



# OASWCDE news & updates

December | 2021

## Upcoming Events

December 1st

- Area 5 Winter Meeting

December 7th

- Area 4 Winter Meeting

December 8th

- Area 3 Winter Meeting

December 9th

- Area 1 Winter Meeting

December 13th

- Area 2 Winter Meeting

February 27 - March 1, 2022

- OFSWCD Winter Partnership Meeting



If you would like to have your event added to the next newsletter please send details to [Sara Fehring](#) by February 17th.

## 2021 Membership Highlight

By: Sara Fehring

### **Membership:** 220

- Area 1: 80 Members
- Area 2: 36 Members
- Area 3: 34 Members
- Area 4: 41 Members
- Area 5: 29 Members

### **Awards:**

- Outstanding District Employee: Bonnie Dailey
- Outstanding District Board Member: Chris Wible

### **Sherry West Memorial Scholarship:**

- Sadie Devore, Wilmington College
- Heather Sayler, Bowling Green State University

### Area 1

December 9, 2021  
8:30am - 1:00pm  
Brugeman Lodge, Riverbend Park  
16618 Township Road 208, Findlay, Ohio 45840

### Area 2

December 13, 2021  
9:30am - 2:00pm  
Galaxy Banquet Center  
201 Park Center Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

### Area 3

December 8, 2021  
Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center  
7033 Glenn Highway, Cambridge, Ohio 43725

### Area 4

December 7, 2021  
10:00am - 2:00pm  
Der Dutchman  
445 S. Jefferson Street, Route 42, Plain City, Ohio 43064

### Area 5

December 1, 2021  
6 - 8:00pm  
Emmett Chapel UMC  
318 Tarleton Road, Circleville, Ohio 43113

## We want YOU for the OASWCDE Board of Directors!

By: Rebecca Longsmith

We are currently looking for SWCD employees interested in running for our Board of Directors in Areas 2 and 4. We are also looking for someone interesting in filling an immediate vacancy in Area 3 and will have an additional vacancy to fill in Area 5 in February 2022. Please contact Board President, [Chad Stang](#) if you are interested in running or filling a vacancy.

The OASWCDE Board is composed of ten members, two from each of the five areas in the state. The term of a director is 3 years. Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month at 9:30 am, via zoom or telephone conference call. Directors must be a current employee of an SWCD located in their area, as well as a paying member of the OASWCDE.

The Board of Directors is most effective when we have a strong board with members of diverse areas of expertise and a commitment to serve! While it is no secret that district activities can vary widely based on local needs, our goal is to represent and support all Ohio SWCD employees.

Elections will be held at the OFSWCD Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting

from February 27-March 1, 2022. We look forward to seeing you there in person to cast your vote and catch up with colleagues from across the state!

## Annual Partnership Meeting

By: Janelle Mead

The Annual Partnership Meeting will be IN PERSON. The dates are February 27-March 1, at the Renaissance Downtown Columbus.

We are always looking for great speakers so if you have heard some presentations and would like to see speakers IN PERSON, let me know.

Registration information will come out later, but if you would like to reserve your rooms click [here](#).



## The Benefits of Membership

By: Matthew Browne

While all Soil & Water Conservation District employees are considered members of the Ohio Association of Soil & Water Conservation Employees, only dues-paying members are able to take full advantage of their membership benefits.

Benefits of being a dues-paying member include:

- Ability to apply for scholarships.
- Discounts for registration at select workshops.
- Yearly membership gift.



Find the membership form [here](#). Now is a great time to renew or enroll in membership! Did you know that for many districts, the membership fee is covered by their board?

## Time for Training!

By: Matthew Browne

With upcoming winter meetings and other events, these cold months are a great time for professional development and to catch up on any trainings or



webinars you may have missed out on. Many of these events are recorded to be viewed and shared at your leisure.

Here are a few you may have missed:

- [ODA-DSWC's YouTube page has recordings of past Technician development Program Webinars.](#)
- [OSU FABE's YouTube page has recordings from CTTC and the Overholt Drainage Workshop.](#)
- [Interagency Ecological Restoration Quality Committee's Monthly Webinars](#)



Links to these and many more can be found at the OASWCDE website. Do you know of online training or webinars that would be helpful to others? Let us know and we'll gladly post the link online. Share your findings with [oawscde@gmail.com](mailto:oawscde@gmail.com).

## Be the Change for Clean Water Open Invitation to Help Protect Ohio's Water Two Ways to Be a Part of the Solution

By: Bonnie Dailey

Early in 2018, 10 SWCDs (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union) and their partners formed a central Ohio Coalition to inspire residents to “Be the Change for Clean Water.” The goal was to create mutually beneficial messages with simple calls to action that residents could implement to reduce nonpoint source pollution. These messages would then be broadcast



throughout the region simultaneously to amplify their impact. A website was developed to share these resources with the public, as well as provide professionals with marketing strategies such as articles, graphics, and videos that they could freely use in their own outreach efforts.

The Be the Change for Clean Water Coalition is extending an invitation to all SWCD employees to get involved. One way is to join us! We hold monthly meetings to brainstorm ideas on how best address our local needs. If you join, you will have access to a Google Drive account that houses all current and past messaging along with support materials, minutes of monthly meetings, and a spreadsheet to track the number of people reached during each campaign. In addition, the coalition pools together to purchase items to share, such as promotional flags, OMBEA audience response systems, and two banners (40 feet by 8 feet).

Another way you can help protect Ohio's water is by spreading the word! Tune into our website at [BetheChangeforCleanWater.org](http://BetheChangeforCleanWater.org) to find the current campaign under “**Spread the Word.**” Campaigns generally run 3 – 4 months. Past examples include “Farm 4R Tomorrow,” “Plant Native Plants,” and “Donate a Kidney to Nature.” Even if you are outside the central

Ohio area, we encourage you to explore the tools on our website as they are easily adaptable.

When protecting our valuable water, everyone can be part of the solution. Working together allows us to effectively reach more residents and communities than we could individually, demonstrating the power of collaboration. For questions or to attend one of our meetings, please contact [Jennifer Fish](#).

## Welcome, New Hire!

By: Sara Fehring



Josh Troyer  
Fairfield SWCD  
Engineering Technician  
[JTroyer@fairfieldswcd.org](mailto:JTroyer@fairfieldswcd.org)



James Austin  
Seneca CD  
District Technician  
[JAustin@conservesenecacounty.com](mailto:JAustin@conservesenecacounty.com)



Adam Wagner  
Seneca CD  
District Technician  
[AWagner@conservesenecacounty.com](mailto:AWagner@conservesenecacounty.com)

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.

## Area 1

- **Matthew Browne** - Lucas SWCD
- **Beth Diesch** - Seneca CD

## Area 2

- **Amy Roskilly** - Cuyahoga SWCD
- **Chad Stang** - Huron SWCD

## Area 3

- **Katie Kovaly** - Monroe SWCD
- **Vacant Position**

## Area 4

- **Kelly Crout** - Butler SWCD
- **Sara Fehring** - Hamilton County CD

## Area 5

- **Bonnie Dailey** - Delaware SWCD
- **Rebecca Longsmith** - Delaware 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