



Conservation News

VOLUME 25, No. 1

WINTER 2021

Union SWCD 2021 Annual Tree Sale to be held on April 17!

Mark your calendars for this year's tree sale! The sale will be held on Saturday, April 17 at the Union County Agricultural Center parking lot. We will be conducting the sale as a drive through event again this year.

Evergreens will be sold in packets of 25 for \$25/pkt and Hardwood and Shrub packets of 5 for \$10/pkt.

Evergreen Species include:
White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, and White Spruce

Hardwood species include:
Sugar Maple, Northern Red Oak, Black Cherry,
White Flowering Dogwood, Eastern Red Bud
and American Elderberry.

The sale will be held from 9 AM until Noon
Trees are available on a first come first serve basis.

Cash and checks are accepted, but please wait until time of purchase to write out any checks.

The following pages detail the various species available at the tree sale, as well as preferred planting conditions for each.

Included in this newsletter is an order form
to be used on the day of the sale.

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

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Sherry Maisenbacher
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Ron Nieman, DC
LaRae Baker

Union SWCD

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937-642-5871 x 3

[https://
www.unioncounty
ohio.gov/union-
soil-water-
conservation-
district](https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district)

2021 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE - ORDER FORM

The main sale date for 2021 will be Saturday, April 17 at the
Union County Agricultural Center's parking lot at
18000 State Route 4 North, Marysville, Ohio.
The sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
All stock is sold on a first come, first served basis.

No orders may be placed prior to the sale. All stock are seedlings only.
Please make selections below and bring completed form with you on the day of the sale.
Orders will be totaled at the sale, after ensuring that all species desired are still available.
No credit cards will be accepted for payment.

# Trees Ordered		<u>EVERGREENS</u> (25 trees per packet)	Sub-TOTAL
_____	\$25/pkt.	White Spruce, 12-18" transplants	\$ _____
_____	\$25/pkt.	Colorado Blue Spruce, 10-16" transplants	\$ _____
_____	\$25/pkt.	White Pine, 8-12" (2-1) transplants	\$ _____

<u>HARDWOOD & SHRUB PACKETS</u> (5 trees per packet)			
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Sugar Maple 12-18"	\$ _____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Northern Red Oak, 12-18"	\$ _____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Cherry, Black 6-12"	\$ _____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	White Flowering Dogwood, 12-18"	\$ _____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Eastern Red Bud, 6-12"	\$ _____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	American Elderberry, 18-24"	\$ _____

<u>ACCESSORIES</u>			
_____	\$10/bundle	Marking Flags (100 in bundle)	\$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

PAID w/ CASH \$ _____

PAID w/CHECK \$ _____ \$ _____

Please include email address if you would like to be included in our newsletter mailing list.

(See more information on tree species at our webpage under the Sales & Rentals, Tree Sale tab)
<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district>

2021 Union SWCD Tree Sale - Brief Descriptions of Species

1. **White Spruce – *Picea glauca***

This non-native spruce, to 60' high and 20' wide, is more tolerant of heavier clay soils and wetness than the Norway spruce. It is slower growing than Norway spruce and has a symmetrical shape with blue-green needles. The primary benefit locally *is that it will better tolerate the acidic heavy clays*. It will not survive extended seasonal wetness.

2. **Colorado Blue Spruce – *Picea pungens***

This non-native spruce, to 50' high and 16' wide, is a conical evergreen conifer with densely growing horizontal branches. It has scaly grey bark on the trunk with yellowish-brown branches. They are often grown as ornamental trees in gardens and parks and also grown for the Christmas tree industry. It grows at a slow to medium rate, adapts well to many soils - growing in acidic, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It requires normal moisture with moderate tolerance to flooding and drought.

3. **White Pine – *Pinus strobus***

According to many the Eastern White Pine is a NE Ohio native. This beautiful pine is majestic in appearance and may reach a mature height of 80'+ with a 40' pyramidal spread. Its soft blue-green needles add beauty to the landscape. It is a fairly fast grower and loves full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. It prefers moist, but very well drained soils.

4. **Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum***

Another Union County native, Sugar Maple can be expected to grow across Union County – except in areas of extended seasonal wetness. This maple is the most efficient at producing maple syrup. Growth habit includes a broad canopy and beautiful fall color. It prefers plenty of space and sunlight. Will tolerate shade with subsequent slower growth,

5. **Northern Red Oak – *Quercus rubra***

This Union County native may reach a mature height of 80+ feet. Unlike other oaks, this species grows fairly rapidly on ideal sites with ideal conditions. Fall foliage features vivid russet red to bright red colors. It is tolerant of lower pH (4.5 – 6.0) and prefers full sun, space, and moist, but well drained soils. This is the northernmost Eastern oak.

6. **Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina***

A rapidly growing woodland tree common throughout all of Ohio, is often found in open fields and previously harvested forests. Its small fruits are relished by birds and mammals as a food source in late summer. Also known as Wild Black Cherry, this tree may grow to 60 feet tall by 30 feet wide (or larger) when it is found in an open field.

7. **White Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida***

Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 30' high and is often wider than it is tall when mature, with a trunk diameter of up to 1'. Flowering dogwood does best in moist, acidic soil in a site with some afternoon shade, but good morning sun. The fruit is a cluster of two to ten drupes, which ripen in the late summer and the early fall to a bright red, or occasionally yellow with a rosy blush. They are an important food source for dozens of species of birds. The leaves turn a rich red-brown in fall.

8. **Eastern Redbud – *Cercis canadensis***

Considered a small tree, this native species proclaims spring with a showy abundance of lavender-pink flowers that cover its twigs before leaf break. Its heart shape leaves add extra appeal to any landscape. The Eastern Redbud is often found to naturally occur along the edges of deciduous woods. Whether planted singularly, or in masses, the redbud makes a fine ornamental (25'). It prefers full sun, but tolerates partial shade. A small pea-like pod is produced in fall.

9. **American Elderberry – *Sambucus canadensis***

Also known as American Elder and Common Elder, this native deciduous large shrub, or small tree, produces small black-purple berries that many people and wildlife enjoy. Commonly found in wetter areas and fencerows, this shrub will adapt to backyards, as well as wild areas – especially near forest edges. It may grow to 12' tall, with arching branches.

Wild About Wildlife

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

Winter Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

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.

Muskrat or Beaver Problems?.... Now is the Time!

A timely reminder for anyone experiencing chronic damage from Muskrats or Beaver.

Now is the time to recruit trappers to reduce the potentially explosive muskrat population. In Union County, the regulated Muskrat and Beaver trapping seasons run until

February 28, 2021

Duck, Duck, Goose!

Waterfowl seasons will be ending soon and the nesting season is right around the corner. Now is the time to think about next years ducklings by constructing nest structures and placing them before the ice melts.

I have nest plans available in my office.

On another note, if you have had nuisance geese problems in the past, you are likely to have them again. Efforts to legally discourage Canada geese from nesting on properties should begin early. It takes uncommon persistence to keep them from instinctively nesting.

If, despite one's very best efforts, one still needs assistance, the Ohio Division of Wildlife has an on-line website to assist with human-geese conflicts.

Go to:

- **www.wildohio.com**
- Click onto **Wildlife Resources**
- Find **Canada Goose Conflicts** – then Click.

Christmas Trees for Wildlife

Placing a wildlife brush shelter on your property can add an interesting and important element to your backyard habitat, attracting a wide variety of wildlife that may have been missing. Providing dense, heavy and secure shelter close to the ground can attract many animals that may not feel comfortable otherwise. An old Christmas tree can make a great base. This is the easiest thing you can do with your tree if you have a yard. It directly benefits the wildlife in your backyard during winter months because brush piles and dead trees offer food and needed protection from the chill.

Wildlife Brush PilesCottontail Condos

Winter is a great time to construct heavy-duty brush piles.

No, not small piles of limbs. Begin by placing large diameter pieces (Six inch +.), at the base. Arrange the base to have four compartments by placing logs across the middle of each side. As each row goes up, move the logs "in" one width, so that a pyramid shape begins to form. At about four feet high, place leftover limbs and other cuttings on top as a roof. Add to the top of the pile as necessary.



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/>

Recommendations to PONDer!

Remember this most basic of all pond truths...*every living thing and every dying thing in every pond is using up precious dissolved oxygen 24 hours a day throughout the entire year—even winter!*

Should extended snow cover blanket thick ice, safely attempt to create "alleys" to allow sunlight to penetrate the ice windows. Several swipes with a snow shovel or snow blower will help. Yes, plants still photosynthesize in winter.

GOT THE APP?

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.

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/>

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.



Winter Conservation Tips

As winter is upon us now, so is the possibility of snow and ice. While the sight of a fresh new white snow is often a pleasing sight, it also presents a pollution threat to storm sewers that drain into streams or other bodies of water as it melts.

Here are a few things you can do to help keep our water clean:

- Remove the snow before it turns to ice! This limits how much deicing materials you need to use and limits how much of this deicing material eventually ends up in storm drains.
- Consider using deicing materials other than rock salt, which can harm plant growth, aquatic habitats, and drinking water. Sand, sawdust, and even cracked corn are a few examples of good alternatives to using salt. You may even hear of people using beet juice!
- When shoveling snow from impervious surfaces, shovel it onto landscaped and grassy areas. As the snow melts, it will soak into the ground instead of directly into a storm water drain or a body of water. The soil acts as a natural filter and will help clean the water as it travels.
- Besides your porch steps, sidewalks, and driveways, also clear snow and ice from storm water drains! Obstructed or clogged storm water drains cause water to pool and flood, which can cause another long list of problems.
- Sweeping up sediment and residues after the snow melts keeps it from getting into the storm sewers and streams.
- Clean up pet waste! This should be done all year 'round, but the frigid temperatures cause the waste to decompose much slower, which means that it will remain stinky and an eyesore for much longer. Then, as the temperature warms, it will mix with the snowmelt and find its way into the storm drains and other bodies of water.

For those with basements: Frozen drainage pipes can be a problem this time of year, 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. Insulation wrap around your pipe will help keep your pipe protected when old man winter gives us extreme low temperatures.

Managing Small Forest Patches for Birds Virtual Workshop

By: LaRae Baker, NRCS Resource Conservationist

I had the opportunity to participate in a virtual workshop this month about managing small forest patches for birds. It was hosted by the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI). This initiative is a collaboration between government agencies, non-profit organizations and others to “ensure the conservation and effective management of birds in Ohio.”

Last year, the OBCI developed a management guide specifically for small forest patches. Small patches are considered 2.5 acres- 250 acres of contiguous forest land. The guide can be found here: http://obcinet.org/uploaded_docs/OBCI_small_patch_guide_final_2020_web.pdf It is very informative and worth reading. There are other management guides on the website.

The virtual workshop link is <https://obcinet.org/healthy-forest-management/small-patch-virtual-workshop/>. There are recordings of the two meetings that were held and a list of videos to watch. The video lengths vary, and it is set up so you can watch the videos at your own pace.

IMPORTANT

NOTICE

CRP Field Visits & Safety

The Union County Service Center has approximately 500 CRP fields that will be assessed this fiscal year. We are not approaching dwellings for the safety of our customers and our staff. Please contact the FSA office if you have questions related to your CRP contract at 937-642-6741.

Mill Creek Log Jam Project Update (Position Change)



My Name is Garrett Carpenter, I have recently taken over the role of Drainage Project Manager/ Technician and will now be the contact for the Mill Creek log jam project. I have been at Union Soil and Water Conservation District for 2.5 years as a Drainage Maintenance Technician. I am excited for my new role and eager to keep the log jam project moving forward. We are currently putting together numbers for estimates and plans to get the project out for bid. Please feel free to contact me with any questions/ concerns you may have about the project.

Garrett Carpenter
Drainage Project Manager/ Technician
18000 St. Rt. 4
Marysville OH 43040
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2216
gcarpenter@unioncountyohio.gov

Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Update

This fall we have completed the dip out of Duns run. The pictures show how much sediment had accumulated in areas of the ditch. The picture of the bridge displays how we were able to drop the current water level to its original flow line. We will be back in the spring to level spoil piles. We will then level and grade the areas effected and plant grass seed to restore the filter strip. I will be contacting adjacent landowners of farm ground next to the ditch to discuss spreading some of the sediment piles in the farm fields. We have an attachment for rock removal we will use to remove any large rock or debris.



We continue to work on petition projects. Beery - Morris is nearing the final hearing and a date will be set in the coming weeks. Wenrick and Farrington ditch projects will follow. We continue to work on the Mill Creek log jam and selective tree removal project.

Petition projects will keep us busy for the next couple years as more petitions are being submitted. Drainage is a vital part of our community and it is nice to see all the interest to improve the watersheds around the county.

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

Jeremy Burrey
Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
18000 St. Rt. 4
Marysville OH 43040
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2228
jburrey@unioncountyohio.gov

Become a Union SWCD Affiliate Member

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district>



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:

Recognized in our quarterly newsletter
Listed in our Annual Report
Listed on our website

Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoint
Listed in our Annual Meeting Program
(2) Annual Meeting tickets

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
Marysville, OH 43040

If you have any questions please contact Sherry Maisenbacher at
937/642-5871 x 2221 or smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov

**Union SWCD Board of Supervisors and staff would like to THANK
the 2020 Affiliate Members for their continued support!**

<u>Cook Real Estate</u>	56 years
<u>Parrott Implement Company</u>	56 years
<u>Ohigro Inc.</u>	47 years
<u>MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing</u>	34 years
<u>Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance</u>	27 years
<u>Select Sires, Inc</u>	26 years
<u>Smart Oil, LLC</u>	7 years
<u>Hickory Lane Farms Nursery & Landscape LLC</u>	2 years
<u>Scotts Miracle-Gro</u>	2 years
<u>KG Agricultural Product, Inc.</u>	1 year
<u>Millcreek Gardens LLC</u>	1 year
<u>NOVUSag/Cardinal Ag. LLC</u>	1 year
<u>Seed Consultants</u>	1 year
<u>Vititoe Construction, Inc.</u>	1 year

The Union SWCD 2021 Affiliate Membership drive has begun, to become an Affiliate Member complete the Affiliate Membership Application and return to our office or contact Sherry Maisenbacher at (937) 642-5871 x2221 or smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov.

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.

Union SWCD Affiliate Members Benefits:

Listed in our Annual Report
Listed in our Annual Meeting Program
Recognized on our Annual Meeting PowerPoint
Recognized in our quarterly newsletters
You will be listed on our website with a link to yours!
<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/affiliate-members--donors>

Affiliate memberships available:

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

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
\$150 per weekend
\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)
- \$150 deposit | \$75 per day
\$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.**

OFFICE UPDATES

Due to continued concerns over the Coronavirus,
the Union Soil & Water Conservation District Office
will remain closed to the public.

Our staff is available by email, phone and by appointment.
Please contact our office during business hours if you have any questions
or to schedule an appointment.

For an in-person meeting, we ask that you follow all
Ohio Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and
Union County Health Department
procedures, recommendations, and guidelines.

Face coverings are required while visiting the office.

If you need to drop-off/pickup
call 937-642-5871 ext. 3 to schedule.

**Thank you for your understanding and flexibility
during this ever-changing time.**

Union SWCD District Staff - Office # 937-642-5871 x 3

Brent Nickel	(ext. 2220)	bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov
Sherry Maisenbacher	(ext. 2221)	smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov
Mark Watkins	(ext. 2217)	mwatkins@unioncountyohio.gov
Jeremy Burrey	(ext. 2228)	jburrey@unioncountyohio.gov
Garrett Carpenter	(ext. 2216)	gcarpenter@unioncountyohio.gov
David Smilnak	(ext. 2218)	dsmilnak@unioncountyohio.gov

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 1, 2021 - New Years Day Holiday - Office Closed

Jan. 13, 2021 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

Jan. 18, 2021 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

Feb. 11, 2021 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

Feb. 15, 2021 - Presidents' Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

Mar. 11, 2021 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

April 8, 2021 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

April 17, 2021 - Union SWCD Tree Seedling Sale - 9:00-Noon - Ag Center - Parking Lot

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email 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
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(937) 642-5871 option 3
<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district>

Conservation News

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