

October—December, 2020

Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891

Telephone (419) 238-9591

Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

New H2Ohio Technician in Van Wert

Kate Myers is the Van Wert County SWCD H2Ohio Special Projects Technician. Originally from Eaton, Ohio (Preble County), Kate and her husband Drew moved to Van Wert in May 2019 to Drew's hometown. Kate graduated with a Master of Education in Agricultural and Extension Education from Ohio State University in 2020 and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Ohio State University in 2018. Kate spent 5 years on the Ohio State University Varsity Women's Track and Field team where she competed in the hammer and discus throw.

Her work experience during her time at Ohio State includes serving as a graduate research associate assisting faculty in their duties with research, mentoring undergraduate students, and assisting teaching courses. She spent two summers with the Ohio State Athletics "Bucks Go Pro" and "Bucks Go Pro 2.0" internship programs for student athletes where she learned about athletic facilities management her first summer and worked with RCO Limited (Raising Cane's Ohio) during the second summer in the program. In the spring of 2020, Kate student taught high school agricul-

ture at Wayne Trace High School in Haviland, Ohio with Lori Heiby.

Kate's passion for conservation and soil science was discovered and shaped in part from her internship experience working for her brother, Matt Deaton and Deaton Soil Services, LLC in Eaton, Ohio. "My experience working with Matt really opened my eyes to the ways soil science principles learned in class and in FFA have such a huge part in our daily lives through septic design. Additionally, how important it is to communicate to landowners and individuals how proper septic systems (and other conservation practices) are important for sustainably taking care of our land. There is no "one size fits all" septic system for each home or conservation plan or set of practices for each farm, producer or individual, and I am really enjoying learning and talking to producers about what they are doing to reduce runoff and improve their operations for both them and the environment." Following the completion of the H2Ohio Program, Kate would like to continue pursuing a career in conservation or as a high school agriculture teacher.

New Office Manager in Van Wert Office

We would like to welcome new Office Manager Becky Dowler to our Van Wert office. Becky resides in Van Wert County with her husband John and 2 kids Adyson (15), and Zander (8). Becky is originally from Carlisle, Ohio and moved to Convoy with her husband to his home town in 2006. Becky holds a Bachelor's degree from Wright State University in Communications with a minor in Marketing. She keeps busy with her kids sports schedules and spending time with friends and family.

Becky will be replacing Julie Buggle who has worked for the Van Wert SWCD for 32 years. Julie is looking forward to her retirement in hopes of traveling and spending more time with her 3 kids and 7 grandchildren. Julie has been a true asset to the district and will certainly be missed by many. We wish her the best in her retirement.

Inside this issue:

Election Notice	2
Election Candidates	2
Milk Weed Collection	3
H2Ohio Update	3
Calendar of Events	4

Special points of interest:

- ✧ *Help save the Monarch Butterfly's by saving milkweed plants*
- ✧ *Election candidates*
- ✧ *Election notice*

And the SWCD Election Candidates Are....



David Kemler

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. He is a member of Farm Bureau, has served on the SWCD Board for 6 years and is seeking re-election.



Kevin Heffelfinger

Heffelfinger resides in Liberty Township. He farms 1000 acres with his brother Mike. Heffelfinger attends Ohio City Methodist Church. He is the Secretary of the Farm Focus Committee and a member of the Farm Bureau.

Supervisor Election Notice

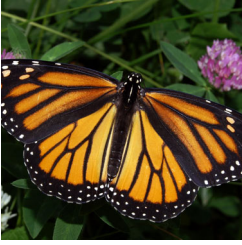
The Van Wert SWCD will be holding an election only this year due to the restrictions with Covid 19. 1 member will be elected for a 3 year term of office. County residents and landowners have 2 options for casting a ballot.

1. Contact the office in writing beginning October 26, 2020 requesting an absentee ballot. All ballots must be received by December 8, 2020.
2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 3:30 p.m. on December 8, 2020.

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 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. This District is governed by a five member board of county residents.

Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection Runs Sept 1 –Oct. 30



Due to the drastic decline in monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) populations, the Ohio

Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts are again seeking public involvement to collect common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods from established plants September 1 through October 30. This is an annual event and we hope you can participate!

The seeds will be used to establish new plantings and additional habitat for the monarch butterfly throughout the buckeye state. These future plantings will increase the food source for the caterpillar stage.

Seed pods from common milkweed should be collected **ON-**

LY WHEN THE PODS ARE DRY AND BROWN-GREY in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. The seeds in green pods will not be viable and won't be able to be used. Be patient and don't collect too soon!

It is best to collect pods into paper bags. Avoid using plastic bags because they can allow mold to develop. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking the handling pods. Ideally, it is recommended to leave at least 50 percent of the seed crop at a given site to allow for natural recruitment and reeneration of the native population the next growing season. There are situations where total collection can occur ie. If the field or area will be mowed

completely or the area will be converted for crop or development. A collection container is located outside the door of the Van Wert SWCD, 1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert.

For more information on milkweeds refer to this video!
<http://u.osu.edu/beelab/milkweed-seed/>



H2Ohio Update

178 producers in Van Wert County have signed up for the H2Ohio program with more than 104,000 acres enrolled across the county. The Van Wert SWCD would like to thank all producers in the program for their cooperation in getting their applications and contracts completed.

H2Ohio Program Timeline:

Now through October 31st: submit Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMPs) to Kate for approval.

These plans must be approved by the Board of Supervisors at the December board meeting so be sure to allow for enough time for any possible corrections. The sooner the better!

Now through Summer 2021: implementation of 2021 BMPs. See below for which BMPs can be started this fall.

BMPs that can start this fall that fall under the 2021 crop year:

- Variable Rate Phosphorus Application
- Subsurface Phosphorus Placement
- Conservation Crop Rotation (Small Grains and Forages)
- Drainage Water Management structures

All remaining H2Ohio BMPs can be implemented beginning Spring 2021.

Be sure to send Kate all necessary records of practices according to the specification sheets. If you have any questions, call Kate at the office, stop in, or send her an email at katelyn.myers@nacdn.net.



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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #80004
Wapakoneta, OH

Board of Supervisors

Craig Pohlman, Chairman
Darryl Ricketts, Vice-Chair
Dave Kemler, Secretary
Dick Rice, Fiscal Agent
Kris Young, Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

Becky Dowler, Office Manager
Seth Owens, District Technician
Kate Myers, Special Program Technician
Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock , District Conservationist
Tinina Hale—Civil Engineer
Noel Morris—Soil Conservation Tech
Jack Martini—PF Farm Bill Biologist

Upcoming Dates and Events

<i>October 12</i>	<i>Columbus Day—Office Closed</i>
<i>October 14</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>October 21</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>November 1</i>	<i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Veteran’s Day—Office Closed</i>
<i>November 10</i>	<i>Special SWCD Board Meeting 8 am</i>
<i>November 18</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>November 26/27</i>	<i>Thanksgiving—Office Closed</i>
<i>December 9</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>December 16</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Christmas—Office Closed</i>
<i>January 1</i>	<i>New Year’s—Office Closed</i>

