



## **Belmont SWCD**

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Barnesville, Ohio 43713  
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## **2007 Supervisors**

**Don Guindon**  
Chairman

**Robert Rockwell**  
Vice Chairman

**Stanley Borovich**  
Secretary/Fiscal Agent

**Rich Theaker**  
Treasurer

**Ed Stenger**  
Public Relations

## **SWCD Employees**

**Beverly Riddle**  
Program Administrator

**Yvonne Ackerman**  
Administrative Assistant

**Brian Porterfield**  
Technician

**Nathan Taylor**  
Forestry/Wildlife Specialist

**Chad Turner**  
Urban-GIS Technician

## **NRCS Employees**

**Jeff Bettinger**  
District Conservationist

**Harry Kenney**  
Grassland Conservationist

All services of the Belmont SWCD & NRCS are provided regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Equal Opportunity Employer.

# *The District Cooperator*

A Publication of the Belmont SWCD

December 2007

## **Annual Meeting, Banquet Highlights**

The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District held its' 62nd Annual Meeting & Banquet Thursday evening, November 8, 2007, at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio. 173 area residents and special guests were in attendance for a rib and chicken meal catered by Country Boys Chicken & Ribs of Bannock, Ohio.

### **Re-elected Supervisors**

Two SWCD supervisors were re-elected to their positions. Ed Stenger, of Belmont, Ohio, and Rich Theaker of Bridgeport, Ohio, will begin three-year terms January 1, 2008.



Stenger and his wife, Nancy, own and operate Highland Dairy's 200 acres and rent an additional 169 acres where they milk 70 Holsteins and raise 50 acres of corn and 150 acres of hay. Stenger has installed an animal waste facility, a roof over his feedlot, contour strips, spring developments, and a pressurized water system to use with his expanded rotational grazing system. He has hosted the Rubberneck Tour, Legislator's Tour, and 4th Grade Dairy Safety Day. Stenger is completing his 9th year as a Belmont SWCD Supervisor and serves on the Union Local Board of Education, Treasurer of the Belmont Dairy Service Unit, 4-H Advisor to Udder Kids, 4-H Dairy Product Sale Committee, and is a member of the Assumption Church of Barnesville. He served 12 years on the Belmont County Fair Board. Stenger has four children, Nikki, Jennifer, Marc and Megan.



Theaker and his mother, Sara, own and operate the 125-acre Piney Brick Stock Farm where they rotationally graze 50 registered Angus cows. They have installed spring developments, contour strips, a pond, and completed a forest management plan and harvest. Rich, in partnership with his son, Rich, and daughter, Terry, owns and operate Mansel Theaker Excavation Company and is a partner in Everly Concrete Products, Inc.

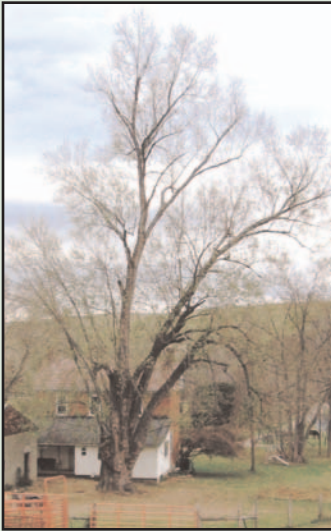
He has hosted the Rubberneck Tour. Theaker is completing his 1st term as a Belmont SWCD Supervisor and serves as the Board's representative on the Belmont County Storm Water Committee. He is a member of the Flood Plain Appeal Board, Farm Bureau, Colerain Ruritan, Bridgeport Masonic Lodge, and the Colerain Presbyterian Church. Theaker has served on the Landmark Board for 21 years and Farm Home Administration Board. He has three children, Laura, Rich and Terry.

### **Award Winners**

Belmont SWCD recognized Art & Sandy Monahan of Bethesda, Ohio, as the 2007 Conservation Farm Family. Art & Sandy were recognized for managing natural and human resources in such a way as to meet production and conservation goals, while sharing their knowledge with others. As a teacher and high

Continued on page 2

# Silver Maple is Biggest Tree in Belmont County



James Kaiser of Barnesville, Ohio received the award for the 2007 Big Tree Contest from the Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) at the 62nd Belmont SWCD Annual Meeting & Banquet held Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

The tree, a silver maple, received a total score of 377.25. The height of the tree was 105 feet, 14 feet shorter than the tallest tree entered in the contest. The circumference of the tree measured 252 inches, and the average crown spread X 1/4 was 20.25.

Twelve trees were nominated for the contest. Each tree was measured using the three measurements of circumference, height and average crown spread to obtain the total points for a Big Tree Score. Nominations were open to anyone. However, the tree must be located within Belmont County.

Non-winning trees can be nominated in the 2008 Big Tree Contest. Trees are ineligible for five years following a first place finish. Contact the Belmont SWCD office for more information at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3.

## 2007 Big Tree Contest Results

Place	Nominator	Species	Circumf.	Hght	Crown Spread	Total Score
1	James Kaiser	silver maple	252	105	20.25	377.25
2	Dave & Betty Grum	silver maple	223.2	92	22.6	337.8
3	Don Carpenter	chinkapin oak	178.8	112	24.625	315.425
4	Jim & Sue Carpenter	white oak	157.2	119	20.875	297.075
5	Thomas Martin	white ash	169.2	98	22.5	289.7
6	Harry Kettlewell	red oak	184.8	84	20.625	289.425
7	Ralph McGinnis (In Memory of Martha M. McGinnis)	red oak	165.6	83	31.125	279.725
8	Duane Grier	silver maple	190.8	69	17.5	277.3
9	Don & Kaye Gondy	sycamore	148.8	95	19.9	263.7
10	Mark & Shelly Thornton	silver maple	157.2	79	24.5	260.7
11	Larry Porter	silver maple	166.8	34	9.25	210.05
12	Jim Forshey	black cherry	82.8	99	12.875	194.675

## Annual Meeting Highlights...from cover

school principal, Art shared his beliefs with many of his students and parents and was instrumental in making sure FFA remained a viable program at Barnesville High School. Sandy served on the Union Local Board of Education that also has one of the few remaining FFA's in the area.

Most of the Monahan farm was strip-mined, but Art & Sandy try to work the land as best they can, utilizing conservation practices to leave the land in a more accept-

able manner than when they found it.

James Kaiser was also recognized for nominating Belmont County's 2007 Big Tree Contest winner. The winning tree was a silver maple measuring 105 feet tall, with an average crown spread (times 0.25) of 20.25, and a circumference of 252.

Crooked Creek Golf Course was recognized for winning the state non-farm Good Neighbor of the Year Award. This award is courtesy of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and

the Ohio Livestock Coalition. The Loase family, owners of Crooked Creek Golf Course, received the award because of their understanding of agriculture and agricultural practices, their respect for others and their willingness to lend a hand to their neighbors.

Entertainment for the meeting included the vocal talents of local resident Ashley Myers, and Ohio Valley native Joe Zelek.

# Tuscarawas County Leads 2007 Deer-Gun Harvest

**B**elmont County hunters took 1,830 of Ohio's 103,195 white-tailed deer harvest during the state's weeklong deer-gun season, which ran November 26 to December 2, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. In 2006, hunters killed a preliminary total of 111,672 deer during the same time period. Inclement weather on the opening and closing days of the season hampered hunters' efforts.



A total of 167,965 deer have been harvested so far this season when combining the adult and youth gun seasons, early muzzleloader season and the first six

weeks of the archery season. That compares to a total of 166,534 killed last year during the same time period. Hunters took a total of 237,316 deer during all of last year's hunting seasons.

Hunters still have a weekend of deer-gun hunting, December 15-16, and nine weeks of archery hunting in Ohio. Archery season remains open until February 3. The statewide muzzleloader deer-hunting season will be held December 27-30.

Ohio's first modern day deer-gun season opened in 1943 in three counties, where hunters harvested 168 deer. In 1956, deer hunting was allowed in all 88 counties and hunters killed 3,911 deer during that one-week season.

Counties reporting the highest numbers of deer brought to Ohio check stations last week included Tuscarawas – 4,266, Guernsey – 3,765, Harrison – 3,389, Athens – 3,268, Licking – 3,265, Coshocton – 3,227, Washington – 3,067, Holmes – 3,026, Noble – 2,498, Jefferson – 2,493.

The statewide deer population was estimated to be 675,000 in late September, prior to the start of the hunting season. Approximately 400,000 hunters were expected to participate in the statewide deer-gun season.

Deer hunting contributes an estimated \$266 million to Ohio's economy each year and helps to support thousands of jobs.

For more information contact Nathan Taylor, Wildlife/Forestry Specialist at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3.

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Editor's Note: The following is a list of deer checked and tagged by hunters during the deer-gun hunting season. The number taken during the 2006 season is marked in ( ): 2007 (2006).

Adams -1,462 (1,458); Allen -463 (436); Ashland -1,826 (1,898); Ashtabula -2,135 (2,584); Athens -3,268 (3,076); Auglaize -407 (315); Belmont -1,830 (1,945); Brown -1,692 (1,473); Butler -395 (460); Carroll -1,672 (2,050); Champaign -887 (847); Clark -317 (343); Clermont -1,149 (1,153); Clinton -461 (477); Columbiana -1,887 (2,275); Coshocton -3,227 (3,750); Crawford -897 (910); Cuyahoga -107 (43); Darke -285 (240); Defiance -834 (735); Delaware -744 (796); Erie -303 (280); Fairfield -1,851 (1,676); Fayette -213 (253); Franklin -284 (341); Fulton -342 (340); Gallia -2,006 (1,609); Geauga -672 (591); Greene -316 (302); Guernsey -3,765 (4,108); Hamilton -330 (316); Hancock -461 (427); Hardin -642 (583); Harrison -3,389 (3,675); Henry -242 (228); Highland -1,586 (1,793); Hocking -1,594 (2,188); Holmes -3,026 (3,131); Huron -1,133 (1,213); Jackson -1,909 (2,533); Jefferson -2,493 (2,826); Knox -2,011 (1,855); Lake -297 (301); Lawrence -1,530 (1,658); Licking -3,265 (3,268); Logan -934 (795); Lorain -835 (917); Lucas -289 (272); Madison -183 (172); Mahoning -685 (722); Marion -320 (332); Medina -685 (680); Meigs -2,193 (2,764); Mercer -259 (330); Miami -132 (105); Monroe -2,136 (2,512); Montgomery -196 (224); Morgan -1,733 (1,795); Morrow -975 (980); Muskingum -2,427 (2,832); Noble -2,498 (2,460); Ottawa -104 (101); Paulding -354 (397); Perry -1,874 (2,232); Pickaway -958 (860); Pike -934 (1,197); Portage -559 (760); Preble -253 (266); Putnam -569 (611); Richland -1,288 (1,387); Ross -1,858 (2,425); Sandusky -230 (244); Scioto -1,411 (1,633); Seneca -963 (1,070); Shelby -492 (559); Stark -1,385 (1,275); Summit -399 (241); Trumbull -1,479 (1,640); Tuscarawas -4,266 (4,924); Union -317 (597); Van Wert -224 (212); Vinton -1,226 (1,442); Warren -519 (563); Washington -3,067 (3,743); Wayne -644 (781); Williams -548 (734); Wood -437 (431); Wyandot -752 (696); Total – 103,195 (111,672)

# Winter Feeding Options

Along with the onset of winter comes the chore of winter feeding. When considering options for winter feeding, there are several concerns that should be taken into consideration.










One of the primary things that should be considered when planning for winter is having hay tested to see if just hay alone is going to meet the nutrient requirements of that animal. Depending on the quality of your hay, you may need to feed an additional protein supplement and may need to adjust your mineral program. Hay testing packets are available through your local extension office.

Consider body score conditioning your cow herd and possibly culling open or less productive cows. Younger cows and thinner cows may need separated from the rest of the herd and fed different to get weight put back on them. This will save money this winter and help to get cows back in shape prior to calving.

Also take into account grazing off stockpiled forages or corn stalks to reduce winter feeding costs. Another option is to feed hay in areas of the pasture that have poor fertility to put manure and wasted hay back into the ground. Round bales can be placed out in pastures when it is dry and by

moving a temporary electric fence, cows can be fed a 2-3 day supply of feed without starting up the tractor everyday. Unrolling round bales on dry or frozen ground can also be a good way to feed. Site selection is also important when feeding. Try to feed hay on areas that are well drained and are far enough away from creeks and streams to minimize runoff. By spreading bales out you can improve soil fertility, reduce soil compaction, improve water quality and minimize soil erosion.

For more information contact Brian Porterfield at the Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 111.

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