

CONSERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of
the Defiance
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Summer 2016

Inside this Issue

Page 2

- * Supervisor Election/
Profiles

Page 3

- * History of Drainage
Practices (part 2)
- * Photo and Poster
Contest Winners

Pages 4 & 5

- * Education Highlights

Page 6

- * New Employee
- * Word Search Winner
- * Nutrient Management
Programs
- * Farm to Table Dinner

Page 7

- * Word Search

Page 8

- * Upcoming Events

The bee on the flower in our above mast was the 3rd place winning photo in the wildlife category, submitted by Sara Stark, a 7th grader from Tinora.

Defiance
419-782-1794
Soil & Water Conservation District

You are Invited: Fall Focus and Supervisor Election

Please join us in celebrating the District's 67th year of serving Defiance County at our Annual Supervisor Election and Fall Focus on Tuesday, September 6th from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Defiance.

The District Board of Supervisors election will commence at 3 p.m. and will conclude at 5:30 p.m. to elect one Supervisor on the District Board (see profiles on page 2).

Our featured presenter will be Hans Kok, an international no-till expert who will be leading in-field discussions on cover crops from 4-5 p.m. We are fortunate to be able to plant demonstration plots of various species and mixes of cover crops on a farm within walking distance of the K of C Hall.

Hans will also be our featured speaker presenting at 6 p.m. in the K of C Hall on cover crops, sustainable agriculture and highlights from his experiences in the Netherlands. Following Hans' program, the District will present the Cooperator of the Year Award to a very deserving Defiance County family.

The Fall Focus will be a family-friendly event with complimentary grilled sandwiches, (grill courtesy of Fairview Young Farmers), sides, and soft serve ice

cream. There will be a youth pedal pull sponsored by the Tinora Young Farmers and educational displays and presentations.

The Defiance SWCD invites all members of the community to attend, cast their vote for Supervisor and see the many ways we serve Defiance County residents and landowners by promoting the wise use of our natural resources.

The Board of Supervisors, prospective Supervisors and staff will also be present to talk and answer your questions.

Hans Kok, international no-till expert will share his knowledge of cover crops, sustainable agriculture, and highlights from his homeland of the Netherlands.



Evening by the River – August 5th

Celebrate the Rivers on Friday August 5th from 5-8 p.m. at Pontiac Park. **Free** opportunities to get out on the water include both kayak trips & pontoon boat rides! A group kayak trip from Dey Bridge to Pontiac Park will be perfect for beginners and families! Join the festivities at the park for a chance to receive kayak instruction and paddle around the confluence. Visit landtolake.com for reservation details.

We are also very excited that Tri-State

Watershed Alliance will be offering 30 minute pontoon boat rides starting on the hour and 1/2 hour from 5-8 p.m. First come first serve! Pontiac Park will be happening with food vendors, farmer's market, music, and river displays/activities!



Board of Supervisors

Defiance County is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Supervisors who volunteer their time and resources to the Soil and Water District. They ensure that the District programs are being run in the most efficient and financially sound manner and ensure that every tax dollar is being accounted for.

Defiance SWCD Board of Supervisors (Left to Right): Keith Schroeder, Bill Moats, Jeff Hange, Terry Behnfeldt, and Roger Zeedyk IV.



Notice of Election for SWCD Supervisor

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of one Supervisor of the Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code, at the District's Fall Focus on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. One Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2017.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- At the SWCD's Fall Focus, (3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. voting time) on September 6, 2016 at the Defiance K of C Hall.

- At the Defiance SWCD office between August 16, 2016 (during normal business hours) until 12 p.m. on September 6, 2016.
- Vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office.



Please take advantage of one of the above opportunities to vote. Your vote is very important in selecting future District leadership. Contact the District with any questions you may have regarding the election.

Supervisor Candidates



Keith Schroeder and his wife, Pamela, reside at 02821 Adams Ridge Road in Adams Township. They are the parents of two sons, Layne (Chelsie) and Lucas (Taylor) and have one grandchild.

Keith farms full-time and also works part-time for the Ridgeville Telephone Company. He farms approximately 750 acres of which some of the ground is owned and some is rented.

He attends Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren and is a past Sunday School Teacher and Usher. He is a member of the Farm Bureau and the Tinora Academic and Athletic Boosters. Snow skiing is a hobby that Keith enjoys with his family and friends. He has served as SWCD Supervisor for the past 15 years.

Keith utilizes filter strips, drainage control structures, conservation tillage, and EQIP practices on his farm.



Burdette Meyer and his wife, Jean, reside at 26307 Arps Road in Adams Township. They are the parents of two children Megan Ruffner (Jimmie) and Jacob.

Burdette runs a 60 sow farrow-to-finish operation and also works for the Sauder Woodworking Company. He has been involved with agriculture for 37 years.

Burdette attends St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He is on the Board of Directors for the Jewell Grain Company and a member of the Ohio Pork Producers, Ohio Soybean Council, Ohio Corn Growers, and OSU Alumni Association. He also enjoys restoring old muscle cars.

Burdette utilizes filter strips, drainage control structures and reduced tillage on his farm.

Ohio's History of Drainage – Part 2 of 3 Part Series: The Value of Drainage

Despite the old saying, land values are not solely based on location, location, location. Its value is also greatly affected by drainage, drainage, drainage. And unless land is set aside as preserved wetland, saturated soils or standing water hurts the value of the property.

Over the years, rural Ohio landowners have invested in developing their farmland with drainage structures such as grassed waterways and subsurface drainage lines. Meanwhile rural homeowners have invested in household sewage treatment systems. To work, both field drainage systems and household septic systems need an outlet for the water moving through the systems. Even though they might not be aware of it, these landowners depend on ditches or subsurface drainage lines to carry water away from their property to rivers or streams. The drainage channels might be miles away, but if they do not function, water will back up throughout the watershed.

For farmers, drainage is critical to good yields. Research conducted by Ohio State on north central Ohio's very poorly drained soils shows that a combination of surface and subsurface (tile) drainage can double average yields. It also reduces yield variability, allows earlier planting and increases the number of days soils are suitable for fieldwork. While the benefits of drainage vary, much of Ohio's most productive crop ground cannot be farmed economically without man-

made drainage.

The difference shows up in both land prices and rental rates, notes John Boblenz, a realtor based in Delaware County. "Land goes for 25 to 30% more if you have good drainage," he explains. "It also makes a difference how quick a farm sells."

For homeowners, drainage problems can affect not only the value of the home but also the well-being of the residents. For instance: a chronically wet basement can result in mold growth, stagnant water in a yard can breed mosquitoes, and saturated soils can cause septic systems to fail. Generally, Boblenz says, the difference in the selling price of a poorly drained home site compared to a well-drained one is the cost of correcting the problem. In some cases, though, drainage problems cannot be solved easily because the property does not have a drainage outlet.

Unfortunately, many of the drainage systems landowners rely on have deteriorated over time and are no longer working as they once did. Unless these systems are reconstructed, the value of the farmland and the rural homes they drain will suffer.

Youth Photo & Poster Contest Winners



Sara Lightle, a 10th grader at Defiance, won first place in the Tree & Plants photo category.

A record 224 entries were submitted to the District's Annual Youth Photo Contest in 5 categories: Trees & Plants, Conservation, Wildlife, Education, and Landscapes. Prizes were awarded for the top 3 places in each category. Each winner received a certificate with their picture, a ribbon, and a hummingbird feeder kit.

We also received 873 posters for the annual contest. The theme this year was "We All Need Trees". Prizes were awarded to the top 3 places in each grade category (K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). Winners received a ribbon, tree seedling, and a tree-themed book. First place in each category will be forwarded to the state competition. A complete display of winning photos and student winners can be found on the Defiance SWCD Facebook page and will be on display at our Fall Focus on September 6th.



Anna Ankney, a Fairview 7th grader, won first place in her grade category & was the Grand Prize winner. Her poster is featured on placemats distributed to establishments in the county.

SWCD Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors typically holds its regular monthly meeting (open to the public) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. Any changes to this date/time will be posted in the local newspaper.

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

Nutrient Management Specialist Hired



The District would like to welcome Mick Britenriker as the WLEB Nutrient Management Specialist. Mick started his new multi-county position on April 18, 2016, working between Defiance, Paulding and Williams Counties. He is primarily responsible for manure and fertilizer regulation compliance, working with farmers to develop nutrient management plans and implementing best management practices. Mick is very familiar with soil and water conservation having previously worked for the Fulton Soil and Water Conservation District as a SWAT Conservationist. He is also very passionate about livestock and farming, being very involved with his family's 900-head cattle farm. Please contact Mick at 419-782-1794 to discuss SB1 requirements and nutrient management planning.

Word Search Winner

The word search winner for the Spring Edition of *Conservation News* was Darlene Polasek from the Jewell area. She received a garden compost bin for submitting last edition's word search. Her puzzle was randomly drawn from the many completed

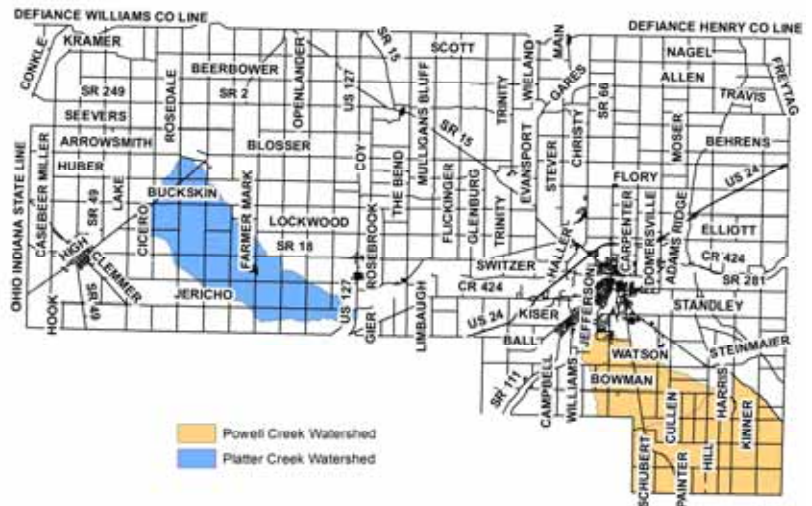
puzzles submitted. Congratulations Darlene! We hope you enjoy your compost bin.

You could be our next winner. Be sure to complete and return the word puzzle to the SWCD office before August 31st!



Programs Available for Nutrient Management/Cover Crops/

The Defiance SWCD is currently enrolling conservation practices in both the Platter Creek and Powell Creek watersheds. Practices include cover crops, gypsum soil amendment applications, grade stabilization structures (drop boxes/rock chutes), saturated buffers, controlled drainage structures, and variable rate nutrient sampling and application. Cost share is available for these practices, ranging from 50% to 95% depending on the watershed and the specific practice. Please contact the office with any questions you may have regarding these programs. Time and funding is limited, so don't delay! Also, be sure to stop at our Fall Focus on September 6th to *get the dirt* on cover crops and other practices that support sustainable agriculture.



Local Parks Word Search: Enjoy all of the wonderful amenities offered by our local parks this summer! Visit the Defiance Development & Visitors Bureau office or website for information about local outdoor recreation opportunities. Return your completed word search by August 31, 2016 to be eligible for an ODNR State Park camping gift certificate. Good Luck!

GET IT NOW
OHIO STATE PARKS
GIFT CARDS



S H W Y R F B X L D S S Y R S P O D E F D D A H H
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BARBEQUE
 BASKETBALL COURT
 CHILDREN
 FLOWERS
 HOMETOWN HEROES
 LATTY'S GROVE
 OLD FORT
 PLAYGROUND
 RESERVOIR
 SHERWOOD MEMORIAL
 SWINGS

BARK AND PARK
 BATTING CAGES
 DEFIANCE
 GAZEBO
 INDEPENDENCE DAM
 LITTLE RESERVATION STATION
 PARKS
 PONTIAC
 RIVERSIDE
 SLIDE

BASEBALL DIAMOND
 BRONSON
 DIEHL
 HICKSVILLE PARK
 KINGSBURY
 MOATS
 PENNEY NATURE CENTER
 RECREATION
 SHERWOOD FOREST
 SWIMMING POOL

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

CONSERVATION NEWS

Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District
06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone 419-782-1794 Fax 419-782-1791
swcd@defiance-county.com
www.defiance-county.com/swcd

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Stephanie Singer
Mick Britenriker

Ditch Maintenance Personnel

Kevin Hancock
Ed Walters
Josh Limber
Dave Sines

NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder
Lori Shank
Mike Boff
Cristhian Carrasquillo

Upcoming Events!

- **July 16:** *Farm to Table Dinner* at Fresh Made Dairy, see page 6 for reservation details.
- **July 27:** *Field to Lake: Soil, Science & Water Working Together* - A WLEB Field Day from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. swcd.fultoncountyoh.com
- **August 5:** *Evening by the River* at Pontiac Park, Defiance from 5-8 p.m. Food, music, kayaking and free pontoon boat rides! landtolake.com
- **August 11:** *Soil Health Field Day* at Roemke Farms, Harlan, IN allenswcd.org
- **August 20-27:** *Defiance County Fair* defiancefair.com
- **September 6:** *Fall Focus - District Supervisor Election, Awards & Cover Crop Programs* at Defiance K of C Hall from 3-7 p.m. Join us for dinner to meet the staff/board, vote, and learn what we are doing to conserve soil & water.
- **Defiance SWCD Youth Photo Contest:** Photos must be taken in Defiance County from May 2016-April 2017 and will be due to our office for judging in April. defiance-county.com/swcd
- **Celebrate Defiance in 2016!:** visitdefianceohio.com



1st place photo in the Conservation category by Colton Wisda, Tinora