Lucas SWCD Staff & Board Updates

At the Lucas SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet on October 29, 2015, Steve Loeffler was elected to another term on the Lucas SWCD Board of Supervisors for January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018. He has served on the Lucas SWCD Board of Supervisors since April of 2012, and as Board Chair through January 2016.

Also at the start of 2016 Jessica Wilbarger, the Lucas SWCD former Natural Resources Intern, joined our staff full-time as Natural Resources Specialist. Jessica has already been a terrific asset to the District, doing work with the agricultural, rural, suburban and urban residents. She will add needed support for new nutrient management initiatives and duties related to Ohio SB1, GIS mapping, social media outreach and more. Stop by our office to welcome our newest team member!

What’s Inside:
Tree Seedling & Fish Sale
Backyard Conservation Day
Educator & Cooperators Awards
Nutrient Management Workshops
2015 Conservation Educator Of the Year

Michelle Bogue

Michelle has been teaching for 21 years. She started her education career at the Toledo Public Schools in the Floriculture/Greenhouse Management Program of the now Natural Science Technology Center. Currently Michelle is the Environmental Science teacher at Sylvania Northview High School. While at Northview, Michelle has been working with students on:
- running Northview’s recycling program
- collection of data from the Tenmile Creek and being a part of the Toledo Metropolitan Council of Government’s (TMACOG) NW Ohio Student Watershed Watch Program for 18 years.
- mentoring teams of students to participate in the OFSWCD’s Area 1 Envirothon each year.
- helping students prepare research projects and attend the District and State Science Fair competitions for the past 8 years.

Additionally, Michelle has been working with the Green Ribbon Initiative giving input for lesson plans about the Oak Openings Region. For the past 7 years, Michelle has been working with The University of Toledo & National Science Foundation in a Land Lake Ecology collaboration, bringing Graduate Fellows into the class room to work with high school students on research and ecology issues of the area.

Michelle has often invited the Lucas SWCD to her classroom for presentations about Groundwater, Shades of Green, Enviroscape and Trees Are Terrific. It is very evident Michelle cares that her students not only understand environmental issues, but that they also have the skills to apply these principles to decision-making in their daily lives. The Lucas SWCD is grateful for Michelle Bogue’s dedication to conservation.

~ Congratulations on a job well done! ~

Tree Education & Free Tree Seedling Program

The Lucas SWCD will again be providing tree education programs and free spruce tree seedlings to classrooms and youth groups in Lucas County. Each program is based on age group and includes info on tree biology, benefits and uses of trees, Emerald Ash Borer update, and more. While supplies last! To schedule this program, call 419-893-1966.

2016 - SAVE THESE DATES!

NW Ohio Kids Science Camp “Camp Underground”
June 3-6, 4-H Camp Palmer, Fayette, Ohio
Kids who have completed grades 3-8 will investigate rocks, soil & more along with traditional camp activities.

Black Swamp Educators “Life on the Edge”
June 21-23, Secor Metropark, Sylvania Ohio
Hands-on educational sessions, curricula books & field trips: Oak Openings, Great Lakes Museum, Toledo Zoo.

For more info, call 419-893-1966

~ 2015 Cooperator of the Year ~

Heilmann Farms, Inc., a partnership with Donald Heilmann, Jake Heilmann, Matt Ditzig & Randy Mead, is a corn, soybeans and some wheat rotation operation. This is their eighth year strip tilling, but their beliefs have always been about more than just product agriculture. They have been utilizing environmental practices for several years. Their main interest is how to manage corn residue in their continuous corn production. They also compete yearly in National Corn Yield Completion in the Conventional and Strip Till categories. Heilmann Farms has participated in both Nutrient Reduction Programs since the drinking water crisis in Toledo. They lead in the number of acres in the Western Lake Basin on Precision Nutrients Systems with Placement of Cover Crop. Half of the acreage for this program is the Heilmann Farms. They are enrolled in other programs including Cover Crop, Soil Testing, Water Quality Inlets and Controlled Drainage Structures. Their commitments to sound environmental practices are a positive example for area farmers.

~ Congratulations on a job well done! ~
Conservation News

2015 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Award:
Byron Gary Kusian Family Farm

The Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are proud to present the 2015 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Award to the Byron Gary Kusian Family Farm. The Kusians have worked with the NRCS to enroll parts of their family farm into the Wetland Restoration Practice and the Field Windbreak Program. The enrolled windbreak stretches across 4.9 acres or 17,930 row feet and contains a diverse mix of trees: red cedar, Norway spruce, bald cypress, and pin oak. Among the trees are shrub species that will attract wildlife: silky dogwood, black chokeberry, American plum, and Sargent crabapple.

The wetland restoration converted 20.4 acres from cropland to wetland, including 5 acres of dugout water area, 2 acres of annuals planted as a wildlife food plot, and an upland prairies of warm season grasses. Working with the NRCS technician, son Brian Kusian did all the excavation and other restoration practices himself. He also reached out to another conservation organization, Pheasants Forever, to do the warm season grass seedings.

Solutions from the Farm:
Opportunities to Reduce Nutrient Loss
March 10, 2016
5:30—8:00 p.m. Robert Fulton Agriculture Center
8770 State Route 108, Wauseon, OH 43567
RSVP by March 7, 2016: 419-337-9217 (meal provided)

Learn about opportunities to reduce nutrient loss and ways to improve your financial assistance applications.
Hear from OSU Sea Grant, FSA, NRCS, ODA and more!

Join Us
March 17, 2016
Glass City Boardwalk
27820 E. Broadway, Walbridge
for
Managing Your Nutrients

8:30 360 Soilscan Demos
9am OSU Nutrient Specialist ... Ken Mauer
9:15am Farm Bureau Speaker ... Jordan Hoewisher
9:30am The Effect of Roundup and Liberty on DRP ... Christopher Spiese
10:30 am 360 Soilscan ... SWCD panel and Bill Myers
Lunch & 360 Soilscan Demos
1pm Senate Bill 1... Matt Lane
1:30pm Soil Health Panel
3:45pm Wrap-up ... Mike Libben

CCA Credits Available

Space is limited call 419-849-2128 to RSVP
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.