



OASWCDE news & updates

December 2023



Upcoming Events

December

- December 5, Area 4 Winter Meeting
- December 6, Area 1 Winter Meeting
- December 6, Area 5 Winter Meeting
- December 12, Area 3 Winter Meeting
- December 13, Area 2 Winter Meeting

January

- January 22-24, 2024, OFSWCD Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting

Remember to visit the [OASWCDE website](#) for other events and training opportunities.

If you would like to have your event added to the next newsletter please send details to **Sara Fehring** by February 16th.

Area 1

December 6th

9:30 am

Hancock County Fairgrounds, The Old Millstream Centre
1017 E. Sandusky Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Area 2

December 13th

9:30 am

Williams on the Lak
787 LaFayette Road, Medina, Ohio 44256

Area 3

December 12th

6:00 pm

Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center,
7033 Glenn Highway, Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Area 4

December 5th

9:30 am

Der Dutchman, Plain City
445 S. Jefferson Street, Route 42, Plain City, Ohio 43064

Area 5

December 6th

6:00 pm

Emmett Chapel UMC
318 Tarleton Road, Circleville, Ohio 43113

2023 Membership Highlight

By: Rebecca Longsmith

Membership: 257 Total Members

- Area 1 - 72 Members
- Area 2 - 63 Members
- Area 3 - 29 Members
- Area 4 - 55 Members
- Area 5 - 38 Members

Awards:

Outstanding District Employee: Kenny White, Morgan SWCD

Outstanding District Board Supervisor: John Mangan, Hamilton County Conservation District

Scholarship:

Sherry West Memorial Scholarship: Mary Thomas, daughter of Erica Thomas at Richland SWCD

Notable Achievements:

- Partnership with the HR Initiative and the Federation, which has allowed for the hiring of HR Consultant Bob Bethel.
- Association sponsorship of networking events for employees both at the Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting in February and the Educators Workshop in November.
- GIS usage and training survey, results of which provided feedback for topics covered by the ArcPro TDP Webinar.
- Continued improvements and updates to the Farm Science Review space



Benefits of OASWCE Membership

By: Matthew Browne

All Soil & Water Conservation District employees are considered members of the Ohio Association of Soil & Water Conservation Employees, though only dues-paying members are able to take full advantage of the benefits of membership.

The benefits of being a dues-paying member include:

- Ability to apply for scholarships.
- Discounts for registration at select workshops.
- Yearly membership gift.



The 2024 membership form can be found, [here](#).

Now is a great time to renew or enroll your membership! Did you know that for many districts, the membership fee is covered by their board?

OASWCDE Scholarship Winner

By: Rebecca Longsmith

This year, the Sherry West Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Mary Thomas, daughter of Erica Thomas at Richland SWCD. Congratulations to Mary!

Mary has been very involved with several organizations for much of her life, including 4-H, FFA, and American Heritage Girls. Her dedication was exemplified through serving in a variety of leadership roles in these organizations, including as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and

group leader! Miss Thomas also played varsity soccer and showed both sheep and turkeys at her county and state fairs.

Mary is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University in her third year of the Civil Engineering Program where she is pursuing a focus in surveying. Her professional experience involves engineering internships with both ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration. She plans to use the scholarship money for school fees, books, and parking.

We wish Mary the best at OSU and beyond!

Looking for some additional education or training yourself? Remember the OASWCDE still has training scholarships available for eligible, dues-paying members on a rolling basis. If you have a training opportunity you'd like to participate in, visit our [website](#) for more information on how to apply.



2024 Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting

The 2024 Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting will be held in a new location. The event is moving to the Hilton in downtown Columbus. This meeting location offers a more flexible breakout space and is connected to the Columbus Convention Center (although we will not be using any space in the Convention Center). Parking should be much easier for our commuter folks. In addition, we are shifting the event to January, so we don't have back-to-back meetings with NACD. The dates for the upcoming Partnership Meetings are January 22-24, 2024, and Jan 20-22, 2025. Hope to see you all there.

OASWCDE Director Elections

By: Rebecca Longsmith

We are currently looking for SWCD employees interested in running for our Board of Directors in **Areas 2 and 4**, as well as one individual for appointment to fill a vacancy in **Area 5**. Please contact Board President, **Chad Stang** if you are interested in running.

The OASWCDE Board is composed of ten members, two from each of the five areas in the state. The term of a director is 3 years and there are no term limits. Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month at 9:30 am, via zoom or telephone conference call. Directors must be a current employee of a SWCD located in their area, as well as a paying member of the OASWCDE.

The Board of Directors is most effective when we have a strong board with members of diverse areas of expertise and a commitment to serve! While it is no secret that district activities can vary widely based on local needs, our goal is to represent and support all Ohio SWCD employees. Elections will be held at the

OFSWCD Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting from January 22-24, 2024.
We look forward to seeing you there.

2023 OASWCDE Annual Staff and Board Awards

Every day Ohio's staff and board members prove their dedication to protecting our valuable natural resources. Why not acknowledge the contributions of these special individuals by nominating them for Outstanding Conservation District Professional or Outstanding District Board Member for 2023?

Nominations are due December 8, 2023.

[Award Application](#)

Training Requests

The OASWCDE education committee is looking for training/workshop ideas for 2024. If you have any training ideas on your wishlist please email them to [Rebecca Longsmith](#).

Welcome, New Hire!



Rachel Cranmer
Hamilton County Conservation District
Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
Rachel.Cranmer@hamilton-co.org



Teresa Slonaker
Hamilton County Conservation District
Education Coordinator
Teresa.Slonaker@hamilton-co.org



Lindsay Horan
Water Resources Data Management
ORBCorps AmeriCorps Member
Lindsay.Horan@hamilton-co.org



Maiya Miller
Education
ORBCorps AmeriCorps Member
Maiya.Miller@hamilton-co.org



Jen Cavanaugh
Public Involvement
ORBCorps AmeriCorps Member
Jen.Cavanaugh@hamilton-co.org



Abbie Frazer
GIS Technician (Clermont Co.)
ORBCorps AmeriCorps Member
Abbie.Frazer@hamilton-co.org

As new staff members are added to your team please send an email and photo to **[Sara Fehring](#)**. The goal is to highlight new staff members quarterly.

2023 Board of Directors

Area 1

- **[Matthew Browne](#)** - Lucas SWCD
- **[Manuel Ley](#)** -Williams SWCD

Area 2

- [Amy Roskilly](#) - Cuyahoga SWCD
- [Chad Stang](#) - Huron SWCD

Area 3

- [Katie Kovaly](#) - Monroe SWCD
- [Amanda Tubaug](#) - Carroll SWCD

Area 4

- [Kelly Crout](#) - Butler SWCD
- [Sara Fehring](#) - Hamilton County CD

Area 5

- **Vacant**
- [Rebecca Longsmith](#) - Delaware SWCD

Ohio Conservation Partnership Administrative Areas



Visit our [website](#) for:

- Catastrophic Sick Leave Program
- Events and Education
- Membership Forms
- Scholarships and Awards
- By-laws

Serving Employees - Building Community - Developing Professionals

OFSWCD | 8995 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

[Unsubscribe mendi.hartley@hamilton-co.org](mailto:mendi.hartley@hamilton-co.org)

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Sent by sara.fehring@hamilton-co.org powered by



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