

Focus Newsletter

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Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

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



ANNUAL SUPERVISOR ELECTION



2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION - CANDIDATES -



**SUE
CUNNINGHAM**



**BRIAN
SKINNER**



**ERIC
PENKAL**



Upcoming Events

October 1-31 - Milkweed Pod Collection

October 20 - Supervisor Election Voting begins

October 21 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

November 11 - Office closed for Veteran's Day holiday

November 18 - Deadline for Supervisor Election ballots to be received by our office, 4:30pm & Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

November 27-28 - Office Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

December 16 - 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

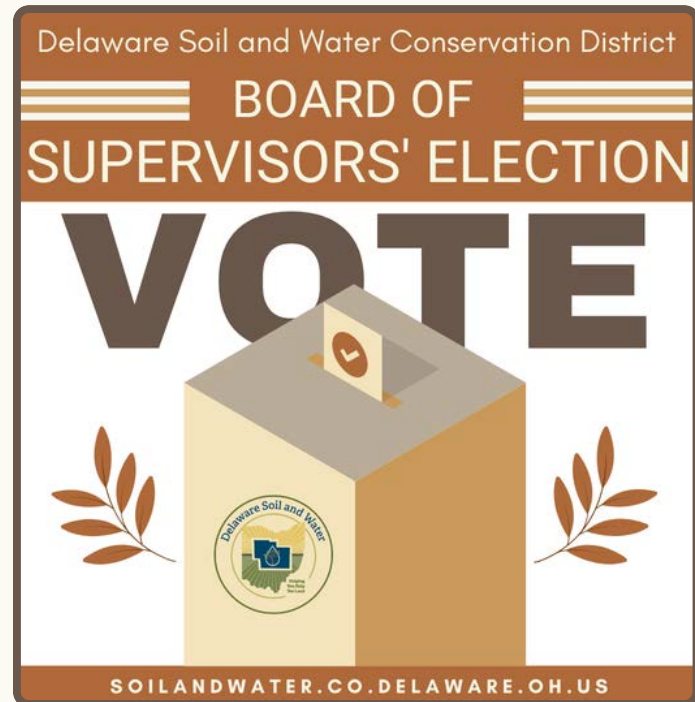
January 1 - Office Closed for New Years holiday

ANNUAL SUPERVISOR ELECTION

TWO POSITIONS UP FOR RE-ELECTION

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District's Supervisor Election is nearing. Voting begins Monday, October 20th, 2025, and ends Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 at 4:30pm.

Two supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028. The nominees are Sue Cunningham, Brian Skinner, 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](#).



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 10/20/2025 until 11/18/2025 during normal business hours.
- 2) Voting absentee from 10/20/2025 until 11/18/2025, 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 11/18/2025.

2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION

- CANDIDATES -



SUE CUNNINGHAM



BRIAN SKINNER



ERIC PENKAL

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District



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 a thick layer of un-shredded leaves on the lawn - it could kill your grass. Mulch or rake them instead.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INITIATIVE



Supporting Agencies



CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS

Photo provided by: Jimmy Giannone

Good for Wildlife, Good for Producers

New opportunity for Ohio landowners:

Ohio farmers and landowners have a new opportunity to improve their land, support wildlife, and receive conservation funding through the Wildlife Habitat Initiative.

What is the Wildlife Habitat Initiative?

The Wildlife Habitat Initiative (WHI) is a new conservation program that offers incentive payments to eligible landowners/tenants who implement practices that improve wildlife habitat. The program focuses on supporting habitat for grassland birds, pollinators, and other native wildlife.

- Funding: Provided through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- Leadership: Led and managed by the National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative (NBGI), supported by NRCS and the Ohio Division of Wildlife.
- Technical Assistance: Provided by the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the NBGI Foundation (NBGIF).

Who can apply?

To qualify, landowners/tenants must:

- Be eligible for USDA farm programs.
- Have a current farm record and a valid farm number with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

How do I start?

Project planning can begin anytime. Contact a Wildlife Management Consultant to get started today - see back page for contact information.

How do incentive payments work?

Landowners/tenants receive payments for completing approved conservation practices.

- Payments cover 95% of the standard cost for each practice.
- Practices that establish or enhance grassland and/or pollinator habitat will be given priority.

How do contracts work?

- Contracts will be administered by the NBGI and signed digitally.
- Contract terms range from 1-4 years.
- Most contracts are finalized within 3 months, so that work can begin quickly.

Where can I get help?

Wildlife Management Consultants are available to help you explore conservation options and create a custom plan for your land.

See back page for contact information.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INITIATIVE

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIRECTORY

COUNTIES OF COVERAGE



Region	Name	Phone	Email
1	Craig Bonner	(419) 280-3915	Craig.Bonner@dnr.ohio.gov
2	Matt Conner	(419) 607-7446	Matthew.Conner@dnr.ohio.gov
3	Matt Vitullo	(419) 346-4962	Matthew.Vitullo@dnr.ohio.gov
4	Jacob Stutz	(220) 212-7548	Jacob.Stutz@dnr.ohio.gov
5	Vernon Snyder	(330) 556-8358	Vernon.Snyder@dnr.ohio.gov
6	Sean Finke	(419) 236-8838	Sean.Finke@dnr.ohio.gov
7	Justin Coffman	(614) 309-4614	Justin.Coffman@dnr.ohio.gov
8	Emilee Hardesty	(614) 314-1315	Emilee.Hardesty@dnr.ohio.gov
9	John Morton	(614) 403-6353	John.Morton@dnr.ohio.gov
10	Michael Saylor	(937) 260-7449	Michael.Saylor@dnr.ohio.gov
11	Caleb Shields	(937) 301-0052	Caleb.Shields@dnr.ohio.gov
12	Ashley Dawson	(740) 326-8534	Ashley.Dawson@dnr.ohio.gov
13	Amme Redington	(740) 326-8568	Amme.Redington@dnr.ohio.gov

Want to learn more?



<https://bit.ly/3Rg8bbF>

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. Our collection bin will be labeled and located outside the front door under the "Byxbee Offices" sign.

***New as of last 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 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.

STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK

OHIO STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK: OCTOBER 1ST - 7TH

Happy Stormwater Awareness Week!
This week, we're celebrating the often-overlooked system that protects our waterways.

Did you know that the grates you see along the street are storm drains? They carry rainwater and melting snow directly to local creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Unlike the water in your home, stormwater isn't treated, so anything that flows into those drains goes straight into our shared waters.

Unfortunately, as rain and snowmelt travel across roads, lawns, and driveways, they pick up pollutants like oil, trash, pet waste, and lawn chemicals. These harmful substances end up in our waterways, untreated. So, how can you help protect our water?

- Pick up trash in your neighborhood or at a local park.
- Pick up your dog's poop.
- Rake the leaves away from storm drains on your street.
- Check the weather report before applying fertilizer to your lawn, or any oil or chemicals to driveways and sidewalks.
- Plant native plants - they have deep roots, which will help break up clay soil and absorb more stormwater.
- Plant a tree in your yard or install a rain garden. Trees can soak up 900 gallons of rain a year, and a well-designed rain garden can almost entirely reduce stormwater from a property.

Simple actions can improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff. There is so much we can do for clean water in Ohio. This week (and always!) we encourage you to share with your family and co-workers what they can do to make Ohio a great place to live, work and play.



FALL POND POINTERS

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.

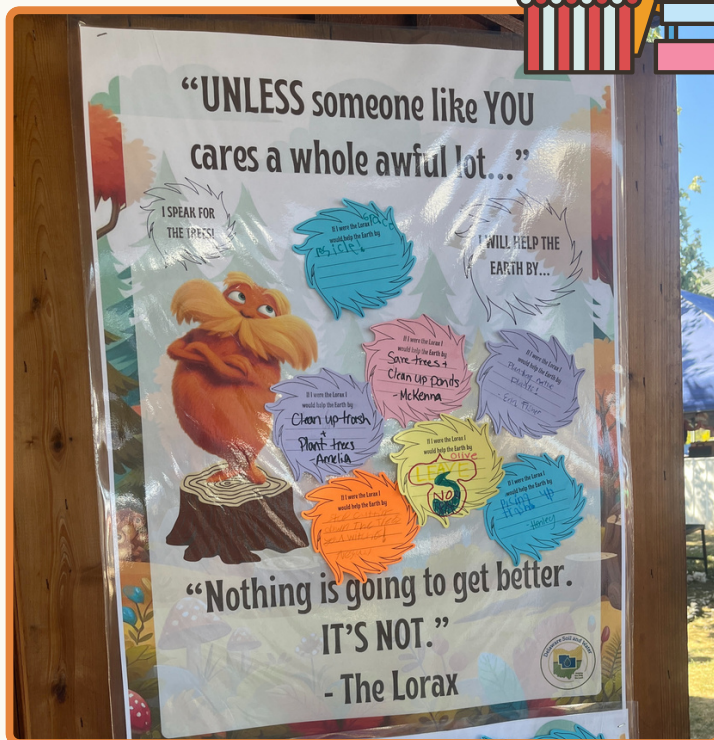
- **Remove dead vegetation, including excessive fallen leaves.** Once trapped below the ice, they contribute to oxygen deprivation in the pond which can cause a fish kill.
- **If you've been using fertilizer, make sure to discontinue use.** Most ponds in Ohio should not be fertilized, but if it is necessary, 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.

DELAWARE COUNTY FAIR

We had a blast learning about conservation!



Cooperator of the Year



Conservation Pledges



The Lorax Day



When Agriculture Meets Artistry