

SUMMER 2025 • JULY

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

SHELBY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

TRI-COUNTY POND CLINIC

The Ohio State University (OSU) Extension offices of Shelby, Darke and Miami counties along with Shelby, Darke, & Miami Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are partnering to hold a Tri-County Pond Clinic Monday, July 28. The event will be held at Indian Hills 4-H Camp (8212 W. Lauver Road, Pleasant Hill, OH) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and is free. The event includes topics such as vegetation and fish management, pond maintenance and wildlife concerns.

Ponds in Ohio provide important recreational, domestic, and agricultural uses. These can range from fishing, swimming, and wildlife viewing to water sources for humans and livestock, irrigation, and erosion control. However, if you have a pond, you need to know how to maintain it. Future maintenance begins at construction. Factors such as soil characteristics, side slopes and matching size and depth to the watershed are some of the important considerations before moving the first yard of soil.

Registration for this clinic is recommended via go.osu.edu/tricountypondclinic. Any questions about the clinic can be directed towards Amanda Bennett, OSU Extension Educator, Miami County (937-440-3945 or email bennett.709@osu.edu).



Eugene Bragg presenting at 2024 Tri-County Pond Clinic.

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Area IV Envirothon

BY AMANDA HURLEY

Students from Anna, Botkins, Houston, Lehman Catholic and Russia high schools participated in the Area IV (southwest Ohio regional) Envirothon on April 29th at Loss Creek Reserve in Troy, OH. Envirothon is an outdoor, academic environmental competition for high school students.

The Envirothon program started 45 years ago to encourage high school students to become interested in natural resource conservation, environmental issues, and careers. At the time, it was named the “Environmental Olympics,” then shortened to “Enviro-Olympics,” and eventually to Envirothon. In 1988 the National Envirothon was born with competing teams from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Massachusetts.

Today, all 50 states have Envirothon programs and the National Envirothon also includes teams from Canada and China. Each year over 25,000 high school students worldwide participate; since inception, hundreds of thousands of students have participated. Many Envirothon alumni go on to have careers as forest rangers, climate scientists, biologists, conservationists, soil scientists, environmental educators, and more.

The event tests students’ knowledge of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue (CEI). This year’s CEI topic was “Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change.” Shelby SWCD co-hosted this year’s event with Miami SWCD.

Anna High School’s team finished highest among Shelby County schools at Tuesday’s event, hosted by the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Shelby SWCD. They placed 10th out of 63 teams! Teams from Centerville, Miami Valley CTC and Bethel high schools advanced to the State Envirothon competition.



**“Don’t just
tell children
about the
world. Show
them”**

PENNY WHITEHOUSE



ANNA ENVIROTHON TEAM: ABI PRENGER, IZZY JENKINS, TYLER DICKMAN, AVEN ZIMPFER, AND BEN GEHRET



For more information about Envirothon contact Amanda Hurley, education and outreach coordinator at Shelby SWCD (amanda.hurley@usda.gov or 937-419-2597) or visit envirothon.org and areaivenvirothon.org.



H2Ohio

Who is eligible?

Enrollment is **currently open** through August 15 for producers in Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, and Wyandot counties. H2Ohio is a statewide program, and producers in all 88 counties can learn more through their local SWCD.

Requirements:

A voluntary nutrient management plan (VNMP) is **required** for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio.

Helpful Tips:

- Use spring to your advantage. Any soil test older than 2022 must be updated before enrollment.
- Ensure you have a functional email address and the ability to check and respond to messages.

WLEB Program Snapshot

1

Where do I sign up?

CALL 937-419-2589 TO SCHEDULE AN APPT TO ENROLL OR VISIT 822 FAIR ROAD BETWEEN 8AM AND 4PM

2

What do I need to enroll?

- Soils tests 2022 or newer
- Shapefiles of field boundaries
- Crop Rotations with yield goals
- N, P, K fertility plan follows 2020 Tri-State
- Email address

3

When will I receive payments?

Crop year 2026-27 payments will be made spring/summer 2026.



DON'T WAIT TO SIGN UP - FUNDS MAY BE LIMITED

Best Management Practice	Incentives
Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Implementation	\$10/Ac. - Basic \$15/Ac. - Precision
Subsurface Phosphorus Placement	\$20/Ac.
Manure Incorporation and Utilization	\$35/Ac. - Poultry litter & solid manure \$60/Ac. - Liquid manure
Overwintering Cover	\$40/Ac.

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's comprehensive, data-driven water quality plan to reduce harmful algal blooms, improve wastewater infrastructure, and prevent lead contamination. ODA is leading the efforts to minimize agricultural loss of nutrients from farm fields.



**Department of
Agriculture**



SHELBY SWCD CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The National Association of Conservation District's Conservation Poster Contest's theme for 2025 is "Home is Where the Habitat Is." Shelby SWCD got over 100 entries for the local contest. The first place posters in each grade category have been submitted for the state contest at the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation District's Summer Supervisor School. The posters were displayed at Amos Memorial Public Library in June. The posters will also be displayed at the SEEC Building during the Shelby County Fair.

2nd-3rd Grade

1st



Adrienne Mack - Botkins 3rd Grade

2nd



Ella Dailey - Botkins 3rd Grade

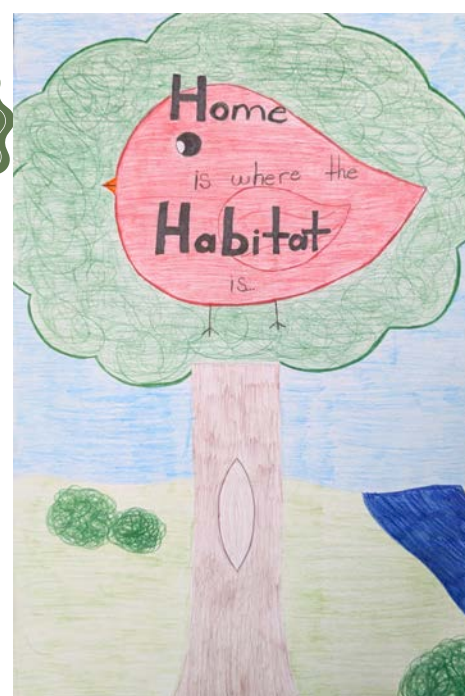
4th-6th Grade

1st



Audra Vehorn - Botkins 4th Grade

2nd



Vivian Zimpfer - Botkins 4th Grade



Conservation Day Camp x 2

AMANDA HURLEY

Shelby County Conservation Day Camp (CDC) has been extremely popular in recent years with registration filling within a couple weeks in the past 2-3 years. With this in mind, this year the camp was split into 2 camps. CDC would remain at Shelby County Fish & Game and be open to 2nd and 3rd graders. The second camp would be CDC 2.0 and open to 4th and 5th graders. This allowed for even more children to attend the camp.

The theme for both camps was “Planet Protectors.” Activities were superhero, conservation, and agriculture related.

CDC 2.0 was held at Lake Loramie State Park on 6/10 & 6/11. Fifty-six incoming 5th and 6th graders attended and learned about Lake Loramie via a boat ride, Ohio wildlife, archery, pollinators, and fishing. They participated in service-learning by planting native wildflowers and trail clean-up.

Later in June CDC took place at Shelby County Fish & Game 6/24-6/26. It was a HOT week but over 90 campers participated and found ways to still enjoy it! Campers learned about pollinators, archery, landforms, wildlife, recycling, plant parts, soils ecosystems, water conservation, nature, fishing, and agriculture. They also created their own superhero highlighting their goals for protecting the planet.

Presenters hailed from Lake Loramie State Park, Lake Loramie Improvement Association, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Geological Survey, Ohio State University Extension, Shelby Farm Bureau, Pheasant’s Forever, Kiwanis Club of Sidney, Darke SWCD, National Wild Turkey Federation, Master Gardener Volunteers, Miami Conservancy District, Anna FFA, and Shelby County Libraries.

CDC is made possible because of generous volunteers that dedicate their time in set-up, lunch service, monitoring safety of campers, and tear down among other activities to make camp run smoothly. We would like to thank all of the sponsors, counselors, presenters, staff and volunteers who make camp successful! You are all SUPERHEROES!



MULTI-COUNTY EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

DARKE, MIAMI, MONTGOMERY,
AND SHELBY COUNTIES

7/30 &
7/31

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS:

From Soil to Sustainability

Montgomery SWCD

Mike Mullen

937-854-7646

mullenm@mcoho.org

Miami SWCD

Linda Raterman

937-335-7645

lraterman@miamiswcd.org

Darke SWCD

Jared Coppess

937-548-1715 x3

www.darkeswcd.com

Shelby SWCD

Amanda Hurley

937-419-2597

amanda.hurley@usda.gov

Join us for a 2 day educator workshop focusing on hands-on lessons about alternative agriculture, sustainability, food chains, and more in Miami County (1280 N. County Rd. 25A Troy, OH). Again this year we will have sessions in a meeting room and "field trips" to visit several locations for a more immersive experience!

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 18TH

NAME: _____

CELL #: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

HOME EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

SCHOOL EMAIL: _____

GRADE: _____

I will attend 7/30 OR 7/31 (circle one) for \$60 ____ I will attend 7/30 AND 7/31 for \$75 ____

dietary restrictions: _____

Address check to **MIAMI SWCD** send to 1330 N CR 25A, Troy, OH 45373 **Attn: Linda**
(Miami SWCD will also accept credit cards, charges apply)

I will be Seeking (1) Graduate Credit from Ashland University (circle one): YES NO

Arrangements are in the works for Ashland University credit

Graduate credit is a separate & direct cost to Ashland University. COST TBA

Events & Announcements

7/4/2025	Federal Holiday - Shelby SWCD Office Closed
7/15/2025 @ 2:30pm	<u>Conservation Storytime "Colors in Nature" - Botkins Community Park</u>
7/16/2025 @ 11:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime "Colors in Nature" - Tawawa Park</u>
7/18/2025 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
7/18/2025 @ 2:00pm	<u>Macro Sampling with Sidney City Parks Tawawa Park Geib Pavilion</u>
7/18/2025	<u>Deadline to register for Multi-County Educator Workshop</u>
7/21/2025-7/26/2025	Shelby County Fair - visit us in the Grange Building
7/27/2025-7/29/2025	<u>OFSWCD - Summer Supervisor School Area 2</u>
7/28/2025 @ 6:30pm	<u>Tri-County Pond Clinic Pleasant Hill, OH</u>
7/30/2025, 7/31/2025	<u>Multi-County Educator Workshop</u>
8/12/2025	<u>Ag at Night VanDemark Farms</u>
8/15/2025 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
8/15/2025	Last Day to Enroll in H2Ohio
9/1/2025	Federal Holiday - Shelby SWCD Office Closed
9/16/2025-9/18/2025	Farm Science Review
9/19/2024	Board Supervisor Meeting

If you have questions about events or announcements, please contact Amanda Hurley (937-419-2597 or amanda.hurley@usda.gov)

AG at NIGHT

8/12/2025
5:00pm-8:00pm
VanDemark Farms
Free, Family Friendly Event
More Info to Follow

FARM BUREAU THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LAST DAY TO ENROLL IN H2OHIO AGRICULTURE INCENTIVE PROGRAM IS 8/15/2025.

CALL CASSIE TO SCHEDULE AN APPT TO ENROLL 937-419-2589 OR VISIT THE OFFICE 822 FAIR ROAD SIDNEY BETWEEN 8AM AND 4PM

H2Ohio

SAVE THE DATES:

FORESTRY FIELD DAY - 10/26/2025
SHELBY SWCD ANNUAL MEETING - 12/4/2025
WOMEN IN AG EVENT (NEW THIS YEAR IN THE SPRING NOT THE FALL) - 3/26/2026