



Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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61st SWCD Annual Meeting November 16

The 61st Annual Meeting of the SWCD will be held on Tuesday, November 16 at Vantage Career Center in Van Wert.

Grant's Catering will be providing the meal this year. Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

An election will take place to elect two supervisors to the five member SWCD board. The election will be open from 5:30—6:00 p.m. Voter registration tables will be set up along with voting booths. Candidate information will be available

prior to voting.

The meeting will begin at 7:15. Frank Gibbs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Sci-



entist will provide an interesting account of his recent trip to Ecuador. He visited farms and jungle around Puyo, then went to the Andes on the Columbian border, and on to the

remote lowland Amazon. Gibbs said that "Ecuador is like the 'Disneyland' of soils, plants, animals, insects, birds and people...there are so many eco zones to create an incredible diversity of life forms...I saw some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world and I saw erosion that was utterly unbelievable with people living on the edge of survival."

Awards and staff reports will be presented along with election results. There will be a drawing for door prizes.

Scholarship Winner Announced

Grace Klinger, daughter of Roger and Joy Klinger, is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from the Van Wert SWCD.

Grace, a 2009 Crestview High School graduate, is currently enrolled at Wright State University in Dayton studying Biology / Chemistry. She is studying the scientific field of genetic modifications in agriculture, and would

like to work with developing cross breeds of plants or bacteria to make new fuels or to better the foods and materials we have. Grace is interested in using genetic modifications to make more efficient fuels to reduce pollution and reduce the use of non-renewable natural resources.

We congratulate Grace on receiving this award.



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Special points of interest:

- ✧ Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD 61st Annual Meeting, Tuesday, November 16
- ✧ Candidates for election will be announced in the next newsletter

New District Technician and WLEB Conservationist on Staff

The District recently filled the District Technician position, hiring Justin Wagner. He is originally from Botkins, Ohio and graduated from Botkins High School in 2005. He has an Associates degree from Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio in GIS and GPS (Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems). "I am really excited about joining the Van Wert Soil and Water Staff, and I look forward to working with the residents of Van Wert County." said Wagner.

Justin will be splitting his time with engineering, survey, and design and working with the education program going into the schools, and heading up the information / education program.

The District also filled the position of Western Lake Erie Conservationist by hiring Noel Morris. He grew up in Van Wert county on a family farm, and home educated through high school. He graduated from Rhodes State in Lima with an AAS in Civil Engineering Design

Technology and Concrete Technology. He started farming in 2004 and is currently operating a small farm with plans to expand while working with the District. "I am looking forward to using my college education and engineering/farming experience to benefit area farmers while working with the SWCD in Paulding, Mercer, and Van Wert County." said Morris.

Stop in the office and meet the new additions to our staff!

Voting Procedures for the Election

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the 61st Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Vantage Career Center, Van Wert, OH.

Two members will be elected for a three year term of office.

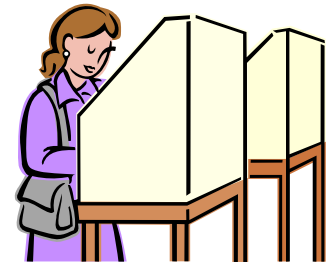
County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot.

1. Contact the office in writing 21 days prior to the election requesting an absentee ballot.
2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 4:00 p.m. Nov. 15, 2010.
3. Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 5:30 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 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 ODNR. The District is

governed by a five-member board of county residents. Each supervisor term is for a period of three years.



Farewell and Good Luck

Our best wishes go out to Ken Kotenbrock, District Technician for the last 9 years. Ken accepted a position May 10 with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service working as the District Conservationist in

Paulding County.

Also taking a position with NRCS is Logan Welker, Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist. Logan worked in Van Wert, Paulding and Mercer Counties for the last two

years. Logan will begin working at the Paulding NRCS office July 6 covering Van Wert and Paulding County Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Thank you for your service at the Van Wert SWCD !!!

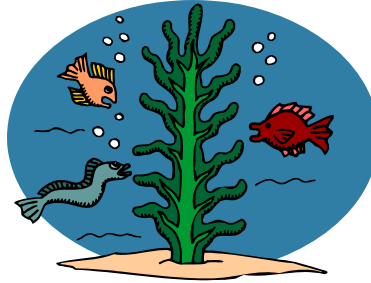
Oxygen Depletion in Ponds

Oxygen depletion in a pond happens when too much vegetation dies at one time and the bacteria that are breaking down the dead vegetation take the dissolved oxygen out of the water and suffocate the fish. A fish kill from oxygen depletion can happen in a number of different ways.

Summer Kill is a condition where all the vegetation dies during the summer. During the warmer months of the summer the pond or lake water is much warmer. The warmer the water is, the less dissolved oxygen it can hold, so when the vegetation dies during the summer there is a good chance that oxygen depletion can occur.

When chemically treating aquatic vegetation oxygen depletion is the

major concern. If the chemicals used are registered for aquatic use and are used at the proper application rate, the chance of killing fish due to chemical toxicity is very slim. On the other hand, if you kill



too much vegetation at one time the chance for a fish kill due to oxygen depletion is very likely.

There are a number of ways to avoid oxygen depletion. If the pond or lake you are chemically

treating has excessive weeds or algae, treat one half of the pond, wait 14-17 days and then treat the other half. This will give the half that has been treated time to recover from its loss of oxygen before treating the other half. Most fish kills due to oxygen depletion come from treating algae, since it is only recommended that weeds be removed from areas you wish to use for swimming or fishing. Partial treatments on weeds do not cause oxygen problems. If you are treating either filamentous or planktonic algae it is necessary to eliminate all of it and this is where you can run into trouble with oxygen depletion.

Aeration is very effective in eliminating oxygen depletion problems.

Park District Recreation Trail

Since 2001, when the board and staff conceived the idea for a Recreation Trail in Van Wert, work has been progressing.

Phase one, which was completed in 2009, is approximately 1.7 miles and begins at Richey Road and ends on the west side of State Route 224. Work is moving ahead on the second phase of the Recreation Trail, also 1.7 miles long, which will take the trail under State Route 224 along Balyeat Ditch and continue east along Maddox Creek and end at Smiley Park. When complete, the trail will provide a

safe corridor for young and old alike, linking Smiley Park and Camp Clay without having to cross 224 traffic.

Grant funds were received from Clean Ohio Fund, The Ohio Natureworks program, and ODOT Revenue sharing fund. With these grant program funds come requirements to secure local contributions to “match” their dollars. Local contributions have been coming in gradually. To those who have

contributed in the past, it is hoped that you feel the investment was a worthwhile one. To those who have not yet contributed, please give it some consideration. Donation sponsorship levels will be displayed on a charitable recognition wall and brick patio along the trail. Donations of \$150 and \$500 will be recognized by having a small brick (4” x 8”) and (12” x 12”) respectively engraved in their honor.

Donations should be made payable to: The Van Wert County Foundation-Park District Fund, 138 E. Main St., Van Wert, OH.



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

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Board of Supervisors

Bob Gehres, Chairman
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Craig Pohlman, Secretary
Dave Jones, Fiscal Agent
Ray Eickholt, Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

Julie Buggle, Office Manager
Justin Wagner, District Technician
Noel Morris, WLEB Conservationist

NRCS Staff

Steve Brown, District Conservationist
Rebecca Scarbrough, Field Engineer
Abigail Watson, Soil Conservationist

Items for Sale

Marking flags	(25)	\$ 4.00
	(50)	\$ 6.00
	(100)	\$ 9.00
Ring Buoys		\$40.00
Tile Probes		\$28.00
Soil CD's		\$10.00
Can Rinser		\$34.00
Manure Holding Pit Sign		\$ 5.00

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