

# BRWP Times

Winter 2014 Volume 7



## Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

P.O. BOX 1237  
Findlay, OH. 45839-1237

419.422.6487

blanchardriver.org  
brwp1237@gmail.com

f /BlanchardRiver

### PRESIDENT:

Tim Brugeman  
419.422.5724

### COORDINATOR:

Phil Martin  
419.422.6487

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### PAGE 1

- 2014 Annual Meeting

#### PAGE 2

- Here Comes 2015
- 2015 Golf Scramble

#### PAGE 3

- Meet your 2015 Directors

#### PAGE 4

- Corporate/Government Sponsors
- Rain Barrel Sponsors
- Photo Spotlight
- Lake Erie Algal Bloom Update
- Fall / Winter Activities

## >>> 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The **2014 Annual Meeting** of the BRWP was held on November 19, 2014 at the Hancock Agricultural Center on CR 140. Over 40 people attended the 7-9 a.m. meeting. The guest speaker for the meeting was Dr. Larry Antosch from the Ohio Farm Bureau. Dr. Antosch spoke on “The Role of the Farm Bureau in Combatting the Algal Bloom in Lake Erie.” The BRWP elected representatives to the 2015 Board of Directors representing The Outlet/Lye Creek watershed, Richard Kozlowski, Cranberry Creek watershed, Jeremiah Haselman, and Jane McCleary, the At-Large #3 position. Phil Martin, watershed coordinator, reviewed the “Happenings from 2014” and gave a preview of 2015. Theresa Allen, vice president of the BRWP, presented awards. Jeff Knedler from Hempy Water Conditioning in Forest received the Annual “Friends of the River” award for continual support of the watershed. Elaine Reynolds received the “Coordinator’s Award” for all her volunteer time. Elaine does our GIS work which provides maps for us and she serves on the Education Committee. Congratulations and Thank You to both Jeff and Elaine.



Dr. Larry Antosch



Theresa Allen, Elaine Reynolds & Phil Martin

Theresa Allen & Jeff Knedler

## >>> HERE COMES 2015

The BRWP was very active in 2014 and 2015 looks like it will be just as busy and more challenging. Here are some of the projects and / or activities the BRWP will be involved with in 2015.

- ◆ The BRWP is again sponsoring a Rain Barrel Decorating Contest in the area high schools. Twenty five barrels will be on display at the Greater Home Show on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Findlay Village Mall. Stop and vote for the best barrel. Some of the barrels will be available for sale at the show. (See Picture 1)
- ◆ The BRWP will still have two Great Lakes Commission grants in the Upper Riley Creek and Lower Riley Creek watersheds during 2015. Both grants are for Best Management Practices with the farmers. Picture 2 shows a field of cover crops from 2014.
- ◆ The BRWP will continue to have displays at the county fairs (See Picture 3) 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 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 act as the fiscal agent and will be the 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 trees will replace ash trees lost to the Emerald Ash Borer.
- ◆ 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.



Picture 1 - 2014 Rain Barrel Contest



Picture 2 - Oilseed Radish and Austrian Pea



Picture 3 - Fair Display

**Second Annual "Crossing the Little Riley Creek Watershed" Golf Scramble**  
**When: June 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Where: Bluffton Golf Club near Bluffton, Ohio**  
**Join us for some fun in the sun and to help the BRWP raise some money for our activities.**  
**There will many prizes and contest**  
**For more information, go to our web page at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org). Look under Get Involved and click on the Golf Scramble tab.**  
**Call 419.422.6487 for additional information**



## >>> Meet Your 2015 Board of Directors

The BRWP has elected a talented and diversified Board of Directors composed of volunteer individuals representing all six subwatersheds and 3 At-Large members. Below is a short synopsis of each Board member.

### Board of Directors for 2015

1. **Tim Brugeman (President)** - Tim was director of the Hancock Park District for 38 years. He was the guiding hand in developing the wonderful Park System that Hancock County enjoys today. Tim presently works for Feasel Landscaping in Findlay. Tim is the At-Large #1 representative to the Board.
2. **Theresa Allen (Vice President)** - Theresa is the Headwaters watershed representative to the Board. Theresa has been involved with the BRWP since its founding. Theresa grew up on a family farm in Seneca County, was a two term township trustee in Hardin County, and is very active with local, state, and national environmental groups.
3. **Tim Macke - (Treasurer)** Tim is the At-Large #2 representative to the Board. Tim is the Village of Ottawa's Council president. Tim is very active in volunteer organizations.
4. **Bob Connour (Secretary)** - Bob is a Biology professor at Owens Community College in Findlay. Bob is the Eagle Creek representative to the Board. Bob has been involved with the BRWP since its founding.
5. **Robert Antibus** - Robert is a Biology professor at Bluffton University. Robert represents the Riley Creek watershed to the Board.
6. **Don Croy** - Don is the Ottawa Creek watershed representative to the Board. Don enjoys the Blanchard River with his many Kayak trips during the year. Don is an Ottawa township trustee in Putnam County.
7. **Jeremy "Bud" Haselman** - Jeremy was elected to the Board this year representing the Cranberry Creek watershed. Jeremy earned a Business degree in Marketing and Management from Bluffton University. He works at Northwestern Mutual in Findlay as a financial representative. Jeremy lives between Ottawa and Pandora.

### Board of Directors cont.

8. **Richard Kozlowski** - Dick is The Outlet/Lye Creek watershed representative to the Board. Dick is a retired engineer for Sunoco. He is the past president and treasurer of the BRWP and has been involved with the BRWP since its founding.
9. **Jane McCleary** - Jane retired after 15 years as Director of Curriculum for Hancock County Schools in 2012. Prior to that, she was a Cory Rawson Middle School English and Life and Earth science teacher. In 1995, Jane was named Soil and Water Conservation Teacher of the Year for the State of Ohio. In addition, she is very active in several nonprofit agencies. Jane is the At-Large #3 representative to the Board.

### LAKE ERIE ALGAL BLOOM UPDATE

The shutdown of the City of Toledo's water treatment plant this past August got everyone's attention concerning the Algal Bloom in Lake Erie. The picture below shows the Modis imagine of the Western Lake Erie Basin on September 29, 2014. Even though, the



algal bloom was not as bad as 2011, the problem still exist and requires action to stop it.

Follow us on facebook 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. You can also check our web page at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org). Click on the Education tab for more information.

## 2014 CORPORATE/GOVERNMENT SPONSORS 2014 GOLF SCRAMBLE 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 2014 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

### Dragonfly \$250

- Beerco
- Hancock Park District
- Hancock SWCD
- Hemy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Coop.
- Maumee Conservancy District
- Stan K. Doty D.D.S - Findlay
- Ted's Market - Pandora
- Whirlpool Corporation

## 2014 RAIN BARREL SPONSORS

**Thanks** to our rain barrel sponsors for **help with** the BRWP **outreach** out to our area high schools.

- AE Curbside Recycling
- Hancock Park District
- Hancock SWCD
- Hemy Water and Conditioning
- Legacy Farmer's Cooperative
- Ted's Market
- Whirlpool Corporation

## PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



- **Thanks** to our "Crossing the Little Riley Creek" golf scramble sponsors. This was our one fundraising project in 2014. The success of the golf scramble was due to the sponsors. Please support them whenever possible.

### Hole Sponsors

- ◆ G.S.W. Manufacturing, Inc.
- ◆ Northwest Ohio Beverage Co.
- ◆ LaRiche Toyota
- ◆ Reineke Family Dealerships
- ◆ The Landing Pad
- ◆ Hemy Water Conditioning
- ◆ H & O Services
- ◆ Park District Foundation of Allen County
- ◆ The Well
- ◆ Quality Home Inspections
- ◆ Kirtland Auto Sales
- ◆ State Senator Cliff Hite
- ◆ Renaissance Reconstructive Incorporated - Cosmetic Surgery, Dr. Matthew Akers
- ◆ Tim Brugeman
- ◆ Allen Family, Theresa, William, Bill & Taylor



## WINTER / SPRING BRWP ACTIVITIES

- February 11<sup>th</sup> - Education Committee Meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Public Welcome.
- February 18, 2014 - Board of Director's meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 5-7 p.m. Public Welcome.
- February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> - Rain Barrel Decorating Contest - Findlay Village Mall.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> - Executive Committee meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 4-6 p.m.

### 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.