



OASWCDE news & updates

June | 2022



Upcoming Events

July

- ADP - Administrative Basics, July 6th
- National Envirothon, July 24-30, 2022
 - Miami University, Butler County

August

- ADP - Position Announcements and Job Postings, August 2nd
- Summer Supervisor School, August 28-30, 2022
 - Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris Hotel

September

- Understanding Algal Blooms: State of the Science Conference, September 7, 2022
- Farm Science Review, September 20-22, 2022

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 August 31st.

Nineteen teams made it out June 5th-7th to Lake Erie College in Painesville to compete in the 2022 Ohio Envirothon, hosted by Area 2. This was my first year volunteering at the state level, and it was so great to work alongside other SWCD employees coming together from across Ohio. First place went to Centerville High School- Team Black, with Chardon High School - Red and Lynchburg-Clay - Gold in second and third place.



The excitement from the participating teams was clear and reminded me fondly of my own high school quiz bowl competitions. Envirothon had not been an option for me, but I can honestly say that my participation in geography and ocean science-themed bowls played an early part in setting me on the path to pursue a career in environmental sciences and GIS. That is one of the main reasons we put in all this work after all, isn't it? Every event, outreach appointment, phone call, newsletter, and interaction can spark an interest or leave a lasting impression. Events like Envirothon are also a great way to spend some time connecting with other SWCD employees from your area and beyond. I myself had time to chat with other technicians and educators about events in their districts, funding opportunities I didn't know about, and upcoming training opportunities.

If you missed out on the Ohio Envirothon, you're in luck this year- Ohio is the proud host of the 2022 NCF-Envirothon! July 24th-30th, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio will host teams from around the country. There are options for single-day volunteers, all the way up to helping out for the whole week. You still have just a bit of time to sign up! Check out the following links and be sure to get your registration in by Friday, June 24th.

[Volunteer Registration Form](#)

[The day-to-day schedule of events for NCF-Envirothon](#)



Administrative Development Program Webinar Dates

- Administrative Basics- July 6th at 1 pm
- Position Announcements and Job Postings- August 2nd at 1 pm

Previous recordings can be found [here](#) under the Administrative Development Program tab.

Webinar links typically go out a week before. Contact [Cody Hacker](#) for more information.

OASWCDE Employee Survey Results

The employees association would like to thank everyone who participated in the employee survey earlier this year. The survey opened on March 11 and closed on April 4th, with a total of 179 responses. The initial summary of the results can be found [here](#).

The desire for better pay, more work-from-home flexibility, and better communication on long-term job stability/advancement opportunities was among the highest concerns.

We hope that the information gained from the survey will continue to inform conversations across the state. As established under our bylaws, the OASWCDE has three objectives that guide our purpose to strengthen local soil and water district programs: promoting the professional development of district employees,

enhancing cooperation between districts through improved communications and information sharing, and establishing a platform from which to communicate with affiliated state and national associations. The OASWCDE board is currently in discussions about a more in-depth analysis of survey comments and how we might use the information gained to serve our members and all SWCD staff across the state.

Welcome David, Area V Director



The Employee Associate Directors would like to welcome David Runkle. David became a director earlier this year representing Area V. David is a professional forester and has been employed by the Vinton Soil and Water Conservation District since 2017. He graduated from Hocking College in Nelsonville, OH in 2010 with a degree in Forest Management and from Ohio University in Athens, OH in 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in

Plant Biology. David became a Tree Farm inspector in 2018 and was named the Ohio Outstanding Inspector of 2021. He has also worked with the USDA Forest Service, OSU, and is a member of the Hocking College Forest Management Advisory Board. He has great enthusiasm for forestry and conservation and is highly involved with many partner agencies and programs.

HR Initiative

By: Kirk Hines, Matt Peart, and Beth Diesch

Today is an exciting time to be involved in the work of soil and water conservation districts in Ohio as opportunities are expanding, budgets are growing, and landowner participation is increasing all over the state! From the northern great lakes to the southern Ohio River districts are highly involved in improving and maintaining water quality and soil health to keep our state strong in food and fiber production and protecting our natural resources for future generations. However, with these exciting opportunities and growing workloads, districts are facing challenges in their offices. The dedication of district employees has always been the key to Ohio's successful conservation outreach. Unfortunately, the same issue in all businesses is also affecting the districts which is finding and hiring qualified applicants and the retention of current staff.

ODA-Division of Soil & Water Conservation and the Ohio Federation of Conservation Districts are hoping to aid the districts by developing tools and reaching out to human resource experts to provide a "resource toolbox" that all districts can utilize with human resource management in an efficient method. To provide the best product for the districts, this partnership is working to establish a small advisory leadership group of 10 – 12 folks to lead this effort by supplying input, analysis, and product approval. The group first convened on June 9th and updates and progress will be provided at Summer Supervisors School in August.



Earlier this year the Lucas SWCD was able to participate in a unique partnership opportunity. At the beginning of the pandemic, Jupmode, a Toledo screen printing shop, created a campaign called 'Here for Good' where they would work with local businesses and organizations to host a shirt design on their website, take pre-orders, then create and send the shirts while splitting the profits with the particular organization.

In the 3rd year of the 'Here for Good' campaign the Lucas SWCD had the opportunity to participate, with our

chosen design 'Plant Vintage. Plant Native'. We provided Jupmode with a concept of what we were looking for and they handled the rest. Design, promotional materials, sales, and payments were all handled by Jupmode without cost to the Lucas SWCD.

Over the course of the campaign, the Lucas SWCD received \$260.00 from the pre-order shirt sales. We were also able to purchase a bulk order of the shirts at cost in order to continue selling them throughout the year. In addition to being a unique funding opportunity, Jupmode's 'Here for Good' campaign was a way for a new audience to learn more about us. Our social media posts about the campaign reached over 1,300 people with over 120 interactions (likes, comments, shares, etc), plus many more through Jupmode's own promotions.

See more of Jupmode's apparel [here](#).

Or check out our 'Plant Vintage. Plant Native' shirt on the [Lucas SWCD online store](#).

In each newsletter, we would like to feature a creative and innovative project that is being undertaken by a District. If your District has a project you would like to feature in the September edition of the newsletter please reach out to [Sara Fehring](#) no later than August 24th.

Welcome, New Hire!



Haley Golsch
Hamilton County Conservation District
Earthwork Technician
haley.golsch@hamilton-co.org



Kairsten Nitsch
Cuyahoga SWCD
Watershed Coordinator
knitsch@cuyahogawcd.org



Kate Chapel
Cuyahoga SWCD
Watershed Coordinator
kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org



Juliet Tonkin
Cuyahoga SWCD
Stormwater Intern
jtonkin@cuyahogawcd.org



Kipp Dietrich



Julie Watson-Ables
Delaware SWCD
Resource Conservationist



Sarah Kidd
Delaware SWCD
Communications & Outreach Coordinator
SKidd@co.delaware.oh.us

As new staff members are added to your team please send an email and photo to [Sara Fehring](mailto:Sara.Fehring@co.delaware.oh.us). The goal is to highlight new staff members quarterly.

2022 Board of Directors

Area 1

- [Matthew Browne](#) - Lucas SWCD
- [Beth Diesch](#) - Seneca CD

Area 2

- [Amy Roskilly](#) - Cuyahoga SWCD
- [Chad Stang](#) - Huron SWCD

Area 3

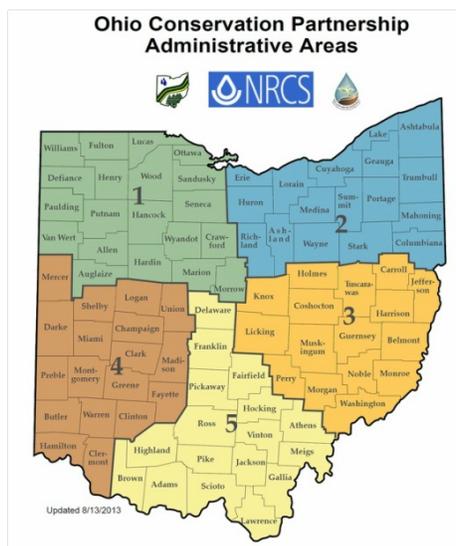
- [Katie Kovaly](#) - Monroe SWCD
- [Amanda Tubaug](#) - Carroll SWCD

Area 4

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

Area 5

- [David Runkle](#) - Vinton SWCD
- [Rebecca Longsmith](#) - Delaware SWCD



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- Catastrophic Sick Leave Program
- Events and Education
- Membership Forms

- **Scholarships and Awards**
- **By-laws**

Serving Employees - Building Community - Developing Professionals

Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Employees | OASWCDE.ORG