

Curtis Casto, founder of The Onion Bag Litter Prevention Project, recently received the well-deserved awards at the Warren County SWCD's annual meeting for his work on the Onion Bag Litter Prevention Project. He received the Conservationist of the Year award from the SWCD, a Proclamation of Appreciation from the Warren County Commissioners, and Proclamations from the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives.

Congratulations, Curtis! Thank you for what you do to clean up our rivers across the state!



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On behalf of the 56th House District of the State of Ohio, I am pleased to congratulate

Curtis Casto

*On being presented with the 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award by the Warren County
Soil and Water Conservation District.*

Esteemed throughout your community, you are deserving of acknowledgement for your dedicated leadership, and you have been an outstanding steward of the region's natural resources. Indeed, you have distinguished yourself through your meaningful endeavors, including founding the Onion Bag Project, and your participation in river cleanups on the Little and Great Miami, Kokosing, Olentangy, Walhonding, Muskingum, Tuscarawas, and Mohican rivers as well as Buck Creek and Alum Creek will have a lasting benefit on the whole of Ohio.

Time and again, your initiatives have reflected the potential of each person to positively impact the quality of life in our society, and you have gained the respect and appreciation of many for your acumen and your support of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is our sincere hope that your efforts will be a continuing source of inspiration for others to invest in the welfare of our state, and we count you among the ranks of exemplary Ohioans.

Thus, with great pleasure, we congratulate you on receiving the 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award and look with optimism to your ongoing record of achievement.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Adam Mathews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A".

Adam Mathews
State Representative
Ohio's 56th House District

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO
OHIO SENATE

HONORING CURTIS CASTO
FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to pay tribute to Curtis Casto on being named the 2025 Conservationist of the Year by the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District.

You are, indeed, deserving of praise, for you have combined concern and dedication with selfless initiative to become a dynamic leader in your community. Becoming involved in environmental stewardship through the Paddle for Heroes group, you started the Onion Bag Project as a cleanup along the Kokosing River, gradually expanding it to numerous river sweeps and litter pickups in five states, and through your unfaltering devotion, you have proven yourself to be a responsible and hard-working individual. Indeed, you have demonstrated exceptional skill, perseverance, and resolve, and it is fitting that you be applauded for your contributions.

Conservation is of vital importance to our state and nation, and it is truly encouraging to know that the protection and preservation of Ohio's natural resources lie, to a large extent, in the capable hands of conscientious individuals such as you. We are certain that in the years to come, you will continue to display the same unwavering commitment to our environment for which you have become known.

Thus, it is with sincere satisfaction that we commend you on your recent accolade and extend best wishes for the future.



Senator Robert McColey
President of the Ohio Senate

Senator Steve Wilson
7th Senatorial District

Warren Water Striders Partner w/ Onion Bag Project

In 2024, Warren Co SWCD created the Warren Water Striders kayaking program. This program aims to get residents out on the rivers and lakes of Warren County to recreate, and pull litter out of the river. We held 4 kayak trips, two of which were geared towards Veterans. We also partnered with The Onion Bag Project by installing litter cleanup stations at 9 public access points along the Little Miami River. Interns and staff monitored the stations and collected 25 onion bags of litter. Our new online map displaying these access points can be found here (www.warrenswcd.com/warren-water-striders.html), so get out there and help us keep the river clean!



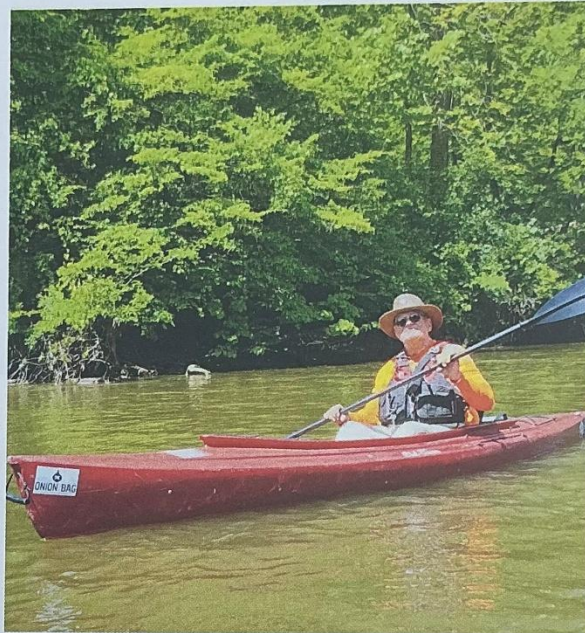
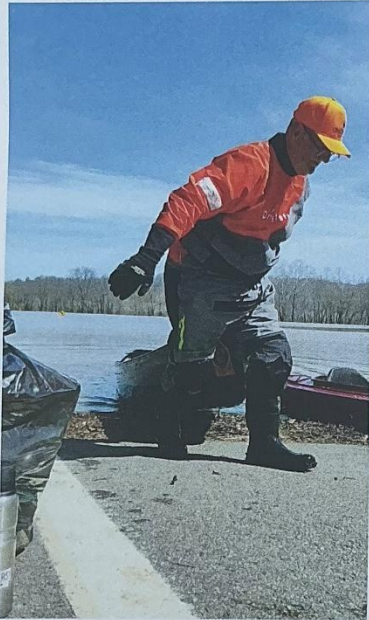
Summer Intern,
Rachel Ingle
collecting full
onion bags



Urban Program Manager, Justin
Bedocs and Onion Bag Project
President, Curtis Casto

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Curtis Casto



Curtis became involved with the Onion Bag Project through the veterans group Paddle for Heroes who had started the program on the Kokosing River. The project snow balled and three years ago The Onion Bag Litter Prevention Project was born. It started out with 40 boxes from Paddle for Heroes and has grown to 215 boxes in 5 states. Curtis has 5 very dedicated directors and many volunteers that maintain boxes and assist in river sweeps and litter pickups. They pick up litter at over 20 river access points including miles of road close to the access points. They participate in river cleanups on the Little Miami, Kokosing, Great Miami, Buck Creek, Olentangy, Alum Creek, Walhonding, Muskingum, as well as organizing cleanups on the Tuscarawas And Mohican rivers. Curtis does this work because he likes his rivers clean when he paddles. When asked, Curtis replied "I do it because it is fun. I do it because someone has to. " Warren Co. SWCD is honored to recognize Curtis Casto as the Conservationist of the Year!

Conservationist of the Year

Presented to

Curtis Casto

For your dedication to natural resource
conservation in Warren County

2025

Warren County SWCD 81st Annual Meeting

