



# CONSERVATION TRAILS

“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District



## New District Program Administrator

John Lorson’s arrival as Wayne SWCD’s new District Program Administrator is a bit of a homecoming. The lifetime Wayne County resident has worked “south of the border” in Holmes County for the past 14 years, most recently serving with Holmes SWCD as a Conservation Specialist.

A graduate of The University of Akron with a bachelor’s degree in Biology, John spent the first half of his career as an engineering technician with the City of Orrville dealing with planning, zoning and storm water issues until returning to his alma mater to work as a college administrator, serving as Coordinator of the UA Millersburg Campus.

“I left my career in Higher Education quite literally for greener pastures,” said Lorson of his move into the world of natural resources conservation many years ago. “It’s been a lifelong passion, and seems to be the perfect intersection of my education and experience. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to return to Wayne County and join with so many others here who are dedicated to the land.”



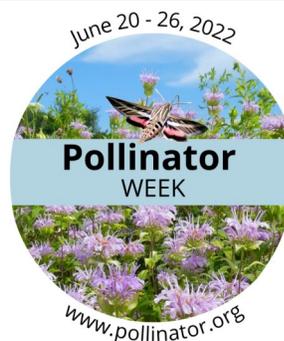
Area residents may also recognize John from his columns that have run in local newspapers each week for the past 26 years: “Rail Trail Naturalist” is an outdoors/nature/natural history column accompanied by his own photography, and “Drawing Laughter” is a family humor column illustrated by his wife, Kristin. John commutes by bicycle between work in Wooster and home in Orrville where he and Kristin raised their three children and actively parent a rescue mutt and a couple of cats.

Reach John with questions, ideas or conservation concerns at 330-263-5376 or by email [jlorson@wayneoh.org](mailto:jlorson@wayneoh.org)

## Spring/Summer 2022

### Dates to Remember:

- 5/10 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 5/20 [World BEE Day](#)
- 5/30 Memorial Day
- 6/14 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 6/20 Juneteenth Holiday
- 7/04 Independence Day
- 7/12 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 8/09 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 9/05 Labor Day
- 9/06 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 9/10–15 [Wayne County Fair](#)
- 10/4 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 10/4 Columbus Day



## 75 years of Conservation!

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District is celebrating 75 years of conservation. Wayne SWCD was established by local election of the populace in 1947. We are a locally led, conservation minded agency, working in partnership.



Most people are familiar with the famous quote by former president, Franklin D. Roosevelt whom once said, **"A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself..."** What most people don't know is the story of how locally led districts came to exist, or the government stepped in to help our nation, and farmers.

The efforts of [Hugh Hammond Bennet](#) considered the “Father” of Soil Conservation, is why SWCD’s and the NRCS (SCS) were formed. If you get a chance, watch this YouTube video by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on soil conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett, the history of our agency and the birth of the private lands conservation movement in the U.S. [Click to watch!](#)

Also watch for a *Special Summer Edition Newsletter* ~ and celebrate with us!

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## *High Tunnels Provide More Locally Grown Produce by John Knapp*



It's hard to beat produce grown in Wayne County. It's often fresher, uses less energy for transport, and helps farmers in the community. But the off-season presents a big challenge for farmers who grow vegetables and for consumers who want to find local produce throughout the year.

High tunnels are plastic-wrapped, metal-framed structures that are easy to build. They are designed to extend the growing season into the colder months and help to increase the availability of produce to the local community.



Photo copyright USDA/NRCS

High tunnels are similar to greenhouses, except they are considered passively heated. That means they do not require electricity to heat – only sunlight. The plastic on the frame provides enough insulation to add up to 12 extra weeks to the growing season. High tunnels are also different than greenhouses in that the plants are in the ground and not in pots or raised beds.

NRCS helps farmers build high tunnels by providing technical assistance and funding through the EQIP program. For more information contact the Wayne County USDA Service Center at 330-262-2836. Located at 2375 Benden Dr.

## *Are you slowly losing your property to erosion? By Rob Kastner*

Beautiful, babbling brooks in the summer and fall become raging torrents of water full of potentially destructive energy when the winter snow melts and spring rains come. All this energy can cause damage in form of streambank erosion. This can result in loss of property and damage to nearby structures.

We cannot stop the stream flow, but we can lessen the erosive effects on the streambank soil. The strategies used greatly depend on the amount of stream flow and the stream bank slope. The best, first step for all streambank erosion control methods is to lay back the bank at a less steep slope, if you have the property available to do that. Establishing woody vegetation with live tree main stems or branches – called live stakes or post – will establish a root system to help hold the bank in place. Trees including the black willow, white willow, as well as, red-osier dogwood and bristly locust are best for live plantings.

If the stream has high velocity flows, structural methods such as riprap (large, angular rock) and gabions should be considered to control streambank erosion. Riprap is usually limestone with an average diameter of 6" to 24" depending on stream velocity. Before installing riprap, the streambank should be laid back to a slope that is no steeper than two feet horizontal (into the bank) for every one foot of vertical rise (bank height).

If the streambank cannot be cut back to a less steep slope or the riprap rock is not available, gabions can be used. Stone is used to fill three-foot-wide by three-foot-high wire baskets to form the gabions that are anchored into the streambank. The gabions are good at protecting the streambank below the water line. Willow cuttings can be placed between the gabions to further anchor the bank and reduce the stream energy at the face of the gabions.



Photo by Wayne SWCD

When stabilizing 500 feet or more of streambank the Army Corps of Engineers will need to be contacted for approval to do the work. On medium and high velocity streams, a professional engineer should be

contacted to determine stream velocities and to help select an erosion control method. See our website at <https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/storm-water-management/small-municipal-separate-storm-sewer-system-ms4-programs> for additional information on these methods and other erosion control options from the Ohio Stream Management Guide.

When that peaceful stream turns into a Class V rapid, there are options for protecting your property and structures from erosion. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

## 2022 Cover Crop Program by Cody Beale

Cover crops are essential to not only prevent erosion, but to help improve soil health, productivity, and farm profitability. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is funding landowners to seed cover crops. Interested landowners can apply at the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District. You can get the [application](#) and all information needed with the application at our office. All cover crops must be planted per NRCS deadlines. They will pay \$12/acre with a 200-acre cap for participants. Anyone who is interested in the program can be put on a direct e-mail list or can [check our website for up-to-date material](#) as we get it.



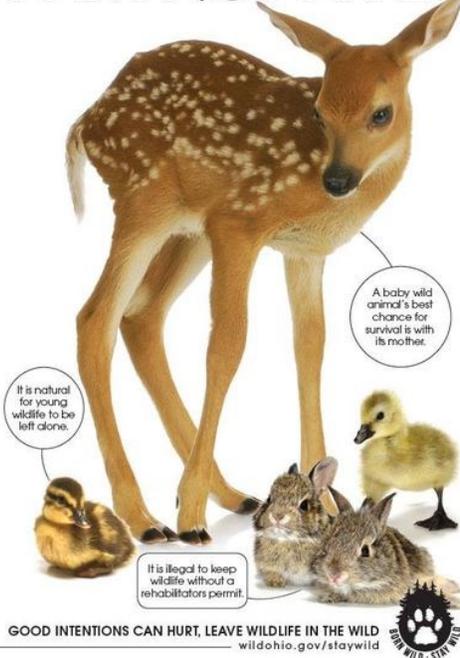
Photo by Wayne SWCD  
Sugar Creek Valley Farms

## \*New\* Nutrient Management Assistance by Cody Beale

New program just announced! We wanted to announce the V.N.M.P. (Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan) cost share incentive offered by Muskingum Watershed Conservation District. Participants will receive \$10/acre upon approval of the VNMP by the SWCD. The **first step** in the process is to notify or meet with the SWCD and [sign up for the program](#). VNMP's may be developed by an Ag Retailer, Certified Crop Advisor, or the producer. Once enrolled/approved in the program, you must submit your finished VNMP to Wayne SWCD for final review. For more information, please contact Cody at 330-263-5376 or [cbeale@wayneoh.org](mailto:cbeale@wayneoh.org)

## Orphaned, Injured, or Wildlife Concerns... By Kelly Riley

### I AM NOT A PET



It's always a delight to see springtime newborn life, buds emerging and blooms appearing. But what happens when we encounter a young bird or what appears to be abandoned animal? Often, the babies you see will be unattended by a parent. Unless something seems amiss, keep your distance and leave them alone. Many species are raised by only one parent (the mother) and she cannot be in two places at once. This means that baby wildlife must be left alone several times during the day or even the majority of the time while the mother ventures off to find food for herself and her young. The best thing to do is to keep your distance and keep children and pets away from the young animal. This is to protect both humans and wildlife. Listed below are links for more info:

- ♦ <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/orphaned-injured>

What IF you DID find a truly injured animal or a wild animal hit on the road? Or do you have questions about "uninvited animals"? **Please look up these two wonderful links for help:**

- ♦ <https://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/found-an-animal/>
- ♦ Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association <https://owra.org/>

Thank you for your tree and fish orders and those who donated to help give free seedlings to 3rd graders!



### Did you know?



During one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange.

VISIT <https://www.arboday.org/trees/treefacts/>

## Good Luck Taylor

We would like to say [thank you](#) and best wishes to Taylor Gilmore as she pursues her career in the private sector. Taylor's last day with us was April 8th. Taylor started in May of 2017. She did a variety of work, including the cover crops program, conservation plans, TRC meetings and site inspections.



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Ray Rummell, Conservation Specialist

Scott Kenreich, Resource Conservationist

**Wayne SWCD Staff**

Cody Beale, Nutrient Management Specialist

Kathy Burley, Secretary

Stacey Hiller, Administrative Assistant

Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer

John Lorson, District Program Administrator

Kelly Riley, Education Specialist

**Ohio Native Plants of Distinction**



The Trillium is Ohio's State Wildflower. In 2022, Ohio Native Plants is starting a new initiative to highlight some of the GREAT Native Plants in Ohio, called **Ohio Native**

**Plants of Distinction.** They have selected 4 amazing plants for this year: **Bur Oak** (a large canopy tree), **Eastern Redbud** (an understory tree), **Northern Spicebush** (a woody shrub) and **Purple Coneflower** (a perennial). Each year more native plants will be added to this list. Learn about each plant and their value to wildlife and ecosystems, share this information with others, and plant them in your yard or community. To learn more go to:

[Ohio Native Plants of Distinction! — Ohio Native Plant Month](#)

**We are Hiring!**

Water Resources Specialist

Check out our webpage for more information on this position.

<https://www.wayneswcd.org>

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Coming to Wooster**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
SCHEDULE ONLINE: [timetorecycle.org/hhw-appointments](http://timetorecycle.org/hhw-appointments)

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

TIME: 12-6pm PLACE: Wayne County Fairgrounds

WHAT TO EXPECT: 1. Must have an appointment 2. Remain in vehicle 3. Provide driver's license 4. Sign an off dovit certifying that the waste was generated in a household and used for residential purposes only

**ACCEPTED ITEMS**

- **Automotive Fluids & Car Care Products**  
Oil, antifreeze, fuel injector fluid, etc.
- **Cleaning Supplies & Other Household Chemicals**
- **Fluorescent Bulbs**  
All tubes up to 8 ft, CFL of all sizes
- **Diesel, Kerosene, Gasoline**  
Limit 10 gallons per car. Containers will not be returned. All containers must be closed tightly.
- **Mercury-Containing Devices**  
i.e. Thermometers
- **Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides & Fertilizers**
- **Oil-Based Paint**  
NO LATEX PAINT
- **Aerosols**



RECYCLING DISTRICT



For questions, please call Wayne County Health Department at 330-264-2426, option 2.

**Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District**

428 W. Liberty Street  
Wooster, OH 44691  
330-263-5376

<http://www.wayneswcd.org>

e-mail: [info@wayneswcd.org](mailto:info@wayneswcd.org)

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