



Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Cooperator Newsletter

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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

ALL AG MEETING & BANQUET IN ITS 22ND YEAR - AUGUST 27TH, 2026

Since 2004, Miami SWCD has been partnering with Miami County Farm Bureau, Miami County Ag Society, OSU Extension Miami County, USDA-NRCS and FSA to serve you better!

What to expect:

Once again, we'll be enjoying beautiful Heritage Hall at the Lost Creek Reserve Miami County Park District for our event. Plus, we're really looking forward to a delicious meal catered by "Graze On". They received rave reviews last year.

Our Guest Speaker for the evening will be Donald Jones, State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency. We hope you'll join us and:

- Engage in great conversation
- Catch up with friends
- Partake of some great food
- Hear useful information
- Answer some trivia questions
- Receive special 'Thanks for coming' gifts!

Tickets are just \$10 until August 21. All tickets after and at the door will be \$15.

Payment is expected when registering.

Contact 937/335-1471 or 937/335-SOIL to learn more.

We hope to see you there!



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Arcanum, OH 45304
doug@hlandworks.com
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MIAMI SWCD ELECTION NOTICE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Miami 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 Miami Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor. There are three (3) ways an eligible voter may cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the SWCD office, 1330 N. Co. Rd. 25A Troy, Ohio 45373, from 7/29/2026 until 8/27/2026 during normal business hours; or
- 2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Heritage Hall at the Lost Creek Reserve, 2385 St. Rt. 41, Troy, OH 45373 on 8/27/2026 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm; or
- 3.) Voting absentee from 7/29/2026 until 8/27/2026, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address 1330 N. Co. Rd. 25A Troy, Ohio 45373, by calling 937-335-7645, or email kmail@miamiswcd.org. Absentee ballots must be received by 4:00pm on 8/27/26 at the Miami SWCD office. Two (2) Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2029.

Nominees are:

- Wilbert (Bill) Hershberger
- Nicholas (Nick) Shellenberger
- Jeffery (Jeff) Shoup



WILBERT A. HERSHBERGER- Bill is a current Supervisor and resident of Elizabeth Township where he and his wife Jane live on Gearhart Road. Bill retired from Miami Valley CTC after 24 years of teaching Agriculture education and owns about 50 acres, but works about 250 cash grain acres with help from his three sons. Along with using no till and minimum till for the corn/soybeans/hay/ wheat rotation, they still do some milking of their registered cattle, providing milk for Woodruff Dairy and Young's Dairy. Other BMPs put to use; a waste water retention for the dairy, dry manure storage and grassed waterways. We asked why he'd like to continue to be a Supervisor, Bill said he remains interested in conservation practices and would like to encourage others to use more of them.



NICHOLAS SHELLENBERGER- Nick and his wife Jennifer reside on a 70-acre farm on N. Mowry Road outside Pleasant Hill in Newton Township with their 8 children. The family raises freezer beef, freezer pork, farm to table meat chickens and replacement heifers for their family's 160 acre grazing dairy farm. They also sell eggs, pumpkins and sweet corn. The crop acres include a rotation of corn, beans, wheat, hay and pasture. Nick also works as a home remodeling contractor. When asked why he'd like to be a Miami SWCD Supervisor, he responded that it was due to an overall concern for natural resources and the practices that help benefit the land.



JEFFERY S. SHOUP- Jeff is currently a Miami SWCD Supervisor and would like very much to continue in the role. Residing in Lostcreek Township and a retired Ag teacher and former principal at the Miami Valley CTC in Montgomery County, Jeff now stays busy managing his family's operation of 450 acres, where minimum till in a corn/soy bean rotation is used and several waterways are on the property. Asked why he'd like to remain a supervisor, Jeff responded that he feels being a good steward is important and continuing his role as supervisor would allow him to assist in conservation and the benefits of good stewardship.



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2026 COOPERATORS OF THE YEAR ~ DICKERSON FAMILY LLC



For all their efforts in fighting invasive species and re-establishing habitat along with the promotion of good stewardship and being seen as good examples of utilizing programs like EQIP and practices encouraged by this office, Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors have named Dickerson Family LLC as 2026 Cooperators of the Year!

Joe Dickerson and his sons, Robbie (not pictured) and Tommy joined together in this effort, although Joe will tell you that he is "just along for the ride and

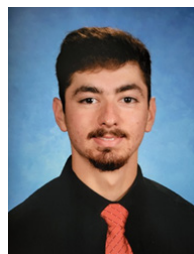
I'm enjoying the ride!" Tommy will tell you that they have a vision for this property on Snyder Road. Well on their way in fighting invasive species, the plan includes returning the property more to the native landscape, boosting wildlife and bio-diversity and all that comes with it. There's lots more to their story including the fascinating historical element regarding this property. More of that will be explained at the display that will be featured at the Miami County Fair at the Conservation Education Area and at the 22nd All Ag Annual Meeting and Banquet on August 27th at Heritage Hall at Lost Creek Reserve.

LARRY STUDEBAKER MEMORIAL MIAMI SWCD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



HAILEEJO NICHOLS-\$500 PIQUA HIGH SCHOOL/UVCC GRADUATE

Daughter of Kristen S. Jones and Gavin D. Nichols, Step-Dad Kenneth B. Jones, and grew up with six younger siblings. During high school HaileeJo was involved in marching band, FFA, garden club and more. In the fall, HaileeJo plans on continuing her education toward an Environment and Natural Resources (Sciences Specialization) degree at The Ohio State University A.T.I. in Wooster, OH. HaileeJo's path could take her anywhere from Parks & Recreation, Wolf Biology or Agriculture Education.



PATRICK PUTHOFF-\$500 BRADFORD HIGH SCHOOL/ UPPER VALLEY CAREER CENTER GRADUATE

Son of Terry and Rita Puthoff, sibling is Andrew Puthoff. While attending UVCC Patrick studied robotics and automation. Patrick plans to attend Hobart Welding Institution. Patrick's interests are baseball, powerlifting and going to the gym, having time with his family, and going trail riding on ATVs. Patrick likes working to achieve his future goals.



ALAINA HELSINGER-\$1,000 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, CFAES - JUNIOR YEAR

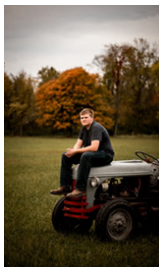
Daughter of Curtis and Kristen Helsinger. In the fall Alaina will be starting her Junior year at The Ohio State University double majoring in Agricultural Communications and Hospitality Management. When not in the classrooms, Alaina can be found giving tours on campus as a CFAES College Ambassador, speaking about all things Disney as the OSU Disney Club President, or inspiring the next generation of women in agriculture as a member of the Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority. In her free time, Alaina likes to read and go on walks!



QUINN BOSTICK-\$500 TROY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATE

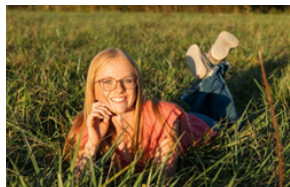
Son of Rodney Thomas Bostick & Beckitt Susan Bostick, Siblings Brock Bostick (21) & Cole Bostick (19) Bostick. Quinn loves working in the landscaping, lawn care, and athletic field industries.

After mowing his first lawn around the age of seven, Quinn quickly realized this was his passion, so he began growing his mowing clients from there. As of this date, he mows and maintains around 15 yards, with landscaping sporadically. Quinn also works for The Mercer Group Inc., who specializes in athletic field maintenance and construction. Because of these loves, Quinn plans to attend The Ohio State University ATI and study Turfgrass Management.



ELI LAMMERS-\$1,000 BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Son of Ben and Tammy Lammers. Eli has a strong passion for agriculture and has been actively involved in 4-H and livestock exhibitions throughout his youth. This fall, Eli will attend Wilmington College where he plans to continue pursuing a degree in Agriculture Business.



EMMA HERSHBERGER-\$500 MIAMI EAST HIGH SCHOOL/ MIAMI VALLEY CTC GRADUATE

Daughter of Jake and Alicia Hershberger. Emma will be attending Wilmington College majoring in Animal Sciences on a Pre-Veterinary Science pathway. Emma has been active in 4-H and FFA where she shows Jersey cattle and market barrows. Emma is currently employed at Hartzell Veterinary Clinic and Pshenendoah Farms (stall cleaning).

MULTI-COUNTY EDUCATOR WORKSHOP



DARKE, MIAMI, MONTGOMERY, AND SHELBY COUNTIES

America: *Wild & Tree*



Montgomery SWCD
Mike Mullen
937-854-7646
mullenm@mcoho.org

Miami SWCD
Linda Raterman
937-335-7645
lraterman@miamiswcd.org

Darke SWCD
Jared Coppess
937-548-1715 x3
www.darkeswcd.com

Shelby SWCD
Amanda Hurley
937-419-2597
amanda.hurley@usda.gov

Join us for a 2 day educator workshop focusing on hands-on lessons. This year we will use the activity guides from Project Learning Tree and Project Wild. Both programs are award-winning. PreK-12 environmental education programs designed to help educators, parents, and community leaders teach youth about trees, forests, wildlife, conservation, and the environment. The host site is the wonderful UVCC Willowbrook Land Lab (8415 Looney Road, Piqua) which has a ton of resources for this workshop. Again this year we will have sessions in a meeting room and "field trips" to visit several locations for an immersive experience!

AMERICA: WILD AND TREE REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 17TH

NAME: _____

CELL #: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

HOME EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

SCHOOL EMAIL: _____

GRADE: _____

I will attend 7/28 OR 7/29 (circle one) for \$60 ____ I will attend 7/28 AND 7/29 for \$75 ____

dietary restrictions: _____

Address check to **MIAMI SWCD** send to 1330 N CR 25A, Troy, OH 45373 Attn: Linda
(Miami SWCD will also accept credit cards, charges apply)

I will be Seeking (1) Graduate Credit from Ashland University (circle one): YES NO

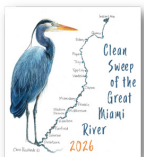
Arrangements are in the works for Ashland University credit
Graduate credit is a separate & direct cost to Ashland University. COST TBA

Project WILD materials are provided free of charge by the ODNR Division of Wildlife

CLEAN SWEEP OF THE GREAT MIAMI RIVER

www.cleansweepofthegreatmiamiriver.org

This yearly effort to make a CLEAN SWEEP of the Great Miami River will have many opportunities and locations in which to take part. If you'd like to be a part of the section that runs through Troy on July 17th, contact Linda Raterman at lraterman@miamiswcd.org. Space is limited regarding canoes, but walkers are always welcome, so don't delay! Volunteers will be provided with PFDs, gloves, t-shirt and lunch.



Another Great Flood?
Not on our watch.



**THE MIAMI
CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT**

MCDwater.org



Happy Birthday America!

Upcoming Events

- JUL 10** Fridays on Prouty with Heather Redman & The Reputation 6:30 - 9PM www.troyhayner.org
- JUL 11 & 12** America 250: Red, White & Blue Ice Cream Social 11AM-5PM Johnston Farm & Indian Agency 9845 North Hardin Rd. Piqua www.johnstonfarmohio.com/events
- JUL 14** Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8AM District office. Public Welcome
- JUL 16** Three Dog Night at Hobart Arena 7 - 9:30PM www.hobartarena.com/events_hobart_arena.html
- JUL 17** Lock 9 Concert Series – Party Punch 7 - 10:30PM piquaoh.gov/1572/Lock-9-Park
- JUL 17-18** Christmas in July – Downtown Piqua mainstreetpiqua.com
- JUL 18** AMERICA 250 COVINGTON 10AM - 2PM The block of the J R Clarke Library (102 E. Spring St.) and Covington-Newberry Historical Society Museum (101 E. Spring St.)
- JUL 23** Tipp City Library Goes to the Movies: Dog Man 6:30PM - 8PM 11 East Main Street, Tipp City tippcitylibrary.org
- JUL 26** Annual Cruise In at AB Graham Memorial Center 1 - 6PM www.abgraham.org 8025 E US HWY 36, Conover
- AUG 1** Down a River, Down a Beer! Old Piqua Power Plant 5:30 - 9PM www.downariverdownabeer.com
- AUG 8** Evening on the Canal: Celebrating America's Story @ Johnston Farm 6 - 8:30PM

- AUG 11** Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8AM District office. Public Welcome
- AUG 14-AUG 20** Join us at the Miami County Fair! Our Conservation Education Area features plenty of picnic tables and beautiful blooms in our rain garden. Inside, you'll find loads of information from displays from ODNR-Division of Wildlife, Miami County Park District, Pheasants Forever, Miami County Recycles, Miami SWCD and others! www.miamicountyohiofair.com
- AUG 15** Rock the Hill in West Milton, Community Park 5 - 10PM
- AUG 15** Rockin' River Duck Drop & Jeep Cruise in, Lock 9 Park 6PM-9PM mainstreetpiqua.com/rockin-river-duck-drop-jeep-cruise-in
- AUG 21-22** Donut Jam & Tour De Donut Downtown Troy www.thetourdedonut.com
- AUG 27** All Ag Banquet @ Heritage Hall
- SEP 5-7** Fort Rowdy Gathering @ Covington Community Park www.facebook.com/fortrowdygathering
- SEP 7** LABOR Day. Office Closed.

Concerts at Lock 9 Park, Piqua piquaoh.gov/1572/Lock-9-Park
Concerts at Prouty Park, Troy www.troyhayner.org/
Concerts at Treasure Island Park www.troyohio.gov/587/Treasure-Island-Park

INFORMATION ON MIAMI COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS:
<https://www.homegrowngreat.com/farmers-markets/>



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

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