

# BRWP Times

Fall 2016

Vol. 9



## Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

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## >>> 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The **2016 Annual Meeting** of the BRWP was held on November 10, 2016 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 Randy Tucker, Streamside Systems, and Jordan Hoewischer, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF).

Mr. Tucker talked about the In-river Sediment Collector that Streamside System is putting the Blanchard River in partnership with the City of Findlay. The OEPA is providing grant money for the project to study if the process is a cost effective way of removing sediment.



Randy Tucker - Streamside Systems



Jordan Hoewischer - OFBF

Mr. Hoewischer discussed the Demonstration Farms the OFBF and NRCS have set-up in the watershed. Innovative practices are being installed on each farm. The BRWP elected representatives to the 2017 Board of Directors. Representing the Eagle Creek watershed will be, Bob Connour; Riley Creek watershed, Robert Antibus; Shane Myers will hold the At-Large #1 position and Elaine Reynolds, the At-Large #4 position. Theresa Allen, president of the BRWP, talked about “2017 the Future.”

## >>> 2016 ANNUAL MEETING cont.

Phil Martin, watershed coordinator, announced the **2016 awards**. Jordan Hoewischer from OFBF and Gary Wilson from the Hancock County Farm Bureau received an Annual “Friends of the River” award for their continual support of the BRWP. Christie Ranzau, from Flag City Law, was also presented an Annual “Friends of the River” award for the her pro-bono legal work and advice she has given to the BRWP for the last ten years.



Theresa Allen, BRWP; Jordan Hoewischer, OFBF; Christie Ranzau, Flag City Law and Gary Wilson, Hancock County Farm Bureau

Phil Martin presented Brandon Betscher from AE Curbside with the “Coordinator’s Award” for all his support of the BRWP through his sponsorship of the Rain Barrel Decorating Contest and his recycling effort in the area. Congratulations and Thank You to our award recipients.



Brandon Betscher

## >>> ACTIVE GRANTS

- The BRWP has two Great Lakes Commission grants that are active.
  1. The Upper Riley Creek (Allen County portion) grant ends this December. **Farmers can still enroll cover crops in the grant, money permitting.**
  2. The Middle Riley Creek grant still has some money left for conservation tillage and cover crops. Check out the brochure on our web site

## >>> ACTIVE GRANTS

at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org). Look under the grants tab.

- 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. The grant provides money to **repair/replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems for families in Hancock County** based on their income levels. During 2016, four projects were completed totaling \$13,596.70. The remainder of the money will be available in 2017 for eligible projects. There are the three levels of funding in the grant. For a family of 1-4, 100% coverage occurs when the income is \$24,250 and under; 85% coverage occurs when the income is between \$24,251 - \$48,500 and 50% coverage occurs when the income is between \$48,501 - \$72,750. For more information, check the BRWP’s website at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org). Look at the grants tab for an application form and flyer.
- The coordinator wrote a Great Lake Basin Grant for the Brights Ditch watershed. The \$199,356 grant was awarded to the Hancock SWCD. **Call Jean Derr at 419.422.6569 for more information.**
- The coordinator wrote a Great Lake Basin Grant for the Bear Creek and Cranberry Creek watersheds. The \$197,652 grant was awarded to the Putnam SWCD. **Call Sarah Rieman at 419.523.5159 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, Phil Martin and submitted through the Putnam SWCD. **Call Curt Tobe at PSWCD. His number is 419.523.5159.**
- A \$404,303 grant for the PSWCD. The grant is for installing BMPs in the **Deer Creek-Blanchard River watershed**. The grant was written by the coordinator, Phil Martin and submitted through the Putnam SWCD. **Call Curt Tobe at PSWCD. His number is 419.523.5159.**

## >>> THE BRWP HAS BEEN BUSY

- 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 spring monitoring was completed on July 5th. The fall monitoring was completed on October 5th. Results can be found on our web site by January 1, 2017. Special thanks to Sarah Betts from the Hancock Park District and her intern Ashton Stevens for their help.
- 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 13 stakeholders have been trained. The results will be used to help find areas that are impaired. There are still some sites available for volunteers to do the testing. Please contact Phil Martin at 419.422.6487 if you are interested in helping.
- The BRWP continued to reach out to the watershed community by having a display at the Allen, Hancock, Hardin and Putnam County Fairs this past summer.
- The BRWP was invited to have a display at the **Marathon Petroleum Company's Health Fair Day** on September 29th. We were able to meet and talk with many people that are interested in the water quality in the Blanchard River watershed.



Phil Martin with Karla Synder from Marathon Petroleum Company at the Health Fair Day.

- The BRWP helped to sponsor the **2016 Farm Tour** hosted by the Hancock SWCD. Our site was the Western Farm at the University of Findlay.

- The coordinator taught classes at Arlington H.S. and Liberty Benton H.S. on our water quality monitoring program using macroinvertebrates. He also lead each class on a field trip to sites on the Blanchard River where the students completed the monitoring for that site.



- The BRWP teamed with 14 incoming freshman students from the University of Findlay to do a river clean-up along the Blanchard River.



Debris was removed and properly disposed of in the landfill. The trash included bottles, tires, household waste, plastic toys and other debris. Thanks to the University of Findlay for providing the student power.

## >>> CALLS I HAVE RECEIVED..

Every month it seems that I get a call or I am asked whether and what is being done to improve the water quality in the watershed. The BRWP wrote a Watershed Report Card in 2012 based on the EPA TMDL study that was approved in 2009. The BRWP has also wrote and received full endorsement of two watershed action plans in the watershed. As a result of this, the Board approved the coordinator to write a condensed version of a state of the watershed report.

The **2016 State of the Blanchard River Watershed Report** was completed. The report covers the following areas:

- reviews the impairments identified in the TMDL Report,
- summarizes the top water users in the watershed,
- discusses where the stakeholders get their drinking water,
- compares land use in 2006, 2010 and 2015 at the 10-digit watershed level,
- summarizes the Best Management Practices that were installed from 2008 to 2015,

## >>> CALLS I HAVE RECEIVED cont.

- summarizes the results of the macroinvertebrate water quality study 2015the BRWP has been doing from 2009 to 2015,
- discusses the gaps in the study and provides references and
- provides an appendix showing the complete data.

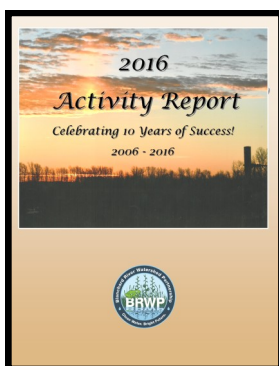
The State of the Blanchard River Watershed Report shows that there is a lot of effort and money being spent on the watershed by many agencies. The BRWP will continue to seek grant monies and work with the agencies and others to continue to improve the water quality in the Blanchard River watershed and the Western Lake Erie Basin. Improving water quality is everyone's responsibility. **HIGH QUALITY WATER = HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE!**

To read the report, you can click on the report icon on the opening page at our web site at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org) or email Phil Martin, coordinator, at [brwp1237@gmail.com](mailto:brwp1237@gmail.com).

## >>> 2016 ACTIVITY REPORT

The coordinator created a 2016 Activity Report for all members, supporters and other people interested in knowing what work and activities the Partnership was involved with during 2016.

The report provides a month-by-month review of the year and a table of all the grants that were active in 2016. To read the report, you can click on the report icon on the opening page at our web site at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org) or email Phil Martin, coordinator, at [brwp1237@gmail.com](mailto:brwp1237@gmail.com).



## >>> 2017 SPRING PROJECTS

- **Rain Barrel Decorating Contest** - Twenty four rain barrels from ten area high schools have been entered in the 2017 contest. The contest will be held at the Findlay Village Mall in February in conjunction with the Car Show. Check our facebook page or our web site for the exact time. The BRWP is still in need of sponsors for some of the rain barrels. Contact Phil Martin, coordinator, at [brwp1237@gmail.com](mailto:brwp1237@gmail.com) or by phone at 419.422.6487.
- Pursuing grants to find funding for installing Best Management Practices, remove the sediment behind Riverside Dam, restore riparian buffers and other impairments.
- Continuing implementation of existing grants. **NOTE:** There is over \$110,000 left in the WPCLF for replacing/repairing failing septic systems. Please email Phil Martin, coordinator, at [brwp1237@gmail.com](mailto:brwp1237@gmail.com) or call at 419.422.6487.
- Start writing a **Nine-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plan** for a 12-digit watershed in the Blanchard River watershed. These plans replace the watershed action plans of the past and are required before certain grant money can be awarded.



## >>> 2017 BIGGEST NEED

The biggest need in 2017 is finding enough funding for the coordinator's position and the BRWP after 2017. The grant for the coordinator's positions ends on June 30, 2017. Funding the position for remainder of 2017 will be a major burden on the budget. Without additional funding, the amount of work being accomplished by the BRWP will be greatly affected. Rest assured that the Board of Directors is looking at every possible funding source(s). **But, what can you do?** The easiest way is to become a member of the BRWP. A second way is to sponsor a rain barrel, Finally, talk to your friends about joining the BRWP. **Water Quality is important to all!**

## 2016 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 2016 sponsors and members!!

# 2016 Sponsors

### Rain Barrel Sponsors



Findlay Elks Lodge #75



### Main Sponsors



**Putnam County Commissioners**



**Dr. Stan Doty, D.D.S.**



### 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

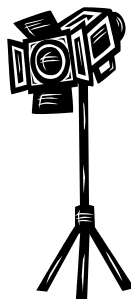
- AE Curbside - Findlay
- Croy's Mowing Ltd.
- Millstream Area Credit Union
- BPO Findlay Elks #75

### Dragonfly \$250 cont.

- Hancock Park District
- Hancock SWCD
- Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative
- Hempy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Cooperative
- Putnam SWCD
- Stan K. Doty D.D.S - Findlay
- Whirlpool Corporation

### Winter BRWP ACTIVITIES

- **December 25th** - Merry Christmas
- **January 2017** - Planning meeting for 2017. Check the website and / or facebook after December 8th for the exact date and time.
- **February 2017** - Rain Barrel Decorating Contest at the Findlay Village Mall. Check the website and / or facebook in January for the exact date and time.





# 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

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Name as you want it in print (Please print legibly)

Telephone (include area code)

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Street/P.O. Box City State Zip

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Email address Business/Organization name (if applicable)

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