



# Conservation News

VOLUME 24 No. 2

SPRING 2019

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Matt Staley  
Andy Clarridge  
Bill Conklin

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## **Pheasants Forever**

Charlie Allen

## **Union SWCD**

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

**[www.co.union.  
oh.us/Union-Soil-  
Water-  
Conservation-  
District/](http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/)**

## **Union SWCD will hold Annual Tree Sale in April**

We are offering a few new varieties of trees and shrubs at this year's annual sale along with some of our traditional offerings.

Evergreens will be sold in packets of 25 for \$25/pkt and  
Hardwood and Shrub packets of 5 for \$10/pkt.  
We have ordered larger trees again this year.

Evergreen Species include:  
White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, and Douglas Fir.

Hardwood and Shrub species include:  
Sugar Maple, Chikapin Oak, Sycamore, Northern Catalpa, Red  
Twig Dogwood, American Hazelnut, Thornless Honeylocust,  
Northern Pecan, Common Bald Cypress.

The sale will be held on April 20, 2018 from 9 am until 12pm  
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.

This information is also available on our website at:

**<https://www.co.union.oh.us/tree-sale>**

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?  
Email [aaron.smith@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:aaron.smith@oh.nacdnet.net) to be included on our list.**

## **2019 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE**

The main sale date for 2019 will be Saturday, April 20 at the Union County Agricultural Center's Ditch Maintenance Building located at the rear 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. Any remaining seedlings will be sold the following week, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in the Union SWCD office located in Suite B of the same building. 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.

<b># Trees Ordered</b>		<b><u>EVERGREENS (25 trees per packet)</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
_____	\$25/pkt.	White Pine, 10-18" (2-1)	_____
_____	\$25/pkt.	Colorado Blue Spruce, 12-18" (2-2,)	_____
_____	\$25/pkt.	Douglas Fir, 12 -20" (2-2)	_____

<b><u>HARDWOOD and SHRUB PACKETS (5 trees per packet)</u></b>			
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Sugar Maple, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Chinkapin Oak, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Sycamore, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Northern Catalpa, 18-24"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Red Twig Dogwood, 18-24 "	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	American Hazlenut, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Thornless Honeylocust, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Northern Pecan, 12-18"	_____

<b><u>DECIDUOUS CONIFER (5 trees per packet)</u></b>			
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Common Bald Cypress, 18-24" (1-0)	_____

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

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\*(See more information on tree species at:  
<http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/>  
under Sales & Rentals tab.)

## 2019 Union SWCD Tree Sale - Brief Descriptions of Species

### 1. 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.

### 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. Douglas Fir – *Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca*

Douglas-fir is not related to the true firs. This wide ranging species grows from 70 to 250 feet tall. The branches are spreading to drooping, the buds sharply pointed and the bark is very thick, fluted, ridged, rough and dark brown. The needles are dark green or blue green, 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, soft to the touch and radiate out in all directions from the branch. They have a sweet fragrance when crushed. Grown widely for the Christmas tree industry.

### 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. Chinkapin Oak – *Quercus muehlenbergii*

Chinkapin oak is a member of the white oak family and similar to White Oak in shape. It prefers uplands and more alkaline soils than other oaks, but is tolerant of acidic and neutral pH sites. Union County is home to the fifth largest Chinkapin Oak found on Ohio's Big Trees list – *the massive oak at the Milford Center Cemetery's Civil War Monument*. The sixth largest Chinkapin is also located in Union Co. Expect a mature height of 60 feet, with an 80 foot canopy spread.

### 6. Sycamore – *Platanus occidentalis*

Typical sycamore trees grow to be 70 to 100 feet tall with a spread between 60 and 80 feet. When planted in well drained and moist soil and exposed to full sun, the sycamore tree reaches maturity moderately fast. They are typically broad and round. Preferring mostly moist and well drained soil, the sycamore tree is tolerant of wet soil conditions along streams and in bottom lands. However, it is not very tolerant of flooding during growing season. The leaves of a sycamore tree are light green that turn golden in color in the fall.

### 7. Northern Catalpa - *Catalpa speciosa*

native to a relatively small area of the central Mississippi Valley basin, has been extensively cultivated in Ohio for over 200 years, and is now naturalized in urban and rural areas, primarily used today as a large ornamental shade tree. Farmers introduced Northern Catalpa to Ohio in order to produce large amounts of relatively lightweight timber for fenceposts, since the wood is very resistant to rotting.

### 8. Red Twig Dogwood – *Cornus sericea*

This is a colorful deciduous shrub that is often thicket-forming. It is a great plant for naturalizing an odd area or property boundary. It will reach a mature height of 7-9', with an equal or wider eventual spread. Red Osier Dogwood prefers full sun, but often naturalizes in the light shade of woodland edges. Berries produce food for wildlife and the brilliant red stems offer winter landscape appeal. This is a plant that will often tolerate extended seasonal wetness.

### 9. American Hazlenut - *Corylus americana*

one of several related large shrubs known for their tasty nuts that provide food for humans or wildlife, is found throughout Ohio along roadsides, in fields, at the edges of forest, and in fencerows, in dry or moist sites. Also known as American Filbert or Hazel, it develops a broad, rounded, strongly suckering growth habit with age.

### 10. Thornless Honeylocust - *Gleditsia triacanthos 'inermis'*

Honeylocust is found throughout all of Ohio, being a fairly common resident of fencerows and open fields, but achieving its most favorable growth on the downslopes of streams and floodplains of rivers, where the deeper soils are moist to wet. Its fine-textured foliage makes it stand out when found next to trees with larger leaves that block more sunlight.

### 11. Northern Pecan - *Carya illinoensis*

This exceptionally hardy pecan tree produces a generous crop of thin-shelled buttery tasting nuts every year. Long lived, strong, hardy, rapid growers reaching 40-75 feet tall. In fall, prolific crops of large, flavorful, thin shelled nuts, fall free of the hulls. Selected for northern hardiness and prolific fruiting qualities.

### 12. Common Bald Cypress– *Taxodium distichum*

Bald Cypress is a majestic tree with soft, ferny foliage that enhances many landscapes. To the surprise of some people, when the Bald Cypress is planted on the right soil in yards or along streets, it does quite well and is a beautiful specimen tree. Enjoy the terra cotta hue of the foliage around Thanksgiving. Deciduous conifer adaptable to wet or semi dry conditions. Does well in full sun. Bald refers to the deciduous nature uncommon among other conifers.

## 2019 Union SWCD - Tree Sale Species at a Glance

Please refer to **2019 Union SWCD Tree Sale – Brief Descriptions of Species** on **page 1** for more species-specific details

	Tree Species	Scientific Name	Ohio Native	Size @ Maturity on <u>Ideal Sites</u> : Mature Height & ✓ Spread	Rate of Growth on <u>Ideal Sites</u> : F: >2 Feet / Yr. M: 1-2 Feet / Yr. S: <1 Feet / Yr.	Tolerates Extended Seasonal Wetness	Moist - Well Drained Sites	Well Drained Sites	Urban Tolerance	Fall Leaf Color	Sunlight Preference
1	White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Yes (N Ohio)	50' - 80' (>100') ✓ 20' - 40'	Fast		✓	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun to Light Shade
2	Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>	No	40' - 60' (>75') ✓ 10'-20'	Slow to Medium		✓	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun to Light Shade
3	Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca</i>	No	30' - 200+' ✓ 10'-20'	Medium		✓	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun
4	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Yes	60' - 70' (120') ✓ 40'-50'	Slow to Medium		✓	✓	✓	Brilliant Yellow to Burnt Orange	Full Sun. Tolerates Shade
5	Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Yes	60' - 80'	Slow to Medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yellow to Bronze	Full Sun to Part Sun
6	Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Yes	80' - 60'	Medium to Fast		✓	✓	✓	Yellow to Golden Yellow	Full Sun to Part Sun
7	Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Yes	70' - 40'	Fast		✓	✓	✓	Varies: Green Yellow, Brown	Sun or Part Shade
8	Red Twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Yes (N Ohio)	7-9' - 10' or more	Fast		✓	✓	✓	Reddish Purple	Full Sun
9	American Hazlenut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Yes	15' - Similar Spread	Medium to Fast		✓	✓	✓	Mild Yellow	Full Sun to Part Sun
10	Thornless Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos 'inermis'</i>	Yes	80' - 50'	Medium to Fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yellow	Full Sun to Partial Shade
11	Northern Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	No	70-100' - 40-70'	Medium		✓	✓	✓	Yellow	Full Sun
12	Common Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	No	60' - 25'	Fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	Deciduous Conifer	Full Sun to Part Shade

## Don Cook Memorial Scholarship

The Don Cook Memorial Scholarship was established in 1995 in memory of Don Cook. The program allows campers to have learning experiences which will enable them to develop an appreciation for conservation and the outdoors, both of which were very important aspects of Cook's life. Sponsored by Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Insurance and Union SWCD, scholarships are available for youth attending 4-H Camp.

This year we are offering (4) scholarships worth \$80 each to 4-H members attending 4-H camp June 17 – 21, 2019 @ Camp Clifton in Yellow Springs, Ohio. To apply, write a short essay about "Two things I am learning by being a 4-H member". Mail or drop off your letter of application by May 1st to:

Union Soil and Water Conservation District  
18000 St. Rt. 4, Suite B  
Marysville, OH 43040

\*\*Recipients will be notified direct so please include  
contact information with your essay\*\*

## Local Work Group Meeting

Union Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will conduct an annual Planning and Work Group (LWG) meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to pull together agencies and individuals with a variety of expertise and knowledge and gather input to address natural resources issues and set priorities for the district. A goal is to guide SWCD's federal partner, the Natural Resource Conservation District, by gathering input for LWG planning.

While the LWG membership is limited to Federal, State, county, tribal, or local government representatives who are familiar with agriculture and natural resources interests, the meeting is open to the general public, who is invited to participate and provide input on local conservation issues and resource challenges. LWGs support locally led conservation efforts by coordinating USDA programs with other conservation programs in an effort to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

When: Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Where: Conservation Meeting Room in the Union County Ag Center Building  
18000 State Route 4, Marysville, Ohio 43040

To RSVP, contact [sherry.maisenbacher@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:sherry.maisenbacher@oh.nacdnet.net)

# A big **THANK YOU** to our **2019 Affiliate Members**

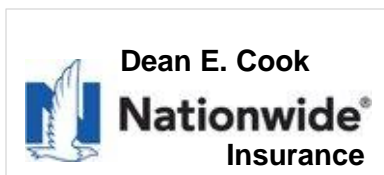
## Platinum Memberships



## Gold Memberships



## Silver Memberships



## Bronze Memberships



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.

To join our Affiliate members in supporting Union SWCD please contact Sherry Maisenbacher at our office in Marysville at 937/642-5871 x 2221 or email [sherry.maisenbacher@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:sherry.maisenbacher@oh.nacdnet.net).

# Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.  
brent.nickel@oh.nacdn.net

## Spring Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

### The Future of Hunting and the new R3 Outdoor Reaction Adoption Model.

What is R3? Recruiting, Retaining and Reactivating hunters, fishermen and women and outdoor enthusiasts. R3 is an important issue for anyone concerned about wildlife management, conservation and the future of our hunting heritage. Participation in hunting and fishing has been declining since the 1980s. Hunting and fishing license and equipment sales produce the vast majority of funding for fish and wildlife conservation and habitat restoration. Efforts to recruit new hunters have traditionally focused on youth by offering mentor hunts and activities that happen during one day events. R3 takes it a step further and includes participants of all ages, genders, skill levels and extends participation to multiple events over an extended time. The concept of this Model is that more participation will equal more long term outdoor users who will purchase hunting and fishing licenses.

The Division of Wildlife has recently adopted this model for use in Ohio by Conservation organizations that are involved in outdoor education activities. Organizations are encouraged to work together to increase participation in outdoor activities by sharing information and providing multiple activities across many different specialties. It follows the concept of "many hands make light work". Each organization can provide guidance in it's specialty by providing activities that they are familiar with, then encouraging participants to attend activities with other partner agencies in the following months.

Union County has been lucky enough to have this type of coordination already in place and we will be advertising these activities in the coming months. Local organizations participating in these activities are Union Soil and Water Conservation District, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Heart of Ohio Fishing Club, The City of Marysville, The Village of Richwood, and The Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Want to learn more? An Introduction to  
**LEARN TO SHOOT, HUNT, & FISH PROGRAMS**

## What's In-Season

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.

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses are now available for  
2019-2020 Seasons**

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

Weather will be warming soon and the skim of ice will soon be a memory. Spring fishing affords many opportunities for nice catches of Crappie, White Bass, Bluegill and larger species such as Saugeye, Walleye and Catfish. So string up and extra pole and take a youngster with you when you head out to your favorite hole to wet a line. Teach them to tie a fishing knot, let them play in the bait box or minnow bucket, make a game of packing out litter and show them how much fun a few hours wetting a line can be. Take pictures and display them. It's amazing what kids can remember from photos. Most of all, have fun and create memories!

**Secure the future of Fishing for Tomorrow.  
Take a Kid Fishing!**

## Backyard Wildlife Habitat

A fun, easy project for the family is to create habitat in your very own back yard. It can be as simple as reducing the amount of lawn that you mow. Even uncut lawn grasses like fescue and bluegrass can provide cover benefits to many small animals. Simple shelters made of log piles, firewood stacks, and brush provide needed safe places to hide from predators. Consider designating an area for a bird and butterfly garden and when choosing plants for the area try to choose natives. Native plants usually provide the best sources of food and cover and generally support more species of wildlife. Many pollinators are attracted to very specific species of plants, such as the Monarch Butterfly. Monarch Butterflies need milkweeds to lay eggs and for the caterpillar to develop into a butterfly. Take some time this spring to plan out a beneficial habitat project for your favorite species and be rewarded with great wildlife watching throughout the year. For those interested, I still have some Native Wildflower seed packets and Milkweed Seed envelopes available for FREE.

Stop in a pick up some for your spring planting.

## Recommendations to PONDer

Look now for any unwanted curly-leaf pondweed, filamentous algae, duckweed, and watermeal in ponds. If there is a history of their presence, they will likely be there again...  
I have fact sheets available in my office that covers a wide variety of common pond problems and the potential treatments of those problems.

## 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/>

# Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Report

Jeremy Burrey, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor  
jeremy.burrey@oh.nacdn.net

Construction season is underway and has been keeping us plenty busy! Work is steadily being completed for the Clark & Yoder petition project. Improvements have, also, almost been finished for Long Ditch .Below are some pictures of one of the most difficult, and interesting parts of the Clark & Yoder project, boring under St. Rt. 347!



# Union Soil and Water Conservation District

18000 State Route 4, Suite B, Marysville, Ohio 43040 \* 937-642-5871 Ext. 3

[www.co.union.oh.us/union-soil-water-conservation-district/](http://www.co.union.oh.us/union-soil-water-conservation-district/)

## 2018 Annual Report

### 73rd Anniversary

**Our Mission** *To promote, preserve, and enhance the wise use of our natural resources for the people of Union County by providing technical, financial and educational assistance.*

The Union SWCD was formed in 1945, the 47th District in Ohio, for the purpose of planning and carrying out natural resources conservation programs. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Union County, who serve staggered three-year terms. The supervisors donate their time to serve Union County landowners. Monthly board meetings of the Union SWCD Board of Supervisors are held on the second Thursday of each month to conduct business. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. April through October and at 6:00 p.m. November through March. All meetings are open to the public. Contact the office for date and time of meetings.

#### 2018 Board of Supervisors

**Rick Weigand, Chairman**

**Steve Robinson, Vice Chairman**

**Matt Staley, Secretary**

**Andy Clarridge, Fiscal Agent/Treasurer**

**Bill Conklin, Member**

#### Union SWCD Operating Fund 2018

*The Union Soil and Water Conservation District operates on funding provided by the Union County Commissioners, the City of Marysville, the Darby Township Trustees and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Resources.*

##### Local Funds for 2018

* Union County Commissioners	\$ 200,000.00
* City of Marysville	\$ 25,924.60
* Darby Township Trustees	\$ 1,000.00

##### Other Sources:

* State Matching Funds	\$ 144,454.00
* ODNR Wildlife Specialist Grant	\$ 15,300.00

## **Education**

- School Presentations:  
Gave (16) presentations in total on Groundwater Simulator, Enviroscope, In Stream Studies/Sampling/Water Quality/Chemical Water Quality Testing and The Lorax to over (1000) students from 1st grade to 7th grade to discuss topics relating to stormwater, groundwater, soil conservation and water quality, fishing and development.
- National Hunting & Fishing Day  
Assisted with – (75) participants
- Hunting & Fishing Education:  
Assisted with - (16) classes for over 1,000 participants
- Pheasants Forever Youth & Ladies Shoot and Hunt:  
(2) presentations / 24 participants
- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfasts:  
(4) Conservation Tillage Club breakfasts were held in 2018 at the Plaza Inn in Mt. Victory with (274) people attending.

## **Wildlife**

- Wildlife Conflict/Damage Investigations:  
(3) deer permits issued
- Wildlife Assistance:  
Provided assistance to variety of individuals concerning pheasant rearing, wildlife rescue information, “orphaned wildlife”, wildlife exclusion methods, habitat, muskrat/dike damage, wildlife conflict/nuisance investigations, Nuisance Trapper Lists, plant ID, etc.
- Wildlife Habitat Assistance:  
Landowner discussions for field management/contract requirements. Assist landowners with Native Plant ID's.
- Nuisance Animal Guidance Provided for:  
Squirrels, Beaver, Bees, Coyote, Fox, Red Tailed Hawk, Geese, Bats, Swans, Bagworms, Caterpillars, Songbirds, Muskrats, Turtles, Feral Cats, and Raccoon.

## **Urban Conservation**

Memorandums of Understanding with Townships: In 2018, we received renewed agreements with Darby, Dover, Leesburg, Paris and York Township Trustees to provide technical assistance on soils and drainage for all new home sites. In addition to home site inspections, Darby, Dover, Leesburg, Paris and York Townships are requiring a zoning permit for ponds as well.

- Home Site Reviews:  
1(2) site visits to determine proper lot drainage for new homes were performed.  
Inspected (12) construction sites for sediment and erosion control BMPs.
- Marysville Stream Cleanup Event:  
Over (20) people participated
- Be the Change for Clean Water Partner:  
When it comes to protecting our water resources we all need to be part of the solution. Be The Change for Clean Water is bringing together ten (10) counties and a multitude of partners to provide education, resources, and opportunities to make it easier for all Central Ohio residents to Be the Change for Clean Water.  
[www.bethechangeforcleanwater.org](http://www.bethechangeforcleanwater.org)
- Drainage Complaints/Investigations/Information:  
(56) incidents were addressed for over (100) people.

### **Drainage Maintenance**

Maintained (47) projects with 59.6 miles of ditches by spraying (southern ditches) and mowing (northern ditches). Also maintained were 15.64 miles of subsurface drain pipe along agriculture drainage systems, (47) urban subdivision retention basins, and (181) concrete drainage structures which included headwalls, manholes and catch basins.

- Subdivision Plat Reviews:  
(11) subdivision plats were reviewed by 2 staff members.

### **Marketing**

- Union SWCD Website:  
[www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District](http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District)
- Darby Watershed Website:  
[www.darbywatershed.com](http://www.darbywatershed.com)
- Published (4) District newsletters - plus had a variety of articles and photo stories (20) in newspapers, magazines, and circulars. – reached 5000 people.

### **Conservation Accomplishments**

The following are some of our technical accomplishments of the past year:

- Grassed Waterways: (6) Waterways for total of 7,515 feet were installed
- Agricultural Easement Inspections: (4) Inspections completed
- Subsurface Drain: 197,300 feet were installed
- Pollution Abatement Complaints: (2) complaints investigated and resolved
- CRP-MCM Assessment/Review & Landowner Meetings: (19) Field visits & (35) landowner meetings
- Pond Management Assistance: Provided assistance with (26) pond owners

### **Farmland Preservation**

Clean Ohio AEDP: (4) annual inspections of and reports for farms enrolled in this program.

### **Equipment Rentals**

- No-till drill was rented by (19) people for 760.8 acres
- Tree puller was rented by (2) people for weekend rentals.
- The straw blower and a tree seedling planter were also available for rent.

## **Outreach**

- Conducted the annual Tree Seedling and related products Sale: (101) people purchased 4350 seedlings during 2018 spring sale.
- Conducted the annual Fish Sales: (10) people purchased a total of 3,466 fish fingerlings during the 2018 fall fish sale.
- FFA Washington Leadership Conference: Provide sponsorship to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools
- Don Cook Memorial Scholarship Fund: Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance and Union SWCD sponsored Daniel Bailey and Ethan Clarridge to 4-H Camp.
- John Rockenbaugh Memorial Education Grant for Teachers: Awarded the grant to Robert Bentz, 7th grade Science teacher, Bunsold Middle School.
- Participated in the Richwood Independent Fair by provided educational displays
- Sponsored the National Hunting/Fishing Day
- Provide subscription of Ohio Woodland Journal to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools

## **District Staff**

Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Wildlife Specialist

Sherry Maisenbacher, Administrative Assistant

Mark Watkins, District Technician

Aaron Smith, Urban Technician

Jeremy Burrey, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor

Garrett Carpenter, Drainage Maintenance Technician

## **USDA NRCS Staff**

Ron Neiman, District Conservationist

Robin Sweeney, Program Analyst

LaRae Baker, Resource Conservationist

Jeremy Keller, State NRI/GIS Specialist

## **Pheasants Forever Staff**

Charlie Allen, Pheasants Forever Biologist

Union Soil and Water Conservation District

18000 State Route 4, Suite B, Marysville, Ohio 43040

937-642-5871 Ext. 3

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*Union SWCD Board of Supervisors would like to thank all  
the Partners, Funders, Sponsors and Supporters*

**Supporters**

Union County Commissioners	Union County Engineer	Union County Auditor
Union County Treasurer	City of Marysville	Union County Health Dept.
UC Chapter of Pheasants Forever	Union County Farm Bureau	USDA Farm Service Agency
Union County Ag Association	OSU Extension	Darby Township Trustees
National Association of Conservation Districts	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission	ODNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife	
ODA Division of Soil and Water Conservation	The Scotts Company	
Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts		
Marysville Journal Tribune	Plain City Advocate	Richwood Gazette
Benny's Pizza	Boston's Marysville	Culver's Marysville
Darby Creek Golf Course	Edward D. Jones	Marmon Valley Farm
Richwood Banking Company	Rooster's Restaurant	Select Sires
The Seed Center	Scott's Miracle-Gro Company	Wal-Mar
Hickory Lane Farms Nursery & Landscape LLC		

**Affiliate Members**

Cook Real Estate – Dave Cook, owner	53 years
Parrott Implement Company – Damon Crabtree, president	47 years
Ohioagro Inc. Jerry Ward, president	43 years
MJS Oil, Inc. - Mark and Julia Smith, owners	32 years
Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance – Dean Cook, owner	24 years
Smart Oil, LLC – Anna Hammond, operator	5 years

**Associate Supervisors**

Jay Rausch	Jim Mitchell	Joe Wiley
Matt Furer	Steve Drumm	Suzi Clarridge



## **“OFFICIAL” Proper Management of CRP Grass Cover**

In the past, aesthetic mowing of CRP grass cover was a widely accepted practice by many participants. Today with more research and understanding, it has been shown that properly managed grass cover will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and is more beneficial to wildlife than annually mowed grass covers.

Wildlife, especially grassland birds including pheasants and quail, and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, view properly managed CRP cover as a source of food and habitat suitable to raise their young. Wildlife will not be attracted to CRP cover if plants are not allowed to mature. Game birds and bees are disappearing because of habitat loss.

Properly managed grass cover does not include noxious weeds such as thistle and teasel or woody species like trees and multiflora rose. These noxious weeds must be controlled. This can be done in several ways. Mowing of CRP cover, not to exceed 20% of the total CRP acres in a field, is permitted. This activity must be included in your conservation plan and be conducted outside of Ohio's primary nesting season **(March 1st – July 15th)**. The location of this mowing shall be changed from year to year. Another option to control noxious weeds is by spot mowing affected areas or spot spraying of an approved herbicide. These treatments will have a minimal effect on the CRP practice cover's ability to meet the purposes of erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Unauthorized disturbance of CRP cover is considered a violation of the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and conservation plan. Violations could potentially result in hefty penalties including contract termination and refund of all contract related payments.

Properly maintained CRP cover can be very attractive if noxious weeds and invasive species are controlled and grasses and wildflowers are allowed to mature. Please scout your CRP fields before weeds go to seed. Contact your local FSA office for permission to spot treat your CRP grass cover during Ohio's primary nesting season **(March 1st – July 15th)**. Plan to have your CRP cover assessed for the need of mid-contract management activities that are designed to enhance your CRP cover for wildlife. Mid-contract management is a contractual obligation that is outlined in your CRP-1 Appendix and conservation plan.

Contact your [FSA County office](#) for more information on proper maintenance and management of CRP practice cover.

# **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 |
| • Topographic Quadrangles | round \$6 each, available year round     |
| • Soil Survey Aerial Maps | Free                                     |
| • Fish Fingerlings        | Prices vary, sale held in Fall           |
| • Tree Seedlings          | Prices vary, sale held 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.**

## **Upcoming Events:**

April 11, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

April 17, 2019—Local Workgroup Mtg. - 9am-10am  
Ag Center—Conservation Mtg. Room

April 20, 2019 - Union SWCD Tree Seedling Sale - 9:00-Noon  
Ag Center - Ditch Maintenance Building

May 9, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

May 27, 2019 - Memorial Day - HOLIDAY - Office Closed

June 13, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

July 4, 2019 - Independence Day - HOLIDAY - Office Closed

July 11, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

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