

BRWP Times

Spring 2015 Volume 8



Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

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>>> THE BRWP HAS BEEN BUSY THIS SPRING, BUT THERE A MUCH MORE TO DO.

The BRWP has been very busy this spring with grants, outreach and other activities. On January 7th, the Board of Directors held their Annual Planning Meeting. There were goals approved for 2015. The goals are:

- Seek funding for the watershed coordinator's position. The present funding ends on June 30, 2015.
- Continue our outreach projects at the county fairs, rain barrel decorating contest in the high schools, web site, facebook and river clean-ups.
- Continue to seek and write grants for our partners.

Hancock Park District Photo Contest:

The BRWP once again in 2014 sponsored the **Watershed Category** in the Hancock Park District's Photo Contest. Congratulations to Robert Hills for his winning photograph shown below.

Visit our web site at www.blanchardriver.org and click on the gallery tab to view all the Photos from the 2015 Hancock Park District's Photo Contest



Photo by Robert Hills

>>> THE BRWP HAS BEEN BUSY THIS SPRING..

Education - Rain Barrel Decorating Contest:

The Third Annual Rain Barrel Decorating Contest was held on February 28th and March 1st. Twenty five barrels from 11 area high schools were on display at the Findlay Mall during the Greater Findlay Home Show. Mc Comb High School was the over-all winner. Second place went to Hardin Northern High School, while Van Buren High School was third. Nearly 250 visitors to the Home Show voted for the “People’s Choice Award” which Riverdale High School receiving the most votes. All the barrels that were not sponsored were sold during the show. The BRWP received many positive comments on the barrels. Pictures of all the rain barrels can be seen on our website at www.blanchardriver.org. Look under the Media tab.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

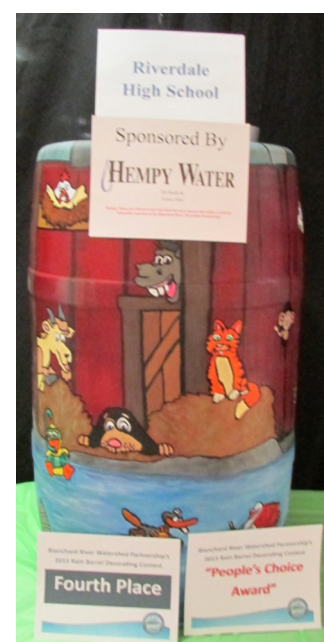
- AE Curbside - Findlay, Ohio
- Findlay Elks #75 Lodge
- Hancock County Farm Bureau
- Hancock SWCD
- Hempy Water Conditioning - Forest, Ohio
- Legacy Farmers Cooperative - Findlay, Ohio
- Pro Tec Coating Co. - Leipsic, Ohio
- Putnam SWCD
- Ted’s Market - Pandora, Ohio
- *Great Job to all the schools and students!!!*

Active Grants in 2015

- The BRWP still has two Great Lakes Commission grants in the Upper Riley Creek and Lower Riley Creek watersheds. Both grants are for Best Management Practices (BMPs) with the farmers.
- The BRWP is the fiscal agent and project manager for a \$94,000 U.S. Forest Service grant to plant 920 trees in the Village of Ottawa, City of Findlay, and on Hancock Park District property.
- The Hancock SWCD received a GLRI grant for \$99,984.80 for innovative BMPs in the Eagle Creek and Lye Creek watersheds. The coordinator wrote the grant. There is nearly \$8,200 in the grant for a rain garden to be built at Jefferson Primary school. The garden will be the part of the “Kid’s Place” outdoor education center.

Grants Applied for

- \$29,930 Great Lakes Basin mini grant for cost-share with farmer to use cover crops and conservation tillage in the Middle Riley Creek watershed.
- \$247,763 Great Lakes Basin for sediment and nutrient reduction in the Miler City Cutoff and Pike Run-Blanchard River watersheds in Putnam County. The grant was written by the coordinator



“Crossing the Little Riley Creek” Golf Scramble

The BRWP is sponsoring the second annual “*Crossing the Little Riley Creek*” **Golf Scramble on Saturday, June 13, 2015 at the Bluffton Golf Club.** This fundraising event is using the four person team format. There will also be a many other prizes and contests at the event. Some of these prizes are:

- ⇒ Special prize for the first three teams with the lowest score.
- ⇒ Closest to the pin on two of the par 3 holes.
- ⇒ A one-year lease on a Ford car for a hole-in-one on one specific par 3. Lease donated by Reineke Ford of Findlay.
- ⇒ Longest drive on two of the par 5 holes.
- ⇒ Beat the radio station teams. WFIN/WKXA/WBUK from Findlay and Ottawa and iHeart radio from Lima will each have a team. Any team beating their score will have their name placed in a drawing for prizes.
- ⇒ Prize for highest score.

There will also be several items that you can bid on to buy. Some of these are:

- ⇒ Complete inside /outside detailing of a car. The detailing is donated by LaRiche Chevrolet of Findlay.
- ⇒ Golf Bag donated by Beerco
- ⇒ OSU hooded sweatshirts

There will also be many door prizes and each player will receive a gift bag at registration. More prize are being donated every day. Check our web site for any updates, Click on the Golf Scramble tab.

Key Facts about the Golf Scramble

- Cost per player is \$60.00. Individual players and twosome will be assigned to a team at random.
- Registration will be from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. Shotgun start begins at 9:00 a.m.
- There will be a 20 team limit.
- Please check our web site at www.blanchardriver.org for further information and forms to register for the golf scramble.

For further information contact Phil Martin at 419-422-6487.

✂ **Entry Fee:** \$60 per golfer; (\$54 for BRWP member) Please print the following information for golfer(s):
(checks payable to BRWP)

Please circle one:

Individual Twosome Foursome

Please make checks payable to: BRWP
 Send to: BRWP
 P.O. 1237
 Findlay, OH. 45839-1237

For more information, call 419.422.6487 or check our website at www.blanchardriver.org

Please print the following information for golfer(s):

1.Name: _____
 Email: _____

2.Name: _____
 Email: _____

3.Name: _____
 Email: _____

4.Name: _____
 Email: _____

>>> THERE IS PLENTY TO DO THIS SPRING & SUMMER cont.

- The BRWP will continue to have displays at the county fairs (See Picture below) and at other area locations. The BRWP will also provide a speaker to talk about the importance of great water quality to the economy and the quality of life in an watershed. If you have a meeting where you need a speaker or a place for our display, please call Phil Martin at 419.422.6487.

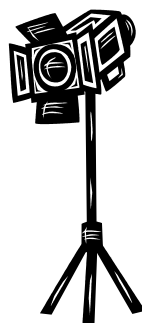


- The Chemical testing program with the Sierra Club started in March. Nearly 80 sites are being tested on a monthly basis from March until October. The testing will be done by trained volunteers. Over 15 stakeholders have been trained. The results will be used to help find areas that are impaired. The BRWP will work in the area to find grant money to do the restoration.
- The BRWP will continue to do our Water Quality Monitoring during late June and September. We will again monitor 21 sites on the Blanchard River, Lye Creek, Riley Creek, and Little Riley Creek. Volunteers are needed to help. Call Phil Martin at 419.422.6487 if you would like to help.

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Photo: Alicia Gomez



2015 CORPORATE/GOVERNMENT SPONSORS

The success of the BRWP is directly related to the sponsors and members. Without their support, the BRWP would **not** be able to survive. *Special Thanks* to our 2015 sponsors:

Blanchard Cricket Frog \$5,000

- City of Findlay
- Hancock County Commissioners

Great Blue Heron \$1,000

- Putnam County Commissioners
- Village of Bluffton
- Village of Ottawa

Sunfish \$500

- AE Curbside - Findlay
- Millstream Area Credit Union
- Thermoplastic Materials & Manufacturing
- Findlay Elks #75
- Tawa Tree Service - Ottawa

Dragonfly \$250

- Beerco
- Hancock Farm Bureau
- Hancock Park District
- Hancock SWCD
- Hempy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Coop
- Pro-Tec Coating Company - Leipsic
- Stan K. Doty D.D.S - Findlay
- Ted's Market - Pandora

SPRING / SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- June 10th - Education Committee meeting 3:30 to 5:00 at Hancock Engineer's meeting room
- June 13th - Golf Scramble 9:00 a.m. at Bluffton Golf Club
- June 17th - Board of Directors' meeting at the Hancock Engineers' meeting room
- June 22-27th - Putnam County Fair in Ottawa
- June 29th - July 3rd - Water Quality Monitoring
- July 15th - Executive Committee / Organization & Development Committee meeting 4:00 to 6:00 at the Hancock Engineers' meeting room
- August 12th - Education Committee meeting 3:30 to 5:00 at Hancock Engineer's meeting room

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website at, www.blanchardriver.org or on [facebook](#) at Blanchard River Watershed Partnership to find more information and to get involved.