

# Conservation News

Newsletter of  
the Defiance  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Winter 2015

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## Farm Fair 2015

On the weekend of January 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, the District, in partnership with Tinora Young Farmers, held the annual Farm Fair at the Northtowne Mall in Defiance. The Farm Fair gives area residents the chance to see educational displays, visit with vendors, and view farm equipment including antique tractors provided by Black Swamp Antique Tractors.



Gage Miller at the Pedal Pull.

Highlights of the weekend include the Pedal Pull on Saturday and the Bridge County Band performing on Sunday. In addition, Jim Barron, wowed the audience with a spectacular magic show.

The Farm Fair is a great way for people, young and old, to learn about the importance of local agriculture while interacting with those who make that possible.

This Farm Fair was the 30<sup>th</sup> year for this unique program. Be sure to visit us next year!

## Dan Vetter—Thank You for 24 Years of Service!

The Defiance SWCD sincerely thanks Dan Vetter for 24 years of service on the Board of Supervisors. He began as Supervisor on January 1, 1989 and completed his eighth three-year term on December 31, 2014. Dan served as Board Chairperson numerous times and also held all other Board positions. His hard work and dedication have been very much appreciated as was his exemplary attendance record. Dan provided much expertise on agriculture and farm programs and has been instrumental in many positive changes for the District. We wish Dan the best in his future endeavors as he continues to farm with his son.



Dan Vetter, Supervisor from 1989-2014.

## Supervisors Administered Oath of Office



Defiance County Commissioner Thomas Kime administered the oath of office to Bill Moats and Jeff Hange.

Jeff Hange and Bill Moats were sworn into office by Defiance County Commissioner, Thomas Kime, on January 21, 2015. Elected to a three-year term, they will join current Board Members Tom Beck, Keith Schroeder, and Roger Zeedyk IV in directing the Defiance SWCD's numerous natural resource conservation programs. Congratulations to Bill and Jeff and thank you to the entire Board of Supervisors for their continued volunteer service to the District and Defiance County residents!

## **Thank You Defiance County Commissioners!**

The District would like to welcome new Defiance County Commissioner, Ryan Mack. We look forward to working with you, along with Commissioner Otto Nicely and Commissioner Thomas Kime to further improve and maintain the valuable natural resources of Defiance County. We would also like to thank Jim Harris for his past service to the District and as County Commissioner from 2007 to 2014. The District greatly appreciates the continued financial support provided by the Commissioners!



## **Overholt Drainage School**

Drainage contractors from all over the state and region will attend the Overholt Drainage School hosted in Defiance during the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Defiance SWCD has partnered with OSU Extension to make this opportunity available for land improvement contractors, soil and water technicians, farmers, engineers, consultants, and sanitarians to advance their knowledge of soil and water conservation systems with emphasis on water management and water quality. The full schedule and registration information can be found at: <http://agcrops.osu.edu/specialists/soil-and-water-management>. Please contact Tyler Miller for more information.

## **Affiliate Members**

The District would like to thank our 2015 Affiliate Members for their generous financial support. Each have contributed immensely to our education program, allowing us to extend our conservation efforts to both students and teachers throughout Defiance County.

Archbold Equipment	Kenn-Feld Group (dba: Liechty's)	Slattery Oil Company, Inc.
Beilharz Architects, Inc.	Mark Moats Ford, Inc.	Spartan Insurance Agency
Darren L. Bok Auctioneering	McCalla Excavating	Spatial Ag Systems, LLC
Ed Perry Excavating, LLC	Midwest Community FCU	State Bank
Farm Credit—Mid America	Nester Ag, LLC	The Hubbard Company
Farmer Fabrication & Welding, Inc.	Ney Oil Company	Thomas J. Henry Surveying
Farmers & Merchants State Bank	Ridgeville Elevator	Webb Construction, LLC
Hicksville Grain	Sam Switzer Realty	Werlor, Inc.
Jewell Grain Company	Sines Excavating, LLC	

## **Rain Garden & Rain Barrel Workshops—Discounts Available**

Take advantage of great discounts on rain garden kits and rain barrels by participating in an upcoming workshop! Workshop participants can buy a rain barrel for \$35 (reg. \$75) and rain garden kits for only \$30 (reg. \$130). Find out more at [landtolake.com](http://landtolake.com). Register by emailing [ssinger@defiance-county.com](mailto:ssinger@defiance-county.com) or calling the SWCD office.

- March 3, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Johnson Memorial Library, Hicksville
- March 7, 10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. @ Sherwood Library
- March 10, 6:30– 8 p.m. @ Defiance Library



Great Blue Lobelia



Wild Columbine



Golden Alexanders



Blue Flag Iris



Cardinal Flower

## **Ag Appreciation and Hall of Fame Breakfast Scheduled**

The Defiance SWCD, OSU Extension Office, and Defiance Chamber of Commerce are hosting their annual Ag Appreciation and Hall of Fame Breakfast on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Defiance K of C Hall on Elliott Road. Everyone in the community is welcomed and strongly encouraged to attend with a farmers' share breakfast being offered for \$3.00 per person.

Keynote speaker, Randy Frazier, will be sharing "What I've Learned from 9,000 Years of Farming..." A native of Arkansas, Randy was raised on a family farm in Arkansas County. In addition to a 30-year leadership/management career with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, he has served as a fully commissioned law enforcement officer, a Mountain Rescue Team member, an EMT instructor, and a certified Self Defense instructor. In the 1990s, he became a nationally recognized motivational speaker and trainer and has been a featured speaker in over 40 states. His unique perspective, combined with humor and a heartfelt message about the resiliency and adaptability of farmers, is guaranteed to change how we all think about agriculture.

Randy's message will be followed by the induction of three new members to the Ag Hall of Fame. In addition, a representative from Northwest State Community College will be unveiling their new Associate of Technical Studies in Crop and Soil Management degree in partnership with the OSU Agricultural Technical Institute. Be sure to mark your calendar, as this will be an event you will not want to miss! Please call the OSU Extension office at 419-782-4771 to RSVP for the event.



Ag Breakfast keynote speaker, Randy Frazier.

## **Upper Maumee Watershed Plan Approved**

After 4+ years of hard work by Defiance SWCD, Allen (IN) SWCD and a dedicated group of local stakeholders, the Upper Maumee Watershed Action Plan has been endorsed by the State of Ohio, Indiana, and the US EPA. The Watershed Action Plan, a 400+ page document, outlines specific actions recommended to improve water quality. Areas of focus include septic systems, urban stormwater, combined sewer overflows, municipal treatment plants, agricultural field practices, livestock operations, homeowner practices, and increasing recreation. The endorsement of the plan opens doors to many funding sources. One example is a newly approved grant for practices within the Platter Creek subwatershed for which details will be released this spring.

## **Grassed Waterways**

Grassed waterways continue to be one of our most needed/requested engineered practices. 2014 was a very productive waterway season for Defiance SWCD. We completed designs for 22 waterways and the District performed construction checks on most of those designs. The District would like to thank all the producers, contractors, and cooperating agencies that assisted with a great 2014 construction season.

Now it is time to turn our attention to the future as we have turned our calendars over to 2015. With that in mind, we encourage you to get your requests for waterways in as soon as possible. Waiting until late spring to ask for assistance does not leave much time to get the area surveyed and designed. So, when you are bouncing through those trouble spots in your fields, just give us a call or stop by so we can start the design process.



Grassed waterways are shallow channels designed to carry water and prevent erosion.

### **SWCD Office Hours**

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors typically holds its regular monthly meeting (open to the public) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. Any changes to this date/time will be posted in the local newspaper.

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

## 2014 State Poster Contest Winners



State Second Place Poster Contest Winners  
Left: Loryn Wright Ayersville Jr. High  
Right: Tristen Frederick Ayersville Elementary



## Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

The District would like to welcome Dean Houchen to our conservation team. A Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist through Pheasants Forever, Dean will be working closely with NRCS and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. He will primarily be working with the CRP program, providing biological and technical assistance to landowners. In addition, Dean will be working with other organizations seeking assistance with wildlife conservation. He will be serving Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams Counties.

Dean has a double B.S. Degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management/ Environment and Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming. He also has a Master's of Science degree from North Dakota State University. He has been working with Pheasants Forever for the last year-and-a-half covering southwest Ohio. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, riding four-wheelers, and running hunting hounds.

If you are currently enrolled in a Farm Bill conservation program or plan to be in the future, there is a good chance that Dean will be working with you. Please do not hesitate to contact Dean with any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have. His direct phone number is 740-624-7945 and his email is [dhouchen@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:dhouchen@pheasantsforever.org).



Dean Houchen, Farm Bill Biologist.

## Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Program

Opportunities still exist for whole farm management plan enrollments in the Powell Creek watershed. Upon completion, cost share is available for the implementation of practices that address soil erosion and agricultural nutrient loss.

To date, the Defiance and Putnam Districts have implemented over 2,400 acres of cover crops, installed 16.1 acres of wetlands, developed nutrient management plans on 774 acres, installed a 1.8-acre saturated buffer, and installed 31 controlled drainage structures controlling over 776 acres of tile drainage—all in the Powell Creek watershed. Please contact Jason Roehrig for more information.

## Congratulations

The *Conservation News* fall edition prize giveaway was awarded to Belva Bassett. Belva received an American Flag donated by the VFW Post 3360 Men's Auxiliary.

Try our puzzle this month to be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to Bob Evans. You could be our next winner!



Belva Bassett, our fall Word Search prize winner pictured with the American Flag donated by VFW Post 3360 Men's Auxiliary.





DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2015 Tree Seedling Sale

(order deadline March 13, 2015)

Packets  
Ordered

Packet Description

Price

Total

Conifers		20 - American Arborvitae 8" - 18"	\$18.00	
		10 - Bald Cypress*12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Blue Spruce 9" - 15"	\$8.00	
		10 - Norway Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
		10 - White Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
Deciduous Trees		10 - Black Gum 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Pin Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Red Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - River Birch 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Sugar Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Swamp White Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
Deciduous Shrubs		10 - Black Chokeberry 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Buttonbush 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Ninebark 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Redosier Dogwood 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
Rain Garden Plants		Full Sun Rain Garden Kit	\$130.00**	
		Partial Shade Rain Garden Kit	\$130.00**	

\* Deciduous Conifer

\*\*Rain Garden Kit - \$100 discount available to workshop participants

Grand Total

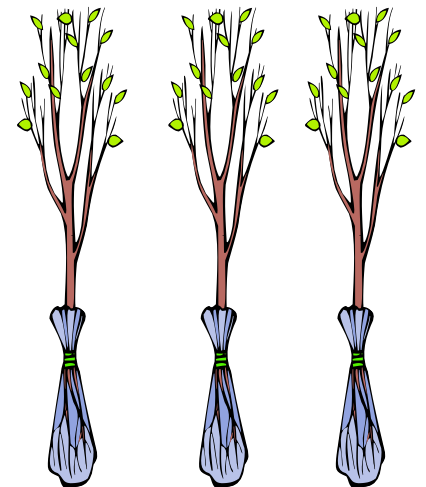
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Please make checks payable to: Defiance SWCD, 06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512. All orders must be paid in full. You will be notified in April via postcard or email when your order will be available for pickup.

For Office Use Only:

Order Number \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number \_\_\_\_\_



## Seedling Descriptions

### Conifers

**American Arborvitae** – A pyramidal shaped conifer that grows well in a wide range of soils and drainage conditions. Excellent for screens and windbreaks as it is dense and full to the ground. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 6 feet. [40-60 feet tall by 10-15 feet wide]

**Bald Cypress** – A stately, long-lived deciduous conifer well adapted to very wet to moderately well-drained soils such as muck, clay, or fine sands. Initially pyramidal shaped but becomes more columnar and open upon maturation. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [50-70 feet tall by 25+ feet wide]

**Colorado Blue Spruce** – A dense, conical evergreen with stout, prickly 3/4 - 1 1/4 inch needles, bluish green to bright silvery-blue in color. Adaptable, it prefers rich, moist soil, full sun, and thrives in dry well-drained sites. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [80-100 feet tall by 30 feet wide]

**Norway Spruce** – An extremely attractive pyramidal evergreen with strong, weeping branches that extend all the way to the ground. Needles are shiny green 1/2-1 inch long and flat. One of the fastest growing of all spruces. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [60 feet tall by 25 feet wide]

**White Spruce** – A cone shaped, medium to fast growing evergreen. The 1 inch needles are light green/bluish. Branches extend to the ground giving excellent low level wind protection. Adapted to cold weather and wet clay soils. Not preferred by deer. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [60 feet tall by 20 feet wide]

### Deciduous Trees

**Black Gum** – Spectacular fall color. High wildlife value—spring flowers are beneficial to pollinators and fall berries are important food source for birds and mammals. Does best in moist soils but has a high drought tolerance. Straight trunk and uniform crown. [65-75 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

**Pin Oak** – A pyramidal tree through early maturity, its form turns more oval in older age. Fast growing, tolerates wet soils, and likes full sun. Glossy dark green leaves turn russet, bronze, or red. Upper branches are upright, middle ones horizontal, and its lower limbs slant gracefully towards the ground. Widely used as a street and landscape tree. [60-70 feet tall by 25-45 feet wide]

**Red Maple** – Brilliant red fall foliage makes an excellent landscape tree. Extremely rapid growing with oval shaped crowns. Can thrive in a wide range of soil conditions. [65-75 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

**River Birch** – Distinguished by reddish-brown bark peeling off in film-like papery curls providing interest year round. Trunk is short, branching into several large limbs. Prefers to grow near water or on lowlands. [40-50 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

**Sugar Maple** – Makes a great specimen shade tree. Medium to fast growing and prefers moist soils with some drought tolerance. Can be used for maple syrup and makes superior lumber. [60-75 feet tall by 40-50 feet wide]

**Swamp White Oak** – A medium sized tree with dark green leaves and a whitish gray bark. Well adapted for growth in very wet, swampy conditions, but is also very drought tolerant. The acorns that fall from the tree are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks and deer. The Swamp White Oak is valued for its timber used for furniture, flooring and cabinet making. [70 feet tall by 50 feet wide]

### Deciduous Shrubs

**Black Chokeberry** – An extremely hardy deciduous shrub that will reach maturity in five years, making it a good ornamental plant. If left alone, the plants can form colonies that provide food and shelter for wildlife. Adorned in spring with white flowers and glossy leaves, then black berries, it ends the growing season with spectacular fall color. Can grow in wet to dry conditions. [3-6 feet tall by 3-6 feet wide]

**Buttonbush** – An attractive bush with medium green leaves and an unmatched late spring display of globe shaped white flowers. Bright red fruits form in late summer. Prefers wet soils but can tolerate dry conditions. [6-8 feet tall by 6-10 feet wide]

**Ninebark** – A very hardy four season shrub. Whitish pink spring flowers, purple summer foliage, yellow fall color, and attractive exfoliating winter bark. Adapts to most soils. When established, they are drought tolerant and long lived. [8-10 feet tall by 8-10 feet wide]

**Redosier Dogwood** – Brings color and texture to the landscape each season. Features red and orange autumn foliage, dark red winter shoots, ovate green leaves in spring, white flowers in late spring and early summer, and white berries tinged with blue in summer. Tolerates a variety of soil conditions. [3-6 feet tall by 10-15 feet wide]

### Rain Garden Plants

**Full Sun Rain Garden Kit** – Includes 32 native plant plugs suitable for a 100 square foot rain garden: Purple Coneflower, March Blazing Star, Golden Alexanders, Foxglove Beardtongue, Little Bluestem, Cardinal Flower, Blue Flag Iris, and 3 native shrubs: Common Ninebark.

**Partial Shade Rain Garden Kit** – Includes 32 native plant plugs suitable for a 100 square foot rain garden: Cardinal Flower, Brown-eyed Susan, Great Blue Lobelia, Wild Columbine, Little Blue Stem, Turtlehead, Blue Flag Iris, and 3 native shrubs: Common Ninebark

For rain garden plant description and sample garden layouts visit the website at [www.defiance-county.com/swcd](http://www.defiance-county.com/swcd)

**Word Search**

With winter in full force, the District staff thought a large bowl of a hot, hearty soup would be in order. Find each of the soups in the puzzle below and return the puzzle to our office by March 27<sup>th</sup>. All completed, returned puzzles will be entered into a random drawing for a \$20.00 gift certificate to Bob Evans, where you can enjoy that bowl of soup! Good Luck.

H S W I D I X G I E P V T A D C E A Y H Y S P R N  
 S O B D L L L C A U C O E A V S Z E F E W A O E E  
 A U K E G I O I J R M I O G E Z G X L C G L T D K  
 U T U G E Y H E H A D T R E E A N R B Q E S A W C  
 Q H V P P F R C T C I E H D S T A G Q T R A T O I  
 S W P P G L N O X X Y C N U L B A E H F E B O H H  
 T E Z M G J B O O E I E A M F I G B J Z D E B C C  
 U S N X T A B N O L M S K E I C W R L T B A A M Y  
 N T T I S E T X O D H X E R J N A N W E A N C A R  
 R E D I N Y G C A T L B E J U G E C E K S X O L R  
 E R L Y D F C T I E Y E E T X T P S J K J T N C U  
 T N H U Y O L W V D I A A B E U N A T I C A E Q C  
 T P O P R R E S P H A M A N D B E A N R G I S W T  
 U O W B S G C H I C K E N N O O D L E O O E H M U  
 B R L L A B T A E M A L L I T R O T C B Y N R C N  
 I K T B C H I C K E N C O R N C H O W D E R E N O  
 O V B N O I N O H C N E R F T A P M B U N T L G C  
 C A E T R X U H A I M J R D Z I V V Q O P E I U O  
 C T I G D H G H Q W L G M P X E G D Y B O F X H C  
 I L I H C N A I R A T E G E V N A E B E E R H T W

BEEF BARLEY

BUTTERNUT SQUASH

CHICKEN NOODLE

COCONUT CURRY CHICKEN

HAM AND BEAN

SOUTHWESTERN PORK

TOMATO BASIL

WHITE BEAN TURKEY CHILI

BEEF NOODLE

CABBAGE WITH SAUSAGE

CHICKEN WILD RICE

FRENCH ONION

POTATO BACON

TEX-MEX CHILI

TORTILLA MEATBALL

BROCCOLI CHEESE

CHICKEN CORN CHOWDER

CLAM CHOWDER

GARDEN MINESTRONE

SALSA BEAN

THREE BEAN VEGETARIAN CHILI

VEGETABLE STEW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Conservation News

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## **Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District**

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, Ohio 43512  
Phone 419-782-1794 Fax 419-782-1791  
swcd@defiance-county.com  
www.defiance-county.com/swcd

### **Board of Supervisors**

Bill Moats  
Keith Schroeder  
Tom Beck  
Roger Zeedyk IV  
Jeff Hange

### **District Personnel**

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Terri Agler  
Ben Gerken  
Tyler Miller  
Stephanie Singer  
Bill Grimes

### **Ditch Maintenance Personnel**

Kevin Hancock  
Ed Walters  
Josh Limber  
Dave Sines

### **NRCS Personnel**

Steve Snyder  
Lori Shank  
Mike Boff  
Dean Houchen

## **Upcoming Events!**

- **March 3, 7, & 10** – Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Workshops– see page 2.
- **March 9-13** – “Local Heroes —Your Hardworking Pollinators” Poster Contest entries due.
- **March 13** – Tree Sale Order deadline.
- **March 18** – Ag Appreciation Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Defiance K of C Hall on Elliott Road. The public is invited and encouraged to attend with a farmers’ share breakfast being offered for \$3.00 per person. Please call the OSU Extension office at 419-782-4771 to RSVP for the event.
- **March 25** – Rotary Club Lunch at Hicksville School.
- **April 8, 9, 11** – River Summit in Fort Wayne.
- **April 13-17**– Photo Contest entries due.
- **May 9** – NW Ohio Woodland and Wildlife Festival, free, held at the Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, 19255 W. Portage River South Road, Elmore.
- **June 3-6** – “Camp Underground!” for Campers - Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Explore: Bats! Fossils! Sinkholes! Earthquakes, 4H– Camp Palmer, Fayette.
- **June 16-18** – Black Swamp Educators’ Extravaganza at the 577 Foundation in Perrysburg!

*More information about events and complete rules for contests available at: [defiance-county.com/swcd](http://defiance-county.com/swcd)*

## **Equipment Rental**

The District will continue to have rental equipment available for Defiance County landowners. Please make arrangements early by calling Tyler Miller:

**NEW No-Till Drill**  
**Pull-behind Tree Planter**

**Brillion Grass Seeder**  
**Straw Mulcher/Blower**