



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

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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Athens SWCD 76th Annual Meeting

Please join the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District as we celebrate 76 years of conservation during our annual meeting!
Enjoy an evening of fellowship at Rooster's Ridge!

When: Thursday, October 20, 2022

Where: Rooster's Ridge (OUTDOOR EVENT - weather permitting)
6329 Perry Road, Athens, Ohio 45701

Cost: \$ 5.00 per person

Agenda: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Registration & Social Time
- SWCD SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING
- Talk shop with representatives from NRCS,
FSA, FB, ODNR, and OSU Extension
5:30 - 6:15 p.m. - Meal - Catered by Texas Roadhouse
Buffet style - Chicken Breast or Pulled Pork, salad,
mashed potatoes, green beans, hot rolls,
dessert, and drinks
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. - Presentation of Awards
6:45 - 7:15 p.m. - Presentation on the Future of Agriculture,
by Scott Shearer, OSU Department of Food,
Ag & Bio Engineering Professor and Chair

Door Prizes and Raffle Drawing

Reservations are due by October 13, 2022

Athens Soil and Water Conservation District's 76th 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

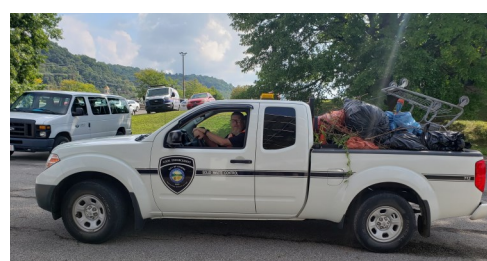
Due in office no later than October 13, 2022



2022 Ohio River Sweep on the Hocking gets back to normal...

The COVID 19 pandemic changed a lot of things for folks in Athens County, even our annual “River Sweep” event included masks and social distancing in 2021, and was cancelled in 2020. But this year we were able to returned to a sense of “normal”! We had 57 participants for our clean-up walk along the Hocking

River within the Athens City limits. Most of them were students from Ohio University although we did have some of our repeat participants. They all showed up with enthusiasm and were ready to go! This showed in the success of the trash and recyclables collected as we exceeded our past collection totals by a sizeable amount. After the Sweep, participants were able to enjoy a picnic style lunch and compare notes on some of the items collected. The “River Sweep” is part of a larger collection effort by the Ohio River Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to keep the Ohio River and its major tributaries clean. These sweeps are held each summer along the entire length of the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, PA to Cairo, IL. We hope that you will consider joining us in 2023.



Raising Awareness and Creating Pollinator Habitat
All you can – Where you can!

WE NEED YOUR MILKWEED SEED PODS!

As part of a statewide initiative, Athens SWCD will again be participating in a common milkweed seed pod collection from September 1 - October 30, 2022.

Contact us or go to www.athensswcd.org for some of the *do's and don'ts* of milkweed seed pod collection.

The Monarch Butterfly is counting on you!



Hay Show Judging

2022 Athens County Fair

“Thank you” to everyone that stopped by the “Agriculture and Natural Resource” building to see us at this years Athens County Fair. The Athens SWCD along with Athens Meigs Farm Bureau, Athens City County Health Department, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Athens County Auditor, and OSU Extension Master Gardner’s provided educational materials and activities for fair attendees of all ages.

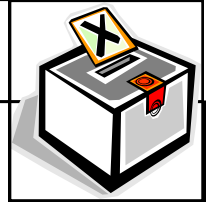
Congratulations to the SWCD contest winners:

Blue Bird Box drawing - Diane Sinclair
Count the Seeds contest - Garrett Bruce
Grand Champion Bale of Hay - Abbi Ervin
Reserve Champion Bale of Hay - Chloe Calaway
Scavenger Hunt Contest (3 winner) - Kendra, Hunter, and Avery

SWCD Display Area



Supervisor Election...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 21, 2022 until October 19, 2022 during normal business hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Thursday, and 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Fridays; or on October 20, 2022 from 8:00 am - Noon; or
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Rooster's Ridge, 6329 Perry Road, Athens, Ohio 45701 on Thursday, October 20, 2022 from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm; or
3. By voting absentee from September 21, 2022 until October 20, 2022 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. Absentee ballots must be received by Noon on October 20, 2022.

One Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2025. Nominees are: Bryan Ford and David Swanson (see bios below).

Meet the Candidates...



Bryan Ford - Bryan graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Agricultural Education and from Ohio University with a master's degree in Educational Administration. 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 and assistant principal 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. In his free time, he enjoys working on the farm, helping his children with their FFA projects, and attending their sporting events.



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.



The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for a **WILDLIFE SPECIALIST / FORESTRY TECHNICIAN.** Vacancy announcement, position description and application form is available at www.athensswcd.org.

OLHAP (Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership)

The Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership (OLHAP) Program is a new initiative for landowners to invite hunters to access hunting on private properties. The OLHAP program is entirely voluntary and landowners can be compensated for allowing hunters to access their land.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or want to know how to enroll your property, please visit the ODNR-Division of Wildlife website at <https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/ohio-landowner-hunter-access>



Local FFA Chapters Compete in Multi County Soil Judging Contest

The Multi-County Soil Judging competition was recently held in Meigs County at the Keith Bentz Farm. There were fifty-two students from four schools represented at the competition. Federal Hocking and Alexander Local Schools were there to represent Athens County. We are pleased to announce the 2022 winners of the Multi-County Soils Judging Contest from Athens County:

Urban Soils

1st Place: Andrew Zimmerman, Federal Hocking High School

2nd Place: David Washburn, Federal Hocking High School

3rd Place: McKenna Moore, Alexander High School

AG/Rural Soils

1st Place: Gracie King, Federal Hocking High School

2nd Place: Ellie Day, Alexander High School

3rd Place: Grace Ford, Alexander High School

Congratulations to all our winners! Good Luck at Districts!



143 N. Plains Rd
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45780

Leading the Others
Since 1904

Bring this ad in
for \$2.00 off one
25# bag of Bird

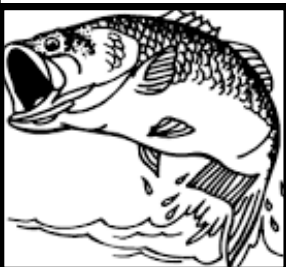
YOUR LOCAL FARM & FEED SUPPLY STORE

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

Athens NRCS Office is accepting EQIP applications for 2023 Funding



This is a reminder that the NRCS Staff in Athens county is still 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. Financial assistance is now available for a variety of land uses, such as cropland, pastureland, forestry & wildlife. Several special project funds are also available to address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations and wildlife habitat, pasture improvements and high tunnels. Signup is continuous and applications can be submitted at any time; however, applicants interested in being considered for the first round of funding in Fiscal Year 2023 should submit their applications by no later than November 14, 2022. If you are interested in learning more about the EQIP program please call 740-797-9686 or email the District Conservationist at: joe.weber@usda.gov



Athens SWCD offers Fall Fish Sale

Athens SWCD is accepting orders for the 2022 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 for an order form. Completed order forms must be returned to the Athens SWCD office with payment, no later than October 4th. The fish will be delivered to the Athens SWCD office, located at 69 South Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio at 1:00 p.m.

on Tuesday, October 11th. ***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.

Triploid White Amur (Grass Carp) - \$16.00 each

8-10"- good for aquatic weed control

Channel Catfish - \$0.90 each

4-5" fingerling- a sport and food fish; spawns are forage for bass; can grow up to 14"; easier to catch after a hard rain

Fathead Minnow - \$8.00 per 100 each

1-2" fingerling- a forage fish; can grow to 3"; readily consumed by predatory species

Hybrid Bluegill - \$1.00 each

2-4" fingerling- a forage and sport fish; known for their rapid growth to 10"; the primary prey of largemouth bass

Largemouth Bass - \$1.10 each

2-3" fingerling- primarily a sport fish; can grow over 25" and 14 lbs.; ravenous predatory feeder; will eat anything that fits in mouth

Japanese Koi - \$13.00 each

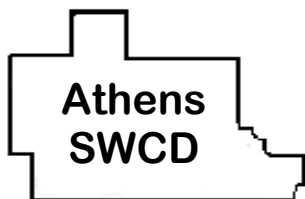
6-8"- Maximum length is 3 ft; do best in ponds with more than one koi; get along well with other, non-aggressive fish; great for controlling duckweed and other aquatic weeds

Redear Shellcracker - \$1.00 each

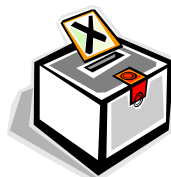
2-4"- closely related to the bluegill; popular pan fish; can grow up to 11"; eats snails, crayfish and small fish

Bluegill - \$1.00 each

2-4" fingerling- a forage and sport fish; can grow to 10"; the primary prey of largemouth bass



BANQUET EDITION!



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Joe Weber, District Conservationist
Bill Serbonich, Conservation Specialist
Dean Sinclair, Soil Conservation Technician

Current Resident or



Mark Your Calendars

October 4 - Fish Sale Order Deadline
October 10 - Office Closed - Columbus Day
October 11 - Athens SWCD Fall Fish Sale
October 13 - Board Meeting
October 13 - Annual Meeting Reservations Due
October 20 - Annual Meeting and Banquet
October 16 - 22 - Stormwater Awareness Week
November 11 - Office Closed - Veterans Day
November 14 - EQIP Application Deadline
November 17 - Board Meeting
November 24 & 25 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 15 - Board Meeting
December 26 - Office Closed - Christmas Day
January 2 - Office Closed - New Years Day
January 19 - Board Meeting

* Visit our website www.athensswcd.org for more information on the events listed above.



The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be offering their Annual Tree and Wildlife Packet Program in 2023.

Information will be in our next newsletter and on our website.

Continue to visit
www.athensswcd.org
for complete details!!