



FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

"It is the goal of Logan Soil & Water Conservation District to promote stewardship of soil, water and other natural resources."

Summer 2017



LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 74th ANNUAL MEETING LOGAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for the Logan County Farm Bureau and the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District annual meetings at the Winner Harvest Barn on August 31st. The meeting is a year-end celebration of the activities, policies and events for these local organizations.

The meeting is being held at the Winner Harvest Barn, 7317 State Route 47 W., DeGraff, Ohio 43318 and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an election for 2 Logan Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor positions, voting taking place between 6:00-7:00 PM. Candidates running for the Supervisor positions include: Frank Phelps, Joe Ramsey and Judy Skidmore. (Please look further in this newsletter for the supervisor candidates' bios). Annual Meeting registrations are \$12.00 per person, children 10 and under eat for free.

Those attending will be able to participate in the organizations year end celebration of our programs and business. Farm Bureau members will be able to vote on voting policies, code change and board members and delegates to the Ohio Farm Bureau meeting.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Logan County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for the Logan SWCD Supervisor positions. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide a notarized affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. Absentee ballots may be obtained by requesting a ballot, in writing, from the Logan SWCD office, 324 Co. Rd. 11, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311. Absentee ballots will be accepted from August 10th until noon, August 31st. To vote for the Logan SWCD supervisor candidates, you can also vote at the Annual Meeting but are not required to attend.

For more information or to register, call the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District at 937-404-3150 or the Logan County Farm Bureau County office at 1-877-775-7642 or contact a Logan SWCD Supervisor or Logan County Farm Bureau board members. Registration deadline is August 21, 2017.

Bellefontaine High School Students Compete at State Envirothon Competition

June 12th and 13th, five Bellefontaine students competed in the Ohio State Envirothon competition held at Ohio Christian University in Circleville, Ohio. Monica Chriscoe, Wyatt Skidmore, Dylan Christman, Griffin Mason, and Nick Kurtz represented Bellefontaine High School in the state wide competition. The students competed in the Area IV competition on April 25th at the Fernald Nature Preserve in Hamilton County involving 84 teams from Southwest and west central Ohio, finishing in 6th place, 1 point from the 4th place team. The top 4 teams in each of 5 areas throughout the state qualify to compete in the state event. Bellefontaine was notified around 3 weeks before the state competition that they would be able to replace one of the teams in the state event.

The Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District and Pheasants Forever Logan County Chapter #285 sponsor the student's participation in a local training session, the Area IV competition, and the State event if they are fortunate enough to qualify for the State. Bellefontaine's team was under the supervision of advisors Dennis Versele and Richard Kurtz. Even with the set back of almost 4 weeks of lack of notification, the Bellefontaine students were able to finish 16th out of 20 teams in the State event at Ohio Christian University. Congratulations for representing Logan County as one of the twenty schools in the state to participate in the State Envirothon.



FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

What's Wrong with Our Maple Trees?

Steve McGinnis, ODNR: Division of Forestry, Service Forester



There have been an increased number of calls this year coming into the Logan Soil & Water Conservation District as well as Ohio Division of Forestry offices concerning maple trees in landscapes. While diagnosing sick yard trees is not a service that DOF provides, the extra call volume this summer has provoked a closer look. The results of a few days spent looking in and around Bellefontaine provided almost every answer in the book, none being too serious.

We begin with mower damage. It seems like more often than not our lawn mowers are to blame for the stress that our yard trees are experiencing. I encourage folks to lightly mulch around the base of their yard trees so they won't be tempted to get close to them while mowing. Also you'll want to refrain from chopping the top off of exposed roots. This will cause tree stress over time.

The continued aftermath of the 2005 ice storm cannot be overlooked. During this reconnaissance I observed multiple trees that are primarily living off of overgrown epicormic shoots that grew as a result of tree tops breaking under the weight ice of accumulation. These "emergency" shoots were never going to be a permanent solution for long term tree health. Many soft maple trees experienced heavy ice damage, and are just now falling apart and dying as a result.

There is also some fungus among us. The cool wet spring this year created a perfect growing environment for many common fungal pathogens. Maple anthracnose can be caused by several different but related fungi. Anthracnose foliar lesions are large, irregularly shaped areas of necrotic tissue along the leaf margins and between the veins. Leaf blighting typically begins on lower branches and spreads upward. In general, fungicides are not recommended for control of anthracnose. Large well established trees that are otherwise healthy can withstand the damage without serious long term affects.

One suspected case of verticillium wilt in a sugar maple was encountered. This verticillium wilt was most likely caused by the soil-borne fungi, *Verticillium dahliae*. Verticillium is common in many soils and affects several hundred herbaceous and woody plant species, but it does exhibit definite host preferences. In Ohio, buckeye, cherry, elm, maple and yellow poplar are some of the most frequently infected species. This disease *can* become a serious problem on susceptible hosts in infested soils, since the fungus persists in the soil indefinitely. In maple, the verticillium fungus progresses around a growth ring by a combination of upward spread and tangential growth. If the pathogen fails to cross from one season's wood to the next, the result is remission of acute symptoms and compartmentalization/ containment of the diseased wood. The severity of chronic symptoms depends upon the extent of root and old wood damage. Acute symptoms that recur after one year or more of remission indicate a new infection moving up from the roots. **Fungicides will not cure infected trees.** Trees showing general and severe wilt cannot be saved and should be replaced with a non-susceptible species (i.e. American sycamore, arborvitae, beech, birch, crab apple, white oak, etc.). Another common maple tree issue encountered is stem girdling roots. Girdling roots are lateral roots that circle or partially circle the base of a tree, usually at the soil surface. Girdling roots choke of the flow of water and nutrients between roots and branches



What's Wrong with Our Maples Trees? Continued...

as well as the flow of sugar produced in the leaves traveling to the trees root system. A girdling root can most often be removed, but must be done in a manner that will minimize injury to the trunk cambium beneath the root. This process is best performed by a certified arborist.

These are some, but likely not all of the issues that Logan County home owners and land managers are experiencing with maple trees. Keep in mind that once a tree is under stress they are more susceptible to other diseases and pests that will compound the problem. Often there are multiple culprits involved in a tree's demise. Also, with the exception of ice damage, these issues are largely exclusive to landscape and yard trees, and are not a problem in our native woodlands.

The Ohio State University Extension is an excellent resource for most of your landscape questions.

If you need the help of a tree professional, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) maintains a list of ISA-certified Arborists. ISA Arborist Certification requires base experience levels, a comprehensive exam, continuing education, and adherence to a professional code of ethics. That list can be accessed at <http://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/arboristsearch>.

For more information on other forestry related topics please contact your local ODNR, Service Forester or visit our website forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Compliance (WC) and Form FSA-1026

The Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, provides that persons who produce an agricultural commodity on a field on which HEL is predominate, or designate land on which HEL is predominate to be set aside, diverted, devoted to conservation uses, or otherwise not cultivated under a program administered by the Secretary to reduce production of an agricultural commodity, shall be ineligible for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA, unless the production of an agricultural commodity on HEL is in compliance with an approved conservation plan or system or an exemption applies.

The 1985 Act also provides that, unless exempt, persons are ineligible for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- Plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985.
- Convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

Producers who request program benefits with USDA certify compliance to HEL and Wetland compliance by filing a FSA- 1026 form. By signing this form producers agree to the following;

- NOT** to plant or produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible fields unless actively applying an approved conservation plan or maintaining a fully applied conservation system.
- NOT** to plant or produce an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after December 23, 1985.
- NOT** to convert wetlands by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, removing woody vegetation or any other means that would allow the planting of any crop, pasture, agricultural commodity, or other such crops.
- NOT** to use proceeds from any FSA farm loan, insured or guaranteed, or any USDA cost-share program, in such a way that might result in negative impacts to wetlands, except for those projects evaluated and approved by NRCS or Army Corps of Engineers.

Producers are encouraged to contact the FSA office **BEFORE** they do any land clearing or installing of tile on any area that has not had a HEL or Wetland determination made. Failure to do so could be very costly! Contact your local FSA office if you have any questions.

Logan SWCD 2018 Supervisor Candidates



Frank Phelps

Frank lives at 8757 County Road 254, Belle Center, Ohio with his wife Gayle. They are the parents of two grown children, Mandy and Andy. Frank has been an active member of the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District since 1988.

Frank and his father Don are in partnership and manage the O'Connor Farms. Their operation consists of 250 purebred Limousin cows, and 1,850 acres of no-till crops, including corn, soybeans, hay and wheat. Frank has incorporated many conservation practices on the farm, including waterways, filter strips, livestock exclusion and the development of four acres of wetlands.

Frank is active in the Indian Lake Watershed and is the Chairman for the Indian Lake Joint Board. He is a member and the past-president of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association. In 2013, he was inducted into the Ohio State University Animal Science Hall of Fame and in 2014 he was honored with the Ohio Master Farm award. Frank was honored with the ODNR Cardinal Award in 2009. He received the 1991 Farm Family of the Year Award, the 1998 Environmental Stewardship Award from the Ohio Cattle Association and in 2002 the American Soybean Association and DuPont Young Leadership Award. Frank was also awarded the Ohio Cattlemen's Association Industry Excellence Award in 2010.

Frank has opened his farm to various conservation education programs and field trips and has also assisted with Ag Festival presentations at the elementary schools.

Frank graduated from the Ohio State University with a B. S. in Animal Science. He is a member of the Belle Center United Methodist Church, Farm Bureau and ILDC.



Joe Ramsey

Joe lives at 7357 County Road 50, Ridgeway with his wife Beccy. They have three grown children, Monica Humphrey, Wes Ramsey, and Amanda Rudolph. They also are proud to have six grandchildren. Joe grew up on a farm and has been involved in farming for nearly 40 years. Joe and son Wes farm 800 acres of 100% no-till crops including soybeans, corn and wheat. They also contract 6,000 head of feeder hogs. They have 12.4 acres of filter strips in the CRP program, fertilizer containment facility, cover crops, pest management practices, grid sampling, to manage nutrients and waste utilization. The operation is located in the Bokescreek and Scioto River watersheds.

Joe is a member of the Logan County Farm Bureau, Ohio Pork Producers, Ohio Sheep and Lamb Improvement Association, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Ohio Soybean Council and serves on the Heritage Cooperative Board of Directors. He also received the Conservation Farm Family Award in 2001 from Logan SWCD and also the Ohio No-Till Farmer of the Year Award in 2000 from the Ohio No-Till Council.

Joe is retired as past fiscal officer for Bokescreek Township after serving for 33 years. He is also a past school board member for Ridgmont Schools where he served two years as President of the Board. He has an Associate's Degree in Applied Ag Business from Clark State.

He is a member and elder of the Rushsylvania Church of Christ and devotes time towards helping with the church. Joe has been an active member of the Logan Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors since 2006.

See the back to read additional Logan SWCD Supervisor candidate bio's...

Logan SWCD 2018 Supervisor Candidates continued...



Judy Skidmore

Judy lives at 306 ½ Miami Rd., Rushsylvania with her husband Chuck and daughter Jessica. She is the mother of Jill, Jocelyn and Jessica and the grandmother of Gavin, Lily, Abigail and Eden.

Judy retired in 2011 as Program Assistant with Farm Service Agency where she worked for 30+ years with the federal agency. She currently works as the Office Associate with The Ohio State University Extension Logan County office.

Judy, husband Chuck and daughter Jessica operate Skidmore Apiary.

She serves as secretary of the Benjamin Logan Alumni, has been a 4-H advisor for 11 years, has served as treasurer of the Silver Creek United Methodist Church for 20 years, serves on the church board and is very active in the church's Bible School program. She has made numerous presentations about bees throughout the county over the years including the Top of Ohio Ag Tour.

Judy owns a 120 acre family farm in Hardin County that has a corn, soybean rotation. The farm is enrolled in the Lake Erie Watershed program and filterstrips have been installed on the farm.



All You Can-When You Can!

Logan SWCD will be a collection sight for milkweed pods starting September 1st and ending October 30th. For additional information please contact the Logan SWCD office at (937)- 404 3150 or visit our website at:

www.co.logan.oh.us/454/Soil-Water-ConservationDistrict

Help Save the Monarch Butterfly by Protecting Native Milkweed

Planting milkweed for Monarchs is vital. Milkweed is the sole host plant for Monarch butterflies. This particular plant is lacking on the landscape and has had a direct effect on Monarch populations. Other pollinators enjoy the plant also.

Please join us in our effort to replenish this essential plant in Ohio by collecting milkweed pods in your area.



Milkweed Harvesting Tips

- ✓ If pods are bright green, they are not ripe or ready to be collected.
- ✓ Ready to pull pods will be gold/yellow or gray to brown in color.
- ✓ Don't collect pods that are already open, as they might be infested with insects.
- ✓ Test the seams of the pod. If they "pop" open with gentle pressure they are ready.
- ✓ Freshly collected pods should be dried and kept in paper grocery bags (not plastic!).

2017 Logan County Drive-It-Yourself Agriculture Tour

Sunday, September 17 • 1-5PM



Ack-Lee Farms
The Ackley Family
9738 Twp. Rd. 41
East Liberty

Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
Animal Science & Culinary Programs
2280 OH-540
Bellefontaine

**Myeerah
Nature Preserve**
740 5 St. Rt. 540
Bellefontaine



Marmon Valley Farms
The Wileys
7754 Rt. 292
Zanesfield

Bring the whole
family and enjoy visiting
the many stops on the tour!

Darling Tunis
Louise Dunham
9048 Co. Rd. 153
East Liberty

**Tour includes free samples, demonstrations, and maps at every location.
Watch for details to come!**

If you have further questions contact the Logan Soil & Water Conservation District
at 937-404-3143 or Logan Co. Farm Bureau at 877-775-7642.

What is Your Soil Wearing?

A workshop on Cover Crops and Soil Health

September 28, 2017

5 – 8 pm

Tom and Nancy Smith Farm

2684 Mt Tabor Road,

West Liberty, OH 43357

Directions:

Take SR.68 South out of West Liberty to SR.507, turn left.

Go approximately 3 miles when 507 becomes Mt. Tabor Road, proceed ¼ mile to your destination.

SR.68 north out of Urbana, turn right on SR.507 and follow above directions.

Presented by:

Logan County Land Trust and Ohio Farm Bureau in cooperation with Farm Credit Services, Ludlow Ag LLC, Pioneer Hi-Breds – Craig Warne, Heritage Cooperative, Logan County Farm Bureau, Dallas Ag LLC, Indian Lake Watershed and Logan SWCD/NRCS

Dave Brandt – Fairfield County

Dave has been no till farming since 1971 and has been using cover crops since 1978. He has participated in yield plots for corn, soybeans and wheat into various covers. Dave is currently working with Ohio State University's Randall Reeder and Rafiq Islam on reducing input costs of fertilizers and herbicides using various cover crops, which improves soil health.

Featured Presenters:

Frank Gibbs – Rawson, OH
Frank owns Wetland and Soil Consulting Services, LLC, which he formed after retiring from USDA where he worked for 36 years. Frank has an extensive background in Hydric Soils, Wetlands, Water Tables in the Soil, Soil Compaction, Soil Health, Cover Crops, Manure Disposal, Preferential Flow and Drainage Problems.

Dinner Provided by Dine and Dash Food Truck, Urbana, OH

Register ahead \$10, At the door \$12.

Name: _____ Number attending ____

Amount enclosed ____ Checks payable to Logan County Land Trust

Send to Logan County Land Trust, c/o Bob Stoll, 5952 State Route 540, Bellefontaine, OH 43311. Phone: 937-935-7505

LOGAN SWCD/NRCS
324 C. Rd. 11
Bellefontaine, Oh
43311

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE
BELLEFONTAINE, OH
PERMIT NO. 324

Phone: 937-404-3150
Hours: Monday -Friday-7:30 AM-4:30 PM

LOGAN SWCD SUPERVISORS

*Eric Johnson David Knight Tim Lyden
Frank Phelps Joe Ramsey*

LOGAN SWCD STAFF

*Lorre Culp –Secretary/GIS
Deb Roberts–District Administrator
Steve Searson–District Technician*

USDA/NRCS STAFF

*Leisha Billenstein–District Conservationist
LaRae Baker–Resource Conservationist
Randy Smith–Soil Conservation Technician
Brian Leptak–Civil Engineering Technician
Indian Lake Watershed Project
Vicky Boots–Executive Director*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 15 Logan SWCD Board Meeting-5:00 PM
 Logan SWCD office

August 31 Logan SWCD -Logan County Farm Bureau
 Annual Meeting -6:30 PM, Winner's Harvest
 Barn -Doors open at 5:45 PM

September 4 Labor Day—office closed

September 16 Logan SWCD Board Meeting-5:00 PM
 Logan SWCD Office

September 17 Top of Ohio Ag Tour 1-5 PM

September 19-21 Farm Science Review

September 28 What is Your Soil Wearing? workshop

October 9 Columbus Day -Offices Closed

October 17 Logan SWCD Board Meeting-5:00 PM
 Logan SWCD Office

November 7 Election Day

November 10 Veteran's Day Observance-Offices Closed

November 21 Logan SWCD Board Meeting-5:00 PM
 Logan SWCD Office

November 23 Thanksgiving Day

December 19 Logan SWCD Board Meeting-5:00 PM
 Logan SWCD Office

December 25 Christmas Day

If you would like to receive the Logan SWCD newsletter electronically, please e-mail your name and address to: deb.roberts@oh.nacdnet.net

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.co.logan.oh.us/454/Soil-Water-Conservation-District



**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER**