

BRWP Times

Spring 2016

Volume 9



Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

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>>> 2016 OFF TO A GREAT START

The BRWP has many projects scheduled for 2016. The first major project is the Rain Barrel Decorating Contest the Partnership sponsors in high schools who have at least part of their district in the Blanchard River watershed. The rain barrels were on display and judged during the Greater Findlay Home Show held at the Findlay Village Mall on March 5th & 6th. This year, eleven schools entered 30 rain barrels. The rain barrels were entered in one of three categories: 1. Watershed Theme, 2. Agricultural Theme and 3. General Theme. Prizes were awarded to the top five rain barrels in each category. There was also a "People's Choice Award" voted by visitors to the Home Show.

Nearly 250 visitors voted for the rain barrel from Riverdale High School as the winner of the People's Choice Award. The barrel is shown in the picture to the right. This barrel from Riverdale H. S. also won First Place in the Watershed Theme category. Other winners in the Watershed Theme category were: Second Place - Arcadia H.S., Third Place - Findlay H.S., Fourth Place - Van Buren H.S. and Fifth Place - Findlay H.S. In the Agricultural Theme category, First Place went to Liberty Benton H.S. Other



People's Choice Award
Riverdale H.S.

winners in the Agricultural Theme category were: Second Place - Arcadia H.S., Third Place - Leipsic H.S., Fourth Place - Liberty Benton H.S. and Fifth Place - Columbus Grove H.S. In the General Theme category, First Place went to Columbus Grove H.S. Other winners in the General Theme category were: Second Place - Leipsic H.S., Third Place - Van Buren H.S., Fourth Place - Mc Comb H.S. and Fifth Place - Van Buren H.S. **Special Thanks** to the businesses that helped to sponsor the barrels. Pictures of all the rain barrels and the sponsors can be viewed on page 4 of this issue and on our web site at www.blanchardriver.org

>>> OTHER PROJECTS IN 2016

The BRWP will be very active in 2016 working with several agencies on various projects. Here are some of the projects for 2016.

- ◆ The BRWP will still have two Great Lakes Basin grants in the Allen County portion of Lower Riley Creek and in Middle Riley Creek watersheds during 2016. Both grants are for Best Management Practices with the farmers. ***There is still money available. If you are interested, please call Phil Martin at 419-422-6487.***
- ◆ The BRWP will have displays at the county fairs.
- ◆ 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 a 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.
- ◆ Working with the Hancock County Health Department and the Hancock County Commissioners, the BRWP will help to implement a \$150,000 grants from the Ohio EPA to repair / replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems in Hancock County. Please check our web site for additional information at www.blanchardriver.org or call Phil Martin at 419-422-6487.
- ◆ The Chemical testing program with the Sierra Club will start in March. Nearly 80 sites will be 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.



>>> BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

The BRWP membership voted at the 2015 Annual Meeting to increase the size of the Board of Directors from 9 to 15. There will still be representatives from the six subwatersheds and three At-large members. The six new board members will be appointed by the present Board of Directors. So far, the BRWP Board of Directors has voted to appoint 4 new boards members; 1. Elaine Reynolds 2. Grant Russel, 3. Chad Kirchner, 4. William “Bill” Doyle and 5. Ms. Judy Augsburger.

Elaine Reynolds - Elaine was appointed to the Board at the December 2015 meeting. Elaine was an Ad Hoc member during 2015. She serves as our web site and GIS person.

Grant Russel is representing the City of Findlay as a City Council member. Grant works at Marathon Petroleum Company.

Chad Kirchner is an environmental engineer at the Whirlpool Corporation in Findlay.

William “Bill” Doyle is a Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health at the University of Findlay.

Ms. Judy Augsburger is representing the Village of Bluffton. She is the mayor of Bluffton and is very interested in the environment.

Welcome to the Board!

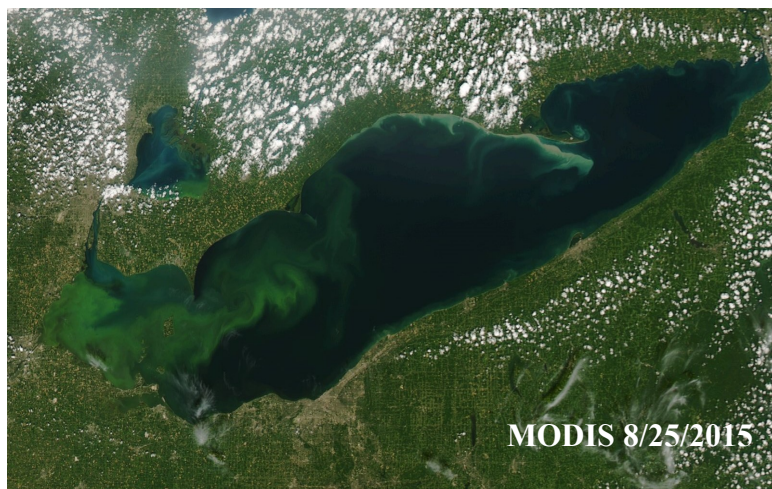
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website at, www.blanchardriver.org to find more information and to get involved. You can also check our web information and videos. Click on the Education tab.

You can find daily updates by following us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BlanchardRiverWatershedPartnership) at Blanchard River Watershed Partnership. Click the “Like” button and you will receive any update that is posted on the facebook page. The coordinator will post articles on a regular basis.

>>> LAKE ERIE ALGAL BLOOM UPDATE

The 2015 Algal Bloom on Lake Erie was a big problem. The 2015 bloom was the largest ever recorded and covered over 500 square miles. The Blanchard River watershed is a headwater watershed in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) that flows into Lake Erie. The Blanchard River watershed is also a focal watershed for restoration by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. There is a great deal of money being poured into the WLEB to help solve the problem. Many agencies are collaborating in the effort to stop the sediment and phosphorus loading to the lake.



>>> BLANCHARD RIVER DEMONSTRATION FARMS

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OBF) and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced on April 20, 2016, the selection of three farms in the Blanchard River watershed to serve as demonstration farms. The five year project will showcase new and innovative conservation practices designed to reduce and prevent run-off of sediment and nutrients into the waterways. The program is one of the several components of the Ohio Farm Bureau's Water Quality Action Plan. The farms will serve as models to share new conservation techniques and practices with farmers, the media, land managers and the public through Ohio. The first field day is planned for August 26, 2016. Check their web site at www.blancharddemofarms.org or our facebook page at Blanchard River Watershed Partnership for updates.

The three farms will involve several innovative practices including, subsurface nutrient placement and its effect on yields, fertilizer savings using proper timing and placement of cover crops, controlled traffic, conservation tillage, proper storage facilities for on-site fertilizer and fuel tanks, two-stage ditch, no till, blind inlets, filter strips nutrient removal technologies, tile water treatment systems, edge of field testing, and several other possibilities. The farms selected reflect the makeup of agriculture in the watershed regarding crops and livestock, farm sizes, soil types, topography, and current farming practices. (source: media release)

>>> BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE OF THE QUARTER - NMP

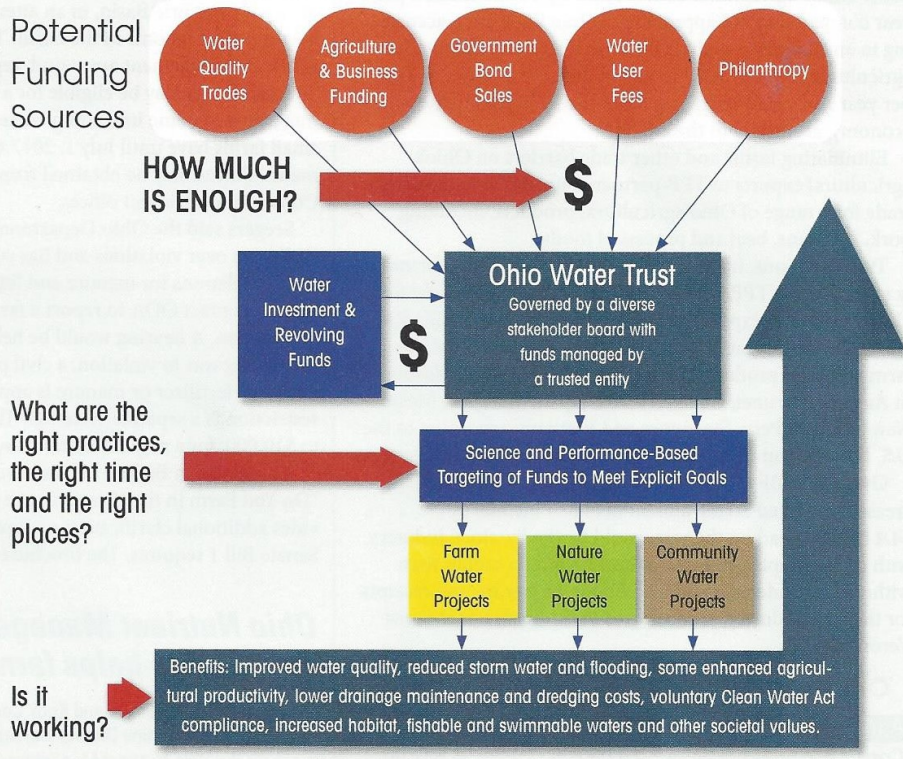
“Nutrient management planning (NMP) is a Best Management Practice or BMP. ... Knowing what you *have*; Knowing what you need; Managing wisely ... In effect, NMP is *much* like developing a cash-flow analysis using pounds of N and P instead ...” This quote from an article written by Mississippi State University Extension summarize a BMP that could become required by every farmer in the Lake Erie Basin. Several states require that a farmer have a nutrient management plan for every field on their farm. A NMP is based on the sound principle that lead to the 4R Principles of Nutrient Stewardship - Right Source - Right Rate - Right Time - Right Place.

Nutrient Management Plans can be developed has a part of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) as a part of their 590 program. There is some cost-share money available to those farmers who qualify. For additional information, contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District office.

>>> TAKING CARE OF OUR WATER

As society becomes more and more aware of the importance of high water-quality, more partnerships are being created that support the mission of the BRWP. One such partnership is "Healthy Water Ohio (HWO)." According to their report, "the economic impact of Ohio's water is in the tens of billions of dollars for businesses, the state's tourism industry and other water uses. The partnership was formed with the input of over 200 people representing almost every walk of life in Ohio. The HWO maintains a web site that can be found at www.healthywaterohio.org. One of the projects has been trying to get legislators to establish a public-private Ohio Water Trust. The trust would fund projects for research, monitoring or restoration of gray and green infrastructure and education. Check out their web site for more information.

OHIO WATER TRUST



>>> THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS SPRING AND SUMMER TO HELP OUR WATER



1 Apply fertilizers only when necessary and at the recommended amounts. Spring and Fall are the best time. **BE SURE** to use fertilizer with **NO Phosphorus**.



4 Use pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals sparingly. Never **double** dose! **BE DURE** to follow directions carefully



2 Don't dump trash or pour any hazardous materials, oil, paint or other chemicals down a storm drain. Storm drains are for rainwater only.



5 Maintain your septic system. **BE SURE** to have the tank pumped every 2-3 years. Practice water conservation so as to not over work the system. Don't add tank additives.



3 Don't wash anything where the soap, chemical or the water will flow into a storm drain. **BE SURE** the water flows into a drain that will take it the treatment center. Storm drains flow straight to a waterway. Wash your car at a car wash facility.

EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

CLEAN WATER. BRIGHT FUTURE!

2016 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 2016 sponsors and members!!

2016 Sponsors

Rain Barrel Sponsors



Findlay Elks Lodge #75



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
- Croy's Mowing Ltd.
- Millstream Area Credit Union
- BPO Findlay Elks #75
- Beerco

Dragonfly \$250

- Bluffton University
- Hancock Farm Bureau



Alicia Gomez

Main Sponsors



Putnam County Commissioners



Dr. Stan Doty, D.D.S.

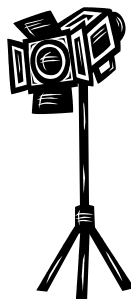


Dragonfly \$250 cont.

- Hancock Park District
- Hancock SWCD
- Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative
- Hempy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Cooperative
- Putnam SWCD
- Stan K. Doty D.D.S - Findlay
- Whirlpool Corporation

SPRING / SUMMER BRWP ACTIVITIES

- May 3rd - Board of Director's meeting at the City of Findlay third floor meeting room from 6 - 8 p.m. Public Welcome.
- May 15th - 18th - Water Testing
- June 7th - Board of Director's meeting at the City of Findlay third floor meeting room from 6 - 8 p.m. Public Welcome.
- June 15th - 18th - Water Testing
- June 20th - 25th - Putnam County Fair in Ottawa
- June 27th - 29th - Macroinvertebrate Water Quality testing. Volunteers needed.
- July 5th Board of Director's meeting at the City of Findlay third floor meeting room from 6 - 8 p.m. Public Welcome.





Membership/Donation Form - 2016

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15 Includes BRWP Newsletter, member discount for BRWP sponsored activities and a vote at the BRWP Annual meeting.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$25 Includes BRWP Newsletter, member discount for BRWP sponsored activities and a vote at the BRWP Annual meeting.

MEMBERSHIP PLUS!: \$50-\$249 Designed for individual/family members who desire to give beyond the basic membership fee as well as for businesses and organizations. Includes BRWP newsletter, one vote at the BRWP Annual Meeting, or BRWP Business Membership Window recognition and website banner.

CORPORATE / BUSINESS : The following categories of support includes one membership with voting privileges at the Annual BRWP Meeting, corporate recognition and prominent website banner recognition.

Blanchard's Cricket Frog.....	\$ 5,000
Bald Eagle.....	\$ 2,500
Great Blue Heron.....	\$ 1,000
Sunfish.....	\$ 500
Dragonfly.....	\$ 250

Name as you want it in print (Please print legibly)

Telephone (include area code)

Street/P.O. Box City State Zip

Email address Business/Organization name (if applicable)

Amount Enclosed

NOTE: BRWP is a 501(C3) Organization. Your membership is tax deductible as a public charity. Make check payable to "BRWP" and mail to: Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

P.O. Box 1237

Findlay, OH 45839-1237

I am interested in serving on a BRWP committee. _____

I am interested in assisting with BRWP projects. _____

See www.blanchardriver.org for details.