



Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027

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Newsletter Issue 3

muskingumswcd.org

Summer 2023, Published Quarterly



LET'S GO ATV *Touring*

Western Muskingum County

Saturday, September 23, 2023

\$20.00 per person. Registration fee includes light breakfast and lunch.

2023 ATV Conservation Tour continued

The tour will begin sharply at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to pack coolers with water and snacks, sunglasses/safety glasses, bug spray, and clothing for all weather conditions. Please provide an email address on the registration form. Updated information will be emailed, available in the District office, on social media, and posted on our website at www.muskingumswcd.org. Pre-registrations are required, no sign-ups the day of the event. All drivers are required to have a valid driver's license. The tour is a pet-free and smoke-free zone. Please start the tour with a full tank of gas. We reserve the right to trailer slow-moving ATVs. No golf carts or non-recreational vehicles on tour. Liability waivers are required for each participant and are available on our website or at the office. **No waiver, no riding!**

Watch for us at the 176th Muskingum County Blue-Ribbon Fair! August 13-19, 2023



Join the MSWCD, the Muskingum County Farm Bureau, and the Muskingum County Fair Board for “Appreciate Agriculture with Local Foods”, three cooking demonstrations to be held at the 2023 Muskingum County Blue-Ribbon Fair! The events will be held Sunday, August 13 at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 17 at 2:00 p.m. All demonstrations will be held at the Veterans’ Building kitchen at the fairgrounds. Local farmers will be donating the produce and meat, and local chefs will be donating their time to teach participants how to use local fresh foods to create a meal using at least one of the very popular electrical

cooking appliances – the Instapot or the air fryer. You might even win an Instapot or air fryer, compliments of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative!

Without the help of the Muskingum County Farm Bureau, Muskingum County Fair Board, and our local farmers and chefs, this event would not be a reality. Thank you for helping us bring “Appreciate Agriculture with Local Foods” to the community.

COME JOIN US FOR EARTH CAMP!



FREE

July 20 or 21
9 AM–3 PM

McGraw Edison R A
6165 Park Lane, Zanesville

SPONSORED BY



Muskingum Soil and Water
Conservation District



Muskingum County Library System

Registration Required – Ages 8-12
Registration Deadline July 10th

Register online at www.muskingumswcd.org or Call us (740) 454-2027



Muskingum Valley
Park District

2023 Registration for ATV Conservation Tour

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Phone _____

UPDATED INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED ONLY. (Please Print)

Email: _____

Number of ATV (s): _____

Make and Model of each ATV: _____

If you would like to travel in the same group as a friend, please indicate whom you would like to group with.

_____ Number of ATVs that will travel 25 mph and over.

_____ Number of ATVs that will travel between 15 mph to 25 mph.



Reservations only. Space is limited.

**Registration Deadline:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023**



Number of Participants _____ **X** **\$20.00** = _____ **(Grand Total)** No refunds

I have included a signed ATV Conservation Tour Waiver for **each participant**. Waiver is located on our website—www.muskingumswcd.org or in our district office. **No waiver, no riding!**

Registration fee and forms can be dropped off, mailed to MSWCD, 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville, Ohio 43701, or register online at www.muskingumswcd.org. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards (service fee will be applied).

Reservations only. Space is limited. No refunds.

CONGRATULATIONS

Benjamin Beebe and Benjamin Dosch



Benjamin Beebe



Benjamin Dosch

Eagle's are known to soar high. Ben Beebe and Ben Dosch did that and more. They just recently received their Eagle Scout Badge for a project they did in support of Urban Greens and the Maple-Harding Garden. Ben and Ben both took on the challenge of raising funds to buy materials and building 7 raised beds each at the garden. In addition to the raised beds, they were able to fund the purchase of 20 tons of top soil to fill the new raised beds and other existing beds.

These young men, who are now Eagle Scouts, are members of Boy Scout Troop 174. Additional members of the troop are working on their Gardening Badge and helped with additional clean up of the site. They cut down brush, cleaned out the fence line, and pulled weeds. The Troop has also reserved two of the raised beds as part of their Gardening Badge project.



We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Ben Dosch, Ben Beebe and Troop 174. The full measure of the impact that they have made and continue to make on the Maple-Harding Garden will not be able to be measured. There are 50+ raised beds at that location and at last count, most, if not all, the beds were reserved or being used to grow produce to support the Hunger Network in Muskingum County.



We look forward to seeing what other great things these fine young men get involved with. Who knows, maybe some of them will become conservationists!

Thank you Troop 174!



Muskingum SWCD

Supervisor Candidate Announcement

A Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor represents county residents in soil and water conservation and natural resources management. Supervisors set the District's policy, provide guidance to staff, and assist on projects. The Board consists of five supervisors who serve for three-year terms on a voluntary basis. Supervisors participate in monthly and special board meetings, and attend area and state meetings. This year, candidates will be nominated to fill two open position. Potential candidates are expected to have experience relevant to the District's goals. The qualities of a potential supervisor include:

- Widespread knowledge of natural resources in the county
- Complement the existing make-up of the district board so that all geographic, educational, and land-use interests within the district are represented
- Leadership ability and willingness to share time and talent.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates. Qualified residents, 18 years of age or older, may also petition to be on the ballot. For more information, call our office at (740) 454-2027 or contact Mark Weiser, Nominating Committee Chair at (740) 819-3798 or by email at mdweiser@yahoo.com.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Do you have an interest in the conservation, environmental or agriculture industries?



This program is designed to help high school students learn how they want to advance their conservation/environmental interests into a career. Students will be given the opportunity to build their skills in professionalism in the workplace. Upon completion, students will be awarded a scholarship.

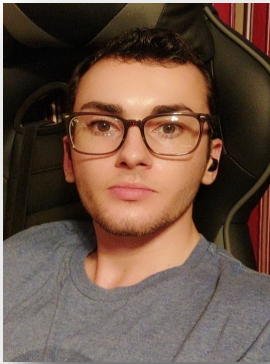
Applicants must:

- ◇ Be starting sophomore or junior year of high school.
- ◇ Able to provide their own transportation to our office.
- ◇ Submit an application (available on our website), resume, cover letter, and at least two letters of recommendation (from non-relatives). Application due by September 30, 2023.



For more information, please contact Betsy Rosser at 740-454-2027.

MEET OUR 2023 SUMMER INTERNS



Bryce Miskovich

Hello, I'm Bryce Miskovich. I am currently a Muskingum University junior majoring in environmental and earth science. I spend most of my time either at work or school, but when I have free time, I like to bake, knit, sew, and do multiple other crafts. I also like to design 3D models using CAD and then print those designs with an FDM printer. I love spending time outdoors and seeing new places; I have been all over the west on vacation, visiting Yellowstone, Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon, Glacier National Park, and a lot of other places, too. When I graduate, I'm hoping to get a job in conservation, hopefully seeing new faces and places. Overall, I'm looking forward to getting to know all the wonderful people at the MSWCD better and learning as much as I can from them.

Hello, my name is Amber Allen. I am in my 4th year at Bowling Green State University studying ecology and conservation biology. I am a drum major in the Falcon Marching Band. In my free time, I enjoy playing video games, hiking, playing my saxophone, and spending time with my cat, BB. I am looking forward to the experience I will obtain from my forestry internship.

Amber is assisting us with CAUV inspections. She may be visiting you in the process of these inspections.



Amber Allen

NEW GARDEN COORDINATOR



Mariya Kemp

Mariya Kemp is the new Garden Coordinator for the Maple-Harding Community Garden. Welcome aboard Mariya! Mariya joins returning Garden Coordinators Keith and Joyce Dille, Megan Jones, Marcella Gibbon, and Dylan McNabb.



NRCS SUMMER INTERN

Welcome to our NRCS Summer Intern, Jevon Clarke! Jevon attends Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. He is a senior majoring in plant science with a concentration in biotechnology. He is a USDA 1890 National Scholar and his sponsoring agency is the National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). This summer, Jevon will be working out of the Zanesville NRCS Field Office. He will be working in Muskingum and Morgan Counties, as well as in other parts of our 16-county Area 3.

Jevon is excited about his opportunity to be a student intern in the Zanesville NRCS office. His passion for agriculture started in Jamaica, where he grew up, and where agriculture is a way of life. To be able to practice in a field that he is passionate about is very important to him. He is excited to meet and connect with everyone. We look forward to sharing with him about agriculture in S.E. Ohio, as well as to learn from him and his experiences. When you meet Jevon at the office, or in the field, please take a minute to give him a warm welcome!



Jevon Clark



GRANTS HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!

THANK YOU!

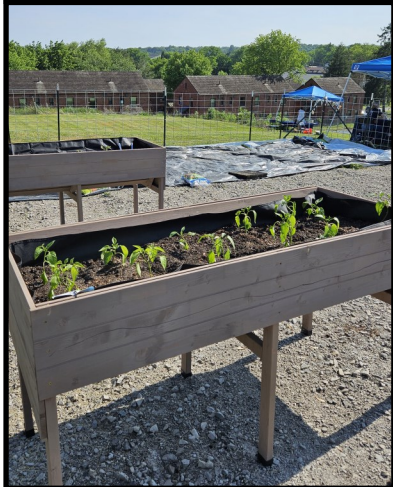


Many of the District's programs, especially Urban Greens, would not be possible without the support of the community through grants. We want to thank The Energy Cooperative, the J.W. and M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation, The Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up Foundation Inc., the Muskingum County Community Foundation, the USDA-NRCS People's Garden initiative, and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Urban Agriculture Grants.



The Energy Cooperative granted funds that were used for site work to establish the new Veterans' Garden at Brighton Grows Community Garden (behind Coopermill Manor, on the corner of Baker and Clifwood Streets).

The site is much more accessible for those who have mobility issues. The site was leveled, then gravel was installed for two parking spaces and an area that houses five raised beds that are handicapped accessible. Across the back of the fenced-in garden is the in-ground growing area for larger vegetables such as corn and okra. Any veteran is invited to come to the garden to work, or to just visit with other veterans.



The J.W. and M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation has been generous with funds through two grants to the MSWCD. The first grant has allowed the expansion of our largest growing site, Marshall Greens. To date, the growing area was tripled, fence has been installed to deter the deer, and an existing water line was extended with hydrants so that water is available to the entire garden. An irrigation system is in the process of being installed, and an existing high tunnel will be revived and brought back into production this fall. Last year this site alone produced close to 6000 pounds of produce that went to local food pantries to fight hunger in our county and we have hopes of doubling or tripling that amount this year!



Fencing going up at High Hill Presbyterian Church Garden.

The second Straker Foundation Grant has gone to establish a community garden at the High Hill Presbyterian Church. Fence has been installed to deter all manners of wildlife, from deer to groundhogs (and even a bear that has been spotted in the area!). Because the site has no running water, rain barrels will be installed to catch the rainfall from the church's storage shed. The garden also has several raised beds for those who can no longer garden easily at ground level. This group is excited about their garden and we are so pleased to be able to establish a community garden in that part of our county.



Marshall Greens Community Garden



When the veterans garden site was moved, that left an empty garden plot, and we couldn't have that! The site is now the home of the Brighton Grows Community Youth Garden. Grants from The Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up Foundation and the Muskingum County Community Foundation will make this garden fun for any young person in the area. The garden has already been adopted by the youth group that meets at the James Singer Center, and they are tending to it with weekly lessons given by their director, Lesley Viney. The kids have designed the garden layout themselves and will be creating artwork to go in their garden. Once completed, the garden will have its own storage shed for all the kid-sized tools and supplies, a white picket fence with gate and arbor, fun benches, and nice pathways between garden plots. The garden will have plots for vegetables, wildflowers, herbs, and a sensory garden.



Great things happening in the Youth Garden

The USDA-NRCS has recognized Brighton Grows Community Garden and the Zanesville Community High School Garden as part of their "People's Garden" program. This recognition allows us to be able to purchase some hand tools and plants needed for these sites. We are hoping to get approval to

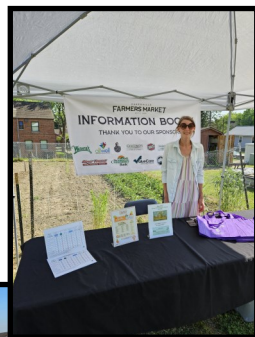
use some of these funds for the purchase and installation of an outdoor message board for the Brighton Grows site so that everyone can be informed of all the events going on in the different gardens at that site.

None of this work would be able to get done without the assistance of six dedicated seasonal Garden Coordinators, whose positions have been funded through an NACD grant for 2022 and 2023. The Garden Coordinators for 2023 are Joyce Dilley, Keith Dilley, Marcella Gibbon, Megan Jones, Mariya Kemp, and Dylan McNabb. We thank them for all their hard work at keeping this program growing!



Keith and Joyce Dilley planting at Marshall Greens.

OPENING DAY AT BRIGHTON GROWS



OPENING DAY AT RESTORATION PARK

What's Happening on your Farm? Could EQIP help?

Are you experiencing natural resource related problems in your farming operation? Are you looking for or do you have ideas of how you could improve your operation with some technical and financial assistance? If so, please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to schedule a farm field visit. We will visit your farm, develop ideas for solving the problems, and guide you in applying for the 2024 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a voluntary financial assistance program which helps landowners and land managers solve natural resource related problems. Technical and financial assistance is offered for cropland, forestry, pasture operations, livestock operations, seasonal high tunnels, development of various types of management plans, organic/transitioning operations, and improving wildlife habitat. Special emphasis is placed on assisting beginning and historically underserved farmers. Each EQIP funding category is filled with a list of practices that are offered to help land users fix the issues they might be facing. Practices such as weed control, vegetative plantings, brush management, tree plantings, access roadways, water developments for livestock, winter livestock feeding pads, manure storages, seasonal high tunnels, and pollinator plantings are just a few examples of the practices that are offered.

To participate in EQIP or other conservation programs, contact the local NRCS/SWCD Conservation office as soon as possible. We want to talk to you, come visit with you, and help you find the solutions and funding opportunities that will help you solve your conservation problems. Early this fall, NRCS will announce the application submission deadline date for Round 1 of 2024 EQIP. Last year the Round 1 signup deadline was in mid-November. EQIP is a competitive program, so please be aware that application does not guarantee funding. All applications will be evaluated and ranked. The highest scoring applications will be selected for funding. Be sure to contact us soon at 740-454-2767 Extn 3 or stop by the office to set an appointment for a farm visit. We hope to hear from you!



Muskingum Soil and Water
Conservation District

2023 AWARD NOMINATION INFO

We need your help identifying those in our community who are practicing resource conservation in some way! Each year the MSWCD likes to recognize those in our county who are contributing to the betterment of the environment. Examples include a farmer you purchase produce from at the Farmers' Market; a business that has installed energy-saving lighting through-out its site; a neighbor who has established a garden of native plants for pollinators; a group that has started a community garden; or a teacher who is passionate about the environment and passes that on to his/her students. Please consider nominating a deserving individual, group, or business for one of the award categories listed below. You will find nomination information on our website at <https://www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Award-Nomination/>. The nomination form can be printed from our website and mailed to MSWCD, 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville. Nomination can also be submitted via our website. Deadline to submit your nomination is July 31, 2023. If you have any questions, please call Doreen at 740-454-2027.

AWARD CATEGORIES: Resource Conservation Award, Agricultural Division
Resource Conservation Award, Non-Agricultural
Backyard Conservationist
Conservation Educator of the Year
Special Educational Outreach Award
Friends of Conservation Award

NEW FOR 2023
VETERANS COMMUNITY GARDEN

WHERE
 Brighton Grow Community Garden
 Corner of Cliffwood Ave and Baker St
 Zanesville

Raised garden beds accessible to veterans with disabilities. Veterans may reserve a bed to grow their own produce, volunteer in the garden, or just come to hangout with us.

INTERESTED VETERANS CONTACT
zanesveteransgarden@gmail.com OR
info.muskingumswcd@gmail.com

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WE NEED VOLUNTEERS




OUR MISSION
 Growing with Purpose
 Growing Food
 Building Community
 Living Well

WE NEED HELP

- ✓ Transporting produce
- ✓ Assembling benches
- ✓ Working in the gardens

WANT TO HELP
 Use the QR code below or go to voly.org to visit our volunteer website, and sign up today.

VOLY.org 

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urbangreens
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2023 Garden & Charlie Cart Demonstrations



JUL 29th	Restoration Park: Marinara and spaghetti squash demo with plans to plant a marinara garden bed starting at 1:00 p.m.
AUG 26th	Brighton Grows: Vegetable Sauté starting at 1:00 p.m.
SEPT 30th	Restoration Park: Harvest Party 2-4 p.m. with a homemade apple sauce/apple crisp demo.

Join Muskingum Soil and Water for
"Don't Throw That Away" Conservation Crafts

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023
 From 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Rural Services Building
 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville
 Registration is Required, Space is Limited

Register at
www.muskingumswcd.org or
 call 740-454-2027

Registration Deadline
August 18, 2023

Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

NOVEMBER 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CONSERVATION MEETING AND BANQUET
NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District MuskingumSWCD MSWCD




muskingumswcd Muskingum_SWCD

We believe in growing more than crops.

Produce a new legacy with us.
Right here in our community.



The Muskingum County Community Foundation
The Straker Building
534 Putnam Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
740-453-5192
www.mccflegacy.org



The SWCD and NRCS prohibit discrimination in any program activity or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, retaliation, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or genetic information. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (Braille, large print, etc.) or who need special accommodations for meetings should contact the SWCD office at (740) 454-2027.



MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100
 ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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 BECKY VANSICKLE, V. CHAIRPERSON
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 LANCE DEAL, MEMBER

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

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 DOREEN MAURER
 BETSY ROSSER
 VAN SLACK

NRCS PERSONNEL:

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN
 JOE LEHMAN
 DEE WISEMAN

Save the Date

4th July Office Closed	July 4
MSWCD Board Meeting	July 11
Live at Noon	July 11
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	July 18
Farming After Dark	July 19
Live at Noon	July 25
Live at Noon	July 31
Live at Noon	Aug 8
Board Meeting	Aug 8
Blue Ribbon Fair	Aug 13-19
Farming after Dark	TBD

Live at Noon	Aug 22
Craft Night	Aug 22
Forestry for Farmers	Aug 24
Labor Day Office Closed	Sept 4
Ag Breakfast	Sept 5
Forestry for Farmes	Sept 7
MSWCD Board Meeting	Sept 12
Live at Noon	Sept 12
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	Sept 19
Farming After Dark	Sept 20
Live at Noon	Sept 27



Mark your calendar for “Forestry For Farmers”
 Dates: August 24th and September 7th, 2023
 Where: GMEC Community Room, New Concord, Ohio
 Time: Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.
 Topic: Covering forestry concepts for people with small woodlots.
There will be a small registration fee to cover meal.