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AUGUST 2017

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Farm Science Review Work Day

The Employee's Association will be volunteering to help the Federation prepare their site for this year's Farm Science Review. Join your Directors and other staff from across the State for a day of gardening and networking at the Lawrence G. Vance Soil and Water Conservation Park.

The Employee's Association will provide a delicious lunch and we will also have a brief Director's meeting that all are welcome to attend. We welcome your input and we want to synergize with you (see page 4)!

Please bring your own tools such as gardening gloves, weeding implements, rakes, pruners, loppers, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.

Details

Date: August 29th

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (come for an hour or stay all day)

Location: The FSR is located at the intersection of State Route 38 and U.S. 40, two miles north of London, Ohio.

Lunch: Courtesy of OASWCDE.

Reservations: Required for lunch, call or email Nikki Hawk at (419) 586-3289 or nicole.hawk@mercercountyohio.org



Join the Employees Association Today!

We hope you will join today (if you have not already)! Our membership count for the year so far is 156 out of 500 employees across the State. You can join the employees association at any time by mailing your form (available on our website) and payment to Caitlin Botschner at Warren SWCD.

Remember that District Boards can sponsor memberships on behalf of their employees. We also welcome NRCS and ODA members to join our ranks as auxiliary members!

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.

It is a privilege to serve the employees and we hope that you know you are welcome to share your thoughts, join our conversations, and be a member on our committees at any time if you are interested.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Scholarship Winners

The Employee’s Association was thrilled to be able to highlight five scholarship winners at Summer Supervisors School in July. It is great to be able to support staff and staff family members who are eager to learn and grow.

Two District employees were awarded continuing education scholarships of \$300 each. These continuing education scholarships are a great way to

ensure that our District employees are receiving the best training possible as they pursue professional development.

The Sherry West Memorial Scholarship was awarded to three different students in the amounts of \$500 (one) and \$250 (two). We wish each of them the best as they continue to pursue higher learning and become the best citizens and learners that they can be.

Thank you to all the association members who support the scholarship programs with special donations. We have heard from the recipients that these awards mean a lot to them as they are able to focus on their coursework.

Congratulations and good luck to all our winners as they pursue their learning opportunities!

Continuing Education Scholarship

Abbot Stevenson with Athens SWCD was one of two recipients of the continuing education scholarship. He received \$300 toward his registration for the Ohio Stormwater Conference that was held earlier this year. As an Urban Conservation Technician this conference provided him with valuable

training on how to better implement the City of Athen’s new Stormwater Management Program.



Continuing Education Scholarship

Shaun Stephens with Warren SWCD received the second continuing education scholarship this year. He applied in order to help pay for courses at Penn State World Campus as he seeks to get his Master’s Certificate in Geographic Information Systems. The skills he is acquiring through that program

are foundational for his work at the District as he manages spatial data and stays current with changes in technology.



Shaun Stephens

Sherry West Memorial Scholarship

Austin Nainiger received the full Sherry West Memorial Scholarship because of his passion for academics, science, and community involvement. Austin is attending Heidelberg University where he is studying Environmental Science and Biology. He is an ongoing member of the National Honors Society. He participates in the annual Grand River Clean up which improves both the condition of the river and strengthens the community's relationship with its waterway. Austin has also invested his time in

tutoring, volunteering with a fundraiser for brain cancer research, and served as a leader in the marching band.

Austin hopes to pursue a scientific career after completing his college education. His goal is to conduct scientific field research in the environmental arena.



Austin Nainiger

**“Education is
the kindling
of a flame,
not the filling
of a vessel.”
Socrates**

Sherry West Memorial Scholarship Honorable Mention

Audrey Watkins received the Sherry West Memorial Scholarship honorable mention because of her dedication to her studies and her passion for community service. Audrey is enrolled at Ohio State University where she has been accepted into the Health Science Scholars (HSS) program and is studying Radiation Therapy. The HSS is a service based organization

that connects her with opportunities to serve at a local food bank as well as on campus committees. Audrey was also chosen to design and paint a mural for the Jazz Music Department through her art club. All the while she has maintained her involvement in the Athletic Band. She is also a second time recipient of this scholarship!

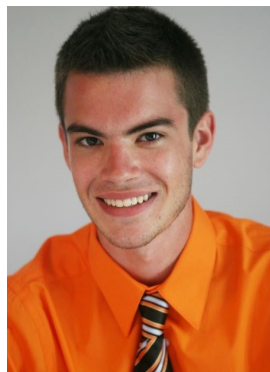


Audrey Watkins

Sherry West Memorial Scholarship Honorable Mention

Evan Wilson received the Sherry West Memorial Scholarship honorable mention because of his strong involvement with volunteer work and his diligent work ethic. He attends Wright State University where he is studying Accounting. He made the Dean's list both semesters of his first year at Wright State. He has also been inducted into the Honor Society for

First Year Students, Alpha Lambda Delta. Evan has also served his community by volunteering at his local humane society and the Madison County SWCD to help with their County Fair and other events.



Evan Wilson

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Throughout our newsletters we have been looking at Stephen Covey and his acclaimed book [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#). His writing and techniques are recommended and utilized around the world. We can learn from the 7 habits how to improve our effectiveness in the workplace and throughout our lives. In our previous newsletters we looked at Habits 1 through 5, now let's take a look at Habit 6: Synergize.

From Stephen R. Covey's website (stephencovey.com) we read:

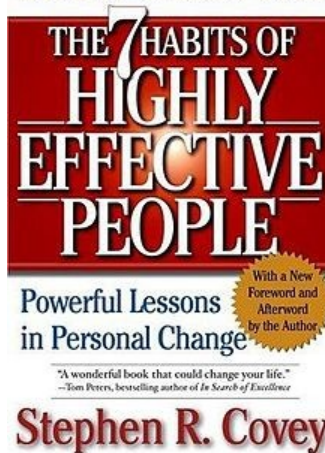
To put it simply, synergy means, "two heads are better than one." Synergize is the habit of creative cooperation. It is teamwork, open-mindedness, and the adventures of finding new solutions to old problems. But it doesn't just happen on its own. It's a process, and through that process, people bring all their personal experience and expertise to the table. Together, they can produce far better results than they could individually. Synergy lets us discover jointly things we are much less likely to discover by ourselves. It is the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. One plus one equals three, or six, or sixty — you name it.

When people begin to interact together genuinely, and they're open to each other's influence, they begin to gain new insight. The capability of inventing new approaches is increased exponentially because of differences.

Valuing differences is what really drives synergy. Do you truly value the mental, emotional, and psychological differences among people? Or do you wish everyone would just agree with you so you could all get along? Many people mistake uniformity for unity; sameness for oneness. One word— boring! Differences should be seen as strengths, not weaknesses. They add zest to life.

- Habit 1:** Be Proactive
- Habit 2:** Begin with the End in Mind
- Habit 3:** Put First Things First
- Habit 4:** Think Win-Win
- Habit 5:** Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood
- Habit 6:** Synergize
- Habit 7:** Sharpen the Saw

OVER 15 MILLION SOLD



“When people begin to interact together genuinely, and they’re open to each other’s influence, they begin to gain new insight.”



Contact:
 Caitlin Botschner
 Warren SWCD
 320 East Silver St. Lebanon, Ohio 45036
 Phone: (513) 695-1337
 E-mail: caitlin.botschner@co.warren.oh.us