Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

May 2026

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

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Broermann
Brian Deaton
Kip Denlinger
Donald Hays
Josh Ruebush

DISTRICT STAFF

BJ Price - District Administrator & Technician
Jason Chappel - Technician

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeff Barnes - District Conservationist
Chris Lutz - Soil Conservationist
Erin Schritz - Soil Conservation Tech
Denae Washington - Natural Resource Specialist
Tyler White - Resource Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

Renee Buck

IN THIS ISSUE:

Earth Day
Pond Clinic
Noxious Weed Control
Waterway Maintenance
Annual Meeting Date
Supervisor Candidates
Historic Barn Tour
Day Camp

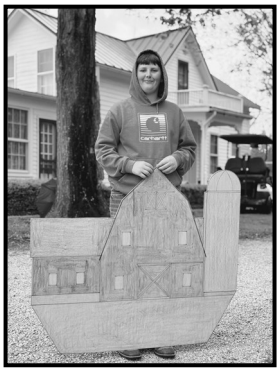
Get updates on our website:

www.prebleswcd.org

Earth Day Event at the Preble County Historical Society

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District recently celebrated 27 years of hosting our Earth Day event for 6th grade classes from across Preble County. Although Friday, May 1 started out cool and dreary with light rain falling, the rain soon let up and the day turned out to be just fine for learning about natural resources, local history, energy conservation, and more, all in the great outdoors.

A student practices fighting a wildfire
Photo: Lisa White



Classes used props to learn about zoning
Photo: Lisa White

All five county schools were able to attend, and each class had the chance to hear five different presentations over the course of the morning. As a special part of the program, all of the classes had the opportunity to see and hear Mark Banks and the Woodland Band as they explained Native American traditions and performed a song for the students.

Looking back on over two and one-half decades hosting Earth Day, the location is different, there is a new crop of students, a few of the teacher names are the same but most are different, however, the topics important to Earth Day are still the same. Years ago, we had presentations on mammals, fossils, energy conservation, forestry, soils, and land use, not to mention many others. Here in 2026, those same topics are still being taught at Earth Day.

Thanks again to the Preble County Historical Society, all five county schools, and all the expert presenters who offered their time and talents to help make Earth Day a success.

Preble-Montgomery County Pond Clinic

Whether or not you have a pond of your own, you are invited to the Preble-Montgomery County Pond Clinic just outside of New Paris on Thursday, June 4th. Our site is a former gravel pit that is now used as a recreational lake and a summer camp. Eugene Braig, Aquatic Ecologist from The Ohio State University, will speak about management issues with large bodies of water. A representative from the Preble County Water Rescue Team will speak about water safety and the team's response to an incident at this site just last year. Then our host will speak about what he has done with the property since becoming the owner. Lastly, Preble SWCD staff will offer pond advice to round out the evening.

Here are all the details:

What: Pond Clinic, free and open to the public

When: Thursday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Camp Mahanaim
6336 Guy Murray Rd
New Paris, OH 45347

A free fish dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by our presenters. There will be plenty of time for questions from the crowd. The clinic will conclude around 8:00 p.m. Be sure to bring your appetite and your lawn chairs! Please RSVP by May 29 to Preble SWCD at (937) 456-5159.

EBD PROPERTIES, LLC
Land Clearing
513-668-4668
Eric Davis
Owner/Operator

Forestry Mulching:
Honeysuckle & Overgrowth
Culverts & Ditch Lines
Driveway, Field & Pond Edges
ATV & Riding Trails
Bush Hogging

Sunrest Ag LLC
Farm Drainage & Excavating
• Waterways • Existing Tile Repairs
• Pattern Tiling • GPS Machine Control
Simon Flory (937) 533-0688 | Lincoln Flory (937) 336-4004

ROELL EXCAVATING
CONTACT
BILL ROELL: 937-533-8001
TYLER ROELL:937-533-8350
Camden, Ohio

Your next ad here!

Jeff Brandenburg
Owner/Operator
937-313-4995
Boonesfarmtruck@gmail.com
Boone's Excavating & Trucking
Providing Excavating, Skid Steer, Bulldozer & Dump Truck Services
Driveways, Gravel Hauling, Basements, Barn/Building Pads, Waterways, Field Tile Repair

agData SOLUTIONS
5096 US Rt. 127 South
Eaton, OH 45320
937-286-0407
agdatasolutions@gmail.com
www.agdatasolutions.com
Don Garrett
Certified Crop Advisor
Technical Service Provider for NRCS
CNMP and NMP Certified-Ohio
Trimble Ag Software
(Farm Works) Support

Bill Bowers
B-C FARMS
Shawn Cox
Conservation
Row Crop Production
Agricultural Land Management
bcfarms.oh@gmail.com

DAKOTA SHEPARD
AVP, Ag Loan Officer
P: 765.598.5756
dshepard@bankmerchants.com
MERCHANTS BANK
BankMerchants.com
1400 Industries Rd, Suite 200
Richmond, IN 47374

DOUG SCHWIETERMAN
CEO & FOUNDER
4240 St. Rt. 49
Arcanum, OH 45304
doug@hlandworks.com
937-548-3965 (office)
419-953-5727 (cell)
HERITAGE LANDWORKS, LLC
*SYSTEMATIC DRAINAGE WORK
*LARGE DIAMETER MAIN INSTALLATION
*SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS
*BACKHOE AND EXCAVATION WORK

Brubaker
Eaton
412 S. Franklin St.
Eaton, OH 45320
937.336.5735
Farmersville
307 W. Center St.
Farmersville, OH 45325
937.696.2028
Hamilton
4850 Hamilton Eaton Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45013
513.726.4931
Brookville
11597 Upper Lewisburg Salem Rd.
Brookville, OH 45309
937.833.4128
West Alexandria
2918 Quaker Trace Rd.
West Alexandria, OH 45381
937.839.4636
brubakergrain.com

DENLINGER FARM DRAINAGE INC.
SINCE 1949
"COMPLETE FARM DRAINAGE SERVICE"
Dan Denlinger
cell (937)603-0610
Simon Denlinger
cell (937)467-8235
8133 State Route 722 · Arcanum OH 45304

Schenck Land Improvement Contractors LLC
Pond Building my Specialty since 1976
Mike Schenck
513-424-0183
513-594-2562

PIONEER
BRAND · PRODUCTS
Kemp Agricultural Services, LLC
Independent Sales Representative for Pioneer brand products
959 Georgetown - Verona Rd.
West Manchester, OH 45382
Chad.Kemp@plantpioneer.com
(937) 533-0714 Chad
(937) 533-0716 Keith

Your next ad here!

PREBLE MEMORY GARDENS
FUNERAL CENTER & CEMETERY
3377 US RTE. 35 E.
WEST ALEXANDRIA, OHIO 45381
(937)839-4476

Somerville Bank
Your Local, Loyal, Lifetime Bank
601 Hillcrest Drive
Eaton, OH 45320
Office: (937) 456-5588
Cell: (937) 623-0835
pferriell@somervillenb.com
somervillebank.net
Pete Ferriell
Vice President
Agricultural Specialist

QUALITY TILE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
Our name says it all!
See: Bill, Chuck or Jonathon
Featuring Hancor Tile and Infiltrator Leaching Systems
723 Yost Rd.
West Alexandria, OH 45381
456-4672 • 456-4673
Fax 456-1523

Advertising doesn't cost, it pays!
Your ad could be here!

Advertising doesn't cost, it pays!
Your ad could be here!

LEGACY EXCAVATION LLC
937-603-2951
-Bulldozer Work
-Tile Work
-Demolition
-Waterway Work
-Utilities
-Land Clearing
Barry Koffer
barrykoffer85@gmail.com
2715 St Rt 122 W. Eaton OH

COOMBS EXCAVATING & DRAINAGE INC.
Collinsville, OH. 513-726-6124
FOR YOUR DRAINAGE, WATERWAY & EXCAVATING NEEDS
Richard L. Coombs
5037 Hamilton Eaton Road
Collinsville, OH 45004
Phone: 513-726-6124
Fax: 513-726-4816
Cell: 513-623-7072
Email: RC3156@aol.com

No job too small! Fully Insured
TAYLOR CONSTRUCTION
Residential & Commercial Excavation
Foundations • Rough & Finish Grade • Utilities
Terry Taylor
Owner-Operator
Eaton, Ohio 45320
5700 Dixon Road
937-456-4759
Cell 937-533-0945

AARON WRIGHT
937-246-6900
AARON@WMDRONESOLUTIONS.COM
Benefits of Drone Aerial Application:
• Increased Yields • Precise Treatments
• Zero Soil Compaction • High Efficiency
• No Ground Too Soft • Reduced Costs

Your next ad here!

Noxious Weed Control

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.

According to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, "prohibited noxious weeds" are weeds that reproduce by seed, spread by roots, underground stems, or other reproductive parts, and, when established, are highly destructive and difficult to control. The Ohio State University Extension Service notes that "noxious weeds" are plants that can injure agricultural crops and livestock due to their invasiveness, toxicity and other harmful characteristics, and can also negatively impact people and ecosystems.

One noxious weed in particular, Canada thistle, grows rapidly in response to 14-16 hour days. In this part of Ohio, Canada thistle will bud in late May to early June. These thistles are perennials, and just like the perennials in a flower bed, they will continue to grow year after year if not controlled. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years, and the seeds may be spread by the wind for up to one-half mile. Canada thistles spread locally by shoots off of the roots or by pieces of the roots. Roots may spread 10 feet or more horizontally in one growing season. If thistle patches are tilled, root segments less than an inch in length can produce new seedlings.

Canada thistles can be controlled by mowing, spraying, or a combination thereof. As with many things in life, timing is everything. Mowing is most effective when the thistle stalks start bearing unopened seed heads. This limits future seed production. Mowing after seeds are already being produced is something like locking the barn after the horse has been stolen. At that point, mowing controls the plant growth, but the seed spreading damage has already been done. Repeated mowings will likely be necessary to limit future regrowth. Many herbicides can be effective at controlling Canada thistles. As always, read and follow the label directions.

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.

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. Special thanks to Dean Houchen, former Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, for information contained in this article.

BJ's Philosophy Box

If you're going to make an omelet, you've got to crack a few eggs.

CRP Grassed Waterway Maintenance

Grassed waterways require frequent maintenance to perform properly and lengthen their useful life. Waterways need to be inspected regularly to identify potential problems. Damaged waterways should be repaired in a timely manner to prevent further deterioration and more costly repairs. Here are some guidelines to assist you in maintaining your grassed waterway:

• Mow to control unwanted brush or weed species encroaching in the waterway. CRP waterways can be mowed anytime without FSA permission. Typically grass height should be maintained at 6-12 inches tall. More frequent mowing increases the likelihood that waterways will function better and longer.

• Spring is a good time to mow those waterways that cannot be accessed during the growing season. In the fall after the crops are harvested is also a good time to mow waterways.

• Raise tillage implements and planters up and turn sprayers off when crossing waterways. "Outline" waterways with sprayers and avoid spray drift onto the grass. Grassed waterways being accidentally sprayed is probably the number one cause of waterway damage.

• Tillage and row direction should be perpendicular to the grassed waterway. This allows surface water to drain into the waterway and prevents water from flowing parallel to the waterway edges.

• Repair broken tile immediately.

• Seed and mulch any bare areas. Do not use waterways as a travel lane.

Annual Meeting Save-the-Date

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating 77 years of conservation in 2026. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 25, for our Annual Meeting and Banquet, to be held at Gatherings on the Green just outside of Lewisburg. As always, there will be a great speaker, a delicious meal, door prizes, and plenty of time to catch up with your friends and neighbors. Exact times and details will be announced as we get closer to the event.

Seeking Supervisor Candidates

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is governed by a five-member board of county residents who serve staggered three-year terms. Board members attend one regular meeting per month in addition to attending other area and statewide meetings throughout the year.

Any resident 18 years of age or older who resides within Preble County can seek election to the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Candidates can be nominated by the SWCD nominating committee or individuals may contact our office to obtain a copy of a nomination petition form. Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners within the county and submit the petition to the District.

For more details about serving as a Preble SWCD Supervisor, contact the Preble SWCD at (937) 456-5159.

Preble Soil & Water Conservation District
2789 US Rt. 35 E.
West Alexandria, OH 45381

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #342
Eaton, OH 45320

Return Service Requested

We don't wish to be a nuisance. To be removed from our mailing list, call (937) 456-5159 or email bjprice@prebleswcd.org

Dates to Remember:

May 25 - Memorial Day (office closed)
June 17 - Board Meeting
June 23-25 - Conservation Day Camp
July 3 - Independence Day Observed (office closed)

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.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

Historic Barn Tour

In celebration of America's 250th, the Preble Soil and Water Conservation District is joining forces with the Preble County Historical Society to host a historic barn tour. The guided tour will take place on Saturday, July 11, and will include stops at six barns in an area stretching from southwest Preble County to several miles northeast of Eaton. Without saying just where these barns are located, we will mention that some of them would win awards for their large size or unique shape.

The tour will gather at the Preble County Historical Society at 8:30 a.m. for donuts and coffee on Saturday, July 11, and depart promptly at 9:00 a.m. Several stops will be made in the morning, with a lunch and bathroom stop around noon. Following lunch, more tour stops will be made, and the bus is expected to return to the Historical Society in mid-to-late afternoon.

The cost for the tour is $40, which includes transportation by school bus and a hot meal at noon. Pre-registration is required and space is very limited. The only transportation is by bus and autos will not be permitted to follow on the tour.

To purchase tickets for the barn tour, go to the events page at: www.preblecountyhistoricalsociety.com.

Conservation Day Camp

Mark your calendars! Our 11th annual Conservation Day Camp will take place June 23-25, 2026 at the Preble County Historical Society Farm. In honor of our nation's 250th birthday, camp will be celebrating with a red, white, and blue theme, right down to our tie-dye t-shirts.

Registration is already open and camper registrations will still be accepted through the end of May. The forms are available on our website at: www.prebleswcd.org.

Registration fees for Conservation Day Camp are offered at a discount rate this year thanks to a generous donation from the Henny Penny Employee Foundation.