

# FAIRFIELD FEATURES



August 2016  
Volume 18 Issue 2

The Fairfield Features is published quarterly by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District  
831 College Avenue, Suite B, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 (740) 653-8154

## 73RD ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET

**When:** Thursday, September 8, 2016

**Where:** Alley Park/Goslin Nature Education Center  
2805 Old Logan Road SE, Lancaster

**Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$13 for adults, \$6.50 for children 10 and under

**Agenda:** 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. -- Board of Supervisors Election  
6 - 7 p.m. -- Buffet meal of lasagna/baked ham, red skin potatoes,  
green beans, tossed salad, fresh fruit, rolls with butter, drinks  
and desserts  
7 - 7:45 p.m. -- Mike Tharp, Sr. will present a talk on the Boys  
Industrial School  
7:45 - 8:30 p.m. -- Conservation awards and door prizes

**Speaker:** Mike Tharp, Sr.

The former Boys Industrial School has quite a history. It originally began as a place to house wayward juveniles back in the 1800s. Mike was an employee of the Boys Industrial School for 15 years and has many stories to share. Please join us to learn more about the history of this very important landmark of Fairfield County.



Can you guess what kind of relic this is?



**OUR FAIR BOOTH  
IS MOVING...  
AGAIN!**

Please visit us October 10-15 at the Fairfield County Fair. This year we will be located in the Ed Sands Farm Bureau Building (old sheep barn).

## 2016 ENVIROTHON

This year Fairfield County was once again represented well at the Area 5 Envirothon by two teams from Amanda-Clearcreek High School. Out of a field of 59 teams, representing the 17 counties that make up our region, Amanda-Clearcreek's Team #1 and Team #2 took home 1st and 3rd place respectively!

Team #1 included students: Haley Bigham, Billy L'Hullier, Josie Montoney, Michael Montoney and Trevor Young. Team #2 was helmed by Bronowyn Cummings, Blair Farmer, Bryson L'Hullier, Ruth McKnight and Jesse Schooley. Serving as advisor, mentor and part-time den mother to these students was Amanda-Clearcreek educator Cindy Montoney.

Both of these teams qualified to advance to the two day, State of Ohio Envirothon event being held this year at Bowling Green State University in June but due to scheduling conflicts, only one team was sent to represent Fairfield County.



Standing left to right: Jesse Schooley, Bryson L'Hullier, Michael Montoney, Trevor Young and Billy L'Hullier; Sitting left to right: Blair Farmer, Ruth McKnight, Haley Bigham, Josie Montoney, Bronowyn Cummings. Front: Cindy Montoney, Advisor.

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## 2016 SWCD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Evan Smith of Canal Winchester was chosen to be the recipient of our 2016 annual college scholarship.

Evan is a graduate of Canal Winchester High School and is also a member of the Bloom-Carroll FFA. He will be attending The Ohio State University ATI campus in Wooster and plans to enroll in the Livestock Sciences program with a major in Animal or Meat Sciences.



Evan was also recently selected as an Ohio FFA officer at the 2016 State FFA Convention.

## KELLER MARKET HOUSE NOW OPEN

The Keller Market House is a non-profit, community oriented marketplace in historic downtown Lancaster, Ohio. Located in the former Lancaster Hardware building at the corner of South Columbus and Chestnut Streets, this historic structure has been home to several other businesses throughout the last century. The inspiration behind the organization's name came from its original use as the Keller Grocery store which was located in the building from 1867 to 1904. Unfortunately, the neighborhoods south and west of Downtown are now designated a food desert by the US Department of Agriculture but it's their hope that this new source of fresh food, being housed in a long-time vacant building, will help breathe life back into an often overlooked part of Lancaster.



Their goal is to support local farmers and agriculture here in Fairfield County, the surrounding region, and Ohio by providing a traditional indoor shopping experience. The market will allow for customers to have convenient access to local, fresh foods while supporting the local food economy through giving farmers and producers a year-round outlet for their products. In the future, they expect to have a café which will offer simple fare prepared from member producers' fresh offerings such as soup, salads and sandwiches, as well as take away foods. In addition, a rentable commercial kitchen, along with the opportunity to sell at the market, will provide an incubation environment for entrepreneurs to test new ideas and products without a large investment in equipment and retail space. The building will also act as an aggregation point to facilitate the distribution of local fresh foods to restaurants and other users. And importantly, one of the objectives will be to serve as a local food education and agricultural awareness center.

They hope to connect the community through food and farming, and so they invite local residents, or those just visiting, to utilize the facility for their daily shopping, to socialize with friends, attend one of their classes, or just to grab a bite to eat. At the Keller Market House, real food will always be within reach.



# FIRST ANNUAL STATEWIDE MILKWEED POD COLLECTION EVENT SET FOR 2016

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) was formed in 2014 following a petition to have the monarch butterfly listed as federally threatened or endangered. The rapid decline in monarch population over the last decade has been caused by a combination of large-scale destruction of their overwintering forests in Mexico and the widespread eradication of their sole host plant, milkweed, in their summer grounds in the continental United States.

While Ohio residents cannot greatly affect the logging operations in Mexico, what we can do is aid in restoring milkweed plants across the landscape. Some of you may recall that last year the Fairfield SWCD took part in a milkweed pod collection drive that requested county residents to harvest and drop off any milkweed pods growing on their property. We were part of a small, six-county pilot project to see what amount of public support the program would receive, and also to judge the seed processing capabilities of our partners at Ohio State University, Wright State University, and the Marion Correctional Facility.

In Fairfield County alone, over 60 gallons of seed pods were turned in by involved residents, and a total of nearly 500 gallons were collected through the 2015 initial project. Through the help of the previously mentioned partners, the seed was separated from the pods, cleaned, sorted, and roughly 23,000 milkweed seedlings were germinated in greenhouses, with the remaining seed directly planted at various sites. As partners in this project, Fairfield SWCD received several containers of seedlings that were distributed to the Fairfield Union and Liberty Union School Districts to be planted in pollinator and demonstration gardens.

Due to the success of last year's program, OPHI has expanded their efforts in 2016 to include all 88 Ohio counties! The Soil and Water Conservation District offices in each county will be designated, as we were last year, as the official drop off location for any collected seed pods. The official collection event is scheduled to run from September 1 – October 30, 2016, but our office will be accepting donated pods at any time throughout the year.

Only mature pods with viable seeds should be collected. Most pods will turn a gray or brown color and have a dry, rough feel when ready to be harvested. Green pods that readily split apart at the "seam" and contain brown seeds are also mature. If the seeds inside the pod appear pale green or yellow, they are still developing and should not be picked. Pods should be placed into paper bags or cardboard boxes and be allowed to "breathe" until they can be delivered to our office. Avoid the use of plastic bags or totes that may trap moisture and allow mold to develop.

Existing stands of milkweed spread predominantly through vegetative cloning via rhizomes, so harvesting the seed will not affect local populations; however, the seed is required for establishing new populations elsewhere which is why this effort is so vital. If you have any questions regarding milkweed pod collection or would like more information on the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, contact Tommy Springer our Wildlife Specialist at (740) 653-8154 Ext. 101.



## FAIRFIELD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 73RD ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS:</i>   |                                     |
| _____ ADULTS @ \$13 ea. = \$     | _____                               |
| _____ CHILDREN @ \$6.50 ea. = \$ | _____                               |
|                                  | <small>(10 years and under)</small> |
| TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____          |                                     |

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2016.**

*(Space is limited so make your reservation early)*

SORRY, TICKETS CANNOT BE REFUNDED.

*Please note: You will not receive a confirmation notice.*



## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### WENDY LARUE



Wendy is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.S. in Business Administration. She spent 8 years as a Program Assistant with the Pickaway Farm Service Agency. After several years as an at-home mother, she completed Post Degree Teacher Licensure through Capital University. Wendy taught 7th and 8th grade math and science in Columbus City Schools and currently teaches 5th grade math at Amanda-Clearcreek Elementary.

Wendy has been a resident of Clearcreek Township for nearly 29 years with her husband, Dean, who continues a multi-generational tradition of family farming. Wendy and Dean are the parents of three grown children, Isaac, Sarah, and Lydia. She has been a Girl Scout Leader and is active in Heidelberg United Church of Christ providing local families in need with food, cleaning supplies and gently used clothing through the Stoutsville Community Food and Clothing Pantry.

### KRIS THRUSH

Kris was born and raised in Fairfield County, and graduated from Berne Union High School in 1980. In 1984, Kris graduated from Ohio University with a B.S.Ed. in the area of Science. She earned her Masters in the Art of Teaching in 2001. Upon graduation from Ohio University, Kris taught Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Science at Bloom-Carroll High School. She remained there for thirty years and retired in 2014. Kris was the science club co-advisor for thirty years, taking students to the district and state science fairs as well as numerous overnight field trips to places such as OSU's Stone Laboratory, Old Man's Cave, and the Columbus Zoo.

Kris was married to David for 23 years, until his untimely death in 2007. They have two children: Mariah and Samantha. Mariah is working on her Ph.D. in Biological Science at Ohio University; Kris is currently helping Mariah collect macroinvertebrate and periphyton samples from acid mine drainage impaired and unimpaired streams in the Athens area. Samantha is working on her Ph.D. in Astronomy at the University of Illinois; her work primarily involves computer analysis of large cosmic datasets. Additionally, Kris is a lifelong member of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in North Berne; she has served on the church council and taught Sunday school.

"I view this as an opportunity to use my background in science and education in a way that will help the greater community. I can use my experience in science club and church council to prioritize and coordinate projects, as well as help with public interest and participation."



## SWCD ELECTION...CAST YOUR VOTE

The Fairfield SWCD will be holding an election for one Board supervisor on Thursday, September 8, 2016, from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the 73rd Annual Meeting/Banquet being held at Alley Park. The nominees for this year's election are Wendy LaRue of Amanda and Kris Thrush of Lancaster.

Residents or landowners, firms and corporations that own land or occupy land in Fairfield County and are 18 years of age and older may vote. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: 1) at the annual meeting; 2) at the SWCD office until 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2016; 3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address: Fairfield SWCD, 831 College Ave., Suite B, Lancaster, OH 43130 or by calling (740) 653-8154.

If you would like more information about the election or have questions, please contact the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154.





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## MEET OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEE

Brice Shaw was recently appointed Soil Conservationist for the NRCS in Fairfield and Hocking Counties. Brice is a native of Logan, Ohio where he attended high school and was involved in the FFA. His experience with the FFA led him to attend college at The Ohio State University where in 2014 he received a B.S. in Agriculture, with a major in Agronomy and a minor in Ag Business.

After graduating, he went to work for a Precision Ag consulting company and family farm in Delaware, Ohio. In his role there, he performed and managed tasks including soil testing, variable rate application recommendations, crop scouting, and soil health analyses. He also dealt heavily with the spatial data management and GPS technologies involved in the operation.

He hopes to bring his agriculture and soil health experience into his new role as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS. Brice currently lives in Columbus with his wife Kristy.



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