

LOGAN SWCD/NRCS  
324 C. Rd. 11  
Bellefontaine, Oh  
43311

Phone: 937-593-2946 - Option 3  
Fax: 937-592-3350

Hours: Monday -Friday-7:30 AM-4:30 PM

**LOGAN SWCD SUPERVISORS**

•Eric Johnson •Tim Lyden  
•Frank Phelps •Joe Ramsey  
•Renee Winner

**LOGAN SWCD STAFF**

Lorre Culp –Secretary/GIS  
Deb Roberts –District Administrator  
Steve Searson –District Technician

**NRCS STAFF**

Bob Stoll –District Conservationist  
Brian Leptak -Civil Engineering  
Technician  
LaRae Baker-Soils Conservationist  
Justin McBride –Summer Intern

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U S POSTAGE  
BELLEFONTAINE, OH  
PERMIT NO. 324



# FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

## LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

“It is the goal of Logan Soil & Water Conservation District to promote stewardship of soil, water and other natural resources.”

Summer 2011



ALL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, MARITAL STATUS OR HANDICAP

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

AUGUST 16 LOGAN SWCD BOARD MEETING-  
5:00 PM -LOGAN SWCD OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 5 LABOR DAY-OFFICE CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 8 LOGAN SWCD/LOGAN CO. FARM  
BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING 6:30PM

SEPTEMBER 12 LOGAN COUNTY LAND TRUST  
ANNUAL MEETING-6:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 18 TOP OF OHIO DRIVE IT YOURSELF  
TOUR

SEPTEMBER 20 LOGAN SWCD BOARD MEETING-  
5:00 PM -LOGAN SWCD OFFICE

OCTOBER 16 LOGAN SWCD BOARD MEETING -  
5:00 PM-LOGAN SWCD OFFICE

If you would like to receive the Logan SWCD newsletter electronically, please e-mail your name and address to:

[deb.roberts@oh.nacdn.net](mailto:deb.roberts@oh.nacdn.net)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THE  
TOP OF OHIO DRIVE IT  
YOURSELF TOUR  
Sunday, September 18, 2011**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE**

[www.co.logan.oh.us/soilandwater/](http://www.co.logan.oh.us/soilandwater/)

## LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 68TH ANNUAL MEETING LOGAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for the Logan County Farm Bureau and the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District for their annual meeting at the Winner Harvest Barn on September 8, 2011. The meeting is a year- end celebration of the activities, policies and events for these local organizations.

The meeting is being held at the Winner Harvest Barn and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an election for 2 Logan Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor positions, voting taking place between 6:30 -7:30 PM. Candidates running for the 2 Supervisor positions include: Jim Hoffman, Frank Phelps and Joe Ramsey. ( Please look further in this newsletter for the supervisor candidates' bios). A meal of pork loin, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, rolls and pie will be served. Tickets are \$9.00 per person, children under 10 years of age eat free.

Those attending will be able to participate in the organizations year end celebration of our programs and business. Farm Bureau members will be able to vote on county trustees, delegates, 2011-2012 policies and a code of regulations change.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Logan County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide a notarized affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. In appreciation to Logan County residents and landowners, cookies and punch will be served along with a presentation of practices and accomplishments. Absentee ballots may be obtained by requesting a ballot, in writing, from the Logan SWCD office, 324 Co. Rd. 11, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, located in all 88 counties, are legal subdivisions of state government that provide natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of government. The district is funded by the Logan County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The district is governed by a five-member, elected board of county residents. The soil and water conservation district board members are a volunteer board and are not paid for serving on the district boards.

For more information or to register, call the Logan County Farm Bureau County office at 1-877-775-7642, or the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District office at (937) 593-2946, option 3. Registration Deadline is September 1, 2011.



## FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

### 2012 Logan SWCD Supervisor Candidates



#### **Jim Hoffman**

Jim lives at 1567 Co Rd 113 Rushsylvania with his wife Becky. They have two sons Jonas (7) and Nathan (3). Jim is a “Stay at Home Dad” and his wife Becky is a Financial Service officer for Farm Credit Services in Bellefontaine.

Jim grew up on the family farm outside of Lewistown. He graduated from Indian Lake High School and has received a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics from The Ohio State University. He was a member of Alpha

Gamma Sigma, a Professional Agricultural Fraternity where he served as President and Chaplin.

Jim farms approximately 900 acres with his brother Fred. Together they own around 500 acres within The Great Miami Watershed. They rotate their crops between corn, soybeans and wheat. He has installed several thousand feet of grassed waterways over the years and practices conservation tillage on all of their farm ground. Over the last several years they have use grid sampling and GPS technology to improve the fertility and production of their farming practices.

Jim and his family attend the Rushsylvania Church of Christ, where he serves as a Deacon and also as a Sunday School Teacher. He serves as director for the Rushsylvania Emmaus Gathering. Jim is also a member of the Rushsylvania Zoning Commission.



#### **Frank Phelps**

Frank lives at 8757 County Road 254, Belle Center, Ohio with his wife Gayle. They are the parents of two grown children, Mandy and Andy. Frank has been an active member of the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District since 1988.

Frank and his father, Don, are in partnership together and manage O’Connor Farms, Inc. Their operation consists of 250 purebred Limousin cows, custom feeding hogs and 1,850 acres of no-till crops, including corn, soybeans, hay and wheat. Frank has incorporated many conservation practices on the farm, including waterways, filter strips, livestock exclusion and the development of four acres of

wetlands.

Frank is active in the Indian Lake Watershed and is the Chairman for the Indian Lake Joint Board. He is also a member of the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association. Frank received the 1991 Farm Family of the Year Award, the 1998 Environmental Stewardship Award from the Ohio Cattle Association and in 2002 the American Soybean Association and DuPont Young Leadership Award. He also serves on the Cattleman’s Beef Promotion and Research Board. Frank was awarded the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association Industry Excellence Award in 2010. Frank was also awarded the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Cardinal Award.

Frank has opened his farm to various conservation education programs and field trips and has also assisted with Ag Festival presentations at the elementary schools.

Frank graduated from the Ohio State University with a B. S. in Animal Science. He is a member of the Belle Center United Methodist Church, Farm Bureau and ILDC.



## LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### 2012 Logan SWCD Supervisor Candidates continued...



#### **Joe Ramsey**

Joe lives at 7357 County Road 50, Ridgeway with his wife Beccy. They have three grown children, Monica Humphrey, Wes, and Amanda Rudolph. They also are proud to have three grandchildren.

Joe grew up on a farm and has been farming for 32 years. Joe and his father Newt Ramsey farm 800 acres of 100% no-till crops including soybeans, corn and wheat. They also contract 6,000 head of feeder hogs. They have 12.4 acres of filter strips in the CRP program, fertilizer containment facility, cover crop, pest management practices, grid sampling, to manage nutrients and waste utilization.

The operation is located in the Bokescreek and Scioto River watershed.

Joe is a member of the Logan County Farm Bureau, Ohio Pork Producers, Ohio Sheep and Lamb Improvement Association, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Ohio Soybean Council. He also received the Conservation Farm Family Award in 2001 from Logan SWCD and also the Ohio No-Till Farmer of the Year Award in 2000 from the Ohio No-Till Council.

Joe has been a clerk for Bokescreek Township for 33 years. He is also a past school board member for Ridgemont Schools where he served two years as President of the Board. He has an Associates Degree in Applied Ag Business from Clark State.

He is a member and elder of the Rushsylvania Church of Christ and devotes time towards helping with the church. Joe has been an active member of the Logan Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors since 2006.



### ANNUAL PASTURE WALK

The Logan SWCD/NRCS Annual Pasture Walk will be held September 15th, 5:00 PM at the farm of Bob & Lois Stoll, 5952 St. Rt. 540, Bellefontaine, Ohio. Dinner will be provided by the Logan County Cattle Association. A wagon ride through the pasture begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is at 7:00 PM. Bob Hendershot will be the featured speaker. Topics of discussion include:

- Winter stock piling of Tall Fescue for strip grazing in the winter
- Inter seeding clovers to boost forage quality
- Measuring forage in the field and matching livestock needs



To register, please contact Bob Stoll-by phone (937)593-2946, Option 3 or by e-mail – [bob.stoll@oh.usda.gov](mailto:bob.stoll@oh.usda.gov) .

Registration deadline is September 14, 2011



## Valuable Volunteers

Logan Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS has been blessed with 2 great Earth Team Volunteers, George Feltham and Randy Smith. With the budget cuts that Logan SWCD has experienced, and the loss of two employees due to the budget cuts, the volunteer hours these individuals have put in to assist Logan SWCD has been a huge help. We would like to take the time to thank George and Randy for their dedication to conservation and would like to share a little bit about these men who take time out of their schedules to volunteer their services.

### George Feltham

George first became interested in streams at a young age when he started to canoe in different rivers during high school. After attending Marietta College for two years studying Biology/Pre-Med, George transferred to and eventually graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Architecture. After a successful career as an architect, he retired and found that he still wanted to work with stream systems.

He and his wife wanted to leave where they were living in Delaware County and move somewhere with more interesting terrain. After a long search, they decided to come to Logan County. He then decided that he would like to volunteer his services, so he took the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist course. "I was looking to volunteer because I felt it was time for me to give back to the community and I was at a point in my life where I was able to do that", George says.

George is now an Ohio NRCS WAE, but he is also an Earth Team Volunteer where he does stream monitoring in Logan County. His stream monitoring involves three different tasks. First, he defines a section of the stream to monitor by looking at the environment of the stream and checking for possible point and non-point pollution problems. Secondly, he performs several different chemical tests of the water to monitor the water quality. Lastly, he takes biological samples of the stream section, specifically looking at the macro-invertebrates. After these tests are performed, he records the data and develops a summary report to give to the Logan County NRCS/SWCD office. This summary includes mapped results in graphical presentations that establish long term trends of the water quality and identify potential problem areas in the stream. Currently there are 26 different monitoring sites and he has performed this stream monitoring for the last three years in Logan County.

He continues to do this work because he very much enjoys doing it. Feltham says, "I'm at the point in my life where I can pick and choose what I want to do and this is exactly that", he says. As this is his favorite avocation and wishes to share it with others, he enjoys taking a few people, whether it's several children or a young NRCS employee, out with him to show them what he is doing.

George has loved the outdoors since he was young which left him wanting to do something that benefited nature and it just so happens that what he does is a very important part of land conservation. One problem he has noticed is that there is too little concern for the well being of our watershed and he wishes to see the concern level rise so that conservation is a higher priority in today's society.

### Randy Smith

Randy's mission and that of NRCS is nearly identical in "Helping People Helping the Land". He says, "It's not about us; it's about helping others do the right thing for the land for our future generations."

Randy has been active in the outdoors from an early age when he was fishing and hunting as a kid along Lake Erie. His dad was a park manager and Randy became a volunteer in the park in 1965. He attended and graduated from Hocking College with a degree in Recreation and Wildlife. Since then, Smith has worked his way from a park laborer to Deputy Chief in the Ohio Department of Natural Resource's Division of Watercraft where he oversaw the Title and Registration, Information Technology and Capital Improvement programs. He retired from O.D.N.R. and now works part time and volunteers.

Randy and his wife moved from Delaware County, which is fast becoming suburbanized, to Logan County for the diversity of habitats, topography of the land and most importantly, the "down to earth" rural community. Randy and his wife now own a 70 acre tract of land where they have lived since 2006. "My wife and I were guided to this property by a power greater than ourselves, which eventually led us to purchase it." says Smith.

Randy puts in around 1,500 hours a year on the farm doing Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and planting seedlings. He also works as an NRCS WAE and as a private contractor doing custom spraying and mowing. He volunteers with the Logan County Land Trust, Top of Ohio R C and D, Logan SWCD, and the Logan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

*(Continued on the back)*



*George and his assistants sift through their water quality samples in search of treasure to determine good water quality in the Bokengelhalas Creek.*

## *Valuable Volunteers continued...*

### *Randy Smith continued.....*

Smith's tree farm is contracted under two Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts, and is currently in a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contract. He also worked with Pheasants Forever under a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) contract in establishing a native tall grass prairie. He has 35 acres of various aged timber under TSI, a few vernal pools, a pollinator plot, practices pest management and invasive control, maintains a riparian corridor along Rushcreek, planted over 8,300 seedlings, about 2/3 in tree shelters due to deer predation and has other similar practices in place on his farm.

Vicki, Randy's wife, (retired O.D.N.R., Division of Wildlife) share an equal passion for the land, in fact, Smith stated, "at times I think my wife is more passionate about the land than I am!" Randy has 5 children and 10 grandchildren. One of his greatest joys is spending time with his grandchildren. He says "it is such a thrill to watch your 3 year old grandchild look up and tell you if the bird flying over is a red tailed hawk or a turkey vulture!"

Randy has a great interest in conservation as he feels that he is taking care of the land for future generations. One of Randy's wishes in conservation is to have others learn a deeper appreciation for the land, the soil within it and understand how valuable it is to all of us.



*Randy, his daughter Megan and grandchildren Brady and Reese representing three generations of the Smith Family Certified Tree Farm.*

## **Why should you care about Logan Soil and Water Conservation District?**

**Because Logan Soil and Water Conservation District is your local**

**“go to” complaint department.**

You don't have to call an out of town government office to express your concerns about the negative consequences of improperly applied manure, log jams that are creating flooding problems or stream bank erosion that is devouring your backyard. You may call Logan Soil and Water Conservation District to begin the process of evaluating the problem(s), formulating solutions and executing a plan. Your locally elected county officials have provided financial support to the District to address soil erosion, water quality, land use and agricultural and urban/suburban drainage issues within Logan County. Sometimes we are just mediators between disgruntled landowners who are unable to arrive at an equitable solution to a common drainage problem. Often we are hands on – on the spot technical advisors for various erosion, drainage and flooding issues. Always we are ready, willing and able to assist Logan County residents. We have a vested interest in protecting and preserving Logan County, it is where we live, work and play too.

**Call Logan Soil and Water Conservation District today, 937-593-2946, option 3.**

**We will be happy to assist you.**