

Van Wert S.W.C.D.
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 Van Wert, OH 45891

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July, August, September
 2021 Newsletter



Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

VAN WERT

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 Dave Kemler, Secretary
 Dick Rice, Fiscal Agent
 Kris Young, Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

Becky Dowler, Office Manager
 Seth Owens, District Technician
 Tammy Campbell, Education Coord.

NRCS Staff

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

Events Calendar

July 5 Office Closed—Independence Day
July 14 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
July 21 Van Wert Park District Mtg. 2:00 PM
August 10 SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet
August 11 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
August 18 Van Wert Park District Mtg. 2:00 PM
Sept. 6 Office Closed—Labor Day
Sept 8 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
Sept 15 Park District Meeting 2:00

The SWCD Board of Supervisors monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the SWCD office.

Van Wert Ag Banquet to be held on August 10, 2021

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 10 at the Council on Aging, 220 Fox Road, Van Wert. The Van Wert SWCD and Farm Bureau are co-hosting this event which replaces our separate annual meetings. The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with registration and election for two SWCD supervisors to the five member Board of Supervisors. Dinner will be catered by Gibson's Barnyard BBQ and will begin at 6:00 pm. Both offices will present awards followed by the "Van Wert Ag Hall of Fame" award! This year's award is being awarded to Ron Schumm. Tickets are \$5 and are available from the SWCD and Farm Bureau offices. Deadline to purchase tickets is **July 30**.



And the SWCD Election Candidates Are...



Elliott Callow and wife, Katelyn reside in Willshire township. Elliott is a Crop Insurance Adjuster and also Farms. They attend Pleasant View Church. Elliott is seeking election for a 3 year term.



Richard Rice and his wife, Vicki reside in Union Township. They have 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren. Dick cash grain farms. Rice has been involved with various organizations in the community and has been on the SWCD board for 3 years. He is seeking re-election.



Darryl Ricketts and wife, Ginny reside in Liberty township. They have a daughter, Tiffany and 10 step-grandchildren. Darryl cash grain farms. He is a member of the Farm Bureau and has been on the SWCD board for 9 years.

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Special points of interest:

- ✧ *Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet Tuesday, August 10*
- ✧ *SWCD election candidates have been chosen!*

SWCD Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Van Wert SWCD awards a \$500 scholarship to an individual furthering their education in an agricultural/environmental field of study.

This year the Board chose Tristin Miller as the recipient of the 2020-21 SWCD Scholarship.

He is the son of Tim and Jackie Miller and a 2018 graduate of Lincolnview High School. Tristin is currently enrolled at Wright State University Lake Campus studying Agriculture

Business Management.

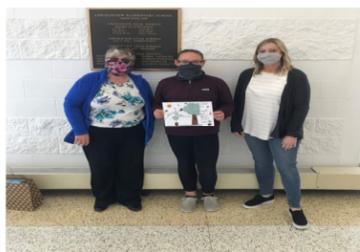
Upon graduation he wants his career to have a focus on helping farmers through managing their money and conservation practices in a leadership role.

Congratulations Tristin!



SWCD Poster Contest Winners

The District recently held a poster contest for students K-12. The topic for 2021 was titled “Healthy Forests=Healthy Communities” Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator congratulated the winners and presented certificates.



Lincolnview winner:
Raylee Sheeter 4th-6th grade



St. Mary's winners:
Hunter Burley K-1st grade and
Lauren Gross 2nd-3rd grade

These entries will be forwarded on to the State Poster Contest which is held during the summer of 2021. Posters selected from the State Contest will be forwarded on to the National Poster Contest.



Supervisor Election Notice

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 10, at Council on Aging, 220 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH.

Two members will be elected for a three year term of office. County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot.

1. Contact the office in writing requesting an absentee ballot.
2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 3:30 p.m. August 10.
3. Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To be eligible to vote, you must be of legal voting age (18 years) and reside or own land within the District. Van Wert SWCD is a legal subdivision of state gov-

ernment that provides natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The District is funded by the Van Wert County Commissioners and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The District is governed by a five member board of county residents.

Terrible Teasel By:Jack Martini, Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist

Whether it has been along a roadside, in a ditch, on a spoil pile, in a vacant lot, or invading a CRP field, we have all seen them. Common teasel, cutleaf teasel, and fuller's teasel are weeds that have taken over many parts of Northwest Ohio. The plant thrives in coarse, wet, heavy clay soils and recently disturbed areas. It takes over and creates a monoculture by covering the ground surface with its rosettes, blocking sunlight from reaching other plants while preventing seeds of desired species from making soil contact.

Teasel seeds have a remarkable ability to lay in a seed bank for extended periods of time while remaining viable, waiting for the current cover to disappear so they can sprout and dominate the area. Once sprouted, they spend a full year growing their rosette, which grows wide and tight to the soil surface. The second year of growth is often dedicated to growing a fibrous stalk from the middle of the rosette, this is referred to as “bolting”. This stalk can reach heights of 8 feet. Some plants remain as a rosette for several years before growing leaves big enough to absorb the appropriate amount of energy required to bolt. At the top of this stalk are the flowers, some plants having many, which typically bloom June through September. Each seed head can have over 800 seeds, and an individual plant produces over 3,000 seeds on average. After going to seed, the flower and stalk dies, dries up to a light brown, and can stay standing for several years creating an aesthetically unpleasant cover. Seeds are transported by animals, water, and improperly cleaned vehicles and equipment. The aggressive nature of this plant makes it a hassle for landowners who have ditches, riparian areas, spoil piles, wet lowlands, grassy uplands, or conservation covers. This weed does very well in our soil types, and out competes our desirable native species. Though it grows thick and some songbirds eat the seeds, teasel provides very low-quality cover and food for our wildlife.

The best way to manage teasel is to keep your problems small and localized. It is much easier to remove spots of teasel, versus a field of it. Once teasel becomes well established, it pollutes the seedbank with an ultra-durable seed that retains its viability for extended periods of time and can germinate at any time during the growing season. To effectively remove teasel from an area, an ongoing process of mowing, herbicide application, and tillage is required. In the late winter or early spring, locate areas where teasel is growing. Use the dead flowers and stalks from the year before to help you find rosettes which will need to be treated with herbicide during the spring, preferably before May. Mowing prior to applying herbicide may be necessary to achieve adequate herbicide coverage. Be sure to properly clean equipment on site after mowing so you do not spread teasel seed to other areas of your property. A follow up mowing during the summer will cut teasel plants before they develop a flower and seed head. This will result in the plant using what's left of its energy to regrow the stalk and will likely not develop a flower or seed head. Landowners with CRP contracts should follow NRCS mowing guidelines. After mowing in the summer, tilling will help disrupt the roots of established teasel plants, disturb the soil, and encourage teasel seeds in the seedbank to germinate. A second herbicide application during the fall, preferably October/November, will kill any rosettes that have sprouted during the summer after the mowing and discing operations. A successful fall herbicide treatment is the most effective step in ridding teasel. This process may need to be repeated over the span of another growing season for areas that have severe infestations. Replanting the area with a desired species seed mix is recommended to prevent teasel regrowth. It is wise to always be on the lookout for teasel rosettes and spot spray and mow when they are discovered.



Teasel infestations can be overwhelming, but it is not impossible to rid this monster from your property. All that's required is time and proper planning. If you are struggling with teasel on your property or have questions about how to manage this weed, please contact me.