



PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION NEWS

Volume 78, Issue 3

Conservation News — Published Quarterly

July 2021

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District, 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, Ohio 43113

Upcoming Events

July 5
Independence Day Observed
OFFICE CLOSED

July 20
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

August 3-5
Experience Earth Day Camp

August 12
Jr. Experience Earth Camp

August 13
Friday in the Park

August 17
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

September 2
Joint Annual Meeting &
Banquet with Pickaway
County Farm Bureau

September 3
Pickaway County Ag Day

September 6
Labor Day
OFFICE CLOSED

September 21
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

October 11
Columbus Day
OFFICE CLOSED

October 19
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

NEW Joint Annual Meeting & Banquet with Pickaway County Farm Bureau

Please join us for the new joint Pickaway SWCD and Farm Bureau Annual Meeting & Banquet on September 2 at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds.

Date & Time

Thursday, September 2, 2021

SWCD Supervisor Election, Farm Bureau Voting,
Social Hour & Ag Day Feature from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner & Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Location

Heritage Hall
Pickaway Ag & Event Center (Fairgrounds)
415 Lancaster Pike, Circleville, OH 43113

Attendance is Free of Charge

Reservations due Wednesday, August 25

Please call either PSWCD (740-477-1693) or PCFB (740-474-6284)
by August 25 to RSVP

Menu

Roast Beef, Grilled Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes,
Green Beans, Waldorf Salad, Dessert & Refreshments
Catered by Elegant Eats

Evening Events

SWCD Supervisor Election & PCFB Ballot Voting
Education & Outreach Displays
Dinner
Soybean Council & Park District Presentations
Awards & Recognitions
Raffle Drawing



Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisor

Election Notice and Procedures

Five county residents serve as supervisors on the Pickaway SWCD Board. Each supervisor serves a three-year term and may run for re-election at the end of their term. Current board members are: Clyde Ohnewehr, chair; Jonathan Lohstroh, vice chair; Barbara Martindale, secretary; Bill Black, treasurer/fiscal agent; and Matt Anderson, member. The Board of Supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs which address management and conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Andrew “Dewey” Mann and Brian Reid have accepted nominations to run for the Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisors. The one elected supervisor will begin their term January 1, 2022. The Pickaway SWCD Annual Supervisor Election will be held from August 4 to September 2, 2021. Voters will have the opportunity to vote in the office, by mail, or at our Annual Meeting and Banquet on September 2 in Heritage Hall at the fairgrounds. Results of the election will be announced after the votes have been tallied, which will be on or after September 2, 2021.

There are three (3) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1. Mail in Voting** - Absentee voting is available from [August 4, 2021 through September 2, 2021](#). Residents wishing to vote absentee may request a ballot application and ballot from Pickaway SWCD by any of the following:
 - Mail - 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, OH 43113
 - Email - katerina-sharp@pickawayswcd.org
 - Phone - 740-477-1693

Upon request for the absentee voting, the SWCD will provide a ballot application, election ballot, and ballot envelope to the absentee voter. Absentee ballots must be returned to the SWCD office by 3:00 p.m. on September 2, 2021.

- 2. In Person Voting at the Office** - Voting may take place at the Pickaway SWCD office from [August 4, 2021 through September 2, 2021](#). Voting may take place from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on all days except September 2, when in person voting at the office will end at 3:00 p.m.

- 3. In Person Voting at the Annual Meeting & Banquet** - Voting may take place at the Annual Meeting & Banquet located in Heritage Hall, at the Fairgrounds, 415 Lancaster Pike, Circleville, OH 43113 on [September 2, 2021](#) from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Voters May Vote for One (1) Candidate

Meet the Candidates

Andrew “Dewey” Mann

Andrew “Dewey” Mann currently serves as Director of the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, and Interim Director for the Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens, at The Ohio State University. Formerly, Dewey taught in the Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) program for nine years, with a focus on teaching and student advising. He resides east of Circleville, OH on a small farm with his wife Kathy, and two sons Miles (7) and Neil (5). Growing up on his family’s diversified row-crop and livestock farm in northern Missouri greatly impacted his experience and passion for production agriculture, machinery systems, and environmental stewardship. Dewey appreciates the opportunity to serve in his community, and connect with those around him. He and his family are active members of the Village Chapel church.



Brian Reid

Brian Reid grew up on a small family farm in Pickaway County. He worked at an ag center for seven years before starting his own lawn and landscaping company over 20 years ago. Through these varying careers, Brian has had experience working with a multitude of different individuals. Brian volunteers as a 4-H advisor in Pickaway County, and is also a member of the Pickaway County Farm Bureau. He enjoys outdoor sports such as 4-wheeling and jeep riding. Brian and his wife Bethany have four children ages 14 to 20. He has lived in Pickaway County his entire life.



Quarterly E-Newsletters

We email a quarterly newsletter to everyone on our email list in January, April, July and October of each year. The January and July newsletters are the only two that are also printed and sent by mail to everyone on our mailing list. If you only receive our two newsletters that come in the mail but have an email address and would like to receive all four of our quarterly newsletters via email, please send your email to Katerina at katerina-sharp@pickawayswcd.org to be added to this email list. This list is not shared with anyone.

We have grown our e-newsletter list quite a bit over the past few years, and many of you are on both our e-newsletter list and our hard copy mailing list. This is great! We love sharing our news with you!

Follow us on Facebook @Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District to keep up to date with what we are doing and to see photos we post!

Corporate Affiliate Membership Ads

C. RANDALL METZGER

6950 Hunsicker Road
Williamsport, Ohio 43154

740.225.0036
c.randallmetzger@gmail.com

The image shows a logo for Metzger Family Farms LLC, which consists of a stylized 'M' with three horizontal lines above it. Below the logo is the text 'METZGER FAMILY FARMS LLC'. Underneath that is a horizontal line, followed by the name 'C. RANDALL METZGER' in bold. At the bottom, there is contact information: '6950 Hunsicker Road Williamsport, Ohio 43154' on the left and '740.225.0036 c.randallmetzger@gmail.com' on the right.

Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarships

The Donald E. Minor Scholarship was created by the Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisors in memory of Donald E. Minor, Sr. and his 25 years of service to the board and community. Mr. Minor began as a supervisor in 1985 and served on the board until he passed in October 2010. Funds from the scholarship are currently accumulated from Affiliate Memberships and Pumpkin Show parking lot fees. The award is available to any Pickaway County High School or Home School Senior who will be majoring in Agriculture or Natural Resources. The scholarships are for the purpose of continuing higher education at a two- or four-year college or university.

Our sixth annual Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship was presented to three deserving students here in Pickaway County. Our office awarded **Sterling Jarvis** and **Sydney Spires** of Logan Elm High School and **Danielle Jones** of Circleville City Schools each with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Sterling Jarvis is a graduating senior from Logan Elm High School. She has been an active member of her school and community. As an FFA member, she has served as Chapter President, earned her State Degree, and competed in several Career Development Events. She has played soccer, tennis, and been on swim team through her school. Sterling has been involved in several community service events while in high school, including volunteering at a nursing home, community care day group, and a toy drive. In 2020, Sterling served on the Ohio Attorney General Teen Ambassador Board. She plans to attend The Ohio State University ATI or Tarleton State in the fall for Agriscience Education.

Danielle Jones is a graduating senior from Circleville High School, where she has been involved in Key Club, Rotary Club, National Honor Art Society, National Honor Society, 4-H, Art Club, Drug-Free Club, FFA, HOSA, and several different athletics including soccer, track, bowling, and swim. She has been extremely involved in her school and community and has accumulated approximately 160 hours of volunteer time. Danielle plans to attend The Ohio State University in the fall to major in Animal Science with the goal to become a veterinarian.

Sydney Spires is a graduating senior from Logan Elm, where she is graduating with high honors, an honors diploma, and a cap stone diploma. She has taken AP Courses in chemistry, calculus, literature, language arts, seminar and research. Sydney has been involved in soccer, basketball, and swimming while in high school. In her community she is a member of Mount Pleasant Church and Key Club, and she has also volunteered her time to assist in several events including the Dan Fouts Memorial Veteran's Hunt, World Vision 6K for Water, and the Circleville Soup Kitchen. Sydney plans to attend The University of Findlay in the fall to major in Animal Science with the goal to become a veterinarian.

We wish all three of these scholarship recipients the best of luck on furthering their education and becoming further involved in the agricultural, environmental and natural resources industries!

Any upcoming 2022 Pickaway County High School or Home School Seniors should check with school counselors and on our website in the Spring of 2022 for an application.



Introducing our New Employees

Pickaway SWCD welcomed two new District Technicians to the Pickaway SWCD team in May.

Frank Clarke is a 2020 graduate of The Ohio State University, where he received a Master's Degree in Soil Science. Frank is excited to play a role in planning, developing and implementing projects across the county.

Nate Taylor is a 2020 graduate of The Ohio State University, ATI with an Associate's Degree in Crop Management and Soil Conservation.



Nate Taylor



Frank Clarke

Donate a Kidney to Nature

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. There are many kinds of wetlands and all are full of microbes, plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, and mammals.

To understand how vital wetlands are, imagine the following: sponge, pillow, crib, antacid tablets, cereal, and a strainer.

A wetland is a sponge, absorbing excess water caused by stormwater runoff. Some wetlands, particularly those on floodplains and in coastal areas, function as flood control by storing excess water during storm events.

The small pillow signifies that **a wetland is a resting place**. Migratory birds depend on wetlands to survive their flights between breeding grounds and winter habitats. It is estimated that 75 percent of all waterfowl breed only in wetlands!

The crib explains that **a wetland serves as a nursery**, providing shelter, protection, and food for wildlife. Many species of fish spend part, or all, of their life cycles in fertile wetlands adjacent to larger, more open bodies of water. Other wildlife like frogs, turtles, clams, shellfish, crabs, shrimp, salamanders, dragonflies, & mammals depend on wetlands too.

The bottle of antacid demonstrates that **wetlands eliminate toxic substances** by trapping and neutralizing pollutants. This natural filtering system is similar to our kidneys, keeping our blood clean and chemically balanced.

The box of cereal represents **food provided by wetlands** for people and for wildlife, Mother Nature's biological supermarket. The list grows when we consider recreational hunting for ducks, deer, and other wildlife that are harvested for the dinner table.

Lastly, the strainer symbolizes that **wetlands hold back sediment and debris** so clean water can flow into our rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans.

These are just a few examples of the importance of wetlands to water quality, locally and around the world. Unfortunately, a huge percentage of our nation's wetlands have been lost or degraded due to human impacts such as drainage, dredging, deposition of fill material, diking, damming, and mining. Because we have lost so many of our original wetlands, it is critically important to protect and restore what remains.

To learn about wetland projects to help Ohio be the change for clean water, visit h2.ohio.gov/project_category/wetland-restoration/.

Donate a Kidney to Nature

Appreciate, protect and restore
Central Ohio's wetlands



Be the Change
for clean water.org

Pickaway County Fair

Fair Tent, Cloverbud Activity & Rain Barrel Giveaway

It was nice seeing so many of you at the fair! We were especially excited to do our first rain barrel giveaway this year! Rain barrels were painted by some talented Logan Elm students. We gave away two rain barrels!



4-H Natural Resource Project Winners

Pickaway SWCD again judged the 4-H Natural Resource Projects this year at the fair, which included projects in the following areas: outdoors, insects, geology, birds, trees, beekeeping, ponds and fishing. (Thanks to Fairfield SWCD for judging fishing. We had more kids to judge than we could fit in our judging window. Great problem to have!)

ALL of our Natural Resource project kids did an amazing job. We were blown away with their knowledge and hard work! We'd like to tip our hats to two individuals in particular who did an exceptional job and who became our 1st and 2nd place Overall Natural Resource Project winners: **Caleb Ball** and **Austin Clark**. Major congratulations to both of these individuals! Hopefully they will be able to attend our Annual Meeting in September to share their projects with you.



Jr. Conservationist Program

The Jr. Conservationist Program is a do-it-yourself conservation camp hosted by Pickaway SWCD, the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Register to participate and be eligible for a free hat and button if youth complete the required number of activities from each topic category: Animals, Plants, Soil, Water, Exploration and Community. Details and the activity list can be found on our website: www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program.

Proper Management of CRP Grass Cover

In the past, aesthetic mowing of CRP grass cover was a widely accepted practice by many participants. Today with more research and understanding, it has been shown that properly managed grass cover will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and is more beneficial to wildlife than annually mowed grass covers.

Wildlife, especially grassland birds including pheasants and quail, and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, view properly managed CRP cover as a source of food and habitat suitable to raise their young. Wildlife will not be attracted to CRP cover if plants are not allowed to mature. Game birds and bees are disappearing because of habitat loss.

Properly managed grass cover does not include noxious weeds such as thistle and teasel or woody species like trees and multiflora rose. These noxious weeds must be controlled. This can be done in several ways. Mowing of CRP cover, not to exceed 20% of the total CRP acres in a field, is permitted. This activity must be included in your conservation plan and be conducted outside of Ohio's primary nesting season (March 1st – July 15th). The location of this mowing shall be changed from year to year. Another option to control noxious weeds is by spot mowing affected areas or spot spraying of an approved herbicide. These treatments will have a minimal effect on the CRP practice cover's ability to meet the purposes of erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Unauthorized disturbance of CRP cover is considered a violation of the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and conservation plan. Violations could potentially result in hefty penalties including contract termination and refund of all contract related payments.

Properly maintained CRP cover can be very attractive if noxious weeds and invasive species are controlled and grasses and wildflowers are allowed to mature. Please scout your CRP fields before weeds go to seed. Contact your local FSA office for permission to spot treat your CRP grass cover during Ohio's primary nesting season (March 1st – July 15th). Plan to have your CRP cover assessed for the need of mid-contract management activities that are designed to enhance your CRP cover for wildlife. Mid-contract management is a contractual obligation that is outlined in your CRP-1 Appendix and conservation plan.

Contact your USDA County office for more information on proper maintenance and management of CRP practice cover. The number for Pickaway County is 740-477-1691.



PICKAWAY SWCD
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CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113

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CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 199

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone: 740-477-1693 Website: pickawayswcd.org



Office Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Nate Taylor, District Technician
Frank Clarke, District Technician
Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Soil Conservationist
Lindsey Douglas, Civil Engineering Technician
Caleb Worley, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

PSWCD Board

Clyde Ohnewehr, Chair; Jonathan Lohstroh, Vice Chairman;
Barbara Martindale, Secretary; Bill Black, Treasurer & Fiscal
Agent; Matt Anderson, Member

Pickaway County Agencies-Phone Numbers

Farm Service Agency	740-477-1691
Pickaway County Commissioners	740-474-6093
Jason Van Houten-ODNR Service Forester	614-265-6703

Affiliate Members 2021

Corporate Members

Columbus Turf Nursery, LTD., C. Randall & Cindy Metzger,
Honeyrun Farms, Pickaway County Banking Center,
Pickaway Farms - Jay & Marci Wippel, Richard & Judy
Clifton, Ruff Farms, The Savings Bank, Vickers Farms

Steward of the Land

Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr, Dunlap Farms-John & Susie
Dunlap, Hartsock Ag, John & Curtis Drummond, Musselman
Farms, Shaw Farms, Tim & Amy Colburn

Soil and Water Protector

Ashley Hansen, Becky Messer, Daren & Susan Metzger,
Doug & Vicki Kohli, Laurina Harper, Mark & Toni Schein, Paul
Marshall, Penelope LaRock, Todd Millard, Wiseheart Farms

Future Conservationist (Students)

Clara Wilson, Maggie Wilson, Mark Wilson

OSU Extension	740-474-7534
Pickaway County Engineer	740-474-3360
Division 1 ODNR	614-644-3925