ordering tickets is Friday, September 16th, 2016

Cost includes ticket, bus ride, morning refreshments, and dinner at Der Dutchman Restaurant!! This popular trip fills up fast, so reserve your seat today!



We Want Your Plant Suggestions For Our 2017 Tree Sale

September is almost here and in our office that means it's time to select and order tree seedlings for our Spring 2017 Tree Sale. We would like to continue to offer as many Ohio natives as possible in our sale, and are seeking your suggestions for berries, shrubs, evergreens, deciduous conifers and plants for tough sites. Customer suggestions for the 2017 tree sale can be emailed to Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org. Based on availability, we will do our best to include as many patron suggestions as we can in our sale.

Into the Future..... NRCS

The days are flying by, the years tick tocking away. Our old ways of doing things are becoming out of date relics, endangered species so to speak. Or are they really? Maybe they just need a little updating. A little bit of bringing things into the 20th century? How would you like to try an updated way of planning, planting, growing, grazing, manure storing, rotating, fencing, watering, heavy use pad using, brush managing, grapevine eradicating, windbreak planting, grass water ways, road accessing, tree planting, bee buzzing, and get help paying for it? WHEW! That was a breath or two.

USDA NRCS has a program called the Environmental Qualities Incentive Program (EQIP) that is available to sign up for at any time of the year! It is a competitive program, but well worth the time it takes to sign up for it! Right now is a great time to get together and discuss what options you may have available to you and your property. The EQIP program contract is a short term contract that helps offset the cost of implementing conservation minded practices. NRCS is happy to help you plan your farm around your needs.

For more information on our EQIP program you can visit our website at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/> or call me at my office anytime. Dee Waters USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist (330)297-7633 ext. 114.

Newsletter Sponsors

Please tell our sponsors that you saw them in our newsletter!

Any of combination of this clip art will work

Banquet & Farm Science Review Bus Trip Reservation Form

Please check one or more:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ | 70th Annual Banquet | \$10.00 each | (pre-order banquet tickets by 11/4) |
| _____ | Farm Science Review | \$40.00 each | (order FSR bus trip tickets by 9/16) |

Total _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Detach & return with check payable to:

**Portage SWCD
6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266**

Office Use Only

Check # _____ M.O# _____
 Cash _____ Certificate _____
 SWCD Employee Initials _____
 Date _____ Receipt # _____

Sign Up Now for
USDA Conservation
Programs!



USDA and SWCD are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District
 6970 State Route 88
 Ravenna, Ohio 44266
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 www.portageswcd.org

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