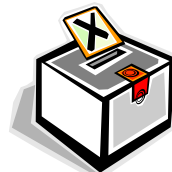


## BANQUET EDITION!



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69 S. Plains Road  
The Plains, Ohio 45780  
(740) 797-9686 or (800) 582-8890

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Abbot Stevenson, Stormwater Specialist

NRCS PERSONNEL  
Joe Weber, District Conservationist  
Kevin Lewis, Soil Conservationist  
Bill Serbonich, Conservation Specialist  
Dean Sinclair, Soil Conservation Technician



## Mark Your Calendars

September 15 - Multi-County Soil Judging  
September 16 - Board Meeting  
September 18 - Athens Riversweep on the Hocking  
September 19 - 24 - Pollution Prevention Week  
September 23 - Rain Barrel Workshop  
October 9 - Annual Meeting and Banquet  
October 11 - Office Closed - Columbus Day  
October 12 - Athens SWCD Fall Fish Sale  
October 21 - Board Meeting  
November 11 - Office Closed - Veterans Day  
November 18 - Board Meeting  
November 25 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day  
December 16 - Board Meeting  
December 24 - Office Closed - Christmas Day  
January 3 - 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 questions about milkweed pod collection, contact the Athens SWCD office.



# 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.

## Inside this issue:

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Rain Barrel  
Workshop

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Position

OPHI Milkweed  
Pod Collection

Upcoming Events



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

An Equal Opportunity Provider,  
Employer, and Lender.

## Athens SWCD 75th Annual Meeting

Please join the Athens Soil and Water  
Conservation District as we celebrate our  
75th Anniversary of Conservation! Enjoy an  
afternoon of fellowship at Red Bird Ranch!



When: Saturday, October 9, 2021

Where: Red Bird Ranch (OUTDOOR EVENT)  
New England Road, Stewart, Ohio 45778

Cost: \$ 5.00 per person

Agenda: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Registration & Social Time  
- SWCD SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. - Displays / Games / Make & Take Activities  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Farm Tour (Glenn Lackey and Dave Brandt)  
- or -  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Pond Management (Mike Greenlee, ODNR)  
4:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Presentation of Awards  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Meal, Door Prizes and Raffle Drawing  
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.**

Contact 740-797-9686 ext. 5 by October 1, 2021 to register!

### Athens Soil and Water Conservation District's 75th Annual Meeting and Banquet

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

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

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

# of Meals - Pulled Pork \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Meals - Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*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 1, 2021**



## Rain Barrel Workshop

Pre-Registration is required for this workshop

**When:** Thursday, September 23, 2021

**Where:** Jr. Fair Building Athens County Fairgrounds

**Time:** 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**Cost:** The workshop is free, but there is a \$50.00 fee per barrel for those wishing to take home a completed 55 gallon food grade rain barrel.



## Ohio River Mini-Sweep on the Hocking

*Volunteer and be part of the solution!  
September 25th - 9:00 am to Noon*

Each year, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) sponsors an interstate river cleanup. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this one day event has been converted to a series of 'mini-sweeps'.

On September 25, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12 noon, in an effort to join this important cause, the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the City of Athens, the Athens City-County Health Department, and the Hocking Conservancy District are organizing an Ohio River Mini-Sweep on the Hocking! As a major tributary of the Ohio River, the Hocking River's state of cleanliness would have a significant impact on the trash flowing into the Ohio River and points downstream. The recent flooding has left a lot to clean up and we are looking for volunteers to assist us in this effort! Pre-registration and a signed release will be necessary for everyone that will be participating. We need to make sure we have adequate supplies and to mark the success of our efforts. Registration can be done online at [www.athensswcd.org](http://www.athensswcd.org). We will then arrange for you to sign releases, pickup your event supplies, and review instructions for trash and recycling pick-up the day of the event. A free T-shirt will be available to participants, while they last!

This event will also coincide and be part of the Pollution Prevention Week activities scheduled for September 19 - September 24, 2021. Visit <https://www.ohio.edu/sustainability/pollution-prevention-week> for information on all the activities.

We will be observing the local COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in place on the day of the event. If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 740-797-9686.



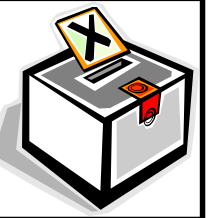
"Thank you" to everyone that visited with us in our 'NEW' Agriculture and Natural Resources Building at the Athens County Fair. To view the results of our contests, visit the Education page on [athensswcd.org](http://athensswcd.org).



The Athens SWCD office welcomes Jacob Winters as the new District Technician. Jacob is a native of Gallia County and a graduate of The Ohio State University. Jacob can be reached at 740-797-9686 ext. 6290.

## Supervisor Election Info....Cast Your Vote

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Athens 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 Athens SWCD and are 18 years of age or older may vote for supervisor.



There are 3 ways an eligible voters can cast a ballot:

1. At the Athens SWCD office from September 10 until October 9 during normal business hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Thursday, and 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Fridays; or
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Red Bird Ranch Cabin, New England Road, Stewart, Ohio 45778 on Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm; or
3. By voting absentee from September 10 until October 9, by requesting the Voter Verification and Election Ballot from the Athens SWCD office at 69 S Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio 45780, or by calling 740-797-9686 ext. 6280, or by emailing [cathybobo@athensswcd.org](mailto:cathybobo@athensswcd.org). Absentee ballots (mailed or delivered in person) must be received by 4:30 pm on Friday, October 8, 2021.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2022, and ending on December 31, 2024. Nominees are: Joyce K Bobo, Glenn K Lackey, and David Swanson (see bios).

### Athens NRCS Office is accepting EQIP applications for 2022 Funding

NRCS Staff in Athens county is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on a continuous basis. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which helps producers make conservation work for them. NRCS provides landowners with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat. Through EQIP, you can voluntarily implement conservation practices, and NRCS co-invests in these practices with you. Financial assistance is now available for a variety of land uses, such as cropland, pastureland, forestry & wildlife, as well as organic & organic - transitioning land. Several special project funds are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations and wildlife habitat, pasture improvements and many more. For more about the EQIP program, call 740-797-9686 or email the District Conservationist at [joe.weber@usda.gov](mailto:joe.weber@usda.gov).



### Spotted Lanternfly population found near Cleveland

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced invasive Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) has been confirmed in two locations east of Cleveland. SLF is a great concern to the grape and wine industry. The insect is fond of grapevines, fruit trees, hops, blueberry, oak, pine, poplar, and walnut. Adult SLF are attracted to the invasive Ailanthus tree, also known as tree-of-heaven, while nymphs feed on a wide range of hosts. Both adults and nymphs feed on stems and leaves, causing sap bleeding and reduced photosynthesis, which can eventually kill the plant. Now through November is the best time to spot the SLF because it is in its most recognizable stages as a colorful winged adult plant hopper. After hatching in the late spring, the SLF goes through four nymph stages. By midsummer, the nymph SLF can be identified by its red body, roughly a half-inch in size, with black stripes and white dots. During the late summer until roughly November, the SLF is in the adult stage. These adults are larger, roughly one inch in size, with black bodies and brightly colored wings. To report a suspected infestation go to ODA's Spotted Lanternfly Information Page and fill out a suspected infestation report. You may also call the Plant Pest Control Division at 614-728-6400.



## Meet the Candidates...



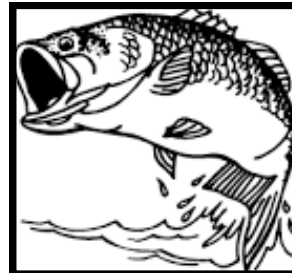
**Joyce K (Perry) Bobo** - After graduating high school, Joyce began working at Hocking Valley Bank and attended financial classes at Ohio University; she was trained and worked in several areas of the bank including head teller, loan officer and branch manager; she served three terms as Lee Township Fiscal Officer until moving back to the farm. In 2018, Joyce retired from OAPSE as an Administrative Assistant/Office Manager. Joyce is a lifelong resident of Athens County where she and her husband, Tom, reside on a third generational farm raising beef cattle, corn, wheat and soybeans...any spare time is spent raising a garden, landscaping, hosting guests at their Events Barn and Bed and Breakfast, spending time with grandchildren and attending their sporting events. Joyce was a charter member of Alexander's Future Foundation and a current member of the Athens-Meigs Farm Bureau. Joyce was instrumental in organizing and working with the Albany community residents in petitioning for the current traffic light on US 50/32 in Albany. Growing up on the farm during the construction of Lake Snowden and the Margaret's Creek Conservancy District Project, these remain significant matters of interest and concern to her. She and her husband have one daughter, Natalie, a son in law and four grandchildren. Joyce is vested in her family, friends and neighbors and maintains a close relationship with her community. Dedication and hard work are necessary elements in getting "things" done; matters such as the monitoring and maintaining of a safe water supply and protection of the soil are extremely important issues. Whether it is at a Local, State or Federal level, these matters affect everyone and need to be observed on a continual basis... to that end, she would be pleased to contribute as a member of the Athens SWCD Supervisory Board.



**Glenn K Lackey** - Glenn has been a resident of Rome Twp. in Athens County since 1973. He attended Bluffton College. Glenn is an owner in his family farm, known as Red Bird Ranch, which consists of approximately 1,000 acres of beef cattle, row crops, hay and pasture. Prior to coming to Athens County, the Lackey's farmed in Franklin County. Red Bird Ranch has been a cooperator with the Athens SWCD office for 48 years. Organizations in which Glenn has or is currently serving include: Athens County Planning Commission, Ohio Farmland Preservation Board, Athens County Farm Bureau serving in various capacities, Ohio Farm Bureau member, American Farm Bureau Natural Resources and Livestock Advisory Committee and a member of the Canaanville United Methodist Church. Glenn has served on the Athens SWCD Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years. Glenn and his wife Bonnie have two sons, Brandon (Bethany) and Kavon. They have one granddaughter, Aria.



**David Swanson** - Dave is an instructor in the School of Natural Resources. He has been teaching at Hocking College since 2007. David teaches courses in wildlife resources management and biological sciences. He is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Resources Management and a Ph.D. in Forest Resources Science. He earned a Master of Science degree in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University – Kingsville. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist through The Wildlife Society. David serves on the Assessment Council, Credentials Committee, Natural Resources Cross-Curricular Committee, and the Natural Resources Education and Outreach Committee. Before teaching at Hocking College, he was Forest Wildlife Research Supervisor with the Ohio Division of Wildlife for 14 years. In his spare time, he loves to hunt, fish, garden, and spend time with his family. He manages his 10.25 acres in Ames Township for a variety of wildlife species ranging from pollinators to white-tailed deer.



### Athens SWCD offers Fall Fish Sale

Athens SWCD is accepting orders for the 2021 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 5<sup>th</sup>. The fish will be delivered to the Athens SWCD office, located at 69 South Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12<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.

### **OLHAP (Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership)**

The OLHAP program is funded from the USDA Voluntary Public Access - Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) and offers farmers and landowners financial compensation for allowing public hunting on private lands. The goal is to provide public access to over 20,000 acres of private land across the state of Ohio and habitat practices may also be financially incentivized through the program.

Eligible landowners: Landowners with a significant amount of wildlife habitat established on their properties, and those enrolled in designated conservation programs, will be eligible to apply for the OLHAP program.

**Agreement Durations:** Agreements will be for public access until June 1, 2022.

**Access Payments:** The OLHAP program will issue incentive payments to enrolled landowners on a per-acres basis for providing public access to lands they own. Annual payments will be \$2.00/acre for agricultural lands and \$30.00/acre for perennial wildlife cover, such as wetlands, grasslands, brushlands, and forests.

**Opportunities on Enrolled Properties:** Public access will be granted through an online check-in system from September 1st to June 1st each year between the hours of 5:30 am and 10:00 pm. All hunting opportunities, except deer gun hunting, are permitted.

**Landowners are required to:**

- Post and maintain accurate signage according to the OLHAP agreement.
- Maintain or increase current wildlife habitat on enrolled lands and throughout the agreement period.
- Maintain ownership and control throughout the agreement period.

**OLHAP Users are required to:**

- Agree to hold landowners harmless for liability while on the property.
- Have an OLHAP Permit while on the property.
- Follow all the rules for the OLHAP Program.

For more information, contact 1-800-Wildlife or Eric R Hayes, Jr., Athens SWCD Wildlife Specialist / Forestry Technician at 740-797-9686 ext. 6283.



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