

BRWP Times

Winter 2015 Volume 8



Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

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>>> 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The **2015 Annual Meeting** of the BRWP was held on November 18, 2015 at the Hancock Agricultural Center on CR 140. Over 40 people attended the 7-9 a.m. meeting. The guest speakers for the meeting were Ryan Sendelbach from the Hancock Health Department, Jason Phillips from the Village of Ottawa and Jeff Giesige / Curt Tobe from the Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District. Each speaker spoke about the involvement of the BRWP with their agency. The BRWP elected representatives to the 2015 Board of Directors representing the Headwaters watershed, Theresa Allen, Ottawa Creek watershed, Don Croy and Tim Macke, the At-Large #2 position. Tim Brugeman, president of the BRWP, show our Emmy Ward winning video "Remember Me." Theresa Allen, VP and 2016 President of the BRWP, talked about "2016 the Future." She mentioned the BRWP's need for funding and the desire of the group to increase the size of the Board of Directors and to form an "Advisory Committee" Watch our facebook page or web site for more information.

Theresa Allen presented awards. Mike Tobe from Legacy Farmers Cooperative, received the Annual "Friends of the River" award for their continual support of the BRWP. Theresa Allen also recognized Tim Brugeman with a "Friends of the River" award for his three-year service as President. Phil Martin presented Vaun Wickerham with the "Coordinator's Award" for all his support of the BRWP through his work with WFIN/WKXA radio in Findlay. Congratulations and Thank You to our award recipients.



Vaun Wickerham receiving the "Coordinator's Award" from T. Allen & P. Martin

Mike Tobe & Logan Haake from Legacy Farmers Cooperative receiving the "Friends of the River" award.

Tim Brugeman receiving a "Friends of the River" award from T. Allen for three-years as President of the BRWP

>>> Major Projects in 2016

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

- ◆ The BRWP is again sponsoring a Rain Barrel Decorating Contest in the area high schools. Thirty three barrels have been entered and will be on display at the Greater Findlay Home Show on March 4th & 5th 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 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. Picture 2 shows a field of cover crops planted in the fall of 2015.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Working with the Hancock County Health Department and the Hancock County Commissioners, to 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.
- ◆ 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 - 2015 Rain Barrel Contest



Picture 2 - Oilseed Radish and Austrian Pea



Picture 3 - Fair Display

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Visit our website at www.blanchardriver.org or on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/blanchardriverwatershedpartnership) at Blanchard River Watershed Partnership to find more information and to get involved.

>>> Meet Your 2016 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 2016

- 1. Theresa Allen (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.
- 2. Don Croy (Vice President)** - 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.
- 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. Tim Brugeman** - Tim has served as president for the past three years. 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.
- 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.

Appointed Board of Directors

- 10. Elaine Reynolds** - Elaine was appointed to the Board at the December 2015 meeting. Elaine has been an Ad Hoc member for the last year. She has her Master's degree in GIS and serve as our web site and GIS person. She also serves on several committees. Welcome to the Board!



LAKE ERIE ALGAL BLOOM UPDATE

The algal bloom on Lake Erie continued to be a big problem and issue in 2015. The 2015 bloom was the largest ever recorded and covered over 500 square miles. The heavy rains in June led to an higher than average load of phosphorus being carried into the lake from farmland, leaky septic tanks and stormwater and municipal sewage systems whose infrastructure is too old. 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. for more information and videos. Click on the Education tab.

BRWP Wants to Expand in 2016

Board of Directors to Expand

As the BRWP starts its tenth year, it is time for the organization to become more sustainable and have more input from the watershed community. To this end, the BRWP has started the process to expand our outreach and input.

Since our inception, the Board of Directors has consisted of an elected member from each of the six subwatersheds and three elected at-large members. At the 2015 Annual Meeting held in November 2015, the membership voted to allow the Board of Directors to appoint up to six additional board members. Elaine Reynolds was appointed to the Board of Directors at the December meeting. *Note: There are 5 more appointments to the Board. If you are interested in one of the spots, please send information about you and your background to our email at brwp1237@gmail.com.*

Board Governance Committee

With the emergencies in Toledo's water supply in 2014 and the emergency being experienced in Flint, MI. with their water supply, high quality water could become the "oil" of the next decade. A survey conducted among 24-30 year olds showed that *High Water Quality was needed for a Higher Quality of Life* in a community.

To this end, the BRWP in July of 2015, with support from The Findlay-Hancock Community Foundation and guidance from Aly Sterling Philanthropy, formed a Board Governance Committee. The governance committee examines how the board is functioning, how board members communicate, and whether the board is fulfilling its responsibilities and living up to the objectives and aspirations set for itself and the organization. While all board members should understand the organization's mission and goals, the governance committee must consider them with an eye on the board's responsibility to guide the organization and what is required of the board to best



BRWP Wants to Expand in 2016 cont.

accomplish that. The governance committee must be able to articulate the board's vision for the board and find the board members who can put it into action.

The next several years promise to be exciting ones for the BRWP. Our organization has had a positive impact on the six county Blanchard River Watershed by funding and promoting best practices to keep our water at a high quality.

To increase the diversity among its members, the BRWP is seeking community members with a passion for clean water and an interest in promoting initiatives that will ensure clean and healthful water for human consumption and business and industrial user.



YOU ARE WANTED

Call the coordinator at 419-422-6487 for further information or to serve.

Community Advisory Council

The Blanchard River Watershed Partnership is in the process of improving communication, buy-in, effectiveness, and support in 2016 by forming a Community Advisory Council. We hope to have leaders from the business, agricultural, and municipal areas, as well as other interested citizens meet one to two times a year to share ideas and suggestions which coincide with our mission of clean water, conservation, and water quality. We will also share achievements and discuss new or ongoing projects and efforts. This process will demonstrate our continued effort to better serve all who live and / or work in the Blanchard River watershed to improved and maintain high water quality. For further information or to volunteer to join, please call Phil Martin, watershed coordinator, at 419-422-6487 or Theresa Allen, BRWP President at 419-889-7780.

How Can You Help?

The BRWP is always looking for volunteers. But, one area we need help is with operating expenses. The coordinator is paid through a grant. The daily operating expense are covered by membership fees from people and businesses that join and support the BRWP. There is a membership form on the last page. Please consider supporting the BRWP by becoming a member.

Clean Water. Bright Future

2015 CORPORATE/GOVERNMENT SPONSORS

The success of the BRWP is directly related to the sponsors and members. Without their support, the BRWP

2015 Sponsors

Rain Barrel Sponsors



Main Sponsors



Golf Scramble Hole Sponsors



Blanchard Cricket Frog \$5,000

- City of Findlay
- Hancock County Commissioners

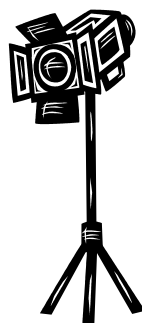
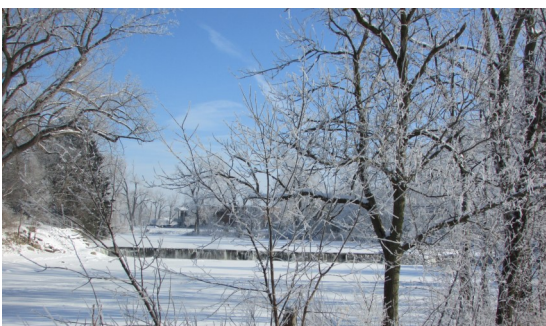
Great Blue Heron \$1,000

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

Sunfish \$500

- AE Curbside - Findlay
- Millstream Area Credit Union
- Thermoplastic Materials & Manufacturing

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Dragonfly \$250 cont.

- Hancock Park District
- Hancock SWCD
- Hempy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Coop
- Pro-Tec Coating Company - Leipsic

WINTER / SPRING BRWP ACTIVITIES

- February 2, 2016 - Board of Director's meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 6-8 p.m. Public Welcome.
- March 1st - Board of Director's meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 6-8 p.m. Public Welcome.
- March 5th - 6th - Rain Barrel Decorating Contest - Findlay Village Mall 10 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. on the 4th and noon - 5:00 p.m. on the 5th.
- March 15th - 18th - Water Testing
- April 5th Board of Director's meeting at the Hancock Engineer's 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

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I am interested in serving on a BRWP committee. _____

I am interested in assisting with BRWP projects. _____

See www.blanchardriver.org for details.