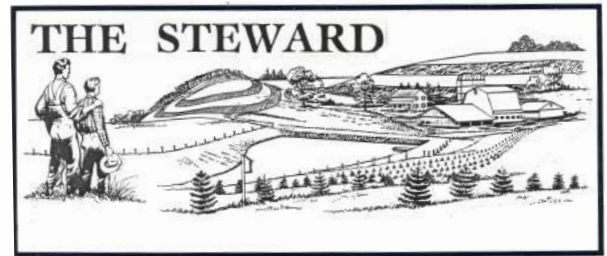


Fall 2020

Ashland



Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Leaders Honored at Annual Meeting



2020 has been a year for the record books. But as the world changed around us, the one thing that hasn't changed is the commitment to conservation of soil and water resources by our board, our staff, our volunteers and our farmers. That's why Ashland SWCD was honored to recognize the following award recipients at our annual meeting:

2020 Volunteer of the Year: Kathy Kreiling

Kathy has been a tireless volunteer instrumental in allowing us to bring back our quarterly newsletter The Steward. Not only has Kathy volunteered countless hours to fold and prepare our newsletters for mailing, but she has also recruited and coordinated a brigade of volunteers to make the job go faster.

2020 Horizon Award Recipients: Dale & Beth Barr

The Horizon award honors a pioneer in conservation in Ashland County. Many of you know and have worked with Dale and Beth over the years in their roles as NRCS and SWCD employees. Most recently Beth served as an Ashland SWCD board member. Not only are the Barrs passionate about soil and water conservation, but they also hold a special place in their hearts for Ashland SWCD's 40-acre Hazel Willis Woods. The Ashland SWCD board has renamed Trail 2 in their honor. The Barrs selected the trail name Walter's Walk to honor Walter Willis who donated the woods to Ashland SWCD.

2020 Cooperator of the Year: Sycamore Valley Farms

Josh and Lindsey Welch have only been farming for four years, but they have grabbed onto conservation practices and principles with both hands, making soil health and regenerative practices cornerstones of their farming operation. The Welches were the first to complete a Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District stream exclusion fencing project with Ashland SWCD in 2019. Learn more about their farm on our Facebook page!

WHAT'S COMING UP

Ashland SWCD Office Closed:

- October 12: Columbus Day
- November 11: Veteran's Day
- November 26-27: Thanksgiving
- December 24 (noon) - 25: Christmas

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

October 14, November 10, & December 9

Fall Fish Stocking Sale

Order deadline October 16; Pick up October 22, 11 am - noon

Scouting for Service at Hazel Willis Woods

October 17; Reservations required

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more event information.



Watershed Planning Underway for Orange Creek

As part of Ashland SWCD's Jerome Fork watershed grant through the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator and District Technician Erica White is working to develop what we call nine-element watershed plans for each of the sub-watersheds in the Jerome Fork of the Mohican River. Last year White tackled developing a plan for the Lang Creek watershed, Ashland County's most urbanized watershed. This year, she's shifting her focus to Orange Creek.

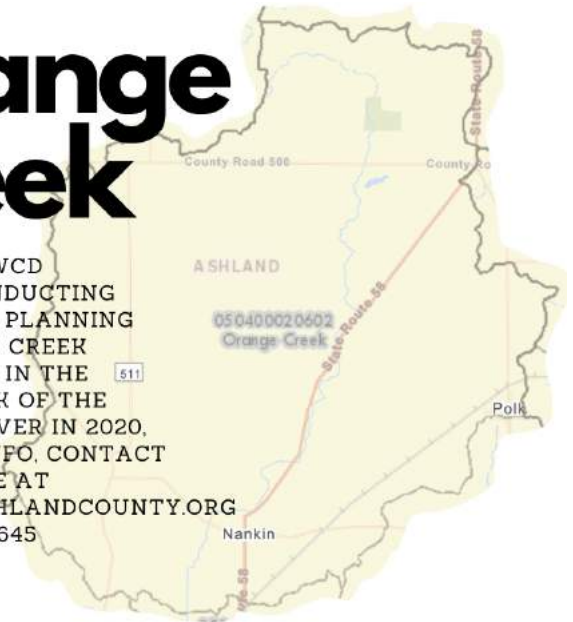
The Jerome Fork of the Mohican River actually begins less than 3 miles northeast of Ashland and the confluence of Orange Creek and Leidigh Mills Creek. The Orange Creek watershed is not only the Northern most of the Jerome Fork's sub-watersheds, but it is also the largest, draining 37.5 square miles of land in Ashland County.

As you can see on the map to the right, the watershed includes the communities of both Nankin and Polk as well as significant areas of farmland, both cropland and livestock operations.

As we begin the watershed planning process, Ashland SWCD needs your help: we are asking community members, residents, business owners and employees throughout the Orange Creek watershed to provide feedback on what they believe the most pressing issues are for water quality in the area.

orange creek

ASHLAND SWCD WILL BE CONDUCTING WATERSHED PLANNING FOR ORANGE CREEK WATERSHED IN THE JEROME FORK OF THE MOHICAN RIVER IN 2020. FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT ERICA WHITE AT EWHITE@ASHLANDCOUNTY.ORG OR 419-281-7645



Community members who complete an assessment survey on the watershed will be entered into a drawing to win a free rain barrel valued at \$170! The survey is available online at <https://forms.gle/4sFCzmb11UMBCYhH6>

Surveys are also available by mail by contacting White at 419-281-7645 or by stopping by the Ashland SWCD office during normal business hours, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

SWCD Election Results



Left: Roger Amos
Right: Steve Hughes

Ashland SWCD is excited to share our 2020 election results. Joining our SWCD board in 2021 will be former Ohio State University Agriculture Extension Agent Roger Amos. And, we are fortunate to also announce that WZLP FM's "Kickin' Klods" ag radio host Steve Hughes will be joining our board as an associate member as well. Congratulations and thank you to both of these gentlemen for agreeing to serve Ashland County.



Fish Stocking Rates

Stocking the recommended sizes and numbers of fish is very important for good fishing. Fingerling fish 1 to 3 inches long are recommended for stocking new or renovated ponds. Starting a pond off by stocking larger fish is tempting, but can lead to an unbalanced pond with too many fish of one kind and too few of another. Stocking larger fish can also be very expensive. Table 2.1 shows how many fish of each kind to stock depending on the desired combination. Whereas stocking fingerlings is recommended for new or renovated ponds, occasional stockings of larger fishes, or periodic restocking of channel catfish may be necessary in ponds with established fish populations. Stocking intermediate size fishes is recommended at reduced rates compared to fingerlings. For example, if largemouth bass or bluegills need to be supplemented, stocking 4- to 6-inch largemouth bass at the reduced rate of 50 per acre, or 2- to 4-inch bluegills at the reduced rate of 250 per acre may be appropriate. Channel catfish should be at least 8 inches long for periodic restocking so they are not eaten by adult largemouth bass. Stocking these larger channel catfish is recommended at the reduced rates of 25 to 50 per acre. The recommended stocking rate for Amurs is 10-12 per acre, and the stocking rate for Koi is 15-20 per acre.

TABLE 2.1 FINGERLING STOCKING RATES

Recommended stocking rates of fingerling fish for new or renovated ponds.

STOCKING COMBINATION	NUMBER OF FISH TO STOCK PER ACRE		
	BASS	BLUEGILL	REDEAR CATFISH
Bass - Bluegill	100	500	0
Bass - Bluegill - Catfish	100	500	0
Bass - Redear	100	0	500
Bass - Bluegill - Redear	100	350	150
Bass - Bluegill - Redear - Catfish	100	350	150

For pick up: Bring a container (ex: bucket) with plastic liner (ex: trash bag) filled 1/4 full with pond water. 50-100 small fish will fit in a bucket; 2-3 kris or amours will fit in a bucket. Pick up is October 22 from 211 am until noon.



Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District

2020 Fall Fish Stocking Program

Order Deadline: Friday, October 16; Order Pickup: Thursday, October 22 from 11 a.m. until noon

PLEASE CUT HERE, KEEP LEFT HALF AND RETURN RIGHT HALF WITH PAYMENT

Name

Address

City

Zip

Phone

Email

FISH	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE/FISH	TOTAL AMOUNT
Bluegill	2-4"	X	\$0.90	
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	X	\$0.85	
Channel Catfish	4-5"	X	\$0.80	
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	X	\$0.95	
Perch	2-4"	X	\$0.90	
Crappie	2-4"	X	\$0.90	
Redear Shellcracker	2-4"	X	\$0.90	
Fathead Minnows		X	\$0.07	
White Amur	8-13"	X	\$15.00	
Multi-Colored Koi	6-8"	X	\$14.00	
Pond Management Book		X	\$20.00	
Nature Pond (Bacteria to clean the bottom of old ponds)	1 gal per 1/4 acre of water	X	\$90.00 /gal	
		X	\$375.00 /5 gal	
TOTAL DUE				

Return order to: Ashland SWCD, 1763 State Route 60, Ashland OH 44805. **Money must accompany all orders!**
Make check payable to **Ashland SWCD**.

If you have any questions, call the Ashland SWCD office at 419-281-7645.



exclusion fencing cost share available



The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District offers 100% cost share for up to \$10,000 for livestock stream exclusion fencing projects including off-stream watering and improved crossings. Contact Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator & District Technician Erica White at 419-281-7645 for details.

Scouting for Service

CALLING ALL CUB SCOUTS, BOY SCOUTS & GIRL SCOUTS! ASHLAND SWCD IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD SCOUTS TO HELP WITH A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TO CLEAN TRAILS AT THE HAZEL WILLIS WOODS. BUT NEVER FEAR - IT WON'T BE ALL WORK & NO PLAY! WE HAVE FUN GAMES ON TAP, TOO. RSVP BY CALLING URBAN & EDUCATION SPECIALIST BECCA VALES AT 419-281-7645.

EARN THE CONSERVATION GOOD TURN AWARD!

October 17, 2020 • 8 a.m. - noon

Sergeant White on Duty

There's a new no-till drill sergeant in town! After 21 years of service to Ashland SWCD, long-time no-till drill sergeant Maxine Swaisgood has retired from our office.

Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator and District

Technician Erica White will be taking command of our equipment rental program. Be sure to contact Erica at 419-281-7645 for all of your equipment rental needs. Don't forget: Ashland SWCD offers a discounted \$10/acre rental rate to seed cover crops this fall!



SOIL TESTING AVAILABLE

Did you know Ashland SWCD offers soil testing services along with the development of a nutrient management plan? Fall is a great time to do your soil sampling to plan for #Plant2021

Contact Erica White at 419-281-7645 or ewhite@ashlandcounty.org for more information.

Plat Books Available

Hunting season is fast approaching. Are you scouting out the perfect spot to hunt? Have you found a great spot but aren't sure who the property owner is? Stop by the SWCD office to pick up a plat book from Urban & Education Specialist Becca Vales for just \$25.



Meet the Staff:

Becca Vales

Urban & Education Specialist



Hometown:
Shreve, Ohio

Education:
Ohio State ATI

Started at Ashland SWCD:

March 2020

Favorite thing about working for Ashland SWCD: Becca loves the customers and being able to help people that share the same passions she does. Although she's not able to be in the classroom for educational programming right now, she enjoys working with kids and coming up with creative ways to share our conservation story, like her #TeachMeTuesday video series.

Hobbies: Becca enjoys working outside with her 2-year-old son RC and showing dairy cattle (especially Ayrshire) at the Ashland County Fair Open Show, the state fair, and national shows.

Favorite Quote: "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

—Jane Goodall

2020 Affiliate Members

THANK YOU

Gold:

Loudonville Farmers Equity

Park National Bank

Simonson Construction

Silver:

Rooks Brothers

Bronze:

Fireland's Electric Cooperative

Mark Haynes Construction

Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District

1763 State Route 60

Ashland OH 44805

419-281-7645

Web: ashlandswcd.com

Facebook: facebook.com/AshlandSWCD

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U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT # 87
Ashland OH

Thanks for supporting Rain Beat on Main Street!

We raised over \$2,000 for stormwater education & awareness in Ashland County!

Proceeds from our 2020 event will go toward installing a demonstration rain garden at the Ashland County Fairgrounds. Be sure to stop by to check it out!

Corporate Sponsors

The Back Forty Embroidery
Company

Caldwell Banker/Ward Realty

Charles River Laboratories

Cowen Truck Line

Hilltop Custom Fabricating

Loudonville Farmer's Equity

Next Home Next Stepp

Park National Bank

Richardson's Greenhouse

Samaritan Foundation

Simonson Construction



People's Choice:

1st place: Jen Wash's sea turtle barrel by Spreng-Smith Agency

2nd place: Alena Arnold's rain forest barrel by Simonson Construction

Top Sellers:

Jen Wash's sea turtle barrel: \$500

Livia Sponsler's koi fish rain barrel: \$230