

Focus Newsletter

In This Issue...

- Annual Supervisor Election
- Drought Resources
- It's Our 80th Anniversary!
- Leaf it on Your Lawn
- Milkweed Pod Collection
- Stormwater Awareness Week
- Pond Pointers
- Employee Highlights
- Summer Recap

ANNUAL SUPERVISOR ELECTION



Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 8006
 1610 State Route 521
 Delaware, Ohio 43015
 740-368-1921



Upcoming Events

October 15 – Monthly Board of Supervisor’s Meeting, 6:30pm

October 21 – Supervisor Election Voting begins

November 11 – Office closed for Veteran’s Day holiday

November 19 – Deadline for Supervisor Election ballots to be received by our office, 4:30pm & Monthly Board of Supervisor’s Meeting, 6:30pm

November 28-29 – Office Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

December 17 – Monthly Board of Supervisor’s Meeting, 5pm

** Note that this meeting is earlier than the regularly scheduled meeting*

December 24 – 1/2 Day Office Closure for Christmas holiday

December 25 – Office Closed for Christmas holiday

January 1 – Office Closed for New Years holiday

ANNUAL SUPERVISOR ELECTION

TWO POSITIONS UP FOR RE-ELECTION

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District's Supervisor Election is nearing. Voting begins Monday, October 21, 2024, and ends Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 4:30pm.

Two supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027. The nominees are Mike Hope, Dan Lane, and Eric Penkal. [Get to know the candidates!](#) Delaware SWCD's current board members are Sue Cunningham, Mike Hope, Dan Lane, Brian Skinner, and Randy Leienberger. Biographical information regarding each candidate and further election details can be found on our website ([click here](#)).



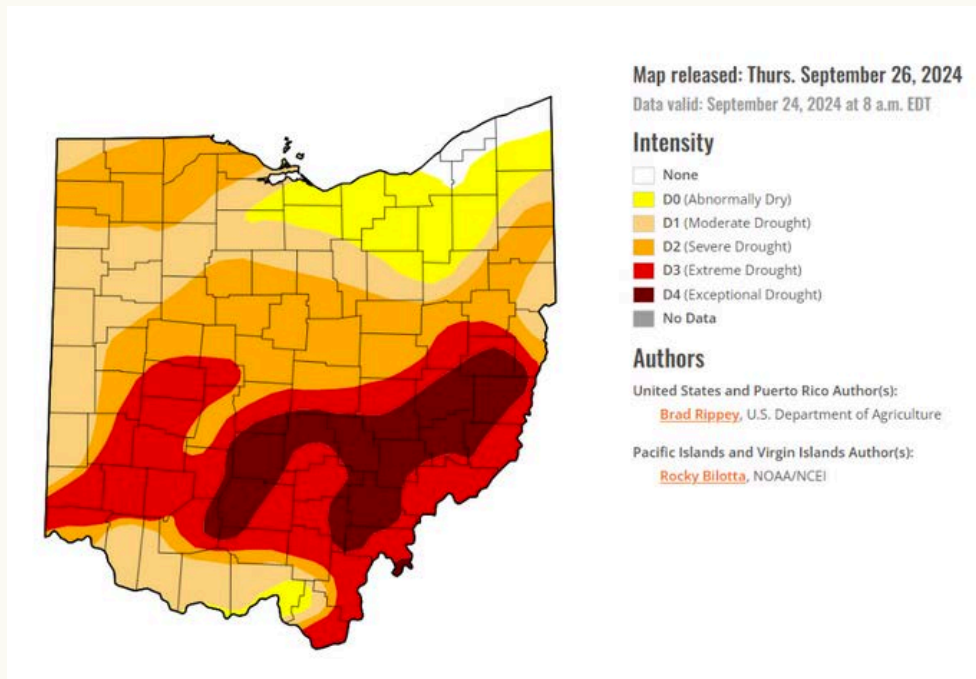
VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

There are two ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1) At the SWCD office, located at 1610 State Route 521, Delaware Ohio, from 10/21/2024 until 11/19/2024 during normal business hours
- 2) Voting absentee from 10/21/2024 until 11/19/2024, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address 1610 State Route 521, PO Box 8006, Delaware, OH 43015, by calling (740)368-1921, or email skuba@co.delaware.oh.us. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 4:30pm on 11/19/2024.

DROUGHT RESOURCES

HISTORIC DROUGHT



Drought Conditions

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

[FSA Drought Monitor Fact Sheet](#)

[Ohio State Fire Marshal Open Burn Ban for Certain Ohio Regions](#)

Drought Resources

[ODA Resources](#)

[Ohio Hay Directory \(if you need feed for livestock\)](#)

[Resources for Stress Management](#)

Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) Resources

[Manure Application to Parched Soil](#)

[Lessons from Drought Tolerant Weeds](#)

Drought Information

Continue to check our website for updates to drought resources ([click here](#)).

You can find the links to the following resources by clicking on the text associated with each resource, which is underlined.

Ban on Open Burning Expanded to Additional Counties as Drought Conditions Continue

Delaware County is not included in the Open Burn Ban, however the information in the burn ban is still applicable in our county.

Are you an Ohio Farmer Impacted by the 2024 Drought?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is closely monitoring the impacted counties, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) plays a critical role in assessing drought and aiding farmers.

While Delaware County is not currently in the D-3 Extreme Drought ZONE, this designation is subject to change. Continue to check our website frequently for new information. You may also stop into our office or call us for assistance.

If you have been impacted by the drought, please:

- [Contact your local Farm Service Agency](#)
- Keep track of your records
- Check on your neighbor

IT'S OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY!

HELPING YOU HELP THE LAND SINCE 1944



Our History

Delaware SWCD officially became a Soil Conservation District (SCD) on October 13th, 1944, making it the 28th SCD in the state of Ohio. On March 4th, 1944, 130 landowners filed a petition with the Ohio Soil Conservation Committee (OSCC) asking for the described territory (Delaware County) to be organized as an SCD.

The purpose of the district was for conservation and development of our natural resources, with special emphasis on soil and water, and to improve the natural resource management practices whereby an adequate standard of living could be maintained.

It was further stated that the District would accomplish results by securing cooperation from county-wide organizations, federal and state agencies, local property owners, and local municipalities.

On February 11th, 1964, our name was officially changed to Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, which was more inclusive of emerging water conservation laws, and followed suit with other SWCDs across the state.

Eighty years later, we continue to help you help the land, with the assistance of our partners and landowners.

History of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Delaware SWCD's establishment took place nearly ten years after the nation's worst dust storm in history, on May 12, 1934, which swept eastward from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Ocean, blocking the sun and depositing dust as it moved. This catastrophic storm served as the catalyst for public outcry and congressional action for soil and water conservation throughout the nation. On April 27, 1935, Congress passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, Public Law No. 46. The act established the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) within USDA.

In 1941, the Ohio Soil Conservation District Enabling Act was passed. This act created OSCC as an agency of the State of Ohio, and established procedures for the formation of local Soil Conservation Districts. By 1963, every county had a soil and water conservation district.

[Ohio's Conservation Story Booklet](#) described that Soil Conservation Districts and the OSCC were united in their objective, which was, "To have every acre of agricultural land and gallon of water in Ohio used wisely, within its capability, without waste, deriving the maximum benefits indefinitely."

Read the detailed history of SWCDs on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's website by [clicking here.](#)



LEAF IT ON YOUR LAWN

UTILIZE LEAVES FOR SOIL AND WATER QUALITY

You can save time and provide nutrients for your lawn by mulching leaves in the Fall. Shredded leaf material blocks weeds and breaks down fast into free fertilizer! This means less time and money you have to spend on your lawn. Do your part by keeping leaves and grass out of your street where they can clog storm drains and feed algae.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, "Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material."



DO:

- Shred leaves with mower
- Leave them on the lawn
- Follow neighborhood guidelines (bag them or rake to the curb)
- Rake leaves and use them in your own compost pile!
- Clear leaves and yard trimmings off of storm drains

DON'T:

- Throw leaves in the trash
- Rake them into the street
- Leave them un-shredded (shredding makes their nutrients available to your lawn more quickly, and prevents dead patches on your lawn)

ANNUAL COMMON MILKWEED POD COLLECTION

Join us in Protecting Monarchs!

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative and Delaware SWCD are calling for Common Milkweed pods!

Milkweed is the only host plant the Monarch butterfly will lay its eggs. Monarchs are on the IUCN Red List of endangered species.

Drop off Common Milkweed pods in our collection bin so they can be redistributed to help save the Monarch butterfly.

***New this year - please dump your pods into the brown leaf bag inside our bin.**



1610 State Route 521
Delaware OH 43015



Collection Tips:

- Wear gloves.
- Pods should be dry and gray or brown in colors, seeds should pop open with gentle pressure.
- Make sure pods aren't moldy.
- 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 (not in plastic).
- Do not place rubber bands around pods.
- Only collect 1/4 of the plant's pods, leave some for natural dispersal
- Make sure it's Common Milkweed and not a common look-a-like like hemp dogbane.

CONSERVATION UPDATES

STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK



OHIO STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK

October 1st - 7th

Clean Streams Start With You!

What we do at home and work affects water quality. You can help keep water clean by:

- ◊ Planting native plants and trees.
- ◊ Properly disposing of chemicals and hazardous waste.
- ◊ Keeping storm drains clear of debris like leaves & litter.
- ◊ Always picking up and throwing away pet waste.
- ◊ Volunteering at or organizing a stream or roadside cleanup.



Scan the QR code to learn more
& get involved!
ohiostormwaterweek.org

FALL 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 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.

- **Remove dead vegetation, including excessive fallen leaves.** 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.** 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.
- **Consider dredging your pond.** Ponds fill over time with organic material, causing water quality to suffer. Early autumn is a great time for dredging, while water levels are still lower.



EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS



Austin Schauer

Austin has been with DSWCD for almost a year and a half, as a Resource Conservationist. He graduated from West Virginia University in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resource Management, and also received his Associate's Degree from Hocking College. Austin is our resident wildlife habitat specialist, and is happy to answer all of your wildlife questions. In his spare time, Austin is a passionate waterfowl hunter. He lives on his family farm in Morrow County where they grow pumpkins and hay.



Harrison Garling

Harrison has been at DSWCD for six months, also as a Resource Conservationist. Like Austin, Harrison received his Associate's Degree from Hocking College, where he graduated from their Forest Management program in 2023. Harrison is a Delaware city native and enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and going on hikes. As one of our resident forestry experts, Harrison recommends Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve in the Hocking Hills region if you are looking for a good hike.

SUMMER RECAP

DELAWARE COUNTY FAIR



*NRCSS & Delaware SWCD at
Conservation Park*



Waterfall at Conservation Park



*Make-and-Take
Mini Greenhouse*

Summer Outreach



*Scioto Gardens Grand
Re-Opening*



Sunbury Sizzle & Sounds



*Soil Your Undies Challenge with
Seminary Hill Farm*