



# Conservation News

VOLUME 25, No. 4

FALL 2021

## 76th Annual Meeting Highlights

### Board of Supervisors

Andy Clarridge  
Matt Staley  
Randy Trapp  
Cheryl Trivisonno  
Rick Weigand

### SWCD Personnel

Brent Nickel  
Mark Watkins  
Jeremy Burrey  
Sherry Maisenbacher  
Matt Archer  
Stephen Johnson

### NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC  
LaRae Baker

### Pheasants Forever

Ashley Dawson

### **Union SWCD**

18000 St. Rt. 4 North  
Suite B  
Marysville, OH 43040  
937-642-5871 x 3

**[www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district](http://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district)**

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District held its 76th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City.

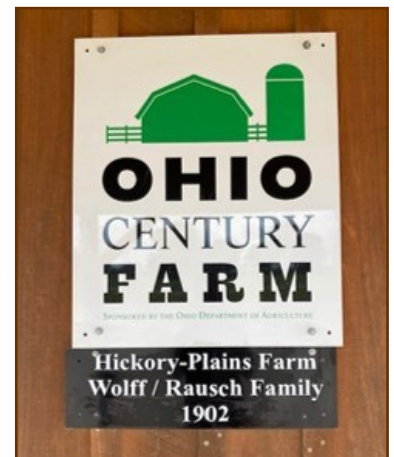
An election of supervisors was held to start off the evening, and the candidate starting a new term on January 1, 2022, will be Matt Staley. Staley is currently serving his 7th term on the USWCD board.



Hickory Plains Farm / Rausch Family is our 2021 Cooperator of the Year. The farm is owned and operated by Randy, Jayne, Mitchell, and Ashley Rausch, established in 1902.



Randy, Jayne and family are the 5th (& 6th) generations to farm the 160 acres. Current farm operations include: planting about 100 acres of cover crop each year, planting pumpkin patches, and 4.6 acres of CRP along both the Big & Little Darby Creeks.



### **NRCS Office Status Update**

The USDA is committed to providing a safe environment for staff and visitors. Customers need to request an appointment by phone at 937-209-2224 or via email at [larae.baker@usda.gov](mailto:larae.baker@usda.gov). Walk-in customers for NRCS business cannot be accommodated at this time.

### **Union SWCD Office Status Update**

While our Federal partner's current policy does not allow walk-in customers, our staff are in the office and available to answer questions regarding the SWCD business and projects. Feel free to stop by and ring the bell during our business hours, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If seeking assistance from NRCS or a specific staff member, please call (937) 642-5871 ext. 3 to set up an appointment.

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis? Email [bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov) to be included on our list.**

Attendees enjoyed an up-close look at several of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's animal ambassadors. The animal ambassadors that visited were Trout (African penguin), Charlotte (binturong), Fletcher (fennec fox), Gary (Eastern screech owl), Chanel (striped skunk), Edna (short-beaked echidna), and Sonny (two-toed sloth).



Pictured above is Fletcher



Pictured above is Sonny



Pictured above is Chanel

Rounding out our program, USWCD Board Chairman Rick Weigand recognized Mark Watkins 41-years of service, Brent Nickel 21-years of service, and Jeremy Burrey for his 5-years of service.



# THANK YOU!

Union Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff would like to thank the following supporters for helping make our 76th Annual Meeting a success.

## **Affiliate Members**

Cook Real Estate	Parrott Implement Company
Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance	Scotts Miracle-Gro
KG Agricultural Product, Inc.	Seed Consultants
Millcreek Gardens LLC	Select Sires, Inc.
MitchellAgri	Smart Oil, LLC
MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing	The Seed Center
NOVUSag/Cardinal Ag. LLC	Union County Farm Bureau
Ohigro Inc.	Vititoe Construction, Inc.
Hickory Lane Farms Nursery & Landscape LLC	

## **Door Prize Donors**

A-1 Advanced Plumbing	Millcreek Gardens LLC
Bokes Creek Orchard	Mitchell's Berries LLC
Boyd's Marysville Goodyear	Nestlé
Darby Creek Dental	Parrott Implement Co.
Eda's Italian Ice	Plain City Druggist
Farm Credit Mid-America	Richwood Bank
Fender's Fish Hatchery	Richwood Tire & Auto Center
Hatfield Chiropractic Clinic, Inc.	Select Sires, Inc.
John Deere Training Center	Smart Oil, LLC
Maize at Little Darby Creek, The	Where There's Smoke



# **Drainage Maintenance Update**

Winter is upon on us and the chill of the winter months will set in. Frozen drainage pipes can be a problem this time of year and can cause problems in the winter months. Especially for the discharge pipes from your basement if you use a sump pump, which many of us in the county with basements do. Be sure your lines are in good working condition and any pipe that is exposed to the outside elements is protected and has no cracks or leaks. Insulation wrap around your pipe will help keep it protected when old man winter gives us extreme low temperatures.

In other news, we have been working on the developments in recent months. Our staff completed a sediment removal project for Mitchell Crossing. We have since moved to Jerome Village GPN 7 and started the process of cleaning the waterways and dry basins and removing cattail overgrowth. This project will carry into next spring.

We plan to be out performing our annual inspections in the next couple of months. We will be using a utility vehicle to make our way around the county. If you see a vehicle driving along the ditch on your property look for our truck and trailer by the road. Our trucks are all clearly marked with the Union Soil and Water logo.

If you have any drainage related questions, please contact our office. We are available Monday – Friday from 8:00am - 4:30 p.m. at the contact information listed below.

Jeremy Burrey  
Drainage Maintenance Supervisor  
18000 St. Rt. 4 Suite B  
Marysville OH 43040  
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2228  
[jburrey@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:jburrey@unioncountyohio.gov)



## Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.  
bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov

### Fall Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

### Tallgrass Truths—Revealed! Management is your Friend...

Landowners, there is nothing wrong or “illegal” with mowing random and curving “hunt trails”, or walkways, through the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grassland practices. It is always best to mow to an eight-inch height. Hunting trails that wind through the tall and thick vegetation will not place the landowner in “non-compliance” with the voluntary conservation practices’ contracts. Up to 20% of your acreage can be mowed per year under your contract without penalty. If done in sections or strips, this will not only open up the field for wildlife to use but will also open it up more for you to use and be easier to hunt. Be sure to address any woody vegetation growth during this mowing opportunity

# OLHAP



### OHIO LANDOWNER/HUNTER ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

- This is private property open to access for the purpose of wildlife-based recreation.
- OLHAP permit is required.
- Please practice leave no trace by packing all trash out.
- Funding for OLHAP is partially funded by grant monies in the VPA section of the Farm Bill.
- For more information on this program or to obtain your OLHAP permit visit [ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov).



Sign 250



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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## What's In-Season

*Always Refer to the Current Year's Regulations.*

See what is currently “In-Season” at this website:  
<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/huntingandtrappingregulations>

### Fishing Regulations:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fishingregulations>

“**Hunting With Permission**” forms and  
**Hunting Regulations** and **Fishing Regulations**  
are available at our office.

## Wetland Dike Problems?

For anyone experiencing chronic damage from muskrats, now is the time to recruit trappers to reduce the explosive muskrat population. In Union County, the regulated muskrat trapping season is from **November 10, 2021** through **February 28, 2022**. I have a list of willing trappers in my office if you need someone to assist you.

## Share Your Love for the Outdoors - Take A Kid Hunting

Hunting season is here and now's the time to get into that Hunter's Education Class. The Division of Wildlife offers three types of certification courses; instructor-led training, home study courses, and online. The online course has a \$15 fee, but all other options are Free!

For more information about when and where these classes are available, see the web page below:

### **Ohio DNR : Hunting and Trapping Basics**

If your young one isn't quite ready for Hunter's Education, check out the Apprentice Program. Apprentice hunting licenses or fur taker permits allow new hunters and trappers, both adults and youth, to sample the experience of hunting under the mentorship of a licensed adult prior to taking a hunter or trapper education course.

## GOT THE APP? HuntFish OH

The Ohio Division of Wildlife has launched a new mobile APP! The app allows convenient access to user accounts, licenses, and harvest information.

Other features include sunrise/ sunset info., interactive mapping for lakes, shooting ranges and public hunting and fishing areas.

Look for it in the App Store and Google Play.

## Wildlife Conflict Management ...Forget Control!

Experiencing wildlife conflicts? Try the solutions associated with this wildlife conflict resolution website!

**The Internet Center for  
Wildlife Damage Management:**

<http://www.icwdm.org/>

## Injured—or what appears to be **Helpless Wildlife?**

Call or contact the **Ohio Wildlife Center** – 614-793-WILD (9453) – then follow their every instruction!  
<http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/dnn/>

# Explore Your Soils with Web Soil Survey

by: LaRae Baker, NRCS Resource Conservationist

The Web Soil Survey is a great tool to explore the soils around you. This online, interactive tool has officially replaced the old soil survey books. The Web Soil Survey (WSS) allows the United States Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to keep data up to date and available to our customers wherever they may be. The user can explore and customize a report for their area of interest. There are over 100 tables and reports that can be selected for inclusion into the customized final product.

The address is: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/survey/>. There are great instructions for navigating through the site so be sure to read those if needed. You will select your area of interest (AOI) and from there the door to all the information opens up for you. I found the “[Guide to Maps, Reports and Tables](#)” in the left column of the home page under Web Soil Survey Documents to be very useful as well.

Be sure to add the information you want to be included in the final document to the cart. The checkout section has the opportunity to customize the name of the document. It creates an Acrobat Adobe version you can then save to your computer and/or print out. This information is beneficial to everyone and free.

## Appendices A & B- Resource Tools for Planting Grasses, Forbs and Trees

by: LaRae Baker, NRCS Resource Conservationist

Ohio NRCS has a set of resource documents for planting grasses, forbs, trees and shrubs for many of our conservation practices.

Appendix A focuses on planting grasses and forbs (flowers). There is a version for [Forage Production and Erosion Control](#), one for [Wildlife Habitat](#) and another for [Cover Crops](#). Customers often ask for guidance on seeding mixes, rates and dates. That information is contained in the Appendix A.

Appendix B gives similar information but focuses on [Tree/Shrub Recommendations](#). This document assists customers looking for information such as drainage adaptations, shade tolerance, and selecting native Ohio species. It can also help with selecting wildlife friendly species and quantity calculations based on spacing.

Appendices A & B are full of other useful information and allows the customer the flexibility of customizing their project to suit their needs. You can find all of these in the Field Office Technical Guide located here: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/OH>. I recommend saving applicable documents as a pdf or bookmarking the Field Office Technical Guide website as these documents are updated from time to time.



# **SWCD Equipment for Sale and Rent**

## **The following items are available for sale:**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Marking flags           | \$10 per 100 flags, available year round       |
| • Soil Survey Narratives  | \$15 each or free online, available year round |
| • Topographic Quadrangles | \$6 each, available year round                 |
| • Soil Survey Aerial Maps | Free   |
| • Fish Fingerlings        | Prices vary, sale held in Fall                 |
| • Tree Seedlings          | Prices vary, sale is in April                  |



## **The following equipment is available for rent: (subject to schedule and availability)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill (15-foot)            | \$12/ acre w/ \$125 minimum charge                   |
| • Tree Puller  | \$100 per day<br>\$150 per weekend<br>\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)<br>- \$150 deposit | \$75 per day<br>\$100 per weekend                    |
| • Tree Planter                                       | \$40 per day   |

**All equipment must be scheduled through the Union SWCD office  
at 937-642-5871 during regular business hours.  
Please contact Brent Nickel at ext. 2220 to schedule.**

# 2021 Affiliate Members

## Platinum Memberships



## Gold Memberships



MITCHAGRI, INC

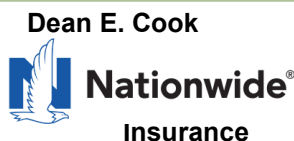


UNION COUNTY



THE SEED  
CENTER

## Silver Memberships



OHIGRO  
Inc.



## Bronze Memberships





## Become a Union SWCD Affiliate Member

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/affiliate-members--donors>



*Affiliate membership dollars are used to help contribute to a variety of natural resource education efforts for Union County residents. Such efforts include field days, pond clinics, displays, tours, camp scholarships and presentations to schools and civic groups.*

### Membership Benefits:

Annual Meeting Ticket(s)	Listed in our Annual Meeting Program
Listed in our Annual Report	Listed on our website
Recognized in our quarterly newsletter	Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoint

### Please complete the form below:

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose one of the following Affiliate memberships available:

_____ Diamond Membership	\$500 or more
_____ Platinum Membership	\$250 - \$499
_____ Gold Membership	\$100 - \$249
_____ Silver Membership	\$50 - \$99
_____ Bronze Membership	\$25 - \$49

Send this form along with a check payable to: Union SWCD  
18000 State Route 4, Suite B  
Maryville, OH 43040

If you have any questions please contact Sherry Maisenbacher at  
937-642-5871 x 2221 or [smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.com](mailto:smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.com)

## Welcome to our Newest Staff Members!



Ashley Dawson recently joined the Pheasants Forever Ohio team as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. She will be working out of the USDA Service Center offices in Champaign, Clark, Logan, Madison, and Union counties, in partnership with the USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

For the past two years, Ashley was a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist for Pheasants Forever in east-central Illinois. This position brings her closer to her family in central and southern Ohio.

While her family is originally from Ohio, Ashley was born in Alabama, grew up in Oklahoma, and moved to Virginia as a teenager. In 2016, she received dual bachelor's degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies from Shenandoah University in Virginia. In 2018, she obtained her Master's Degree from Antioch University New England's Environmental Studies Program in Conservation Biology. Her Master's thesis focused on the effects of white-tailed deer browsing on a nature preserve in New Hampshire.

After graduate school, Ashley interned for Virginia Working Landscapes, a program at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute that promotes native grassland conservation and restoration on private lands. As part of this internship, she assisted with Northern Bobwhite Quail habitat surveys, which kickstarted her interest in upland bird conservation on private lands and led to the start of her career with Pheasants Forever.

In her free time, Ashley enjoys martial arts, reading, sewing and crochet. She often spends weekends backpacking, learning new primitive and wilderness skills, or visiting her family's farm in southern Ohio. She is eager to meet and work with landowners in her new region to address resource concerns and is passionate about how Farm Bill conservation programs can benefit both farmers and wildlife.



Matt Archer was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio in 1980 and has lived in Logan County his entire life. He graduated from Indian Lake High School in 1998 and has made a career of operating heavy equipment. Matt worked for the Logan County Highway Department for 16 years before taking his current position With Union County Soil and Water. In his spare time, Matt enjoys hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. He is also currently working to remodel his home that he shares with his fiancé, Emily Brown. Together they share 4 children, Talan, Cohen, Haley and Alexa.



Stephen Johnson is a new District Technician for Union County's SWCD. He is excited to be starting his career in the conservation office and is looking forward to having the opportunity to work with others who want to help protect our natural resources and the environment. Stephen is a graduate of the Environmental Engineering program at Wilkes University, which is a small, private university in his hometown of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. While he earned his degree at Wilkes, he was a member of the Men's Soccer Team and participated in a variety of volunteer activities. During the summer breaks from school, Steve worked as a laborer for a general contractor that did road construction. After graduating in 2020, he continued to work as a laborer until he became a certified Engineer-in-Training. He moved from Wilkes-Barre to Urbana, Ohio in late January of 2021. Steve is a sports enthusiast and enjoys watching soccer, baseball, and ice hockey. Some other things he enjoys are skiing, hiking, lifting weights, playing video games and spending time with his family.

## **Upcoming Events:**

October 11, 2021 - Columbus Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

November 10, 2021 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

November 11, 2021 - Veteran's Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

November 25, 2021 - Thanksgiving Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

December 9, 2021 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

December 24, 2021 - Christmas HOLIDAY observed- Office Closed

December 31, 2021 - New Year's Eve HOLIDAY - Office Closed

January 13, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?  
Email [bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov) to be included on our list.**

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Mailing Address Goes Here

Union Soil & Water Conservation District  
18000 State Route 4 North, Suite B  
Marysville, Ohio 43040  
(937) 642-5871 option 3  
[www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district](http://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district)

# *Conservation News*

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