



CONSERVATION TRAILS

“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

WAYNESWCD.ORG

SPRING 2015

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Bring Back the Monarchs!

Fewer monarch butterflies are crossing North America to winter in Mexico, and the biggest culprit seems to be the **disappearance of milkweed** in the United States. The trend is particularly troubling because monarchs have long been considered both an indicator of our ecological health and a representative of pollinator populations.

In 2004, an estimated 550 million completed the winter migration, while in 2013 only 33 million arrived. Further, between 2012 and 2013, there was a 43.7% decrease in the area occupied by the butterflies in their winter sanctuaries.

Although illegal deforestation and severe weather have contributed to the decline, research done by the World Wildlife Fund Mexico and the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve suggests that the overwhelming concern is U.S. farms' large-scale use of herbicides that destroy milkweed. Further studies determined that loss of milkweed had the greatest impact on recent monarch declines. Milkweed is the only plant on which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs, and it is the primary food source for monarch caterpillars. Despite its necessity to the species, the plant decreased 21% in the United States between 1995 and 2013. Scientists, conservationists, and butterfly enthusiasts are encouraging people to grow the plant in their own yards and gardens. The butterflies' life span is so short that those making the next migration to Mexico will be the great-grandchildren of the previous migrators. For this winged orange icon, survival is a group effort.

PLEASE consider planting milkweed or saving a small area, even a field edge for milkweed and help save the Monarchs. You can buy 150 seeds for a little as \$3 at www.livemonarch.com and www.got-milkweed.com FMI monarchwatch.org



Elizabeth Morales

CALENDAR:

- April 10 Deadline for Fish orders
- April 14 Fish Pickup Fairgrounds
9:00-10:00 am
- April 14 Wayne SWCD Board Mtg.
- April 15 Tree Pickup Fairgrounds
Sheep Bldg 1:30-6:00
- April 16 Landowner Mtg 7pm OARDC
- April 22 Earth Day
- May 1 Poster Entries Due to office
- July 15 Ag Container Collection

Supervisor Sworn In



Welcome Back FRED!

Fred Myers of Dalton was sworn in at the January 13th board meeting by Supervisor Matt Peart. Myers was re-elected to the board at the district's annual meeting in November. He will serve a 3 year term. Also in January we bid farewell to our longtime Administrative Assistant and wonderful friend of conservation as Sarah Beck officially retired full time. We wish her all the best and know we will miss her!



Best Wishes Sarah!

Ag Plastic Recycling Success



Launched just about 2 years ago in Ashland, Holmes, Stark, and Wayne counties the Recycling Ag Plastic Partnership—also referred to as RAPP, has seen it's success continue and grow. The success wouldn't be possible without each partner playing their key role. Thanks to those partners— this program has grown and allowed farmers a free and environmentally friendly way to dispose of their agricultural plastic film.

In this time frame, **we have recycled over 220 TONS of agricultural films!** That's over 440,000 pounds of plastic that we saved from being either buried in landfills, being illegally burned or from becoming ugly litter over the landscape. With the increase use of the program and more and more demand for super sacks, or totes, the demand outweighed our supply. Luckily, we have been saved! Another partner has joined forces with our group. We are happy and proud to announce that Sprosty Bag—out of our local Smithville, Ohio has joined up with us and donated time, labor and efforts to bring us recycled sacks. They have worked with Buckeye Veal and we are grateful for both of those companies efforts. Because of so many individuals, businesses and dedicated people their efforts help keep the program free to the farmers as well. We also continue to use sacks from Town & Country Co-op, and other local supporters. If you are interested in



recycling on your farm and want more information, call our office or visit our website.

Cover Crop Sign Up

Cover crops “reduce soil erosion, reduce nutrient leaching, store carbon, improve soil structure, increase water infiltration, reduce compaction, suppress weeds, enhance wildlife, fix nitrogen and serve as a forage product.” (Rafiq Islam, Ohio State University Extension soil scientist).

Funding is available from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District through the Wayne SWCD for landowners to seed cover crops. Interested landowners need to apply at our office. Cover crop fields and adjacent roads need to be identified on a Farm Service Agency map. **Tillage and planting information will also need to be provided at the time of application.**

The cover crop program is a competitive application. Fields will be awarded higher points for: soybeans or corn silage, C (6-12%) or greater slope, proximity to a waterway or stream, soil test within last three years, located in the watershed of an MWCD lake or dry dam, and if livestock manure is to be applied to the field. Seeding must be completed by September 5th for oats and November 1st for cereal rye to be eligible for reimbursement. Check our website for more up to date information as we get it.



Oats planted in Soybeans

Fish Sale till April 10th ~ Tree Pick-Up on April 15th

We are taking FISH orders! The fish are from Fender's Fish Hatchery in Baltic. The types of fish which are available include fingerling size largemouth bass, channel catfish, white amur, perch, minnow, bluegill, crappie and redear shellcracker. **Orders for the fish will be taken until Friday, April 10th.** Pickup date will be **Tuesday, April 14th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds.** Orders must be picked up at the specified time. At the pickup, you will need to bring a container filled with your own pond water, 5 to 10 gallons of water per 100 fish is required. Line the container with a new plastic liner before adding water. The White Amur must be placed in a container with a lid or a liner large enough to be tied at the top. Only 2 Amur to each 5 gallons of water. If you have any questions call the office at 330-262-2836. **TREE PICK UP** is the day after Fish Pick-up, April 15th also at the fairgrounds.



Amur are a great alternative to chemical control of weeds in ponds!

Nutrient Management Legislation Substitute Senate Bill #1 Passed

Two Bills addressing manure and commercial fertilizer have been reviewed in the Ohio House and Senate. As a consequence, both bills (HB 61 and SB 1) have been merged into one called Substitute Senate Bill #1 which has just been passed and waiting for the Governor to sign. Though this legislation is targeting the western Lake Erie Basin, its passing and any revisions will inevitably be incorporated into future rules for the remaining regions of the state.

Some highlights of these proposals are: prohibition of manure and fertilizer on snow covered or frozen or saturated soils unless incorporated within a certain time limit or there is a growing crop (cover crop). Further details of the Bill can be found at <http://aglaw.osu.edu/blog>. Exclusion from enforcement was addressed in the House bill and allowed potential violators of manure prohibition to request assistance from ODNR, SWCD or other qualified persons to develop plans and practices that would cease or prevent violations.

No –Till Drills for Rent

Wayne SWCD NO Longer has a Corn Planter for rent. There are No– Till drills available for rent . The equipment is for rent to the public to promote no till planting in Wayne County. Please call our No-Till Equipment Specialist, **Steve Grimes at 330-347-8179** to schedule.

In conclusion, if your nutrient management plan is in need of modification or you never had one, there is still a little time for the Wayne SWCD to assist you in developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. FMI Please contact Mark Duncan at 330-262-2836 or you can email him at mduncan@wayneswcd.org

Poster Contest & Summer Science Spectacular

Educators take note! Our Annual Conservation Poster Contest hosted each year by Wayne SWCD is ongoing—there is still time to get those posters done and into the office by the May 1st deadline! From Kindergarten to 12th grade—all ages are encouraged to learn a little while expressing their artist side in conservation. The theme this year is “**Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators**”. Ideas, rules & information can be found both on the national website and on our own website.

Please Visit NACD online at <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/2015-poster-contest/2015> and the Wayne SWCD website at <http://www.wayneswcd.org/postercontest.html>

ALSO...the Wayne Co Farm Bureau along with OARCD is hosting the Summer Science Spectacular on June15-16 on the OARDC campus. There will be different agricultural groups, including Wayne SWCD, Ramsyer Farms, Ohio Poultry OSU Extension, and so on. Each group will present materials that teachers can take back to the classroom using Ohio’s new learning standards. Space is limited. It’s FREE & geared towards K-8 teachers. FMI please contact Lisa Acker @ 330-466-1560 or email lislarnold@gmail.com.



Ag Container Collection July 15th

Wednesday JULY 15th.. From 8-4pm...Mark your calendars! Once again, Wayne SWCD will be holding a collection for Agricultural chemical containers. These containers MUST be HDPE Type #2, triple rinsed, empty and dry. They also must have the caps and bungs & labels removed. Please understand Wayne SWCD may reject your load if the containers do not meet these standards. We

are requiring a simple call in or mail in PRE- REGISTRATION due July 7th. We will accept any size 55 gallons or smaller plastic container. This effort is brought to you by Wayne SWCD with help and support from the Stark– Tuscarawas– Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District. For more information about the event, and to get a form to pre- register please stop in the office, call or visit our website. See you in July!



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

John Knapp, District Conservationist
Jeff Lefever, Civil Engineering Technician
Ray Rummell, Conservation Specialist

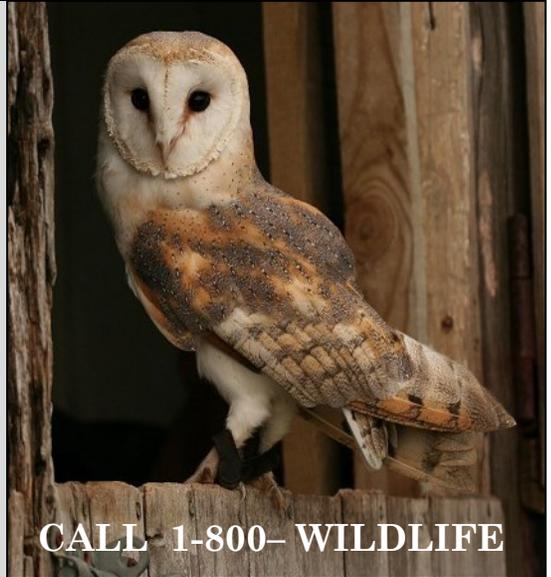
Wayne SWCD Staff

Mark Duncan, Nutrient Management Specialist
Steve Grimes, No-Till Specialist
Stacey Hiller, Administrative Assistant
Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer
Adam Liston, District Engineering Technician
Kelly Riley, Education Specialist
Duane Wood, District Program Administrator

Seen a Barn OWL?

The Ohio Division of Wildlife appreciates your help conserving this beautiful and threatened owl. By reporting barn owls you will help track how many live in Ohio. Please contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife if you have a barn owl living near you at **1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)** or you can email: wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us.

Did you know? Wayne & Holmes Counties are best known for some of the greatest barn owl densities in Ohio. Nesting takes place March-May. Barn Owls do not “hoot” rather they make a shriek type call or hissing sound.



April 16th 7 pm - Landowner's Meeting

THREE PIPELINES COMING TO WAYNE COUNTY...MAYBE MORE!

Landowners, the most important document when a pipeline cross's your land is the easement agreement. It could be forever! **Come to a free program to learn about pipeline easements for landowners April 16th, at 7:00 PM, Fisher Auditorium, OARDC.** The easement is attached to your deed. Your great-great-great grandchildren will be living with the document that you signed with the land agent. Make sure you negotiate that document carefully and thoroughly with the help of an attorney. Speakers Dale Arnold, OFBF & Attorney Chris Finney.

WAYNESWCD.ORG

- ◆ Pipeline Maps & Information
- ◆ Storm water Permits & CAPs
 - ◆ Ag Plastic Recycling
 - ◆ Equine Education & BMP's
- ◆ *ALL of this & more info is on our website*

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Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

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