



Thank you, Summer Intern Olusola!

Olusola Oyewumi, Master's Student at BGSU

Olusola joined the Lucas SWCD team for a 10-week internship this summer/fall. He has an undergraduate degree in Geology, with a focus on geological characterization of mineral rocks in the south-western area of Nigeria (West Africa). He is currently studying geology for his Masters, with a focus on geochemistry/soil biogeochemistry.



Olusola's ongoing research has to do with the beneficial uses of lake dredged sediment as a farm soil amendment, with focus on the heavy metals uptake in the plants and soil. Through this internship, he hoped to get a hands-on experience outside of the academic walls on agricultural practices, corn and soybean planting/production, compost/manure management, farm soil nutrient management, conservation practices and how the County helps farmers achieve their production goals.

Meet Dottie & Kit, our new office turtles!



Dottie and Kit joined the Lucas SWCD family in February! They are female Yellow-Bellied Sliders, a semi-aquatic turtle species native to the southeastern United States. They came to us from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Special thanks to Pet Fanatics (Oregon) and Pet Supplies Plus (Toledo) for donating the tank, water heater, and other materials!*

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Fall Milkweed Pod Collection

We are once again collecting DRY Common Milkweed pods as a part of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative. Place DRY pods in a paper bag and drop off inside the green/yellow bins outside our office until October 31st.



Reminder: ORC 939.08/905.326 Manure & Fertilizer Please know the rules and your responsibilities prior to application. Visit this website to learn more: <https://bit.ly/2POBH7u>



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ALWAYS CHECK THE FORECAST!



Lucas SWCD's 59th Annual Meeting & Supervisor Election



Wednesday, November 8, 2023

5:30-8:00 PM

The Chalet at Oak Shade Grove

3624 Seaman Rd.,

Oregon OH 43616



Featured Presentation:

*Varsity Voices, Oregon Clay High
School Choir Ensemble*

Listen and enjoy the sound of the Varsity
Voices Ensemble Choir from Clay High School!
Comprised of mostly Juniors and Seniors, the
group is led by Mr. Thomas Sneed.



Schedule of Events

4:30 PM Doors Open & Supervisor Election (until 5:30 PM)

5:30 PM General Program & Dinner Begins

6:00 PM Featured Presentation

6:20 PM District Highlights & Conservation Awards

7:45 PM Door Prizes & Closing Remarks

Please join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and
fun as we celebrate a year of conservation work in Lucas
County. Cash bar available.

Candidate biographies and
voter information can also be
found on our website at:
LucasSWCD.org/election.



If you are a business owner and would like to learn more about sponsorship
opportunities for our Annual Meeting, please contact [Joey Warner](#) at (419) 893-1966 ext.
1#. Advertising and recognition of your support will be announced during the event!



Lucas SWCD Annual Meeting Ticket Order Form

Make check payable to Lucas SWCD and mail to: 3350 Hill Ave., Suite K, Toledo OH 43607

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number Attending _____ X \$25.00/ticket (includes dinner) = Total Enclosed \$ _____

****You can also purchase tickets online at: LucasSWCD.org/annual-meeting**



2023 Lucas SWCD Board of Supervisors Election Legal Notice and Voting Procedures



Election Period: October 10 - November 8

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors for the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Two Supervisors will be elected to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026. The candidates are **Kevin Joyce**, **Jim Vogelbacher** and **Bill Wolf**. Anyone interested in self-nominating for the election must collect 10 valid signatures on the appropriate [form](#) (found at [LucasSWCD.org/election](https://lucasswcd.org/election)) and return it by 4:30 PM on September 5th to the District. Eligible voters include all owners and occupiers of land at least 18 years of age or older within Lucas County. All eligible voters must certify their status by signature on the ballot application.

Beginning **October 10, 2023**, eligible voters can either vote in-person or absentee:

- To vote in-person, please visit the Lucas SWCD office during normal business hours between October 10th and 12:00 PM on November 8th, or at our Annual Meeting from 4:30 to 5:30 PM at The Chalet in Oak Shade Grove in Oregon.
- To request an absentee ballot, choose one of the following methods:
 - Call the Lucas SWCD office at (419) 893-1966
 - Email LucasSWCD@gmail.com
 - Mail a request via the postal service to 3350 Hill Ave., Suite K, Toledo OH 43607

The election designee of the Lucas SWCD will then mail the ballot application, election ballot and return envelope to the person making the absentee request. The sealed ballot and ballot application must be returned to the Lucas SWCD office by 3:00 PM on November 8, 2023. All absentee ballots must be sealed in the return envelope provided.

Meet the Candidates



Bill Wolf spent his 37 year career in agri-business as a commodity trader and most recently as president of The Andersons plant nutrient group. He officially retired in 2018. Bill is a commissioner on the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and is a member of the International Joint Commission collaborative dealing with Lake Erie water quality issues. He is also an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist for Metroparks Toledo. Bill and his wife, Kate, have lived in Lucas County for over 15 years.



Jim Vogelbacher, a Lucas SWCD Board Supervisor since 2017, is a life-long farmer in Jerusalem Township, producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. Jim has included many conservation practices on his farm, including no-till, CRP, filter strips, and variable rate technology (VRT). His efforts earned him the award of Lucas SWCD Cooperator of the Year in 1997. Jim is also retired from 32 years of service at Toledo Edison. He has been married to his wife Mona for 49 years and has 3 grown children. Jim would like to continue to serve the Lucas SWCD by promoting the conservation and appreciation of our unique soil and water resources in Lucas County.



Kevin Joyce, a Lucas SWCD Board Supervisor since 2021, gained extensive experience in conservation and farmland preservation as Executive Director of Black Swamp Conservancy and Ohio Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land. He also was on the steering committee of the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts. Kevin has been a member of the Natural Resources Assistance Council of Lucas County for 13 years. He has lived in Lucas County for over 40 years and has a law degree from the University of Toledo, a master's degree from Bowling Green State University - College of Business and a bachelor's degree in biology from Case Western Reserve University. His wife is a Registered Nurse and they have two adult daughters. Kevin became interested in serving on the Lucas SWCD Board after working successfully with several NW Ohio SWCDs while at the Black Swamp Conservancy.

Upcoming Events

September 4

Labor Day - Office Closed

September 18

Fall Pond Clinic

September 21

Rain Barrel Workshop

September 26

Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

October 1-7

Stormwater Awareness Week

October 9

Columbus Day - Office Closed

October 12

Fall Fish Sale Pick-up

October 24

Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

November 8

Annual Meeting & Election

November 10

Veterans Day - Office Closed

November 23-24

Thanksgiving - Office Closed

November 28

Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

December 19

Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

December 25-26

Christmas - Office Closed

December 29

New Year's Eve - Office Closed

January 1

New Year's Day - Office Closed

Backyard Conservation Success Stories Survey



Be recognized as the Conservation Champion that you are by filling out our Backyard Conservation Success Stories survey! Share your successes and struggles, and help to inspire others to put conservation practices on the ground. Fill out the survey at: [LucasSWCD.org/success-stories](https://lucasswcd.org/success-stories).

Make & Take Rain Barrel Workshop: September 21

Register to make your very own rain barrel at this workshop on September 21st at Olander Park in Sylvania! Cost: \$40/barrel. Session times are 4:00 and 5:00 PM. All materials and tools are provided. Each barrel is 55-gallon capacity. Register at [LucasSWCD.org/rbworkshop](https://lucasswcd.org/rbworkshop) or call the office!



Putting the Garden to Bed


By: Penny Bollin, Urban Conservation Technician

Didn't we just say hello to spring? It's hard to believe that fall is approaching and soon it will be time for you to put your vegetable garden to bed for the winter. Below are a few ways you can do that while also improving your likelihood of success for next year's crop.

- **Weeds:** This would be the time to make sure you have removed your weeds, roots and all, if you haven't already. You don't want thousands of tiny seeds to plant themselves and start popping up later.
- **Removing Spent Plants:** Harvest the last of your produce and then remove the old, spent plants. You can either: pull each and every plant out by the roots, shake off the soil, and compost it. Or you can cut the plants off at soil level, compost the tops, and leave the roots in the ground. The belief is that the roots will help hold soil in place while adding nutrients to the soil as they decompose; this works especially well if the plant is a nitrogen fixing legume. In either situation, if a plant was diseased or severely infested, it should not be composted or left in the garden but should instead be disposed of in the trash.
- **Cover the Soil:** Never leave the ground bare. You can plant a winter cover crop after harvest or lay down a thick layer of organic material or even unfinished compost. During the winter and early spring, the organic material will slowly break down and add nutrients back to the soil.
- **Take Notes:** Draw a map of your garden to help you with crop rotation next year. Also, write down your problems and successes to review when you are planning next year's garden.

Fall 2023 Fish Sale - Orders due October 5th

An aerator truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery will distribute pre-ordered fish fingerlings on **Thursday, October 12, 2023**, from **10:30 - 11:30 AM** at the **Lucas County Fairgrounds** in Maumee. Your order must be picked up during this time or it will be forfeited.

Each fish is priced between \$0.11 and \$1.08. Also available is an all-natural pond conditioner, in 1-gallon and 5-gallon amounts, that uses naturally-occurring beneficial bacteria, plant extracts, enzyme blends and a food-grade dye that creates clean, healthy ponds; reduces pond sludge/muck; improves water quality for fish; and enhances the natural color of the water. **To place your order:** 

- Go online at [Lswcd-fish.square.site](https://lswcd-fish.square.site) or scan this QR code with your smart device.
- Stop by our office during normal business hours (M-F 8-4:30).



Number of Fish to Stock **per acre:**

Stocking Combination	Bass	Bluegill	Catfish	Perch
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

Fathead Minnows should be stocked at **1,000 per acre pond**.

The Lucas SWCD no longer sells Grass Carp (White Amur) as they are not native to Ohio and pose a risk of becoming an invasive species that alters natural ecosystems.

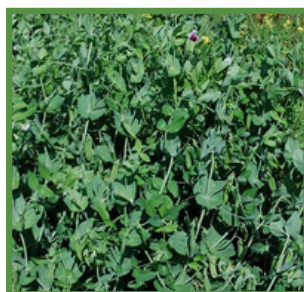


Fall 2023 Cover Crop Sale - Orders due September 29th

We are offering two cover crop seed mixes this Fall for use in your garden that are well-suited for NW Ohio. Planting a cover crop after harvest protects your soil through fall and winter and also rejuvenates the soil and improves water infiltration. Once it is time to plant next spring, mow, mulch or clip the cover crop -- you can even leave some of the cover crop residue for weed suppression and moisture retention!

Garden Late Cover Mix

A simple cover crop mix designed to plant with a minimal window and still provide the benefits of a cover crop. Plant up until late October for Zone 6. This mix contains cereal rye, crimson clover, and hairy vetch. It is winter-hardy and will continue growth in spring. Mow, mulch, or clip live plants in late spring. Tilling is not recommended.




Austrian Winter Pea

This legume is quick growing and an excellent source of nitrogen for your garden. Sow seeds through late October to have the plants come up in early spring. Spring flowers provide food for pollinators and the shoots are edible! Mow, mulch, or clip live plants in late spring. Tilling is not recommended.

Seeds will be available for pick-up at the LSWCD office -- you will be notified when ready!

To order cover crops:

1. Stop by our office during normal business hours (M-F 8-4:30)
2. Go online at [Lswcd-shop.square.site](https://lswcd-shop.square.site) or scan this QR code. 



Agricultural Program Updates:

By: *Matthew Browne, H2Ohio Technician*



H2Ohio Phosphorus Reduction Program in Lucas County

Farmers participating in the H2Ohio Phosphorus Reduction Program are currently underway in the final year of their original contracts, though a new iteration of the program will be available for sign-up later this Fall. This new version of the program is intended to be more stream-lined and simplified. If you are interested in signing up or continuing with the H2Ohio program, please make sure you have your soil tests and nutrient management plans up to date. Contact me to learn more about the H2Ohio program and to be placed on a waitlist to enroll into the program once sign-up opens this Fall. A summary of the total acres completed in Lucas County for Crop Year 2022 can be seen below. *We are pleased to note that last year saw a 133% increase in the acres established for Overwintering Cover Crops!*

H2Ohio CY22 Practices	Total Acres	Cost-Share Amount Paid
VNMP Implementation	12,560.3	\$ 25,120.60
VRT Phosphorus Application	3,753.8	\$ 30,030.40
Subsurface Placement	4,404.6	\$ 132,138.00
Manure Incorporation - All Other	57.1	\$ 3,426.00
Conservation Crop Rotation	1,088.2	\$ 38,087.00
Overwintering Cover Crops	2,699.7	\$ 67,497.50
OWCC Early Seeding Bonus	769	\$ 7,690.00
Total Cost-Share Paid:		\$ 303,989.50



Upcoming H2Ohio Program Updates

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in the new version of the H2Ohio Phosphorus Reduction Program have been modified to better suit the needs of producers. A voluntary nutrient management plan is required for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio.

See the updated BMPs in the table to the right.

Call me at (419) 377-0901 to learn more.

Practice	Cost-share Payment
Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan	\$10/Acre - Basic \$15/Acre - Precision
Subsurface Phosphorus Placement	\$20/Acre
Manure Incorporation & Utilization	\$35/Acre - Poultry Litter & Solid Manure \$60/Acre - Liquid Manure
Overwintering Cover	\$40/Acre

Farmland Preservation

The Lucas SWCD is pursuing an opportunity to become a local sponsor of The Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). This program provides monetary incentives to farmland owners for placing an agricultural easement on their property.

Through a partnership with the American Farmland Trust, mini-grants will be available to help cover costs of establishing a farmland transition/access plan or agriculture easement. Any farmland owners in Lucas County interested in learning more about these opportunities should contact me at MBrowne@co.lucas.oh.us or at (419) 377-0901.



Education Program Update:

By: Patrick Troyer, Education Specialist



THANK YOU to all teachers, scout/club leaders, garden clubs for inviting Lucas SWCD in to provide valuable environmental education programming on water quality, ecosystems, resource conservation, and more!

Here are the stats so far for 2023:

- 435 K-12 Education Programs reaching 10,788 students and 556 adults
- 15 Non-School Programs reaching 45 kids and 60 adults
- 3 General Public Programs including UT Earth Fest, Seed Swap & Toledo Zoo Party 4 Planet
- 1 Educator Workshop reaching 18 educators in Lucas County & beyond
- 1 Field Day offered to Ft. Miami Elementary students
- \$4,200 Ohio EPA Enviroscope Grant awarded to purchase two Enviroscope models on wetlands and hazardous waste disposal and prevention



Updated Program Book

This summer, I have been hard at work preparing programs and supplies for the 2023/2024 school year. I am excited to showcase the return of many favorite programs like the Streamulator, Sinkholes, and Frogs while also introducing some new programs to further enhance the curriculum. New program topics include: Nocturnal/Diurnal Animals, Animal Communication, Invasive Species, Metamorphosis, and more! Visit our website LucasSWCD.org/education and click on "Programs & Services" to view the latest education program offerings!



New Education Models!

Thanks to funding from the Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund, Lucas SWCD was able to add the *Wetlands Enviroscope* and *Hazardous Waste Prevention and Cleanup Enviroscope* to our program offerings.

The *Hazardous Waste Prevention and Cleanup Enviroscope* illustrates issues arising from improper discharge and disposal or accidental spills of hazardous materials along with methods to cleanup and prevent such spills. Sources that are discussed include underground storage tanks, illegal dumping, and household/commercial practices. The *Wetlands Enviroscope* demonstrates the characteristics/functions of wetlands and the many services they provide to control erosion and pollution.



Ask me about field trips to Blue Creek Conservation Area in Whitehouse, a 500+ acre working farm and land lab in partnership with Metroparks Toledo and Nature's Nursery!

To schedule a program for your class or group, please reach out via email at PTroyer@co.lucas.oh.us or phone at (419) 893-1966 ext. 2#.



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Toledo, OH 43607

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

Telephone: (419) 893-1966
Fax: (419) 893-3131
Email: LucasSWCD@gmail.com

www.LucasSWCD.org



In this issue... Introductions, Annual Meeting, Board Election, District Updates, Fish & Cover Crop Sales, & more!

District Staff

Joey Warner
District Manager

Penny Bollin
Urban Conservation Technician

Matthew Browne
H2Ohio Technician

Jessica Grisier
Communication & Outreach Coordinator

Dj Mears
Drainage/Agricultural Conservationist

Patrick Troyer
Education Specialist



Board of Supervisors

Kevin Joyce
Diane DeYonker
Stephen Loeffler
Tom Schoen
Jim Vogelbacher

Natural Resource Conservation Service:

Clint Geldine - Lucas East
(419) 898-6431 ext. 3
Mike Weaver - Lucas West
(419) 583-3039

Lucas County Commissioners

Tina Skeldon Wozniak, President
Pete Gerken
Lisa Sobecki

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/or in-kind support that enables the District to provide services to Lucas County:

- Lucas County Commissioners
- Cities of: Toledo, Sylvania
- Townships of: Harding, Jerusalem, Monclova, Richfield, Spencer, Springfield, Sylvania
- Villages of: Holland, Ottawa Hills
- Lucas County Farm Bureau
- Lucas County Engineer's Office
- In-kind services from the USDA-NRCS, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture, and OFSWCD
- Grants from Ohio EPA and ODA