

## Information, Education and Outreach

- Presented 279 educational programs to 6,363 students and adults.
- Developed “Books and Bird Notes” program for Athens County Youth. 58 classroom and field study presentations to 1,021 students.
- Sponsored Waterfest for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 521 students participated.
- Conducted a 1<sup>st</sup> grade coloring contest for Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 343 students participated.
- Conducted a 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster/essay contest for Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 190 students participated.
- Sponsored the High School Conservation Essay contest for students in Athens City/County schools. 2 students participated.
- Co-sponsored the Area 5 Envirothon at Scioto Grove Metro Park in Franklin County. 20 teams totaling 100 students participated.
- Co-sponsored a Multi County Soil Judging contest for Athens and Meigs County FFA students. The contest was held at the Brooks Farms in Athens County. 50 students participated.
- Presented at Farm Bureau’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade Ag Awareness Day at Athens County Fairgrounds. Presented to 454 students.
- Sponsored 2 Rain Barrel workshops. 29 rain barrels constructed.
- Sponsored 5th Annual “Backyard Conservation Workshop Series” 139 participated.
- Presented at 2 Passport to Fishing Workshops. 104 participated.
- Presented twice to Hocking College Environmental Assessment class. 35 students participated.
- Facilitated 7 pre-service educator workshops. 207 educators attended.
- Facilitated 6 in-service educator workshops. 59 educators attended.
- Conducted 5 library programs. 63 individuals attended.
- Presented 1 program to Master Gardeners. 35 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.
- Awarded 1 OFA Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp Scholarship.
- Promoted a county wide Source Water Environmental Education Team (SWEET) to raise groundwater / drinking water awareness. 2 presentations to Good Works Discovery camp. 35 students attended.
- Sponsored a “Conservation Educator of the Year” award.
- Participated in 2 live radio programs on WATH.
- Developed educational displays for the Athens County Fair.
- Sponsored plaques for the Athens County and Albany Independent Fair Hay Shows.
- Sponsored 9<sup>th</sup> Annual All Athens County Photo Contest. 63 photos entered.
- Participated in Athens Home & Garden Show.
- Conducted Annual Fish Sale.
- Presented at 3 Coyote workshops. 99 individuals attended.
- Presented Archery in the School program to 259 students.
- Awarded one \$500 District scholarship.
- Maintained Athens SWCD’s Website.
- Published 4 District Newsletters.
- Provided soil stewardship materials to local schools in observance of “Soil and Water Stewardship Week”.
- Co-sponsored Athens County Grazing Council Meetings. 63 attended.
- Presented “Archery in the Schools” program to 259 students.
- Developed Pollinator Way Station, presented to 98 landowners and distributed seeds and plants to over 20 individuals to cover 5 acres.



The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was organized in 1946, the 47<sup>th</sup> 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, the Athens County Auditor and ODNR Division of Wildlife. 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 business. All meetings are open to the public. Contact the office for date and time of meetings.



L– Geoffrey Scott Baker - Cooperator of the Year



R– Gilchrist Family Forestry Cooperators of the Year

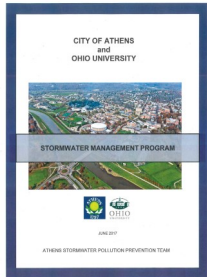
## Conservation Accomplishments

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Forest Stand Improvement  | 92 acres                                |
| • Brush Management  | 251 acres                               |
| • Watering Facilities   | 5 structure installed                   |
| • Forest Management Plans Written   | 20 plans for 3,169 acres                |
| • Fencing   | 16,523 feet installed                   |
| • Prescribed Grazing  | 81 acres                                |
| • Pipeline  | 3,486 feet                              |
| • Cover Crops   | 65.3 acres                              |
| • Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables                                     | 2 acres                                 |
| • Livestock Heavy Use Area  | 6 structures                            |
| • Spring Development  | 2 structures installed                  |
| • Tree/Shrub Planting   | 27.6 acres                              |
| • Animal Waste Storage Facility   | 1 structure installed                   |
| • Roofs & Cover   | 1 structure installed                   |
| • Roof Runoff Structures  | 2 structures installed                  |
| • Underground Outlet  | 763 feet                                |
| • Access Road   | 1,512 feet                              |
| • Filter Strips (buffers)   | 2 acres                                 |
| • Conservation Systems Planned  | 3,693 acres                             |
| • Conservation Systems Applied  | 1,632 acres                             |
| • EQIP Contracts Obligated in 2017  | 28 contracts/ 4,233 acres/ \$209,660.00 |
| • 258 tons of lime spread using the District's lime spreader.                   |   |
| • 150.8 acres planted using the District’s Truax No-till Drill.                 |   |
| • 63.3 acres planted using the District’s Lilliston No-till Drill.              |   |
| • 34.5 acres planted using the District's Brillion Seeder.                      |   |
| • 11 Technical Assistance visits for the City of Athens completed.              |   |
| • 4 Homesite Investigations for the City of Athens completed.                   |   |
| • 4 Timber Harvest Management Plans / Site (240 acres) reviewed.                |   |
| • 29 Technical Assistance visits / mapping services outside the city completed. |   |
| • Conducted over 2,800 CAUV site reviews for Athens County Auditor's office.    |   |

## 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 2017 Mutual Agreement for technical assistance.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Storm sewer manholes & catch basins surveyed, photographed, and inspected | 413 |
| • Stream miles and storm sewer miles surveyed                               | 1   |
| • Storm sewers sampled and analyzed   | 3   |
| • Stormwater Pollution Prevention Team meetings                             | 11  |
| • Stormwater plans reviewed for new development                             | 30  |
| • Stormwater construction site inspections                                  | 91  |
| • Stormwater training provided for the public                               | 10  |



(right) - The stormwater staff crafted the Stormwater Management Program for the City of Athens. The document outlines the City's commitment to Ohio EPA for stormwater pollution prevention. It was submitted to Ohio EPA with the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit application in June 2017.



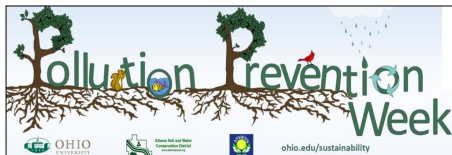
- (left) - Athens SWCD staff and Athens City Deputy Service Safety Director continued the surveyed the outfalls on Margret Creek.



• (above right) - This summer about 79 volunteers gathered to clean-up 6.5 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.



- (left) - Athens SWCD Stormwater Coordinator lectured to Hocking College students during a tour of the West Union Street Stormwater Improvement Project built in 2014.



• (right) - Athens SWCD, City of Athens, and Ohio University teamed up to celebrate Pollution Prevention Week! Approximately 730 direct and 1,500 indirect contacts with the public were made during this outreach effort. Visit [ohio.edu/sustainability](http://ohio.edu/sustainability).



- (left) - Storm drain stenciling on Court Street during Athens Beautification Day was done in cooperation with volunteers from Ohio University.
- Storm drain stenciling was also conducted by Far East Side Neighborhood Association (FENA) residents and volunteers from Ohio University. Both events raised awareness of stormwater pollution prevention.



**Funding Sources for Conservation Programs (2017):**

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Rental/Incentive/Cost Share = \$ 211,754.00
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) = \$ 9,381.00
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) = \$ 233,926.00
- Conservation Security Program (CSP) = \$ 20,408.00
- Estimated Landowner Input = \$ 188,968.00
- Total Dollars Spent On Conservation = \$ 664,437.00

**Athens SWCD Operating Funds (2017):**

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 2017	
• Athens County Commissioners	\$105,049.00
• City of Athens	\$ 24,000.00
• Athens County Auditor	\$ 25,000.00
Other Sources:	
• ODNR Division of Wildlife	\$ 24,521.00
• State Match Funds	\$ 100,666.00
	\$ 279,236.00

**2017 Board of Supervisors:**

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

**District Staff:**

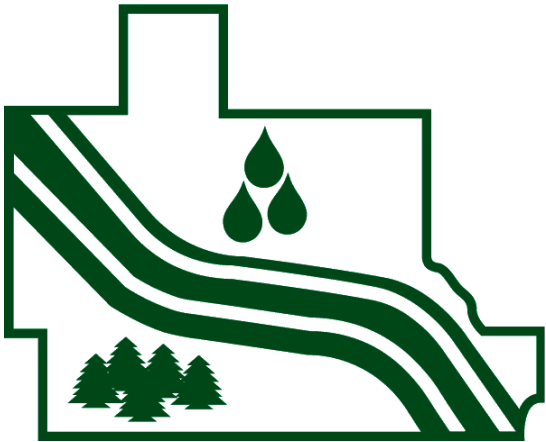
Cathy Bobo, District Manager  
Rich Blazier, Equipment Manager  
Teresa Caldwell, Education Coordinator  
Eric Hayes Jr, Wildlife Specialist/Forestry Tech  
Polly Mitchell, Administrative Assistant  
Jill Montle, District Technician  
Abbot Stevenson, Urban Conservation Tech

**USDA NRCS Staff:**

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

# ATHENS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## *71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary* 2017 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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