



**WAYNE SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



Fall 2026



SCAN ME

CONSERVATION TRAILS

330-263-5376

"Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation"

www.wayneswcd.org



Inside this issue: *New Grant Secured; Annual Meeting; Supervisor Elections; Meet the Candidates; Poster Contest Winners; Big Tree Contest; Staff Updates; News in Nature*

WAYNE SWCD RECEIVES GRANT FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

With the overarching goal of limiting the amount of nutrients that enter Ohio's waterways, the Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District has secured a grant from the state's H2Ohio environmental quality initiative which will fund the new position of Nutrient Management Technician (NMT) over the next five years. Local farmers, within Wayne County and the surrounding counties, can work with the NMT to develop nutrient management plans that take into consideration all aspects of the nutrient cycle, including manure production of their livestock and/or the application of commercial fertilizer to satisfy the true nutritional needs of their crops. When producers follow a Nutrient Management Plan it's a win-win for both water quality and the farmer's bottom line. Lost nutrients are lost dollars. Excess phosphorus and nitrogen that enter surface waters provide the fuel driving harmful algal blooms from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

The H2Ohio initiative began as a response to harmful algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). In 2019, Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio legislature funded the program which is grounded in voluntary adherence to best management practices (BMPs). While initially focusing only on the counties that drain to

the WLEB, the program was expanded in 2024 to include the entire state. Wayne County has secured nearly \$1.7 million in project funding since that expansion. Now, with over 3,200 ag producers enrolling 2.5 million acres across the state, our waterways are spared over 420,000 pounds of phosphorous contamination each year.

Visit our website to learn more about developing a Nutrient Management Plan for your agricultural operation. Zoey Dudte, our new Nutrient Management Technician, will be happy to help you develop a plan that will benefit your operation, and work to keep our waters clean. Contact Zoey at zdudte@wayneohio.org or by calling our office at 330-263-5376.



Winning entry from Dennis Lepp for
2007 OFSWCD art contest

>>> 79TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Please join us for our 79th Supervisor Election and Annual Breakfast on Wednesday, November 4th, at Sonnenberg Village, 13497 Hackett Rd, Apple Creek, Ohio, (just north of Kidron).



We will begin with Supervisor voting and a breakfast buffet from 8:00–10:00 AM. Awards presentations will take place at 9:00 AM, and self-guided tours of Historic Sonnenberg Village will be available from 8:00–11:00 AM.

This free community event offers an opportunity to celebrate conservation, enjoy a light breakfast, and explore local history. RSVP by Monday, October 19 by calling 330-263-5376 or emailing rbandy@wayneohio.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Wayne SWCD monthly board meeting, open to the public, will follow at 10:30 AM.

>>> MEET THE CANDIDATES

Tom White of Canaan Township is a dedicated conservationist and community leader. Raised on a fifth-generation farm in Guernsey County, he brings lifelong agricultural experience to his work maintaining a pond and pollinator garden at the Wayne County Fairgrounds and partnering with master gardeners at Secrest Arboretum. Tom spent 24 years at Quality Farm and Fleet, later owning RKO and serving nationally with ConAgra Animal Health. He's active in organizations including Wayne Presbyterian Church, OSU Master Gardeners, Wayne County Fair Board, and Wooster Chamber of Commerce. He is a past president of Habitat for Humanity and holds a BA from Ohio University.



Tom White



Clint Carmony

Clint Carmony lives in East Union Township with his wife, Libby, and their son Conor. For over 20 years Clint has been working with his dad and brother on Carmony Stock Farms. Formerly a hog farm, they now farm corn and soybeans on 650 acres in Wayne Township and provide custom manure application with multiple dragline crews servicing farms in Wayne and surrounding counties. As a Certified Livestock Manager, Clint puts conservation into practice, following the "4 R's" of manure application. Clint coaches wrestling for Wooster High School and assists with the youth wrestling program. He is a graduate of Ashland University with a bachelor's degree in economics.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES MAY ENTER THE RACE AFTER THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO BALLOT LIST.



>>> ELECTION NOTICE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor. There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1. At the SWCD office, bottom level of 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH, from 10/6/2026 until 11/3/2026 during normal business hours; or
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Sonnenberg Village 13497 Hackett Rd. Apple Creek, OH 44606 on 11/4/2026 from 8:00-10:00 a.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from 10/6/2026 until 11/3/2026, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH, by calling 330-263-5376, or email info@wayneswcd.org. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 11/4/2026.

One Wayne County Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2027.

Nominees are: Tom White and Clint Carmony

>>> POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



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"Soil. Where it all Begins" was the theme for the National Association of Conservation District's 2026 Poster Contest. Soil has the incredible power to support life in all its forms. It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. Conservation districts across the country work every day to protect this vital resource. These Wayne County 1st place winners advanced to the State level and **we are proud to announce Madi Underwood received 2nd place in the State Contest!** Our local winners received a cash prize and certificate, while their posters will be displayed at the Fair in the Wayne SWCD/STW Recycling Building. We are proud to support our youth programs. The theme for the 2027 Poster Contest will be "From Source to Sea. Every Drop Has a Journey." Visit our website at <https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/education/poster-contest> for more information.



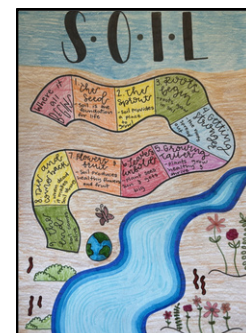
Levi Rice
K-1st Grade
Rice Christian Academy



Ava Clark
4th-6th Grade
Norwayne

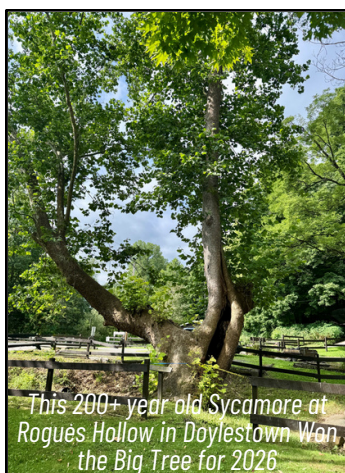


Lila Rice
7th - 9th Grade
Rice Christian Academy



Madi Underwood
10th - 12th Grade
Chippewa

>>> BIG TREE CONTEST

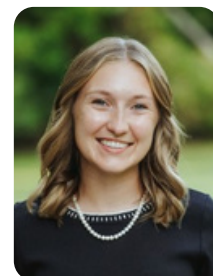


We are pleased to announce the results of the 2026 Big Tree Contest, celebrating the American Sycamore. Taking first place was the Rogues Hollow Historical Society tree, nominated by Michael Moore, with a score of **406.125 points**. Second place went to the Wooster Country Club sycamore tree, nominated by Will Moore, scoring 362.875 points. Rounding out the top five were Christine Haynes' tree in third place with 287.75 points, the Wooster Memorial Park tree, nominated by Becky Cornelius and Kristin Lorson, in fourth with 275.75 points, and Bill Arnold's tree in fifth with 240.125 points.

The champion tree has a circumference of more than 23 feet and is estimated to be over 200 years old. The second-place tree stands more than 138 feet tall. These remarkable trees showcase the natural heritage found throughout Wayne County, and luckily can be viewed and admired by many people!

>>> STAFF UPDATES

Becca Schuch joined our team in May as our Ag Conservation Specialist. She graduated from Grace College with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and lives on her family's grain farm in Shreve, Ohio. With a genuine passion for agriculture and natural resources, Becca is excited to partner with Wayne County producers to support their conservation goals. When she's not out in the field, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and playing frisbee with her dog, Huckleberry.



We welcomed Zoey Dudte as our Nutrient Management Technician in August. Zoey graduated from Ohio State ATI with a degree in Agricultural Communications. Zoey is originally from Wooster and graduated from Northwestern where she was active in FFA. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, and her Corgi Dixie. Zoey enjoys baking and operating her own business, The Baking Barn as well. She enjoys learning more about different aspects of the agricultural industry and meeting new people.

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District
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info@wayneswcd.org

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Wooster, OH

Wayne SWCD Board of Supervisors:

Jeff Gochnauer, Chairman
Matt Peart, Vice Chairman
Randy Tegtmeier, Fiscal Officer
Marissa Dillon, Secretary
Tate Emerson, Public Relations
Rodney Mackey, Associate Supervisor

***Contact our office to switch or sign up to receive our newsletters via email and get \$5 off your purchase for the 2027 Tree or Fish sale.
Order forms available on our website January 2027***

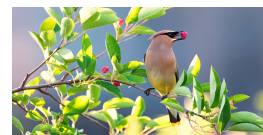
Wayne SWCD Staff:

Ruthanne Bandy, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Burley, Secretary
Zoey Dudte, Nutrient Management Tech
Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer
John Lorson, District Program Administrator
Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist
Kelly Riley, Education Specialist
Becca Schuch, Ag Conservation Specialist

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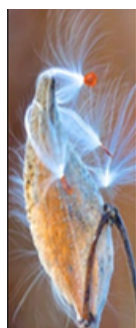
>>> NEWS IN NATURE

Wildflowers are beautiful and trees are majestic, but the real workhorses in the garden are shrubs. Shrubs come in all sizes from groundcovers to multi-story. They provide nectar, pollen, caterpillar host plants for pollinators, fruits and nuts for birds, and nesting and hiding places for all sorts of wildlife. They also offer habitat year-round along with visual interest, structure and color. Here are a few of the top-rated native shrubs for Ohio wildlife: **Buttonbush, American Black Elderberry, and Serviceberry.** Fall is the perfect time to plant something new!



Dates to Remember

*September 7 - Labor Day
September 8 - Board Meeting 8:30 am
September 12-17 - Wayne County Fair
*October 12 - Columbus Day
October 13 - Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.
November 4 - Annual Meeting
November 4 - Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.
*November 11 - Veterans Day
*November 26 - Thanksgiving
December 8 - Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.
*December 25 - Christmas Day
***Office will be closed**



Drop off your common milkweed pods at our office between **Oct. 1 - Oct. 31**. They can be harvested when the center seam pops with gentle pressure. Do not collect pods already open as they may be infected by milkweed beetles. It is very important to collect the pods when they are dry and grey/brown in color and store them in a paper bag. We are collecting a limited amount of pods this year.

