



Conservation News

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FALL 2019

Board of Supervisors

Andy Clarridge
Bill Conklin
Steve Robinson
Matt Staley
Rick Weigand

SWCD Personnel

Brent Nickel
Mark Watkins
Jeremy Burrey
Sherry Maisenbacher
Garrett Carpenter
Gabriel Hart

NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC
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Pheasants Forever

Mark Wallen

Union SWCD

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www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/

74th Annual Meeting Highlights

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District held its 74th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City. An election of supervisors was held to start off the evening, and the candidates starting a new term on January 1, 2020, will be Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno. Clarridge is currently serving his 3rd term on the USWCD board, and Trivisonno will be a new board member replacing retiring supervisor Bill Conklin.



(pictured left to right Cheryl Trivisonno and Andy Clarridge)



John T. Carl was presented the Wildlife Award by Wildlife Officer Josh Shields for his 40 years of dedication to Hunter's Education in Union County Ohio.

(Pictured left to right Sue Carl, John Carl and Josh Shields)

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USWCD Board Chairman Rick Weigand recognized Bill Conklin for his twenty-one years of service (January 1999 - December 31, 2019) and his contributions to Union SWCD and Union County. And Steve Robinson for his thirty plus years of service not only locally with the district but also nationally where he's served as NACD President and is current serving as the NCF president.



Attendees enjoyed hearing Katie Coon's presentation on her trip to Iceland. (On the left is Katie Coon giving her presentation on Iceland)



(Above generous door prizes we received from local businesses)

Lucas and Lyndsay Braun were recognized as the 2019 Union SWCD Cooperator of the Year. The Union Soil & Water Conservation District annually spotlights one Union County Cooperator for their outstanding contributions in advancing conservation locally. The Braun's used the Conservation Reserve Program to assist with the installation of a wetland and implementation of a wildlife focused conversion of old farm fields to native friendly habitat.



(Above Mark Watkins presenting Lyndsay Braun)

THANK YOU

Union Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff would like to thank the following supports for helping make our 74th Annual Meeting a success.

Affiliate Members

Select Sires, Inc
Scotts Miracle-Gro
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Parrott Implement Co.
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The Maize at Little Darby Creek
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Door Prize Donors

ADS Pipe	ASE Feed & Supply
Benny's Pizza Pub & Patio	Bokes Creek Orchard
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Cook Real Estate	Dean E. Cook Insurance Agency
Dutch Mill Greenhouse	Farm Credit Mid-America
Leeds Farm	The Maize at Little Darby Creek
Meijer	Ohiogro, Inc.
Parrott Implement Company	Richwood Banking Company
Select Sires, Inc.	Smart Oil Company

Help Save the Monarch Butterfly by Protecting Native Milkweed

The iconic monarch butterfly, which has long been a welcome sight in backyard gardens across Ohio, faces many threats. In Ohio, one way we can ensure future generations of monarch butterflies continue to visit flower gardens throughout our state is by protecting native milkweed plants.

Every year in the fall, monarch butterflies across the eastern U.S. and Canada begin a 3,000-mile-long journey down to wintering grounds in Mexico. In the spring, these same butterflies head back north, and delight us with their presence once again. However, this amazing journey would not be possible without milkweed, a group of plants critical to the survival of the monarch butterfly. As butterflies, monarchs can feed on the nectar of a number of different flowering plants, but as caterpillars, monarchs are entirely dependent on the availability of milkweed.

Monarch caterpillars hatch from eggs laid on milkweed plants and feed on the leaves of the plant as they grow. If these plants are mowed, removed, or sprayed with pesticides or herbicides, the caterpillars will not survive. Protecting these plants, especially during the egg-laying period from July through September, helps both monarch butterflies and caterpillars continue their life cycle and ultimately results in more monarch butterflies that can complete their journey to Mexico and back.

In the past, milkweed was viewed as a toxic weed. Today, we know that milkweed is a very important group of native plants that helps support many species of wildlife, including monarch butterflies. Learn more about ways you can help ensure these beautiful butterflies are around for generations to come by visiting the [Monarch Joint Venture](#).



Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Annual Milkweed Pod Collection

September 1st through October 30th

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District
[for more information](#)

Starting September 1, we will again be collecting Milkweed pods and seed to turn into plugs for use in conservation practices. We welcome your donations here at the office and are also on the lookout for healthy populations to do some organized collections.

If you have questions feel free to call
Brent Nickel at 937-642-5871 x2220

Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.
bnickel@co.union.oh.us

Fall Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Interests and Concerns

More New Regulations Set for 2019-20 Season

White-tailed Deer tagging regulations have changed again this year. You may also want to purchase your permits early as a fee increase on specific white-tailed permits will take effect on Oct 16, 2019

For further information, please refer to the [Ohio Deer and Turkey Game Check page.](#)

What's In-Season

Always Refer to the Current Year's Regulations.

Fishing Regulations:

[2019-20 Fishing Regulations](#)

Hunting Regulations:

[2019-20 Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)

"Hunting With Permission" forms, **Hunting Regulations, Fishing Regulations, and Trapping Instruction Packets** 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, 2019** through **February 29, 2020**. I have a list of willing trappers in my office if you need someone to assist you.

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.

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 Hunter's 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.

- New this year: The age limit for a youth hunting season is 17 years old or younger on the date when the hunt takes place. See page 26 in the Hunting Regulations

Several Opportunities are Available in Union County:

[Pheasants Forever Chapter #535-Union County, Ohio](#)

Is hosting a youth pheasant hunt.

Oct. 19: Youth Hunt - Pheasant
Register by Oct 14 by calling
Brent (740)262-6068

[National Wild Turkey Federation Union County Ohio](#)

Is hosting a youth deer hunt.

Nov 23: Youth Hunt- Deer
Register at <http://unioncountynwtf.weebly.com/>
Or by calling/ texting
Casey (937)578-8492 or Mason (937)243-1912

Don't Forget Your Best Friend

State public hunting areas opened back up to training and exercising on Sept. 1. Several hunting seasons are open also. Get out there with your best friend and enjoy the early season, either with the gun or just to get some exercise and do some scouting for other upcoming seasons. The work you put in now can pay big dividends come Upland Hunting Season.

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://ohiowildlifecenter.org/dnn/>

USDA- NRCS Program Sign-ups

Now is a great time to apply for available NRCS programs.
All eligible applications filed by the sign-up deadline - to be announced later -
will be considered for the 2020 fiscal year funding.

Programs will include the

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program,
- Conservation Stewardship Program,
- Wetland Reserve Easements, and potentially others.

Customers will need to file an application, AGI and 1026 forms.
Contact NRCS at larae.baker@usda.gov or via phone at 740-852-4004 x3.

Websites to help are: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway> and www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov.



Welcome Aboard!

Gabriel Hart is an Urban Technician at Union Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), where he handles Construction Site Reports in compliance with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4) & Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3) for the City of Marysville, Home Site Reviews, some GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data collection, as well as some AutoCAD use and will be doing some educational programs for schools for the SWCD.

Gabriel has mostly worked in the GIS field for several utility companies and the federal government where he obtained a secret clearance from the DoD. He is originally from Northeast Ohio (Trumbull County) and attended Kent State University where he studied GIS Geography. In his spare time Gabriel is an avid sports fan, likes to listen to all kinds/types of music, travel and spending time with his dog, friends and family.



New Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist!

Hello, My name is Mark Wallen and I am the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, working in Champaign, Clark, Logan, Madison and Union counties. A native of Champaign county, I am thrilled to be back home working with landowners to help them achieve their goals of making their lands more sustainable for wildlife and our natural resources. I am also looking forward to working with the Union County and Darby Plains Pheasants Forever chapters that help promote Pheasants Forever's mission in conservation.

With fall already upon us and most farmers ready to begin their fall harvest, now is the time to start thinking about conservation efforts for the upcoming year. If you have any questions about installing conservation on your property, or want just want to talk bird dogs and upland hunting, don't hesitate to give me a call at 937-215-7951 or drop in one of the USDA county offices and see me.

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 |
| • Pond Warning Signs | \$7 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.**

Winter Tips 2019:

Keep a lookout for Black Ice not only when driving but also when walking. Slips and falls can put a damper into our day to day activities and work schedules. Be sure to wear weather appropriate footwear as well as clothing to stay warm.

(<https://heattrak.com/blogs/facility-management/shocking-slip-and-fall-statistics>)

Shoveling snow can put a large amount of stress not just on your lower back but also your heart. So be careful, take it easy. Be a good Samaritan and help a neighbor out.

(<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/protect-your-heart-when-shoveling-snow-201101151153>)

- Warm up your muscles before starting.
- Shovel many light loads instead of fewer heavy ones.
- Take frequent breaks.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Don't feel that you need to clear every speck of snow from your property.

Head indoors right away if your chest starts hurting, you feel lightheaded or short of breath, your heart starts racing, or some other physical change makes you nervous. If you think you are having a heart attack, call 911 or your local emergency number.

Salting driveways and sidewalks is a good, easy way to melt snow/ice. It can also have a huge environmental impact on our local creeks, streams, rivers and other waterways.

Try to use the appropriate amounts and also environment/pet friendly salts too.

(https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Environmental_impacts_of_road_salt_and_other_de-icing_chemicals)

Just because temperatures drop doesn't mean UV sun exposure have. Remember to take measures to cover exposed skin with some sunscreen for UV for long sun exposure as well as eye protection too.

Also remember snow reflects sun's rays so exposure is greater on clear sunny cold days.

(<https://www.ap tinting.com/sun-burn-during-winter-why-you-need-uv-ray-protection-year-round-in-maryland/>)

Winter is a season of very low humidity and therefore tends to dry out our skin. When the air outside is cold and dry, the water in your skin evaporates more quickly; this makes your skin feel dry and tight, and makes it look flaky. Eating foods that contain "good fats" (especially omega-3 fatty acids) can help replenish your skin's natural fats and keep it looking smooth and supple. Make sure to include plenty of omega-3-rich foods in your diet, including oily fish (such as salmon, sardines, and mackerel). If you're allergic or can't stand the taste of fish, try incorporating tofu, walnuts, flaxseeds, soybeans, or omega-3-fortified foods (like orange juice) into your diet every day. In addition, some people with dry skin and itchy rashes can benefit from evening primrose oil supplements.

(<https://www.everydayhealth.com/hs/dry-skin-relief/dr-wu-causes-of-dry-skin/>)

Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Update

Drainage Maintenance has been busy with several projects over the summer months. One of our big summer projects was our work on our assessment corrections. We were able to hire 2 summer interns to review our assessments for our ditches and make any corrections that were needed. There were over 5,000 parcels to review in the ditch maintenance program and our interns did a fantastic job in completing this task.

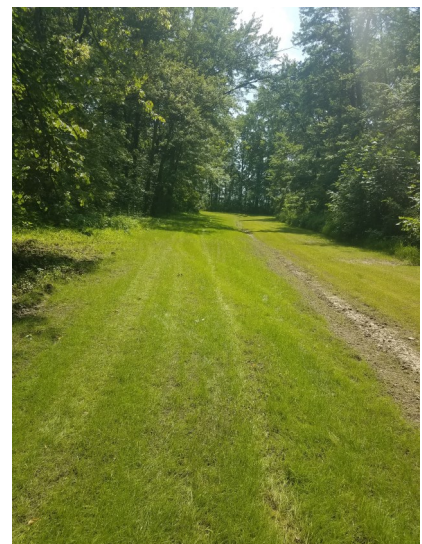
We also have been busy out in the field. We completed an excavation project in the Wilderness Trails subdivision in the Long Ditch watershed. We reconstructed a swale in the upper end to eliminate some flooding concerns in the area.

Beavers have been busy making dams for us to remove this summer. We removed a dam on North Fork of Indian run with our excavator and worked with Glacier Ridge Metro Park to remove another dam in the park. We have also repaired muskrat damage in 2 retention basins in Autumn Ridge recently.

Petition Projects –

- We have recently completed the Clark & Yoder project and Final Assessments should be mailed out in the coming weeks.
- Morris-Beery Ditch – This is the current project we are working on. There have been additions made to the project. We plan on presenting those additions to the landowners with a meeting in the coming weeks. Our staff is working on the plan and will put a final estimate together.
- Lincoln Ditch, Wenrick Ditch, and Farrington Ditch – We have received signed petitions on these 3 projects, and they will be presented to the SWCD board for approval at our next schedule board meeting. The goal is for these projects to be built at the same time and we hope to have the construction of these project begin in 2020.

If you have any drainage issues or have questions about a petition project, please call our office and we will be happy to assist you.



Upcoming Events:

Oct. 10, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 7:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

Oct. 12, 2019 - Union County Pheasants Forever Outdoor Skills Day - 9:00AM - Afternoon
1 Ross Lane, Richwood, OH

Oct. 14, 2019 - Columbus Day Holiday - Office Closed

Oct. 19, 2019 - Pheasants Forever Chapter #535 Union County, OH - Youth Hunt -
See their Facebook page for more details

Nov. 11, 2019 - Veteran's Day Holiday - Office Closed

Nov. 14, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

Nov. 28, 2019 - Thanksgiving Day Holiday - Office Closed

Dec. 12, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

Dec. 24, 25, 2019 - Christmas Eve/ Christmas Day Holiday - Office Closed

Jan. 1, 2020 - New Years Day Holiday - Office Closed

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