

BRWP

Times

Winter 2016-17 Volume 9



**Blanchard River
Watershed Partnership**
P.O. BOX 1237
Findlay, OH. 45839-1237
419.422.6487
blanchardriver.org
brwp1237@gmail.com
f /BlanchardRiver

PRESIDENT:
Elaine Reynolds
419.306.1725
COORDINATOR:
Phil Martin
419.422.6487

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>>> Meet Your 2017 Board of Directors

The BRWP has elected a talented and diversified Board of Directors composed of volunteers representing all six subwatersheds, the City of Findlay, Village of Bluffton, Village of Ottawa and 6 At-Large members. Below is a short synopsis of each Board member.

Board of Directors for 2017

1. **Elaine Reynolds (President)** - Elaine was elected as the At-Large #4 to the Board. She has her Master's degree in GIS and serves as our web site and GIS person. She also serves on several committees.
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 Village of Ottawa representative to the Board. Tim is Ottawa's Village 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 retired Biology professor at Bluffton University. Robert represents the Riley Creek watershed to the Board.
6. **Judy Augsburg** - Judy is the Village of Bluffton representative to the Board. Judy is the Mayor of Bluffton. Judy graduated from Bluffton University with a degree in accounting and is a CPA
7. **William J. Doyle, Ph.D. (Bill)** - Bill is the At-large #5 representative to the Board. Bill is an Assistant Professor of Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Management at the University of Findlay.

>>> Meet Your 2017 Board of Directors

8. **Jeremiah “Bud” Haselman** - Jeremy represents 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.
9. **Chad Kirchner** - Chad is the At-large #2 representative to the Board. Chad works as an Environmental Engineer at Whirlpool Corporation.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **Shane Myers** - Shane is the At-Large #1 representative to the Board. Shane has a Wildlife Biology degree from the University of Findlay and works as an engineer at Freudenberg-NOK in Findlay.
13. **Grant Russel** - Grant is the City of Findlay’s Council representative to the Board. He works at Marathon Petroleum Corporation.

There are two spots open on the Board of Directors. We are looking for a representative for the Headwaters watershed and At-large #6. To be eligible for the Headwaters watershed representative, you must either live or work in the Headwaters watershed. The Headwaters watershed starts in Kenton and runs to Mt. Blanchard. To be the At-large #6 representative, you must either live or work in the Blanchard River watershed.

>>> Major Projects in 2017

The BRWP will be very active in 2017 working with several agencies on various projects. Here are some of the projects for 2017.

- ◆ The BRWP again sponsored a **Rain Barrel Decorating Contest** in the area high schools. Twenty four rain barrels were entered. See the article on page 4 for the results.

- ◆ 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 2017. Both grants are for Best Management Practices with the farmers.



Picture 1

Picture 1 shows a field of cover crops planted in the fall of 2016.

- ◆ The BRWP will continue to do our Water Quality Monitoring using macroinvertebrate identification 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.
- ◆ 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.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

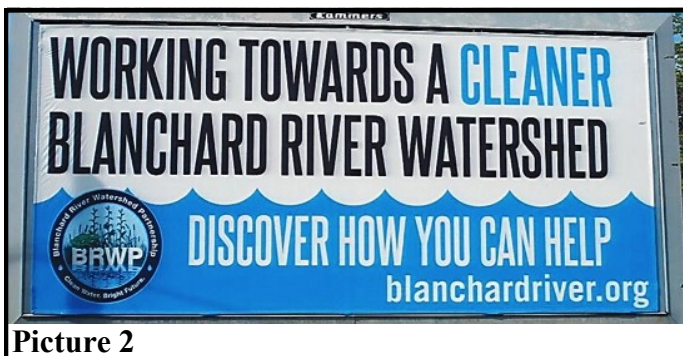
Visit our website at:



www.blanchardriver.org or on [facebook](#) at Blanchard River Watershed Partnership to find more information and to get involved. Or, call Phil Martin, watershed coordinator at 419.422.6487

>>> Major Projects in 2017 cont.

- ♦ The BRWP in partnership with the Hancock Public Health Department and the Hancock County Commissioners will help to implement a \$150,000 grant from the Ohio EPA to repair/replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems (HSTS) in Hancock County. There is \$120,000 left in the grant for 2017. Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-29-19 (A) states in part that Boards of health shall develop a process and timeline for phasing in O&M (Operation and Maintenance) management for prior installed systems. In 2014, Hancock Public Health began phasing in O&M management on existing systems. This grant provides you an opportunity to see if you are eligible for funding before your system is checked by Hancock Public Health. Depending on your family income, you may be eligible for up to 100% coverage to repair/replace your system. For further information, look under the Grants Tab on our web site at www.blanchardriver.org. You can check your eligibility prior to anyone inspecting your septic system by filling out the Application Form on the web site and mailing it to the address on the form.
- ♦ **Need a Speaker?** - 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.

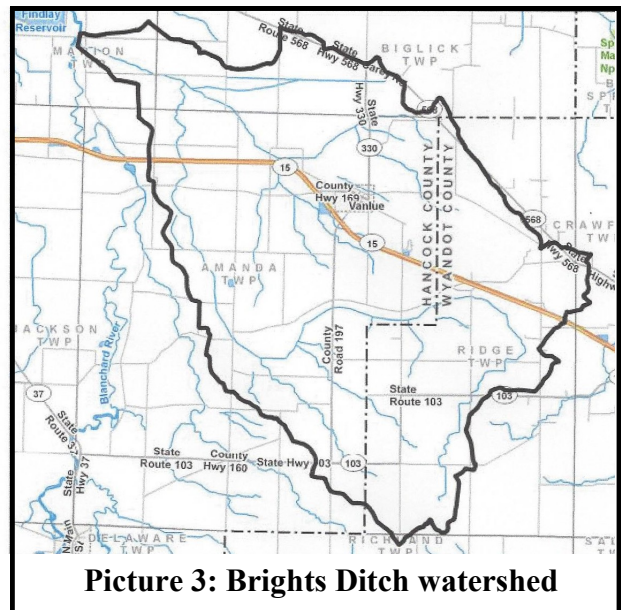


Picture 2

QUALITY OF WATER helps to determine QUALITY OF LIFE!

>>> Other Projects in 2017

- ♦ **Brights Ditch Grant** - The Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District has a grant that will pay cost-share to farmers for using one of the following BMPs: 1. Precision Nutrient Management Plans, that include soil testing, conservation tillage and cover crops; 2. Water Controlled Structure with a main needed and 3. Water Controlled Structure with no main needed. For additional information, call the Hancock SWCD at 419.422.6569 or visit their web site at www.hancockswcd.com. The BRWP wrote the grant and fully supports its implementation. Picture 3 below is a map of the Brights Ditch watershed and its location.



- ♦ **Water Quality Testing with Ohio Northern University (ONU)** - Dr. Chris Spiese from ONU has received a grant to do water quality testing in the Blanchard River watershed at all the TMDL sites that the EPA tested in 2005. The samples for the chemical testing will be done on Earth Day, April 22, 2017. Volunteers will collect water samples from each of the 120 sites. The samples will be collected and returned to ONU for testing. If you are interested in volunteering to collect water samples on April 22nd, please call Phil Martin at 419.422.6487 or email at brwp1237@gmail.com.

>>> Other Projects in 2017 cont.

- ♦ **The Putnam SWCD grants** has several grants that are still active in the Blanchard River Watershed. The coordinator helped to write these grants and the BRWP is helping to implement them. If you want additional information, call the Putnam SWCD at 419.523.5159. The flyers for each grant are located on the Putnam SWCD's web site at <http://www.putnamcountyohio.gov/CountyAgencies/SoilWater.aspx>
The available grants are:
 - 1. Deer Creek watershed 319 Grant** - the Best Management Practices (BMP) available are cover crops, conservation tillage, precision nutrient management plan, grassed waterways, blind inlet, water controlled structure, filter/buffer area and saturated buffer
 - 2. Cranberry-Bear Creek watershed** - the Best Management Practices (BMP) available are equipment modification for cover crops, water collection structure with main and soil testing.
 - 3. Miller City Cut-Off & Pike Run watershed** - the Best Management Practices (BMP) available are cover crops, precision nutrient management plan, blind inlet, water controlled structure and grassed waterway.
 - 4. Maumee River Sediment & Phosphorus Reduction Project** - (All Putnam County) the Best Management Practices (BMP) available are blind inlet and water controlled structure.

>>> Other Information

State of Ohio's Western Lake Erie Basin

In February 2017, the Ohio EPA released their Collaboration Framework Report. The introduction in the report states, "On June 13, 2015, the governors of Ohio and Michigan, and the premier of Ontario committed to a goal of reducing phosphorus loadings to Lake Erie by 40 percent as specified in the Western Basin of Lake Erie Collaborative Agreement (Collaborative). The Collaborative is intended to advance efforts toward the proposed nutrient reduction targets put forth in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The Collaborative will focus on the western basin watersheds of the Maumee, Portage and Toussaint rivers and the Sandusky River." The report includes the Blanchard River watershed. To view the whole report go to this web site: <http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/33/documents/WLEBCollaborative.pdf>

>>> Invasive Species Alert

Another invasive insect has been discovered in Ohio.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle was first discovered on Ohio in Clermont County in 2011 according to The Ohio State University. Picture 4 shows the beetle in relationship to a dime and what their holes in trees look like. There is a



Picture 4

few fear that beetle may spread to other parts of Ohio. The beetle attacks only trees. The beetle's range includes multiple tree species, such as maples, elms, willows, birches, sycamore, poplars and others. Picture 5 below provides information on identifying the Asian Longhorned Beetle.



Picture 5: Identifying the Asian Longhorned Beetle

Check your trees and if you feel you might have the beetle, contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry in Findlay at 419.424.5004.

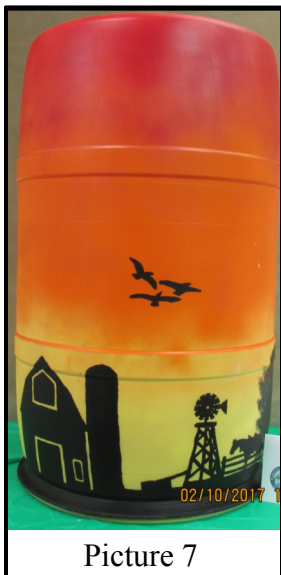
WINTER / SPRING BRWP ACTIVITIES

- March 8th - Board of Director's meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 6-8 p.m. Public Welcome.
- March 15th - 18th - Water Testing
- April 12th Board of Director's meeting at the Hancock Engineer's meeting room from 6-8 p.m. Public Welcome.

>>> 2017 OFF TO A GREAT START

As mentioned earlier, the BRWP has many projects scheduled for 2017. 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 at the Findlay Village Mall on February 10th - 12th. This year, nine schools entered 24 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 175 visitors voted for the rain barrel from Riverdale High



Picture 7

School as the winner of the People's Choice Award. Picture 6 shows Riverdale High School's winning barrel. The barrel from Riverdale H.S. also won First Place in the General Theme category. Other winners in the General Theme category were: Second, Third, and Fifth Places were won by Hardin Northern H.S. Fourth Place in the General Theme category was won by Columbus Grove H.S. Only 3 barrels were entered in the Agricultural Theme category, First Place went to Arlington H.S. Picture 7 shows the winner barrel from Arlington H.S. Other winners in the Agricultural Theme category were: Second Place - McComb H.S. and Third Place - Findlay H.S. In the Watershed Theme category, First Place went to Hardin Northern H.S. Picture 4 shows the winner barrel from Hardin Northern H.S. Other winners in the Watershed Theme category were: Second Place - Pandora Gilboa H.S., Third Place - Findlay H.S., 4th Place - Hardin Northern H.S. and Fifth Place - Liberty Benton H.S.



Picture 6

Special Thanks to the businesses that helped to sponsor the barrels. Pictures of all the rain barrels can be seen on our web site at www.blanchardriver.org. The remaining rain barrels were auctioned off to visitors to the Mall. Rain Barrels are a great way to prevent pollution from stormwater runoff and save money when watering your garden, trees and flowers. For more information on using rain barrels, go to our web site at www.blanchardriver.org and look under the Get Involved - Rain Barrel tab for instructions on "How to Build and Use a Rain Barrel."

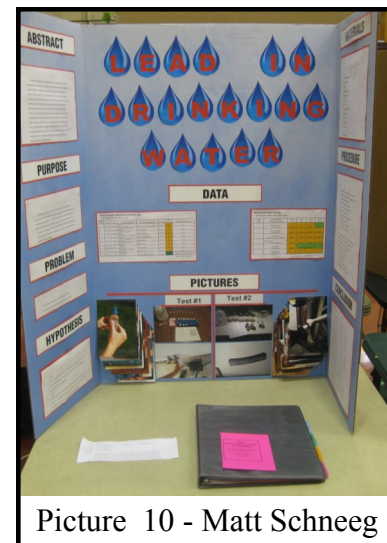


Picture 8



Picture 9 - Megan Ketner

Putnam County Science Fair - The BRWP once again sponsored the Blanchard River Watershed Project category at the 63rd Putnam County Science Fair held on February 11, 2017 at Kalida High School. This year's winners of the **Water Quality Awards** were: Megan Ketner from Glandorf for her project "Phosphorus Contamination in the Blanchard River" (See Picture 9) and Matt Schneeg from Glandorf for his project "Lead in Drinking Water." (See Picture 10) Both students received superior ratings and are eligible to move on to the next level of competition. Congratulations!



Picture 10 - Matt Schneeg

2017 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 2017 sponsors:

Thank You 2017 Sponsors

Rain Barrel Sponsors



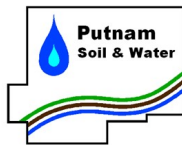
Findlay Elks Lodge #75



HANCOCK COUNTY
FARM BUREAU



Hancock Soil & Water
Conservation District



Main 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
- Whirlpool Corporation

Sunfish \$500

- AE Curbside - Findlay
- Findlay Elks Lodge #75
- Millstream Area Credit Union

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Dragonfly \$250

- Beerco
- Hancock Farm Bureau
- Hancock Park District
- Hancock Soil Water Conservation District
- Hancock Wood Electric Cooperative
- Hemy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Coop
- Putnam Soil Water Conservation District
- Stateler Family Farms

Support the BRWP by becoming a member. Fill-out the Membership Form on the next page and mail to the address on the form.

**and /or
Be A Volunteer**



Membership/Donation Form - 2017

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.

CORPORATE / BUSINESS : The following categories of support includes one membership with voting privileges at the Annual BRWP Meeting, corporate recognition at all BRWP Events and in quarterly newsletter.

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)
