

STARK STEWARDSHIP

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District
2021 District of the Year

August to October 2022

Board of Supervisors

Ann Wolfe, Chair
Natalie Hammer, Vice
Chair
Rodney Campbell, Fiscal
Agent
Rick Horner, Secretary
Andy Wentling

District Staff

John S. Weedon
Sarah E. Matheny
Matthew Ferrel
Jay Jordan

Megan Liggett
Rome Marinelli

NRCS Staff

Sandy Chenal
Tim Scott

2650 Richville Dr., SE
Suite 100
Massillon, 44646
330-451-7645
starkswcd.org

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed: Labor Day
(September 5th)

Board Meetings: 2nd
Thursday of the month
@ 8:00 a.m.

2022 Supervisor Election

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will hold an election for one Board of Supervisors position for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

Voting starts August 14th and ends September 12th.

Voters can cast ballots at the District's Annual Meeting (see below) or at its office between August 14th and September 12th during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday to Friday).

Absentee ballots may be requested by contacting the office between August 14th and September 12th. Absentee ballots must be returned to the office no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 12th.

Eligible voters are Stark County landowners or residents at least 18 years old.

2022 Annual Meeting

Stark SWCD and Stark County Farm Bureau will hold a joint annual meeting at Varian Orchards (6344 Orchard View Dr. SE, East Canton) on Monday, September 12th starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person for Farm Bureau or SWCD members and \$30 per person for non-members. Call 330-456-4889 by September 7th to RSVP.

4th Annual Healthy Soil Contest

Stark SWCD is holding its fourth annual contest to promote the importance of healthy soils. Detailed instructions on proper sampling are available in a video on the District's website (starkswcd.org/healthy-soil-contest).

Samples can be dropped off at the District office between August 15th and 19th (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). One sample per landowner.

District staff and soil scientists will conduct soil health assessment tests to determine the healthiest soil. Questions? Contact Jay Jordan @ 330-451-7643.

Farm Science Review Bus Trip

Stark SWCD, Stark County Farm Bureau, and OSU Extension are sponsoring the annual Farm Science Review bus trip on Wednesday, September 20th. Participants will enjoy coffee & donuts, bus ride, admission ticket, and buffet dinner at Der Dutchman. The cost is \$60 per person. Call 330-456-4889 by September 14th to RSVP. Limited seating.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



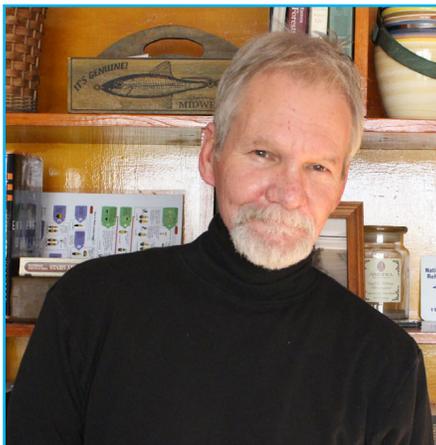
Richard Horner

Rick resides in Tuscarawas Township and has lived in Stark County for 45 years. He works for HYDAC International as an application engineer. A farmer since 1986, he raises registered Angus cattle and grows corn, soybeans, and alfalfa on 150 acres. He has no tilled since 1988 and practices rotational, strip, and mob grazing to protect the soil, reduce potential run-off, raise healthy cattle, and foster productive pastures.

He is a life member of American Angus Association and an active member of Eastern Ohio Angus Association and attends Newcomers Chapel of Pigeon Run United Methodist Church in Massillon.

Rick was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2019 and serves as Secretary.

Rick is running for re-election to represent county residents that are engaged in production agriculture and rural living. He feels blessed to own and farm a lot of the same land his family settled on 4 generations ago in Tuscarawas Township.



Gary Popotnik

Gary resides in Lawrence Township with his 13 year old golden retriever, Lucky. He has lived in Stark County since 2008. He works for The Wilderness Center (TWC) as its Conservation Manager/Biologist. He oversees all conservation projects on TWC lands and represents TWC on regional conservation partnerships projects .

He is a member of the Planetary Society and Union of Concerned Scientists and enjoys studying particle physics and cosmology. He is a passionate Cleveland Guardians and Browns fan.

Gary is running for supervisor to bring his technical conservation expertise to the board and to help Stark County continues its tradition of innovative conservation efforts.

Be Septic Smart

Homeowners with a septic system are responsible for its maintenance and functionality. If properly constructed and maintained, it can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater. If neglected, replacing it could cost you thousands. Here are 10 ways to be a good septic owner:

- Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your local health department's recommendations.
- Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary; generally every three to five years.
- Don't pour harsh products down the drain (oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications, etc.).
- Discard non-degradable products in the trash (floss, disposable wipes, etc.).
- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from drainfield and tank.
- Follow manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives.
- Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system.
- Keep plants and vegetation away from the system to ensure roots do not block drains.
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, bio-degradable, and low- or phosphate free.
- Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (the inspection pipe and soil treatment area).
- **REMEMBER—ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!**

Summer 2022 Programming

Healthy Pond Workshop

When: Monday, August 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: 7825 Beth Ave. SW, Navarre, OH 44662

Join us at the North Industry Sportsman Club fishing pond in Bethlehem Township. We will cover weed ID and pond management as well as check out the Sportsman Club's aerator system and other techniques they use to create a healthy pond.

Streamside Maintenance

When: Thursday, September 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Where: 2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon, OH 44646

Join us to learn tips and strategies to help maintain your streamside land. Topics will include how to stabilize streambanks, repair damage from erosion, and prevent future erosion while adding aesthetic beauty to your backyard.

Pasture Walk (Eastern Ohio Grazing Council)

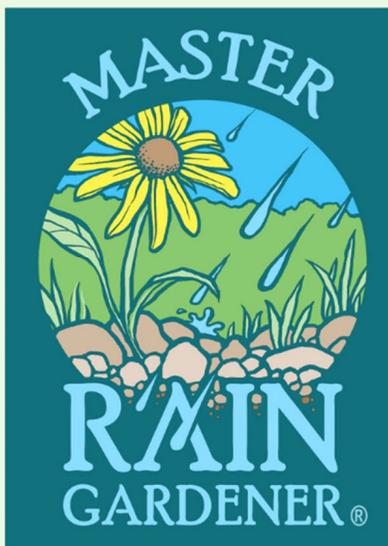
When: Thursday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: 9785 Justus Ave. SW, Beach City, OH 44608

Visit the Courtney Farm in Sugar Creek Township to learn about their winter feeding strategies and recently installed well and pipeline system. A light supper is provided. To register please contact Carroll Soil & Water at 330-627-9852.

**Register for Stark SWCD programs by visiting
www.StarkSWCD.org or calling 330-451-7645**

Become a Certified Master Rain Gardener!



Registration Now OPEN!

- Step-by-step training to design & build your own rain garden
- Six class course meeting Thursdays at 10 a.m. at Stark SWCD office starting 9/15/2022
- \$25.00 enrollment cost - includes certification and display sign
- Seating is limited

To register, visit: www.StarkSWCD.org



2650 Richville Dr. Suite 100
Massillon, Ohio 44646
330.451.7645 (SOIL)
www.starkswcd.org
Facebook: StarkSWCD
Twitter: @Stark_SWCD

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
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CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 498



Colorful Chemistry of Our Creeks



Typically, one will say water is blue when asked what color it is. When looking at the color of water flowing through our local streams, often it's anything but blue. It's often assumed that clear water is clean and muddy water is dirty. Unlike the mountain west where streams flow over bedrock and run clear, most Ohio streams flow over soil and run muddy. Even the clearest flowing water could be chemically tainted, while the muddiest flowing water could just need some filtration before drinking.

How is water quality tested chemically? Water can be analyzed through a battery of tests such as pH, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved/suspended solids, temperature, turbidity, hardness, biological oxygen demand and conductivity, nitrates, phosphorous, and fecal matter.

A common framework to improving our waterways is by managing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody meets water quality standards for that particular pollutant. A TMDL determines a pollutant reduction target, allocates pollutant load reductions, and provides the threshold to restore a water body.

So, the next time you travel over, along, or in one of Stark County's wonderful waterways make an observation with your eyes and imagine the colorfully complex chemistry at work that takes care for all of our creek critters.

Help Us Save Money

Request this newsletter electronically and help reduce our postage and printing expenses.

Send an email to jsweedon@starkcountyohio.gov with the message, "Want to save you money" or "Please put me on your electronic mailing list" or "Spend your money on other stuff."