



Conservation News

VOLUME 26, No.4

FALL 2022

77th Annual Meeting Highlights

Board of Supervisors

Andy Clarridge
Matt Staley
Randy Trapp
Cheryl Trivisonno
Rick Weigand

SWCD Personnel

Brent Nickel
Mark Watkins
Sherry Maisenbacher
Matt Archer
Stephen Johnson
Joseph Grove
Joe Eads

NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC
LaRae Baker

Pheasants Forever

Ashley Dawson

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Suite D
Marysville, OH 43040
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www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district

Union Soil and Water Conservation District held its 77th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City. An election of supervisors was held to start off the evening, and the candidates starting their new terms on January 1, 2023, will be Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno. Clarridge is currently serving his 7th term and Trivisonno her 2nd term on the USWCD board.



Andy Clarridge



Cheryl Trivisonno



Gruenbaum Farms is our 2022 Cooperator of the Year. David Gruenbaum and his family have been operating this Century Farm for the last 20 years.

The family currently farm approximately 1300 acres of crop, 100 acres of hay and manage 60 acres of forest.

David has implemented 12 acres of brush management in

the woods. He is exploring ways to make his farm sustainable and is implementing a conservation plan on all acres. Gruenbaum Farms hosts farm tours and field days to provide educational and networking opportunities for the community.

77th Annual Meeting Highlights cont.



The entertainment for the evening was presented by Rebecca Rose, Conservation Liaison, from the Ohio Wildlife Center, who gave a presentation on “Gimme Shelter: Rescue, Rehabilitation and Why It Matters”. Because of severe habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and the illegal wildlife trade, hundreds of thousands of wild animals are being cared for in rescue centers and sanctuaries across the globe.

Rescue and rehabilitation centers are contributing to wildlife conservation in unique, community-based ways that are changing the hearts and minds of people and the way they relate to wildlife in their neighborhoods and in their countries.

The people who care for these animals and give them a second chance at life are among the wildlife heroes of the world. From chimpanzees in Sierra Leone, West Africa, to great-horned owls in Ohio, rescue and rehabilitation centers are contributing to wildlife conservation in unique, community-based ways that are changing the hearts and minds of people and the way they relate to wildlife in their neighborhoods and in their countries.

Rebecca serves on the board of directors for Friends of Bonobos - the U.S.-based NGO that raises funds to support the sanctuary.

To learn more visit the Ohio Wildlife Center website: www.ohiowildlifecenter.org



Pictured above: baby bonobo from Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.

Joseph Grove, Urban Technician - jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



As the Leaves Depart the Trees...

Every Autumn, the leaves fall and we're covered with a beautiful blanket of oranges, reds, and browns. While it may be picturesque, these leaves can cause problems for our storm sewers and streams.

City residents often rake their leaves to the edges of yards for citywide pickup. While this isn't necessarily *bad*, if the leaves aren't picked up quickly they can get blown or washed into the streets and storm drains. In large quantities, these leaves can clog storm drains and cause localized flooding. In smaller quantities, they are flushed into our nearby creeks and streams.

Since leaves naturally fall into streams anyway, it may not seem like an issue for leaves to be washed into them. However, when these extra leaves enter our streams and decompose, they consume more oxygen and add more nutrients than the naturally falling leaves normally would. This can throw off the chemical balance of the stream. Decreased oxygen levels can cause fish kills while higher nutrient content can cause algal blooms. Large amounts of leaves in the water can even lower stream temperatures by blocking sunlight. But, there are ways you can use leaves for your benefit and help keep them out of our streams:

- Leaves naturally build topsoil and humus (that rich, dark organic matter) to help amend clay soils. This increases the soil's ability to hold water, reducing runoff, while also improving the health of grass and plants. Instead of raking, just mow the leaves and return them into the soil in your yard.
- Leaves don't attract termites and other pests like wood mulch does, and they decompose quickly (in about a year). This makes them great for landscaping with, especially if they're chopped fine with a lawn mower.
- Leaves can also be turned into compost! Mix the leaves with other organic materials like used coffee grounds, vegetable scraps, and lawn clippings and you'll have a free fertilizer for flower beds and gardens.

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Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.
brent.nickel@unioncountyohio.gov

Fall Wildlife and Habitat Interests and Concerns

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:

[ODNR : Hunter Education Courses](#)

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.

Several Youth Hunting Opportunities are
available in Union County:

Pheasants Forever Chapter #535-Union County, Ohio

Oct. 22: Youth Hunt - Pheasant
Register by Oct 14 by calling
Brent (740)262-6068

National Wild Turkey Federation Union County Ohio

Nov 19: Youth Hunt- Deer
Register at

<https://unioncountynwtf.weebly.com/new-page.html>

Or by calling/ texting
Casey (937)578-8492 or Mason (937)243-1912

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, 2022** through **February 28, 2023**. I have a list of willing trappers in my office if you need someone to assist you.

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/>

What's In-Season

Hunting Regulations:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/hunting-trapping>

Fishing Regulations:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources>

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

The Division of Wildlife has an "APP" for that!

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/huntfishoh-mobile-app>

Get the APP and do all of your Division of Wildlife business right from your phone! Don't forget to update your APP on an annual basis for updated hunting and fishing regulations!

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.



NEED A PLACE TO HUNT?

OLHAP

has you covered!

The Ohio Landowner/
Hunter Access Partnership
program is up and running!

Check out the great
properties enrolled in this
program to expand your
hunting opportunities.

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

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>

"Humans are often wildlife's last hope for survival – not necessarily their best hope."

FY2022 Year in Review for NRCS

Program Numbers:

- 8 active EQIP contracts
- 7 active CSP contracts
- ~85 CRP plans written for re-enroll and new enrollment

Summary of Conservation Practices Applied Year to Date		
Practice:	Applied Total:	Number of Plans with Practice Implemented:
Brush Management (314) (Ac)	8	3
Conservation Cover (327) (Ac)	1096	193
Cover Crop (340) (Ac)	173	12
Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt (647) (Ac)	9	4
Fence (382) (Ft)	5589	2
Field Border (386) (Ac)	32	21
Grassed Waterway (412) (Ac)	5	9
Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104) (No)	3	3
Pasture and Hay Planting (512) (Ac)	6	1
Prescribed Burning (338) (Ac)	233	28
Prescribed Grazing (528) (Ac)	25	1
Subsurface Drain (606) (Ft) (installed as part of waterways only)	3998	5
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (Ac)	1	1
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (Ac) (CRP MCM activities)	195	36
*Conservation practices were installed on over 1,500 acres total. Not all practices shown.		

Other Activities:

Wrote Area 4 Envirothon soils questions for competition

3 Grazing Plans written in 3 counties

9 newsletter articles submitted total in 4 counties

5 outreach events attended

NRCS awarded a grant to help start a community garden at 330 S. Main Street, Marysville

Contact the NRCS office at 937-642-5871 x3 or via email at larae.baker@usda.gov to learn more information about this report.

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

News Release

Ohio NRCS Announces New EQIP Application Deadline

Application Deadline is November 14, 2022

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a program designed to address resource concerns throughout our nation's landscapes by providing financial assistance to implement practices identified in a conservation plan. Ohio NRCS has announced the deadline to submit applications for fiscal year 2023 as November 14, 2022.

Interested customers owning or operating an agricultural operation in Union County should contact the local NRCS office to schedule a meeting if interested in a conservation plan or to submit an application.

Eligible applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the November 14th deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2023 funding. [Ohio NRCS EQIP](#) website explains general program information, eligibility, and participant responsibilities.

Visit the [OH NRCS](#) website or contact your local USDA Service Center at 937-642-5871 x3 for more information about EQIP or other technical and financial assistance opportunities available through NRCS.

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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) | \$15/ acre w/ \$150 minimum charge |
| • Tree Puller | \$100 per day
\$150 per weekend
\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)
- \$150 deposit | \$100 per day
\$150 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.**

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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 Tickets	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

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

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

THANK YOU

Union Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff would like to thank the following supporters for helping make our 77th Annual Meeting a success.

Affiliate Members

Benny's Pizza

Bluescreek Farm, LLC

Bokes Creek Hot Shots

Bokes Creek Orchard

Connolly Construction Co.

Cook Real Estate

Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance

Millcreek Gardens LLC

MitchellAgri

Mitchell's Berries & Blooms

MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing

Ohigro, Inc.

Plain City Druggist

Richwood Tire Center

Rooster's Wings Marysville

The Seed Center

Seed Consultants

Select Sires, Inc.

Smart Oil, LLC

Steve Stolte

Stir Fresh Asian Canteen

The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek

Union County Farm Bureau

Vititoe Construction, Inc.

Door Prize Donors

A1 Advanced Plumbing

Auto Inspection Service LLC

Boyd's Marysville Goodyear

Cherry Hawk Farm

Der Dutchman

Good As Gold Promotions LLC

Lambert Jewelers

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Maize at Little Darby Creek, The

Moo Moo Express Car Wash

Once Upon a Tail

Roosters Marysville

Smart Oil LLC

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Welcome to our New Drainage Maintenance Supervisor, Joe Eads.

My name is Joe Eads. I grew up in Union County and currently live in Marysville. I graduated from Fairbanks high school. I have spent the last five years working for Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District in the Drainage Maintenance Department. I am excited to be the new Drainage Maintenance Supervisor for Union Soil and Water Conservation District. I am eager to continue building the ditch maintenance program and embrace the growing pains which we might face. I have one daughter named Miranda that keeps me busy in my spare time. I enjoy spending summer days at the lake boating and coaching various sports.

WE'RE HIRING

District Drainage Technician /Solar Project Inspector

District Drainage Technician: [CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District is now hiring a full-time District Drainage Technician. This position works under general supervision of the District Administrator, and is responsible for performing field and office technical duties in support of our organization. Also provides drainage technician and inspection services in support of any new solar-powered electric generation facilities that are being built in Union County. In general, will provide oversight of drainage in the areas where any solar projects are taking place. This person will also be involved in reviewing and/or assisting with the sizing and routing of subsurface drainage around and/or through the project areas. Will identify, monitor, and work to resolve any drainage issues that may result from project installation.

Solar Project Inspector: [CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

We are seeking a Solar Project Inspector to join our growing team! This is a new position, that will fall under the authority of the Union Soil and Water Conservation District. Under general supervision of the District Administrator, the Solar Project Inspector is responsible for performing field and office technical duties in support of the new solar-powered electric generation facilities that are being built in Union County.

The Solar Project Inspector will provide oversight of drainage in the areas where any solar projects are taking place. This person will also be involved in reviewing and/or assisting with the sizing and routing of subsurface drainage around and/or through the project areas. The Solar Project Inspector will identify, monitor, and work to resolve any drainage issues that may result from project installation.

Upcoming Events:

October 10, 2022 - Columbus Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

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

October 22, 2022 - Union County Pheasants Forever Youth Hunt

RSVP Due by Oct 14 - Facebook: Pheasants Forever Chapter #535 - Union County, Ohio

November 10, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

November 11, 2022 - Veteran's Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

November 24, 2022 - Thanksgiving Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

December 23, 2022 - Christmas Eve HOLIDAY observed - Office Closed

December 26, 2022 - Christmas Day HOLIDAY observed - Office Closed

January 2, 2023 - New Years Day Holiday observed - Office Closed

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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 D
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937) 642-5871 option 4
www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district

Conservation News

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