

**THE LATITUDE / LONGITUDE**  
**41° 21' 09" N. - 82° 08' 55" W.**

**SUMMER/FALL 2023**

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve the natural resources and environment in Lorain County.



## LORAIN SWCD 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1948-2023

**Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District is celebrating 75 years of service this year! Let's take a look back at how it all started...**

In 1941, the 94th Ohio General Assembly authorized the formation of soil conservation districts to develop and implement programs to conserve soil, water, and related resources. By 1963, soil conservation districts were formed in every county in Ohio.

Locally, in 1948 a group of men, each representing an established farm organization in Lorain County, met at the County Extension Office for the purpose of establishing a Soil Conservation District. Harry Rowland of Rochester was chosen as Chairman of the group and Henry Schriver of Grafton as Secretary-Treasurer. A petition had previously circulated for the formation of a district, and the first order of business was to now petition the State Conservation Committee, which occurred September 15, 1948. Less than three months later, the results of a referendum were announced as a nearly unanimous decision for the formation of a district.



On January 18, 1949, the first election of the Board of Supervisors was held & this ambitious group of men began holding public meetings to define the goals and identify problems throughout Lorain County. District funds at this time were through contribution only. Many individuals and organizations made generous contributions, and the year ended with \$137.66 on hand after all bills were paid!

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Pictured are past Supervisors Harvey Born, Henry Schriver, Glenn Rollin, Henry Leimbach, and Ted Breyley in this undated photo.

An election of two supervisors to the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will begin Friday, September 1, 2023 through Friday, September 29, 2023. There are two candidates running for two seats on the Board. Absentee ballots will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting on **September 1, 2023**, and continuing until **September 29, 2023** at 4:30 p.m.. You may request your ballot in writing, or by calling the District office at 440-326-5800. See page two for more details.



**Ohio Pollinator  
Habitat Initiative**

**Annual Milkweed Pod Collection**  
September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>  
Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District  
[for more information](#)

### Supervisor Election Info

The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District (Lorain SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for a Supervisor.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

Nominees are: **Peggy Vasu**  
**Carl Wesemeyer**



### Election Procedures

Absentee ballots are available upon request during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Friday, September 1, 2023.

There are three (3) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the SWCD office located at 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during normal business hours.
- 2.) At the Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Wellington Eagles, 361 South Main Street, Wellington, OH. Voting takes place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 3.) Voting absentee starts Friday, September 1, 2023 until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2023, by calling 440-326-5800 or emailing [lparsh@loraincounty.us](mailto:lparsh@loraincounty.us). Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 29, 2023.

Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) will certify the election and provide results to the ODA-DSWC and SWCD office.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES!



Carl Wesemeyer has been a Grafton Township Trustee since 2012. He is also a RLCWA Board member, LORCA Board member, LCTA member, NRAC member and serves on the LCPH District Advisory Committee. His personal experience with conservation practices include the rebuilding of drainage waterways, construction of ponds and inspections of stormwater control methods. Carl lives in Grafton with his wife of 45 years, Cynthia. He and Cynthia have two daughters.



Peggy Vasu and her husband John, are residents of Huntington Township. She works part-time as a nurse for the Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital and in her spare time she is a Master Gardener and a beekeeper. Peggy has learned about stream bank erosion control by live staking the Charlemont Creek stream banks on her property. She enjoys teaching about and practicing good gardening and composting practices and the benefits of both. Because of her love of ecology, she feels it is important to encourage good soil and water practices not only in our agricultural areas but in our urban areas as well. Peggy and John have two children.



## LSWCD - THE EARLY YEARS CONT.....

The 1950s and 60s were focused on education events, such as the Forestry Field Day, Forage Field Day, Level Land Plowing Matches, and Conservation Field Days for area high school students. Demonstrations of construction of ponds, waterways, and diversion ditches always had great attendance. Air tours, where folks were taken up in an airplane for an eagle's eye view of projects, also began and were very popular.

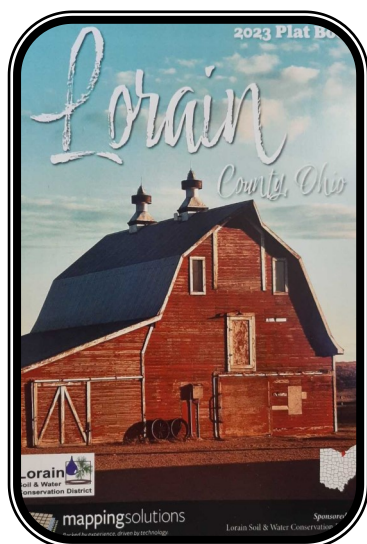
The 1960s District staff grew due to the increasing workload and the first woman employee, Joan Junglas, was hired as a part-time secretary. Projects like the Lorain County Soil Survey, as well as large ditch projects like Schramm, Carpenter, and Camden began. Landowner assistance programs for drainage, land use, and erosion, and management techniques of pasture, cropland, and woodland were also implemented. A tile drainage observation project was installed at Brill Brothers farm in Pittsfield to record flow from tile lines after each rain to determine flow patterns.

The end of the 1960s brought new concerns dealing with pollution of streams due to animal waste, chemical runoff, and soil erosion due to the construction of roads, houses, and shopping centers. The District's reach extended to include small-scale landowners, commercial recreation, cities, and other non-farm entities to help solve soil and water conservation problems. Stay tuned.....more history to follow in the next Winter/Spring newsletter.



This picture shows the 8th Annual Banquet of the Ohio Federation of Soil Conservation Districts held in Columbus, dated January 1951. Our fledgling District was barely three years old and our Supervisors are seated at the right of the picture.

## 2023 PLAT BOOK



The 2023 Lorain County Plat Book is now available at the Lorain SWCD office, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria.

**\$25.00 each**  
Plus sales tax

Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District

## 2023 Photo Contest: Soils – The Foundation of Life

Visit [www.lorainswcd.com](http://www.lorainswcd.com) for rules and entry form

**Submit your photos for our 2023 Photo Contest!**  
**Deadline to submit is Friday, September 15, 2023.**  
**More information can be found on our website,**  
**[www.lorainswcd.com](http://www.lorainswcd.com)**

## Come see us at the 2023 Lorain County Fair!

Stop by and see our booth located in the Soil & Water Conservation Red Barn #28.  
August 20-27, 2023

### NEW FACES AT LORAIN SWCD!



Patti Donnellan

Please welcome our newest staff member, Patti Donnellan! Patti joined LSWCD as District Administrator in February.

Prior to joining the district, she was Sustainability Coordinator of Nature-based Solutions for the City of Cleveland. Since moving back home to northeast Ohio in 2015, Patti also worked as a naturalist for Cleveland Metroparks at the Watershed Stewardship Center and a park technician at Columbia Reservation – Lorain County Metro Parks. She is a self-described native plant nut & has been working to reduce the turfgrass, remove invasives, and plant native plants on her one acre in Columbia Station where she resides with her husband, two dogs, and one cat. Patti loves meeting and learning about people, which helps build relationships with residents and community partners and inspires her to work towards a healthier, more resilient future for all residents of Lorain County and beyond. You can get in touch with Patti at [pdonnellan@loraincounty.us](mailto:pdonnellan@loraincounty.us) or 440-406-3365.



## Please welcome our other newest addition to our staff!

Jack Fisher is the new Stormwater Specialist. He was born and grew up in the Toledo area. He went to college at Arizona State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Earth and Environmental Studies and a minor in Parks and Protected Lands Management. In 2020, he became a seasonal Park Ranger at the Lost Dutchman State Park in Apache Junction Arizona. In 2020, he moved back to Toledo for a little bit to be closer to family and friends. He just recently moved to Lakewood with his partner Kelly and their cats Peanut and Butter. He enjoys biking, climbing, and disc golf. He has been with Lorain SWCD for 6 months and has been enjoying every moment of it. You can reach Jack at [jfisher@loraincounty.us](mailto:jfisher@loraincounty.us) or 440-326-5808.



### JOEL MCROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We would like to extend our congratulations to Ethan Falkenburg from Avon High School! Ethan was the recipient of the Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship. Ethan will be attending Ohio State ATI in the fall to study Environmental Science. He has been a youth-fitness instructor for four years and a seasonal duck-hunting guide for two. Best of luck to you Ethan!



Special thanks to Michelle Hung, David Moore and Jeff Riddell, Lorain County Commissioners, for their continued support to Lorain SWCD!



# FALL FISH SALE



**Tuesday, September 26, 2023 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
at the Agricultural Center  
42110 Russia Rd, Elyria**

The truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery of Baltic, Ohio will be here at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to distribute orders. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Shellcracker, Fathead Minnows, Triploid White Amur, and Japanese Koi are available. We will also have pond conditioner - a once-a-year treatment that adds a natural green color, while lowering fertility levels in your pond and fish food.

**On pick-up day, you will need to bring a container filled with your pond water to pick up your order**—approximately 5 gallons of water for each 100 fingerling size fish. We suggest using a trash can with a **new, unscented plastic liner**—then adding the pond water to the container. Ensure there is enough room for the liner to be tied shut for transportation. Remember, the Amur are 8-10" long and need a suitable container.

General stocking recommendations are 100 Largemouth Bass and 500 Bluegill per surface acre of pond area. Channel Catfish can also be stocked in ponds that are a 1/2 acre or larger; though they will not reproduce in a pond, they do provide excellent fishing. A 4-6" long Catfish stocked this fall will double in size by next spring.

If you have pond stocking questions, please contact the experts at Fender's Fish Hatchery at (740) 622-0681.

## FISH SALE ORDER FORM

**ALL FISH PRICES ARE LISTED, YOU MUST INCLUDE SALES TAX AT 6.5%.  
IF YOU ARE TAX EXEMPT, PLEASE INCLUDE A FULLY  
COMPLETED TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE WITH YOUR ORDER.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone # (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail and return with checks  
made out to:**

Lorain SWCD  
42110 Russia Rd.  
Elyria, OH 44035

**Order deadline date:**

Wed., September 20, 2023

**Order pick-up date:**

10:00—11:30 a.m., Tuesday,  
September 26, 2023

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># Ordered</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$0.95	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$0.95	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.90	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-3"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$0.95	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	per 100	\$8.00	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	6-8"	\$13.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$15.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 bottle per 1/4 acre		\$90.00	_____	_____
Pond Management Book-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$20.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein) no sales tax		\$46.00	_____	_____

**SUB TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX 6.50%** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_





# YOU'RE INVITED! Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting:

In cooperation with Lorain County Farm Bureau

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Wellington Eagles

631 South Main Street, Wellington

Supervisor Election: 6:00-7:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

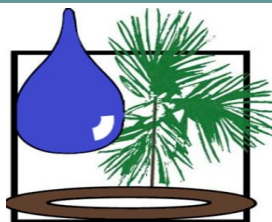
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For reservations:** Please return this form to Lorain SWCD, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 or call the SWCD office at 440-326-5800. The deadline is **Friday, September 22, 2023.**

“ A N E Q U A L O P P O R T U N I T Y P R O V I D E R A N D E M P L O Y E R ”



## LORAIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

42110 Russia Road, Elyria OH 44035 Phone: 440-326-5800

[www.lorainswcd.com](http://www.lorainswcd.com)

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Will Schlechter, Chairman  
Jessica Doehr, Vice-Chairman  
Roger Nikiforow, Treasurer  
Angela Schriver, Secretary  
Ian Wilshire, Member

### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Lawry Babitt  
John Born  
Dave Manning  
Robert "Bob" Pandy

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Patti Donnellan, District Administrator  
Jack Fisher, Stormwater Specialist  
Lynne Parsh, Office Manager

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist  
John Schwartz, Resource Conservationist

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



### LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michelle Hung  
David Moore  
Jeff Riddell