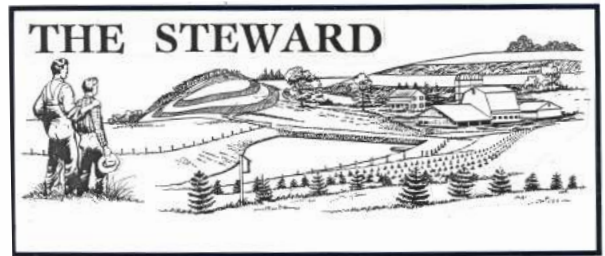


Fall 2023

# Ashland



## Soil & Water Conservation District

### You WOODn't believe the difference a year makes

*Garrett Houin of Boy Scout Troop 356 works with his Scoutmaster Craig Houin to build steps for the outhouses at the Hazel Willis Woods.*



invested countless hours in improving the facilities to host future visitors.

The Ashland SWCD board reroofed the facilities' cabin and reworked failing culverts and crossings in addition to adding gravel to the long, winding drives. Boy Scout Troop 356 from Nashville cleaned water bars and installed a wildlife viewing blind. Local graphic designer Aubree Houin redesigned the map of the woods with GIS precision. New trail and road signs have been installed.

And just this year, Garrett Houin completed an Eagle Scout project to improve safety and accessibility to the woods by adding solar lighting and outhouse steps along with cleaning roofs and gutters and installing wildlife cameras throughout the property.

All of these projects will help welcome more visitors to this unique outdoor learning laboratory. But plans don't stop there. We can't wait to share what we have planned next for the Hazel Willis Woods!

Chances are, most of you have never visited the Hazel Willis Woods in person. Or if you HAVE visited the woods, it's probably been a while.

If that's the case, you're going to want to mark your calendar now for a visit to the Hazel Willis Woods this fall as part of our Not So Spooky Forest Conservation Chat.

Located near Mifflin, the 40-acre Hazel Willis Woods was donated to the Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District in 1980 by Walter Willis in loving memory of his wife Hazel. Since that time, the Hazel Willis Woods has hosted countless visitors at field days and events, but was a special favorite field trip of many Ashland County students.

However, all of that changed around 2008 when economic belt tightening began to severely limit school field trip opportunities and local funding cuts prevented Ashland SWCD staff from conducting as many programs at "the woods."

But in the last five years, volunteers have come to the rescue of the Hazel Willis Woods and have

### WHAT'S COMING UP

#### Ashland SWCD Office Closed:

- October 9: Columbus Day
- November 10: Veteran's Day
- November 23-24: Thanksgiving,
- December 25: Christmas
- January 1: New Year's Day



#### Board Meetings (SWCD office at 9 a.m.)

- October 11, November 8, December 13

#### Conservation Chats:

- October 21: The Not So Spooky Forest, Hazel Willis Woods
- November 13: There's a Map for That, Ashland University
- December 5: Rated M for Manure, Loudonville Ohio Theater

#### Fall Fish Stocking Sale (Ashland Fairgrounds)

Order deadline: October 6; Pickup October 17, 10-11 a.m.



## Meet the Staff:



# Jody Irwin

**Administrative Assistant since March 2023**

Since joining the Ashland SWCD team, Jody has jumped in with both feet, doing an amazing job as our administrative assistant. Not only does she keep us organized, she conducts soils reviews for county planning, does floodplain determinations, tracks our office sales projects and helps manage our social media accounts. If you love our #FlashbackFriday posts, Jody is the one to thank!

### Education:

A Columbiana County native, Jody has a degree in horticulture technology from Kent State.

### Hobbies:

Jody moved to Holmes County with her husband Cormac in 1998. They live on a small farm where they raise dairy goats, rabbits, dogs, chickens and cats (in addition to her 3 daughters—twins Anna & Laura and younger sister Sarah). All 3 girls graduated from high school or college this summer. Jody is an active volunteer at her church and in 4-H. In her spare time, she enjoys camping and sewing.

## Annual Meeting Recap



Congratulations to our newly elected Ashland SWCD board member, **Scott Stolcals!** Scott will begin his term as Ashland SWCD Supervisor in January 2024. 2023 award winners recognized were:

- Cooperator of the Year: **Kinsey Valley Farm**
- Horizon award winner: **Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District**
- Volunteer of the Year: **Mapleton FFA Chapter**



## Ashland SWCD Board:

*Justin Ringler, Chair*  
*Roger Amos, Vice Chair*  
*Valerie Hall, Secretary*  
*Karen Welch, Fiscal Officer*  
*Steve Hughes, Equipment Manager*



# Soil Testing Services

## Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District



SOIL SAMPLE  
COLLECTION  
POWER KIT



Ashland SWCD is excited to offer analysis of do-it-yourself soil samples as well as custom soil sampling:

### Custom Soil Testing

- \$25/sample with a minimum of 5 samples for Ashland SWCD staff to come to your farm to pull soil samples; samples will be pulled as staff time allows, either during the spring or fall
- Fields over 20 acres require multiple samples.
- Must come in to the Ashland SWCD office to talk with Outreach Specialist Ruth McCrea about where and how many samples will be pulled.

### Do-It-Yourself Soil Sampling

- Sample bags are available at the SWCD office, along with a soil probe or a Collect-N-Go soil sample collection kit.
- You collect samples, bring to the SWCD office and fill out the required forms.
- Ashland SWCD will send in your samples for analysis and return your results.
- Ag field samples range from \$10-20/sample; turf samples range from \$15-45 plus shipping. Shipping is \$3/sample or \$2/sample for over 10 samples.
- See reverse side of form for specific packages and pricing

**Free voluntary nutrient management plans are available with each test.**

For more information, contact

**Ruth McCrea**

Outreach Specialist

Phone: 419-281-7645

Email: [rmccrea@ashlandcounty.org](mailto:rmccrea@ashlandcounty.org)

**Ashland SWCD**

110 Cottage St, Ashland OH



# Equipment Rental

ASHLAND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2023 12 ft  
Esch No-Till  
Drill

## 2023 12 ft Esch No-Till Drill

- \$18/acre January 1-July 14; \$16/acre July 15 - December 31 (\$300 min charge); \$20/day for use more than 2 consecutive days
- Swing tongue for end transport

2018 10 ft John  
Deere No-Till Drill



## 2018 10 ft John Deere No-Till Drill

- \$18/acre January 1-July 14; \$16/acre July 15 - December 31 (\$150 min charge); \$20/day for use more than 2 consecutive days



2023 I&J Cover  
Crop Crimper  
Roller

## 2023 I&J Cover Crop Crimper/Roller

- FREE within Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) boundaries; \$50/day outside of MWCD boundaries.
- 15-ft width with swing tongue for transport

2021 Cover Crop  
Interseeder



## 2021 Cover Crop Interseeder

- \$5/acre within Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) boundaries; \$10/acre outside of MWCD boundaries.
- 6-row interseeder with end transport; 2 Salford row units/row

2022 Lancaster ground-  
driven manure spreader



## 2019 APV Seeder & Side-by-Side UTV

- \$75/day; Includes use of box trailer
- Perfect for slug bait application or frost seeding; comes with light bar for even application

## 2022 Lancaster Ground-Driven Manure Spreader

- \$10/day within MWCD boundaries; \$50/day outside MWCD boundaries
- Includes flatbed trailer for transport

## Live Animal Traps

- \$10/day



For more  
information or to  
schedule rental,  
contact Katie  
Eikleberry at  
419-281-7645.



# Come check out the fun at our Conservation Chats!

## conservation chats

HAZEL WILLIS WOODS, 4 P.M.  
1155 TR 2156, ASHLAND

### october 21: not so spooky forest

- JOIN ASHLAND SWCD FOR FALL FUN IN THE WOODS!
- ADMISSION: \$10/CAR (DRESS FOR THE WEATHER)
- JOIN US FOR GUIDED NATURE WALKS AND DISCOVER THE WONDER OF THE AUTUMN WOODLAND.
- TRAVEL OUR LOOP ROAD AND PARTICIPATE IN HANDS ON CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES TO LEARN ABOUT WILDLIFE AND WOODLAND CREATURES
- GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH WILDLIFE PELTS
- GRAB A FAMILY PHOTO AT OUR SELFIE STATION!



*Ryan Hayden from OSU ATI shared his cover crop interseeder research at our June Conservation Chat: Growing Money*



*Judy Kocab shared farmland preservation options at our July Conservation Chat: Future of the Family Farm*

## conservation chats

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY, 6 P.M.  
229 KETTERING, ASHLAND

### november 13: there's a map for that...

- EVER WONDER WHERE TO LOOK FOR INFO ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY OR COMMUNITY? JOIN ASHLAND SWCD AS WE HELP YOU DISCOVER A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS THROUGH ONLINE MAPS:
  - EXPLORE DATA AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ASHLAND COUNTY AUDITOR'S GIS SITE
  - LEARN ABOUT YOUR SOIL WITH WEB SOIL SURVEY
  - SINK OR SWIM WITH FEMA'S FLOODPLAIN MAPS
  - EXPLORE YOUR PERSONAL WATERSHED



## conservation chats

OHIO THEATER, 6 P.M.  
LOUDONVILLE, OHIO

### dec. 5: rated m for manure

- NO BORING LECTURES ON MANURE APPLICATION STANDARDS! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS A PEEK AT THIS POOP SHOW!
- FRANCES SPRINGER FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILL SHOWCASE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MANURE IN PICTURES (NOT JARGON)
- GLEN ARNOLD FROM OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WILL GIVE THE SCOOP ON POOP WHEN IT COMES TO ON-FARM AGRONOMY



*Our Day in the Uplands Conservation Chat was a big hit with community members!*



**Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District**

110 Cottage Street, 1st floor  
Ashland OH 44805  
419-281-7645

**Web:** [ashlandswcd.com](http://ashlandswcd.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/AshlandSWCD](https://facebook.com/AshlandSWCD)

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 87  
Ashland OH



**Fall Fish Sale  
Reminder**

**ORDER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 6**

**PICK UP  
OCTOBER 17, 10-11 A.M.  
AT ASHLAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**