



Soil & Water Conservation District

1330 N. County Rd 25A Ste. C
Troy OH 45373

Cooperator Newsletter

November/December 2025 ~ Vol. 74 No. 6
Published Bi-Monthly

Website: www.miamiswcd.org
E-mail: info@miamiswcd.org

Phone: 937/335-7645

STAFF – MIAMI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (Miami SWCD)

Kreig Smail - District Administrator | Kristin Lewber - Administrative Assistant | Linda Raterman - Information/PR Spec
Jennifer Korte - District Technician | Grant Clawson - Urban Technician

STAFF – USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Gunnar Young – Soil Conservationist | Renee Buck - Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Board of Supervisors

Don Hiegel
Bill Hershberger
Jeff Shoup
Andy Shuman
Diane Yingst

A FEW CONSERVATION TIPS FOR THIS FALL & WINTER

- Leave the leaves ~ leaves provide food, shelter and nesting to a variety of wildlife and insects such as moth and butterfly pupae.
- Build a brush shelter ~ branches, sticks and leaves can be used to make brush piles that shelter native wildlife.
- Leave the seeds ~ perennials and grasses should be left standing over winter (seed-bearing perennials such as purple coneflower, joe-pye weed, and sunflower provide valuable food for songbirds.
- Avoid chemical fertilizers ~ grass clippings and mulched leaf litter can provide plant nutrition; chemical fertilizers can reduce beneficial insects.
- Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for de-icing chemicals like rock salt.
- Shovel snow onto non-paved surfaces such as landscaped and/or grassy areas. As the snow melts, it will soak into the ground rather than directly into nearby storm drains or streams.
- Sand and sawdust can be used as an environmentally friendly alternative to salt products. Cracked corn has been suggested as an option because animals can eat it before it gets washed away with snow melt.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains that flow directly to rivers and streams.



Upcoming Events

- NOV 1** Second Story Secrets DT Troy Prouty Plaza 1-5pm
www.eventbrite.com/e/second-story-secrets-tour-tickets
- NOV 7-9** A Yuletide Winter's Gathering DT Tipp City
downtown Tipp City.org/
- NOV 9** The Sharpe Family Singers at APAC 4-5:30pm
<https://www.arbogastpac.com/events>
- NOV 11** Veterans Day. Office closed
- NOV 12** RESCHEDULED DATE Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8am Dist. Off. Public Welcome
- NOV 15** Hayner Gift Gallery 301 W. Main, Troy 10am-4pm
www.troyhayner.org
- NOV 15** Piqua's Holiday Horse Parade DT Piqua 7-9pm
mainstreetpiqua.com
- NOV 17** Aviation Lecture Series at WACO 7-8:30pm
www.wacoairmuseum.org
1865 S County Rd 25A | Troy, OH 45373
- NOV 22** Tipp City Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 6-7:30pm
- NOV 27** HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office Closed 11/27-28
- DEC 5-6** An 1815 Johnston Christmas @ Johnston Farm Piqua
- DEC 5** Pink Ribbon Good Small Town Christmas @ The Exchange 6-10pm 210 W. High St., Pleasant Hill
- DEC 6** Brukner Nature Center Arts & Crafts Show 9am-4pm
5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd, Troy
www.bruknernaturecenter.com
- DEC 9** Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8am District Office. Public Welcome
- DEC 13** Holly Jolly 5K/10K Run 9am-2pm City of Piqua Building
mainstreetpiqua.com
- DEC 14** Christmas in the Air 2025 @ APAC 4-6pm
www.arbogastpac.com/events
- DEC 25** Merry Christmas! Office closed
- JAN 1** Happy New Year! Office closed
- JAN 2** Troy Hayner Film-Paddington 7pm
301 W. Main St. Troy troyhayner.org
- COMING IN JAN/FEB COOPERATOR!**
2026 ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING ORDER FORM

LOCAL PROPERTY WELCOMES MIAMI COUNTY SOILS TEAMS FOR PRACTICE & MIAMI COUNTY HOSTS DISTRICT SOILS JUDGING AT LOST CREEK RESERVE

On September 17th, Soils Judging teams from Covington, Miami East, Milton Union and Newton traveled to the Roeth property on Peterson Road to practice their soils knowledge and we thank the Roeth

Family for allowing us to take over this beautiful property. Plus, it was so good to see former

Miami SWCD Supervisor, Melvyn Roeth at the location. Melvyn was instrumental in restoring the wetland and creating the prairie decades ago and now his grandson, Kyle Roeth, lives at the property. Melvyn's daughter, Marsha DeWeese and her husband Ken were also on hand this day. The day before, Doug Cron graciously donated his time and equipment to dig the three practice pits. The kids were able to practice at an ideal location on a perfect sunny day.



Those last three words could not describe the District V event day on September 24th! While Lost Creek Reserve was indeed ideal, no sun shined that day, just an abundance of rain, which was very welcome after so many days without and the rain did end about half way through the competition.

Over 30 schools

and about 363 students were present from Miami, Preble, Montgomery, Darke, Shelby, Mercer and Auglaize Counties.



Soils Judging Competitions include both agriculture and urban teams and are designed to test student skills on being able to identify soil characteristics like texture, depth to water table, slope, compaction, soil fertility, landform use, crop choice, best management practices and more. In the Urban Soils individual competition, Miami County Schools represented well with Covington students Brock Lyons, Drake Angle and Hunter McMillion placing 7th, 19th and 22nd respectively and Newton students Parker Christman, Tucker Fisher and Candace Shellenbarger placing 16th, 17th and 25th respectively out of 151 students. Out of 27 Urban Teams,



Covington, Newton and Miami East placed 4th, 6th and 15th respectively. Of the 212 students in the Ag Soils individual competition, Miami East students Gunner Palivic and Kinsley Courtright placed 20th and 24th respectively with the Miami East team placing 7th out of 31 Ag Soil teams competing.

The State competition took place on October 11th. Covington student Caiden Hollingsworth placed 41st out of 170 students in the Individual Urban Soil competition and the Covington Urban Soils team placed 16th out of 49 teams.

Special and profound thanks go to the entire staff at Lost Creek Reserve, once again showing their excellence and generosity in sharing this lovely location and making it a successful day.

JOIN US AT THE MIAMI COUNTY PHEASANTS & QUAIL FOREVER YOUTH HUNT

December 13th, 2025 - Written by Tom Finch, Treasurer, Miami County Chapter Pheasants Forever



As I sit here writing this article, the temperature is 84 degrees and we are in drought conditions, but by the time you are reading this, temperatures and leaves have dropped and the hint of Fall is finally here. And on that note, the Ohio Upland Game Season is upon us!

For all of you youth that don't have a place to hunt, Miami County Pheasants Forever has come to the rescue! As in the past, the annual John D. Stull Youth Hunt will be held on December 13th, 2025 at the Stull Preserve at 7670 Widener Road, New Carlisle Ohio. This hunt is available to youth 17 years of age and younger. This hunt includes a youth membership to Pheasants Forever, a hunting vest, and most importantly, this event is FREE!

Sign up early! Contact Keith Carter (937)479-9162, Kevin Myers (419)302-1803, or Tom Finch (937)287-1994.

As in the past, the major funding source for all of the Miami Chapter activities comes from their Annual Banquet. This year, the banquet will be held on January 17th, 2026 at the Duke Lundgard Building at the Miami County Fairgrounds, presented by Denlinger & Sons Builders. Doors open at 5:30PM with an open bar, appetizers and a buffet dinner.

The cost for an individual ticket is \$85 which includes a Pheasants Forever membership and the cost for a couple is \$120. Ringnecks are \$20. Sponsorships are also available. Please contact Kevin Myers (419)302-1803 or Tom Finch (937)287-1994 for more information.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS!

Somehow the year is ending and if you're like a lot of people, you wonder how that happened! The months have indeed flown by and much of it has been a blur. But looking back, there are a few things that stand out.

- Our Miami SWCD Tree Seedling & Perennial Sale continues to inspire residents to plant those trees! 2025 numbers amount to 8225 trees and 520 perennials sold. You'll find the 2026 Miami SWCD Tree Seedling & Perennial Sale order form in the 2026 Jan/Feb Cooperator Newsletter.

- Kreig continues to assist those enrolled in H2Ohio Contracts (Nutrient Management) with 33 contracts in place, further protecting 23,652 acres in Miami County.

- Interest remains in the ODA-LAEPP (Farmland Preservation) Program and as a Local Sponsor since 2016, we've assisted in 14 complete easements, protecting and ensuring approximately 1513 acres will remain in agriculture

- The Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River with all sections reporting from the entire length of the river has pulled out nearly 12 tons of debris and extending our gratitude to over 800 volunteers. Since keeping track of amounts since 2005, that's 369 tons of trash and nearly 7,000 tires removed and over 17000 volunteers taking part.

- The Miami SWCD Tire Recycling Day remains popular and with the last event pulling in 840 regular, 286 semi, 59 tractor tires amounting to 1205 tires. Since beginning the event in 2007, we've collected nearly 27,000 tires.

Some large or county-wide events taking place include

- Miami East Ag Day-300 kindergartners

- Hartzell Farm Day-320 Piqua 5th graders

- Co-Host Area IV Envirothon (Shelby SWCD) @ Lost Creek Reserve, 300+ students, 18 counties. (Bethel HS placed 4th @ Area, 11th @ State Competition)

- Assisting in the District V Soils Judging Competition at Lost Creek Reserve-363 students



Pullins Drainage & Excavating LLC

Samuel Pullins
937.539.0370

John Pullins
937.539.0386

12662 Shanley Rd.
Quincy, OH 43343

937.362.3878 - Fax

pullinsdrainageandexcavating@gmail.com



Making Moisture Managable

Wes Boothe

Tile Installation
GPS Mapping
Tile Sales

937.418.8293
fax 937.473.5730

5171 Farrington Road
Covington, OH 45318



darke county tile company

P.O. BOX 207
300 CHESTNUT ST.
GREENVILLE, OHIO 45331

JASON EDSALL

(937) 548-3425 - OFF.

(937) 548-8181 - FAX

dctile1878@gmail.com

"FOR ALL YOUR DRAINAGE NEEDS"

- SINCE 1878 -



Covington, Ohio

Spreading Services since 1958

Piqua Hi-Cal Lime

Gypsum

Chicken Litter

Michael Kuntz
kuntzagllc@gmail.com

Cell 937-570-9203
Office 937-473-5561



S & S Excavating

Pleasant Hill, OH



Marty Spitler

Res: 937/676-2010

Mobile 937-238-7139

// Rus Ely // Excavating, LLC

6650 W. Versailles Rd., Covington, Ohio 45318

Agricultural • Residential • Commercial • Excavation Services

C: (937) 603-0055



OTTE AG, LLC

Amplify

Independent Agronomy Consulting Services

Kevin Otte *CEO, Agronomist*
Marc Otte *Agronomist*
Isaac Siegrist *Field Specialist*

7368 Indian Trail Road
Maria Stein, OH 45860
Phone: 419-925-0069
Email: kevin@otte-ag1.com



DOUG SCHWIETERMAN
4240 St. Rt. 49
Arcanum, OH 45304

Office: 937-548-3965
Email: doug@cys-inc.com

Systematic Drainage • Excavating • Waterways
Sewage Systems • Conservation Projects

Another Great Flood?
Not on our watch.



**THE MIAMI
CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT**

MCDwater.org

Vision: To be responsible leaders in promoting innovative stewardship of natural resources through the development of conservation partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202/720-2600 (voice and TDD).

OWL THE BEST TO YOU THIS SEASON!
From your friends at Miami SWCD
SUPERVISORS:
Andy, Bill, Diane, Don, Jeff
STAFF:
Kraig, Grant, Jenny, Kristin, Linda
NRCS & PHEASANTS FOREVER:
Gunnar, Renee



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Miami Soil & Water
Conservation District**
1330 N. County Road 25-A
Troy, Ohio 45373

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Paid
Versailles, OH
Permit No. 19