



Conservation Connection

Election Edition - 2021

Why Does Your Vote Matter?

Kelly Crout, District Director

Voting and the right to vote has been in the main stream media for a few years now, and probably will continue that way. It's something that many take for granted, and unfortunately so many pass on the opportunity to have their vote counted, merely because they think that it won't matter.

So, I urge our residents to vote this August. I'm not speaking of the general election, rather I'm referring to the Butler SWCD's Board of Supervisor Elections. While it may not be as publicized, it is incredibly important nonetheless. Our five member board is an elected body, meaning they represent **YOU** - all residents of Butler County. They make crucial decisions on conservation issues and practices that impact our local natural resources; they can bring your ideas to the District, implementing new programs. The Board of Supervisors discuss and vote on financial matters and how to properly and responsibly spend public funds for our programs and much more.

We seek board members who are here to make a difference, to help bring new ideas to the District, to lead, and to guide Butler SWCD to the forefront of conservation efforts. Each District follows state guidance on how to run an official election. We take our job very seriously during the election period, ensuring that anyone eligible that wants to vote gets the proper information necessary to do so. It's up to **YOU** to make the request. Please, take the time to read about the current candidates up for election, request a ballot, and vote.

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Butler SWCD's
Backyard Bash
 Tuesday, August 31 6 P.M.
 at Muhlhauser Barn
 8558 Beckett Road, West Chester 45069
 RSVP by August 13
 (513)887-3720 / butlerswcd@butlercountyohio.org

Backyard Bash
Annual Meeting
Cost: FREE
 Come join Butler SWCD as we celebrate 79 years, with the theme "Backyard Conservation." There will be a guest speaker, free food, educational displays, and much more!

Butler SWCD Board

Gary Gerber
Chair

David Brate
Vice - Chair

Nathan Gillespie
Treasurer

Linda Peters
Secretary

Jeremy Fruth
Member

Election Legal Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

There are 5 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the Butler SWCD office from August 10, 2021 until September 8, 2021 during normal business hours; **or**
- 2.) At the Cover Crop Field Day, which will take place at 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45011 on Thursday, August 19, 2021 from 9 AM to 3 PM; **or**
- 3.) At the Pesticide Disposal Event, which will take place at 1715 Fairgrove Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio 45011 on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 9 AM to 3 PM: **or**
- 4.) At the Butler SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Muhlhauser Barn, 8558 Beckett Road, West Chester Township, Ohio 45069 on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 from 6 PM to 8 PM; **or**
- 5.) Voting absentee. Absentee ballots can be requested from August 10 until September 2, 2021:
 - a.) Mail - 1802 Princeton Road, Suite 300, Hamilton, Ohio 45011
 - b.) Phone - Call (513)887-3720
 - c.) Electronically - email at butlerswcd@butlercountyohio.org

Absentee ballots must be received by the Butler SWCD office by September 8, 2021.

One Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

Nominees are:

1. Gary Gerber
2. Brian Smith



Board Responsibilities

The term of current Supervisor, Gary Gerber, will expire December 31, 2021.

The five member board of supervisors is responsible for developing and administering the conservation assistance programs offered through the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District and conducted in Butler County. They are public officials, serving without pay, responsible to the people of the district and state.

Candidates:



Gary Gerber, a resident of Wayne Township, is seeking re-election as a Supervisor of the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District. Along with his wife Cari and their three children, Kelli, Lauren, and Clayton, they operate a third-generation family farm. Gerber Farms Inc. consists of 1,800 acres of row crop farming, along with 150 head cow/calf herd, and 400-500 head of fat cattle per year. Gary has farmed since graduating high school and has worked to expand the farm that his father and grandfather started in 1952. In his spare time outside of farming, Gary enjoys spending quality time with his family.

Gary is also the Vice President of the Butler County Senior Fair Board and in charge of the Jr. Fair Horse Department. Proper conservation practices are very important to him, and Gerber Farms makes sustainability a priority when making their farming decisions. Gary is currently chairman of the board of supervisors for Butler SWCD, with hopes of re-election he can continue to give back to an organization that has developed programs and practices that have been utilized on his family farm throughout the years.



Brian Smith resides in Wayne Township along with his wife and four sons. As manager of the Warren County Department of Transportation (ODOT), Brian has worked on storm water installations for the last 18 years; and 4 years prior to that with a private contractor. His career has afforded him the opportunity to fully understand the importance of proper storm water infrastructure; ranging from 120" storm sewer drains in downtown Columbus to 12" residential driveway drains. Brian has also had the occasion to work on various embankment, grassed waterways, and erosion jobs; in locations such as the Warren County Correctional Institute, Warren County Girl Scout Camp, and Caesar Creek Lake.

Away from work, Brian enjoys spending time with his family on camping trips and vacations, as well as painting and restoring antique farm tractors. If elected to the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors he hopes to bring his experience from years of working with urban storm sewer installations, while looking forward to learning about agricultural conservation.

Resident Request for Absentee Ballot

Butler

I, _____, hereby request an absentee voter ballot and envelope from Butler Soil and Water Conservation District. If requesting a ballot for other members who reside in the same household (spouse, partner, children, etc.) please print each name below.

I am an eligible voter of Butler SWCD, being 18 years of age or older and reside within the District:

Print Name(s)

Please Mail absentee voter ballot(s) and envelope(s) to the following address:

Resident Name (Please Print Clearly): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Absentee Ballot Request

The absentee ballot request form is provided for you above. Please fill out all of the information, cut out on dotted line, and mail to **Butler SWCD, 1802 Princeton Road, Suite 300, Hamilton, OH 45011.**

Please note, all requested ballots will not be mailed until the first day of the election - **August 10, 2021.**

Free Well Water Testing Nitrates and Bacteria

Butler SWCD and partners will be offering this free service, however there are some changes due to COVID-19. To have your well water tested:

- Set up an appointment with either Butler or Preble County SWCDs. These 15 minute appointments will run during office hours until **August 13.**
- Attend scheduled appointment to receive your sample bottle and training on how to properly collect well water sample.
- Collect your water sample the morning of **August 14.**
- The well water sample **MUST** be dropped off during our special drive-thru event at Miami University in Oxford, **Saturday, August 14 between 10am - 1pm.** Samples will **NOT** be accepted otherwise.
- You will receive your results either by mail or email, whichever you prefer.

Butler SWCD, 1802 Princeton Rd., Hamilton (513)887-3720
Preble SWCD, 2789 US-35, West Alexandria (937)456-5159

This event is a partnership between Butler and Preble SWCDs, Miami University, and Miami Conservancy District.

Annual River Clean-Up Of the Great Miami

Date: September 18, 2021

Time: 9 AM - 12 NOON

Multiple locations

Join Butler SWCD and many other local residents to clean up the Great Miami River. Locations include Franklin, Middletown, Hamilton, Trenton, and Madison Twp.

Find a location near you and sign up at:

www.cleansweepofthegreatmiamiriver.org/



Pesticide Certification Exam

Register: agri.ohio.gov on the plant health page

Location: 1802 Princeton Rd., Hamilton 45011

Dates Available: 8/26/2021

9/30/2021

For more information contact J.T. Benitez at (513)785-6652 / benitez.6@osu.edu.



Butler SWCD
1802 Princeton Rd
Hamilton, OH 45011
513-887-3720
ButlerSWCD@ButlerCountyOhio.org

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The Butler SWCD and the NRCS prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

USDA: An Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Cover Crop Field Day

Date: Thursday, August 19th

Location: Butler SWCD Office

1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton 45011

Cost: Free

Join Butler SWCD for our second annual cover crop field day! Participants will have the opportunity to tour cover crop plots, hear from industry experts, and view a cover crop roller-crimper demonstration.

- James Hoorman of Hoorman Soil Health Services will present on “Making No-Till Corn Work” & “Making Free Nitrogen.”
- Fennig Equipment will discuss effective cover crop inter-seeding, with demonstration.
- Bob Hendershot, Grazing Specialist, will discuss the use of grazing cover crops, and the many benefits they provide livestock.
- Lunch is provided. **Please RSVP by August 12th** to reserve lunch contact Brady Smith, call (513)785-6663 or email smithbe@butlercountyohio.org.

Agricultural Pesticide Disposal Drop - Off



Date: Tuesday, August 24

Location: Butler County Fairgrounds

1715 Fairgrove Avenue, Hamilton 45011

Cost: Free

This event allows Ohio farmers to dispose of old pesticides safely and responsibly. The pesticide disposal event is **FREE** of charge, but **only farm chemicals will be accepted**. Paint, antifreeze, solvents, and household or non-farm pesticides will **NOT** be accepted!

To find out more, contact Brady Smith, call (513)785-6663 or email smithbe@butlercountyohio.org.

If you have a large volume of pesticides to dispose of, please contact Brady prior to the event!

This event is a partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the US Environmental Protection Agency.