

# Focus Newsletter

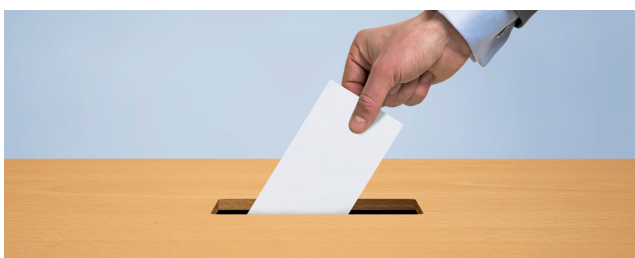
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## Annual Supervisor Election

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District's Supervisor Election is nearing. Tuesday November 15th marks the deadline for ballots to be received by our office.

This year serves as a historic one for our organization, as long-serving board supervisor, Ted Colflesh, retires from his position. Ted retires having served on the board for a whopping 36 years. Ted and wife, Jackie, own and operate JELAWR Farms in Brown Township. They practice soil conservation on their systematically drained land producing corn, soybeans, and wheat with conventional and reduced tillage systems. They also have a farrow-to-finish hog operation and a cow-calf herd. Ted served as a Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor since 1987, and he and his family attend Zion United Church of Christ in Delaware. Delaware SWCD will miss his insight, expertise and enthusiastic support for our programs and employees.

Current board member, Sue Cunningham, seeks re-election, and Darren Reitter and Brian Skinner round out the certified candidates seeking one of the two vacant seats on the ballot. Biographical information regarding each candidate and further election details can be found on our website ([Click Here](#)).



Incumbent seeking re-election Sue Cunningham



Certified Candidate Darren Reitter



Certified Candidate Brian Skinner

## Annual Milkweed Pod Round-up Under Way



The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative and Delaware SWCD are calling for Common Milkweed pods. Milkweeds are the only plant that the Monarch butterfly will lay eggs on. They also serve as a food source for Monarchs and other pollinator animals. The disappearance of Milkweed is a major contributor to the decline and endangerment of the Monarch butterfly across the United States. You can help Monarchs and other pollinators throughout Ohio by collecting common milkweed pods.

Drop off any collected pods to the green bin with a yellow lid located outside of our office at 557-A Sunbury Rd Delaware, Ohio 43015. Collection will occur now - October 31st.

### Collection Tips:

- Make sure it's Common Milkweed and not a similar look-a-like plant, like hemp dogbane
- Pods should be dry and gray or brown in colors
- Store Pods in a paper bag with the collection written on it
- Store pods in a cool, dry area until you are able to turn them in
- Don't collect all the pods off of a plant, leave some for natural dispersal

### Employee Highlight

Blake Holder is a Resource Conservationist at Delaware SWCD and enjoys being outside, hunting, fishing and going to Lake Erie. He is a coach for youth soccer in New Albany. He has helped on his families farms since he was little kid. Having been married since 2017, Blake enjoys spending time at home with his wife working on house projects together.



### Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

557 Sunbury Rd  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
740-368-1921



## Delaware County Fair successes

Staff members worked hard during the Delaware County Fair to put on events, host partners and provide quality education to attendees of the fair in the Conservation Park.

With the theme "An Outdoor Living take on Conservation," activities like learning about Fishing from Public Lands, picking up some outdoor living goodies from Cabela's and making all kinds of crafts like take-home nature crowns were a hit with all who participated.

Thank you to everyone who came out to learn about and support our conservation message!

The winner of the Compost Caddy is **Bev Miley!** Bev please call or come by the office to retrieve your caddy.



## Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week

Celebrate Stormwater Awareness week this October 16th - 22nd. Stormwater Awareness Week is a state-wide effort that encourages communities (and the groups that care about them) to raise stormwater awareness via newsletters and social media posts, or with fun and educational events.

Now's the time to start planning a litter pick-up, stream quality monitoring or tree planting to improve stormwater quality in your community! Also happening during the week is Imagine a Day Without Water on October 21st.

Anyone can participate in this fun and fulfilling week. Planning an event? Contact Delaware SWCD so we can share it on our calendar. For more information about Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week, check out the website [here](http://www.ohiostormwaterweek.org/) (<http://www.ohiostormwaterweek.org/>).



## ➤➤ Fall Leaf Care

The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler and soon the leaves will start to turn into a sea of beautiful reds, oranges, and yellows. With all the beauty of autumn, we can also expect the annual battle of having an abundance of fallen leaves, and figuring out what to do with them.



Having a light leaf cover on your lawn is not a bad thing, and actually benefits wildlife over the winter by providing insects and pollinators a place to live and hibernate. If light leaf cover annoys you, it can be easily fixed by mowing the leaves into dime-sized pieces. The mowed leaf pieces fall between the blades of grass onto the soil where they're broken down further by microbes and eventually becomes organic matter. The organic matter adds nutrients to the soil for your grass to soak up and grow stronger.

Lawn and leaf issues can arise when a light leaf cover turns into a heavier leaf blanket. Some things to do if you have a large number of leaves is to add them to your compost pile as they are a great source of carbon, ("browns" in compost terms) or you can turn them into mulch. The mulch is a great protective covering in vegetable and flower garden beds, creating the perfect insulating cover for overwintering plants. This helps keep the soil moist, at a moderate temperature and prevents soil erosion, all while helping to control future weed growth.

Leaves should be kept out of ditches and away from storm drains. Clogged ditches and drains cause rain and storm water to back up in undesirable areas, like across roadways and in yards. It's important to remember that storm drains lead directly to local bodies of water and that leaves should be kept out of them. If leaves get into the water, they feed the algae blooms that cause so many issues to the water quality and aquatic life.

Whatever you decide to do with your fallen leaves, it is very important to remember that they should never be burned or sent to a landfill as both of these are very harmful to the environment. Burnt leaves release irritating particles into the atmosphere that pose health and allergy risks for many and can be dangerous if not done under the proper conditions. Instead of sending bagged leaves to a landfill where they produce harmful methane gas; consider dropping them off at a local compost or recycling site.

As the weather cools, fall is a great time of year to spend some extra time on your lawn care. Consider completing a soil test prior to any fall fertilizing to make sure you are applying exactly what your yard needs for the coming year!



## In the Press

- [Take Time to Soil Test](#)
- [Monarch Butterfly in Exceptional Danger](#)
- [Importance of good water quality](#)
- [Native plants are vital to environment](#)
- [Delaware SWCD gearing up for fair](#)

## Upcoming Events

**October 4** - Delaware SWCD Fish Sale

*Pick up pre-ordered fish from 12 - 1p.m.*

**October 16-22** - Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week

*Let our office know what you're doing to participate*

**October 18** - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

**October 23** - City of Powell's Candy by the Carload

*Come see Delaware SWCD*

**October 23** - City of Sunbury's Fall Festival

*Come see Delaware SWCD*

**November 15** - Deadline for Supervisor Election ballots to be received by our office

**Delaware  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District**

