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

What’s Inside:

- Fish Fingerling Sale
- Annual Meeting & Banquet
- Meet the Candidates
- Cover Crops Sale
- Grant Projects, more......

Annual Meeting & Election

On November 1, 2018, 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 one (1) supervisor to fill the expiring term of Stephen Loeffler. The supervisor will be elected for a three (3) year term, beginning on January 1, 2019.

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 1st. See inside for complete details on the 54th Annual Meeting.

Welcome Jessica Grisier!

Jessica begins her new full-time position at Lucas SWCD as our Administrative Assistant starting on September 4th. Stop by our office to meet Jessica, and look for her full bio in our next issue.
Invitation to Our 54th Annual Meeting/Banquet/Election
Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District

DATE: Thursday, November 1, 2018
LOCATION: The Lodge at Strawberry Acres
950 S. McCord Road, Holland, OH 43528
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 one supervisor. Dinner provided by Bar-B-Que Traveler begins at 6:15 PM, followed by District Highlights for 2018, awards saluting the 2018 Conservation Cooperater of the Year and the 2018 Conservation Educator of the Year, presentation of the 2018 CREP Award, plus plenty of great door prizes!

Featured Presentation: Sounds of Strings with Toledo Symphony musicians Damon Coleman & Cheryl Trace

Enjoy an uplifting session of musical delight performed by string talents from the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Damon Coleman - Cellist and Cheryl Trace - Violinist. Mr. Coleman and Ms. Trace will blend both musical performance and a questions & answers session. The Toledo Symphony Orchestra is a community supported organization since 1943 and rates as one of the top symphony programs in the United States.

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 catered dinner. Reservations required by Thursday, October 25th.

For more information, or to obtain an absentee ballot, call: 419-893-1966, ext. 0# or 1-800-547-0272.

54th ANNUAL MEETING - RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) __________________________ Phone: __________ #attending _____
Address __________________________ City _________ Zip ________ Total: $______
x $15=

☐ 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).

* To pay by credit card or request an absentee ballot, stop by the Lucas SWCD office at:
  Please make your check payable to: Lucas SWCD, 130-A West Dudley, Maumee, OH 43537
Meet the Candidates for Lucas SWCD Board of Supervisors
One to be elected at the Annual Meeting on November 1st, 2018

Stephen Loeffler
Berkey, Ohio

Mr. Loeffler has been farming for the past 41 years. He has served on the Lucas SWCD Board of Supervisors since April of 2012. His past experiences include participating in and assisting with 4-H, FFA, and at the Fulton County Fair. He has over 26 years in the livestock industry as well. Mr. Loeffler also has experience in ditch maintenance. He is interested in the preservation of natural resources and managing resources and budgets while in a difficult economic environment. Mr. Loeffler sees the role of the SWCD to assist in better water management, helping to conserve soil/water/wildlife, and continue to bring conservation into the classroom, so young people can see the importance of land and water resources.

Charles Ruetz
Swanton, Ohio

Mr. Ruetz has been a resident of Northwest Lucas County with his wife and four children for the past 19 years. He has worked for Luckey Farmers/Berkey Farm Center located in Berkey, Ohio for the past 29 years both in agricultural sales and custom application. He services farmers in Lucas and Fulton counties as well as southwest Michigan. Mr. Ruetz grew up on a family farm, which consisted of machine-harvested tomatoes and grain crops. He still maintains his farm heritage with crops of wheat, alfalfa, soybeans and corn respectively. His job takes him to all parts of Lucas County, keeping him in touch with the needs of our unique agricultural area. Mr. Ruetz continues to be actively involved in the Evergreen FFA alumni, where he graduated from in 1987.

REMINDER: ORC 939.08 for manure and fertilizer application is still in effect to protect water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Restrictions apply to frozen, snow-covered or saturated soils, and specific precipitation forecasts. Please know the rules and your responsibilities. Visit this web page for more details: https://bit.ly/2POBH7u

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: ____________________________________
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 passageways 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size bag (covers)</th>
<th>Price Per bag</th>
<th># Purchasing</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden Late Mix</td>
<td>1 lb. (200-300 sq.ft.)</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>$ __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Winter Pea</td>
<td>1 lb. (200-300 sq.ft.)</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>$ __________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEADLINE TO ORDER: OCTOBER 5TH. Seeds will be ready for pick up at the LSWCD Office on October 16th.

Mail to: Lucas SWCD, 130-A West Dudley Street, Maumee Ohio 43537 /Order on-line: www.lucasswcd.org

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, Oilseed Radish, 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 2019 Tree & Garden Sale ~ Check the Spring 2019 Newsletter!
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 16, 2018, 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 12th, 2018
(Pick up fish on Tuesday, October 16th)

Recommended stocking rates, new/renovated ponds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stocking Combination</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Bluegill</th>
<th>Catfish</th>
<th>Perch</th>
<th>Redear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass-bluegill</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass-bluegill-catfish</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass-perch</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass-bluegill-perch</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass-bluegill-catfish-perch</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Number of fish to stock per acre:

Make Check Payable and Mail To:
LUCAS SWCD
130-A West Dudley Street Maumee, OH 43537

Pay by credit card on-line at: www.lucasswcd.org

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: $ ___________
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. Also, 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, and the absence of barbels on the mouth, and are usually silvery-gray, rather than the brownish-yellow of the common carp. A member of the Cyprinidae, the grass carp is also known as the white armour. It is typically 36-48 inches long and weighs 30-50 pounds, but can reach up to 60 inches and up to 100 pounds.

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

**Farm with Grit**
Are you ready for Best Management Practices that can unlock value from your land while keeping waterways clean? From windbreaks to manure management, check out the simple guides to conservation put together by a public-private partnership! Visit the website at: https://lucas.farmwithgrit.com/farm-with-grit

**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 has received funding from the Ohio EPA to cost-share projects in this area! Enter your farm address and see if you’re within the eligible watershed: http://bit.ly/Heilman. Visit here to download the contract: https://www.lucasswcd.org/uploads/1/1/8/3/118306178/producer_contract_final.pdf

Not in this area? Check out these helpful USDA-NRCS cost-share programs: https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app.

**Backyard Conservation - Helpful Items for Purchase:**

**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 better initial establishment and higher survival rates, and ultimately lead to trees with stronger roots. Higher air moisture within the Tubex Treeshelter reduces water stress and enables the plant to survive in dry or drought conditions. The Tubex Standard Tree Shelter also provides complete protection against herbicides and animals including rabbits and deer, in a way that is flexible, efficient and cost effective. Faster establishment, better survival rates, roots and bark protected, protection 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!**
In This Issue... Annual Meeting & Election; Monarchs; Fish & Cover Crop Order Forms, more...

Board of Supervisors:
Chair
Diane DeYonker
Vice-Chair
Christine Mayer
Treasurer
Steve Loeffler
Secretary
Jim Vogelbacher
Fiscal Agent
Tom Schoen

Natural Resources Conservation Service:
Lucas & Ottawa Counties:
Josh Gerwin
(419) 898-6431
Lucas Urban Resource Conservationist
Cheryl Rice
(740) 396-2855

District Staff:
District Manager
Joey Sink-Oiler
Education & Outreach Director
Jamie Kochensparger
Agricultural Conservationist
Dj Mears
Natural Resources Specialist
Jessica Wilbarger
Area Conservation Technician
To be filled
Administrative Assistant
Jessica Grisier

Lucas County Commissioners:
Pete Gerken, President
Carol Contrada
Tina Skeldon Wozniak

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
- City of Maumee
- City of Oregon
- City of Sylvania
- City of Toledo
- Village of Holland
- Jerusalem Township
- Monclova Township
- Spencer Township
- Springfield Township
- Sylvania Township
- 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 your agency/organization would like to assist the District in promoting conservation, please call our office for ways to provide support.

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.