

2023 LUCAS SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Dj Mears, *Drainage/Agricultural Conservationist*
Patrick Troyer, *Education Specialist*

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Clint Geldine, District Conservationist—Lucas & Ottawa Counties
Mike Weaver, District Conservationist—Lucas & Fulton Counties

Your gifts and/or affiliate memberships may be tax-deductible and support our education and outreach programs as well as our boots-on-the-ground conservation efforts in Lucas County.

Contact the Lucas SWCD office to learn more!

Election Procedures

The candidates' profiles and pictures are posted on the display as you enter. As you arrive, find/sign your name on the Election Registry. Once you sign next to your name to verify your eligibility, you will be given a ballot. Proceed to the voting booth, where you cast your vote, and deposit your ballot in the designated box. Voting is 4:30-5:30 PM.

Following voting or while waiting, proceed to the registration table to check in. Enjoy your evening with friends and family!

Dinner will begin at 5:30 PM.

Lucas SWCD's 59th Annual Meeting & Election



**November 8, 2023
Oak Shade Grove
Oregon, Ohio**

5:30 PM

59th Annual Meeting & Election Program

4:30-5:30 PMElection of Two Board Supervisors

5:30 PMWelcome & Introductions/Recognition
Kevin Joyce, Board Chair

5:35 PM Invocation & Dinner (provided by KC's Catering)
Penny Bollin, Urban Conservation Technician

6:15-6:30 PM Featured Presentation
Varsity Voices Ensemble Choir from Clay High School, Director Mr. Thomas Sneed

6:40-7:40 PM 2023 District Highlights, *LSWCD Staff*

2023 Cooperator of the Year Award
Matthew Browne, H2Ohio Technician

2023 CRP Award
Clint Geldine, NRCS & Dj Mears, Drainage/ Agricultural Conservationist

2023 Educator of the Year Award
Patrick Troyer, Education Specialist

2023 Community Partner of the Year
Joey Warner, District Manager

Honorary Community Service Legacy Award
Joey Warner, District Manager

7:40 PM Door Prizes
Stephen Loeffler & Jim Vogelbacher, Board Supervisors

8:00 PM Closing Remarks
Tom Schoen, Board Supervisor

Recognitions & Acknowledgments

The Lucas SWCD wishes to thank the following entities, whose financial support at the local level draws matching funds from the State of Ohio and enables the District to operate:

Tina Skeldon-Wozniak, President, Lucas County Commissioner
Lisa Sobecki, Lucas County Commissioner
Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner

City of Oregon, City of Sylvania
City of Toledo, Harding Township,
Jerusalem Township, Monclova Township,
Richfield Township, Spencer Township, Springfield Township,
Sylvania Township, Village of Holland, Village of Ottawa Hills

Lucas County Engineer
Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission

The District also appreciates the valuable assistance, support, and partnership provided by the following agencies and organizations:

Fulton/Ottawa County Farm Service
Agency

Ohio Lake Erie Commission

City of Toledo Dept. of Environmental
Services

Ohio State University Extension

Partners for Clean Streams

Lucas County Farm Bureau

The Nature Conservancy

Lucas County Auditor & Staff

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of
Governments

Lucas County Engineer & Staff

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency

Metroparks Toledo

Natural Resources Conservation
Service

USDA—Natural Resource
Conservation Service

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Lucas County Agricultural Society

Ohio Department of Natural
Resources

Toledo Port Authority

Ohio Environmental Protection
Agency

Lastly, thank you to all our amazing volunteers throughout the year who helped make what we do possible!

Recognitions & Acknowledgments

Thank You to Our Event Sponsors!



Falor Farm Center, Inc.

Fertilizer, Chemicals, Custom Application, Seed
7891 County Rd 10
Delta, Ohio 43515
Ph. 419-822-4005



BARRY BAGELS
BERKEY FARM CENTER
BENCH FARMS
DALE'S BAR & GRILL
DALE'S DINER
E L COX WOODWORKS
HD GRAIN
LOEFFLER FARMS, LLC
SHARE OUR GROUNDS
STEVENS GARDENS
DR. SUSAN OROSZ



2023 Accomplishments & Activities

Conservation Education

Each year, the Lucas SWCD offers workshops for teachers, brings programs to classrooms and public events, and works with area partners on field trips, events, and education competitions.

Teacher Workshops — 2 events / 33 educators
Project WET and Project WOW

Education Newsletter — sent bimonthly to 350 local teachers, administrators, and principals

650 Classroom K-12 Programs — reached 16,291 students and 707 teachers

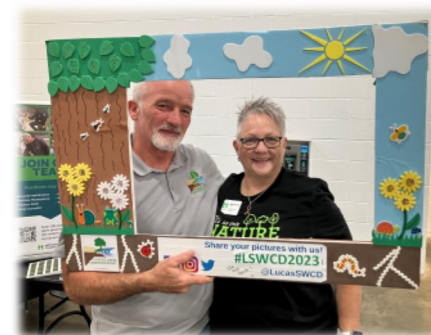
Popular programs included: *Worm Composting, Edible Insects, Macroinvertebrates, Streamulator, Owl Pellets, Soils, Adaptations, Rocks, Environmental Careers, and Ohio Wildlife*

Free Trees — over 1,000 evergreen seedlings distributed to local K-12 schools along with the *Trees are Terrific* program

Area 1 High School Envirothon — 4 teams participated from 2 Lucas County High Schools

3 Field Days with K-12 students at Fort Miami Elementary School Prairie, Detwiler Marsh, and Blue Creek Conservation Area in Whitehouse

73 Public and Non-School Programs/Events — reached 4,088 children and adults



2023 Accomplishments & Activities

Information & Community Outreach

Rain Barrel Workshops — 7 events with 156 participants and 137 barrels made

District Newsletters — Spring and Fall issues, each circulated to approx. 4,500 people

Website Blog — Released articles once a month, featuring articles on topics such as gardening, rain barrels, native plants, and more

Tree Seedling Sale — 191 customers, 8,820 trees and 80 native seed packets sold

Backyard Conservation Day & Native Plant Sale — 39 customers
Over 500 native flowers, grasses and sedges sold. Plus rain barrels, composters, bird houses, and more!

Spring & Fall Fish Sales — 32 customers and 17,723 fish fingerlings

Spring & Fall Cover Crop Sales — 14 customers and 29 bags sold

Social Media & Website — Facebook page reached 47,725 people and our website had 14,901 page views (January to present)

Office Sales & Information — Offered online ordering/office pick-up for various items including rain barrels, composters, birds houses, rain chains, soil test kits, and more!

Representing Soil & Water in Local Government:

Natural Resource Advisory Council
TMACOG Watershed Committee
TMACOG Agriculture Committee
City of Toledo Tree Commission
Maumee AOC Advisory Committee
Dredge Research and Innovation in Farming Team
Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative
Rain Garden Initiative & Sacred Grounds Toledo
Area Career Tech Advisory Committees
Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation
District Employees



Community Service Legacy Award:



*Tina Skeldon-
Wozniak*

Lucas County Commissioner
2002 to present

Tina has served Lucas County residents since December 2002, though she began her public service career in 1997 when she joined Toledo City Council as the District 5 representative. She recently announced her retirement at the end of 2023, prior to the completion of her current term.

Under Tina's leadership, the Board of County Commissioners has successfully maintained a balanced budget and reserve balance without impacting critical public services and infrastructure. The Board is currently planning for a new Lucas County Canine Care & Control facility, as well as a new Corrections Center.

Creating a sustainable Lucas County has also been a priority for Tina. She founded the Toledo Lucas County Sustainability Commission and led the community in developing a comprehensive sustainability plan called "Going Beyond Green." Tina spearheaded the Western Lake Erie Nutrient Source Inventory (NSI), an interactive map showing sources of nutrients in the western Lake Erie watershed.

Tina has been involved with many initiatives to make Lucas County a great place to live, work, and play. She is a champion for families and children, and she endorsed a \$3.5 million investment in a partnership with the Arts Commission to support artists and cultural organizations financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to her work as an elected official, Tina is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW). She has a bachelor's degree in social work from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in social work from The Ohio State University. Tina and her husband of 40+ years, Russ, live in downtown Toledo. They have three children – Aaron (Margaret), Sam (BreAnne), and Joe, and four grandchildren – Josie, Annie, Ava, and William.

~ Congratulations and thank you for your dedication! ~

2023 Community Partner of the Year Award:



Cherie Blair

Ohio Environmental
Protection Agency

Cherie Blair is the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) Coordinator and a Grants Manager for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Her office is located within the Northwest Office of Ohio EPA in Bowling Green. She works with the governments, nonprofits, businesses, and citizens to restore and maintain the health of the Maumee AOC.

Cherie has been the Maumee AOC Coordinator since January 1996. She has helped to identify, develop, and implement dozens of projects and management actions, to collect environmental data, and to evaluate the conditions of the AOC, in addition to assisting with the coordination of educational and outreach programs and materials. In 2016, Cherie added grant management to her responsibilities. Since then she has written, received, and directly managed approximately \$22 million in grants, and assisted community partners with nearly \$50 million in projects to acquire, design, and restore natural areas and waterways within the Maumee AOC.

Ms. Blair received a bachelor's degree with a dual major in Biology and Earth Sciences from Adrian College. Since then, she has taken courses in public relations, environmental studies, law, and grants management. In 2001, she was awarded an Outstanding Service Award for Public Outreach by the Ohio EPA Northwest District Office. Since then, she has received several other awards and most recently was recognized by the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water Chief with a special Chief's Award for outstanding performance and program knowledge.

Cherie's husband, Bryce, is the Deputy Chief of Operations for the City of Toledo Dept. of Fire & Rescue. They live in western Lucas County and have two children, Bryce and Eryn.

~ *Congratulations and thank you for your dedication!* ~

2023 Accomplishments & Activities

Conservation on the Ground

The District continued our long tradition of conservation farming at Blue Creek Conservation Area (BCCA) in Whitehouse, Ohio on 60 acres of demonstration fields. Practices include conservation tillage, nutrient management, windbreaks, filter strips, cover crops, strip till, and regenerative agriculture.



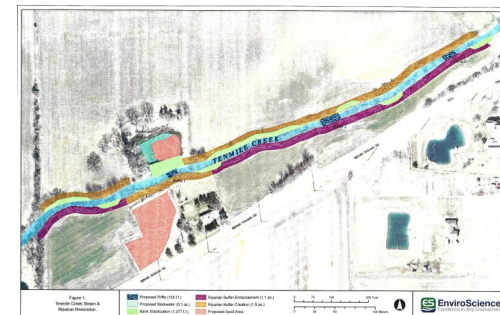
H2Ohio practices for crop year 2022 are completed (as of spring 2023) and producers are wrapping up the final year of their original contracts. The total cost-share amount paid to H2Ohio producers in Lucas County for crop year 2022 practices was \$303,989.50. The best management practices with the largest amount of acres enrolled include voluntary nutrient management plan implementation, variable rate technology phosphorus application, and subsurface placement. **We are pleased to note we saw a 133% increase in the acres established for overwintering cover crops!**



Not since 1960's, has any public work been taken on our drainage ditches under County Maintenance authority! It is our intention to complete all necessary improvements within the next five years. As of today, we have completed all of our ditch reappraisals so we can levy funds to complete the necessary ditch improvements in Lucas and Fulton Counties. **This construction season, we seeded over 13 acres of permanent grass filter strips, de-brushed 9.5 miles of trees and brush, and did 3 miles of spraying brush control on maintenance ditches.**

In early 2023, with Lucas SWCD as the project lead, the Headwaters Tenmile Creek Riparian Restoration Project officially began with planning, site assessment and sampling on the project site located in Berkey. This 25-acre project was recommended by the Maumee Area of Concern Advisory

Committee and approved by both the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the US EPA as one of the priority management action projects to assist in achieving the removal of beneficial use impairments. The project objectives that are to be completed by Summer 2025 include: restore/



Conservation on the Ground (cont.)

stabilize streambank, create riffle habitat, create/enhance riparian buffer, and create a backwater wetland habitat as well as before and after biological sampling for macroinvertebrate and aquatic species presence and improvement.

It is also important to note that throughout the year, our staff provided technical assistance to dozens of property owners with questions and concerns regarding soils, erosion, stormwater management, native plants, ponds, and more. The staff is also partnering with Lott Industries regarding 10 acres of greenspace located behind our new office location. The space will feature demonstration areas for various conservation practices as well as a large greenhouse.



2023 Conservation Educator Award:



Lianne Genzman

Ottawa Hills Elementary School
5th Grade

We are excited to present the 2023 Conservation Educator of the Year Award to Lianne Genzman, a 5th grade science teacher at Ottawa Hills Elementary School. Apart from inviting Lucas SWCD into her classroom on a regular basis for programming, Lianne and her students are annual participants in the TMACOG Student Watershed Watch (SWW) and Student Watershed Summit. Through the SWW, she partners with The Nature Conservancy to remove invasive species and discusses ways to improve the overall health of our watershed with her students. When asked why she does what she does, Lianne said, **"I love establishing partnerships with local groups to help my students see connections in the environment and their own backyard"**.

Prior to teaching, Lianne worked as a Restoration Technician for two separate Conservation Authorities in Canada and she is a founding member of the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy. Her background includes an undergraduate degree in environmental science, a post-graduate degree in restoration ecology and an additional masters degree in mathematics education.

~ *Congratulations and thank you for your dedication!* ~

2023 Cooperator of the Year Award:



Bench Family Farms

Jerusalem Township

For decades, the Bench Family of Jerusalem Township has been sharing their love of the land, food, and farming. Their operation has always been family focused, with the 4th generation now helping out on the farm and at the roadside market on Route 2. David and Cindy Bench have owned and operated the Bench Farms State Route 2 Greenhouse & Roadside Produce Market for nearly 30 years, offering a plethora of flowers, vegetables, and herbs for sale each year. Each of their children grew up learning the business and a love for the land. As a result, they have continued to build the family's farming legacy by venturing into various branches of agricultural business, including Community Supported Agriculture, Organic Farming, and Bee-Keeping. Arik Bench and his wife, Beth, have also continued this legacy and commitment to doing right by the land and their community by participating in the H2Ohio Phosphorus Reduction program.

2023 Conservation Reserve Program Award:

Peter E. Durbin

Village of Berkey

Peter Durbin enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program through NRCS three decades ago and has since created and maintained an oak savanna and wetland on his property. His house that was built in the 1860s sits on an old farm property spanning 20 acres in the Village of Berkey, just south of the state line. Tenmile Creek runs adjacent to his property and the habitat he has created acts as a floodplain during heavy rain events. He has planted a diverse mixture of trees, many of which are different species of Oaks. Wildlife frequents his woods, feeding on nuts and finding shelter in the trees and tree cavities including deer, turkey, coyote, several species of owls, pileated woodpeckers, flickers, great blue herons, wood ducks, and more. Peter is a retired English teacher and has welcomed students in high school and college to his property for field days and to conduct research.



~ *Congratulations and thank you for your dedication!* ~