

Conservation News



Autumn Issue



Employee Spotlight: Jessica Grisier Administrative Assistant

Jessica Grisier is the new Administrative Assistant for the Lucas SWCD. In this role, she helps with administrative duties in the office, manages the District's communications including the social media platforms and website, and assists during various outreach events throughout the year. Jessica is also the first person you see when you walk into the Lucas SWCD office! Originally from Sylvania, Jessica received a Bachelors of Arts in Communication, with a minor in Environmental Science, from Wittenberg University (Springfield, OH). She also received a Masters of Science in Community Sustainability, specializing in environmental education and outreach, from Michigan State University. Jessica previously worked for Partners for Clean Streams (Perrysburg, Ohio) and Wixey Bakery. During her free time, she can be found either coaching or playing volleyball, baking, on a walk, or attending a Cleveland Indians baseball game. Jessica currently lives in Toledo with her husband, Grant.

Annual Meeting & Election

On November 7, 2019, in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Revised Code of Ohio, the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause an election to be held at the annual meeting place of the Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District from 5:30-6:30 PM (dinner begins at 6:15 PM) electing two (2) supervisors to fill the expiring terms of Tom Schoen and Diane DeYonker. The supervisors will be elected for a three (3) year term, beginning on January 1, 2020.



Eligible voters and candidates shall be at least 18 years of age by day of election and shall reside within or own land within Lucas County. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to vote, please cast your **absentee ballot** at the Lucas SWCD office from 8 AM - 4:30 PM weekdays, prior to the day of election, and from 8 AM - Noon on election day. Absentee ballots submitted via mail must arrive at LSWCD **before November 7th. See inside for complete details on the 55th Annual Meeting.**

What's Inside:

- ◆ Fish Fingerling & Cover Crops Sales
- ◆ Annual Meeting & Banquet
- ◆ Meet the Candidates
- ◆ Milkweed for Monarchs
- ◆ Grant Projects, more

REMINDER: ORC 939.08 Manure & Fertilizer



Please know the rules and your responsibilities. Visit this web page for more details: <https://bit.ly/2POBH7u>



Invitation to Our 55th Annual Meeting/Banquet/Election

Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District

DATE: Thursday, November 7, 2019
LOCATION: Fallen Timbers Fairways
 7711 Timbers Blvd, Waterville, OH 43566
TIME: 5:30-6:30 PM Voting; 6:15 Dinner & Program

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with registration and voting until 6:30 PM for two supervisors. Dinner begins at 6:15 PM, followed by District Highlights for 2019, awards saluting the 2019 Conservation Cooperator of the Year and the 2019 Conservation Educator of the Year, presentation of the 2019 CREP Awards, plus plenty of great door prizes!

Featured Presentation: Hidden Discoveries of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield - Dr. Robert Chidester, RPA



Dr. Robert Chidester is the Archaeology Team Leader at The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., and an Adjunct Instructor of Anthropology at Heidelberg University. He received his B.A. in Anthropology from Heidelberg and a Ph.D. in Anthropology and History from the University of Michigan. While a student at Heidelberg, he worked on many of the historic battlefield and military site investigations conducted by the university, including the 2001 survey of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield. His research on British ceramics from the Fort Miamis site was published in the journal *Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology*.



Dr. Chidester will present his findings and experiences from his time at the Fallen Timbers site and provide a glimpse into the local past that shaped our region.

Please join us for an evening of fellowship, food and fun as we celebrate the natural resources of Lucas County. Tickets are \$15 each including a catered taco buffet dinner with dessert. Reservations required by Thursday, October 24th.

For more information, or to obtain an absentee ballot, call: 419-893-1966 or 1-800-547-0272.

55th ANNUAL MEETING - RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____ #attending _____

x \$15=

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Total: \$ _____

Please check here if you require a vegetarian meal. #of vegetarian meals: _____

One family per form (list all names of those over 18 yrs. for voting purposes).

* Tickets also available online with credit card! Go to www.lucasswcd.org/annual-meeting

Please make your check payable to: **Lucas SWCD, 130-A West Dudley, Maumee, OH 43537**

Meet the Candidates for Lucas SWCD Board of Supervisors Two to be elected at the Annual Meeting on November 7th, 2019



Diane DeYonker, a Lucas SWCD Board Supervisor since 2014, has a strong background in Environmental Education starting as a summer camp counselor for 13 years including at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. This led to working as an Outdoor Educator for Toledo Public Schools at Camp Storer for 2 years. She continued working for Toledo Public Schools in their Career Tech Program as a Natural Resource Instructor teaching high school juniors & seniors preparing for careers in Wildlife Management, Nature Interpretation, Forestry, Outdoor Recreation, Park Management, and Soil & Water Conservation. Since retiring, she has been active volunteering as a Rare Plant Monitor for Metroparks Toledo, and as an Education Chair for the Oak Openings Wild Ones (an organization promoting the use of native plants in home landscapes). During the summer she runs camps with the Toledo Zoo (10 years leading canoe trips, and the past 7 years leading a junior field researcher program for 11-14 yr. old campers). Diane and her husband live west of Whitehouse on 15 acres which they manage to encourage native plant and animal diversity.



Tom Schoen has served as a Lucas SWCD Board Supervisor since 2014. He has been transforming landscapes into works of art and function for the last 40 years. He is a plantsman and master craftsman with stone and brick. He is passionate about the environment, creating natural and native gardens, and educating our community on the benefits of a healthy ecosystem and personal environments. As the owner of Landscape Construction Inc. and Vintage Gardens, Tom has employed, trained and mentored many successful men and women in our community and throughout the country. Tom has volunteered his time and talent to many local organizations, including the Toledo Botanical Garden Metropark, Toledo GROWS, Metroparks Toledo, Unruly Arts, NRAC District 12, Clean Ohio Fund-Green Space Conservation Program, Rain Garden Initiative, and Owens Community College where he is currently teaching Landscape Design. Tom and his wife Lori live in Maumee and have three grown sons. It should also be noted that Tom is a lifelong fan of the Cleveland Indians.....in good times and in bad.



Sister Rita Wienken is a Sister of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio. Sister Rita grew up on a small family farm near Landeck, Ohio. Since 1982 Sr. Rita has been engaged in the production of organic foods. In 2005 she founded Seeds of Hope Farm, dedicated to the production of chemical-free produce, pastured poultry, and eggs from free-range laying hens. Sr. Rita grew the farm from 2 to 20 acres, started a CSA marketing operation that fed over 170 households, established direct marketing to local restaurants and ran a farm stand on the Sisters of St. Francis Property. She started her own consulting service that led her to Bryan, Ohio in 2012. In March 2015 Sr. Rita took the urban farm position at Toledo GROWS. Here she continues to use her experience to teach others about growing healthy, chemical-free produce. Sr. Rita has a passion and vision to educate people about the need for a healthy, local food system which includes assisting families with growing some of their own food and providing produce to those in need.

E-Newsletter List:

Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically to help us operate more sustainably. Fill out the information below and start receiving our newsletter today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St. Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

**Mail either form to: Lucas SWCD,
130-A West Dudley Street, Maumee, OH 43537**

Affiliate Members Needed....

Your tax-deductible donation helps us continue conservation activities. Any donation will be accepted; however, a minimum of \$25 is required for an affiliate member (to **LUCAS SWCD**):

Name: _____

Phone: _____

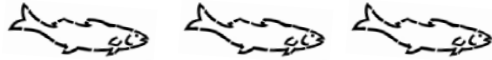
Address: _____

City: _____ ST: ____ Zip: _____

Donation: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

What's swimming around.....



Bluegill are one of the most common species in Ohio. Larger fish are usually caught in late spring or early summer while they are spawning in large colonies near shore. Bluegill are a deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and a long pointed pectoral fin. They have 5-9 dark bars on their side and an overall dark green body color. The ear flap (opercle) is always black without a red tip. Bluegill sunfish often have a black blotch near the back of the soft dorsal and anal fins. They have blue along the bottom edge of their jaw line and rear bottom edge of their gill covers. They do not have any wavy blue lines on the cheek like pumpkinseed, green, and longear sunfishes.

The **channel catfish**, like other catfish, has no scales, a single bony spine in each pectoral fin and the dorsal fin, and 8 barbels around the mouth. They have a deeply forked tail and the upper jaw is longer than the lower jaw. The dorsal and pectoral spines are sharp and deeply serrated, and the anal fin is curved and has between 24 and 30 rays. The body can be blue, gray, silver, or almost black. Their belly is usually white or cream colored.



Yellow perch are golden yellow to brassy green with six to eight dark vertical bars and a white to yellow belly. Yellow perch do not have large canine teeth like the closely related walleye or sauger. Their pelvic and anal fins usually have some orange coloration and the first dorsal fin has a dark blotch near the rear of the fin. All other fins are relatively clear with no distinct markings. Also referred to as the lake perch or ringed perch, the yellow perch is in the Percidae (perches and darters) family. This sport fish can reach 16 inches in length and weigh up to 2 pounds.

Largemouth bass have a very large mouth that extends beyond the rear edge of the eye when it is closed. This characteristic distinguishes it from the small-mouth and spotted bass where the back of the mouth does not extend passed the eye. The largemouth also has a black stripe that extends down the side of the body. This sport fish belongs to the Centrarchidae (sunfishes) family, and is also called black bass, bigmouth bass, and bucket mouth. It is typically 15-18 inches and 1-5 pounds, but can reach up to 26 inches and 13 pounds in Ohio.



The **fathead minnow** is the most common species of minnow sold as bait. The fathead minnow is a chubby, slab-sided fish with a blunt, round snout. It spawns over a long period beginning in late spring and continuing well into summer. The fathead seldom attains a length of more than 3 inches. A color form of fathead minnows that lack body pigments, which makes them appear a light golden yellow to orange in color, are sold at most pet stores as feeder fish. These are typically sold under the name "rosy reds".

Non-native invasive fish no longer sold by Lucas SWCD:

The **grass carp** is a long and slender member of the minnow family from China. It resembles the common carp because of its large size and scales. Grass carp differ from the common carp with the lack of a sucker-like mouth, the absence of barbels on the mouth, and are usually silvery-gray. A member of the Cyprinidae, the grass carp is also known as the white amur. It can reach up to 60 inches and up to 100 pounds. For more information on the management of invasive grass carp/amurs:

www.co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/74086/Grass-Carp-BMPs-Fact-Sheet



Redear sunfish are a deep, slab-sided fish similar to the bluegill sunfish, except the ear flap (opercle) is black with a red or orange spot at the rear edge. Pumpkinseed and northern longear sunfish also have this red tip but in addition they have many wavy blue lines on the cheek. Redear sunfish do not have distinct vertical bars like bluegill sunfish, when they are present they are broken and blotchy. Redear Sunfish also lack the black blotches at the rear base of the dorsal and anal fins that bluegill sunfish have. Also called a shellcracker, adults can reach up to 15 inches and weigh up to 3.5 pounds.

~ Annual Fall Fish Sale ~

The Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District is offering new and established pond owners the opportunity to stock their ponds conveniently and at a low cost. Anyone considering stocking their pond in the near future should take advantage of this opportunity.

An aerator tank truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery in Baltic, Ohio, will distribute fish fingerlings on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at our office in Maumee.**

Bring your own container lined with a clean trash bag half-filled with your pond water. The container should be prepped as close to pick up time as possible to prevent drastic temperature changes in the water which can cause shock to your fish during transportation. A 5-gallon bucket is adequate for 50 fish or 1,000 minnows.

Fish are guaranteed to be delivered in good condition, however, we cannot guarantee survival after stocking in your pond.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 2019

(Pick up fish on Tuesday, October 15th)

Need Pond Answers ?

Please attend our free Annual **POND CLINIC** on **Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Olander Park, Sylvania.** If you are unable to attend, we can get you in touch with our speaker



Don Schooner from Inspired By Nature. **For more info and RSVP (required), please call 419-893-1966.**

Recommended stocking rates, new/renovated ponds:

Number of fish to stock **per acre:**

Stocking Combination	Bass	Bluegill	Catfish	Perch	Redear
Bass-bluegill	100	500			
Bass-bluegill-catfish	100	500	100		
Bass-perch	100			100	
Bass-bluegill-perch	100	500		100	
Bass-bluegill-catfish-perch	100	500	100	100	

Not sold starting in 2015 - see * below

Fathead Minnows may be stocked at a rate of 1,000 per one acre pond.

***CHANGE since 2015** - The Lucas SWCD will no longer be offering White Amur or Redear Sunfish. These two species are not native to Ohio and pose a risk of becoming invasive species that alter native ecosystems.

Make check payable and mail to:

LUCAS SWCD

130-A West Dudley Street Maumee, OH 43537

Order on-line at: www.lucasswcd.org/fishsales.html

Order Form



NAME _____ DAY PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Species :	Size:	Price Per Fish:	# Purchasing:	Total Cost:
Bluegill	2"-4"	\$.90	_____	\$ _____
Channel Catfish	4"-6"	\$.85	_____	\$ _____
Largemouth Bass	2"-4"	\$.95	_____	\$ _____
Yellow Perch	3"-4"	\$.90	_____	\$ _____
Fathead Minnows	1"-3"	\$.10	_____	\$ _____

Thank you for your order!

DO NOT ADD SALES TAX

TOTAL: \$ _____

Current Grant-funded Projects Underway at the Lucas SWCD.....



Farming in the Heilman Ditch Watershed of Swan Creek?

Want to try cover crops or a drainage water management structure? Give the office a call! The Lucas SWCD still has funding through the end of 2019 for these practices in the **Heilman Ditch & adjacent watersheds!** Visit here to learn more: www.lucasswcd.org/agriculture.html

Not located in this area? Stay tuned for a program in the Headwaters of the Tenmile Creek Watershed or check out these helpful USDA-NRCS cost-share programs in the Great Lakes region: <https://bit.ly/2HawPGR>

NEW! Rainfall and Runoff Simulator Trailer:

The Lucas SWCD is proud to partner with the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, as well as the SWCDs of Fulton, Ottawa, Sandusky and Seneca, to bring a conservation demonstration trailer and rainfall simulator to Northwest Ohio. Funded by a grant from the Ohio Soybean Council, the trailer is available by appointment for educational events from classrooms to county fairs. This demonstration showcases the infiltration and runoff rates for different soil types and management practices, like cover crops and conservation tillage vs. traditional tillage practices. Call our office for more information: **419-893-1966**.



Backyard Conservation & Helpful Items for Purchase:

Milkweed Pods for Monarchs 2019!



During September 1 - October 30, seed pods from common or swamp milkweed should be collected **ONLY WHEN THE PODS ARE DRY & BROWN-GREY**, and if center seam pops with gentle pressure. It is best to collect pods into paper bags - avoid using plastic bags because they induce mold to develop. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. **Collected dry pods can be dropped off any day or time during the collection period in the designated bin outside the Lucas SWCD office at 130-A West Dudley Street, Maumee, OH 43537.** Seeds support OPHI/ODOT habitats. For other SWCDs, visit www.ofswcd.org

Winter is just around the corner! Protect your tree investments from drying winter winds, frigid temperatures, animal damage, and sunscald. **Tubex Treeshelters** provide a micro-climate for trees which results in faster establishment, better survival rates, roots and bark protected from herbicides and animals, wind protection, fewer side shoots, and less weed competition. Tubex Treeshelters are offered in 3 sizes and include the tube, wooden stake, zip ties, and mesh critter guard for **just \$5.00 each**. ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Other items for sale at the Lucas SWCD Office include: bat shelters, bluebird houses, wren houses, woodpecker houses, butterfly shelters, various bird & squirrel feeders, ring buoys and deep water signs, composters, rain barrels and diverters, NOAA rain and snow gauges, soil test kits, marking flags, and raised bed garden frames in several sizes. **Stop in and see us for great gift ideas!**



Cover Crop Seed Sale

The Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District is offering two **autumn cover crop** seed mixes for use in your backyard garden. LSWCD has partnered with Walnut Creek Seeds to offer cover crop mixes well suited to northwest Ohio.

Why Cover Crops?

Garden Cover Crop Mixes help to reduce erosion and compaction, and increase water permeation in the garden. They also hold minerals normally leached from your soil over the winter. Densely planted cover crops will suppress perennial and winter annual weed growth. The top growth and roots add organic matter to the garden soil. The cover crop's root system also opens passage-ways that help improve air and water movement and supports microbial life. This microbial life works synergistically with the roots, bacteria and fungi to improve soil health.

At the end of the garden season you may be ready to rest, but your soil is not. All gardens benefit from the use of cover crops, or "green manures" planted at the end of the season. Tilling, weeding, harvesting and foot traffic tends to destroy soil structure. Planting cover crops is an easy way to revitalize the soil.

The advantage of rolling, crushing or using winter kill varieties is to leave the soil surface covered and relatively undisturbed, preventing weeds from growing. In the spring, just plant through and let it act as your mulch. Tilling or pulling is NOT recommended as it destroys root and earthworm pathways, reduces the beneficial microorganism population and oxidizes soil organic matter. You can also harvest the tops for compost.

Order Form:

NAME _____ DAY PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Name	Size bag (covers)	Price Per bag	# Purchasing	Total Cost
Garden Late Mix	1 lb. (200-300 sq.ft.)	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Austrian Winter Pea	1 lb. (200-300 sq.ft.)	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____

DEADLINE TO ORDER: OCTOBER 1st. Seeds will be ready for pick up at the LSWCD Office on October 15th.

Mail to: Lucas SWCD, 130-A West Dudley Street, Maumee Ohio 43537

Order on-line: www.lucasswcd.org/covercropsale.html

Need Cover Crop Answers?

Cover crops are new to many backyard gardeners. We can help!!

For more information, please contact the Lucas SWCD at: **419-893-1966** and we can get you in touch with some wonderful resources!



Garden Late Cover Mix is a simple cover crop mix designed to plant with a minimal window prior to first frost and still provide the benefits of a cover crop. The combination may be planted up until mid October in Zone 5, late October in Zone 6. It will loosen topsoil, protect your soil from winter erosion and nutrient loss, suppress weeds and provide mulch in the spring and food for soil micro and macro organisms which are crucial for healthy soil. **Includes:** Cereal Rye, Hairy Vetch and Crimson Clover. A one pound bag will seed 200-300 square feet.

Austrian Winter Pea:

A quick growing, excellent source of Nitrogen which provides very good erosion control and breaks down quickly. Winter peas are also very good at loosening topsoil and reducing weeds and disease. Succulent stems break down easily. Added bacterial inoculant will maximize nitrogen fixation. Field peas grow rapidly in the cool, moist weather, and can be sown in late fall to come up quickly in early spring. Spring flowers provide nectar for pollinators, and shoots are edible in salads. A one pound bag will seed 200-300 square ft.



We will have more garden cover crop mixes available in the Spring 2020 Tree & Garden Sale ~ Check the Spring 2020 Newsletter!

Conservation News

Autumn 2019



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130-A West Dudley Street
Maumee, OH 43537-2141

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Telephone:

(419) 893-1966

Toll Free: 1-800-547-0272

Fax: (419) 893-3131

www.lucasswcd.org



Facebook/Twitter/Instagram!

In This Issue...

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Vice-Chair

Christine Mayer

Treasurer

Steve Loeffler

Secretary

Jim Vogelbacher

Fiscal Agent

Tom Schoen

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

East Lucas & Ottawa Counties:

Josh Gerwin
(419) 898-6431

Western Lucas County

Mike Weaver
(419) 583-3039

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Joey Sink-Oiler

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Jamie Kochensparger

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Dj Mears

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The Lucas SWCD wishes to thank the following entities, whose financial support at the local level either draws matching funds from the State of Ohio and/or in-kind support enables the District to provide services to Lucas County:

- Lucas County Commissioners
- Cities of: Maumee, Oregon, Sylvania, Toledo and Waterville
- Village of Holland
- Townships of: Harding, Jerusalem, Monclova, Providence, Richfield, Spencer, and Sylvania
- Lucas County Farm Bureau
- Lucas County Engineers
- In-kind services from the USDA-NRCS, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture, and OFSWCD
- Grants from Ohio EPA, Ohio Soybean Council, and ODA.

If you or your agency/organization would like to assist the Lucas SWCD in promoting conservation, please call our office for ways to provide support. **To become an Affiliate Member; check out our new program at:**

<https://www.lucasswcd.org/support.html>

The Lucas SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.