

# BRWP Times

Summer / Fall 2015 Vol. 8



## Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

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## >>> THE BRWP HAS BEEN BUSY THIS SUMMER / FALL, BUT THERE A 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 \$30,000 grant to the Putnam Soil Water Conservation District (PSWCD) to fund the watershed coordinator's position through July 2016. The PWSCD 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 reason for a combined Spring/Summer Issue of the BRWP Times was the lack of funding during July.

- On June 13 the BRWP hosted the 2015 "Crossing the Little Riley Creek" golf scramble at the Bluffton Golf Club. The team from iHeart radio in Lima was the winning team. Thanks to all the golfers and sponsors that made the day a success.



- The BRWP continued to reach out to the watershed community by having a display at the Allen County, Hancock



County, Hardin County and Putnam County fairs.

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

- 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 continued to do our Water Quality Monitoring. We monitored 21 sites on the Blanchard River, Lye Creek, Riley Creek, and Little Riley Creek. The June monitoring was cancelled due to the high water level. The fall monitoring was completed late September and early October. Results can be found on our web site by late December. Special thanks to Sarah Betts and Sara Starr from the Hancock Park District for their help.



- The coordinator taught a biology class for Mrs. Miller at Arlington High School concerning our water quality monitoring program using macroinvertebrates. The picture above shows the follow-up field trip the coordinator led on the Blanchard River north of Mt. Blanchard.
- The BRWP will again sponsor a Rain Barrel Decorating Contest in the area high schools. Thirty three barrels have been entered in the contest. The decorated barrels will be on display at the Greater Findlay Home Show to be held at the Findlay Village Mall in late February or early March. There will barrels for sale.

### 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 nearly a thousand 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.

### New Grants Received

- \$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. Contact Phil Martin at 419-422-6487 for more information.
- \$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 and submitted through the Putnam SWCD. Call Curt Tobe at PSWCD. His number is 419-523-5159.

### Grants Applied for but not awarded

- 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. If awarded, the grant will provide money to repair/replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems for low income families in Hancock County. The coordinator wrote the grant which was submitted through the Hancock County Commissioners.
- The coordinator wrote a \$404,303 grant for the PSWCD. The grant is for installing BMPs in the Deer Creek-Blanchard River watershed.



## *Blanchard River Watershed Partnership Annual Meeting*

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.*

*Hancock Ag. Center, CR. 140, Findlay, Ohio*

*You are invited to attend the meeting and learn more  
about the BRWP and our accomplishments  
in 2015 and our plans for 2016.*

*You will hear from three (3) agencies / individuals on how they are  
working with the BRWP to maintain and improve water quality  
in the watershed.*

*Rolls, coffee, & juice will be served between 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.*

*Please RSVP to Phil Martin at 419.422.6487  
or email at [brwp1237@gmail.com](mailto:brwp1237@gmail.com)*

**Everyone is invited** to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership (BRWP). The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at the Hancock County Agricultural Center located on CR 140 west of Findlay. A free continental breakfast will be offered from 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. The program will started at 7:30. After a short business meeting, three speakers from agencies in the watershed will give a short overview of their involvement with the BRWP. Come and learn more about the work of the BRWP and how you can get involved in maintaining and improving the water quality in the Blanchard River watershed.

### **Pictures of some of the BRWP Projects**



One of the many fields in the watershed in which the farmer is using cover crop to help reduce sediment and nutrient loadings into the Blanchard River.



The BRWP has partnered with the Findlay City Schools, HSWCD, and the Community Foundation to build a "Kid's Place" Environmental Center at Jefferson Primary School. Included in the project is a rain garden that the BRWP took charge in building the garden.

## 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:

## 2015 Sponsors

### Rain Barrel Sponsors



### Main Sponsors



### Golf Scramble Hole 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

### Dragonfly \$250 cont.

- 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

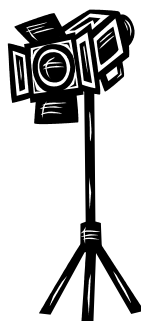
### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- **November 18th** - Annual meeting from 7:00 a.m. till 9:00 a.m. at the Hancock Ag Center meeting room on CR. 140.
- **November 26th** - Happy Thanksgiving
- **January 6th** - BRWP Planning Meeting
- **Late February-early March** - Annual Rain Barrel decorating contest final at the Greater Findlay Home ow to be held at the Findlay Village Mall.

### PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Photo: Alicia Gomez



### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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