

## CONVERSATION

### Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District

1206 E. Second St., Suite 2 Ottawa, OH 45875

Phone: 419-523-5159

[www.putnamswcd.com](http://www.putnamswcd.com)

#### Soil and Water Supervisors

- . Jeff Duling
- . Kyle Haselman
- . Terry Schroeder
- . Aaron Siebeneck
- . Michael Weller

#### SWCD Staff

- . Jeff Giesige
  - Technical Manager
- . Sarah Rieman
  - District Administrator
- . Curt Tobe
  - Ag Nutrient Technician
- . Jeff Nordhaus
  - District Technician
- . Mary Wilhelm
  - Nut. Mang. Specialist
- . Bonnie Brooks
  - Program Specialist

Putnam SWCD and Putnam County Farm Bureau will be hosting their Annual Meetings together again. Join us for an evening full of board elections, food, and socialization. This exciting event will take place on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the new Putnam County Event Center in Ottawa. Tickets are \$10/each and can be purchased at either office during business hours. Uncle Bucks BBQ will be catering. You can also fill out the form below and mail it to the office to reserve your spot. All registrations need to be returned by August 5th.

The election of one board supervisor will start on July 14th and run through August 12, 2025. Voting can occur anytime during those dates at our office during normal business hours or at the Annual Meeting from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to come into the office - absentee ballots can also be requested by contacting the office.

Candidate running for Board Supervisor is: Aaron Siebeneck. Full bio will be available on our website.



Doors open at 5:00 p.m. - Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Contact Putnam SWCD at 419-523-5159 or Farm Bureau at 419-376-6613 to purchase tickets or have any questions.

#### Registration for Annual Meeting

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets

Please send in with payment to 1206 E. Second St. Ottawa, OH 45875  
Checks can be made out to Putnam SWCD. We will be checking people in at the door by the name given above. (No physical ticket needed)



Ohio's Tree Farm of the Year Tour

## Moser Woods Tree Farm

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 10am to 3pm

The Moser family will be welcoming visitors to their 12-acre Tree Farm for an enjoyable day in the woods. You can learn about managing a woods for a variety of uses including timber, recreation, water and wildlife. You can also learn about funding from the various governmental agencies. Learn about other organizations including OSU Extension and the Ohio Farm Bureau. Learn to develop a woodland management plan and how to deal with the future of your woods.

Come to: 12300 Bentley Road, Bluffton, OH 45817 for parking. A van will take you to the woods.

### A Bunch of Presentations/Displays including:

- ~Conducting a timber harvest
- ~Pollinator plots
- ~Vernal Pools, etc.
- ~USDA cost share programs
- ~Tree/shrub identification
- ~Kids' activities
- ~Value in Young Forest Habitat
- ~Management plan development
- ~What is Timber Stand Improvement
- ~What is the Ohio Farm Bureau
- ~What are the goals for your woods
- ~Oak regeneration
- ~You want to be a Tree Farmer
- ~Maple syrup production

*Food and Beverages Available on Site for Purchase.*

Additional information: 419-721-1465

## BLANCHARD RIVER CLEAN UP

Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

- Start at Ottawa Reservoir
- All clean-up items will be provided
- Pizza provided following event at Arrowhead Park



Scan QR Code to Register!



## Muck Razer Available for Rent

A great tool to use at your pond. Comes apart in smaller pieces to fit in your vehicle.



- Reduce Muck & Eliminate Aquatic Growth

- Muck Roller Clears Beach & Dock Areas

- Dig Out Weed Roots & Sediment



## NorthAmerican MANUREXPO

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July 30-31, 2025 | Wauseon, Ohio

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## Upcoming Events

July 24	Pond Clinic Sycamore Lake Winery
July 30-31	North American Manure Expo Fulton County
August 12	SWCD Annual Meeting
August 16	River Clean-Up Event
Sept. 16-18	Farm Science Review (Registration through OSU)
Nov. 1	Overwintering Cover Deadline



Putnam County Drive Thru Recycling is open during the below schedule except for being closed on holidays and Level 3 Road Closures. For additional information, please see our website [www.putnamcountycle.com](http://www.putnamcountycle.com) or our Facebook page Putnam County Ohio Solid Waste District. We are working on a date for the Fall Recycle Day so stay tuned for that. Thank you for recycling from the Putnam County Solid Waste District, Putnam County Commissioners Office and especially from the Recycling Employees out there!

Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# H2Ohio

#1

If you haven't already done so — certification needs done on your 2025 H2Ohio acres!

Payments will be made for: Implementation, Phosphorus Placement, and Manure.

#2

NEW 2026 - 2027 Program

Details are being finalized—Sign up will be in August. Review your soil tests to make sure they are up to date (2022 or newer) and previously enrolled acres/ boundaries in preparation.

Double T Farm Services, LLC  
Tony Campbell  
9813 Gilliland Road  
Van Wert, OH 45891  
Cell: 419-513-0316  
Email: [ttfarmsservices@gmail.com](mailto:ttfarmsservices@gmail.com)



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## “The Rest of the Story”

Written by: Jeff Nordhaus

Ever wonder why the “SWCD Guy” is hanging his tail and bucket over the side of a bridge along our Putnam County roadways? Is he about to commit “Harry Carry”? Nooooooo, he’s acquiring a water sample!

These sampling events have occurred near the beginning of each month for the past 8 years. With each bucket of water, six key water qualities parameters are measured: total phosphorous, nitrates, ammonia, pH, dissolved oxygen and temperature. This data helps us assess the effectiveness of our H2Ohio program, which aims to improve water quality and reduce nutrient pollution. It also guides where future funding should go for “Best Management Practices” that prevent soil erosion and reduce nutrient runoff. These efforts not only protect our ditches and streams, but also Lake Erie, the walleye capital of the world!



Simple conservation practices like planting cover crops, filter strips along our ditches, urban rain gardens and utilizing water detention ponds are just a few practices that can be paramount to helping reduce soil erosion and nutrient loading by slowing the water down.

The most concerning pollutant we monitor is total phosphorous, which is the primary nutrient for driving “Harmful Algae Blooms” (HABS) in Lake Erie. We are all contributors to this problem. We have surface runoff from our lawns, streets, septic systems and our agricultural fields which all contribute to this outcome. Phosphorous by itself, when applied to agricultural fields or to our lawns is not the problem. The problem arises when we receive heavy rainfall events, which then transports phosphorous to our ditches and streams and eventually to Lake Erie. The bigger the storm the more phosphorous is transported to Lake Erie.

High rain events from March through June are especially critical. They coincide with the warming of Lake Erie from June through September. Summer is the time of year when HABS are at their most critical levels. In contrast, heavy rains prior to March and after June sends phosphorous to Lake Erie when water temperature are too cool for algae blooms to form.

In 2016, the United States and Canada agreed on phosphorous reduction goals of 40% from 2008 phosphorous loading levels. Achieving this target would greatly reduce the risk of HABS and their effect on Lake Erie. For reference, natural background levels of phosphorous in our streams are

## Conservation Conversation

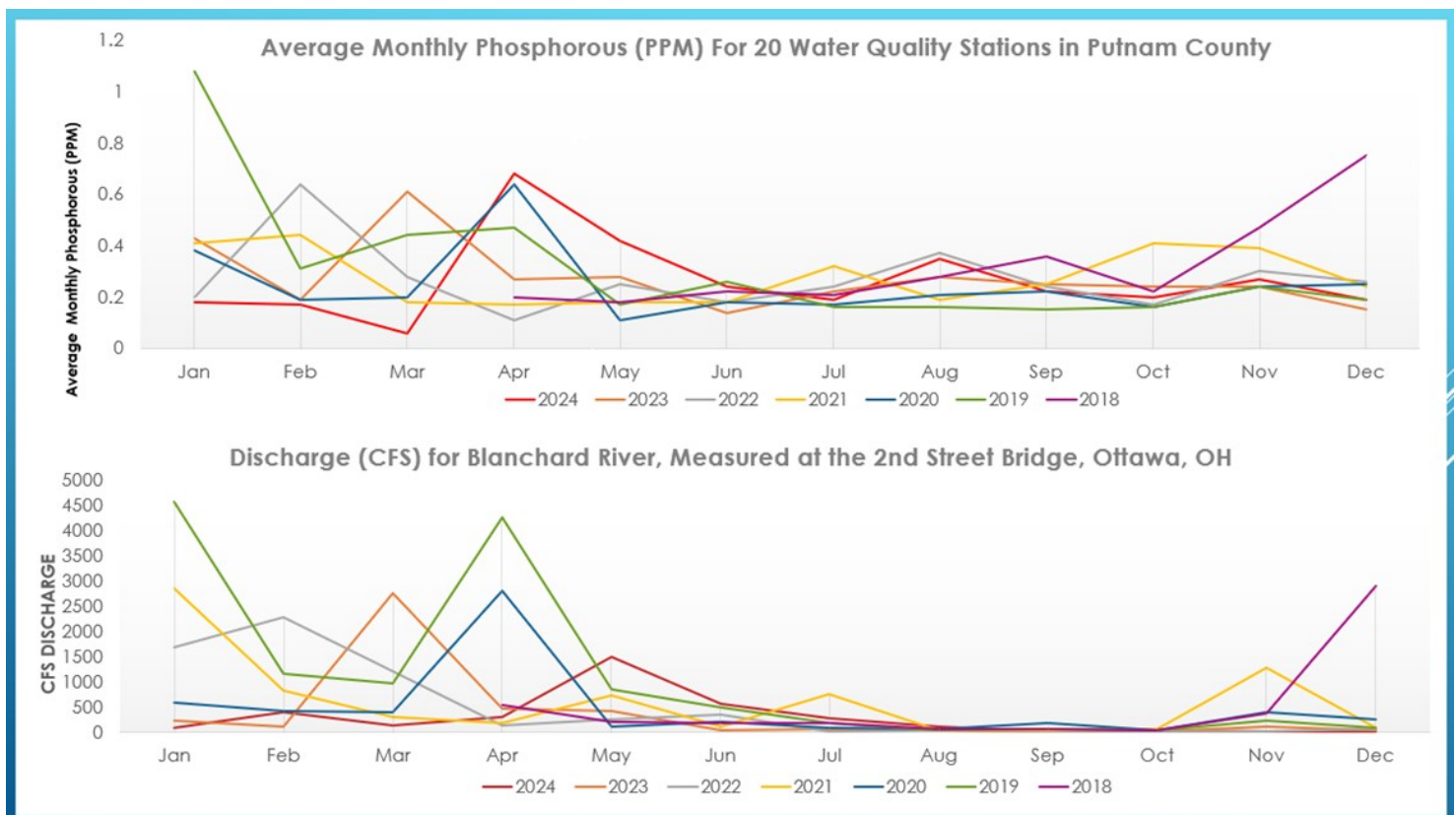
generally around 0.03 ppm and levels greater than 0.10 ppm can stimulate excess algae and plant growth. A 40% reduction level for the water quality across all of our ditches and streams in Putnam County would see levels near 0.16 ppm. Currently, Putnam County's ditches and streams average 0.27 ppm and during heavy rain events and flooding that number can spike to 0.77 ppm, nearly three times the average.

That is why it is so important for all of us, whether we live in town or on a farm, to do our part to help slow water down which reduces soil erosion and nutrient runoff.

In addition to phosphorous, we also monitor nitrate and ammonia levels. Nitrate levels effects HABs in the Gulf of America (saltwater) like phosphorous effects HABs in Lake Erie (freshwater). We also track dissolved oxygen, which tells us what types of fish and aquatic insects can survive in the stream. Levels below 5.0 ppm are harmful to sportfish and some aquatic insects. Since warm water holds less oxygen, our streams can reach unhealthy levels during the hot summer months.

It's pretty incredible how much insight can come from a small bucket of water!!!

So, next time you and your buddies or gals, see that SWCD guy on the bridge with his bucket, don't be puzzled as you now know what he is doing. And as Paul Harvey would say: **"Now you know, the rest of the story"!!!** Thanks for slowing down and caring about our water!!!





PUTNAM SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1206 E Second Street-Suite 2  
Ottawa OH 45875-2069  
Phone: 419-523-5159

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**2025 POND CLINIC**

**Thursday,  
JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00 P.M.**

Sycamore Lake Winery  
9660 Mayberry Rd.  
Columbus Grove, OH 45830

- Pond Design
- Weed & Fish Management
- Wildlife
- Safe Drinking Water

Join us on the patio to get all your pond questions answered.  
**FREE!!**

For more details contact the Putnam SWCD office at 419-523-5159.