A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The trees have yellow and orange autumn leaves, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Celebrating 70 years of Conservation in Brown County Annual Meeting & Banquet October 27, 2014

*The mission of the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in promoting and protecting the integrity of Brown County's soil, water and other natural resources through technical assistance and education.*

# AGENDA

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Election and Social Hour** 6:00 pm–7:00 pm  
*Entertainment Provided by: Greg and Cathy Manning*

**Conservation Day Proclamation- Celebrating 70 years**  
*Brown Co. Commissioners  
Doug Polley, NRCS  
Rep. Doug Green*

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**  
*Rep. Doug Green*

**Dinner** 7:00 pm  
*Provided by Golden Rule Catering*

**Welcome & Introductions**  
*Lonnie Moran*

**Keynote Speaker**  
*Larry Vance*

**Recognizing all Past Outstanding Cooperators and  
Friends of Conservation**  
*Fred Scott*

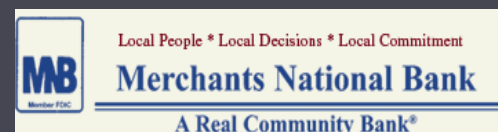
**Service Awards**  
*Chris Rogers*

**Education Award**  
*Danielle Thompson*

**Election Results**  
*Rob Hamilton*

**Door Prizes**  
*Susan Reeves, Staff, and Board*

A special thanks to the following local banks for helping make this event free of cost to all in attendance and for supporting Brown County Conservation efforts!



# The Formative 40's

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Brown County Soil Conservation District referendum was held in October 1944 with the election of supervisors in December. The following board members met for the first time on March 20, 1945 at the office of George H. Pulliam, County Extension Agent: Chairman, Walter Yockey, Decatur; Vice Chairman, William Waters, Georgetown; Secretary-Treasurer, Roy Hawk, Mt. Orab; Member, Chester Gelter, Decatur; Member, Emery Euans, Sardinia

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Brown County Soil Conservation District (SCD) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS).
- A Program of Work was developed.
- A.D. Robertson, SCS Conservationist, was assigned to Brown County.
- The first office was opened in the Germann Building in Georgetown.
- Thomas Knott, Brown County Veteran of World War II, became Mr. Robertson's assistant as the SCS Conservation Aid.
- Broad educational efforts included exhibits at the county fair and Ripley Tobacco Harvest Festival.
- Forty-two persons applied for assistance and donated an application fee of \$2.00 to assist the board in paying miscellaneous expenses.
- The Brown County Soil Conservation District completed the year with record accomplishments exceeding the established farm plan goals of 50 with 66 conservation plans.
- The board endeavored to make the District programs broad enough to interest everybody in the community, as they believed that the benefits of Soil Conservation were not for agriculture alone. That belief was reflected in the interest shown from schools, churches, civic clubs and farm organizations.
- The interest in conservation was outstanding with the receipt of 107 paid applications for assistance even though cooperators were told that the staff was as much as thirty months behind in preparing the complete farm conservation plans.
- In an effort to address the workload, Group Planning Meetings were started by working in natural neighborhood groups with five to ten farmers.
- It was noted by the District's Board of Supervisors that in two and one-half years, there was a firm establishment of interest in soil conservation in Brown County.
- A slow down of applications for assistance was noted with 86 received. It was believed that this was due to applicants being informed that it would take up to four years for a conservation plan due to the great backlog of applications on hand.
- Group planning meetings continued according to the natural neighborhood approach and were in various stages of development. Technical help became a serious problem due to layout and construction of practices on planned farms.
- Due to the continually growing backlog of work the board made the decision to curtail single applications in favor of group applications for a period of fifteen months.
- In four and one-half years Brown County had witnessed a phenomenal conservation movement.

# The Fabulous 50's

- Local and World Plowing Contest
- Group Drainage Projects
- Woodlot Management
- E.C. Schatzman becomes an Associate Member of the National Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors.
- Walter Yockey was re-elected as work group representative to the State Association.
- The District participated in a television show to discuss soil capability with WKRC-TV, Cincinnati.
- 1956—Multiflora Rose Planting, 1700 linear feet
- 1954—After 10 years of operation the board set a policy allowing each member \$0.06/mile of travel with a \$1.00 minimum.
- From 2,828 farms, 872 producers were signed up as District Cooperators.
- The District's Education Program expanded with an Essay Contest which had 400 participants, a 4-H Soil Conservation Club, Soil Judging Contest and Conservation Air Tour.
- District officials participated in discussions for a Burley Experiment Station.
- 1954 marked the first funding from the county commissioners in the amount of \$500.00.
- In 1959 the county commissioners appropriated \$600.00 for the secretary and \$400.00 for operations .
- The first state funding was received in 1959 in the amount of \$280.00 for personnel management.
- J.H. Cowdrey, Mt. Orab; Roy Berry, Russellville; E.E. West, Winchester; Earl Wilson, Ripley; Hubert Klump, Franklin Township, received certificates of merit for completing at least 95% of their conservation practices.
- Elmer Yochum was proclaimed corn growing champion with a yield of 131.03 bushels per acre in the national five-acre contest.
- In 1958 the District began a Watershed Conservation Study on Straight Creek, East Fork of Little Miami, Eagle Creek, Bull Skin, Red Oak, and White Oak.
- 1959 - Before the House of Representatives, Ohio General Assembly, was the Addition & Betterment Bill which included \$15,000 for a complete survey of the White Oak Creek Basin.
- 1959 - 25 District Cooperator's ponds were stocked with approx. 20,000 bass and bluegill supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# The Sensational 60's

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- The tickets for the 1960 Annual Meeting were \$1.25.
- The results of a 1960 *Conservation Needs Inventory* projected a “Big Farm Land Shift To Pasture in the next 20 years.”
- Virgil E. Campbell, SCS student trainee, worked with the District in the summer of 1960.
- Art Meranda won the 1960 FFA Plowing Contest.
- Russellville H.S. Team, Carlos Day, David Layton and Bobby Arn, wins 1960 Soil Judging Contest
- The fastest growing conservation practice in July 1961 was land smoothing, according to William Hensley, chief conservationist.
- Conservationist William Hensley and Technician Robert Fite were trained on the use of three Geiger counters assigned to the county by the office of Civil Defense. In case of an atomic attack Hensley and Fite would have been the county's official monitors of fallout for food and water for human consumption.
- As of February 1962, in 16 years, 992 farms had become cooperators in the Soil Conservation District which included 129,778 acres.
- In June 1962 Soil Conservationist Randy Giessler is transferred to West Union as Chief Conservationist
- There were seven group drainage ditches to be constructed in July 1963
- On November 23, 1963 the Brown County Soil Conservation District officially became the Brown County Soil and **Water** Conservation District.
- An inventory done in 1963 showed that 1500 acres of trees needed to be planted if the land was to be put to proper use.
- District Clerk Evelyn Liming's article on aerial conservation and agriculture was included in the 1964 Soil Conservation Service publication “That Land Down There” .
- The District sponsored Johnny Haitz of Ripley and Barbara Butt of Georgetown to 4-H Conservation Camp in July 1964.
- Earl W. Miller was presented the first “Wildlife Conservation Award” from the Division of Wildlife in October 1964.
- The District supplied 2500 church program inserts for Soil Stewardship Week.
- Chief Conservationist William Hensley urged people in the Fall of 1965 “If you want the open ditch drainage project on your farm to operate efficiently, keep it clean.”
- Clarence Kegley was the District's “Outstanding Cooperator” in 1966.
- Land was purchased, in 1967, from George M. Hook to construct a new building for the District, Soil Conservation Service, The Farmers Home Administration and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The building would cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000.00 and there would be parking facilities for 20 or more cars.
- Assistance was provided for construction of 53 farm ponds in 1967.
- Karen Davis and Karen Holton of Russellville Elementary School were the 1968 Conservation Poster Contest winners
- The District had 1400 Cooperators in 1969.

# The Supper 70's

- Pond owners received 5600 fingerling fish from the Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife.
- The application for the Ohio Valley Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) was submitted to the Secretary Of Agriculture.
- A contract was entered into for the Brown County Soil Survey.
- Guy McRoberts and Paul Allen were recognized for 20 years of service.
- Board member Tom Shinkle reported that he would get cigarettes for the Annual Meeting tables.
- District Conservationist Wes Hutchins reported to the board that a new agency was being formed called the Environmental Protection Agency.
- An “Exchange Tour” was held with Brown County, Indiana.
- The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) was vetoed by Pres. Ford.
- “One Stop Centers” were being proposed for all agriculture offices.
- 52 on-site areas were to be sampled for the National Erosion Inventory.
- Due to the energy shortage a local tour was held instead of the usual Exchange Tour.
- John Ruthven was the “Outstanding Wildlife Conservation Farmer”.
- “The Big Tree Contest” winner was Dwight Marriott who submitted a Sycamore located on his mother’s farm near Higginsport.
- Don Chandler, former supervisor, was elected chairman of the Ohio Valley Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council.
- According to 1976 board minutes the District would review subdivision plans.
- Brown County went on record as having the second highest number of ponds in the state.
- County soil mapping was discussed with the commissioners in 1977.
- John Denniston was a 1977 “Conservation Essay Contest” winner.

**BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# The Exceptional 80's

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- News headline- Less Tillage to Hold Fuel Costs on Farming.
- Tara Creighton placed second in the Conservation Essay Contest.
- The District and Ohio Valley Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) assisted with land drainage improvements for the Kathryn Hanlon Memorial Park project in Georgetown.
- Tours and seminars were held for no-tillage and ridge-tillage.
- An Arbor Day observance replaced the Wildlife/Forestry Field Day in 1980 and 750 trees were purchased for \$24.00 to be given to 6th graders.
- The District acquired a ridger and a no-till drill for landowners to rent.
- A timber management program was held at the Burbage farm.
- Guy McRoberts retired after 26 years on the board, 25 as Chairman.
- The Conservation Field Day for 5th graders was revamped for more hands-on, activity oriented participation for the students.
- The District sponsored nitrate screening for rural wells in cooperation with Heidelberg College.
- As a result of the 1985 Farm Bill, office staff embarked upon the largest workload in history, to complete wetland, highly erodible land (HEL) and non-highly (NH) determinations along with required conservation plans for all USDA program participants.
- The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) became very popular.
- The *Call Before You Dig* or OUPS (Ohio Utilities Protection Service) law passed in 1989.
- 18,000 tree seedlings were distributed through sales and donations.
- The Brown County soil survey Last Acre Ceremony was held in 1985 and the Progress Report was released in 1988.
- Shelia Waterfield was hired in 1987.

# The Notorious 90's

- A Forestry Field Day was held at the Keith Day farm and attendees viewed the first dry fire hydrant in the county.
- It was reported that Rose Rosette disease was infesting multiflora roses.
- ODNR required water users to register if they can withdraw 100,000 gallons/day.
- Worldwalker Steven Newman spoke at the Annual Meeting.
- A Best Management Practice Clinic was held for loggers.
- The *Agricultural Conservation Program* (ACP) ended and the *Environmental Quality Incentives Program* (EQIP) began.
- The District received an EPA grant for the Upper East Fork, Little Miami River Project and Bob Sutton was hired as coordinator. A “Manure Nutrient Management” (MNM) grant was obtained through the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Bob Sutton became the MNM Technician and Rae Jean Mount was hired as the Upper East Fork, Little Miami River Project Coordinator.
- Chatfield College performed water quality monitoring in conjunction with the Upper East Fork, Little Miami River Project.
- The Brown County Soil Survey was published and a ceremony was held at the Brown County Commissioners office in April 1993.
- A Truax native grass drill was made available for producers.
- The Strengthening the Resources, Environment and Mother-Earth (STREAM) grant through the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation enabled the District to hire their first Environmental Education Coordinator, Jamey Sundays.
- Orene Miller of Ripley Jr. High School and Roger Griffith of Western Brown High School were recognized as Teacher of the Year.
- A livestock Grazing School was held and a multi-county Grazing Council was formed.
- The Tom Wolfer Family was recognized at the Farm Science Review as an Outstanding Farm Family.
- The USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) became the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1995.
- The first workshop for the *Livestock Environmental Assurance Program* (LEAP) was held.
- Tara Fisher was hired in 1991.
- Chris Rogers was hired in 1993.
- Starting in 1996 and lasting into the next decade, Brown County experienced a wide variation of weather extremes from devastating flooding to drought conditions. Four state and federal emergency programs were utilized for recovery efforts. The extreme weather conditions were so contiguous that programs overlapped before completion. Approximately six million dollars was spent through the *Emergency Watershed Program* (EWP), *Emergency Conservation Program* (ECP), *State Drought Relief Program* (SDRP) and *Logjam Removal Program*.

**BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



# The Transforming 2000's

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Through collaborative grant efforts Melody Drago was hired and the “White Oak Creek Watershed Project” began. The Action Plan for the White Oak Creek watershed was one of the first plans fully endorsed by the state.
- White Oak Creek Watershed Festival was held on April 22-100 people attended
- No Dumping drains to White Oak Creek markers were installed in 2007
- The Brown County Solid Waste Board received \$10,000 through the White Oak Creek Watershed EPA 319 grant for township clean-ups.
- The White Oak Creek project received an Ohio EPA 319 grant that supported water quality projects in the Sterling Run sub-watershed
- A summer tour was held for Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission officials.
- Assistance was provided to the Southern Ohio Agricultural Community Development Foundation with the Tobacco Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.
- May 9, 2005 Theodore and Williams High donated 12 acres to BSWCD. On April 28, 2006 Goldie Shannon High Memorial Woods was dedicated.
- Soil maps were digitized with help from the Brown County Auditor
- Dry hydrants were installed through rural fire hazard mitigation grant
- In 2007 the first acres in Brown County were enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program
- First Tri-county Envirothon leaders (TCEL) event was held on January 26, 2006.
- Tom Cluxton and Family were the recipients of the 2007 Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award.
- The District and Brown County Farm Bureau partnered to promote “Agricultural Watershed Awareness and Resource Evaluation” (AWARE) program through training sessions held at Jim and Alta Beasley’s farm.
- Sheila Waterfield, who started with the District in 1987, was promoted to the new District Program Administrator position and Marilyn Cluxton was hired to fill the Administrative Assistant position.
- A 17 county area Envirothon was co-hosted by the District.
- District Technician Chris Rogers set an example for the state with his success with the Livestock Exclusion Fencing Program, funded by the Division of Wildlife.
- Joel LeGris was welcomed back to the county as District Conservationist upon Ed Campbell’s retirement.
- An Earth Day Celebration included a 2,200 gallon aquarium filled with Ohio River aquatic life.
- Assistance was provided for the Clean Ohio Farmland Preservation applications.
- A Wildlife Specialist grant was obtained and those position duties merged with the Environmental Education position, Danielle Thompson was hired in 2004 to fill this role.
- The District contributed staff to the Subdivision Regulations draft committee, public hearing process and review committee.
- A Wildlife and Habitat Management Workshop for landowners was held.
- In 2005 Lonnie Moran began his first 3 year term on the board
- A Soils Quality Pilot Project was started for Brown and Highland Counties to benefit watershed projects and local farmers.

# The Terrific 2010's

- The inaugural GREEN Camp in collaboration with Adams Brown Recycling and Rumpke was held for 5th and 6th graders who are introduced to natural resources concerns.
- Rumpke and the District easement
- In 2012 Sheila Waterfield retired after 25 years of service to the district
- Melody Dragoo resigned in 2012 after 12 years of service to the SWCD
- In 2012 Susan Reeves was recognized for 20 years of service to the SWCD Board of Supervisors
- In 2012 John Herbolt was recognized for 10 years of service to the SWCD Board of Supervisors
- Emily Heppner and Carly Ratliff joined the staff in 2012
- A Legislators Conservation Tour was held in the summer of 2013 for local and state leaders.
- October 22, 2012 Conservation Day Proclamation
- Ohio EPA Bees n Trees grant
- In 2013 Becky Cropper began her first term on the Board of Supervisors
- The district received a Nutrient Reduction Outreach Grant which including several workshops:
  - Rain Barrel Workshop
  - Cover crop field days
  - Multi-county grazing school
  - Pasture walk events
- In 2013 Chris Rogers was recognized for 20 years of service
- In 2014 Danielle Thompson was recognized for 10 years of service
- The NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant, studying different conservation techniques on Clermont soil type was successfully completed.
- In 2014 the dam at Solomon Run was removed.
- The SWCD was recognized as the 2013 Conservation Education District of the Year
- Producers, Brad Barber and C.J. Rowe, received the 2013 Conservation Farm Family award at the Farm Science Review.
- A Wildlife and Habitat Workshop was held in the Spring of 2013.
- Landowner Liability Meeting was held in the Spring of 2014

**BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# District Cooperator of the Year

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1987</b><br>Danny Gray               | <b>1988</b><br>Larry Hall                 |
| <b>1989</b><br>David Spiller            | <b>1990</b><br>Paul Allen                 |
| <b>1991</b><br>Bob and Kenny Waterfield | <b>1992</b><br>Charles Germann            |
| <b>1993</b><br>Roger Potts              | <b>1994</b><br>Ed Saylor                  |
| <b>1995</b><br>Ross Clark               | <b>1996</b><br>Frank Martin               |
| <b>1997</b><br>Carl Sroufe              | <b>1998</b><br>Sam Cooper                 |
| <b>1999</b><br>Emerson Cahall           | <b>2000</b><br>Jim and Alta Beasley       |
| <b>2001</b><br>Charles Suttles          | <b>2002</b><br>Jan Johnson/Dennis Johnson |
| <b>2003</b><br>John Denniston           | <b>2004</b><br>Joseph Stephens            |
| <b>2006</b><br>Richard Wiles            | <b>2007</b><br>Bobby McElroy              |
| <b>2008/2009</b><br>Tim Roussos         | <b>2010</b><br>Clarence Roller            |
| <b>2011</b><br>Ron and Jeannie Bulow    | <b>2012</b><br>Judy Gray/Danny Rolph      |
| <b>2013</b><br>Jerry Lewis              | <b>2015</b><br>TBD                        |

# Friends of Conservation

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>2006</b></p> <p>Theodore &amp; Barbara High<br/>William &amp; Carolyn High<br/>Rumpke Consolidated<br/>Companies, Inc.</p> | <p><b>2007</b></p> <p>Jan Johnson<br/>Dennis Johnson</p>                       |
| <p><b>2008</b></p> <p>Beverly Brown<br/>Martha Polley</p>  | <p><b>2009</b></p> <p>Joel Legris<br/>Steve Wilson</p>                         |
| <p><b>2010</b></p> <p>Patty Harper<br/>Pay Ilg</p>   | <p><b>2011</b></p> <p>Adams Brown<br/>Recycling</p>                            |
| <p><b>2012</b></p> <p>Southern Ohio<br/>Agricultural and<br/>Community<br/>Development Foundation</p>                            | <p><b>2013</b></p> <p>Brad &amp; Susan Barber<br/>C.J. Rowe<br/>Barb Bauer</p> |

**BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# Past Supervisors

## BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Paul Allen      | Mike Louiso, Jr.    |
| John Beasley    | Guy McRoberts       |
| Roy Berry       | Albert Miller       |
| Dale Bonar      | Carl Miller, Jr.    |
| Eugene Butts    | Tom Miller          |
| Don Chandler    | James Moore         |
| Bob Clonch      | Dwight Oberschlake  |
| John Craycraft  | Ralph Orendorff     |
| John Cushing    | Gene Pittenger      |
| Keith Day       | Ray Prigge          |
| Phil Dotson     | Vaughn Purdy        |
| Levi Eldridge   | Al Rhonemus         |
| Emery Euans     | Henry (J.H.) Rickey |
| Tara Fisher     | Don Rutherford      |
| Walter W. Games | Tom Shinkle         |
| Chester Gelter  | Dick Smith          |
| Augie Germann   | Albert Spiller      |
| Ralph Goslin    | Dave Spiller        |
| Larry Hall      | Tom Stratton        |
| Leslie Harmon   | Bob Taylor          |
| Roy Hawk        | Carl Tracy          |
| Sandy Howser    | William Waters      |
| Homer King      | Alfred Wolfer Jr.   |
| Dan Klump       | William A. Wilson   |
| Colin Klump     | Walter A. Yockey    |
| Jerry Lewis     | Walter L. Yockey    |

## SWCD Staff

Chris Rogers  
District Administrator

Carly Ratliff  
*Financial Clerk*

Danielle Thompson  
*Education/Wildlife Specialist*

Emily Heppner  
*Watershed Coordinator*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Lori Lenhart  
*District Conservationist*

Tara Fisher  
*Soil Conservation  
Technician*

Larry Whitaker  
*Resource Conservationist*

Kevin Persinger  
*Civil Engineering Technician*

## Board of Supervisors

Lonnie Moran  
*Chairperson*

John Herbolt  
*Vice Chairperson*

Susan Reeves  
*Secretary*

Fred Scott  
*Fiscal Agent*

Becky Cropper  
*Education*

Joe Stephens  
*Associate Board Member*

Ron Bulow  
*Associate Board Member*

Current Board of Supervisors and Staff

**BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

***Thank you  
for  
attending  
the 70th  
Annual  
Meeting and  
Banquet.***

***The Brown County SWCD  
supervisors and staff would like  
to thank the Brown County  
Commissioners and the Brown  
County Solid Waste Authority  
for their continued support of  
our locally-led conservation  
efforts.***



**@BrownSWCD**



*If you have a smartphone  
simply scan this QR code  
and start to follow us on  
Twitter today!*