

# CLARK Conservationist

CLARK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Clark SWCD Annual Meeting

### MEETING AGENDA

**5:30 PM to 6:30 PM**

Doors Open, Voting for Supervisor

**6:30 PM**

Dinner

**7:00 PM**

Clark SWCD updates and awards

**7:20 PM**

Keynote Speaker: Ty Higgins

**7:45 PM**

Clark County Trivia

**8:30 PM**

Election Results & Adjournment



### In this issue...

- 2016 Annual Meeting ..... (page 1)
- Board of Supervisors Election ..... (page 2)
- Voting Procedures ..... (page 2)
- Keynote Speaker ..... (page 2)
- 2016 Board of Supervisors Candidates ..... (pages 3 & 4)
- State of Ohio Administrative Changes ..... (page 4)
- Annual Meeting Reservation Form ..... (page 5)
- 2016 Scholarship Winners ..... (page 5)
- Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative ..... (page 6)
- Feds Feed Families Food Drive ..... (page 7)
- New Clark County Plat Books ..... (page 7)

The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Clark Soil & Water Conservation District will be **September 14, 2016** and be held at the Union Club of Springfield, 3568 St. Paris Pk., Springfield, Ohio.

We will be serving a buffet style dinner at a cost of **\$5.00 per ticket** served by Lyons Catering of Christiansburg. The menu will include pork chops, chicken breasts, along with several side dishes and desert.

In addition to the election for the Board of Supervisors, other activities have been planned. We will also be hosting the **Feds Feed Families** food drive in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting and you will receive a door prize for your donation.

We are excited to announce our key note speaker will be Ty Higgins of Ohio's Country Journal - Ohio Ag Net. Mr. Higgins will speak on the latest issues facing agriculture in Ohio and across the Country. He will focus on lessons agriculture can draw on from past generations to help move the industry into the future.

We will wrap up the meeting with another exciting round of **Clark County Trivia!** Please contact the SWCD if you have a trivia question you would like to submit.

Registration to attend this year's meeting can be made in advance by sending in the reservation form, located on page 5, by **Friday, September 9, 2016**. For more information regarding the annual meeting, please call the Clark SWCD Office at 521-3880.



# Board of Supervisors Election

An election for Board Supervisor will be conducted at the Clark SWCD's Annual Meeting. This year's election has **Peter Blair, Brenna Cross, Brian Funderburgh and Denver Thompson** vying for two position on the elected five-member board.

The elected candidate will serve a three-year term starting in 2017.

The election will be held on **September 14, 2016** at the Annual Meeting or you may vote via absentee ballot prior to that date.

Information concerning the nominees along with voting procedures are featured below.

## Voting Procedures

County residents attending our annual meeting will find the voting process for SWCD board members to be similar to voting in previous elections. You must be at least 18 years of age **and** reside within Clark County to be eligible to vote.

However, those who are firms, corporations, LLCs, trusts, and non-residents that own or occupy lands in Clark County can also vote. **These entities MUST have a signed and notarized affidavit designating a voting representative to be able to vote at the annual meeting or by absentee ballot.**

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, there are two different ways to cast an absentee vote. Anyone who wishes to vote absentee by **mail** is required to fill out a **Request for Absentee Ballot** form no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and the Clark SWCD office must receive the request no later than 5 days prior to the election. The second option is, an absentee vote may be cast in **person** at the Clark SWCD office. A completed **Request for Absentee Ballot** form must be received no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and no later than **2:00 P.M. on September 14, 2016.**

If you would like more information about the election or have questions about these proceedings, please contact our office at 521-3880.



## Ty Higgins: Key Note Speaker

**Ty Higgins, Farm Broadcaster with The Ohio Ag Net and host of the nationally syndicated show Farm & Country Radio.**

Ty was born and raised on a dairy farm in Licking County. Using the "it's who you know" and "seize an opportunity" mantras, he started his farm broadcasting career right out of high school at WRFD-AM thanks to his uncle, American Dairy Association Mid East CEO Scott Higgins, introducing him to then Farm Director Joe Cornely.

From there his radio path led to Columbus country music station WHOK-FM for over 12 years. Eventually he ended up right where he started and where he feels most comfortable, back in farm broadcasting!

He became a member of The Ohio Ag Net team in 2010 and he is proud to share the great stories about Agriculture through his nationally syndicated Farm & Country Radio show, which connect farmers and consumers with country music.

He currently lives in Delaware County, where he and his wife Angela are raising their 9 year old son, Calvin and 12 year old daughter, Paige. When he is not taking his son golfing or rehearsing for his role in his daughter's annual dance recital, he is doing whatever may be on his "honey-do" list at any given moment.

# 2016 Board of Supervisors Candidates



**Brian Funderburgh** lives and farms near South Charleston with his wife Christine and 3 stepchildren. He is a full time farmer raising corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on 800+ acres with his father Harold. Brian enjoys to hunt, fish and go snowmobiling when he's not farming. He is also an avid gardener, raising home grown produce, and he takes an interest in teaching people to be humble and more respectful.

His family has farmed no-till for over 30 years, and they strive to not use full-rate chemical applications when spraying crops. They implement a variable rate fertilizer program based on soil tests, and manure is spread under optimum conditions in a manner to not compromise the local watershed. Brian has also assisted with the installation of waterways, tile and rock structures on his family farm. Brian wishes to serve on the board to do his part as a local farmer and make sure his home County is operating in a conservative manner. He feels the best way to learn something is to jump right in, and he wants to learn more about conserving the natural resources of Clark County.



**Brenna Cross** was born, raised, lives, and works in Clark County and is a graduate of Clark-Shawnee Local High School. She earned a degree from The Ohio State University in Environmental Science with a focus on Water Quality. She started at the age of 15 in the family agricultural business and has worked as Assistant Manager and Vice President of Marketing since 2010. She actively promotes the use of cover crops and responsible nutrient management through her work with Blue Stone Solutions Ltd. Brenna also enjoys being outdoors and spending time with friends and family.

Brenna has enjoyed serving on the Clark Soil and Water Board as the Fiscal Officer for the last three years and as the Vice Chairman of the Mad River Watershed Joint Board of Supervisors. In previous years, she has worked to find solutions to water quality problems facing Ohio by participating in the Directors' Agricultural Nutrients & Water Quality Working Group for the State of Ohio. Upon reelection, she would utilize her unique background of Agriculture and Environmental Science to continue serving Clark County and its Soil and Water Conservation District.



**Denver Thompson** resides in Harmony Township with his wife Whittney and his daughters Della and Darla. Denver is a farmer and owns his own excavation company. Denver's farming operation consists of 375 acres of corn and soybeans in Clark and Madison counties. Denver was born and raised in Clark County where he graduated from Southeastern High School. Denver then attended Clark State where he received his associate's degree in Ag Business. When Denver is not working, he enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time with his wife and daughters.

Denver would like to serve on the board to increase his knowledge of ways to help conserve and preserve our soil and water resources. Denver utilizes GPS technology in his farm equipment to apply variable rate chemicals and fertilizers to further reduce excessive contaminated run-off into our local streams. As a contractor, Denver has implemented many conservation practices throughout the Little Miami River Watershed and has seen firsthand the benefits. He is currently implementing erosion control practices on the farm he owns and would like to use his spot on the board to encourage others to do the same.



**Peter Blair** resides in German Township with his wife Samantha. Peter is a graduate of Wilmington College where he graduated with a degree in Agronomy. While attending Wilmington, he was a member of the soils judging team and involved in lobbying for Ducks Unlimited in Washington DC. Mr. Blair is a Sales Agronomist with Tri-Ag Products and is a member of Ohio Corn Growers Association. He is a member and youth leader at the Lawrenceville Church of God and a volunteer at the Clark County Fair in the hog and steer barn. In his free time, he enjoys working on his wife's family farm and is an assistant 8<sup>th</sup> grade football coach at Northwestern Junior High.

Peter Would like to serve on the Board to become more involved with the local farming community, and learn more through experience with hands on experience, network with the local farmers, become the future of the farming industry, and enlighten consumers on farming facts based on real life experiences.



# State of Ohio Administrative Changes

**NOTICE:** Effective January 1, 2016, and in accordance with Amended Substitute House Bill Number 64 of the 131st General Assembly,

- All programs and staff related to soil and water conservation have been moved to the Ohio Department of Agriculture as the new Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) was established beginning January 2016 through a transfer of programs from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture as directed by the 131st Ohio General Assembly in HB 64. The Division's central office is located on the Ohio Department of Agriculture campus in Reynoldsburg with many field offices and staff stationed throughout the state. The DSWC:

- Provides administrative guidance, training, program development support and financial assistance to Ohio's 88 SWCDs, their 440 elected board members and over 430 staff.
- Implements agricultural and non-point source water pollution control programs. A regulatory component enforces agricultural sediment and livestock manure.
- Supports and help fund local development of watershed management and protection action plans; help development and environmental interests with innovative stream protection within rural and urban landscapes
- Implements a comprehensive statewide soils information program; assist private and public sectors in using soils and natural resource information.



## Thanks to the Clark County Commissioners

The Clark SWCD Board & Staff would like to thank the Clark County Commissioners for their continued support of local conservation. Funding for the Clark SWCD begins at the County level where appropriations are matched by the State through the Ohio Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil & Water Resources.



# Annual Meeting Reservation Form

## Clark Soil & Water Conservation District 74th Annual Meeting RESERVATION FORM

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 • Union Club of Springfield, 3568 St. Paris Pike

Name(s) of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Clark SWCD and send to:  
Clark SWCD, 3130 East Main St., Springfield, OH 45505*

## 2016 Conservation Scholarship Winners



**CONGRATS to the  
Scholarship Winners!**

**The Clark SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff are proud to announce that Rachel McLaughlin AND Justin Haerr are the recipients of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Clark SWCD Conservation Scholarship for 2016.**

Rachel McLaughlin graduated from Clark Shawnee High School in 2015 with a 4.0 GPA., and is majoring in Entomology at The Ohio State University. She was the President of her school's National Honor Society, and was also in the Drama Club, on the Student Council, and a member of Braves 4 Wishes. She plans to use her degree to continue research on insects, an interest that started in 4-H.

Justin Haerr graduated from Kenton Ridge High School in 2015 with a 3.75 GPA, and is currently enrolled in The Ohio State University as an Agricultural Systems Management major. He was the first member of the National FFA Organization from KR, as well as a varsity baseball letterman. His family's history as farmers and his personal pride in growing grain crops on his no-till farm have solidified his desire to return to farming after he finishes college.

**CONGRATULATIONS RACHEL AND JUSTIN**



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

Pollinator Species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, the monarch butterfly has drastically declined here in Ohio and in the wintering grounds of Mexico. In response to this decline the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other partners have created the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) to educate the public and help create beneficial habitat to pollinators such as the monarch butterfly. OPHI formed after the 2014 petition to list the monarch as federally endangered or threatened. The group's primary focus is to find opportunities and other partners to assist in the efforts to create habitat.

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, OPHI in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts is organizing a **Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection** this year starting **September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending October 30<sup>th</sup>**. Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies in Ohio and Ohio is a priority area for Monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring. During September and October everyone is encouraged to collect milkweed pods from established plants and drop them off at the nearest pod collection station. The majority of Ohio Counties have a Milkweed Pod Collection Station most of them being located at the local Soil and Water Conservation District office. You can find the location of your local SWCD office: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/SWC/SearchLocalSWCD.aspx>



*Monarch caterpillar foraging on milkweed*

## Collecting Seed Pods

- To collect the seed pods from a milkweed plant it is best to pick them when the seed inside is brown. Do not collect pods when seeds are white or cream colored. If the center seam of the pod pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked.
- It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks.
- Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area.
- Harvesting pods from milkweed plants does not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.
- All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seed collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch Butterfly throughout Ohio.

When collecting milkweed pods wear appropriate clothing for the outdoors. It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. Questions or for more information on pollinators contact your local SWCD office or OPHI at (614) 416-8993.



# Feds Feed Families Food Drive



Launched in 2009 as part of President Obama's United We Serve campaign, **Feds Feed Families** was designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during summer months when they traditionally see a decrease in donations and an increase in need. Since 2009 the food drive has collected **nearly 57.2 million pounds of food** for those in need. Last year alone, more than **17.9 million pounds** were donated and provided to food banks and pantries. Even as the economy grows stronger, there are still too many people struggling to put food on the table.

The Clark SWCD & USDA-NRCS have partnered together for the past 5 years to promote the Feds Feed Families program and accept local donations. Each year we set a goal of collecting 100 pounds of goods that will be delivered to the Second Harvest Food bank, 701 East Columbia St. Springfield, Ohio 45503.

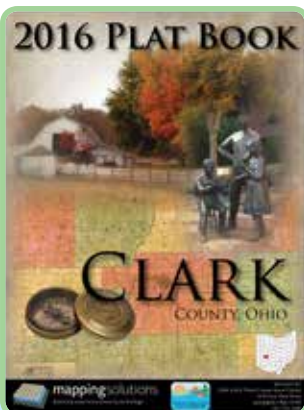
Our donation box will be in the entry way of our new office, Springview Government Center, 3130 East Main St. Please bring in your nonperishable food items and place them in the box. Donations can also be made at the Clark SWCD Annual meeting on September 14, 2016. Suggested items include: Peanut Butter, Macaroni & Cheese, Tuna Fish, Soups, Jelly, Coffee, Cereal, Oatmeal and Sandwich Bags.



It's so easy to pick up an extra canister of oatmeal or a few cans of beans the next time you're at the grocery store. Let's give back to our communities and help make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Thank you for the work that you do to help your neighbors. We look forward to another exciting and successful FFF campaign! Share your progress, stories and photos on social media using the hashtag #FedsFeedFamilies.

Follow us on Twitter [@TKOHUNGER](#) or like us on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates from this season's campaign.



## New Clark County Plat Books Available

Who owns Clark County? Thousands of people have a piece of it, and they are listed in the new plat book published by the Clark Soil & Water Conservation District with Mapping Solutions. The 2016 book is available for purchase for **\$20** at the Conservation District office in the Springview Government Center located at 3130 E. Main Street in Springfield. Premium wall maps are also available.

*For more information contact our office at (937) 521-3880.*



**Clark Soil & Water  
Conservation District**  
3130 East Main St.  
Springfield, Ohio 45505  
(937) 521-3880

**\* Return Service Requested**



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**Clark Soil and Water Conservation District**

All NRCS/SWCD Programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.