



OASWCDE news & updates

August 2024



Upcoming Events

September

- **Farm Science Review** - September 17th - 19th
- **Stormwater Float** - September 19th

October

- **Stormwater RUN-Off** - October 6th
- **Stormwater Awareness Week** - October 1st - 7th
- **OFSWCD Educator Workshop** - October 23rd & 24th

Remember to visit the [OASWCDE website](#) for other events and training opportunities.

If you would like to have your event added to the next newsletter please send details to **Sara Fehring** by November 1st.

The OASWCDE would like to welcome two new additions from Area V to the Board; Darlene Brewster and Brad Hughes.

Area 5 - Darlene Brewster

I was born and raised in western Pike County. My husband, Joe, and I reside on our family's cattle and hay farm in Newton Township. We have two children, Hannah, and Bryce, and four grandchildren. My natural appreciation and love for the outdoors and wildlife drew me to the field of conservation. I enjoy working with youth in our community to bring awareness to the importance of natural resources. I have worked in public service and for the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District for 26 years.



Area 5- Brad Hughes

Hello, my name is Brad Hughes I am a District Technician with the Pickaway Soil and Water. In my years of service, I have worked on various projects from agriculture to urban settings. I grew up on a farm in Clinton County. I am married with 2 children. In my free time, I enjoy trips with my family, exploring the outdoors, and gardening. I look forward to working with the board to serve the soil and water employees.

OASWCDE Scholarship Opportunities

Are you interested in furthering your education or that of your child? The OASWCDE is proud to be able to offer three distinct scholarship options to its members. If you would like complete details and application forms, please visit the employee association [website](#).

The **OASWCDE Training Scholarship** is meant to provide an option for members whose districts may not have the funds to send staff to professional development opportunities. Possible applications include webinars, workshops, trainings, or seminars. Members may receive up to \$50 per person. Applications are accepted on a



rolling basis, year-round.

The **SWCD Staff Continuing Education Scholarship** is available for dues-paying OASWCDE members of three years or more. This scholarship provides up to \$300 for continuing education of an SWCD employee, such as tuition, registration, or books. The deadline for this year is November 1st, 2024.

The **Sherry West Memorial Scholarship** provides a \$500 college scholarship to a child of an OASWCDE member of three years or more. Children of current members, or those of members who have retired, are disabled, or deceased, are all eligible to apply. Recipients must be enrolled in an accredited two or four-year college or university and must have completed at least one full semester or two quarters. The deadline for this year is November 1st, 2024.

Scholarship Applications

2024 OASWCDE Annual Staff and Board Awards

Every day Ohio's staff and board members prove their dedication to protecting our valuable natural resources. Why not acknowledge the contributions of these special individuals by nominating them for Outstanding Conservation District Professional or Outstanding District Board Member for 2024?

Nominations are due by November 1st.

Award Application

OFSWCD Educator Workshop

Sauder Village and Heritage Inn (Area 1) October 23 and 24, 2024

This year's agenda incorporates the highest-rated sessions and field trips from the 2023 OFSWCD Educators Workshop. This workshop will include multiple breakout sessions each day for you to select from.

Workshop Registration

The room block at the Suder Village will close on Friday, September 20, 2024, and the prices below will increase substantially.

- Standard Double Queen \$96 per night (2-person occupancy)
- Deluxe Double Queen \$117 per night (6-person occupancy with two roll-away beds)

Hope to see you all in October!

Room Reservations

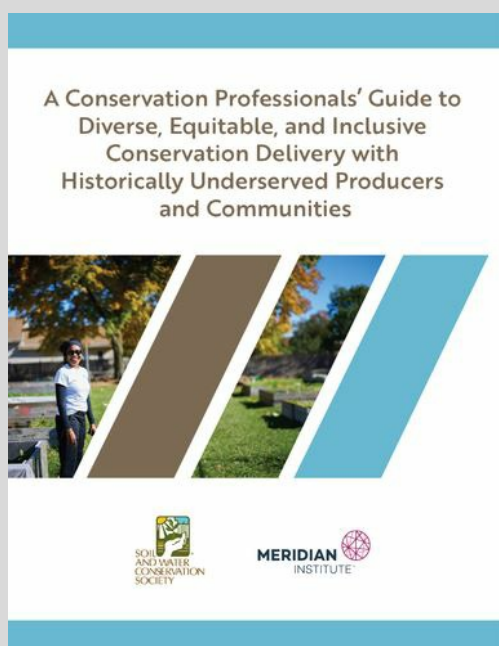
Thank You: Summer Supervisor School!

By: Matthew Browne

We want to thank everyone who came to Area 1 for the 2024 Summer Supervisor School! An even bigger thank you to everyone who helped make it happen! All the hard work that goes into planning these events is truly appreciated. Though the Mudhens may have lost their game, SSS was a big win for those who attended. A great mix of meetings, speakers, food, networking, and tours were enjoyed by all! See you in Area 2 in 2025!



A new resource for Diverse, Equitable, & Inclusive Conservation Delivery



An excerpt from the Soil and Water Conservation Society (swcs.org):

“The DEI Guidebook for Conservation Professionals seeks to be a living resource aimed at integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles into conservation efforts amidst the challenges posed by climate change. Developed by stakeholders representing historically underserved communities, including producers, conservation professionals, and supporting organizations, this guidebook serves as a crucial tool for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office staff and partners. It offers actionable guidance tailored to each phase of the nine-step conservation planning process, with a

particular emphasis on addressing the specific needs of historically underserved producers and communities.

Rooted in insights gleaned from inclusive roundtable discussions and designed to foster trust and productive relationships, this guidebook represents a significant step toward building a more resilient and equitable conservation movement. By embracing DEI considerations and leveraging community-led solutions, this guidebook seeks to empower local communities in spearheading their own conservation initiatives, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable future for all.”

Find out more and check out the DEI Guidebook, [here](#).

Upcoming Trainings

Upcoming Technician Development Program (TDP) classes

Contact **Timothy Fulks** with questions regarding TDP offerings.

- September 24th & 25th - Stream Crossings and HUAS - Belmont Co Fair Grounds
- October 23rd - Streambank Stabilization - Bromfield Auditorium

Find more about these courses and other available online courses at:

<https://www.apps.agri.ohio.gov/SWCD/>.

Upcoming Administrative Development Program (ADP) classes

Contact **Cody Hacker** with questions regarding ADP offerings.

- August 28th - Management, Leadership & Communication - Bromfield Auditorium
- October 3rd - Auditor of State Updates - Bromfield Auditorium
- November 7th - Policies & Risk Assessment - Bromfield Auditorium

Remember, all TDP & ADP classes are now free for SWCD employees!

Welcome, New Hire!



Margaret Roberts
Fairfield SWCD
Urban/Geomatic Technician
mroberts@fairfieldswcd.org

As new staff members are added to your team please send an email and photo to [Sara Fehring](#). The goal is to highlight new staff members quarterly.

2024 Board of Directors

Area 1

- [Matthew Browne](#)-Lucas SWCD
- [Manuel Ley](#)-Williams SWCD

Area 2

- [Emma Farahay](#)-Erie SWCD
- [Chad Stang](#)-Huron SWCD

Area 3

- [Kayla Landefeld](#)-Monroe SWCD
- [Tayler Coy](#)-Licking SWCD

Area 4

- [Kelly Crout](#)-Butler SWCD
- [Sara Fehring](#)-Hamilton County CD

Area 5

- [Darlene Brewster](#)-Pike SWCD
- [Brad Hughes](#)-Pickaway SWCD



Visit our [website](#) for:

- **Catastrophic Sick Leave Program**
- **Events and Education**
- **Membership Forms**
- **Scholarships and Awards**
- **By-laws**

Serving Employees - Building Community - Developing Professionals

OFSWCD | 8995 E. Main Street | Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 US

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