



Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

May 2022
 2789 US Rt. 35 E.
 West Alexandria, OH 45381
 (937) 456-5159
 www.prebleswcd.org

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Annual Meeting

The Preble SWCD 73rd Annual Meeting is coming up and we would love to see you there!
 Wilderness Ridge Retreat Center
 1259 Swann Beatty Rd, Camden, OH 45311
 Thursday, September 1, 2022
 Our Annual Meeting will take place that evening at 5:30 p.m., beginning with the Board of Supervisors Election. A free dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Emily Mullen, owner of the Mullen Dairy & Creamery, will be our guest speaker. Awards, Conservation Trivia, and raffle prizes will also be presented! It's an event you won't want to miss.

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 BJ Price - District Administrator & Technician
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 Savannah Ballweg- Educator & Technician

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
 Jeff Barnes - District Conservationist
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 Brooke White - Soil Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST
 Renee Buck

IN THIS ISSUE:
 Annual Meeting
 Pond Clinic
 Noxious Weed Control
 Earth Day
 Area IV Envirothon
 Plat Books
 NRCS Welcomes New Employee
 Preble SWCD Welcomes New Employee

Get updates on our website:
www.prebleswcd.org




Pond Clinic

Mark your calendars for this year's Preble & Montgomery SWCD Pond Clinic on June 2nd from 5:30-8:00 p.m. The program will be held at Norman Mull Farm located at 5866 Rawley Rd. New Paris, OH 45347. A meal sponsored by Brubaker Grain and Chemical will be provided, followed by the program. Eugene Braig from The Ohio State University will speak on harmful algal blooms, and Matt Zehringer with The Lake Doctors will discuss the Zika virus and mosquito control. Shawn Murphy with Michael Murphy Insurance and Scott Elliot from Sanco Industries will be present as well. The event will be held rain or shine. Contact Preble SWCD at (937) 456-5159 with questions and to RSVP if you plan to attend.

Conservation Camp

Preble SWCD is hosting our seventh annual Conservation Day Camp on June 21st-23rd. Campers will be joining us for three days of hands-on outdoor fun at the Preble County Historical Society and Nature Reserve. We are looking forward to new learning experiences and making great memories! Applications are available on our website, and can be mailed or dropped off at the office along with the camper registration fee of \$40 in cash or check.

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Noxious Weed Control

BJ Price, Preble SWCD Program Administrator/Technician

Once again, it's that time of year when we make our impassioned plea for weed control. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we want to take this moment to remind you of the importance of controlling noxious weeds in your neighborhood. Whether you find them in a road ditch, fencerow, farm field, or other odd areas, noxious weeds are bad actors of the plant world.

Poison hemlock is already two feet tall in places and growing rapidly. Canada thistle and wild parsnip are actively growing. Now is the time to get a jump on these weeds before they go to seed and spread further.

With the privilege of owning property comes the responsibility to control noxious weeds. We encourage all property owners and land users to be on the watch for these weeds, as well as other problem plants, as you are out and about this spring. Weeds can be controlled by either mowing and/or spraying, depending on the species and the surrounding vegetation. Proper timing can be critical for successful weed control.

Not sure what weeds you're battling? Many weed ID resources are available online. One good tool is available at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/TURF/PESTS/beginkey.html>. In addition, various apps are available in your app store by searching for 'Weed ID.' Also, don't hesitate to call the Preble Soil and Water Conservation District at (937) 456-5159 with questions.



Earth Day



April 28th was a great day for the 24th annual Preble County Earth Day. The Preble SWCD and Co-host Preble County Solid Waste Management District welcomed over 328 6th grade students from the county to Wilderness Ridge at the PMV Camp in Camden, OH. Our 15 local presenters spent the day educating the youth about a variety of environmental awareness topics, such as pollinators, wildlife, energy, land use, forestry, geology, sustainability, and history. Engaging lessons featured rehabilitated birds of prey, maple syrup tapping, and Native American culture, among other exciting activities and demonstrations. We would like to express gratitude to our fantastic presenters, volunteers, and staff for making this entertaining and memorable learning event possible. Congratulations to Twin Valley South's Haelee Smith for winning the t-shirt design contest and winning t-shirts for her 6th grade class.

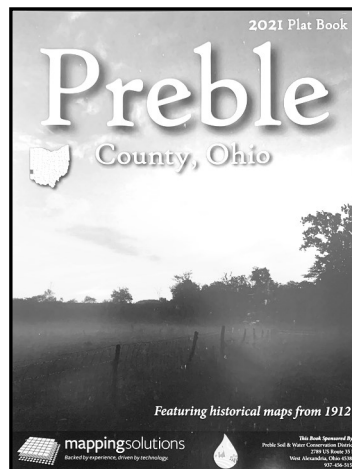
Area IV Envirothon

The Area IV Envirothon took place on April 26th at the Myceerah Nature Preserve in Logan County. 62 teams participated in the outdoor competition, including Preble Shawnee representing Preble County. Preble Shawnee ranked at 55th place. Thank you to all of the students who participated in the competition, as there is a lot of extra studying and teamwork involved. A special thank you to the teachers who take the time out of their very busy schedules to encourage and lead their students through the subjects. The next Area IV Envirothon will take place in Clermont County in 2023. We hope to see more Preble County students next year!

BJ's Philosophy Box

You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

2021 Preble County Plat Book



The 2021 Preble County Plat Book is here! This is one edition you don't want to miss. Within these pages, you'll find up-to-date land ownership maps, with side-by-side aerial views. You'll also find historical plat maps from 1912 of each township in Preble County! This is a book full of rich Preble County history that will become a historical collectible itself. Copies of the plat book are available for \$27 each, including tax, payable by cash or check, at our office located at 2789 US Rt. 35 E., West Alexandria, OH. You can also pick one up at the Land Use Management Office in the Preble County Courthouse. For more information, please call the office at (937) 456-5159.

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Dates to Remember:

June 2nd- Pond Clinic 5:30 pm
June 21st-23rd- Conservation Camp
September 1st- Annual Meeting 5:30 pm

*All programs and services of the Preble SWCD are offered on a nondiscrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.
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NCRS Welcomes New Employee



NCRS would like to welcome Brooke White to its staff.

She joined the NCRS in August of 2021 as a Soil Conservationist. White is from Dayton, Ohio and attended Trotwood Madison Highschool. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture from Central State University in 2020. Where White acquired a lot of lab experience, greenhouse experience, joined organization such as MANNRS and gained the love of Agriculture.

White knew that she wanted to be a part of something that was bigger than herself and be able to implement changes to the ever so changing environment. Whites' role is to help landowners in both Montgomery and Preble counties develop conservation plans that fit best with their objectives and agencies. White enjoys helping others understand the importance/benefits of protecting and nourishing the land while simultaneously profiting from it.

White has a daughter, two kittens and a dog. She loves to dance and cheer and has always wanted to make an impact on her city.

Preble SWCD Welcomes New Employee

Preble SWCD welcomed Savannah Ballweg in April as District Educator & Technician.

Ballweg hails from Carlisle, Ohio where she attended Carlisle Local Schools, before completing her Bachelor's in Botany and Environmental Science at Miami University in 2018. She then earned her Master's in Environment and Natural Resources with a Forestry specialization from the Ohio State University in 2020.



Ballweg has research experience including an undergraduate project studying the historical range of the American Chestnut in Ohio and Master's thesis studying compositional changes in Appalachian forests. Her favorite role has been as an educator during her time instructing and assisting courses at Ohio State and Miami.

She most recently worked as a surveyor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Plant Health Division, where she inspected trees for invasive insect infestations and was responsible for public outreach and creation of educational materials. Ballweg is very excited to bring her passion for learning and her technical skillset to Preble County.

In her free time, Savannah can be found exploring new hiking trails, reading, and playing with her dogs.