



## THE DIRT ON CONSERVATION

Summer/Fall Newsletter

August 2017

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2017 Photo Contest  
By Lynette Dauch

### Harrison SWCD Annual Meeting

Our 2017 annual meeting will be held on September 21st at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in the Commercial Building. The meeting will include a great barbecue chicken dinner, silent auction to benefit our educational programming, awards presentations, and the election of supervisors.

**5:30** Election & Silent Auction (close at 7pm)

**6:00** BBQ Chicken Dinner

**7:00** Annual Awards

**7:30** Harrison SWCD Year in Review

**8:00** Election Results

**Menu:** BBQ chicken halves, baked beans, pasta salad, rolls, ice cream, cake, and beverage

**\$10.00** per person (children 5 and under are free)

**RSVP** by September 11th (see page 7)

Affiliate member will also receive **one free ticket** to the annual meeting. If you are interested in becoming an affiliate member, see page 4 for details.



2016 Hall of Fame Inductees: Mizer Farms, Inc.

# Why are My Ash Trees Dying?

Curious about recent developments for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)? Join Harrison SWCD, ODNR Division of Forestry, and OSU Extension to learn more. At this free event, on September 27th at 5:30 pm at the Puskarich Public Library in Cadiz you will hear from Jeremy Scherf, Division of Forestry Service Forester, Erika Lyon, OSU Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator, and Billy Wilson, Harrison SWCD Forestry & Wildlife Technician. There will be discussion on EAB updates, tree diagnosis, and options for management of ash trees near you.



The program is free of charge, however pre-registration is **required**. Register by calling OSU Extension, Jefferson County at 740-264-2212 or email [lyon.194@osu.edu](mailto:lyon.194@osu.edu) by Friday, September 22nd.

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## Welcome Billy Wilson to our office!



For those of you in the county that have not met me yet, my name is Billy Wilson. In February, Harrison Soil and Water Conservation District hired me as their Forestry and Wildlife Technician. Since then I have been learning the ropes about what we do as a conservation organization as well as put my spin on things to get comfortable with my job. I graduated from Hocking College with my Associates of Science in Wildlife Resources Management while attending college I did some volunteer work and had an internship with Wayne National Forest, mostly dealing with invasive species control and small wildlife habitat enhancement projects. Currently, I live in Bergholz, but plan on moving to Harrison County in the near future, in order to better help and serve the community. As the Forestry and Wildlife Technician I am here to help anyone in the county with questions, ideas or anything else regarding wildlife and forestry issues or management.

You can contact me at [bwilson@harrisoncountyohio.org](mailto:bwilson@harrisoncountyohio.org)



# What is Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV)?

Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) allows the property tax value of property that is used only for commercial agriculture to be valued at its current use instead of the “highest and best use” value (aka fair market price). This usually results in a property tax bill being significantly lower for the landowner. The goal of the CAUV program is to encourage landowners to continue to use their land for agriculture instead of converting it to more profitable uses such as housing or commercial development.

## Who qualifies for the CAUV program?

Any landowner whose property meets one of the two following categories during the three years preceding the application for the CAUV program:

Ten or more acres devoted exclusively to commercial agricultural use; or

If under ten acres devoted exclusively to commercial agricultural use, the farm must produce an average yearly gross income of at least \$2,500.

## The land uses that fall under commercial agriculture include:

- ♦ Commodity crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, etc.
- ♦ Hay- baled at least twice a year
- ♦ Permanent pasture- used for commercial animal husbandry
- ♦ Commercial Timber- Requires a forest management plan created by a certified planner
- ♦ Other crops- nursery stock/vegetables/flowers



Land owned by one person and farmed by another can still qualify for the CAUV program. Any forested area larger than ten acres must have a forest management plan to be included on the CAUV program. The entire parcel does not have to be included on the program, the commercial agriculture acreage can be enrolled without other uses being included.

## What can the Harrison Soil and Water Conservation District do to help landowners?

For landowners, there are several services which the Harrison SWCD can provide which include:

- Providing information and contacts to the landowner about forest management plans and how to have one prepared
- Assistance in filling out the CAUV application including soil maps and acreage.
- Any other questions related to the landowners resource concerns, creating a conservation plan, and programs offered through Harrison SWCD or its partners. The CAUV application can be found on the Harrison County Auditor's office website or in person at their office. ([harrisoncountyohio.org](http://harrisoncountyohio.org))

## Meet the Candidates



### Bryant Valdinger

Bryant Valdinger grew up in Harrison County and lives in German Township with his wife Katie and daughter Savannah. He studied Agricultural Commerce at Ohio State ATI and now farms full-time. He grazes a herd of cow/calf pairs and grows hay and crops in Harrison and Carroll Counties. Bryant is very involved with the agricultural community and serves as president of the Harrison Central FFA Alumni, secretary of the Harrison SWCD, and is a member of the Harrison County Junior Livestock Sale Committee and the Harrison County Farm Bureau.

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### John Quimby

After earning degrees in Entomology and Forestry from the University of Michigan, he was the State Forest Entomologist and Chief of the Forest Health Program of Pennsylvania for 30 years, and a Forester for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, Minnesota, Michigan, Colorado, and South Dakota for five years before that.

Since retiring from forest entomology in 1999 'Quimby' (as he is called), has been devoting his time to cabinet making, planting trees, social action, and environmental education for youngsters. He has worked part time/full time for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and was named "Environmental Educator of the Year" by that organization in 2007. Several past summers have been spent guiding canoe trips for youngsters in the Adirondacks of upstate New York. In that capacity he has run workshops on wildflower identification, tree identification, and other environmental education themes, as well as taken youth out into the wilderness for a week at a time. Quimby and his wife, Barbara, raise Scottish Highland cattle, chickens, and grow and preserve nearly all the vegetables for their yearly needs.

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### Kathy Depew

In April 2013, I moved to Harrison County to be near my daughter, Dr. Porsche Beetham, and her family. I am currently a Board member for the Harrison Soil and Water Conservation District, a member of the Cadiz Women's Civic Club and the Harrison County Beekeepers Association. Before retiring, I worked for over 20 years as an analytical chemist with much of my research focused on trace metal chemistry in surface and ground water. I believe that encouraging productive farming, ranching and other activities within Harrison County while maintaining a healthy environment is an achievable goal. I would like to continue to support the community and serve as a board member for another term.

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## Get Your Affiliate Memberships Now!

Harrison SWCD Affiliate Members are a way for the community to stand behind the work being done by the local SWCD. Individual, families, companies, or farms can be an affiliate member.

Each affiliate member will receive one free ticket to the SWCD annual meeting as well as being recognized for their support during the annual meeting.

Affiliate memberships are \$30 per year. Get your membership now in time for our annual meeting! Checks can be made payable to Harrison SWCD and mailed or dropped off at our office.



# Across the Watersheds

## of Atwood, Leesville, Tappan, & Clendening Lakes

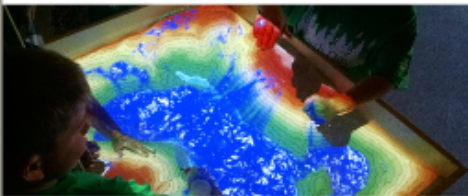
Summer 2017

### Hands on Activities Fuel Education

Using hands-on models, simulators, and activities, Harrison and Carroll SWCDs have been continuing to offer a wide variety of educational opportunities.



New for 2017, the new Stream Life Box has been a hit at the Harrison County Fair and Lake and Land Festival at Atwood Lake. The model simulates a gravel stream bed and give kids and adults an up close and hands-on view of the fish, bugs, and other life that lives in our rivers and streams.



Meanwhile, the Watershed Sandbox continues to remain a popular attraction at the Carroll County Fair and during the Puskarich Public Library's Summer Reading Program. Combining conservation, learning, and technology, the watershed sandbox demonstrates topography and runoff issues.

If you are interested in having us present at an event, contact our office!

### Cover Crop Program Continues to Grow

Sign ups for the 2017 MWCD Cover Crop Program ended in June and a record 2,526 acres were approved in Carroll County and 1,446 acres in Harrison County. A total of 19 Carroll County farms and 8 Harrison County farms had acres approved through the program.

The MWCD Cover Crop Program provides cost share of \$12 per acre to producers who plant a cover crop on their fields. Cover crops provide many benefits, particularly in a reduction in soil erosion.

In addition, cover crops can help suppress weed pressure, retain nutrients for next year's crop, loosen compacted soils, and increase soil organic matter. All of these lead to healthier soils and healthier waters.



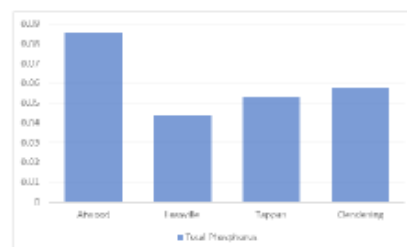
While the sign ups are over for the 2017 program, we anticipate that this program will continue in the future. If you are interested in participating, contact our office to be include in mailings about the cover crop program as they come available.

Using cover crops, we are able to reduce the sediment entering our lakes and streams throughout the county and ensure healthy, clean water for Harrison and Carroll Counties.

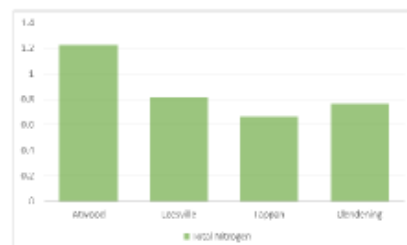
### Water Quality Monitoring Data Results

The 2017 monitoring is halfway complete, with spring sampling wrapping up in May. Fall sampling will occur throughout September and will again include 35 sites across the four lake watersheds.

Meanwhile, data from 205 and 206 has been reviewed and analyzed. The complete results will be available in an upcoming monitoring report.



One of the primary parameters the current monitoring program is examining is the concentration of nitrogen and phosphorus in the streams.



Overall, water quality data is showing that our streams and waterways are receiving typical amounts of nutrients. While there are a few specific sites with elevated nutrients, these appear to be short term fluctuations rather than chronic issues. Monitoring will be continuing throughout the watersheds.

# Forest Management Planning

Harrison County has some of the prettiest scenery in the state. From our forests and wetlands, to the small scattered towns throughout it. Keeping it that way can be challenging though. For the past few years we have seen an upswing in the extraction of natural resources, whether that be oil and gas, timber, or coal. Now granted this upswing has greatly impacted all of us in positive and negative ways. What I want to address is how we can still manage our woods, yet at the same time, take advantage of the opportunities from timber harvests or the oil and gas industry.

One major complaint I hear after a timber harvest or a pipeline goes through is “my woods is ruined”. Now the likelihood that it is ruined is very small, but damaged on the other hand, absolutely. So, what can we do to prevent things like this from happening? The answer is simple, PLANNING. For instance, if you want to do a timber harvest, take the right steps to ensure a quality job. The best way to plan a timber harvest is to first contact your local service forester, in our area, Jeremy Scherf, with the Division of Forestry (DOF). Meeting with a forester can be the most crucial step you take. They will let you know what you have in your woods and also let you know if your woods is ready for a harvest. So, the next step is to go out and hire the first guy that offers you the most amount of money for your trees, right? Not quite, it is like any business deal, do your research, find the right company for the job. It is no different than bringing a contractor to your home to do work, you get what you pay for. In the instance of trees, if you get an unreliable logger you can lose a lot of money, not only on that timber harvest, but for many timber harvests down the road. Talk to neighbors, ask people who have had their property logged, get their experiences good and bad. Ohio even has a list of Master Loggers that are trained and certified for Best Management Practices (BMP's).



Once you find the right company for the job, I urge you to come to your local SWCD office to get soil maps to find potential areas of concern and ask questions about the Timber Harvest Program. The Timber Harvest Program is completely voluntary, but it gives you, the landowner, a foundation to plan your harvest to ensure that you have a well thought out plan that can help you in case of legal action in the event of a forestry pollution issue. It also makes the logger more accountable for his actions in your woods. I know I did not talk much on oil and gas, but the same goes for it. Know what you want and do not take less, use your resources and do research. All of these relate back to planning and having a good plan is the only way to keep this county as beautiful tomorrow, as it is today.

*-Billy Wilson, Forestry & Wildlife Technician*

# Annual Election of Supervisors

Harrison SWCD will be electing **two** Supervisors this year at our 72nd Annual Meeting on September 21st. Residents over 18 years of age may vote through absentee voting or at the Harrison SWCD Annual Meeting. Non-resident landowners, non-resident land occupiers, Corporations, Firms, LLC's, and Trusts located within the county may also vote through the absentee voting process or at the time of election, but must file a notarized affidavit prior to registering to vote. For complete voter eligibility and requirements, contact the Harrison SWCD office.



## Absentee Voting

People who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting may request an absentee ballot and registration form from the district office. You may request a ballot in writing between September 4th and September 15th or in person by 4:00 p.m., September 15th. We will accept one request per envelope unless they are from the same household; each person must sign the request form. Ballots enclosed must be received at the district office by 4:00 p.m. on September 15th, 2017. No absentee ballots will be accepted at the meeting. If you would like to vote by absentee ballot, please call or stop by the district office.



## Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations:

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of guests (\$10/person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children under 5 (free)

Please return RSVP Form and **payment**  
(exact change or check payable to Harrison SWCD)  
by September 11th by mail or in person to:  
538 N. Main Street Cadiz, Ohio 43907

## Supervisors

Craig Brokaw  
*Chairman*

Lynn Mendenhall  
*Vice-Chairman*

Ryan Marker  
*Treasurer*

Bryant Valdinger  
*Secretary*

Kathy Depew  
*Fiscal Agent*

## Staff

Keila Telfer  
*District Program Administrator*

Josh Britton  
*Watershed Specialist*

Stuart Heavilin  
*Ag/Natural Resources Tech.*

Billy Wilson  
*Forestry/Wildlife Technician*

## NRCS

Beth Krupczak  
*District Conservationist*

Clint Finney  
*Soil Conservation Technician*

Hans Baltzly  
*Civil Engineering Technician*

## A Special Thank You

The Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors & Staff would like to thank the Harrison County Commissioners for their financial support and dedication to Soil & Water Conservation. The financial assistance from the county will be matched by state funds which enables the district to better aid and provide assistance to the landowners and residents of Harrison County.

**Harrison SWCD & NRCS are Equal Opportunity Provider and Employers**

### Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District

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Cadiz, Ohio 43907

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Fax: 740-942-4036

Website: [www.harrisoncountyohio.org/swcd](http://www.harrisoncountyohio.org/swcd)

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