



Inside your OASWCDE

JANUARY 2018

OASWCDE.ORG

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Dust to Diamonds!

Join us for the 2018 Annual Meeting

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of soil and water conservation in Ohio, from the Dust Bowl of the 1930s to the diamond anniversary of SWCDs in Ohio!

Beginning on Sunday, February 25th with the OFSWCD Board of Directors' meeting, through the gala on the evening of Tuesday, February 27th, opportunities abound to honor the past, treasure the present, and shape the future.

Meet old friends, make new ones, engage in professional development, enjoy a Columbus Blue Jackets hockey game, join in round table discussions, and take a trip down memory lane with your colleagues.

Visit www.ofswcd.org for the meeting agenda, a listing of breakout sessions, and more!

We look forward to seeing you at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus.



Time for Nominations

February 16th is the nomination deadline for 2018 Outstanding Conservation District Professional and Outstanding Conservation District Board Member.

This awards program was created in 1998 by the National Conservation District Employees Association. Its mission is to strengthen and promote conservation district programs by providing assistance,

information, and representation and by supporting professionalism of conservation district employees.

All nominees must have been a District employee for three years or have four years of board service. Nominations may be submitted by employees, OASWCDE directors, boards, state conservation agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of

Conservation Districts, and other associated conservation professionals.

We are surrounded by amazing, creative, and dedicated coworkers and board volunteers. Please take a few minutes to fill out a nomination form as a way of saying thank you to one of these special individuals.

Application forms can be found at www.oaswcde.org.

Areas 2 and 4 will be holding elections for OASWCDE directors. If you want to throw your hat in the ring, please contact Nikki Hawk at 419-586-3289. Voting will take place at the February partnership meeting in Columbus.

OASWCDE Directors

Area 1

Mike Libben, Ottawa
Julie Lause, Wood

Area 2

Amy Roskilly, Cuyahoga
Chad Stang, Huron

Area 3

Melissa Devore, Muskingum
Katie Day, Monroe

Area 4

Nikki Hawk, Mercer
Kelly Crout, Butler

Area 5

Linda Pettit, Franklin
Bonnie Dailey, Delaware

NCDEA Representative
Irene Moore, Jefferson

Meetings are generally held via telephone conference on the third Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. We welcome your participation. Please call Nikki Hawk, 419-486-3289, for meeting confirmation and access code.

2017 in Review

Membership
158 members

Farm Science Review
A work day was held on August 29th. A crew of 30 helped prepare the conservation area for the September event.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Program
Fortunately, no requests!

Awards were presented at the February partnership meeting:

- Bret Bacon, Delaware SWCD, Outstanding Conservation District Professional, \$100 and certificate

- Kris Swartz, Wood SWCD, Outstanding Conservation District Board Member, \$100 and certificate

Education
In November, six employees took advantage of the OASWCDE \$25 discount to attend Erie SWCD's Bluestem Communications training "Words Matter: Researching, Writing and Delivering Values-based Messages."

Sherry West Memorial Scholarship
Due to our positive financial standing, we were able to grant two \$250 awards in addition to the traditional \$500.

Austin Nainiger, Heidelberg University—\$500

Audrey Watkins, The Ohio State University—\$250

Evan Wilson, Wright State University—\$250

Continuing Education Scholarships
Abbot Stevenson of Athens SWCD, \$300 to attend the Ohio Stormwater Conference

Shaun Stephens of Warren SWCD, \$300 towards a Master's Certificate in GIS at Penn State World Campus

2018 Membership Drive Begins

We hope your New Year's resolutions includes joining YOUR employees association. Here's how you can join:

- Download a membership form from the website and send it with your check to Kelly Crout, Treasurer, at Butler SWCD.

OR

- Pay in person at the 2018 annual meeting February 25-27, 2018 in Columbus.

Remember that District Boards can sponsor memberships on behalf of their employees. If your board would like to pay from an invoice, just contact Kelly Crout via email at croutka@butlercountyohio.org or call her at 513-887-3720.

We welcome District boards, NRCS, and ODA members to join our ranks as associate members for just \$10.

Scholarship eligibility requires three years of enrollment with the association, so start planning ahead by joining in anticipation of future scholarship applications for yourself and your children.

You may access the fillable forms at www.oaswcde.org.

Nomophobia - do you have it?

Nomophobia stands for no-mobile-phone-phobia. There is research underway about dependence on our mobile phones. Nomophobia is the fear of being without a mobile phone.

Do you experience feelings of anxiety or distress when you don't have your cell phone, the battery is dying, or you can't get coverage? Do you sleep with or next to your cell

phone? Shower with your cell phone? Use your cell phone instead of talking to others in person?

Here are some tips from an article in *Psychology Today*:

- Make time daily to turn off the phone to talk face to face or experience solitude.
- Balance one hour of screen time with one



hour of human contact.

- Go one day a month without any computer, phone, or tablet.
- Place your phone at least 15 feet away when you sleep.

If you think you have nomophobia, there are many free apps that can help. Take time to smell the roses!