



OASWCDE news & updates

March | 2023



Upcoming Events

April

- Ohio Native Plant Month
- Area IV Envirothon, April 25th - Camp Friedlander
- Area V Envirothon, April 25th - Lake Hope State Park
- Area I Envirothon, April 26th - Headwaters Outdoor Education Center
- Area II Envirothon, April 26th - Bronson-Norwalk Conservation Club
- Area III Envirothon, April 26th - Bluebird Farm Park

June

- Ohio State Envirothon, June 12-13 - Defiance College

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 May 25th.

2022 Outstanding District Board Supervisor

John Mangan joined the Hamilton County Conservation District in 2017 and served for two 3-year terms. During his time as a board member, John was passionate about urban conservation and worked to get the Urban Networking Committee (UNC) off the ground. Having also served as an Area Director for Area 4, John is heavily involved in his community in the Cincinnati Area with organizations such as the Mill Creek Alliance, The Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission, and the Mill Creek Yacht Club. His nominator, John Nelson, describes Mangan's commitment by saying, "If John took on a project he would move heaven and earth to follow up to make sure that project was done, and all those that promised to help did their part."



2022 Outstanding District Employee

Kenny White was hired on as Morgan SWCD's District Technician, their only full-time staff member, four years ago. Anyone who read the nomination submitted by NRCS staff member Dee Wiseman and the Morgan SWCD board could definitely see how much Kenny is appreciated for all that he does for his district. Previously a John Deere mechanic, Kenny is a lifelong resident of Morgan county and a 4th generation farmer in their row crop, hay, and beef grazing operation. Kenny has played a large role in coordinating the multi-agency effort on the RCPP Spotted Knapweed Project in Morgan, Guernsey, Muskingum, and Noble counties and will have helped distribute \$391,000 in incentive payments by the completion of the program this year. Kenny's nomination notes that he has been a blessing to Morgan SWCD. "Kenny has jumped in eagerly with both feet into any work or project that was presented to him. He has respect and love for conservation of the land, and this has been proven time and time again."



OFSWCD Partnership Meeting Thank You

The Ohio Association of Soil & Water Conservation District Employees would like to thank the OFSWCD for putting together another successful Annual Partnership Meeting and giving us the opportunity to have 'Conservation Conversations'. We'd also like to thank the numerous partners, agencies, presenters, and vendors who helped make the event a success. The ideas, connections, and discussions during the event will



hopefully continue to grow throughout the year and further spur actionable changes for the participants and their communities.

The Benefits of Membership

Don't forget membership dues for the Ohio Association of Soil & Water Conservation District Employees is due April 1st. Any membership dues received after April 1st will be applied toward 2024 membership dues.

2023 Membership Application

Beth Diesch Tribute

By: Seneca Conservation District

Beth graduated from Seneca East High School in 1996 and continued her education at Ohio State ATI, graduating with an associate's degree in Animal Science. Post graduation, she joined the team at Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District as their educator and outreach coordinator. In 2015, Beth took on the role of office administrator. She has dedicated 22 years of service to Seneca County. Beth was passionate about education for all as she served the community on the Buckeye Central school board for several years. She also ran the beloved "Aunt Mim's Kitchen" for 14 years, supplying many with her cookies and candies. Beth was and continues to be, an amazing mother, friend, daughter, sister, and coworker.



She was strong, brave, stubborn, loving, and resilient. She had a passion for mental health awareness, was an advocate for a "green" earth, and loved fiercely. Her love for children has been passed on to her kids. Beth loved to travel, she took her three children all over the U.S., teaching them about how big the earth is and encouraging them to explore. One of her favorite places on earth was "The Lake" and many summers were spent beachcombing for sea glass and laughing with the people she loved most.

Beth is the reason all of us are here working at SCD. The work we do is important, but her passion, energy, and kindness are what inspired us and made us all excited to come to work each morning. She recognized each of our own individual potentials and built us into a team – into a family. And it's as a family that we will move forward every day to make her vision and dreams for this district a reality.

To our leader, mentor, and amazing friend, we will miss you.

-Seneca Conservation District Team

For those wishing to contribute, the family is planning to do a memorial at Proving Ground Farm in memory of Beth, any leftover money is going to be split between her three kids. The family is having checks made out to Madalyn Diesch, Beth's oldest daughter. Donations can be sent to the Seneca CD office.

Seneca Conservation District
Morgan Metzger
3140 S. ST RT 100 Suite D
Tiffin, OH 44883

Summer Supervisor School Save The Date



Get readyset.....go....go....go! Plans are underway for an exciting, informative, and fun-filled OFSWCD Summer Supervisor School hosted by Area 4 in Ohio's Great Southwest from July 31st – August 1st. This will be a great chance to take a last mini vacation with the kids before the school year kicks off or a chance for just you and your partner to enjoy a quick escape before Fall activities and harvest season. Come down early on Friday and Saturday to enjoy some of the fun at the venues below. There is something for everyone!

- Catch a wild ride at [Kings Island Amusement Park](#)
- Celebrate an American pastime and watch a [Reds game](#)
- Step back in history at the [Cincinnati Museum at Union Terminal](#)
- Go on a safari at the [Cincinnati Zoo](#)
- Enjoy the wild blue yonder and tandem skydive at [Middletown Regional Airport](#)
- Explore the [catacombs with underground tours of Cincinnati](#) featuring a gangster tour
- Hit the water on skis or waterboard at [Wake Nation](#)
- Dream of being a princess and see Cinderella at [Lacomedia Dinner Theater](#)
- Try out new cuisines or enjoy your favorites at the many restaurants, breweries and wineries

Keep an eye out for additional information coming mid-April.

Welcome Area 1 Director, Manuel Lay!



My name is Manuel Lay (Manny) I grew up in Wayne/ Holmes County. I was an active member in the local 4-H group and served as 2x president while showing rabbits, sheep, and hogs. I was also in FFA thru high school and worked on a local livestock operation. I graduated in '07 from Waynedale high school and went on to attend Hocking College. While at Hocking I was an active member of the wildlife club, spent 2 summers in Haliburton Canada doing water quality and fisheries studies, and graduated with an associate in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. After graduation, I worked two seasonal positions with Ohio DNR district 3 doing fisheries research. After my experience there I decided to continue my education and attended the University of Rio Grande for Wildlife and Aquatic Sciences. While attending Rio I was elected the President of the local

chapter of the Wildlife Society. After attending Rio, I went on to work two seasonal positions for the Michigan DNR on a 10,000-acre wetland unit. In 2017, I began working with Paulding SWCD as a Multi-County WLEB Nutrient Specialist. In the position, I covered Paulding, Defiance, and Williams County. This opportunity led to me eventually getting on as a District Technician at Williams SWCD in 2018. Since starting with Williams SWCD, I have primarily done engineering work and watershed coordination.

HR Initiative Update

By: Liz Cline

As reported at the OFSWCD Partnership meeting, the HR Committee is responding to SWCDs' feedback in addressing their top HR priorities of recruitment, retainment, and training. At the meeting, many of you met Bob Bethel and saw a presentation regarding his consulting firm, The Employers' Association, contracted through a donation from the Federation. We are looking forward to working with Bob to complete a toolbox of items to assist districts with HR topics.

A pilot intern project will be initiated and funded by ODA this summer with 3 interns working in the Cuyahoga, Fairfield, and Mercer SWCD field offices. Starting in 2024, training for ADP and TDP courses will be offered with no registration payment to encourage more staff participation.

Look for new HR opportunities at the 2023 Summer Supervisor School to be held July 30 – August 1 hosted by Area 4. If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Liz Cline**, Area 4 Program Specialist.

Upcoming TDP & ADP Offerings

Technician Development Program

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

Beginners:

- Conservation Engineering – Online March 1st through December 31st
- Engineering Resources & Math Refresher – Online March 1st through December 31st
- Ag Pollution Abatement Program – Online March 1st through December 31st
- Basic Nutrient Management – April 13th – Shelby SWCD – 822 Fair Road, Sidney, OH
- Basic Hydrology – July 11th – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH
- Inventory & Evaluation – July 12th – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH
- Soils Engineering – July 13th – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH
- Surveying – July 26th & 27th – Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Advanced:

- SWPPP Reviews (At Capacity) – March 16th - Audubon Center - 505 W

Whittier St, Columbus, OH

- WASCObS Design – April 19th – Fairfield SWCD – 31 College Ave Suite B, Lancaster, OH
- Concrete – August 8th & 9th – Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH
- Wetlands Design – September 13th & 14th - Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH
- Watering Facilities – November 16th - Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Administrative Development Program

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

- Grants Outreach & Budget Process-May 4th - ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH
- Personnel Management & Leadership-June 6th-ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH
- Communications & Media Outreach-August 23rd - ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

Welcome, New Hire!



Amanda Hurley
Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District
Education and Outreach Coordinator
amanda.hurley@oh.nacdnet.net

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.

2023 Board of Directors

Area 1

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

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

Ohio Conservation Partnership Administrative Areas



Visit our [website](#) for:

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

Serving Employees - Building Community - Developing Professionals

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