



Conservation In Action

**Fall
2023**

Your
Soil & Water
Conservation
Specialists!

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

SWCD Supervisors

Beth Mullen - Chairperson
Greg Waters - Vice Chair
David Lapp - Secretary
Kristy Leindecker - Fiscal Agent
Adrian Garber - Treasurer

NRCS Staff

Josh Britton - District Conservationist
Mathew Hursey - Resource Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Deb Bigelow - District Administrator
Samantha Daugherty - Admin. Assistant
Ryan Medley - District Technician
Zach Wallace - District Technician
Michaela Savage - District Technician

Mission: Providing leadership to educate and assist landowners in the wise management of our natural resources.

217 in Attendance at 81st Annual Meeting and Banquet

The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District held their 81st Annual Meeting and Banquet at Lake Park Pavilion Thursday evening, October 19, 2023. Over 200 area residents and special guests were in attendance. A buffet dinner was served by Theo's Restaurant of Cambridge preceding the meeting.

The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission held an election for two supervisors to be elected to the Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors. Travis Gregorich, David Lapp, and Jordan Olinger were candidates for two board seats. David Lapp and Jordan Olinger were elected for a three year term starting January 1, 2024.



Supervisor Greg Waters with Outstanding Conservation Farmers Mike & Janet Rettos

Supervisor Adrian Garber was recognized by the Coshocton County Commissioners and United States Senator Vance's office for his dedicated years of service, and both presented him a proclamation. SWCD board members presented an engraved clock to Adrian. Adrian served 7 terms, or 21 years, as a board member. Board and staff members appreciate his dedication to the SWCD program.

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District announced the 2023 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year Award which went to Mike and Janet Rettos. The Rettos farm consists of 310 acres and is located in Lafayette Township. The Rettos family raises 30 cow/calf pairs which graze on 50 acres of pasture. They also utilize 80 acres of hay and row crops. Conservation practices installed on the Rettos farm include: two waste storage structures

Dale Arnold, Director of Energy, Utility, and Local Government Policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation was the featured speaker for the evening. Mr. Arnold shared information about energy generation and how local communities need to stay involved in the process.

Retiring Board



Blair Farms, winner of the Big Tree Contest, was also the farm used for the Mystery Photo Contest



with roofs and cover, two heavy use pads, two watering facilities, 150' of pipeline, 215' of underground outlet, and an active Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. The Rettos farm hosted a stop on the 2023 County Officials Tour and a Pasture Walk in June of 2022. Mike and Janet are Coshocton Co. Farm Bureau members and attend the Grace United Methodist Church. They have 3 grown children and ten grandchildren. Congratulations to Mike & Janet Rettos on being named the 2023 Outstanding Conservation Farm of the Year.

The Friend of Conservation Award is presented to honor a member of the agricultural community who has exhibited exemplary support of the local soil and water program. David Marrison was presented the third such award highlighting his time as the ANR Educator for the Ohio State Cooperative Extension Service, Coshocton County from 2018-2022. David excelled at communicating and promoting agriculture information through many events and a weekly newsletter. David accepted a state-wide position with OSU Extension

in 2022 and continues to live in Coshocton County with his wife Emily.

Coshocton SWCD sponsored the Coshocton County Junior Fair Hay Show with Cassie Putt from TMK Bakersville serving as the Official Judge. 2023 Hay Show winners recognized were: Shiloh Kinzel, daughter of Andy and Missy Kinzel, Mohawk Valley 4-H Club won the Alfalfa and Clover Hay classes; Izabel Mourer, daughter of Matt and Melissa Mourer, Ridgewood FFA won the Grass Hay class; Sarah Thomas, daughter of Josh and Mary Thomas, Chili Challengers 4-H Club won the Light Mixed Hay class; and Weston Lautenschleger, son of Jay and Amanda Lautenschleger, Above and Beyond 4-H Club won the Mixed Hay. Winners received a rosette and a \$25 cash award for each class.

Blair Farms was recognized as the winner of Coshocton SWCD's Big Tree Contest. The tree was nominated by his grandchildren. The winning Big Tree was a Sycamore which measured 275.5" in circumference with a vertical height of 130' and an average crown spread of 120.5'. Tom Heading from the Coshocton is Blooming Committee presented the City Big Tree award for trees entered in the City of Coshocton. The winning tree was an Oak tree located at the Bob Nelson residence which measured 128" in circumference with a vertical height of 114' and average crown spread of 81'.

The winner of the Mystery Photo Contest, which was part of the SWCD's display at the Coshocton County Fair, was Pat Tumblin. Her name was among 48 correct entries received. The mystery photo was of the Blair Farm in Virginia Township.

Deb Bigelow was recognized for her 34+ years of SWCD service with the last 15 years spent at Coshocton SWCD. Board of Supervisors and staff members presented her with a handmade, engraved wooden plaque. Bigelow plans to retire at the end of December with Ryan Medley taking over the District Administrator duties. The meeting adjourned after door prizes were drawn.



*Weston Latenschleger, Supervisor
Adrian Garber, Sarah Thomas,
and Shiloh Kinzel*

Administrator Deb Bigelow to Retire

As most of you know, I am planning to retire at the end of December. I have worked for Soil and Water Conservation for 34+ years and it's time to step away and see what else life has to offer. What a privilege it has been to be a part of this organization. To our Board of Supervisors, community members, the partners that volunteer and support our events, and the staff I get to work with day to day; it has been a sincere honor to work with all of you. Words can never express my appreciation for the support, trust, and encouragement you have given me since I came here in 2008. I could not have chosen a better place or group to work with



Board of Supervisors with Deb Bigelow

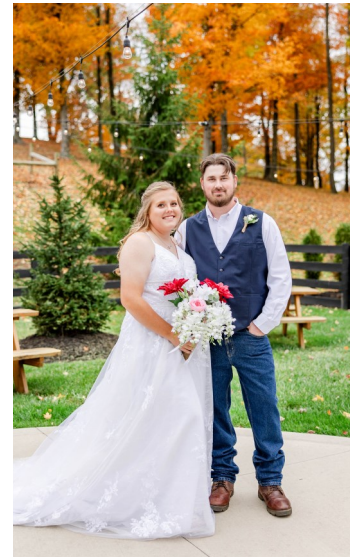
through the end of my career. My plans are to stay in Coshocton County; this has become home to me. I plan to stay active in our community and continue to support our important agricultural community. I'm excited for Ryan Medley to move into the District Administrator position beginning January 1, 2024. Ryan's experience and knowledge of the SWCD program will continue the strong tradition of conservation assistance our office has provided for the past 81 years. With Zach, Samantha, and Michaela by his side, this program will continue to grow and flourish.

Again, thank you to SWCD Board and staff members for all your support. Wishing you all continued success!

Michaela Savage newest SWCD staff member

Please welcome Michaela (Greten) Savage as a District Technician on the SWCD staff. Michaela served as an intern in the SWCD office for 3 consecutive summers while attending Wilmington College where she graduated in December of 2022 with a Bachelors in Science with a concentration in Agribusiness. Michaela comes from a farming background where her family raises beef cattle, crops and hay in the Fresno area. She was active in FFA at River View and earned her State FFA Degree in 2018 and American FFA Degree in 2020. Michaela married Austin Savage on October 21, and they reside in the Fresno area.

Michaela will work with Ryan Medley and Zach Wallace to assist landowners with conservation practices and concerns. As Ryan moves into the District Administrator position, she will also take over part of the education presentations when Deb Bigelow retires. Please welcome Michaela as you call the office or she visits your farm or classroom. We are proud to have her as a full time staff member.



2023 Affiliate Members

Diamond

Coshocton County Beacon
Coshocton Grain Company
Eastern Ohio Ag
Farm Credit Mid-America
Judge Tim & Daphne France

Platinum

Heritage Cooperative
McWane Ductile - Ohio
Millwood Lumber
Pony Field Farm LLC

Gold

Cosh. Co. Chamber of Commerce
Coshocton County Farm Bureau
Coshocton Foundation

Darr Farms LLC

Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout and Family
Endsley Insurance Agency
Harold's Equipment, Inc.
Hidden Spring Farm - Tim Rogers
Home Loan Savings Bank
Jim & Gail Piper
Larry A. Frye Farms
Lynn Wells - In Memory
of Ray Griffith

Owens & Manning, Attorneys
Peoples Bank
Seed Consultants - Lance Weaver
Sturtz Farm - Larry & Maureen Sturtz
The Garden Patch Greenhouse
Thousand Oaks Farms
TMK Bakersville
Tumblin Farms -
David Tumblin Family
William Albert, Inc.
Wills Transport & Excavating

Silver

Baird Concrete
Charlie & Ruby Helmick
Cosh. Clerk of Courts Camila Graham
Cosh. Co. Engineer Fred Wachtel
Cosh. Co. Recorder Susan Turner
Coshocton Co. Sportsmen Association
Dane & Amy Shryock
Garber Brothers Farms LLC
Gary & Michelle Fischer
Gottlieb, Johnston, Beam & Dal Ponte
Jacobs Vanaman Agency, Inc.
Knotty Nuff Acres
Scheetz Marketing
Sheriff James A. & Lisa Crawford
Steven Oster

Bronze

Alan Donaker Surveying
Cosh. Co. Treasurer Janette Donaker
Frontier Power Company
Saylor Wealth Strategies

**Coshocton Soil and Water
Conservation District**
724 South Seventh Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
(740) 622-8087, ext. 4

 www.coshoctonswcd.org
facebook.com/CoshoctonSWCD



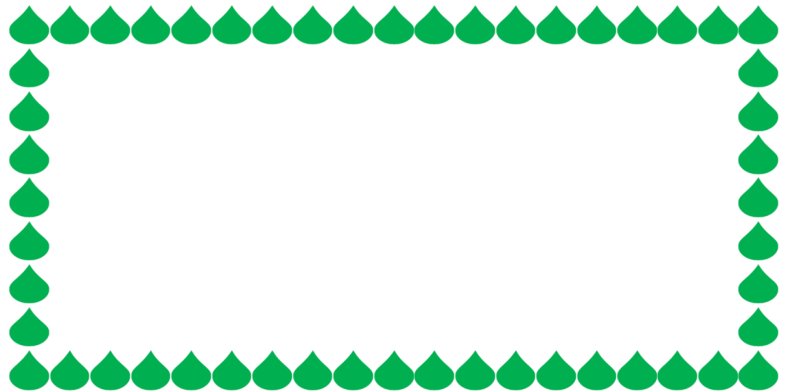
**Tree sale information will
be in the next issue!**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Coshocton SWCD Newsletter is a publication to keep county residents informed on our SWCD program. Please phone the office at (740)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 samanthadaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net



Coshocton SWCD and USDA-NRCS are equal opportunity employers and providers.

Coshocton County Fall Foliage & Farm Tour a Success



Seasonal weather brought colorful foliage for the 52nd Coshocton County Fall Foliage & Farm Tour which featured the townships of Bedford, Jefferson, Newcastle, and Tiverton. Over 1,700 people attended this year's tour. Attendees traveled from 7 states and 28 counties to participate in this year's event.

The tour is sponsored by OSU Extension, Coshocton SWCD, and the Farm Service Agency. These agencies would like to thank all the tour hosts and volunteers which made this year's tour a success. Thank you to the River View Community Park, Moving Mountains Ranch, Tiverton Timber, Twilight Farms (Dairy), Tiverton Grange, Young Farms (Beef), and Mohawk Dam for their hospitality.

The 53rd tour is tentatively scheduled for October 19-20, 2024 in the north-central area of the county.



Calendar of Events

November 23-24
Thanksgiving Holiday,
Office Closed

December 13
SWCD Board Mtg,
10:00 a.m.

December 22, 25
Christmas Holiday,
Office Closed

January 1
New Year's Day,
Office Closed

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

January 15
New Year's Day,
Office Closed

February-March
SWCD Tree Seedling Sale