

Conservation Quarterly

SWCD election and annual meeting highlights

Nancy Denes-Sparks won the election for supervisor at the Madison Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The election period was from August 22 – September 20, 2022, with voting available during the Madison SWCD Conservation Banquet at the Procter Center on September 15th. Her three-year term will begin on January 1, 2023. Suellen Radabaugh also ran.

The Madison SWCD Conservation Banquet is an annual meeting which celebrates accomplishments in local land stewardship. The meeting started with a guided tour of the Procter Farm and Facilities by Amy Boyd, Executive Director, and Ryan Wesolowski, Farm Manager. Thirty people attended the annual meeting, and three conservation awards were presented.

See Annual Meeting, next page



Attendants of the Madison Soil and Water Conservation District 75th Annual Conservation Banquet were treated to a guided tour of the Procter Center farm and chapel.



Inside this issue

SWCD election and annual meeting highlights	1-2
Don't Drip and Drive.....	3
Annual Planning Meeting	3
Milkweed Pod Collection	4
Contact Us.....	4

Important Dates

10/26 Madison SWCD Annual Meeting
11/08 Election Day (Office closed half day)
11/09 Board Meeting
11/11 Veteran's Day (office closed)
11/15 Milkweed Pod Collection Ends
11/24-11/25 Thanksgiving Days (office closed)



Annual Meeting

Howard Yoder was recognized for his outstanding service as a Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. After 14 years of working hand-in-hand with the Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff as well as leading by example with best management practices on his own farm, he decided to retire from the board.



Retiring Supervisor Howard Yoder (L) received a plaque for his 14 years of outstanding service on the board from Supervisor Steve Davis.

The meeting concluded with a [video slideshow](#) celebrating 75 years of soil and water conservation. For more information about conserving natural resources in Madison County, please contact the Madison SWCD at 740-852-4003 or visit madisonsoilandwater.com.



From L to R: Advisor Mike Harkleroad and West Jefferson High School students Olivia Foreman and Graham Gardner accepted the Top Rank Envirothon Team award from SWCD Supervisor, Bob Hunter.

Olivia Foreman, Jessica Fling, Tennessee Jennings, Grace Kitchen, Graham Gardner, and advisory Mike Harkleroad from West Jefferson High School were recognized as the Top Ranked County Team in the Envirothon Competition for Southwest Ohio. The Envirothon Competition is an academic, outdoor team event for high school students that tests their knowledge in five areas: Forestry, Aquatics, Current Environmental Issues, Soils, and Wildlife. They placed 15th out of 62 teams overall.

Steve Denes of Denes Farms LLC was recognized as Madison County Cooperator of the Year. He prevents soil erosion and thereby protecting his productivity in several key ways. He enrolled marginal farmland in the Conservation Reserve Program; he keeps his soil covered crop residue with no-till soybeans and minimal till corn; and recently, he installed 2,000 feet of grassed waterways on his farm.



Steve Denes of Denes Farms LLC was presented the Madison County Cooperator of the Year award by Brad Hughes, District Technician for his outstanding efforts to conserve the soil on his farm.



Don't Drip and Drive

Vehicle maintenance is important whether you take care of your own car or take it to a shop. Drips of leaking fluid that fall on hard surfaces like driveways and parking lots are easily washed into storm drains and ditches when it rains. There is no treatment or filtration between the drains and ditches and local rivers and streams! In Central Ohio, much of our drinking water comes from our local waterways, so keeping them clean and healthy is important.

What if your car is only leaking a little bit at a time? Even small leaks can create large problems for your vehicle and the environment. Depending on the fluid that's leaking, long term damage to the engine and other parts of your car are possible. Small leaks can also add up to a big problem for our waterways when everyone has the same "put it off" mentality. A single quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water. Therefore, it's important to make a habit of checking the surfaces where your car has been parked to see if it appears to be leaking fluid. A quick glance every time you move your car can prevent a host of automotive or environmental problems.

If you're a person who fixes your vehicle leaks at home, or does other regular car maintenance, take the following steps to keep local water clean and healthy:

- Perform maintenance and store materials indoors whenever possible.
- Use drip pans to contain fluids.
- Wash vehicles & parts where waste can be collected for disposal.
- Never dispose of fluids down a storm drain, dispose of them at an appropriate hazardous waste or recycling facility.
- Clearly label containers.
- Clean up spills & leaks immediately with absorbent material (kitty litter, rags, mop, etc.)
- Notify the fire department for large or hazardous spills.



A single quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.

- Locate outside storage areas away from storm drains and provide containment and cover from the rain.
- Keep lids to outdoor waste containers closed when not in use.

Annual Planning Meeting



The Madison Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors is requesting your input about how to address natural resource issues and set priorities for the Annual Plan of Operations. A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Madison County Engineer Conference Room, 825 US HWY 42 NE, London. Please call (740) 852-4003 or email Gail Wilson at gail.wilson@oh.nacdnet.net if you can attend.



Common milkweed pod collection ends November 15th

Did you know that milkweed is the most important plant for the monarch butterfly? Milkweed is referred to as a "host" plant for the monarch, meaning their survival is dependent on finding and utilizing these colorful native plants. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the Eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years.

To promote healthy populations of Monarchs the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative has an annual Milkweed pod collection that runs from September 15- November 15. Interested participants are asked to collect common milkweed pods from established plants and deposit them in the collection bin in the front of Madison SWCD office at 831 US HWY 42 NE, London, Ohio, from September 15 – November 15.



- ⇒ When collecting seed pods, it is best to pick them when they are dry and gray or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they are ready to be picked.
- ⇒ Put collected pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid plastic because of the risk of moisture accumulation.
- ⇒ Please clearly mark the county where pods were collected on each container along with the date of collection.
- ⇒ Do not pick pods when they are green. The seeds inside will not be viable.

Once collected, the pods will be processed with the help of prison horticultural programs and the seed planted in pollinator projects across Ohio. With your help, we will see our skies full of these amazing butterflies once again. For more information about this program or how to establish pollinator habitat on your own property, contact Broc Sehen, SWCD District Technician, at (740) 852-4003.

Contact us

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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.nacdnet.net if you wish to be put on or removed from our email list.

