



Conservation Close Up

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation

Summer 2020

74th Annual Meeting & Supervisor Election

The Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District will celebrate its 74th Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election on Tuesday, August 4, 2020; a little differently this year!

There will be a “curbside” dinner provided by Harlan’s BBQ & Catering, LLC. The meal will be 1/2 BBQ Chicken, two sides and a cookie for only \$10 per ticket!

Tickets are Pre-sale only!

You may call the Hancock SWCD office at 419-422-6569 to reserve your tickets. You may also contact any of the current supervisors: Dave Reese, Linda Tuttle, Matthew Heitkamp, Evan Jackson and Jason Bower to purchase tickets.

You will also be able to re-

quest and cast absentee ballots for the Supervisor Election from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. without leaving your vehicle!

Mark your calendar for a great meal and voting for supervisors without ever leaving your vehicle; talk about a relaxing evening!

We look forward to serving you on August 4, 2020!! Call today!



Supervisor Election (New Procedure)

The Supervisor Election for 2020 is now absentee voting only. There are three ways that individuals can vote; 1) You may call the office at 419-422-6569 and request a ballot starting June 22, 2020 and the ballot must be received in the mail by close of business (4:30 p.m.) on August 4, 2020; (2) Individuals may visit the Hancock SWCD office at 7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E, Findlay, Ohio 45840 between June 22 2020 and close of busi-

ness (4:30 p.m.) on August 4, 2020 to request a ballot, receive a ballot and cast their vote; 3) Individuals may request a ballot, vote and cast the vote in the parking lot of the Agricultural Service Center, 7868 Co. Rd. 140, Findlay, Ohio 45840 from 5:00 pm. To 7:00 p.m.

To be eligible to vote you must own or occupy land in Hancock County, be 18 years of age or older. This includes legal

2020 Farm Tour

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 2020 Hancock County Farm Tour on September 19, 2020!

We will have six spectacular stops: Stateler Family Farms, Litzenburg Memorial Woods, Cobb Sheep Farms, Legacy Farmers Cooperative-McComb Agronomy, Bryan Family Farms and 119 Land and Cattle.

There will be lots of educational activities, animals, fun and food!

We will have much more information in the coming weeks; but, mark those calendars now and visit the webpage at: <https://hancockswcd.com/2020-hancock-county-farm-tour/>.

See you on September 19th!

residents, non-resident land-owners, non-resident land occupiers and representatives of firms, corporations, limited liability companies or trusts in Hancock County. All eligible voters must certify their status as an eligible voter by signature on the ballot application and each individual may vote only once.

Contact the office at 419-422-6569 for more information.

Meet the Candidates



Evan Jackson — 10994 St. Rt. 235, Findlay, Ohio, 45840. 32 years old, he has a wife (Kari) three children, Caroline, Leah and Fritz. He is a Liberty-Benton graduate and an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran. Evan is a 7th generation farmer and has farmed with his father, Tim Jackson, since the return of his deployment to Iraq in 2008. Together, they have a grain, birth to finish cattle operation, and hogs. They use no-till, vertical tillage, cover crops, and filter strips as conservation practices. Evan has served on the Hancock SWCD board since 2015 and feels he can offer the perspective of a young farmer to the board of supervisors.



Jeff Reese - 12555 T.R. 59, Rawson, Ohio, 45881. 36 years old, resides with his wife, Haley and their daughter, Rae. Jeff graduated from Cory-Rawson high school and received an Agricultural Communications degree with a minor in Natural Resources from The Ohio State

University. He is a marketing specialist for Ohio's Country Journal and Ohio Agent. Jeff has also operated Kaleidoscope (Christmas tree) Farms with his father Dave Reese and brothers and recently has started helping his uncle Tom Deeds in a minor roll on his farm. Both Kaleidoscope Farms and the Deeds farm use multiple conservation practices including filter strips, cover crops and CRP ground. He is also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee. Jeff feels like his broad range of experiences and exposure to conservation practices will serve him well on the SWCD board of supervisors.

Thank you!

With all the changes in our routines currently; we often forget to take the time to thank those who support the Hancock SWCD!

The board of supervisors and staff appreciate all those who contribute to our programs and use our services throughout the year. We would not be able to continue to assist landowners, farmers and individuals without the support of the following:

Hancock County Commissioners
Hancock County Engineer
ODA-Division of Soil & Water
OSU Extension Service
Legacy Farmers Cooperative
Streacker Tractor Sales, Inc.
Karhoff Brothers Excavating
Findlay Implement Co.
Steve Krugh Excavating, Inc.
Inbody Drainage Co.
Daft Erosion Control, LLC
Ag Credit
Boes Brothers, Inc.
West Central Ohio -
Land Conservancy
Stacy Drainage LLC
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
Farm Services Agency
Hancock Park District

Sparks Commercial Tire, Inc.
Boes Quality Drainage, Inc.
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Hancock County Maintenance Farmers Landowners
Hancock County Residents.
Hancock Convention & Visitors Bureau

We know there are more not on this list that we work with all year and we do appreciate the support.

Following are examples of assistance we provide for all county residents:

Ditch Maintenance
Waterways and Basins
Farm Bill Compliance Assistance
Erosion Control Structures
Pond Construction Plans
Fish Sales
Windbreak Design
Tree Packet Sales
Blanchard River Enhancement Watershed Projects
Pollution Abatement
Water Quality
Technical Assistance Drainage

If we do not have the answers for your particular project/problem; we will assist you in finding the correct agency that can help you!

We are here Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is always best to call the office first to make an appointment as our technicians do a lot of field work and are not always in the office.

You may contact us at: 419-422-6569 or by email at: swcd@hancockswcd.com or visit our webpage at: www.hancockswcd.com.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you in the future!



Pond Vegetation Management

By: Alex Wood

When it comes to getting rid of pond weeds, the first step is properly identifying the invasive species that are present, observing and taking careful note of the physical characteristics. Proper identification removes the risk of using an ineffective control measure, a mistake that can result in a large loss of time and resources. Plant identification is sometimes a difficult task, requiring dichotomous keys, stereoscopes, and even lab tests. Once the species has been properly identified, we will consider its physical requirements in order to develop a multifaceted management approach. If help is needed to identify pond species in question, feel free to contact our office at (419)422-6569 or OSU Extension (419)422-3851.

Sustainable control of problematic species is the primary objective when developing a management

plan. Many products and practices are used to help eradicate invasive species. One of the best ways to prevent invasive species from taking over your pond is by reducing the amount of nutrients entering your pond through runoff water. Some products to decrease the amount of available nutrients to plants in ponds include Alum (decreases turbidity/murky water), Phoslock (phosphate removal product), or Biochar (helps with safely storing carbon from decaying plant matter). Biological control measures such as stocking triploid grass carp can also be used to control vegetation and algae growth. Other situations may call for extensive vegetation and sediment removal through hydro-raking or dredging. Working with a professional who understands these options and how to best use them is the most efficient way to ensure the safe, thorough resolution of your aquatic weed issue. If your pond seems to have been overtaken with cattails or phrag-

mites, then the best way to eradicate them is to apply aquatic use glyphosate, such as Rodeo. The best time of year to apply pesticides for these species is in the spring before they produce seed heads. This will make it hard for the next generation of plants to establish themselves in the following year. With any pesticides in or near ponds, especially ones used for swimming or for those stocked with fish, be careful to limit the amount getting into the water.

If algae is a concern for ponds, a simple fix would be using copper sulfate in your pond. Another way to control the algae in ponds is to put in pond dye to help prevent the amount of light able to pass through the water. If you have any questions or concerns about managing your pond vegetation feel free to call our office and we will be happy to help.

(This is the first of a series on Ponds that we are running instead of our usual Pond Clinic)





Bluegill are deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and a long pectoral fin. Colors vary, but the ear flap is always black and bluegills often have a black blotch near the back of the soft dorsal fin. Bluegill are nest spawners and typically build nests in large groups, or beds, sometime between May and August. Peak spawning, in Ohio, usually occurs in June.



The largemouth bass is a popular sport fish. It is native to Ohio and can be found in every county in the state. Largemouth bass are moderately compressed with a deep body. The back of the mouth, when closed, extends past the eye. This characteristic distinguishes it from the smallmouth bass where the back of the mouth does not extend past the eye. The largemouth also has a black band that extends down the side of the body. They prefer ponds, lakes and slow, sluggish streams. Large mouth bass usually spawn between mid-April and mid-June..



The yellow perch is native to Ohio and is found in lakes, impoundments, ponds, and slow moving rivers. Sides are golden yellow to brassy green with six to eight dark vertical saddles with a white to yellow belly. Yellow perch have many small teeth, but no large canines. It prefers clear water with moderate vegetation and lots of sand or gravel bottoms. Yellow perch spawn from mid-April to early May by depositing their eggs over vegetation or the water bottom, with no care given.



The channel catfish is a popular sport and food fish. It is active during the night, moving around and finding food after dusk. During the day it will most likely be found in deep water with little activity. The channel catfish has a slender body with a deeply forked tail. The upper jaw is longer than the lower jaw and there are barbels around the mouth. The dorsal and pectoral spines are sharp and deeply serrated, and the anal fin is curved and has between 24 and 30 rays. The body is bluish silver on the sides and generally has dark spots. Channel catfish are native to Ohio and can be found in most large streams, lakes, and many farm ponds. Channel catfish prefer areas with deep water, clean gravel boulder substrates and low to moderate current. However, they are tolerant of a wide range of conditions



The fathead minnow is commonly sold as bait for fishing. Fathead minnows have short bodies with a triangular shaped head. Coloration ranges from olive to olive-yellow on the back tinged with copper or purple in larger fish. Historically the fathead minnow widely populated only in the western part of Ohio. They prefer muddy brooks and creeks, as well as ponds and small lakes. However, fatheads can tolerate a wide range of water conditions. Fathead minnows spawn in the spring and may continue into August.

The grass carp is not native to Ohio, but was introduced from China as a biological way to control aquatic vegetation. The grass carp is a long slender member of the minnow family. Grass carp differ from the common carp with the lack of a sucker-like mouth, and the absence of barbels on the mouth. Furthermore, grass carp are usually silvery-white, rather than the brownish-yellow of the common carp. Grass carp spawn in flowing water and do not reproduce in lakes and ponds. The grass carp grows very rapidly, and young fish stocked in the spring at 8 inches will reach over 18 inches by fall, and adults often attain nearly 4 feet in length and over 70-90 pounds in weight. They grow 10 pounds a year at least. They eat up to 3 times their own body weight daily.



Redear sunfish are a deep, slab-sided fish similar to the [bluegill](#) sunfish, except the ear flap (opercle) is black with a red or orange spot at the rear edge. Redear sunfish do not have distinct vertical bars like bluegill sunfish, when they are present they are broken and blotchy. Redear Sunfish also lack the black blotches at the rear base of the dorsal and anal fins that bluegill sunfish have. Redear sunfish prefer clear waters with more rooted aquatic vegetation than that of the bluegill sunfish. Spawning normally occurs in May or June.



The Hybrid Bluegill is a cross between a Male Bluegill and a Female Green Sunfish. As a result of the cross the Hybrid Bluegill is 80-90% male, giving it a reduced reproductive potential and making it an ideal choice for those ponds prone to Bluegill stunting. This slows down fast reproduction by keeping the female population to a minimum. Do to their hybrid nature, they can also be slightly larger and have a bit more coloration than regular bluegill.



Japanese Koi are ornamental varieties of domesticated common carp. Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. Koi are an omnivorous fish, and will eat a wide variety of foods, including peas, lettuce, and watermelon. Naturally koi are bottom feeders with a mouth configuration that is adapted for that. Some koi will have a tendency to eat mostly from the bottom and will eat duckweed.

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District

2020 Fish Sale

September 24, 2020- 10:00 a.m



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Fingerlings supplied by Fender's Fish Hatchery (Baltic, OH)

Pick-Up Date - September 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Agricultural Service Center Parking Lot

Order Deadline - September 17, 2020

Send check and order to : Hancock SWCD
 Agricultural Service Center
 7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E
 Findlay, OH 45840



<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SIZE RANGE</u>	<u>EACH</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
BLUE GILL	2" TO 4"	\$.85		
CHANNEL CAT	4" TO 5"	\$.75		
LARGE MOUTH BASS	2" TO 3"	\$.90		
YELLOW PERCH	2" TO 3"	\$.85		
HYBRID BLUE GILL	2" TO 4"	\$.85		
REDEAR SUNFISH	2" TO 4"	\$.85		
FATHEAD MINNOW	½" TO 1"	\$.10		
WHITE AMUR	8" TO 12"	\$14.00		
JAPANESE KOI	6" TO 10"	\$12.00		
POND MANAGEMENT BOOK - by S. Fender		\$20.00 ea.		
TOTAL COST				



Hancock Soil & Water

Conservation District
7868 CR 140, Ste. E
Findlay, OH 45840
Phone: 419-422-6569

Fax: 419-422-0080
Website: www.hancockswcd.com

District Board of Supervisors

Dave Reese, Chairman
Linda Tuttle, Vice-Chairman
Matthew Heitkamp, Fiscal Agent
Evan Jackson, Member
Jason Bower, Member

District Staff

Jean Derr, DPA
Tyler Koenig, District Technician
Greg Burks, District Technician
Alex Wood, District Technician

NRCS Staff

All services of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and Hancock SWCD are available to persons regardless of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Religion, Marital Status, Age, or Handicap.

	 <p>1/4 Mile West of I-75 on US 224 Findlay, 419-422-6973 www.strecktractor.com</p>	<p>Farm Ponds • Land Surface Drainage Backhoe Work • Site Clearing • Footers Sewer and Water Lines • Dozer Work Building Removal • Septic Systems Basements</p> <p>KARHOFF BROS. EXCAVATING</p> <p>409 West Main Cross Findlay, Ohio 45840 Office: 422-6687 Branch: 859-3305</p>
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