

WASHINGTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

October 2026

21330 St Rt 676, Suite E
Marietta, Ohio 45750
740-885-3325

SWCD STAFF

Sandy Lahmers – Administrator

Kathy Davis – Stormwater
Coordinator

Hannah Swope – Wildlife/Forestry
Specialist

Alexis Coffman – Education
Specialist

Clay Hansell – Ag Specialist

SWCD BOARD

Chuck Hicks

Michelle Schwendeman

Randy Fisher

John Hartline

Jeff Jones



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Dates To Remember...

- October
 - 7th – Fish Sale Drop Off
 - 12th – Office Closed
 - 17th – Hervida Hike
 - 21st – Annual Meeting/Monthly Board Meeting
- November
 - 11th – Office Closed
 - 13th & 14th – Hunter Education Class
- December
 - 9th – Monthly Board meeting
 - 25th – Office Closed





Education & Outreach

The District has tried something new this summer with attending First Fridays in Downtown Marietta setting up on the Armory for the Kids Zone. The September theme was "Healthy Earth, Healthy Soil" that was carried out at the Washington County Fair as well. Kids who visited our station identified objects that described or represented soil layers. Then the kids could make an edible soil cup. After the chefs were done making the edible soil, they were given an activity book. Part of the activity book is the I Spy Game. Can you find all the objects in the soil profile?



I SPY...

Can you find these things in the soil?

3		Earthworm
2		Pill Bug
1		Centipede
1		Beetle
4		Ant
1		Spider
1		Snail
3		Grub
4		Plant Root
5		Decaying Leaves
6		Rocks

Did you find them all?



Meet our Supervisor Candidates.....

Jeff Jones

Jeff resides in Waterford Township with his wife Shari, on their family farm. The Jones raise soybeans, corn and hay. They also have a herd of beef cows and sell several freezer beef throughout the year. He is conservation minded in his operation utilizing minimum tillage and cover crops. Jeff is currently a member of the board finishing his first term.

Stacy Silvus

Stacy and his wife Elizabeth, live on a farm in Barlow Township. Stacy likes to read about and experiment with new practices that might work on their farm and because of this he has been able to make several management improvements. They also own a small cow herd where he enjoys making advances in production practices.

Remember election procedures have changed for selecting supervisors. No longer is it just a one-time voting opportunity. The election period now runs for 30 days, starting September 21st thru the annual meeting on October 21st. Ballots are available Monday thru Friday, 8:00am until 4:30pm at the SWCD office located at 21330 State Rt 676, Marietta or you may vote at the annual meeting.





ANNUAL MEETING

with OHIO AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION CEO – MELINDA WITTEN as the night's guest speaker

The 2026 edition of the Washington SWCD annual meeting is being announced. Save the date for Wednesday October 21st and plan to attend. The menu will consist of baked steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert & drink. The cost this year will remain at \$10.

Melinda Witten, President & CEO of the Ohio AgriBusiness Association will be the guest speaker. Living in the county and raising a family here, she has a vested interest in topics that affect Washington County. Come hear what the ABA is working on and the legislation that makes a difference for agriculture in our part of the world.

The local FFA teams participating in the county soils contest will be recognized as well as the annual Cooperator of the Year award. The slide show featuring various events of the District throughout the year and the hard working farmers of the county will finish up the evening program.

An election of supervisors will be held with two candidates vying for one position. Jeff Jones and Stacy Silvus are on the ballot. Please find candidate write-ups elsewhere in this newsletter.

The meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Franklin St. in Marietta, with Jean Tornes once again doing the catering. Voting will begin at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00. Please fill out the slip below and return to the office or call 740-885-3313 and give us your reservation and pay at the door. Reservations need to be made by Oct.16th.

Name: _____

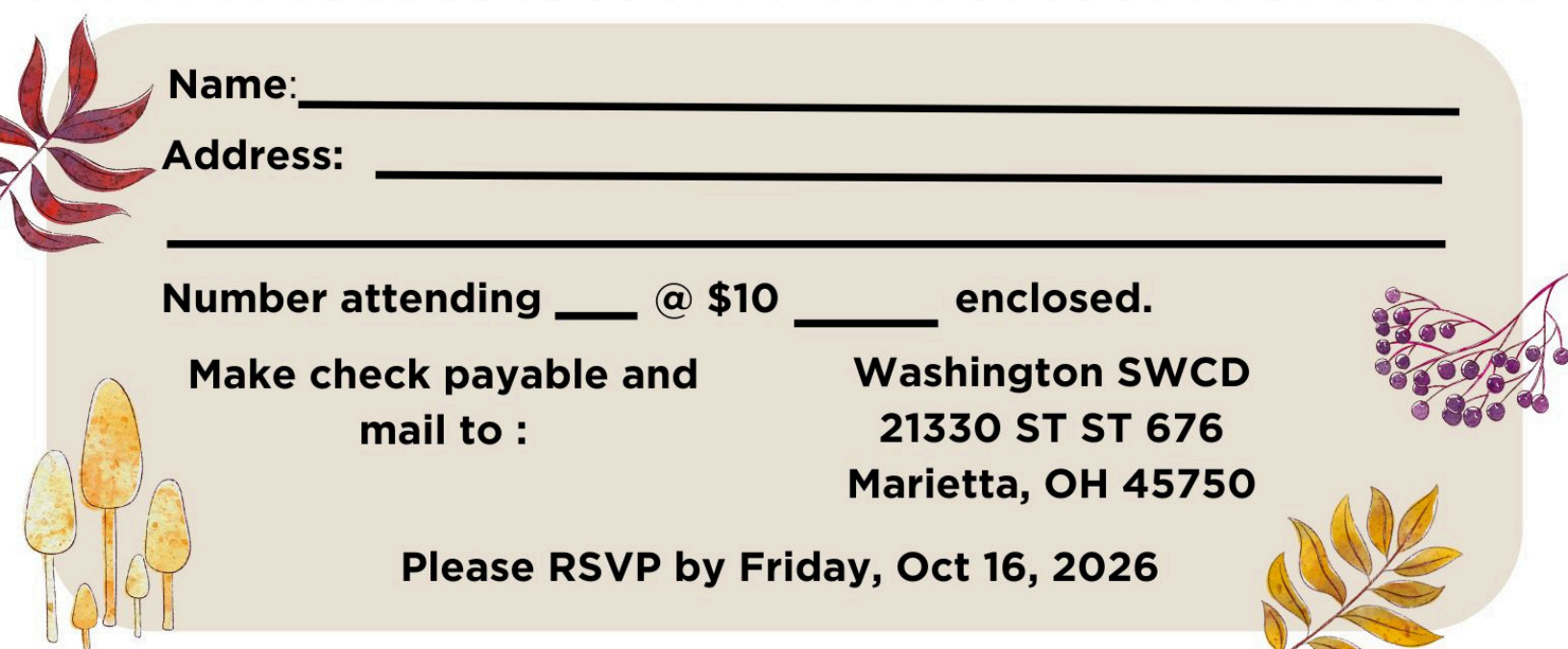
Address: _____

Number attending ____ @ \$10 _____ enclosed.

Make check payable and
mail to :

Washington SWCD
21330 ST ST 676
Marietta, OH 45750

Please RSVP by Friday, Oct 16, 2026



Got Soil?

Our County's FFA Soil Teams Do!



On September 11, 2026, the Washington Soil & Water Conservation District hosted the County Soil Judging Contest at Witten's Farm Market. The FFA chapters from Fort Frye, Frontier, Marietta, Warren and Waterford all competed in the contest. Waterford FFA placed 1st in both the Rural and Urban contests. Congratulations to all of the FFA students. The students can now compete in the District Contest, held on the 17th of September. We wish everyone good luck!



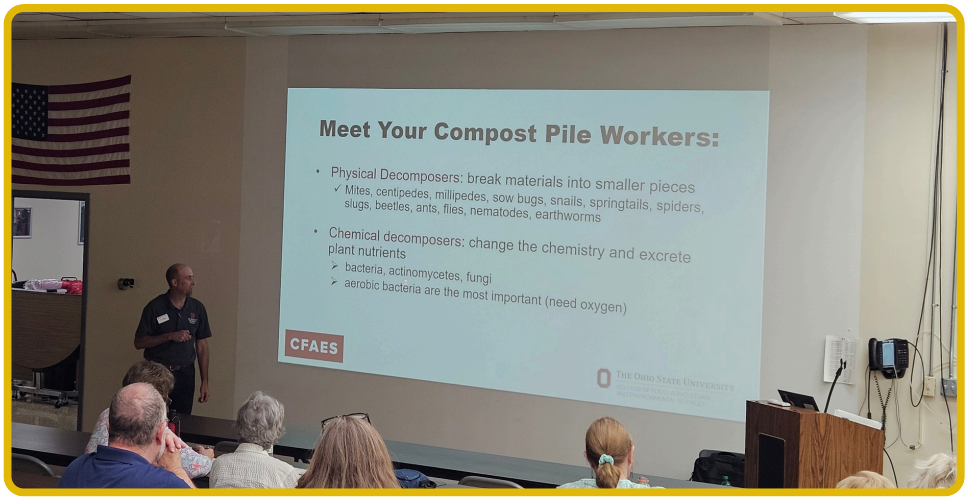
Hervida Hike



Saturday, October 17, 2026
10am - 12pm
1260 Camp Hervida Road
Waterford, OH 45786

The District is partnering with Camp Hervida to provide a guided or self-guided hike. During the hike fall mushrooms, seeds, fall forage and more will be identified.

Happens Rain or Shine! No cost to participate!
More information check out Camp's website or
call 740-376-7431



Composting Workshop

Trash talk was had! Well, compostable trash that is. The District hosted a Composting Workshop in July in partnership with TJ Wells, Ohio State University Extension Agent. Thank you to TJ and all who attended!



What is Stormwater Awareness Week?

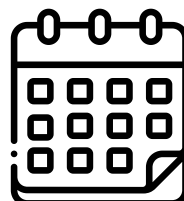
A regional effort that brings communities together to raise awareness about stormwater pollution, and what we can all do to help keep our waterways clean.

Thanks to the Agriculture Appreciation Act, signed by Governor DeWine in July 2025, Ohio now celebrates Stormwater Awareness Week every year October 1st-7th!

<https://www.ohiostormwaterweek.org/#/>



October 1st-7th



What can the Soil & Water Office do to help you? Give us a call and lets find out together!



Adult &
Child
Education



Soil
Samples



Invasive
Specie ID &
Management
Plans



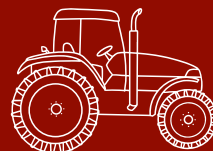
Recycling
Lists



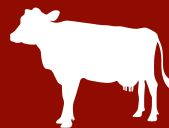
Mapping -
Arc Pro &
Topography



Wildlife
Planning &
Management



Rental
Equipment



Pature & Animal
Waste management

A Success Story..... The 2026 Legislative Tour



Each summer the SWCD hosts a tour inviting our elected officials from the county level all the way up to the federal level. This year we were not disappointed with a great turnout of personnel. After donuts and introductions, we headed to the farm of Rodney & Cindy Tornes. The Tornes' purchased a farm 2 years ago and run herds of sheep and goats. From there we traveled to the Witten Family Farm, where Tom and Scott shared their family history in the produce business and how many acres of various crops they presently raise. Melinda Witten, President & CEO of the Ohio Agri Business Association, informed the group of current bills on the legislative docket in Ohio and in Washington DC. Lunch was our next stop with the Washington County Farm Bureau ladies cooking and serving. A brief program was given with a folder of handouts highlighting agriculture statistics in Washington County. Skinner Farms was the final stop where NRCS explained several manure and pasture management practices that have been installed at this location.

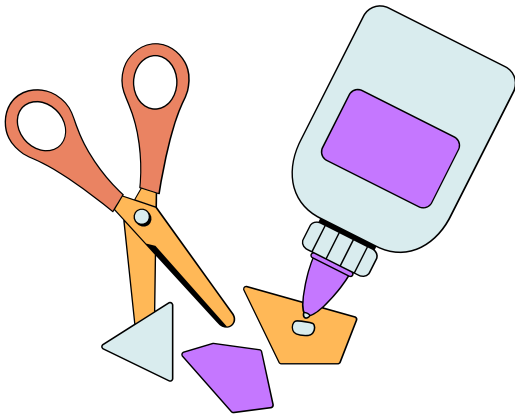
The District would like to take this opportunity to say **"Thank You"** to all of our participants, the producers that opened up their farms and the Washington County Farm Bureau ladies.





Hunter Education

The Washington SWCD will be hosting a FREE in-person Hunter Education Class to anyone interested. Class will take place at the Washington SWCD office on Friday, November 13th from 5PM- 9PM and Saturday November 14th from 9AM to 5PM. This class is open to anyone ages 12 years and older who is interested. Under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Registration will be open mid-October til the first day of class. To register or for more information, please call Hannah Swope at 740-885-3318.



Conservation & Craft Night

The next Conservation & Craft night is in the planning stages! Check our Facebook page for the latest information about it when it gets released. Interested in what the next night's topic is and don't have Facebook? Contact Alexis at 740-885-3289 or acoffman@wcgov.org to be in the know about the event!

FSA Text Alerts

Don't miss the next FSA deadline! Sign up for their reminder text service.

Text
To: 372669
Message:
OHWashington

