



Conservation News

VOLUME 24, No. 2

SPRING 2020

Union SWCD 2020 Annual Tree Sale POSTPONED!

Mark your calendars for this year's tree sale!

The new sale will be held on **Saturday, May 16** at the
Union County Agricultural Center as a

DRIVE THRU type of Sale.

STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE and

we will fill your requested orders to help keep everyone safe.

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

Evergreen Species include:

White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, and Canaan Fir.

Hardwood species include: Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak,
Paper Birch, Northern Catalpa, Ohio Buckeye,
and Common PawPaw.

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.

Exact change is appreciated to keep contact to a
minimum. Sales Totals will be in increments of \$10.

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.

Board of Supervisors

Andy Clarridge
Steve Robinson
Matt Staley
Cheryl Trivisonno
Rick Weigand

SWCD Personnel

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

NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC
LaRae Baker

Pheasants Forever

Mark Wallen

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/)

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email bnickel@co.union.oh.us to be included on our list.**

Union SWCD Celebrates 75 Years of Local Conservation

Looking back with Union SWCD through the 60's, 70's and 80's:

November 28, 1961 the Union Soil Conservation District board voted to add the word "Water" to the Union SCD title, making it the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (Union SWCD).

1964: The districts "Special Fund" was established with the Union County Auditors and Commissioners.

1965 Francisco Matanzo, Soil Scientist, helped the Division of Land and Soils with the county wide mapping of Union County.

1966: Each of Ohio's 88 counties had their own conservation district, but they lacked a good umbrella agency to tie them together.

1969: Ohio Senate Bill 160 nested all districts under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and created the Division of Soil and Water Districts. Conservation education programs grew rapidly during this period and field days hosted by local farmers became social events that folks looked forward to. Topics included Farm Plans, Conservation Days, Forestry, Fishing and Ponds, and Conservation Tours by Air.

In the 1970s, technology on the farm advanced and conservation tillage changed how we planted our fields. No-till, a practice still in use today, promoted less labor, lower fuel costs, less equipment investment and lower tractor horsepower when compared to other farming practices. The Environmental Protection Agency was established in 1970.

November 25, 1975, Senate Bill 74 The Ohio "Sunshine Bill" was passed, stating "All meetings of any public body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times."

January 1970 : 1st District Newsletter was printed.

May 20 1970: Held its first Ohio Youth Conservation Awards Contest on at the Marysville Senior High School. Winners of the contest were: Senior Division-first place- Roger Temple; Junior Division-first place-Bill Lowe; second place-Ty Clarridge; third place-Gary Moffett; fourth place-Terry Patton.

July 10, 1972: Held it's first "pond management clinic" at the farm pond site of Glenn Irwin.

January 20, 1977: First "Ditcher's Workshop" was held, twelve tile contractors and their assistants attended.

April 13, 1977 : Clarence Durban received the 1976 Ohio Conservation Achievement Award at the Ohio State Fair Grounds.

The 1985 Farm Bill introduced Sod Buster and Swamp Buster provisions, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Highly Erodible Lands (HEL) management program.

The 1987 amendments to the federal Clean Water Act set in motion the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) program requiring cities to manage stormwater. It also created a federal fund to control nonpoint source pollution called 319.

June 24, 1982: Union County Tillage Tour was held at Jim Mitchell's mother's farm.

1982: The district's no-till equipment program began with the rental of a John Deere planter from Parrott Implement Company.

1987: Clarence Durban served 27-years on the SWCD board 1961-1987.

August 1988—1st Annual Fish Sale (June 1988 Newsletter)

2020 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The main sale date for 2020 will be **Saturday, May 16** 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 a.m. as a **DRIVE THRU** type of Sale.
STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE and we will fill your requested orders to help keep everyone safe.
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.

# Packets		<u>EVERGREENS</u> (10 per packet)	TOTAL
_____	\$10/pkt.	White Pine, 10-16" (2-1, 3-1)	_____
_____	\$10/pkt.	Colorado Blue Spruce, 12-18" (2-2,)	_____
_____	\$10/pkt.	Canaan Fir, 8-16" (P+1)	_____
 <u>HARDWOOD PACKETS</u> (5 trees per packet)			
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Sugar Maple, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Swamp White Oak, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Paper Birch, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Northern Catalpa, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Ohio Buckeye, 12-18"	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Common Paw Paw, 12-18"	_____
 <u>ACCESSORIES</u>			
_____	\$10/bundle	Marking Flags (100 in bundle)	_____
TOTAL:			_____
 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:
<http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/>
under Sales & Rentals tab.)

2020 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. **Canaan Fir** – *Abies intermedi*

Canaan fir is an attractive medium-sized tree generally reaching 40-55 feet in height and 20-25 feet in width. It exhibits a relatively dense, pyramidal crown with a slender spire-like tip. An important asset of Canaan fir is its ability to grow in areas not well suited to other native firs, but will not do well in heavy, wet, clay soils. In recent years, considerable interest has developed in using Canaan fir as a Christmas tree species.

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. **Swamp White Oak, or "Bicolor Oak"** – *Quercus bicolor*

If Union County had an official tree, this would be an excellent candidate. While it is tolerant of extended seasonal wetness, this white oak family tree is just as much "at home" on higher and drier sites. It is used as a tree lawn tree where space is afforded, but grows anywhere adequate space will permit (Mature height 60', with a 50-60' wide crown). Swamp white oak has recently been referred to as "Bicolored Oak" in the landscape industry - taking from its scientific second name of *bicolor*. This reference is to the summer's glossy green leaves that are silvery white on the backside. CW: -4

6. **Paper Birch** – *Betula papyrifera*

The Paper Birch tree is considered to be one of the most attractive tree species in North America. Its' handsome summer and fall foliage, graceful form and showy white bark keep this Birch species in demand for landscaping applications. Paper Birch was once used by northern Native Americans to build canoes and is also known as 'Canoe Birch'. It should not be pruned during late winter through spring due to the copious bleeding that occurs from sap rising during that time of the year. Union County would be considered to be at the southernmost range of its area of growth.

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. **Ohio Buckeye** – *Aesculus glabra*

Our state tree, this native can be expected to thrive in moist, but well drained areas – *such as floodplains*. Here it obtains its optimum size, health, and vigor. Fall color can be brilliant and often occurs earlier than other deciduous trees. CW: -1

9. **Common Paw Paw** – *Asimina triloba*

Pawpaw is a small, deciduous tree that may attain 15' to 30' in height. Pawpaws flourish in the deep, rich fertile soils of river-bottom lands where they grow as understory trees or thicket-shrubs. Fruit set in the wild is usually low and may be pollinator or resource-limited but under cultivation, tremendous fruit loads have been observed. Pawpaws are ideally suited for the residential 'edible' landscape due to their lush, tropical appearance, attractive growth form, size, fall color, and delicious fruit.

2020 Union SWCD - Tree Sale Species at a Glance

Please refer to **2020 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	Canaan Fir	<i>Abies intermedi</i>	No	40' - 55' ✓ 20'-25'	Slow to Medium		✓	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun to Light Shade
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	Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Yes	50' - 60' = Equal Spread	Slow to Medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yellow to Bronze	Full Sun to Light Shade
6	Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Yes (N Ohio)	50' - 70' ~ 35'	Medium to Fast		✓	✓	✓	Bright Yellow	Full Sun to Part Shade
7	Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Yes	70' 40'	Fast		✓	✓	✓	Varies: Green Yellow, Brown	Sun or Part Shade
8	Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Yes	20' - 40' (80') Similar Spread	Medium		✓	✓	✓	Yellow to Orange- Red (often turns early)	Full Sun to Light Shade
9	Common Paw-Paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Yes	15' - 35' 20' "Suckers"	Fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yellow	Filtered Sun to Full Sun

Wild About Wildlife

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

Spring Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

“Stay at Home” order weighing heavy on your mind?

You are still allowed to leave the house for exercise and recreational fishing. As of now, most state parks and wildlife areas are open and accepting visitors while still practicing “Social Distancing”. Why not take a hike, run the dogs, or wet a line. Spring wildflowers are starting to pop up across the state, exercising pets is allowed up until May 1 on state public hunting areas and many varieties of fish are beginning their “spring run”. There are thousands of acres of state land to get away from the crowds and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine. So grab the family, get out of the house and forget about the pandemic for a bit. It will certainly do you some good!

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 cover a wide variety of common pond problems and the potential treatments of those problems.

The Goose is Loose!

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.

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.

Ticks In Ohio

Tick season is here and you should take the time to learn about Ohio's tick species and how to protect yourself. American Dog Ticks, Blacklegged ticks and Lone star Ticks can all pose a threat to outdoorsmen and women.

Read More About Ohio's Ticks Here:

[Ticks In Ohio](#)

Tallgrass Truths—Revealed!

Native Warm Season Grasses in Spring

Unlike the familiar Cool Season grasses which begin to green in March—and again in the fall, Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG) are on a far different schedule. Do not expect last year's unkempt-looking NWSG residue to green-up until July. NWSG makes 70 percent of its robust growth after July 1st—the “warm season”. It's namesake.

* For USDA Farm Bill grassland practice contracts, the annual Ground Nesting & Brood-rearing Season begins on **March 1st** and runs through **July 15th**. **Mowing is Prohibited** during this period of nesting, egg-laying, brooding, nestling development, and fledging of grassland birds.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BEST FRIEND

Designated dog training areas are located on portions of the Berlin, Caesar Creek, Delaware, Fallsville, Indian Creek, Killdeer Plains, Lake La Su An, Oxbow, Resthaven, Rush Run, Spencer, Tri-Valley and East Fork wildlife areas.

Dogs may not be trained or exercised on state public hunting areas from **May 1 through August 31**, except on these designated dog training areas.

Wildlife Conflict Management

...Forget Control!

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

The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management:

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

Injured—or what appears to be Helpless Wildlife?

Call or contact the **Ohio Wildlife Center** – 614-793-WILD (9453) – then follow their every instruction!

<http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/dnn/>

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.
Gabriel Hart, Urban Technician - ghart@co.union.oh.us



Managing stormwater where it's created, on each individual yard, is the goal of these early season yard care tips:

- Cleanup. ...
- Patch Grass. ...
- Test Soil. ...
- Fertilize Carefully. ...
- Mulch Clippings. ...
- Mow Sharp and High. ...
- Sweep Away Clippings and Fertilizer. ...
- Plant Trees and Shrubs.

Tips for your lawn during the Spring months:

- Remove Debris. Begin by raking your lawn and collecting all the debris, this includes dead leaves, branches, sticks and even trash. ...
- Reseed. When you evaluate your lawn, look for bare spots. ...
- Mow. Be sure to mow your lawn to prevent the development of future weeds. ...
- Aerate. ...
- Fertilize.

Fun things to do during the Spring:

- Go enjoy nature at any park & recreational facility
- Go walking/hiking/exercise
- Go fishing/boating
- Go for a drive/road trip
- Spring clean/yardwork
- Remember to be careful, safety first, and have a fun time

Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Update

Drainage Maintenance Employees have been very busy as we look forward to the changing of the season and warm weather. We have several projects that we are working on and will be extremely busy for the coming year.

We continue to work on the Beery - Morris ditch petition project along with Lincoln, Wenrick, and Farrington.

Finish grade and seeding will be completed this spring on several projects that we have worked on from the fall through the winter. Those ditches are Long Ditch/ Wilderness trials, Pleasant View Farms and Leo Rausch Ditch.

Preparations for the spring and summer mowing and spraying season have begun. This year we will be mowing the ditches North of 347 and spraying the ditches South of 347. Subdivisions will be mowed late summer and sprayed. Pond treatments will be continued on maintained basins.

If You have any Drainage issues or have questions about an existing petition project, please call our office and we will be happy to assist you.

Jeremy Burrey - Drainage Maintenance Supervisor - 937-642-5871 X 2228
jburrey@co.union.oh.us

Mill Creek Log Jam Project Update and Request

We are currently working on a project that is aimed at locating and documenting log jams on Mill Creek within Union County. Mill Creek is the primary outlet for the City of Marysville and adjacent agricultural/ residential lands. Existing log jams are having a varying degree of effect on the natural flow of water through the creek channel. Log jams continue to negatively impact stream bank erosion, channel rerouting, and excessive flooding of agricultural and residential parcels along the creek. Data that is collected from surveying the main channel will assist in quantifying and categorizing log jams that exist on Mill Creek. We hope to coordinate a debris removal project to improve drainage of agricultural, municipal, and residential properties throughout the watershed within Union County.

We currently have approximately 2/3 of the main channel of Mill Creek surveyed for the presence and severity of log jams within the channel. If you are a landowner that has parcels directly adjacent to the main channel of Mill Creek and are willing to have your section of creek surveyed, please contact our Drainage Project Manager Technician via email at ephelan@co.union.oh.us or by phone at 937-642-5871 x2216.

Your cooperation with our efforts would be very helpful and much appreciated as we strive to achieve our goals of improving the drainage of properties within the Mill Creek watershed.

Emmett Phelan - Drainage Project Manager Technician - 937-642-5871 x2216
ephelan@co.union.oh.us

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)
New drill scheduled to be delivered in April | \$12/ acre w/ \$125 minimum charge |
| <hr/> | |
| • Tree Puller | \$100 per day
\$150 per weekend
\$300 per week |
| <hr/> | |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)
- \$150 deposit | \$75 per day
\$100 per weekend |
| <hr/> | |
| • Tree Planter | \$40 per day |

**All equipment must be scheduled through the Union SWCD office
at 937-642-5871 x2220 during regular business hours.**

Please contact Brent Nickel by phone or email at bnickel@co.union.oh.us to schedule.



Mark Wallen | Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever
Champaign | Clark | Logan | Madison | Union

937-215-7951 | mwallen@pheasantsforever.org

www.PheasantsForever.org ♦ www.QuailForever.org ♦ [PF Blog](#) ♦ [Fan Page](#)

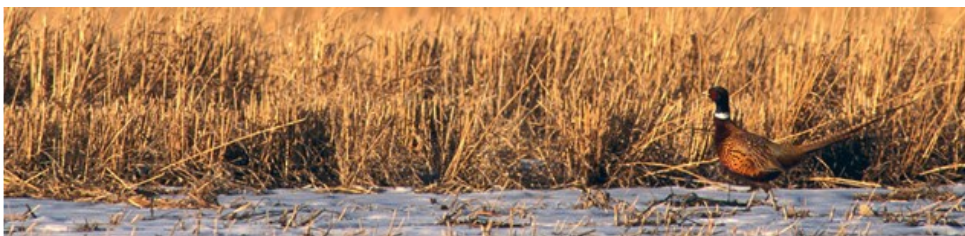
Greetings to all,

Spring is finally here and with this changing season many people are eager to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Many landowners are looking forward to spring seedings and working toward building better habitat.

Springtime is critical for upland wildlife such as ground nesting birds as we start to enter the nesting season. With the change in the season it is important to understand how you can provide habitat for wildlife and help them succeed this spring. Good nesting cover is important and is very specific for upland wildlife. Ground nesting birds such as Ring-Necked Pheasants and Bobwhite Quail require a variety of plant species and plant compositions in order to successfully raise a brood of chicks. Nesting habitat should look alike a mosaic of flowers and forbs to provide an abundance of insects not only as a pollinator source, but also as a food source for young chicks. Young chicks require a high protein diet that is sourced from eating insects. Warm season grasses such as Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem and Switchgrass add structure to a planting and works as protection from avian predators.

During these spring rains and times of inclement weather, now is a great time to start thinking about what areas would be most beneficial to enroll in some type of conservation program, like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The General CRP signup deadline just expired on February 28th, but the Continuous CRP signup is in full swing. Continuous CRP practices include, filter strips (CP21), upland habitat buffers (CP33), and the new pollinator strips (CP43) just to name a few.

This is a great opportunity to increase wildlife habitat on your property and conserve our natural resources for future generations. For more information about signup and what conservation practices to consider, contact your county USDA office and talk with your local Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.



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 16 – 20, 2020 @ Camp Clifton in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

To apply, write a short essay about "Things I look forward to doing at camp".

Mail 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****

Looking for SWCD Supervisor Candidates

Union SWCD is seeking candidates for its Board of Supervisors. Two supervisors will be elected at the 2020 Annual Meeting which will be held on August 5, 2020.

Board Supervisors guide the district, its staff, and cooperating agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in the county that address management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources. Board members should have a sincere interest in conservation and must have the enthusiasm, dedication and the time to serve as an elected official. This is a volunteer position, but supervisors can be reimbursed for mileage & expenses (registration, lodging, meals, etc.) related to events involving soil & water professionals.

What a potential supervisor needs to know:

- * Candidate must be over 18 years old and a resident of Union County.
- * This is a volunteer position and runs in 3-year terms.
- * Board meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month lasting between 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- * Attendance at occasional outside meetings, events or training is required.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Supervisor for Union SWCD, please contact Brent Nickel, District Administrator by email bnickel@co.union.oh.us or phone at (937) 642-5871 Ext: 2220.

2020 Affiliate Members

THANK YOU for your continued support

Diamond Memberships



KG Agri Products, Inc.

Platinum Memberships



Scotts Miracle-Gro

Gold Memberships



Silver Memberships



Bronze Memberships



Become a Union SWCD Affiliate Member

<https://www.co.union.oh.us/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:

Listed in our Annual Report

Listed in our Annual Meeting Program

Recognized in our quarterly newsletter

Listed on our website

(2) Annual Meeting tickets

Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoint

Please complete the form below:

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Website: _____

Choose one of the following Affiliate memberships available:

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

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

If you have any questions please contact Sherry Maisenbacher at 937/642-5871 x 2221
or smaisenbacher@co.union.oh.us

Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Serving Union County's Conservation needs for 74 years

2019 Annual Report

***Our Mission** is 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.

2019 Board of Supervisors

Rick Weigand, Chairman

Steve Robinson, Vice Chairman

Bill Conklin, Secretary

Andy Clarridge, Fiscal Agent/Treasurer

Matt Staley, Member

2019 Union SWCD Operating Funds

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

Local Funds:

*Union County Commissioners	\$ 248,667.83
*City of Marysville	\$ 50,924.60
*Township Trustees	\$ 21,000.00

Other Sources:

*State Matching Funds	\$ 186,632.00
*ODNR Wildlife Specialist Grant	\$ 15,300.00

74th Annual Meeting & Election Highlights

Union SWCD's Board of Supervisors held the 74th Annual Meeting and Election on August 14, 2019, with 73 people in attendance. The Supervisor election was held with candidates Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno elected to 3-year terms to begin January 1, 2020.

Several awards were given out that night, John Carl was presented with the Wildlife Award for his 40 years of dedication to Hunter's Education in Union County Ohio. Lucas and Lyndsey Braun received the 2019 Cooperators of the Year for installing a Wetland/Wildlife Habitat. Robin Sweeney was presented with the Distinctive Service Award. Robin retired in 2019 after 35-years of public service. Supervisors Steve Robinson and Bill Conklin were for their many years of service to the District. Steve has served over 31-years and Bill service 21-with Union SWCD and Union County.

Associate Supervisors

Jay Rausch

Jim Mitchell

Joe Wiley

Matt Furer

Steve Drumm

Suzi Clarridge

District Staff

Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Wildlife Specialist

Sherry Maisenbacher, Administrative Assistant

Mark Watkins, District Technician

Gabriel Hart, Urban Technician

Jeremy Burrey, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor

Garrett Carpenter, Drainage maintenance Technician

Emmett Phelan, Drainage Project Manager/Technician

USDA NRCS Staff

Ron Neiman, District Conservationist

LaRae Baker, Resource Conservationist

Pheasants Forever Staff

Charlie Allen, Pheasants Forever Biologist

Mark Wallen, Pheasants Forever Biologist

Conservation Products

- Rentals: No-till drill was rented out (23) times for a total of 878.2 acres
- Rentals: Tree puller was rented by (1) people for weekend rentals.
- Rentals: Straw blower and a tree seedling planter were also available for rent.
- Union SWCD 2019 Tree Sale was held in April, 3675 seedlings were available, the sale was a complete success as we sold out.
- Union SWCD 2019 Fish Sale was held in October we sold 3234 fingerlings

Drainage Maintenance

Maintained (72) projects with 59.6 miles of ditches by spraying (southern ditches) and mowing (northern ditches). Also maintained were 16.58 miles of subsurface drain pipe along agriculture drainage systems, (52) urban subdivision retention basins, and (199) concrete drainage structures which included headwalls, manholes and catch basins.

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

In 2019 the Drainage Maintenance department hired a Project Manager/Technician to conduct a preliminary engineering study to further identify the magnitude of the Mill Creek logjams, determine the most cost-effective engineering and construction solutions, determine the expected costs and best path to property owner assessments, etc.

Education

- School Presentations:
Gave (22) presentations in total on Groundwater Simulator, Enviroscope, In Stream Studies/ Sampling/Water Quality/Chemical Water Quality Testing and The Lorax to over (1100) 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 – (100) participants
- Hunting & Fishing Education:
Assisted with - (17) classes for over 800 participants
- Pheasants Forever Youth & Ladies Shoot and Hunt:
(2) presentations / 55 participants
- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfasts:
(4) Conservation Tillage Club breakfasts were held in 2019 at the Plaza Inn in Mt. Victory with (274) people attending.

Outreach

- Don Cook Memorial Scholarship Fund: Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance and Union SWCD sponsored Ashley Hayes, Maci Shericka, Sam Baer Stephenie Headings to 4-H Camp.
- FFA Washington Leadership Conference: Provide sponsorship to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools
- Meet & Greet: Hosted new elected ODA Director, Dorothy Pelandia to discuss the issues that matter to Ohioans
- Participated in the Richwood Independent Fair by provided educational displays
- Provide subscription of Ohio Woodland Journal to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools
- Sponsored the National Hunting/Fishing Day
- Union SWCD Website: Provided announcements, events, quarterly newsletters, conservation and drainage information to the public.
- <https://www.co.union.oh.us/union-soil-water-conservation-district>

Technical Assistants

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

- Agricultural Easement Inspections: (4) Inspections completed
- CRP-MCM Assessment/Review & Landowner Meetings: (23) Field visits & (35) landowner meetings
- Grassed Waterways: (23) Waterways for total of 21,450 feet were installed
- Pollution Abatement Complaints: (1) complaint was investigated and resolved
- Pond Management Assistance: Provided assistance for (38) pond owners
- Pond Site Evaluations and Planning Assistance for (3) residents
- Provided assistance for erosion, sediment, stormwater control and management for (11) residents.
- Subsurface Drain: 224,000 feet were installed
- WASCoB: (1) installed

Urban Conservation

Memorandums of Understanding with Townships:

Currently we have 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:
(13) Home site visits to determine proper lot drainage for new homes were performed and (17) construction sites for sediment and erosion control BMPs.
- Be the Change for Clean Water Partner:
Be the Change exists to keep you informed about programs and services in Central Ohio & how they can benefit you! 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 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.
<http://www.bethechangeformcleanwater.org>
- Drainage Complaints/Investigations/Information:
(36) incidents were addressed for over (60) people.

Wildlife Assistance

- Wildlife Conflict/Damage Investigations:
(5) 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:
Bagworms, Bats, Beaver, Bees, Caterpillars, Coyote, Fox, Feral Cats, Geese, Muskrats, Raccoon, Red Tailed Hawk, Songbirds, Squirrels, Swans, and Turtles.

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

2019 Supporters

Union County Commissioners	Union County Engineer	Union County Auditor
Union County Treasurer	Union County Health Dept.	City of Marysville
UC Chapter of Pheasants Forever	Union County Farm Bureau	OSU Extension
USDA Farm Service Agency	Union County Ag Assoc.	The Scotts Company
Darby Twp. Trustees	Dover Twp. Trustees	Paris Twp. Trustees
Millcreek Twp. Trustees	Taylor Township Trustees	
National Association of Conservation Districts	ODNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife	
	ODA Division of Soil & Water Conservation	
	Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission	
	Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts	
ADS Pipe	ASE Feed & Supply	Benny's Pizza Pub & Patio
Bokes Creek Orchard	Bokes Creek Winery	Celebrity Hats & T-Shirts
Cook Real Estate	Dean E. Cook Ins. Agency	Dutch Mill Greenhouse
Farm Credit Mid-America	Leeds Farm	Maize at Little Darby Creek
Meijer	Ohigro, Inc.	Parrott Implement Co.
Richwood Banking Co.	Select Sires, Inc.	Smart Oil Company
	Hickory Lane Farms Nursery & Landscape LLC	

2019 Affiliate Members

Cook Real Estate	55 years
Parrott Implement Company	55 years
Ohigro Inc.	46 years
Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance	26 years
Select Sires, Inc.	25 years
Smart Oil, LLC	6 years
Farm Credit Mid-America	1 year
Hickory Lane Farms Nursery & Landscape LLC	1 year
Hickory Plains Farm/The Maize at Little Darby Creek	1 year
ScottsMiracle-Gro	1 year

Upcoming Events:

April 9, 2020 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 7:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room - CANCELLED

April 22, 2020 - EARTH DAY

May 14, 2020 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 7:00 PM - Ag Center - VIDEO MTG.
- details to be announced via Webpage

May 16, 2020 - Union SWCD DRIVE THRU Tree Seedling Sale - 9:00-Noon Ag Center - Parking Lot

May 25, 2020 - Memorial Day Holiday - Office Closed

June 6, 2020 - City of Marysville - Learn to Fish Event - Aldersgate Park
- Register through City of Marysville Website

June 6, 2020 - Village of Richwood - Youth Bluegill Fishing Event - Richwood Lake Park
- More information available through the Village of Richwood

July 3, 2020 - Independence Day Holiday observed - Office Closed

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email bnickel@co.union.oh.us 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.

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Conservation News

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