

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

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2023 Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891
Telephone (419) 238-9591
Fax (419) 238-5323
Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

Van Wert Ag Banquet to be held on August 15, 2023

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 15 at Life House Church, 719 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 one SWCD supervisor to the five member Board of Supervisors.

Dinner will be catered by Street-light Catering 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 Bruce Kennedy.

There will be no charge for the dinner this year, however you will still need to RSVP to the SWCD office. Deadline to RSVP is **August 1**. Call 419-238-9591 or email Becky at rebekkah.dowler@nacdn.net



Supervisor Election Notice

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 15, at Life House Church, 719 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH.

2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 4:00 p.m. August 15.
3. Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

owners 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.

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

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 government that provides natural resource management assistance to county land-

1. Contact the office in writing requesting an absentee ballot.

Inside this issue:

Scholarship Awarded	2
Poster Contest Winners Announced	2
Election Candidates	2
H2Ohio/Hay Buffer	3
Events Calendar	4

Special points of interest:

- ✧ Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet Tuesday, August 15
- ✧ SWCD election candidates have been chosen!
- ✧ Lake Erie Trip– September 11

The Van Wert SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

Board of Supervisors

Craig Pohlman, Chairman
Elliot Callow, Vice-Chair
Darryl Ricketts, Secretary
Dave Kemler, Fiscal Agent
Ryan Mohr, Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

Becky Dowler, Office Manager
Seth Owens, District Technician
Kady Fuhrmann, Special Program Tech.
Tammy Campbell, Education Coord.

NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist
Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer
Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech
Jeff Carlson, PF Farm Bill Biologist

Events Calendar

- July 4 Office Closed—Independence Day
- July 12 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
- July 17-Aug. 15 Election Period
- August 9 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
- August 15 SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet
- August 17&22 H2Ohio Meeting at Willow Bend– 9AM
- Sept. 4 Office Closed—Labor Day
- Sept. 11 Lake Erie Trip
- Sept 13 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
- Sept 26 &28 Cows and Plows

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

SWCD Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Van Wert SWCD awards a scholarship to an individual furthering their education in an agricultural/environmental field of study. The amount given this year was \$1,000. This year the Board chose Hanna Scaggs as the recipient

of the 2022-23 SWCD Scholarship. Hanna is a 2020 graduate of Lincolnview Highschool and is currently attending Wright State University Lake Campus. Hanna's future plans are to graduate this next spring with a degree in technical and applied

studies in agricultural. With this degree she is wanting to return back to Van Wert County. She is wanting to find a job that works with her degree and that is able to help the people of the community. Congratulations Hanna!

Stewardship Week

The Van Wert SWCD was formed to assist people in Van Wert County to protect and conserve the natural resources for all residents by providing technical, educational, and financial assistance. During Stewardship Week, the Van Wert SWCD provided a Swamp White Oak tree seedling to each fourth grade student in the county along with a presentation regarding the importance of planting trees. Also, our education coordinator, Tammy Campbell, visited schools to give presentations on the importance of being a good steward in their community. Through the generous grant we have received from the Van Wert County Foundation we have been able to provide these tree seedlings and provide each fifth grade class with the book "Water", a National Geographic Kids book, along with other supplies for our area students.

SWCD Poster Contest Winners

The District recently held a poster contest for students K-12. The topic for 2023 was titled "One Water". Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator, congratulated the winners and presented certificates. These entries will be forwarded

on to the State Poster Contest which is held during the summer of 2023. Posters selected from the State Contest will be forwarded on to the National Poster Contest. Thank you to everyone who participated!



Alan Delgado, Van Wert Local Schools, winner for grades 4th-6th



Jetta Merkle, Crestview, winner for grades 7th-9th

Meet the Candidates - Dave Kemler and Nick Bauer



Kemler and wife, Marla reside in Hoaglin Township. They have 2 sons, Ethan and Zavier. The Kemler's attend Lifehouse Church in Van Wert. He farms with his father and son. He is a member of Farm Bureau, has

served on the SWCD Board for 9 years and is seeking re-election.



Bauer is a 2012 graduate of Crestview High School and a 2015 graduate of UNOH where he got his Associates Degree in Farm Business Management. He and his wife, Lindsey, were recently blessed with their first child, Easton. They live south of Convoy. He works alongside his grandfather, father and sister on their family farm growing corn and soybeans. He is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church. He and his wife enjoy spending time with family and being outdoors.

Van Wert County's Working Lands Hay Buffer Program

The Working Lands Hay Buffer program will be returning to Van Wert County for new sign-ups or reenroll-ments, effective immediately. The basic idea of this program is to allow landowners to plant a filter strip up to 300' from essentially any body of water and harvest the hay as they see fit. The state of Ohio started this program in early 2019 with the idea that harvesting the hay would keep the vegetation growing and continually absorbing nutrients that may otherwise run-off into the water. Sign-ups can begin anytime, and seed-ing would start in the fall. Call Seth Owens at (419) 238-9591, or stop in to the Van Wert Soil & Water office to sign-up or to inquire further.

H2Ohio Update

H2Ohio will be opening enrollment this fall for a new 3-year contract! The standards and practices have been updated. This program is beneficial and something all Ohio WLEB (Western Lake Erie Basin) farmers should consider.

Please join us from 9-11 am on **AUGUST 17th OR AUGUST 22nd** for a breakfast meeting at Willow Bend where we will be hosting an in-depth informational meeting about the updated standards and the sign-up process for the new contracts. Please call/email Kady to RSVP for one of the meeting dates **BY AUGUST 1st**. (419) 238-9591 or kaidlyn.fuhrmann@nacdn.net

Lake Erie Tour Day

Join the Van Wert SWCD for an educational tour about Lake Erie.

We have an entire day planned to learn about Harmful Algal Blooms and tour multiple destinations on Lake Erie.

This experience will teach us how our actions, mixed with the environment, affects the lake and over all water quality.

Day Activities:

- Harmful Algal Bloom talk with Expert
- Lunch on Gibraltar Island
- Tour of Gibraltar Island
- Aquatic Science Cruise
- Tour of the Aquatic Visitor Center and Water Quality Lab

Trip Includes:

- **All Transportation**
- Bus transportation from Van Wert to Catawba Island and back
- Ferry and island transportation during tour
- **Food**
- Lunch and Dinner will be provided

Register by **Sept. 1st** with a \$10 registration fee.

To register for the Lake Erie Tour

Contact Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District

Call: 419-238-9591

Email: kaidlyn.fuhrmann@nacdn.net

Limited spots available!!