149 in Attendance at 71st Annual Meeting and Banquet

The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District held their 71st Annual Banquet at the Coshocton County Career Center Thursday evening, October 17, 2013. 149 area residents and special guests were in attendance. A baked steak dinner served by Fresno Methodist Ladies preceded the meeting. The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission held an election for two supervisors elected to the Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors. Kristy Leindecker and Greg Waters were elected and will each serve a three year term starting January 1, 2014.

Author Paul Stutzman from Berlin, Ohio was the evening’s guest speaker. Mr. Stutzman has written three books: *Hiking Through, Biking Across America, and The Wanderers.* He shared a message of hope and inspiration with the audience.

Coshocton SWCD sponsored the Coshocton County Junior Fair Hay Show and recognized the winners from the 2013 County Fair. Class winners were: Alfalfa Hay – Ryan Greten, son of Mike and Kerrie Greten, This-N-That 4-H Club; Grass Hay – Michaela Greten, daughter of Mike and Kerrie Greten, This-N-That 4-H Club; Light Mixed Hay – Cameron Mizer, son of Terry and Pam Mizer, Ridgewood FFA; and Mixed Hay (Heavy) – Jenna Wyler, daughter of John and Annette Wyler, Ridgewood FFA. Winners received a rosette and $10 cash award for attending the banquet.

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District announced the 2013 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year Award which went to Gaumer Springs Farm - Luke and Debbie Gaumer. Gaumer Springs Farm consists of 58 acres in White Eyes Township where they currently run 17 head of Angus cattle, with 10 breeding cows and a bull. Conservation practices on the farm include installing over 4,000 feet of fence, 1,823 feet of pipeline with 6 watering facilities, a prescribed grazing plan for 16.2 acres, a 40 foot stream crossing, and 1 spring development.

Debbie has been part owner of the Garden Patch Greenhouse since 2000. Luke and Debbie are long time members of the Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Society. Debbie serves on the Coshocton County Sr. Fair Board and is a Coshocton Is Blooming committee member. Luke and Debbie have a strong interest in educating young and old about the importance of agriculture. The Gaumers have one son, Logan, who is 26 and lives in Indiana. Congratulations to Gaumer Springs Farm for being named 2013 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year.

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**Annual Meeting and Banquet (continued from page 1)**

Delbert and Linda Sechler were recognized as the winner of the Coshocton SWCD’s Big Tree Contest. The winning “Big Tree” was a Red Oak which measured 198.5” in circumference with a vertical height of 95’ and an average crown spread of 87’.

Kristy Leindecker from the Coshocton IS Blooming Committee presented the City Big Tree Contest award for trees in the City of Coshocton. Mark Clark, unable to attend, was recognized for his Oak tree that measured 142” in circumference with a vertical height of 99 ‘and an average crown spread of 95.5’.

The winner of the Mystery Photo Contest, which was part of the SWCD’s display at the Coshocton County Fair, was Elizabeth Miller. Elizabeth was among 16 winning entries received. The mystery photo was of the Bruce and Patsy Bickle Farm in Adams Township.

The meeting adjourned after door prizes were drawn compliments of Alan Donaker Surveying, Auer Ace Hardware, Baker’s IGA, Century National Bank, Cheez Kake Bakery, Coshocton County Officials including Auditor Chris Sycks, Clerk of Courts Janet Mosier, Commissioner Gary Fischer, Commissioner D. Curtis Lee, Commissioner Dane Shryock, Recorder Susan Turner, Sheriff Tim Rogers, and Treasurer Janette Donaker, Coshocton Yard, Crowtown Pizza, Delta Ag-Dave Morrow, Earl’s Dari Drive-In, Farm Credit Mid-America, Frontier Power Company, Gerber & Sons, Inc., Hahn Oil, Inc., Medberry Marketplace, Ohio Ag of Millersburg, Pearl Valley Cheese and Peggy Sue’s Steak & Ribs.

Thank You to Endsley Agency and Home Loan Savings Bank for donating funds towards the banquet. We also appreciate plates, cups and napkins donated by Farm Credit Mid-America and fall decorations provided by The Garden Patch Greenhouse.

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**5th Grade Poster Contest Winners Announced**

Thank you to all 5th grade teachers and students who participated in the Annual 5th Grade Poster Contest sponsored by the Coshocton SWCD in conjunction with the SWCD’s fair display. Coshocton County 5th graders prepared entries in the 2013 contest titled “Have You Eaten Any Soil Lately?” after a classroom presentation on how everything we eat can be traced back to a plant grown in the soil. Eighteen (18) class-winning posters were on display for the fair-going public to vote to determine the overall winners. Nine hundred eighty-four (984) total votes were cast at the fair.

Zach Balo of Keene Elementary School placed 1st, Ozlynn Albertson of Keene Elementary School placed 2nd, and Evelyn Hire of Coshocton Elementary School placed 3rd. Zach won a $25 cash award and a pizza party for his class, Ozlynn won a $15 cash award and an ice cream party for her class, and Evelyn won a $10 cash award and an ice cream party for her class.

Schools participating in this year’s contest included Coshocton Elementary School, Ridgewood Middle School, and River View Schools: Conesville, Keene, Union and Warsaw Elementary.

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2013 Big Tree Winner
Supervisor Knox Porteus (L) with Linda and Delbert Sechler

2013 Jr. Fair Hay Show Winners
(L-R) Michaela Greten, Ryan Greten, Supervisor Adrian Garber, Jenna Wyler and Cameron Mizer

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1st - Zach Balo
Keene Elementary

2nd - Ozlynn Albertson
Keene Elementary

3rd - Evelyn Hire
Coshocton Elementary
**2013 Affiliate Members**

**Diamond**
Coshocton Grain Company

**Platinum**
Clow Water Systems
Coshocton County Beacon
Gerber & Sons, Inc.

**Gold**
Century National Bank
Coshocton Co. Chamber of Commerce
Coshocton Co. Sheriff Tim Rogers
Endsley Insurance Agency
Larry A. Frye Farms
The Garden Patch Greenhouse
J D Equipment, Inc.

Jim McKinney - TSI Vendor - EQIP
Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout
Thousand Oaks Farms
TMK Bakersville
TMK Valley Propane
Tumblin Farms - David Tumblin
William Albert, Inc.

**Silver**
Addy’s Mower Sales
Baird Concrete
Cosh. Co. Commissioner D. Curtis Lee
Coshocton County Farm Bureau
Ray Griffith
Home Loan Savings Bank
Jacobs Vanaman Agency, Inc.
Muskingum Valley Woodland Services
Bob Nelson - Stoffer Real Estate
Ohio Heritage Bank
Owens & Manning Attorneys
Scheetz Marketing

**Bronze**
Alan Donaker Surveying
Bluck & Sons, Inc.
Coshocton Co. Auditor Chris Sycks
Cosh. Co. Clerk of Courts Janet Mosier
Coshocton Co. Engineer Fred Wachtel
Coshocton Co. Recorder Susan Turner
Coshocton Co. Sportsmen Assn.
Cosh. Co. Treasurer Janette Donaker
Fender’s Fish Hatchery
Fischer Funeral Home
Frontier Power Company

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**Cover Crop Walk Planned for December 17th**

The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District is planning a Cover Crop Walk on Tuesday, December 17, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will begin our meeting at the Roscoe Village Visitor’s Center parking lot. We will view Gerald and Judy Finlay’s soybean field with oat cover just under the bridge, caravan to Wen-Mar Farms’ soybean field with rye cover along US 36, and conclude our tour at Darr Farms looking at a soybean field with a pea/rye/radish mixture.

This is a good time to see the cover crops while they are still actively growing. We want to share the successful and not-so-successful results of local cover crop plantings. Landowners will be available to share their thoughts and goals for their cover crop acreage.

Darr Farms will sponsor lunch at the conclusion of our Cover Crop Walk. Reservations would be appreciated by Monday, December 16, so we can better plan for lunch. Please call 740-622-8087, ext. 4 or e-mail marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net.

We hope you will make plans to join us for this informal tour highlighting our aerial cover crop program.

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**Updates from NRCS**

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application deadline was November 15th for Fiscal Year 2014, however, applications are taken continuously throughout the year, and there may be a chance for additional funding throughout the year for some EQIP subaccounts. Contact Gina Schworm or Chuck Reynolds with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at 740-622-8087, Ext. 3 for more information about this program.

OSU Extension Coshocton County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are putting together a Grazing School for next spring. It will consist of three evenings, on March 13, 20, and 27, 2014. Various topics will include: Evaluating Your Resources - Soil, Water, Plants and Facilities; Grazing Systems and Contingency Plans for Weeds, Drought and Mud; Pasture Soil Fertility and Soil Health; Paddock Layout and Design; Livestock Fence and Water Systems; Extending the Grazing Season; and Forage Species Selection. Call OSU Extension’s Emily Adams at 740-622-2265 for more information.

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**Fall Foliage and Farm Tour a Success**

The Coshocton County offices of OSU Extension, Soil & Water Conservation District and Farm Service Agency thank everyone who participated in the 2013 Fall Foliage and Farm Tour and to the following hosts: The Animal Boutique and Villas, Lasting Adventures Taxidermy, Yellow Butterfly Winery, First Baptist Church in West Lafayette, the Troop Train Memorial, West Lafayette Museum, Bluck’s One-room School House, Patterson Farms and Derr Farm, Inc.

Many local people volunteer their time, energy and resources to ensure the success of the annual tour. This year was no exception. The 2013 tour brought over 1,300 people through the southeastern section of Coshocton County despite the rainy weather on Saturday. These participants represented 8 states and 27 Ohio counties. In fact, 25 percent of the participants registered reside outside of Coshocton County. What a wonderful way to draw individuals into Coshocton County and to feature and support local ag-based businesses and industries!

The 2014 tour will feature southwestern Coshocton County on October 18 and 19. If you have any comments, suggestions, or are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact Tammi Rogers at 740-622-2265.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Coshocton SWCD Newsletter is a publication to keep county residents informed on our SWCD program. Please phone the office at 622-8087, Ext. 4 if your address needs corrected or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Help us save $$$ - Receive your newsletter via e-mail. Contact marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Useful Websites

Coshocton Co. Auditor - http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/agency/auditor - Online Forms, Tax Reduction Programs, Tax Rates
Coshocton Co. Auditor - http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/agency/auditor - Property Search, Real Estate Details
Coshocton Co. GIS - http://gis.coshoctoncounty.net - Up to Date Property Search
Coshocton Co. Health Department - http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/agency/health - Well and Septic Permit Information, Health Information
Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District - http://www.coshoctonswcd.org - SWCD programs and events, Technical and Engineering Assistance
Maptech Mapserver - http://mapserver.maptech.com - Longitude/Latitude, TOPO maps
Ohio Department of Agriculture - http://www.ohioagriculture.gov - Ohio Ag, Exotic Animals
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation - http://www.ofbf.org - Ag Policy
ODNR Division of Forestry - http://ohiodnr.com/forestry - State Forest Maps, Find a Certified Consulting Forester, Invasive Plants
ODNR Division of Water - http://ohiodnr.com/water/maptechs/wellogs/appNEW - Water Well Log Search
ODNR Division of Wildlife - http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife - Fishing, hunting, trapping
OSU Extension Coshocton Co. - http://coshco.osu.edu - Ag & Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Family & Consumer Sciences, Master Gardener, Community Development
OSU Ohioline - http://ohioline.osu.edu - Fact Sheets and Brochures
US Department of Agriculture - http://www.usda.gov - Farm Bill Programs, FSA, NRCS

Calendar of Events

November 28-29
Office Closed-Thanksgiving

December 10
Farmers Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

December 11
SWCD Board Mtg 10:00 a.m.

December 25
Office Closed-Christmas Day

January 1
Office Closed-New Year's Day

January 8
SWCD Board Mtg 10:00 a.m.

January 14
Farmers Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

January 20
Office Closed-ML King Jr. Day

February 11
Farmers Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

February 12
SWCD Board Mtg 10:00 a.m.