

STARK STEWARDSHIP

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District

September-December 2020

Board of Supervisors

Jim Halter, Chair
Ann Wolf, Vice Chair
Rodney Campbell, Fiscal Agent
Rick Horner, Secretary
Natalie Hammer

District Staff

John S. Weedon
Andrew Farber
Matthew Ferrel
Jay Jordan
Anthony Lerch
Sarah Matheny

NRCS Staff

Sandy Chenal
Tim Scott

2650 Richville Dr.,
Suite 100
Massillon, 44646
330.451.7645
www.starkswcd.org

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

Closed: Labor Day
(September 7th); Thanks-
giving (November 26th
& 27th), Christmas
(December 24th & 25th)

Board Meetings: Sep-
tember 9th; October 14th,
November 11th, Decem-
ber 9th @ 8:00 a.m.

2020 Supervisors Election

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will hold an election for two Board of Supervisors positions for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

Voting starts September 15th and ends September 28th.

Ballots are available at the District's Annual Meeting (see below) and its office between September 15th and September 28th during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30; Monday to Friday).

Absentee ballots may be requested by contacting the office between August 16, 2020 and September 28, 2020. Absentee ballots must be returned to the office no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 28, 2020.

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

2020 Annual Meeting

Stark SWCD and Stark County Farm Bureau will hold a joint annual meeting at Elm Ridge Event Center (469 Elm Ridge Ave., Canal Fulton) on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 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 440.877.0706 by September 4th to RSVP.

2nd Annual Healthy Soil Contest

Stark SWCD is holding its second contest to promote the importance of healthy soils. Detailed instructions on proper sampling are available in a District's Facebook video (www.facebook.com/starkswcd) titled "Stark Stewardship Live! Ep. 14 Healthy Soils."

Samples can be dropped off at the District office from August 24th to 28th (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). One sample per landowner.

District staff and soil scientists will conduct five soil health assessment tests to determine the healthiest soil. Questions? Contact Jay Jordan @ 330.451.7643

Stark SWCD Virtual Fair Booth

From September 1st to 6th, Stark SWCD invites you to stop by our virtual fair booth. Go to our website (www.starkswcd.org) and click on Virtual Fair Booth or visit our Facebook page. Every day, we will have a **new** video clip with topics ranging from healthy soils to an at-home activity to fair food. Plus, you can enter to win a free compost bin.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Natalie Hammer



Natalie lives in Lawrence Township with her husband, Andrew, and their three children: Joshua, Noelle, and Julianne. She is Executive Services Administrator/Resource Manager for Aster Global Environmental Solutions, a company focused on carbon sequestration, validation, and verification. In addition, she and her husband breed and raise beefalo, chickens, and pigs on their 39 acre farm. She has over 15 years of experience in the cattle business as well as over 20 years in land management.

She was elected to the Stark Soil & Water Board of Supervisors in 2017. She is active in her children's school, Canal Fulton Chamber of Commerce, American Beefalo Association, and Stark County Farm Bureau.

Natalie believes the key to conservation is stewarding our resources and keeping a balance between needs and resources. She believes the board and staff have an incredible opportunity to provide urban and rural areas of Stark County with opportunities to learn and grow as experienced stewards of our resources.

Casey Reinmann



Casey resides in Lawrence Township with her husband, Jeffrey, and their 15 year old cat, Candy. She has lived in Stark County her entire life. She works for BJAAM in Canal Fulton as a project manager where she oversees the remediation of contaminated soil and water on sites with leaking underground tanks. In addition, she recently published two papers on the proper remediation of acid mine drainage sites. She holds a bachelor of science degree in geology from the University of Akron.

She is Vice Chair of the Nimishellen Watershed Partners and enjoys kayaking, biking, gardening, orchids, and rockhounding.

Casey is running for supervisor to bring her technical expertise to the board and to work with staff, board members, and county residents to help conserve natural resources in the county as well as create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Andy Wentling



Andy resides in Sugar Creek Township with his wife, Tera, and their two children, Hannah and Alivia. He has lived in Stark County his entire life. He is the manager of Leppo Rents in Canton and with his brother grows soybeans, corn, wheat, and hay on over 1,000 acres as well as five acres of pumpkins and gourds. The family practices a mix of conventional tillage and no-till and has incorporated contour strips and waterways to prevent soil erosion. He holds two associates degrees from OSU-ATI (hydraulics and diesel mechanic).

He has held the position of president and public policy chair with Stark County Farm Bureau and chair of Young Ag Professionals with Ohio Farm Bureau.

Andy is running for supervisor to represent county residents that are engaged in production agriculture. He is interested in learning more about soil & water services and programs and bringing that knowledge to his fellow producers.



2020 Fish Sale

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER (REQUIRED):

EMAIL:

May we add your email to our quarterly electronic newsletter?
YES or NO

Mail or Drop Off form and check to:

Stark Soil & Water (checks payable):

2650 Richville Dr. SE, STE 100

Massillon, Ohio 44646

ORDER DEADLINE: October 16th

PICK UP: October 22nd

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All orders are subject to availability

PLEASE INDICATE QUANTITY NEXT TO ITEM & TOTAL

Fish Species	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
Black Crappie	2" - 4"		\$0.85 ea.	
Bluegill	2" - 3"		\$0.85 ea.	
Channel Catfish	4" - 5"		\$0.75 ea.	
Flathead Minnow (Minimum order is 100)	2" - 3"		\$0.08 ea.	
Koi	6" - 8"		\$12 ea.	
Hybrid Blue Gill	2" - 4"		\$0.80 ea.	
Largemouth Bass	2" - 3"		\$0.90 ea.	
Red Shell Cracker	2" - 4"		\$0.85 ea.	
White Amur	8" - 10"		\$14 ea.	
Yellow Perch	2" - 3"		\$0.85 ea.	
Additional Items				
Item	Size	Qty.	Price	Total
Nature Pond Conditioner/Muck Reducer	1 gallon		\$90	
Bring a container with plastic liner & 1/3 full of pond water for each pond. No more than 100 fish of same species per container; 1,000 minnows per container.				
GRAND TOTAL				

From the Drainage Desk

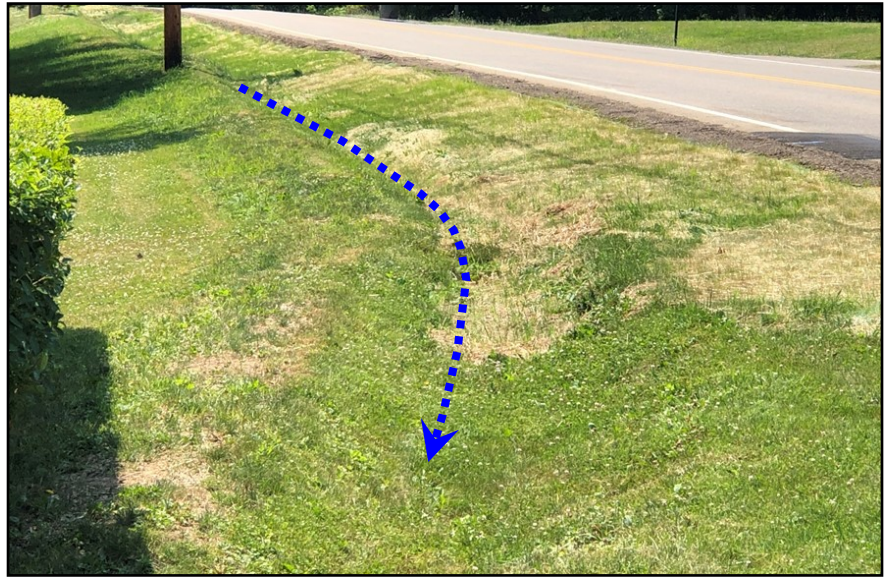
Road-side ditches protect the integrity of our roads by accepting rain and snowmelt. Equally important, road ditches protect water quality. Much like storm sewers, ditches carry untreated water directly into our waterways but vegetated ditches slow water down, encouraging soil infiltration and settling debris and pollutants.

Over time as a result of this movement, roadside ditches and culverts can fill in with gravel and sediment, making them susceptible to clogs and erosion. Road crews work hard to maintain road ditches, but sometimes homeowners can have the most significant influence on road-side ditch functionality and effectiveness.

The most important step homeowners can take is NOT to fill road-side ditches with yard waste (leaves, clippings, plants, woody debris, etc.). These biodegradable waste materials can increase nitrogen levels in water, which produces eutrophication, excessive nutrient enrichment that causes overstimulation of aquatic plants and algae. Excess nutrients rob waterways of oxygen and leads to the loss of biological life. Statutorily, dumping yard waste into a waterway is considered polluting waters of the state, which could subject the offender to penalties imposed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition, disposing yard waste in a ditch can block and back up water, potentially leading to ponding in your yard and/or your neighbors' backyards and damaging homes. Per state drainage laws, changing the flow of water that damages upstream or downstream neighbors' properties may result in legal liabilities.

To avoid polluting as well as potentially damaging your property as well as your neighbors', take your yard waste to your local solid waste management company or ask if they provide yard waste curbside pickup, or, if available, a township yard waste facility.



In the Field with Jay



Looking to dabble in **cover crops**? You don't need to take a dramatic leap to get started. If you have an open field by middle of September, oats are a great introduction to the art & science of cover crops. They winter kill so you don't need a termination plan. If your crops aren't off by the end of September, you can try wheat, rye, or barley. If you finish harvesting in late October or early November, rye is most likely to give you the best established stand. It's winter hardy and can germinate with soil temperatures as low as 34 degrees and grow at 38 degrees. It does produce a great deal of biomass in the spring, which means a termination strategy is necessary. To help select your cover crop species and develop a termination plan, contact Jay Jordan, Natural Resources Technician, @ 330.451.7643.

"The destruction of soil is the most fundamental kind of economic loss which the human race can suffer."

Erosion and Prosperity, *The Essential Aldo Leopold: Quotations and Commentaries*

Programming Note

Due to the continued covid-19 pandemic, Stark SWCD is presenting only Zoom programming for the rest of the year. Hopefully, we can resume in-person programming in 2021.

To sign up for a Zoom program, please call the District at 330.451.7645 to receive sign in instructions and the Zoom link.

Soil Health & Composting Zoom Workshop
Yard Preparation for Winter Zoom Workshop
Rain Barrel & Dewinterizing Zoom Workshop
Cover Crop Review Zoom/Video Workshop

Wednesday, September 16th (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, October 20th (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, November 17th (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, December 16th (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Compost Bin Giveaway



Check out Stark Soil & Water's virtual fair booth videos to enter to win a compost bin, which is valued at \$55.

Go to www.starkswcd.org starting September 1st to learn how to enter the compost bin contest.



Critical Area Seeding Program reimburses producers for seeding high-risk erosion areas in permanent vegetation. High risk areas are defined as concentrated flow paths through corn and soybean fields where grass waterways are impractical due to small field sizes or limited drainage acres. The program provides 100% reimbursement not to exceed \$500 per acre with a maximum of 1 acre. Producers must maintain the area in continuous vegetation for at least 3 years.

Livestock Exclusion Fencing Program provides a rebate up to \$10,000 per project to keep livestock out of streams and other waterbodies. Design and implementation must follow NRCS standards.

Contact Jay Jordan at 330.451.7643 or jmJordan@starkcountyohio.gov to see if you qualify.

Weather Corner

May, June, and July . . . The three-month precipitation accumulation was 8.51 inches. Last year, 18.38 inches. 54% less precipitation. For May, temperatures were 4 degrees cooler on average; in June, 2 degrees warmer; and in July, 2 degrees warmer.

Going Forward . . . For the three month (August, September, October) outlook, there is a 60% chance of ABOVE average temperatures, and an EQUAL CHANCE of above normal, normal, and below normal precipitation.





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330.451.7645 (SOIL)
www.starkswcd.org
Facebook: StarkSWCD
Twitter: @Stark_SWCD



What is a Riparian Area and Setback?



What is a riparian area? It is land that occurs along watercourses and water bodies. Typical examples include flood plains and streambanks. They are distinctly different from surrounding lands because of unique soil and vegetation characteristics that are strongly influenced by the presence of water. A good way to tell if you have a riparian area on your property is the look at the type and amount of vegetation. Riparian vegetation plants thrive with wet feet compared to other species. Common places to find riparian areas are next to streams, ditches, canals, ponds and reservoirs. **What is a riparian setback?** They are vegetated buffers between the stream and a backyard or other developed land. Setbacks are necessary due to the natural tendency of stream channels to meander or change shape and location over time. These dynamic processes are often escalated with development of urban and suburban watersheds in which the volume and velocity of storm water runoff increases due to increased impervious surfaces such as concrete and roof tops. These sealed surfaces prevent water from soaking into the ground. The high velocity of increased storm water volume wears and cuts into stream banks and carries pollutants to local streams, rivers, and lakes. A setback is one of the most effective best management practice to slow down streambank erosion, reduce flooding, protect property, and maintain water quality.

Contact Anthony Lerch at 330.451.7649 or email aslerch@starkcountyohio.gov for more information on riparian areas and setbacks.

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."