



# Conservation News



## Athens Soil and Water Conservation District

69 S. Plains Road The Plains, Ohio 45780

740-797-9686 or 800-582-8890

[athensswcd.org](http://athensswcd.org)

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

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[athensswcd.org](http://athensswcd.org)

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### Athens SWCD Celebrates

#### 73 Years of Conservation Accomplishments!

Join the Athens SWCD and the Athens-Meigs Farm Bureau in this year's joint annual meeting and banquet.

**When:** Thursday, October 17, 2019  
**Where:** Athens Community Center  
701 East State Street, Athens, Ohio  
**Time:** 5:45 - 9:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$12.00 for adults  
\$ 6.00 for children age 10 and under

**Agenda: 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. - SWCD SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING**

*\*Candidate and voting information on page 2*

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Buffet meal - Chicken or Pulled Pork, salad, green beans, macaroni and cheese, hot rolls, desserts, and drinks

*\*\*Please contact our office if you have special dietary needs.*

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - Presentation of Awards and Meeting

Election results and raffle drawing

**Contact 740-797-9686 ext. 5 by  
October 10, 2019 to register!**



#### Athens Soil and Water Conservation District's 73rd Annual Meeting and Banquet

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#of ADULT Meals - Pulled Pork \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#of ADULT Meals - Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#of YOUTH Meals - Pulled Pork \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#of YOUTH Meals - Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth meals are for children age 10 and under

*\*\*Please contact our office if you have special dietary needs.*

Complete form, make check payable to Athens SWCD and return to:  
Athens SWCD, 69 South Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio 45780

**Due in office no later than October 10, 2019**

# Meet the Candidates....



**Bryan Ford** - Bryan graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Agricultural Education. While in college, he worked for ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the soil survey department and was a 4 year member of the Ohio State soil judging team. Bryan has been employed as the agricultural education teacher at Alexander High School since 2005. Prior to that, he was employed by the USDA NRCS for 5 years as a student trainee and soil conservationist. Bryan and his wife Kristi, own and operate a small Farm in Lodi Township where they have a cow-calf operation

using management intensive grazing principles. They also make hay for the cattle operation on several other farms in the area. They have two children, Jackson and Grace. Bryan is a member of the Ohio FFA Board of Trustees and the Ohio FFA teacher advisory council. In his free time, he enjoys working on the farm, helping his children with their 4-H projects, and attending their sporting events.



**Gary Willison** - Gary graduated from The Ohio State University, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Forest Management. He retired from the US Forest Service after 34 years, where he managed the forest resources in four national forests. On the Wayne National Forest he managed a Watershed Team that completed 54 abandoned mine land projects which greatly improved water quality in the Monday Creek Watershed. Gary also worked closely with Ohio Department of Transportation to minimize effects to wildlife and soil and water resources

while managing the US Route 33 Bypass around Nelsonville. Currently he is a forestry instructor at Hocking College and a consulting forester in Southeastern Ohio. Gary lives on a farm in eastern Athens County with his wife and son where he raises Christmas trees and produces maple syrup.

## **Athens SWCD to hold Board Supervisor Election**

The Athens SWCD will hold an election for one Board supervisor on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. at the 73rd Annual Meeting and Banquet being held at the Athens Community Center. The nominees in this year's election are: Bryan Ford and Gary Willison.

Residents, non-resident landowners, non-resident land occupiers, firms, LLC, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Athens County and are 18 years of age and older may vote. A non-resident landowner, firm, LLC, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: 1) at the annual meeting; 2) at the SWCD office until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2019; or 3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the Athens SWCD office, 69 S Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio 45780 or by calling 740-797-9686 ext. 5, or by downloading the forms from our website, [www.athensswcd.org](http://www.athensswcd.org). For more information about the election, contact our office at 740-797-9686.

## **City of Athens Stormwater Program**

This summer, the college interns and Abbot sampled the water in the main storm sewer that runs from upper North Congress St., under Court St. at Fern Alley, to the Hocking River at Stimson Ave. This storm sewer follows the original streambed that ran through



the uptown area of Athens. The storm sewer is believed to have been built around the 1880s.



You may have noticed that the City included a bioretention basin in the construction at US33 and East State St. this summer. The purpose of this basin is to reduce

runoff to the Hocking River by allowing rainwater to infiltrate instead of running off. We are looking forward to snow season, when the red stems of the red twig dogwood will beautify the landscape with color.



## Athens SWCD adds new Sunflower drill to rental equipment program



The Athens Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Athens-Meigs Farm Bureau, and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation have partnered together to help area landowners reduce

soil erosion and improve water quality. The Athens SWCD received grant funds to help purchase a 7ft Sunflower no-till drill. Current Farm Bureau members will receive a 50% discount toward the cost of the use of the Sunflower drill. Visit [athensswcd.org](http://athensswcd.org) for more information.

## Morgan Gray joins Athens SWCD Staff



"My name is Morgan Gray, I am the new Athens SWCD Administrative Assistant. I was raised in Parkersburg, West Virginia near our family farm. In high school I was an active member of the Blennerhassett FFA chapter and worked as a boarding attendant/assistant veterinarian technician. After high school I moved to Ohio and applied to Hocking College Wildlife Management Program where I graduated with my associates degree. After college I had an opportunity to work for the ODNR Division of Forestry as a intermittent forester and now here at the Athens SWCD! I really enjoy being outdoors. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, and hiking. I am very excited to be a part of the Athens SWCD!" -Morgan Gray



## Farm Equipment & Safety Day Workshop a Huge Success!

The Athens SWCD, in partnership with Athens-Meigs Farm Bureau recently held a farm equipment and safety workshop. Hosted by the Lackey Family in Guysville, approximately 100 attendees learned about the District's rental equipment program, general farm safety, how to read and understand seed tags, fall gardening, AEP's energy efficiency program for farmers, and cover crops! Speakers for the event included, Holly Retiano – AEP, David and Jay Brandt of Walnut Creek Seeds, Lisa Pfeifer – OSU Educational Program Manager, Rich Blazier – Athens SWCD Equipment Manager, and Ed Brown – OSU Extension Athens County Ag/NR Educator. Youth in attendance were educated through fishing, archery, and farm safety activities. A meal was provided by Athens-Meigs Farm Bureau. Participants received a SMV sign and a free soil sample.

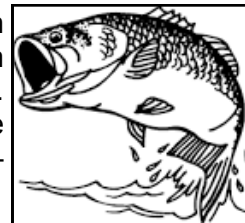
## Summer Intern



"My name is Adam Rolf, I'm a US Navy Veteran and a Hocking College Student majoring in GeoEnvironmental Science. I moved to the Athens area from the Cleveland area to pursue this degree as well as soak in all the beautiful Appalachian nature! Its been an honor volunteering as an intern for the Athens SWCD ; I've learned so much and seen first hand all the great things that the Athens SWCD does for our communities. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, geology, camping, fitness, and kickboxing. I hope to one day pass along the wisdom I've gained to future generations." -Adam Rolf

## Athens SWCD offers Fall Fish Sale

Athens SWCD is accepting orders for the 2019 fall fish sale. This sale is to stock new ponds or to replenish fish in existing ponds. To order, contact the Athens SWCD office or visit [www.athensswcd.org](http://www.athensswcd.org) for an order form. Completed **order forms must** be returned to the Athens SWCD office with payment, no later than **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The fish will be delivered to the Athens SWCD office, located at 69 South Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**. **You must pick up your orders at this time!** You will also need to bring containers with some of your own pond water in them when picking up your fish. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 740-797-9686 ext. 5 or 1-800-582-8890.



Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the Athens SWCD/NRCS.

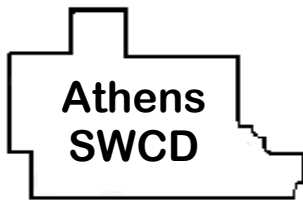
**BUCKLEY BROS.**  
INC.

143 N. Plains Rd  
The Plains, OH 45780  
740-797-3032

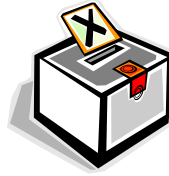
Leading the Others  
Since 1904

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**YOUR LOCAL FARM & FEED SUPPLY STORE**



## BANQUET EDITION!



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The Plains, Ohio 45780  
(740) 797-9686 or (800) 582-8890

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brenda Dahse, Chairman  
Glenn Lackey, Vice Chairman  
Scott Sanders, Secretary  
Harold Dodd, Treasurer  
Kelly Abfall, Member

### SWCD PERSONNEL

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

### NRCS PERSONNEL

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

Current Resident or



## Mark Your Calendars

October 5 - Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District Fall  
Recycling & Shred It Day

October 10 - Athens SWCD Fall Fish Sale

October 10 - Board Meeting

October 14 - Office Closed - Columbus Day

October 17 - Annual Meeting and Banquet

October 19 - Tire Recycling Event

November 11 - Office Closed - Veterans Day

November 14 - Board Meeting

November 28 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day

December 19 - Board Meeting

December 25 - Office Closed - Christmas Day

January 1 - Office Closed - New Years Day

\* Visit our website [www.athensswcd.org](http://www.athensswcd.org) for more  
information on the events listed above.

## OPHI Milkweed Pod Collection



The Athens SWCD has partnered with Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative again this year to be a designated Common Milkweed Pod Collection Station. The collection will begin September 1<sup>st</sup> and end October 31<sup>st</sup>. Let's make this year's pod collection successful by following these simple tips!

- Collect pods from Common Milkweed plants only.
- Collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown.
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Athens SWCD office.

If you have any questions about the milkweed pod collection, contact the Athens SWCD at 740-797-9686 ext. 5.