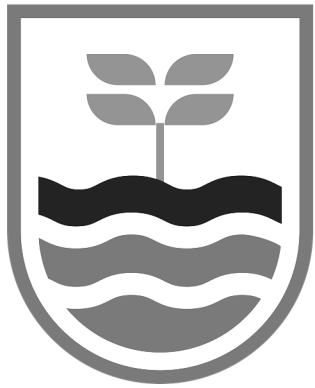




**240 W. Lake Street**  
**Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449**  
  
Phone: 419-898-1595  
Website: ottawaswcd.com

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# Ottawa Soil & Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2025 Annual Meeting

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 24th**, for an exciting Annual Banquet! Our traditional banquet will include great entertainment, pie, and a full dinner.

Held at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds, tickets are \$15 and you will have the choice of Chicken or BBQ Rib Dinner along with side dishes and pie.

Our entertainment for the evening will be magician, John Russell. John specializes in family-friendly magical entertainment. He brings a fresh delivery of class magic effects to today’s audiences. John’s high energy, infectious personality, and dynamic presentations will delight our guests!

You’ll be able to **cast your ballot** for our **election** of two supervisors **between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:00** and the **banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m.** If you can not attend, voting can be done in the office beginning August 26th up until 3:00 the day of the banquet.

Contact **the District office** at **(419) 898-1595** where staff members are more than happy to assist you with tickets or call one of our Board of Supervisors: **Todd Hecht, Josh Behnke, Jim Sass, Roland Sandroock, and Bill Hartman.**

**New this year...order your tickets online, at ottawaswcd.com!!**



*The Magic  
of John  
Russell*



**New Face in the Office:** Owen Schassberger started as a Pheasants Forever biologist in December 2024. Before joining Pheasants Forever, he worked as a technician with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Minnesota. Owen is a native of Monroe County, Michigan and graduated from The University of Toledo. Growing up he was active in Boy Scouts and multiple sports. Owen is grateful for a career opportunity much closer to home and looks forward to promoting conservation in the area!



- STAFF
- Michael Libben, Program Administrator
  - Becky Simpson, Environmental Educator & Fiscal Manager
  - Olivia Rahm, Administrative Assistant & Outreach Coordinator
  - Joe Uhinck, Wildlife Specialist
  - Jarred Molesky, District Technician
  - Jason Laubacher, District Technician
  - Kylie Nissen, District Technician
  - Clint Geldine, District Conservationist, NRCS
  - Emma Jahns, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
  - Sarah St. John, Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS
  - Owen Schassberger, Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever

- BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
- Bill Hartman, Chairman
  - Jim Sass, Vice Chairman
  - Roland Sandroock, Fiscal Agent
  - Todd Hecht, Secretary
  - Josh Behnke, Member

Clip and mail to our office!

2025 Fall Fish Sale Form

ORDER FORM ONLINE!  
ottawaswcd.com

SPECIES	PRICE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Bluegill: 2 - 4"	1.20 each		
Hybrid Bluegill: 2 - 4"	1.20 each		
Channel Catfish: 4 - 5"	1.00 each		
Fathead Minnow: 1 - 3"	.10 each		
Largemouth Bass: 2 - 3"	1.50 each		
Perch: 2 - 3"	1.20 each		
White Amur: 8 - 10" (Grass Carp)	17.00 each		
Red Ear Sunfish: 2 - 4" (help with parasites)	1.20 each		
Japanese Koi: 5– 7" (help control duckweed)	14.00 each		
Nature's Pond Conditioner—1 Gallon (1/4 acre)	95.00 each		
<b>**Go to ottawaswcd.com to order online or to print an order form**</b>  Name: _____  Address: _____		Subtotal	
		Sales Tax 7%	
		Total (with Sales Tax)	
		Home/Cell Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____

Remember...DEADLINE to order is Wednesday, October 1st - Pick-up is Friday, October 10th from 11:00am-12:00pm. Please mail your check (made payable to Ottawa SWCD) and this form to 240 W. Lake Street, Unit B, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449. WE REQUEST THAT ALL ORDERS BE PREPAID – THANKS!

Announcing the 2025 Supervisor Candidates



**Chad Gargas**, of Clay Township, is a fifth generation full time farmer of corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and straw on a Century Farm. Chad is married to his wife Lyndsy and they have two children, Joey & Macy. Chad is a member of St. John’s UCC in Genoa, active in the Genoa Chamber of Commerce and Genoa Homecoming. He enjoys watching water flow and spending time with his family on the patio talking about their dream home they were going to start building in 2019. Chad is seeking his first term on the Board of Supervisors.



**Bill Hartman**, of Benton Township, is a District Manager at Skyworks Equipment Rental and also grain farms about 400 acres. He is married to his wife Leslie and together they have four children Cory, Addison, Carter and Ashlyn. Bill is a member of St. Boniface Church, a member of Knights of Columbus and involved in multiple construction organizations (AGC,NECA, MCA). He enjoys tractor pulling and boating. Bill is seeking his third term on the Board of Supervisors.



**Dan Hineline**, of Salem Township, is currently the 7<sup>th</sup> generation in the family to grow up on the farm. Dan has farmed in the Ottawa and Sandusky County areas most of my life alongside his dad, Larry. The grain operation is about 50% soybeans, 45% corn and 5% wheat. They no-till around 90% if possible and rely on cover crops during the winter months. Aside from grain farming, they also bale about 1200 acres of wheat straw and 200 acres of hay in the summer. Dan is married to Beki, a previous Ottawa SWCD employee, and together they have four children, Lily, Joanna, Evelyn and Lottie. Dan and his family attend and are involved with Journey Church in Fremont. Dan is seeking his first term on the Board of Supervisors.



**Eric Gahler**, of Benton Township, is a Field Sales Rep at Bayer Crop Science. He is also the co-owner of Gahler Grain Farms, LLC, along with his Father Dan. They currently produce corn, soybeans, on a 50/50 rotation, while implementing VRT for fertility, lime and seeding. Eric is married to Ashley and together they have 3 children, Bennett, Ryan and Dylan. They are active with Trinity United Church of Christ in Elliston and have served numerous terms on council and other committees. In his spare time, he can be found coaching flag football or baseball and also enjoys hunting/fishing with his kids. Eric is seeking his first term on the Board of Supervisors.

In accordance with Chapter 940 Revised Code of Ohio, the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election to be held electing two Ottawa SWCD supervisors to fill the expiring terms of Bill Hartman and Roland Sandrock. Take some time to meet our candidates: **Chad Gargas, Bill Hartman, Dan Hineline and Eric Gahler**. You may cast your ballot at the annual meeting on September 24th or at the Ottawa SWCD office, 240 W. Lake Street, Oak Harbor, between August 26th until September 24th, 8 am to 4 pm. Also, absentee ballots will be available on August 26th at the Ottawa SWCD office. ***Election on the night of the banquet will be from 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. You’ll register as you arrive and cast your vote before leaving. Doors open at 5:00pm.***

A Day on the Wildside



Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District and the Winous Point Marsh Conservancy hosted the 15th annual “A Day on the Wild Side”. During the event, 60 youth traveled between 6 stations with topics including: shooting, archery, fishing, life in the marsh, macroinvertebrate identification, and bird banding. This event is a great way to introduce kids to several exciting outdoor activities in a safe and fun environment. The Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District and Winous Point Marsh Conservancy would like to thank all the sponsors and volunteers for their help in making this event a success! If you would like more information or would like to be put on the mailing list for this event, please contact Becky Simpson at 419-898-1595.

CRP and CREP Maintenance

A popular program that began around 20 years ago is the Lake Erie CREP. This wetland, filter strip and windbreak program is a partnership between USDA and the state of Ohio, to help with water quality and to provide habitat. In Ottawa County, most of the wetlands that you see that are in corners of farm field, or whole fields, and the grass strips along fields and ditches were planted and built through this program.

As a reminder to anyone that has a LE CREP contract, you are responsible for maintaining your land. The payment received each October has built in funds to use to mow and spray invasives and keep weeds down in general. With proper maintenance, a LE CREP project area should be thriving with cool or warm season grasses, pollinators and abundant wildlife. If you are not taking care of your property, most likely thistles, trees/brush and phragmites are starting to take over.

If you do not have equipment for maintenance, please contact our office and we will put you in touch with someone that you may be able to hire. Remember, if you do not properly maintain your property you may be at risk of losing your USDA payment!

Septic Smart

**Think at the Sink!** Learn what not to put down your kitchen sink (such as fats, oils, or greases), how to properly dispose of food waste and how to use cleaning supplies in moderation.

- 1. **Don't Strain Your Drain!** Learn about the importance of using water efficiently, staggering water use of water- based appliances and using energy efficient appliances.
- 2. **Keep It Clean!** Learn about the importance of testing your well water, and its relationship to your septic system.
- 3. **Shield Your Field!** Learn about your septic system’s drain field, including how it works, and tips to take care of it.
- 4. **Protect It and Inspect It!** Learn about a typical septic system inspection, how often an inspection should be performed and considerations for advanced systems.
- 5. **Don't Overload the Commode!** Learn about what can be flushed down the toilet, and what should be thrown in the trash.
- 6. **Pump Your Tank!** Learn about a typical septic tank pump-out service, and how a septic tank works.

Information provided by the Stormwater Coalition, a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG).

Thank You to our Sponsors

  
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A managed CREP wetland that includes an ART’s component. (Ag drainage that is directed to the wetland)



Sign up to get information about our annual **Tree Sale!**

419-898-1595



Get more information about future **Women in Conservation workshops**

Becky Simpson  
419-898-1595

  
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