

BRWP Times

Summer 2016

Vol. 9



Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

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>>> THE BRWP HAS BEEN BUSY THIS SUMMER BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO DO.

The BRWP has continued to be very busy this spring / summer with grants, outreach and other activities.

- The **BIG NEWS** was the announcement that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) had awarded a \$25,000 extension of the grant to the Putnam Soil Water Conservation District (PSWCD) to fund the watershed coordinator's position through June 2017. The PSWCD will pass the money through to BRWP. The BRWP will oversee the coordinator and supplied local match to keep the coordinator working at a full time capacity.

- The BRWP continued to reach out to the watershed community by having a display at the Putnam County Fair in Ottawa in June. Our display will be



at the Allen County Fair in Lima from August 19 - 27th. The display will be in the Conservation tent west of the midway by the pond. The Hancock County Fair in Findlay runs from August 3rd through September 5th. Our display will be in the Farm Bureau tent by the Legacy livestock barn. The last fair of the season will be the Hardin County Fair in Kenton from September 6 - 11th. Our display will be in the Commercial Building. SEE YOU AT THE FAIR.

>>> THE BRWP HAS BEEN BUSY THIS SUMMER / FALL cont.

- The BRWP continued to do our Water Quality Monitoring. We monitored 21 sites on the Blanchard River, Lye Creek, Riley Creek, and Little Riley Creek. The spring monitoring was completed on July 5th. The fall monitoring will be done in late September and early October. Results can be found on our web site by August. Special thanks to Sarah Betts from the Hancock Park District and her intern Ashton Stevens for their help.
- 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 13 stakeholders have been trained. The results will be used to help find areas that are impaired. There are still some sites available for volunteers to do the testing. Please contact Phil Martin at 419.422.6487 if you are interested in helping.
- The BRWP is on the advisory committee for the Demonstration Farms in the watershed. The Demonstration Farms are being funded by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The agencies will be holding a field day on August 26, 2016 in Hardin County. The picture below provides information about the field day.
- The BRWP is one of the sponsors for the Hancock Farm Tour being presented by the Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. There are eight stops along the route, including the University of Findlay's Animal Science Center, D & M Farms LLC, Horn Farms, University of Findlay's Reick Center for Habitat Studies, Good News Grass & Cattle, Fruth's Sugar House, Greenhouse & Floral, VanSant Farms and Spahr Dairy Farm. For further information out the web-site www.hancockswcd.com/2016-farm-tour.

Active Grants in 2016

- The BRWP has two Great Lakes Commission grants that are active.
 1. The Upper Riley Creek (Allen County portion) grant ends this December. ***Farmers can still enroll cover crops in the grant, money permitting.***
 2. The Middle Riley Creek grant still has some money left for conservation tillage and cover crops. Check out the brochure on our web site at www.blanchardriver.org. Look under the grants tab.
- The BRWP partnered with the Hancock County Commissioners and the Hancock County Board of Health to apply for a \$150,000 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. The grant has been awarded and provides money to repair/replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems for families in Hancock County based on their income levels. There are the three levels of funding in the grant. For a family of 1-4, 100% coverage occurs when the income is \$24,250 and under; 85% coverage occurs when the income is between \$24,251 - \$48,500 and 50% coverage occurs when the income is between \$48,501 - \$72,750. For more information, check the BRWP's website at www.blanchardriver.org. Look at the grants tab for an application form and flyer.

- - SAVE THE DATE - -

**Agriculture Conservation, Protecting Water:
Keeping Soil and Nutrients in the Field**

When: Friday, August 26, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: NW corner of Twp. Rd. 50/SR 68 N, Dunkirk

CCA Credits available

This event will involve wagon tours and the following topics will be presented at various locations:

• Edge of Field-Tile/Watershed Monitoring	• Blind Inlets
• Phosphorous Removal Beds	• 4R's (Right Rate, Time, Place, Source)
• Nitrogen Timing Plots	• Equipment Demos/4R's
• Soil Health	• Nutrient Placement Plots

Questions: Contact the Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District
419-673-0456, Ext. 3.

Sessions will be held in tents at various locations.
Free event—**RSVP's required by Aug. 17th** for lunch.
(Pictures from 2015 field day)



*Equipment
Demonstrations
Included*

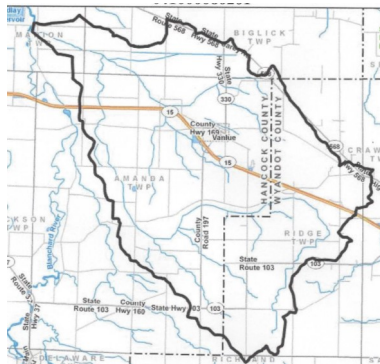
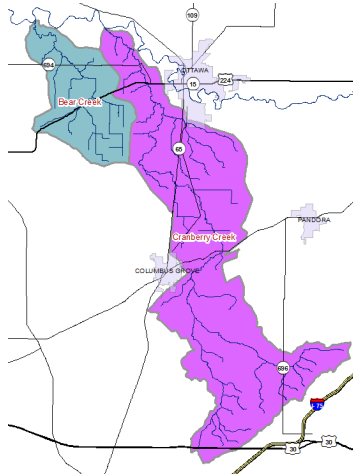


Active Grants in 2016 cont.

- \$247,763 Great Lakes Basin for sediment and nutrient reduction in the Miller City Cutoff and Pike Run-Blanchard River watersheds in Putnam County. The grant was written by the coordinator, Phil Martin and submitted through the Putnam SWCD. Call Curt Tobe at PSWCD. His number is 419-523-5159.
- A \$404,303 grant for the PSWCD. The grant is for installing BMPs in the Deer Creek-Blanchard River watershed. The grant was written by Phil Martin and submitted through the Putnam SWCD. Call Curt Tobe at PSWCD. His number is 419-523-5159.

Grants Written but Waiting to be Awarded

- \$197,652 Great Lakes Basin grant for the PSWCD. The grant involves the Bear Creek and Cranberry Creek 12 digit watersheds in the Blanchard River watershed. The Best Management Practices included in the grant are: 1. Water Controlled Structures with no main, 2. Water Controlled Structure with main and 3. Equipment retrofit for cover crops. The final award announcement show occur by late August.
- \$199,356 Great Lakes Basin grant for the HSWCD. The grant involves the Brights Ditch watershed in the Blanchard River watershed. The Best Management Practices included in the grant are: 1. Precision Nutrient Management Plan, 2. Water Controlled Structures with no main, and 3. Water Controlled Structure with main.



Other Happenings in the Watershed



New VRT Cost-Share Reimbursement Program

PARM is rolling out a new **VRT cost-share reimbursement** program funded through the EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We are **enrolling growers in the Sandusky, Cedar-Portage, Lower Maumee and Blanchard watersheds in Ohio**. If you are interested in learning more about VRT or possibly getting involved in the program, [view our field/road level interactive map](#) to see if you and your customers qualify. Visit our website, <http://bit.ly/29Wivkz> to learn more about the program and enroll. Contact Mark Adelsperger with any questions, at mark@partnershipfarm.org.

Calls I have received..

During the last month I have received three phones from watershed stakeholders about something they had observed in the watershed. They wanted to know if what they observed was good for the watershed. The three concerns were: 1. People trimming tree limbs and branches and throwing them along the river bank. This should never be done. The limbs and branches will eventually end up in the river and be carried downstream; 2. People placing grass clippings along the stream or river bank. The grass contains phosphorus and other nutrients that will be released into the water as the grass decays. The phosphorus will contribute to the phosphorus load and the algal bloom; and 3. People having phosphorus in fertilizer being used on their lawn. According to the OSU Extension, established lawns do not need phosphorus. The middle number of the three printed on a fertilizer bag tells you the percent of phosphorus in that fertilizer. Adding phosphorus will probably result in the phosphorus being carried off the lawn during a storm and into the stormwater and to the river. In the river the phosphorus will contribute to the algal bloom. Also, don't fertilizer when the grass is dormant.



2016 CORPORATE/GOVERNMENT SPONSORS

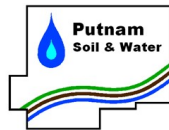
The success of the BRWP is directly related to the sponsors and members. Without their support, the BRWP would **not** be able to survive. *Special Thanks* to our 2016 sponsors and members!!

2016 Sponsors

Rain Barrel Sponsors



Findlay Elks Lodge #75



Main Sponsors



Putnam County Commissioners



Dr. Stan Doty, D.D.S.



Dragonfly \$250 cont.

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

- 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

SUMMER BRWP ACTIVITIES

- August 2nd - Board of Directors meeting from 6 - 8 pm at the Findlay Municipal Building 3rd floor meeting room.
- August 19th - 27th - Allen County Fair in Lima.
- August 20th - River Clean-up with University of Findlay freshmen 9 - noon.
- August 26th - Demonstration Farms Field Day 8:30 am - 2:00 pm (see page 2)
- August 31st - September 5th - Hancock County Fair in Findlay.
- September 6th - 11th - Hardin County Fair in Kenton.
- June 27th - 29th - Macroinvertebrate Water Quality testing. Volunteers needed.

