

Conservation News

Lucas Soil & Water
Conservation District



Spring Issue 2016

~ Action-Packed Spring Issue! ~

Due to the many terrific activities scheduled for Spring 2016, and the annual Tree & Fish Sales, our newsletter has a slightly different look this issue. We hope you will enjoy the full-color newsletter and the new offerings for the Tree Sale, including bigger potted trees! Make sure to mark your calendars for free fun family events such as the Woodland & Wildlife Community Day at Camp Palmer (below) and two agricultural nutrient workshops (see page 3 for details). Call **419-893-1966** for information.

Woodland and Wildlife Family Festival



Free
Admission

Rain or
Shine

Saturday, May 21st, 2016
4-H Camp Palmer, Fayette Ohio
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Featured Demonstrations and Vendors

Bees

Pheasants Forever
Division of Wildlife
Division of Forestry
Portable Sawmill

Kids
Activities

Fun for
All Ages

4-H Camp Palmer 5K Walk/Run at 9 a.m.
Food and Drinks Available
Zipline- \$1 per zip
Log Roll in Pool \$5 per try- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
50/50 Drawing at 1:30 p.m. *Must be Present to Win*
Door Prizes

Sponsored by Northwest Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts

4-H Camp Palmer 26450 County Rd Mn, Fayette, OH 43521

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, Enviroscope 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**

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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.





# 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 Soilsan 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 Soilsan ... SWCD panel and Bill Myers

Lunch & 360 Soilsan Demos

1pm Senate Bill 1... Matt Lane

1:30pm Soil Health Panel

3:45pm Wrap-up ... Mike Libben



SENECA  
Conservation District  
Our Community • Our Resources • Our Future



Space is limited call 419-849-2128 to RSVP

# Conservation News

Spring 2016

NONPROFIT  
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[www.co.lucas.oh.us/lswcd](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/lswcd)



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### In This Issue...

*Tree Seedling & Fish Sale Order Forms; Upcoming Spring Events.....*

### Board of Supervisors:

*Chairman*

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Christine Mayer

*Treasurer*

Steve Loeffler

*Secretary*

Becky Lumbrezer-Box

*Fiscal Agent*

Tom Schoen

### District Staff:

*Education Specialist*

Jamie Kochensparger

*Agricultural Conservationist*

Dj Mears

*Office Secretary*

Joey Sink-Oiler

*Natural Resources Specialist*

Jessica Wilbarger

### Natural Resources Conservation Service:

*Lucas & Ottawa Counties:*

Josh Gerwin

(419) 898-6431

*Lucas Urban Resource*

*Conservationist*

Cheryl Rice

(419) 893-1966

### Lucas County Commissioners:

Tina Skeldon Wozniak, *President*

Carol Contrada

Peter Gerken



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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 enables the District to provide services to Lucas County residents:

- Lucas County Commissioners
- City of Toledo
- City of Oregon
- Providence Township
- Richfield Township
- Village of Holland
- Village of Whitehouse
- Lucas County Farm Bureau
- Jerusalem Township
- Lucas County Engineers
- Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Affiliate Members

As well as grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and in-kind services from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and donations. If you or your organization would like to be a part, please contact the office.

*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.*