

Information, Education and Outreach

- Presented 171 educational programs to 4,299 students and adults.
- Presented classroom and field study programs to local school districts. 44 presentations, 848 students.
- Sponsored Waterfest for 3rd grade students in Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 511 students participated.
- Conducted a 1st grade coloring contest for Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 299 students participated.
- Conducted a 5th grade poster/essay contest for Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 276 students participated.
- Sponsored the High School Conservation Essay contest for students in Athens City/County schools. 3 students participated.
- Co-sponsored the Area 5 Envirothon at Camp Oyo in Scioto County. 59 teams totaling 230 students participated.
- Co-sponsored a Multi County Soil Judging contest for Athens and Meigs County FFA students. The contest was held at the Meigs County Conservation Area. 61 students participated.
- Sponsored a "Conservation Educator of the Year" award.
- Presented at Farm Bureau's 4th grade Ag Awareness Day at Athens County Fairgrounds. Presented to 458 students.
- Sponsored a Rain Barrel workshop. 17 rain barrels constructed.
- Sponsored 4th Annual "Backyard Conservation Workshop Series" 86 participated.
- Presented at 3 Passport to Fishing Workshops. 128 participated.
- Presented twice to Hocking College Environmental Assessment class. 44 students participated.
- Facilitated 5 Project Learning sessions to Ohio University's Science Methods class. 107 educators participated.
- Conducted 4 library programs. 37 individuals attended.
- Developed "Books and Bird Notes" program for Athens County Youth. Presented to 236 students.
- Presented at Amesville Family Science Night. 85 in attendance.
- Sponsored Advanced Grazing School. 38 individuals attended.
- Sponsored Forestry Workshop. 19 individuals attended.
- Presented to Small Farm College. 22 individuals participated.
- Presented 2 programs to Master Gardeners. 34 individuals attended.
- Conducted Annual Tree Packet Program for residents in Athens County. The District also sells seedlings to Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Scioto, Vinton and Washington SWCDs.
- Provided soil stewardship materials to local schools in observance of "Soil and Water Stewardship Week".
- Developed educational displays for the Athens County Fair.
- Sponsored plaques for the Athens County and Albany Independent Fair Hay Shows.
- Awarded 2 OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp Scholarships.
- Promoted a county wide Source Water Environmental Education Team (SWEET) to raise groundwater / drinking water awareness
- Sponsored 8th Annual All Athens County Photo Contest. 82 photos entered. Photos displayed at three area libraries.
- Participated in 2 live radio programs on WATH.
- Participated in Athens Home & Garden Show.
- Maintained Athens SWCD's Website.
- Published 4 District Newsletters.
- Conducted Annual Fish Sale.



The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was organized in 1946, the 47th District in Ohio, for the purpose of planning and carrying out natural resources conservation programs. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Athens County, who serve staggered three-year terms.

Cooperation with the District is on a voluntary basis and anyone needing assistance in solving natural resource problems may apply for help by contacting our office. Technical aid in planning and applying needed conservation practices will be furnished by District staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel assigned to the District. The District also sponsors various educational programs and is available to assist students and educators with projects. All services provided by the District are at no charge to the public.

Funding for the District's work is provided by the Athens County Commissioners, the City of Athens, and the Athens County Auditor. Additional financial assistance is provided by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Monthly board meetings of the Athens SWCD Board of Supervisors are held to conduct



L- Advanced Grazing School



R- Switzer Family Tree Farm

Conservation Accomplishments

- Forest Stand Improvement 65 acres
- Brush Management 92 acres
- Watering Facilities 6 structure installed
- Forest Management Plans Written 17 plans for 3,570 acres
- Fencing 7,000 feet installed
- Prescribed Grazing 81.8 acres
- Pasture Planting 62 acres
- Pipeline 2,369 feet
- Cover Crops 101.7 acres
- Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables 14.5 acres
- Livestock Heavy Use Area 6 structures
- Spring Development 2 structures installed
- Tree Planting 5 acres
- Waste Storage Facility 1 structure installed
- Critical Area Seeding / Mulching 1.3 acres
- High Tunnels 1 structure installed
- Access Road 180 feet
- Subsurface Drainage 192 feet
- Conservation Systems Planned 4,501 acres
- Conservation Systems Applied 4,834 acres
- EQIP Contracts Obligated in 2016 54 contracts totaling \$327,215
- 226 tons of lime spread using the District's lime spreader.
- 141 acres planted using the District's Truax No-till Drill.
- 34.3 acres planted using the District's Lilliston No-till Drill.
- 12.4 acres planted using the District's Brillion Seeder.
- 19 acres planted using the District's Worksaver ATV Seeder.
- 8 Technical Assistance visits for the City of Athens completed.
- 4 Homesite Investigations for the City of Athens completed.
- 1 Timber Harvest Management Plan / Site (40 acres) reviewed.
- 16 Technical Assistance visits outside the city completed.

Stormwater Management

Over the last year the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has performed the following services for the City of Athens under the 2016 Mutual Agreement for technical assistance.

- Storm sewer manholes & catch basins surveyed, photographed, and inspected 223
- Stream miles and storm sewer miles surveyed 5
- Storm sewers sampled and analyzed 9
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Team meetings 11
- Stormwater plans reviewed for new development 26
- Stormwater construction site inspections 95
- Stormwater training provided for the public 5

In addition, the stormwater staff developed a Stormwater Management display which was exhibited at the Athens SWCD's Annual Banquet, the Athens County Fair, the Athens Home and Garden Show, Athens City Safety Day, and the SWCD Urban Stormwater Management Workshop.



- Athens SWCD staff and Athens City Fire Department continued the survey of outfalls on the Hocking River.



- Athens SWCD Stormwater Coordinator lectured to Hocking College students in the stormwater

class offered by the GeoEnvironmental Department.



This summer about 50 volunteers gathered to clean-up 4 miles of the Hocking River in the Athens area as part of the Ohio River Sanitation Commission's annual River Sweep project. Partners were Athens SWCD, City of Athens, Ohio University, Athens City-County Health Dept, Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District, Hocking Conservancy District, Lowes, Walmart, and Kroger.



- Students from Hocking College met with Steve Stone on his family farm to dig native ferns to transplant to the City of Athens' Union Street Sustainable Stormwater Improvement project site. Steve Stone is the owner of Meadowview Tree Farm in Nelsonville, Ohio and a board member of the Athens SWCD. The students were members of Kim Caudill's GeoEnvironmental Site Assessment class at Hocking College. The stormwater improvement project included removal of invasive species such as bush honeysuckle

Funding Sources for Conservation Programs (2016):

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Rental/Incentive/Cost Share = \$ 107,679.00
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) = \$ 10,807.00
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) = \$ 167,047.00
- Conservation Security Program (CSP) = \$ 53,540.00
- Estimated Landowner Input = \$ 163,894.00
- Total Dollars Spent On Conservation = \$ 502,967.00

Athens SWCD Operating Funds (2016):

The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District operates on funding provided by the Athens County Commissioners, the City of Athens, the Athens County Auditor, and matchable funds by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Local Funds for 2016

- Athens County Commissioners \$105,049.00
- City of Athens \$ 22,000.00
- Athens County Auditor \$ 25,000.00

Other Sources:

- State Match Funds \$ ~~99,525.00~~
- \$ 251,574.00

2016 Board of Supervisors:

Brenda Dahse, Chairperson
Glenn Lackey, Vice-Chairperson
Steve Stone, Secretary
Harold Dodd, Treasurer
Kelly Abfall, Member

District Staff:

Cathy Bobo, District Manager
Rich Blazier, Equipment Manager
Teresa Caldwell, Education Coordinator
Eric Hayes Jr, Wildlife Specialist/Forestry Tech
Polly Mitchell, Administrative Assistant
Jill Montle, District Technician
Abbot Stevenson, Urban Conservation Tech

USDA NRCS Staff:

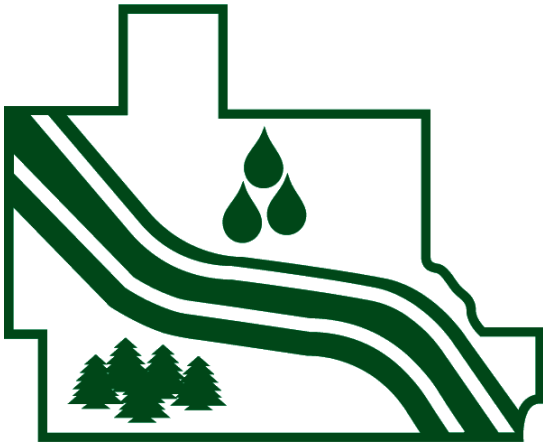
Joe Weber, District Conservationist
Kevin Lewis, Civil Engineering Tech
Bill Serbonich, Conservation Specialist

All SWCD/NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap.

**ATHENS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

70th Anniversary

2016 Annual Report



Mission Statement:

***Provide leadership by promoting the wise use and
enhancement of Athens County's natural resources for
current and future generations.***

Athens Soil and Water Conservation District
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