

# Conservation Quarterly

Interested in the environment? The Envirothon may be for you!

The Ohio Area 4 Envirothon is a competitive, academic, outdoor team event for high school students which tests their knowledge in five areas: Aquatic Ecology, Current Environmental Issues (CEI), Forestry, Soils and Wildlife. The event is designed to stimulate and reinforce the student's interest in our environment and natural resources while encouraging cooperative decision making, team building and problem solving.

Students who participate gain a greater awareness of natural resources and environmental issues, a better understanding of interrelationships between living and non-living components of the environment, and an increased interest in further science study. The Envirothon is designed to take youthful curiosity one step farther, by getting involved and getting educated in environmental and natural resource management topics.



2022 Area 4 Envirothon winners for Centerville Highschool advanced to the State Envirothon competition held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in July of 2022 .

## FEBRUARY

### Inside this issue

Interested in the environment? .....	1
Highlights from the 2022 Annual Plan of Work .....	2
Upcoming OSU Extension Programs .....	3
Board Reorganization .....	3
Protect yourself from ticks .....	3
NRCS is accepting applications from landowners interested in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) .....	4
Contact Us .....	4

### Important Dates

3/8	SWCD Board Meeting
3/18	Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Application Period ends

### Help Wanted

We have an opening for an Urban Conservationist! Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

**Deadline is March 3, 2023**

## Envirothon continued

It is our hope as resource professionals to push the minds of young people to realize the interrelationship of all living things and to look toward the future of resource management.

Teams consist of five members from the same school and though each student contributes his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of the day is the TEAM score. Test questions and study material for the Envirothon are prepared and assembled by natural resource professionals from a variety of agencies, organizations, universities, and businesses. These individuals also staff the various resource stations at each competition. The Area IV Envirothon is one of five Area Envirothon's to be held throughout the state. From here, winners proceed to the State Envirothon where they are given the opportunity to advance to the National Envirothon.

The Area 4 Envirothon encourages young people to become action-oriented members of society and promotes the spirit of inquiry, competition, and excellence. Students will also meet professionals from a variety of federal, state, and local natural resource conservation and management agencies and organizations and private industry. Students will benefit from exposure to various approaches to environmental questions. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about environmental career opportunities and responsibilities.

This years Area 4 Envirothon will be held April 25th, 2023, at Camp Friedlander, Loveland, Ohio. If you are a high school student or teacher interested in competing in this year's event, please reach out to Broc Sehen at [Broc.sehen@usda.gov](mailto:Broc.sehen@usda.gov) or call the office at 740-852-4003. Check out [www.areaivenvirothon.org](http://www.areaivenvirothon.org) for more details about the event.

## Highlights from the 2022 Annual Plan of Work

Grassed waterways continued to be the number one best management practice installed in Madison County. More highlights from the Annual Plan of Work are listed below. Please visit [www.madisonsoilandwater.com](http://www.madisonsoilandwater.com) for information about our services, conserving natural resources, and upcoming events.

<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b> Healthy Soil and Water Sustainable Farmland Community Outreach		<b>Grassed Waterways</b> 14 <b>Drainage Complaints</b> 11 <b>House Lot Plan Reviews</b> 28	
	<b>New Agricultural Easements</b> 1 (40 acres) <b>Easement Inspections</b> 28 (6,788 acres) <b>Solar Projects</b> Under Construction 3 (7,262 acres)		<b>General Info Requests</b> 84 <b>Public Programs</b> 20 <b>Outreach/Audience</b> 867 <b>Website Visitors</b> 1,695



## Upcoming OSU Programs - Amanda Douridas, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator

OSU Extension has several program offerings that you may be interested in. Event details and registration links can be found at [go.osu.edu/agevents](https://go.osu.edu/agevents). You can also find webinars and statewide events at this link that are not highlighted below.

Feb 28 ♦ Der Dutchman Breakfast Series: Dr. Aaron Wilson on Weather and Climate.

Feb 28 ♦ Women in Ag Monthly Meet-Ups: Agroecosystem Dialog, Dr. Aaron Wilson

Mar 28 ♦ Der Dutchman Breakfast Series: Rural Development with Dr. Mark Partridge and Ag Law Update with Peggy Kirk Hall.

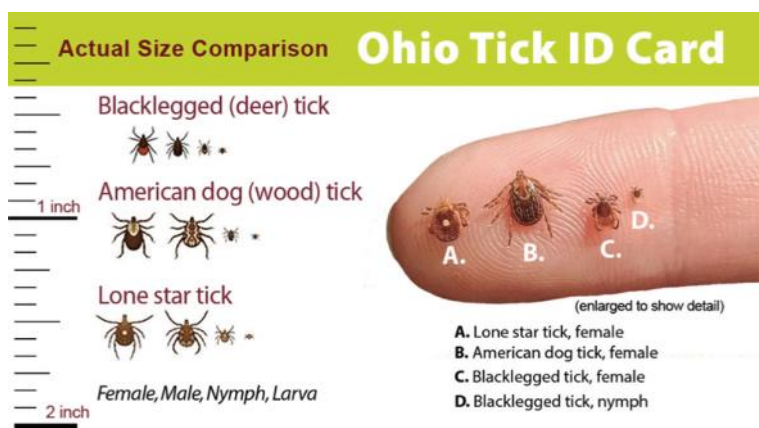
Mar 29 ♦ Women in Ag Monthly Meet-Ups: How to do On-Farm Research, Dr. Elizabeth Hawkins

## Madison SWCD Board of Supervisors Reorganize

On January 11, 2023, The Madison SWCD Board of Supervisors selected the following officers for 2023: Steve Davis - *Chair*, Jonathan Francis - *Vice-Chair*, and Bob Hunter - *Secretary/Treasurer*. David Junk and Nancy Denes-Sparks are members. Newly elected board member, Nancy Sparks, was sworn in by Madison SWCD Board Supervisor, Steve Davis.

The regular monthly Board meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Madison County Engineer Conference Room, 825 US HWY 42 NE, London, Ohio. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

## Protect yourself from ticks - Broc Sehen, Wildlife Specialist



The Ohio River Valley region is now a critical zone for "medically-relevant" tick spread, recently increasing from one tick to five tick species in Ohio and surrounding states. The Blacklegged (deer) tick and Lone star tick are associated with Lyme Disease and Alpha-gal syndrome, respectively. Environmental management decisions, such as increasing White-tailed deer populations and a changing climate, are driving the spread of these species throughout the area.

Take the time to learn about Ohio's tick species and how to protect yourself. You may be able to identify a tick you found by downloading the [tick-id card](#) from the Ohio Department of Health website. If you believe you have found a Blacklegged or Lone star tick, or if you are unable to identify the tick, you may send the tick to your local health department for identification.



## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from landowners interested in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from landowners interested in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to build on existing conservation efforts to increase operational efficiencies and environmental benefits as well as reduce overall input costs.

This year, Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding is providing additional financial opportunities for select conservation practices and enhancements to increase direct climate mitigation benefits. The deadline to receive fiscal year 2023 funding for both CSP-Classic and CSP-IRA is April 7, 2023.

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture and forestry production on their land.

"In addition to the environmental benefits, NRCS conservation programs are good for your operation's bottom line," said John Wilson, NRCS Ohio State Conservationist. "The Conservation Stewardship Program allows farmers to address resource concerns like nutrient management, soil quality and energy use, which can really impact an operation's margins."

Learn more about the CSP-Classic and CSP-IRA application process and eligible land use resource concerns on the [Ohio NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program](#) webpage. To learn more about other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit [Get Started with NRCS](#) or contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).

### Contact us

#### Board of Supervisors

Steve Davis, Chairman  
Jonathan Francis, Vice Chairman  
Bob Hunter, Treasurer  
David Junk  
Nancy Denes-Sparks

#### NRCS Staff

James Tillman, District Conservationist

#### SWCD Staff

Julia Cumming, Program Administrator  
Broc Sehen, District Technician  
Gail Wilson, Operations Coordinator

#### Madison Soil and Water Conservation District

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All NRCS/MSWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap. Please contact Gail Wilson at [gail.wilson@oh.nacdn.net](mailto:gail.wilson@oh.nacdn.net) if you wish to be put on or removed from our email list.

