



# LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 49

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

**SUMMER/FALL 2025**

## 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.



## CONGRATULATIONS NACD POSTER WINNERS!



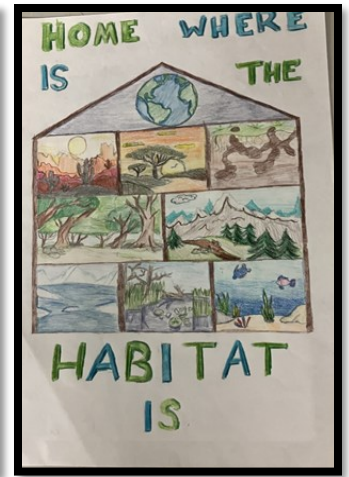
Congratulations to the Lorain SWCD poster contest winners sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)! **Gowtham Madireddy** won 1st place in the 4-6th grade category. Gowtham attended Columbia Middle School this past spring. **Kendall Novak** won 1st place in the 7-9th grade category. Kendall attended Firelands Middle School. **Jordyn Simpson** won 1st place in the 10-12th grad category. Jordyn attended Firelands High School in the spring. First place winners won \$50.00 dollars!



**Gowtham Madireddy**



**Kendall Novak**



**Jordyn Simpson**

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An election of two supervisors to the Lorain County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will begin Wednesday, August 13, 2025 through Thursday, September 11, 2025. There are three candidates running for two seats on the Board. Absentee ballots will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting on **August 13, 2025**, and continuing until noon on **September 11, 2025**. 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, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028.

Nominees are:

**Ian Wilkshire**

**Brad Lacko**

**Trent Hill**



### Election Procedures

Absentee ballots are available upon request during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

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 Thursday, September 11, 2025 at Wellington Eagles, 361 South Main Street, Wellington, OH. Voting takes place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- 3.) Voting absentee starts Wednesday, August 13, 2025 until noon on Thursday, September 11, 2025, by calling 440-326-5800 or emailing [lparrsh@loraincounty.us](mailto:lparrsh@loraincounty.us). Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by noon, Thursday, September 11, 2025.

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

## MEET THE CANDIDATES!



Ian Wilkshire is currently the Board Chair for the District. He resides in Eaton Township. He is a 27 year old hay and grain farmer. He has been providing quality hay for the local horse market for about 12 years and has continued to grow that to 170 acres. He also grows row crop acres as well. He is looking forward to the opportunity to serve more years on the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.



Bradley Lacko resides in the city of Amherst with his wife, Tracey and two children. He currently serves on the Lorain County Farm Bureau Board and is actively involved in local, state and county politics. Bradley is a truck driver and also farms land in LaGrange Township. He has experience with cover crops, grass waterways, tile projects and conservation farming.



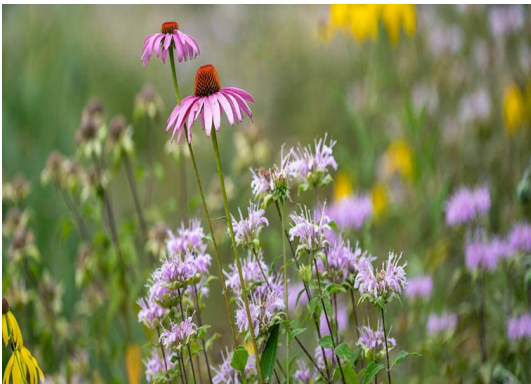
Trent Hill resides in Camden Township with his wife, Becky and one child. He is a facilities maintenance manager for Mucci Farms and he also serves on the Lorain County Fair Board. He has lived in Camden Twp. his whole life and has been involved with 4H, FFA, LaGrange Engine Club and Boy Scouts.



## LORAIN SWCD ANNUAL MEETING: IN COOPERATION WITH THE LORAIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Board of Supervisors will hold their Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025. The meeting will take place at Wellington Eagles. The election of two supervisors will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available. There will be a brief business meeting, various awards, and scholarship presentations during the evening. Tickets are \$18.00 each, with dinner catered by Pogie's Catering. Tickets are on sale now through Friday, September 5, 2025. To purchase, use the order form on the back page; no tickets will be sold at the door. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

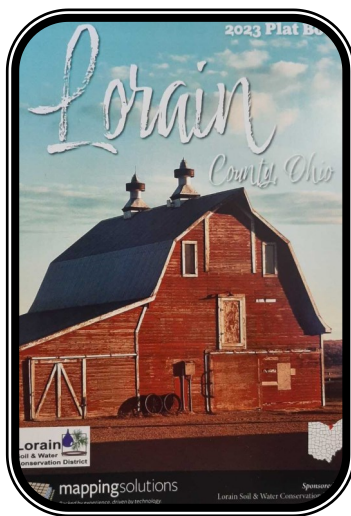
## POLLINATOR OASIS COMING SOON!!



Did you know we are beginning to create a 2.5-acre pollinator oasis right next to our building? The Lorain County Commissioners graciously approved our request to convert this fallow, unused parcel into a beautiful meadow that will have walking paths, benches, & interpretive signs. Creating pollinator plots is valuable for many reasons, such as supporting biodiversity, enhancing agricultural productivity, and improving ecosystem health. These plots provide essential food and habitat for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds, which are crucial for the reproduction of many plants, including crops. By increasing pollinator populations, these plots can also lead to increased crop yields. Additionally, healthy pollinator populations play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, preventing soil erosion, and even improving water quality. Stay tuned through the next year as this project progresses!

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

**\$25.00 each**  
Plus sales tax



## Dedicated to professional development

We are committed to continually seeking professional development to enhance our skills & knowledge so we can provide exceptional service to Lorain County. Recently, our CESSWI-certified Stormwater Specialist Jack Fisher obtained his Clean Contractor certification, District Administrator Patti D. passed her EPA Level 2 Qualified Data Collector exam, and Conservation Technician Hayden Matus earned his Stormwater Inspector credentials.



## Come see us at the 2025 Lorain County Fair!

Stop by and see our booth located in the Soil & Water Conservation Red Barn #28. August 17-24, 2025

### NEW FACE AT LORAIN SWCD!



Please welcome our newest staff member, Andy Cooksey. Andy is our new Drainage Engineer. Having grown up in Norwalk, Ohio and born into a family of contractors, he is well acquainted with working in the construction industry. Prior to starting

with the district, he worked for the Ohio Turnpike for 20 years. Prior to that, he worked for the family construction company and various private consultants. In total he has close to 30 years of experience in the industry working. His work experience is extensive and includes things like stormwater program management, EPA regulatory review, general construction, wastewater/water treatment, site design, petroleum contaminated soil cleanup, bridge construction/painting, project management, GIS development, surveying & layout, and everything in between. Andy graduated from the University of Toledo in 2002 and eventually moved to the Cleveland area in 2004 when he started work with the Ohio Turnpike.

Andy resides in Medina with his two children, where all three of them take karate lessons and have all earned their black belts over the last 8 years. Andy's hobbies include watching his kids play lacrosse, travel, trying new restaurants/food, and just trying new things in general. During his coming years with the district, he is hoping to help keep the Lorain County drainage paths free, clear and running effectively, while bringing a new perspective on effective drainage management within Lorain County's watersheds. He loves to collaborate and discuss new ways to achieve common goals, so if you would like to reach Andy, he can be contacted at [acooksey@loraincounty.us](mailto:acooksey@loraincounty.us) or 440-406-3522.

## We need your input!



To provide the services that you, the residents of Lorain County, would like to see implemented through our office, we are offering the chance to provide your input toward our strategic plan. By definition, "Strategic planning is the process of defining an organization's direction, priorities, and actions to achieve long-term success." Our work revolves around the needs of ALL citizens

of Lorain County, whether you live in a rural, urban, or suburban setting. Help us shape the future of this district by participating in this brief survey. We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code below or visit this link:

<https://arcg.is/09WXH40>



## JOEL MCROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We would like to extend our congratulations to Adriano Zagar! He is the recipient of the 2025 Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship. Adriano graduated from Marion Steele High School and plans to attend Cleveland State University in the fall and major in Engineering. Best of luck to you Adriano!

Our Joel McRoberts Continuing Education Scholarship recipient is Jack Copley! Jack graduated from Firelands High School in 2024 and went on to study at The Ohio State ATI college. He is studying to be a Agricultural Systems Management. Congratulations to Jack!



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

# FALL FISH SALE



**Friday, October 3, 2025 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

**at the Agricultural Center, 42110 Russia Rd, Elyria**

The truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery of Baltic, Ohio will be here at 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.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:**

Friday, September 26, 2025

**Order pick-up date:**

1:30—2:30 p.m., Friday,  
October 3, 2025

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># Ordered</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	\$1.40	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.90	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-3"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	per 100	\$9.00	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	6-8"	\$14.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$17.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 bottle per 1/4 acre		\$95.00	_____	_____
Pond Management Book-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$20.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein)		\$51.00	_____	_____

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

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

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



# YOU'RE INVITED! Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting:

In cooperation with Lorain County Farm Bureau

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Wellington Eagles

631 South Main Street, Wellington

Supervisor Election: 5:30-6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18.00 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 5, 2025.**

“ AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER ”



## LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Ian Wilkshire, Chairman  
Carl Wesemeyer, Vice-Chairman  
Will Schlechter, Treasurer  
Peggy Vasu, Secretary  
Kolin Bendickson, Member

### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Lawry Babitt  
John Born  
Kathleen Bradley  
Robert “Bob” Pandy

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Andrew Cooksey, Drainage Engineer  
Patti Donnellan, District Administrator  
Jack Fisher, Stormwater Specialist  
Hayden Matus, Conservation Technician  
Lynne Parsh, Office Manager

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist  
Annie Wolodzko, Resource Conservationist

### LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Marty Gallagher, David Moore, Jeff Riddell



OR CURRENT RESIDENT