



CONSERVATION NOTES

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Licking Soil & Water team thanks all candidates for their interest in serving on our board. Candidates on the ballot were Frank Aransky, April Beggerow, Anthony Burger, Bill Goodman, Chris Monroe and John Wagy. On November 9, 2017, the election results showed Bill and John received the most votes. Later this month, they will be sworn in as unpaid public officials that conduct business and guide the Licking Soil & Water mission with professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness.

BILL GOODMAN retired from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The McKean township resident raises cattle and grows blackberries for market. Having served on the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation
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FOUR RECEIVE SOIL & WATER AWARDS AT ANNUAL BANQUET



Chuck Dilbone receives the Cooperator of the Year award from Soil & Water District Program Administrator, Denise Natoli Brooks.

MICHELE HAMILTON **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Over her 17-year career as an educator, Michele Hamilton has taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders in Columbus, Kirkersville, and Pataskala. She currently is the 3rd grade gifted teacher at Pataskala Elementary School.

(full article on page 6)

JEFF BAKER **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Jeff Baker serves as Licking Soil & Water Board Secretary and Treasurer, and avid volunteer. As one of many certified Stream Team members, he collected the most water quality data in 2017.

(full article on page 7)

CHUCK DILBONE AGRICULTURE **COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR**

Chuck Dilbone of Sunbeam Family Farm is a farmer, an educator, and a collaborator. Chuck and his family are 1 of only 93 certified organic vegetable producers in Ohio. He sells organic produce at farmer's markets and through Community Supported Agriculture.

(full article on page 6)

CITY OF NEWARK URBAN **COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR**

For their outstanding commitment to promoting conservation of natural resources through innovative stormwater management, our first-ever Urban Cooperator of the Year is the City of Newark.

(full article on page 7)

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Thank you **Granville Kiwanis** for donating maple syrup to our award winners.



Promoting conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education, and technical assistance.

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SOIL & WATER STAFF

Denise Natoli Brooks
Pat Deering
Aaron Friend
Kristy Hawthorne
Briana Leach

BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Birkmeyer
Megan Evans
Mamie Hollenback
Bill Goodman
John Wagy

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

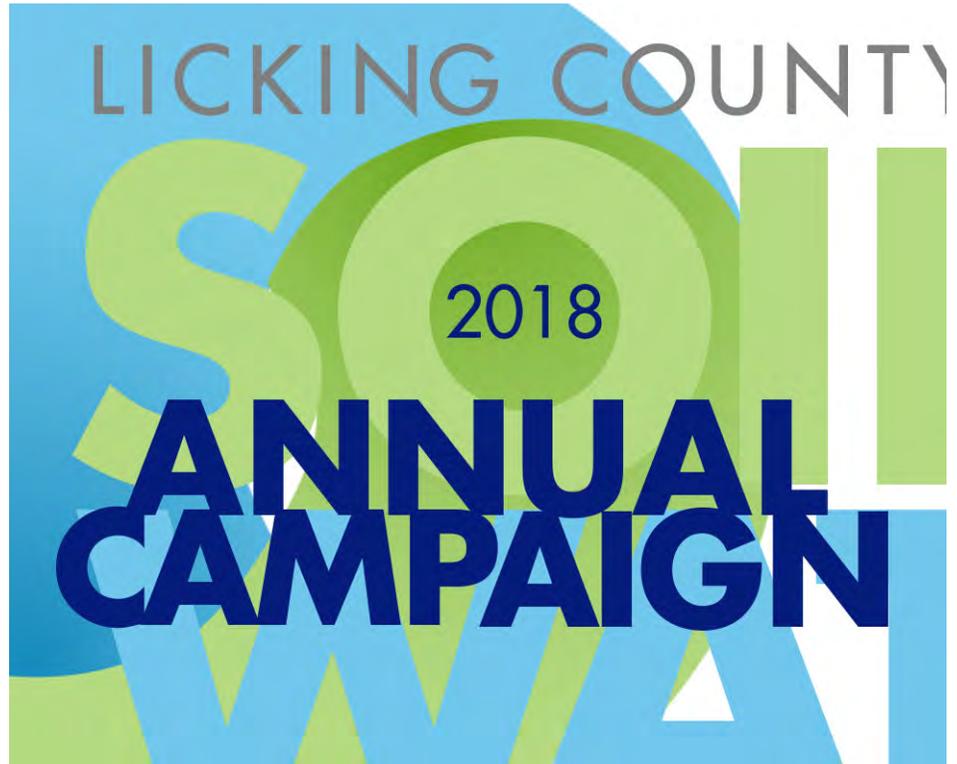
Jeff Bates
Matt Hazelton
Terry Van Offeren

USDA NRCS STAFF

Melissa Horton
David Houston
Joe Koehler
Danielle Meggyesy
Emily Waters

The Soil & Water Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:30 pm at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



**ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN:
SUPPORT COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION**

Your contribution enables us to provide important services for cultivating a natural resource conservation-based citizenry. Regardless of the sponsorship amount, Licking Soil & Water is committed to turning your donation into educational experiences for our community. Consider what we have already accomplished.

- Adult education through the Conservation Learning Series
- Stream Team training for volunteer water quality monitors
- Tree Resource Kit for educators and Seedling Trees for youth and schools
- Farmland Preservation workshops and outreach
- Envirothon competitions for middle school and high school students
- Stormwater education for adults and youth
- Internships for college students pursuing natural resource/agriculture degrees
- Educator workshops
- FFA Soil Judging competition
- Volunteer Recognition and Annual Banquet

We ask for your continued support with a tax-deductible donation to help us continue building an informed and engaged conservation-based community.

DONATE ONLINE HERE

DENISON STUDENTS PAY IT FORWARD

Denison University faculty member, Heather Rhodes teaches a small class on science educational outreach. Her students recently completed an outreach project with Newark High School and researched non-profits in Licking County that support science outreach.

With a Pay It Forward grant from Ohio Campus Compact, the students were empowered to go a step further and engage in philanthropy; they were given \$2000 to donate to a local non-profit that does science outreach work. After researching several local non-profits, the students agreed that they wanted to donate all of their \$2000 to our office to support the educational outreach programs that Licking Soil & Water offers the community.

The students met with District Program Administrator, Denise Natoli Brooks to present the donation during a ceremony on December 12, 2017.

Rhodes shared that “the students were impressed by the diversity of programs you offer, the wide range of ages you serve, and the engaging, hands-on, real-world outreach you do like the Stream Team”.

The students hope that **Licking Soil & Water** will be able to make good use of this donation to continue the current high quality work, as well as to support new initiatives, such as expanding outreach to urban centers. 🌍

NRCS WELCOMES EMILY WATERS



EMILY WATERS recently joined the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) team as a Soil Conservationist. In May 2017, she earned a B.S. in Agriculture, with a focus in Agribusiness from Wilmington College.

Emily has worked for the NRCS since 2015, interning in Richland County during the summer of 2015, and in Tuscarawas County during the summer of 2016. She was hired full-time at the end of May and is splitting her time between Licking, Perry, Muskingum and Morgan counties. She assists the District and Resource Conservationists with field and office work to help producers put conservation on the land.

Emily is originally from Morrow County. Her involvement in FFA and the Junior Fair Board fueled her love of agriculture. She and her fiancé, Chris, are new residents of Licking County. They are looking forward to starting their life together and hopefully raising a family here in the future. 🌍

THANK YOU

Annual Giving Campaign Donors

SURFS UP TSUNAMI (\$1000+)



Granville Kiwanis

SHOOT THE RAPID (\$500-\$999)

Sunbelt Rentals
SEO Pheasants Forever
Fackler Country Gardens

RIDE THE WAVE (\$250-\$499)

Gamboling Acres
Licking County Farm Bureau

RIPPLES ON THE POND (\$100-\$249)

Commissioner Tim Bubb
Forestry Improvements
Mayor of Newark, Jeff Hall
Hankinson Farms
Dr. John E. & Anne Hohmann
Key Properties Realtors
Dr. Daniel Leavell
Licking Memorial Hospital
Licking Valley FFA
Ken Lynch, Nationwide Agent
Danette McInturff
TrueCore Federal Credit Union

EVERY DROP COUNTS (UP TO \$99)

Jeff Baker	Mamie Hollenback
Mike Birkmeyer	Richard Holton
Paul & Cathy Brill	Hopewell Federal
Ron & Carol	Credit Union
Thompson, Carron	Realtor Harold Martin
Farm	Darrell & Jan Romine
Kathy Durbin	Robert Rush
Fred Ernest	Ernie Staugh
Megan Evans	Lori Stevenson
Paul Haggard	Mary Jane Thompson
Betty L. Hatfield	Russell Thompson
Dustin Hayes	Terry Van Offeren
Matt Hazelton	John Wagy
Hite & Health LLP	

For information, or to make a donation, contact us at (740) 670-5330 or visit our [website](#).

WHAT IS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT?

Stormwater concerns took center stage in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. **Stormwater management** is especially important in light of more frequent and more intense storms that the U.S. experiences. There are many terms and buzz words related to stormwater management; use glossary on right.

In urban areas, development turns pervious land into impervious surfaces. When rain falls on impervious surfaces, it runs off at an increased rate than if it were to soak into the ground naturally. Without stormwater management, the increased time of concentration and quantity of stormwater can cause flooding and increase pollution.

Stormwater quantity management typically requires a developer to match the post-construction flow rate to the pre-construction flow rate by using a detention basin. The detention basin has a controlled release to slow down or detain the stormwater. Quality management minimizes pollution by slowing down the release of stormwater from the detention basin even more. When the stormwater release in the detention basin is delayed, sediment and pollutants settle out to the bottom of the detention basin, while cleaner water is slowly released from the detention basin.

Green Infrastructure and Low-Impact Design seek to achieve stormwater quantity and quality management by controlling the rainfall where it lands in a naturalistic manner instead of piping the stormwater to a detention basin.

Design of grey, green, and blue infrastructure is a vital aspect of land development with defined parameters. Regardless of how well infrastructure is designed, if the intensity of a storm exceeds the designed parameters, flooding or other damaged will occur. Given the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather, Licking Soil & Water works with the development community to design parameters that reduce soil erosion and flooding. 

Adapted from article written by Brent Eysenbach, Stormwater Program Coordinator, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District.

STORMWATER GLOSSARY

PERVIOUS

A porous surface that allows rainfall to soak into the underlying soils.

IMPERVIOUS

A non-porous surface that forces rainfall to flow across the surface in different directions.

GREY INFRASTRUCTURE

Underground pipes and reservoirs to detain and direct runoff.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Practices that protect, restore, or mimic the natural water cycle.

BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE

Incorporating stormwater control measures into the fabric of a community as an amenity.

LOW IMPACT DESIGN (LID)

Stormwater management design models manage rainfall at the source using small scale controls.

QUANTITY MANAGEMENT

Detaining a volume of stormwater to prevent or minimize downstream flooding.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Detaining a volume of stormwater to allow for the removal of pollutants through settling and/or biological processes.

FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE CLEAN OHIO AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (AEPP)

The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP) has been in place for 15 years. The Ohio Department of Agriculture provides funding to farmland owners for placing an

agricultural easement on their property.

Licking Soil & Water will receive over \$413,000 for farmland preservation as a 2018 Certified

Local Sponsor. To date, Licking Soil & Water has protected 17 farms totaling 2,760 acres with an agricultural easement, with an

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NEW NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TOOL

The **Ohio Applicator Forecast** is an online tool designed to help nutrient applicators identify times when the potential nutrient loss from a fertilizer or manure application is low. Because the tool covers every corner of the state it can be useful for a broad range of decisions for large and small farms throughout Ohio.

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Daniels said, “ODA firmly believes science and technology must be at the forefront of all water quality issues and these new and innovative tools are impactful steps that will merge the ideas of precision farming and precision conservation.”

The Ohio Applicator Forecast takes data from the National Weather Service, predicting potential for runoff to occur in a given area. The forecast takes snow accumulation and melt, soil moisture content and forecast precipitation and temperatures into account, giving farmers substantial information when they are making nutrient application decisions.

Brian Astifan, with the National Weather Service said, “We believe Ohio’s partnership with several federal agencies and educational institutions to develop this decision-support tool will benefit farmers and ultimately work towards improving Ohio’s water quality.” 

Adapted from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

BUCKEYE LAKE FOR TOMORROW



Buckeye Lake, May 2009. (Credit: Flickr User WorldIslandInfo.com via Creative Commons)

Below are the closing remarks of Mervin G. Bartholow (1941-2017), our lakeside conservation partner, as we prepared for the next decade improving Buckeye Lake One Drop at a Time.

Two eyes, two ears and one mouth – as your parents emphasized, they should be used accordingly. Thus, became the framework for the policies of Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow as they set about the task of improving the water quality in Buckeye Lake and the surrounding watershed.

By watching and listening, we were better able to understand the special challenges of our farming neighbors in improving the overall health of their soil and the loss of nutrients that were occurring during heavy rainfalls.

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TREE SALE SNEAK PEAK

Start planning for spring planting. The annual seedling tree sale includes twenty native tree species, plus wildflower seeds, boundary marking paint, tree tubes, marking flags, dibble bars, and rain barrels. All tree species are available in quantities of 5, 25 and 100. For orders over 100 trees, larger

seedlings, or for species not listed, contact Kristy, information@lickingSWCD.com, (740) 670-5330.

Look for more details and order form on the Licking Soil & Water website in mid-January and in the next issue of Conservation Notes.

ORDER DEADLINE MARCH 19. PICK UP APRIL 6

E. White Cedar/Amer. Arborvitae	Bottlebrush Buckeye	River Birch
White Pine	Burr Oak	Shellbark Hickory
Allegheny Serviceberry	Northern Pecan	Sugar Maple
American Hazelnut	Ohio Buckeye	Swamp White Oak
Bald Cypress	Pawpaw	White Flowering Dogwood
Black Chokeberry	Red Oak	White Oak
Black Gum	Redbud	

2017 SOIL & WATER AWARDS RECIPIENTS

MICHELE HAMILTON EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Over her 17-year career as an educator, Michele Hamilton has taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders in Columbus, Kirkersville, and Pataskala. She currently is the 3rd grade gifted teacher at Pataskala Elementary School. Michele participated in multiple educator workshops hosted by Licking Soil & Water and Licking Park District. Licking Soil & Water District Program Administrator, Denise Natoli Brooks was particularly struck by Michele's enthusiasm for hand-on, inquiry-based learning. Denise had the opportunity to train Michele and her 3rd graders as Stream Team volunteers. They

adopted Muddy Fork, which is in walking distance from their school.

We are so lucky to have such dedicated teachers like Michele in our community, who want to educate our kids about clean water, healthy soil, and conserving Licking County's natural resources. Pataskala Elementary Principal, Joe Pratt, could not agree with us more, "Wow! She is so deserving." When Michele learned of her award, she said, "I absolutely love the programs that you offer and believe that educating our youth about our world and our own county is so important." 🌍

CHUCK DILBONE AGRICULTURE COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR



Chuck Dilbone of Sunbeam Family Farm is a farmer, an educator, and a collaborator. Chuck and his family are 1 of only 93 certified organic vegetable producers in Ohio. He sells organic produce at farmer's markets and through Community Supported Agriculture. High tunnels, including one installed this year through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), allow him to grow produce year round. This healthy, locally-grown food is energy efficient as it requires

less transportation cost and provides greater food security. Chuck finds it very rewarding to provide wholesome healthy foods to the community.

Prior to retiring, Chuck served as an education administrator. As Director of Business Operations at Granville Exempted Schools he literally refreshed the school cafeteria menu. He learned that the kids did not like the taste of the cafeteria foods; therefore only 22

percent of students were purchasing them. Chuck figured that, "The cafeteria business in schools is a huge business. And if you think about that, that money should stay in Ohio and stay locally as much as possible." With Chuck leading the way, the school district hired a chef familiar with using locally-sourced food. Chuck then went on and helped establish organic vegetables at the Granville High School with Jim Reding, who heads the Granville Schools Sustainability Project.

Combining healthy, fresh foods and education comes naturally to Chuck. He leads the Heart of Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association, coordinating speakers and field trips related to food and farming. Chuck makes everyone feel welcome and when spending time with Chuck, you can't help but get excited about our local food and farming community. Our community is lucky to have his support. 🌍

2017 SOIL & WATER AWARDS RECIPIENTS

JEFF BAKER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Jeff Baker serves as Licking Soil & Water Board Secretary and Treasurer, and avid volunteer. As one of many certified Stream Team members, he collected the most water quality data in 2017. Because of Jeff, we know that the North Fork Licking River near St. Louisville is quite healthy. He also helps keep our water healthy and clean by volunteering to help pull tires and trash out of our waterways during the River Round Up. He also assists with the annual seedling tree sale, helping distribute nearly 40,000 seedling trees.

When not volunteer with Licking Soil & Water, Jeff is the science teacher at the Alpha School in Perry county. He and his students spearheaded creating the school's outdoor classroom, transformed the grounds into wildlife habitat. Their site received the Wild School Site certification in 2015 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the 1st in Perry. As an educator and supporter of community-based conservation, Jeff understands the importance of supporting organizations committed to connecting the community to our natural resources. 🌍

CITY OF NEWARK URBAN COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR



For their outstanding commitment to promoting conservation of natural resources through innovative stormwater management, our first-ever Urban Cooperator of the Year is the City of Newark. The Clean Water Act Phase II mandated older municipalities and cities to update combined sewer and stormwater infrastructure. The City of Newark decided to take the opportunity to go farther and find creative solutions to

stormwater management mandates. Collaborators include Mayor Jeff Hall's office; Roger Loomis, Utilities Superintendent of the Newark City Water and Wastewater Division; Stormwater Coordinator, John Trujillo; and many others.

Implementing better ways to handle stormwater include bioswales that naturally let stormwater soak into the ground, filtering pollutants

before being released into our beautiful rivers and streams. Thousands of grasses, shrubs and trees have greened downtown. In fact, these bioswales and plants are called green infrastructure. The downtown project is the focus of a Newark City Schools teacher workshop hosted in collaboration with Licking Soil & Water. The teachers learn about green infrastructure, stormwater management and career in these fields. The hope is that they can bring the information back to their students.

When asked about the improvements downtown, Roger Loomis said, the bioswales are a "cost effective way to separate and reduce overflow into the streams and rivers." His hope is to, "capture 70 percent of stormwater and reduce pollutants by 20 percent," which will in turn, "improve infrastructure and water quality, which is going to improve quality of life in the downtown area." 🌍

BUCKEYE LAKE FOR TOMORROW

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A detailed inventory of the watershed, conducted by Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District, as part of a Nutrient Reduction Project developed through Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow for the Ohio EPA, helped to identify problem areas as well as the nutrient losses that were occurring. This information was not only valuable in mapping out the watershed, it also enabled farmers to pinpoint problem areas in their operations. We are unaware of any other inventory across the State of Ohio that has developed the level of information and data that is being utilized across the Buckeye Lake Watershed.

We have also learned that cover crops make possible the retention of valuable nutrients, especially during those early spring rains when valuable topsoil is lost and washed away from barren fields, while the field with a cover crop is retaining its original condition. Of course, there are always challenges and cover crops are no exception. However, as we experiment and learn more, there appear to be ways to overcome the challenges and make cover crops a win-win for everyone.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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Commission, Bill understands the importance of Soil & Water programs in the community. He plans to communicate with local authorities about the need for maintaining technical and financial assistance for conservation practices.

JOHN WAGY operates his family's century farm in Pataskala. In 2015, John was named Licking Soil & Water

Variable rate technology is also making a significant impact across the watershed. More and more operations are realizing the value of mapping and taking samples from the various grids to determine the current level of nutrients in the soil and the need for additional applications, only applied where nutrients are needed. Initial costs can be high, but the return on that investment has proven to be significant over time.

By observing and listening to our farming neighbors, we have learned a great deal about the management of healthy soil and the impact that makes on the overall quality of the water across the watershed. By following our parent's advice, we have also come to learn that working with our neighbors is producing much better results than dictating changes that, in the final analysis, may or may not actually work.

Two eyes, two ears and one mouth – just might help us achieve our overall goal of Improving Buckeye Lake One Drop at a Time.
—Merv Bartholow (June 18, 2017)

Cooperator of the Year for his commitment to using best management practices including systematic drainage tile systems, grassed waterways, variable rate fertilizer application and nutrient management plans.

John looks forward to promoting conservation programs and community respect for the watershed. 

FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE CLEAN OHIO AEPP

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additional eight farms totaling about 1,125 acres in the process of closing.

Farmland owners interested in applying or learning more contact Pat, (740) 670-5330, information@lickingSWCD.com. 

IMPORTANT DATES

Now: Farmland Preservation initial forms due

Jan 15: MLK Day- office closed

Jan 16: Tree Sale orders begin

Jan 30: Landowner Meeting with Farm Bureau

Feb 19: President's Day- office closed

Mar 19: Tree Sale order deadline

Apr 6: Tree Sale order pick up

Apr 25: Area 3 Envirothon

Apr 27: Locally Grown and Gathered Dinner

Aug 4-11: Hartford Fair

Sep 8: River Round Up

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Take a simple step to help us accomplish our mission. Save the paper and receive our monthly newsletter via email.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

HELP US CONSERVE PAPER