

CONSERVATION TRAILS
“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”
Wayne SWCD

www.wayneswcd.org 330-263-5376

Winter 2023–2024

Wayne SWCD Celebrates 76 Years

The Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District recently celebrated 76 years of assisting area landowners with their conservation efforts by hosting an open house style buffet breakfast for area producers and supporters. The event, which took place at The Connection Conference Center in Wooster, replaced the agency’s annual dinner meeting and served as the culmination of the annual Board of Supervisors election. Jeff Gochnauer, a Green Township agricultural producer, was re-elected to a three year term on the Board of Supervisors which includes Matt Peart, Dustin Ramsier, Scott Stoller and Randy Tegtmeier.

Jonathan and Deb Berger of Green Vista Farm, LLC were presented with the Conservation Farm Award by District Administrator John Lorson along with Tegtmeier who serves as Board Chairman. The Berger’s grass-fed beef operation headquartered in Wayne County’s Chester Township is recognized as a model of conservation agriculture, and is centered on a rotational grazing program that keeps the soil continuously covered by growing forage. Not only does this all but eliminate erosion, but also serves as a stormwater sponge and groundwater recharge conduit. A family operation that also involves the Berger’s three adult children, each specializing in a different aspect of the operation, Green Vista’s 100% grass-fed beef and locally-raised antibiotic and GMO-free pork is available through their website greenvistafarm.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 2/13 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 2/19 Presidents’ Day—closed
- 3/12 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 3/13 Tree Order deadline
- 3/22 Envirothon team deadline
- 3/29 Fish Order deadline
- 4/08 Total Solar Eclipse
- 4/09 Board Meeting 7:30 am
- 4/09 Fish Sale Pick up 9-10a
- 4/17 Tree Pick-up 12-4:30pm
- 4/24 Area 2 Envirothon
(at Kidron Community Park)



HAPPY NEW
YEAR! 2024

Images by Clip Art



Jonathan and Deb Berger (pictured) of Chester Township accepted the 2023 Conservation Farm award on behalf of Green Vista Farm at the recent Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District annual meeting / breakfast buffet. The Berger’s family-run grass-fed beef and non-GMO, antibiotic free pork operation is headquartered in Chester Township.



Thank You to Open House Donors

This year’s event was underwritten with contributions from [Farm Credit Mid-America](#), [Gerber Feed Service](#), [Lowe & Young](#), [Sterling Farm Equipment](#) and [Tyler Grain & Fertilizer](#). As always, we greatly appreciate their support as well as those that attended and whom share our passion for conservation. Thanks!

Likable Links—yes, they are clickable links.

- ♦ [OHIO WILDLIFE FIELD GUIDES AND BACKYARD WILDLIFE](#) from ODNR (Trees to Birds and Butterflies—this is all the guides online!)
- ♦ [OHIO COVER CROPS](#) –from OSU/CFAES this site compiled twenty-three fact sheets that were recently posted on Ohioline, providing all the info!
- ♦ [Live CAMS!](#) -from [Explore.org](#) Just want to take a break? Escape by watching puppies, eagles to elephants, sharks to sheep - you pick! Enjoy!

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Educator of the Year ~ Stephen Heppe

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. ~Benjamin Franklin. This quote can sum up the 2023 Wayne SWCD's Educator of the Year's teaching style, as Stephen Heppe keeps his students busy in all sorts of projects.

We are pleased to announce the 2023 [Educator of the Year](#) was awarded to Smithville High School's FFA advisor Mr. Stephen Heppe. Stephen has shown leadership and been a longtime role model to our youth and community in conservation education. He is very well organized, kind, funny and well liked by his peers and students. Stephen leads by example and he has excellent communication skills and management abilities.

Although he hails from Portage County and still resides in Randolph, Stephen has a long history here in Wayne County. Before becoming the Ag Teacher at Smithville High School in 2018, Stephen worked at Wayne County OSU Extension for ten years in the 4-H and Agriculture areas. He has been a familiar face at the Wayne County Fair, helping as a 4-H Volunteer since 2005. He has served on the Jr. Fair Staff, and he also serves in his own county on the Portage County Randolph Fair Board. Stephen is involved in numerous youth and livestock clubs and organizations. Beyond that, he is proud that his family farm had farmed on some of the same land for over 100 years, where they raised corn, soybeans and a few livestock. His family believes in no-till farming and they are very proud of their history of soil conservation and his beliefs come through in his teachings.



Stephen Heppe, 2023 Ed of Year

Stephen says. "I believe in instilling a sense of responsibility and stewardship in my students, teaching them that we are the ones who need to take care of the soil for ourselves and future generations." This philosophy resonates as his students use hands on activities to learn about soil structure, erosion, and proper measures to make the soil healthy. Students will bring soil samples from home and determine their soils type, available nutrients, and determine what conservation choices they could do to improve the soil. Students compete at the County, District and State FFA Soil Judging contests. His students are involved in running and managing the Smithville HS Greenhouse, where they raise a variety of spring, fall and winter plants. They have plant sales where Stephen incorporates his Ag Business lessons into the projects. Stephen is heavily involved in community events and livestock projects as well with students. The FFA kids have competed in the Livestock Challenges, attend National Shows, visit the Farm Science Review, Farm Machinery Shows, and the National FFA Convention, among other events. We are very fortunate to have Stephen teaching here in Wayne County and we are very happy to congratulate and recognize him.

Attention! THE [Envirothon](#) is coming to Wayne County. 4-24-24

Wayne SWCD is hosting the 2024 Area II Envirothon on April 24th for 17 Northeast Ohio County high school students grades 9 thru 12. The Envirothon is a competitive, academic, outdoor team event which tests students' knowledge in areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and the current environmental issue of renewable energy for a sustainable future. Teams of five rotate through five environmental eco-stations. The event is designed to stimulate and reinforce the student's interest in our environment and our natural resources while encouraging cooperative decision making, team building and problem solving. We have already secured the location of the Area II Envirothon and are pleased to announce the Kidron Community Center and Park as our venue. We are currently seeking donations to support this upcoming event, as well as TEAMS! Any high school or homeschool team can compete, the deadline to register is Friday, March 22. [Sponsor forms](#), [study materials](#), [registration](#), and more are online at our website <https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/education/envirothon> or feel free to contact us!




APRIL 8, 2024

SAVE THE DATE!

In 2024, a total eclipse will go through Ohio. Start planning for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"

Eclipse.Ohio.Gov

Go nuts or acorns...start looking! We are ready to find the largest WHITE OAK tree in Wayne County! You have until July 19th 2024 to get your nominations in to us! It's simple and easy to do. Fill out the form. Let us do the rest. Winning nominator gets \$25 gift card and winning tree owner gets a special plaque. Forms are on the website and in our office. **Click on the tree!**





TREE SALE: Please see the [Tree Order Form insert enclosed in the newsletter to order](#). Note: this year you can also purchase a Scotch Pine seedling pack for \$10.00 to donate to local school students. Orders and payment must be received in our office by **March 13, 2024**. Pick up will be **April 17th between 12:00 – 4:30 pm at the Wayne County Fairgrounds**.

2023 Fair Contest Winner

A “treemendous” outpouring of guesses came through the Wayne SWCD building during the week of the 2023 Wayne County fair for our annual contest! With well over 650 guesses, we had four people correctly guess the right number of pine cones in our jar... **107!** But only two of them correctly got the tie-breaker question right! **So, we would like to congratulate Al Markowski of North Royalton and Taylor Olszeski of Burbank, who each received a \$30 gift card to Bob Evans Restaurant!** *The tie-breaker question was: What US states have the most trees per square mile? Name two of the top five states: (the answers are: ALASKA, TEXAS, MONTANA, GEORGIA, AND COLORADO...<https://8billiontrees.com/trees/what-state-has-the-most-trees/>)* A honorable mention goes to Kellie Brock and Curtis Burgan for the right number of pine cones. Thanks to everyone that stopped by to visit us and took a guess! [To see past fair contest winners click this link \(website\)](#).



Photo by: Wayne SWCD

2024 Wayne SWCD [Annual FISH Sale](#)

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting orders for our annual fish sale. The fish are offered in cooperation with [Fender's Fish Hatchery](#) in Baltic. Options listed below. We will also offer pond conditioner, (1 & 5 gallon) and 40# bags of fish food. All items must be pre-ordered, as Fender's will only bring what we have ordered.

Order deadline: Fri., March 29 ~ Pickup: Tues., April 9th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wayne Co. Fairgrounds. Orders must be picked up at the specified time. Customers need to bring enough containers to hold the purchased fish. 5 gallon buckets work well. Each container must have an unscented poly liner (30 gal. trash bag). **THE BAGS ARE NECESSARY TO HOLD OXYGEN TO KEEP THE FISH ALIVE DURING TRANSPORT.** Do not use a lid, but a twist tie or twine to close the bag. Each container should be filled with customer pond water - only **1/3 full**. General rule of thumb: one container per 100 small fish, one per 1,000 minnows & one per 4-5 amurs and koi. *Customers are requested to help with loading and unloading the containers into their vehicle at the delivery site—this will help expedite the delivery process.

If you have questions, contact our office 330-263-5376. **Send orders with payment to Wayne SWCD, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691.**

=====*Keep this section for reference*=====**Fender's reserves the right to make reasonable substitutions based on availability of species/size*=====
 ===Clip Here=====

Species	Size	Item Price + 6.5% Sales Tax	Price	Qty	Total
Bass -Largemouth	2-3"	\$1.41+ \$.09=	\$1.50	_____	_____
Black Crappie	2-4"	\$1.13+ \$.07=	\$1.20	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.13+ \$.07=	\$1.20	_____	_____
Bluegill -Hybrid	2-4"	\$1.13+ \$.07=	\$1.20	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$1.13+ \$.07=	\$1.20	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	6-8"	\$14.08+ \$.92=	\$15.00	_____	_____
Minnow (sold per 100)	1-3"	\$8.45+ \$.55=	\$9.00	_____	_____
Perch	2-3"	\$1.13+ \$.07=	\$1.20	_____	_____
Red Ear Shellcracker	2-4"	\$1.13+ \$.07=	\$1.20	_____	_____
White Amur	8-10"	\$15.96+ \$1.04=	\$17.00	_____	_____
"Farm Pond Management-The Common-Sense Guide: Revised Edition" Book					
by Steve Fender		\$18.78+ \$1.22=	\$20.00	_____	_____
Natures Pond Conditioner		\$89.20+ \$5.80=	\$95.00	_____	_____ 1 Gal.
By Koenders		\$375.59+ \$24.41=	\$400.00	_____	_____ 5 Gal.
Optimal Fish Food 40# bag		\$47.89+ \$3.11=	\$51.00	_____	_____
			TOTAL	\$	_____

**Return this section with payment by
Friday, 3/29/24**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*payment must accompany order
make checks payable to: Wayne SWCD



Image by rawpixel.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital and family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

2375 Benden Dr., Suite B, Wooster, OH (330-234-5372)

John Knapp, District Conservationist
Ray Rummell, Conservation Specialist
Scott Kenreich, Resource Conservationist

Wayne SWCD Staff

Cody Beale, Ag Resources Coordinator
Kathy Burley, Secretary
Stacey Hiller, Administrative Assistant
Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer
John Lorson, District Program Administrator
Ricky Papay, Water Resources Specialist
Kelly Riley, Education Specialist

Tree Order Form Inside

2024 Poster Contest

POSTER CONTEST: The annual poster contest is for any student in Wayne county grades Kindergarten through 12. Posters are a captivating way for our youth to tell a story everyone can understand while learning to be wise stewards of our natural resources. The contest follows rules and guidelines established by the NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts). The 2024 Stewardship Theme is: **"May the Forest Be With You"**. Posters must have this displayed as the title! **For more Information go to the following link: www.nacdnet.org** - click on the Conservation Education Hub tab and look for contests, or visit;

<https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/education/poster-contest> for more details.



Receive Your Newsletter by E-mail

BONUS: the E -Version has lots of clickable [hyper-links!](#)

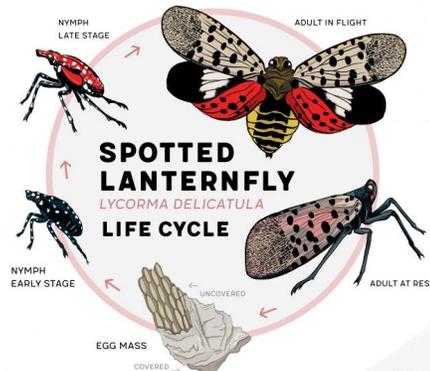
If you would like to save trees and receive this newsletter by e-mail, let us know at:

info@wayneswcd.org

Thanks for helping us save paper & postage!



Follow us on "X"
[@WayneSWCD](https://twitter.com/WayneSWCD)



<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-83>

The spotted lanternfly is an insect native to Asia that is a pest of grapes, hops, and apples, along with many other species of plants. This pest is a great concern to the grape and wine industry, which contributes more than \$6 billion dollars in economic activity to Ohio's economy annually. An invasive tree species, Ailanthus or tree of heaven, is the primary host for spotted lanternfly.

The public plays an important role in detecting this insect. In late summer and into fall, spotted lanternflies are in their adult stage. They are approximately one inch, with black bodies and colorful red and grey wings with black markings. They will lay eggs (small, grey masses covered by a waxy covering) beginning in October.

If you think you see spotted lanternfly or damage caused by them, [please report it to ODA](#) by filling out the [Ohio Plant Pest Reporter](#). A clear photo is required for submissions.

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

428 W. Liberty Street
Wooster, OH 44691
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<http://www.wayneswcd.org>

e-mail: info@wayneswcd.org

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