

April—May—June

2020 Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891

Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

Telephone (419) 238-9591

New Pheasant's Forever Staff Member in Van Wert

I was born and raised in the Appalachian foothills, just on the outskirts of Pennsylvania's wild elk range. Much of my childhood was spent going on family camping, hunting and fishing trips. I would marvel at all walks of wildlife during our pursuits of deer, turkey, walleye, and panfish. Some of my earliest memories as a kid are hoisting heavy stringers for photos after a day on Pymatuning Reservoir, or warming up with a mug of Swiss Miss waiting for a flag to rise over a hole in the ice. After spending so much time outside as a kid, it made sense for me to attend Penn State where I earned an Associate's Degree in Wildlife Technology and a Baccalaureate's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

Since graduation, my career has allowed opportunities to conduct research with migrating songbirds in the forests of the Delmarva Peninsula, mourning doves in the prairies of North Dakota, wild turkeys in the rolling ag-lands of Northeast Missouri, meso predators and other small mammals in the Appalachians of Pennsylvania, and a reintroduced population of Rocky Mountain Elk in the Ozarks of Missouri. I am passionate about the outdoors, natural resources, and conservation. I enjoy being involved with the community, working with private landowners

and serving as a resource to the public. I appreciate the opportunity to work in Ohio and look forward to meeting and working with the landowners in the area. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there is anything that I can help you with.



Jackson Martini

Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Van Wert, Paulding, Putnam, and Allen Counties

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Special points of interest:

- ◇ Soil & Water Stewardship Week April 28—May 5
- ◇ *\$500 College Scholarship is being offered*
- ◇ *Need fish for your pond—order now!*

College Scholarship Being Offered

The Van Wert SWCD is offering one \$500 scholarship to college students studying agriculture, natural resources, or closely related fields at an Ohio college or university during the 2019/20 academic year. Recipients of the scholarship must have completed their freshman year, and must be a Van Wert County resident.

Scholarship applications are due by May 8, 2020. The Scholarship Committee of the SWCD will review all applications and the recipient will be announced in June. Scholarship money will be sent directly to the recipient's college or uni-

versity at the beginning of the academic year.

Criteria for determining the recipient will be area of study, grades, activities, leadership, and commitment to conservation practices. The SWCD reserves the right to refuse any applications not meeting requirements.

Applications and two reference forms need to be completed and sent to the office by the deadline of May 8. The forms are available at the office or on the Van Wert SWCD website.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week

The Van Wert SWCD wants to remind you that each of us has a connection to natural resources. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is celebrating the 64th year of Stewardship week April 26 – May 3, 2020. The 2020 Stewardship Week is themed "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?"

Pollinators form the foundations of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they



have shown concerning signs of decline. It's important that we work to help them prosper by enhancing native pollinator habitats and protecting against pollinator declines.

During Stewardship Week, Van Wert SWCD will provide a swamp white oak seedling and a presentation on the importance of trees to each 4th grade student in the county and place Soil & Water Stewardship placemats in local restaurants during the weeks observance.

Fish Fingerling Orders / Delivery Scheduled

The SWCD is currently taking orders for fish fingerlings. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, and white amur. The bass, blue gill, and channel catfish are available in lots of 25; larger largemouth bass, blue gill and hybrid bluegill in lots of 20; minnow in lots of 100 and white amur are ordered individually.

The fish sale is an opportunity for pond owners to stock or restock their ponds for a reasonable cost.

Orders will be accepted until Monday, April 20. Payment is expected when the order is placed.

The fish will be delivered Monday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m.

Stocking recommendations for a one acre pond are:

100 largemouth bass	500 blue gill
100 channel catfish	500-1000 minnow

The orders will be boxed and ready at the time of delivery. Order forms are available in the office or on the website at:

www.vanwertswcd.org

Van Wert SWCD Seeking Posters for Contest

Calling on local young artists in grades K through 12 !! It's time to break out the paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers and paper for the Van Wert SWCD Poster Contest. The contest is open to all Van Wert County students. The creation may not be traced from other artists' work or from photographs. Each entry must have the completed form signed by the parent or guardian attached to the back of the poster. This form can be downloaded from the SWCD website at: www.vanwertswcd.org on the education tab. The topic "Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators" must appear on the front of the poster. The deadline to turn in posters to the Van Wert SWCD is Thursday, May 1 by 4 PM.

"Where Would We Bee Without Pollinator's" is the 2020 theme, as selected by the National Association of Conservation Districts. The purpose of the poster contest is to provide students with an opportunity to share their thoughts about soil,

water, and related natural resource issues, and to express the importance of conservation.

Posters will be judged on grade divisions: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; and 10-12. First place entries from each level will receive a certificate from the Van Wert SWCD. Those first place entries will be submitted to the State Poster Contest which is held during the summer of 2019. Posters selected from the State Contest will be forwarded on to the National Poster Contest. Posters at this level will be judged on: Conservation message (50%); poster uses correct theme and visual effectiveness (30%); originality (10%); universal appeal (10%).

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/> or by calling the SWCD office at (419) 238-9591 x 4273.

H2Ohio Program Deadline to Participate Extended to June 2

The deadline for farmers to submit an application for the H2Ohio program has been extended from March 31, 2020 to June 2, 2020. This is being done to follow Governor DeWine's orders regarding COVID-19 and limit human-to-human contact.

Farmers must work with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to sign up for the H2Ohio program. With the current social distancing guidelines, in person visits to SWCD offices is not going to take place. To allow adequate time for the alternate means of communication necessary to achieve completed applications, ODA is extending the deadline. Those applications must now be submitted and finalized by June 2. If you are interested in applying for these funds and have not yet communicated with the Van Wert SWCD, ODA recommends you call as soon as possible to provide enough time for completion of the H2Ohio application. Beginning Monday, March 23 the Van Wert SWCD staff will be teleworking until further notice.

Contact the office at (567) 259-4253 and leave a message and we will return your call.

The H2Ohio program is open to farmers in the 14 counties of the Maumee River Watershed. Farmers should contact the SWCD on how to sign up. For a complete list of SWCD offices, go to: <http://h2.ohio.gov/agriculture/>.

Van Wert S.W.C.D.
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #2
Wapakoneta, OH



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Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist
Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer
Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech.
Jackson Martini, PF Wildlife Biologist

Upcoming Dates and Events

- April 8—SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM (tentative)
- April 15—Park District Meeting 2:00 PM (tentative)
- April 20 – Deadline to purchase fish fingerlings
- April 26- May 3 – Soil and Water Stewardship Week
- April 27 – Fish delivery at 3 PM
- May 1—Poster Contest deadline to submit
- May 8 – College Scholarship Application Deadline
- May 13 - SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
- May 20—Park District Meeting 2:00 PM
- May 25—Memorial Day (office closed)