

Focus Newsletter

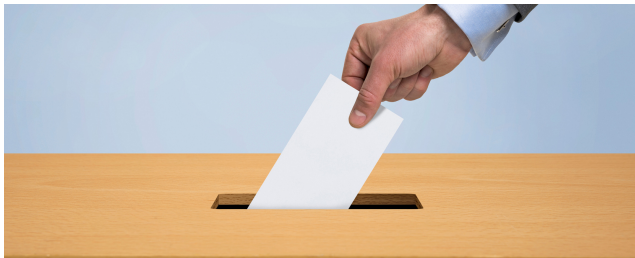
Annual Supervisor Election

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District's Supervisor Election is nearing. Tuesday November 21, 2023 marks the deadline for ballots to be received by our office.

Current board member, Charlie Reffitt, seeks re-election, and Randy Leienberger is the certified candidate seeking the vacant seat on the ballot. Delaware SWCD's current board members are Sue Cunningham, Mike Hope, Dan Lane, Charlie Reffitt, and Brian Skinner. Biographical information regarding each candidate and further election details can be found on our website ([Click Here](#)).



Incumbent seeking re-election Charlie Reffitt



Certified Candidate Randy Leienberger

Imagine a Day Without Water



Water is an essential part of our lives, and it's crucial that we invest in sustainable solutions for its conservation. Together, we can raise awareness about water's role in our lives and the urgent need for investment in water systems and the communities they serve.

We invite you to join us on October 19, 2023, for "Imagine a Day Without Water" – a national event that aims to unite people in our efforts to promote conservation and sustainability. This is our chance to collectively call for a better future and make a positive impact on our communities and the environment. Let's work together to create a better world for all.

Annual Milkweed Pod Round-up Under Way



Join the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative and Delaware SWCD in Preserving the Monarch Butterfly Population

The Monarch butterfly is in danger, and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative and Delaware SWCD are taking action. The decline of the Monarch can be attributed to the loss of its primary food source and breeding ground – the Milkweed. Collecting common Milkweed pods can help restore Monarch habitats and protect other pollinators. Help preserve the beauty of Ohio's wildlife by contributing to this cause.

Drop off any collected pods to the green bin with a yellow lid located outside of our office at 1610 State Route 521 Delaware, Ohio 43015. Collection will occur now - November 3rd.

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 date 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

Bret Bacon is one of our Deputy Administrators and is also the Resource Conservation Program Coordinator. He has been with the Delaware SWCD since 1999. As Deputy Administrator, he assists in managing the District's staff and operations. He also coordinates the District's cooperation with the County Commissioners and County Engineer in the Drainage Petition project process as well as the management of the Drainage Maintenance program. Bret and his wife Amanda have two children and one grandchild. In his spare time, he enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, and spending time with family.



Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

1610 State Route 521
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740-368-1921





Fall Leaf Care

Autumn is here, the season of falling leaves and cooling nights. While the colorful foliage can be a beautiful sight, it also brings about the annual dilemma of what to do with all those leaves. At our agency, we understand the importance of conservation and sustainability, and we want to help you find the best way to manage your lawn and leaf issues.

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FOLIAGE
COMPOST
AUTUMN
MOW
COLLECT
NUTRIENTS
WILDLIFE
MULCH
CLEAN
POLLINATOR



First, it's essential to know that a light layer of leaves on your lawn can actually benefit wildlife by providing a habitat for insects and pollinators to live through the winter. However, if you prefer a tidier lawn, you can easily mow the leaves into dime-sized pieces, which will break down and add nutrients to the soil, promoting healthier grass growth.

When the light leaf cover becomes a heavier leaf blanket, you may need to consider other options. For instance, you can add the leaves to your compost pile as a source of carbon, or turn them into mulch to protect your garden beds and prevent soil erosion. It's crucial to keep leaves out of ditches and storm drains as they can clog them and cause flooding, leading to water quality issues and harm to aquatic life.

It's important to remember that burning leaves or sending them to landfills are both harmful to the environment. Burning leaves can release harmful particles into the atmosphere and pose health risks, while sending them to landfills create methane gas, which contributes to global warming. Instead, consider dropping them off at a local compost or recycling site. As we head into the fall season, taking care of your lawn will benefit both you and the environment.



Pond Pointers

As temperatures become more moderate throughout fall, it's a great opportunity to give your backyard pond some TLC.

- Fall is a popular time to stock ponds – fish are widely available (including our fish sale!) and the cooler water temperatures and higher oxygen levels lead to more successful introduction of fish than during the hot summer months.
- Weed or algae treatment becomes an option again if temperatures are not too high. See OSU Extension for recommendations regarding chemical treatments.
- It is recommended to remove dead vegetation, including excessive fallen leaves. While these do not usually cause a problem when temperatures are low, they can be a major issue if the pond freezes over for long periods. Once trapped below the ice, they contribute to oxygen deprivation in the pond which can cause a fish kill.
- If you've been using fertilizer, make sure to discontinue use. Most ponds in Ohio should not be fertilized, but if it is necessary, it should be conducted only when water temperatures are between 60 and 80 degrees, according to ODNR's Pond Management Handbook.
- If you use an aerator, create a plan for the transition to cold temperatures. Typically pond water maintains higher oxygen levels during the winter, but there are situations in which it can be beneficial to continue aeration. This may involve aerating less or moving the aerator to a different depth within the pond, depending on the aeration system or desired outcome. Check out your aerator's manufacturer recommendations or consult a pond management contractor for options.
- If you have been experiencing chronic vegetation and water quality issues in your 20+ year old pond that have not responded to other treatments, it may be time to consider dredging your pond. Ponds fill over time with organic material, causing water quality to suffer over time. Early autumn while water levels are still lower is a great time for dredging.



Pumpkin painting at the Delaware County Fair courtesy of Buckeye Valley FFA and Kroger



Make your own Micro-Bouquet at the Delaware County Fair; grown by Tulip Ridge Flower Farm



Sink It: Soil Trivia Plinko at the Delaware County Fair

Upcoming Events

October 17 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

November 10 - Office Closed for Veteran's Day holiday

November 21 - Deadline for Supervisor Election ballots to be received by our office & Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

November 23-24 - Office Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

December 2 - City of Sunbury's Christmas on the Square
Come and see us!

December 22 - 1/2 Day Office Closure for Christmas holiday

December 25 - Office Closed for Christmas holiday

January 1 - Office Closed for New Years holiday

**Delaware
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

