



Conservation News

VOLUME 24 No. 3

SUMMER 2019

Board of Supervisors

Rick Weigand
Steve Robinson
Matt Staley
Andy Clarridge
Bill Conklin

SWCD Personnel

Brent Nickel
Sherry Maisenbacher
Mark Watkins
Jeremy Burrey
Garett Carpenter

NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC
Robin Sweeney
LaRae Baker

Pheasants Forever

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/)**

You're Invite to join us for our 74th Annual Election & Banquet

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its 74th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 14th, at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 South Jefferson Avenue in Plain City.

There are a variety of things planned for the evening. The term of the current Supervisors, Bill Conklin & Andy Clarridge, will be expiring on December 31, 2019. An election will be held prior to the meal from 5:30 -6:45pm. Candidates will be Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisanno.

A buffet meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the a presentation to begin at 7:30 p.m. to feature Katie Coon speaking on Touring Iceland.

Tickets will be \$20.00 per adult, and \$10.00 for children between the ages of 3-10. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the Union SWCD office at 937/642-5871 x2221.

There are three ways eligible voters can cast a ballot:

1. At the annual meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2019 between the hours of 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm at the Der Dutchman restaurant, 445 S Jefferson Ave, Plain City, OH 43064.
2. In person at the Union SWCD office from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm from July 24 - August 14, 2019, or in person at the Union SWCD office from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on August 14, 2019.
3. Vote absentee by mail, requesting the proper absentee request forms by July 24, 2019 from the Union SWCD office at 18000 State Route 4, Suite B, Marysville, OH 43040. Phone 937-642-5871 x 3, email Sherry @ sherry.maisenbacher@oh.nacdnet.net or visit our website to print out the forms. All mailed absentee ballots must be received at the District's office by Tuesday, August 14, 2019 by noon.

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email brent.nickel@oh.nacdnet.net to be included on our list.**

Meet the Candidates!

Andy Clarridge



Andy is a lifelong resident of Union County. He grew up near Raymond, earned the rank of Eagle Scout and graduated Marysville High School. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and Surveying, with a minor in Environmental Engineering. He also holds an Associate Degree in Construction Management from Sinclair Community College.

Andy is a registered professional engineer currently managing Clarridge Engineering. Andy has been involved in the engineering and supervising in the installation of the new water lines in Mt. Victory and Honda's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP's) involving the rail spur expansion. Other projects include numerous onsite wastewater treatment plans, subdivision and street design, and various surveying projects.

Andy and his wife Heather (Greenbaum) and their two children live on a small farm on Paver Barnes Road. He has a small herd of registered Herefords along with the normal farm animal menagerie. He also raises soybeans and hay on the family farm. Andy enjoys family time, camping, coaching and helping with 4-H projects.

Cheryl Trivisonno



Cheryl has lived in Mill Creek Township since 1990. She and her husband Ron were attracted to the beauty and openness of Union County and chose to raise their two daughters Cindy and Shelly here, who both graduated from Fairbanks High School.

Cheryl's parents moved from suburban Akron to a farm in Morrow County where the family learned about soil and water from the ground up. After moving to a Wayne County farm where the soils had been overworked and depleted, the importance of soil and water conservation became clear. Her family farm still operates near Shreve using best practices to conserve and protect the soil and nearby stream.

In 2000 Cheryl and her husband Ron worked closely with the Marion County NRCS Wetland Reserve Program to construct approximately 35 acres of wetland pool and a surrounding 35 acres of prairie. Their wetland is located in the critical upper watershed of the Scioto River.

Currently retired, Cheryl taught English/Language Arts in rural Mt. Gilead and in suburban Dublin at Coffman High School, grades 9-12. She received her Bachelor's of Science in English Education at Kent State University with minors in Journalism and Social Psychology and her Masters of Teaching and Learning from Nova Southeastern University.

Cheryl is currently secretary for the Herbal Study Group, at the Stratford Ecological Center, in Delaware and is a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Cheryl enjoys reading, working in her herb, flower and vegetable gardens, keeping up with her extended family and foraging for wild edibles. She looks forward to the opportunity to serve the Union SWCD to preserve and protect our resources in Union County.

Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Report

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

Drainage Maintenance employees and contractors have started out Mowing and spraying program in the county. This year BCI Industries has started spraying the ditches North of ST RT 347 and our crews will begin mowing the ditches and Sub Divisions in the coming weeks. Please be sure to remove any obstructions from the easement areas.

Clark and Yoder Construction has been completed and the contractor is working on seeding and final grade in some wet areas. They have encountered many challenges with the weather and dealing with wet conditions due to the excessive rainfall we have received.

We continue to work on the Morris Ditch Project. There has been interest in expanding the project and we are in the process of making those adjustments to the project.

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.



Before and After mowing photos of the Retention basin at Pleasant Ridge Subdivision

Wild About Wildlife

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

Summer Wildlife and Habitat Interests

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Come join us for FREE Kids outdoor activities on
Saturday Sept. 28 from 9 - Noon
at the Heart of Ohio Fishing Club.

Usual activities include an archery range, trap shooting, "Passport to Fishing" Instruction, BB Gun Range, Sling Shot Range, Trapping Displays, and Leather Working. REFRESHMENTS will be provided.

Share the Great Outdoors with a young person and reap the benefits for years to come.

SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS

TAKE A KID HUNTING

Hunting season is just around the corner and there's no time like the present to get a kid involved in the outdoor sports. Now's the time to start thinking about getting into that Hunter's Education Class.

The Division of Wildlife offers three types of certification courses; instructor-led training, home study courses, and proficiency testing for those 18 and older.

Best of all; It's FREE!

For more information about when and where these classes are available, see the web page below:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/education-and-outdoor-discovery/hunter-and-trapper-education>

TALLGRASS TRUTHS - REVEALED!

Native Warm Season Grasses in Summer...

Right now, Native Warm Season Grasses are thriving and maximizing their growth. One can almost hear them growing.

For USDA grassland practice contracts, the annual Ground Nesting & Brood-rearing Season began on **March 1st** and runs through **July 15th**. All mowing is prohibited during this period of nesting, egg-laying, brooding, nestling development, and fledging of grassland birds. **August** is a great time to mow any **Cool Season Grass Fire Breaks** that may be associated with the Tallgrass contracts. These borders need to be mowed annually-even if a prescribed burn is not planned. It is the unintentional wild fire that annual border mowing will help deter.

Check with the Farm Service Agency and/ or the Natural Resource Conservation Service office before mowing to be sure that your contract allows annual maintenance mowing.

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

LOCAL YOUTH HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

Union County Pheasants Forever Chapter #535

- outdoor skills day on Oct. 12, 2019
- annual youth hunt on Oct. 19, 2019
- adult mentor hunt on Oct 20, 2019

For more information, please see their Facebook page "[Pheasants Forever Chapter #535 - Union County, Ohio](#)" Or Contact Brent Nickel at 937-642-5871 x2220

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:
<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/ticks-in-ohio>

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PONDER!

Except for fishless ponds and those pond owners capable of executing precision applications, the window of opportunity to treat aquatic vegetation with prescribed herbicides **has closed** for another year!

It becomes just too risky to treat warm pond water which is supporting robust plant growth.

Summer applications may result in fish kills.

If you are still looking to control algae and floating weeds, it's time to get your rake out and manually remove the offending aquatic culprits.

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."

SWCD Equipment for Sale and Rent

The following items are available for sale:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Marking flags | \$10 per 100 flags, available year round |
| • Soil Survey Narratives | \$15 each or free online, available year round |
| • Topographic Quadrangles | \$6 each, available year round |
| • Pond Warning Signs | \$7 each, available year round |
| • Soil Survey Aerial Maps | Free |
| • Fish Fingerlings | Prices vary, sale held in Fall |
| • Tree Seedlings | Prices vary, sale 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
\$150 per weekend
\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)
- \$150 deposit | \$75 per day
\$100 per weekend |
| • Tree Planter | \$40 per day |

**All equipment must be scheduled through the Union SWCD office
at 937-642-5871 during regular business hours.
Please contact Brent Nickel at ext. 2220 to schedule.**

Help Save the Monarch Butterfly by Protecting Native Milkweed

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

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

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

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



Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Annual Milkweed Pod Collection

September 1st through October 30th

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

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

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

32nd ANNUAL FISH SALE

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District is now taking orders for fish fingerlings.
This is an opportunity for Union County pond owners to stock their ponds
at a reasonable price without traveling out of the county.

The fingerlings will be delivered on Thursday, October 3, 2019, and may be picked
up at 9:30 a.m. in the Union SWCD parking lot located at 18000 State Route 4, Marysville.

The last day which orders will be accepted will be October 1.

Payment must accompany orders.

Persons placing fish orders will be sent a reminder on the time and place of delivery.
When the fish are delivered, they will need to be placed in a clean container filled with fresh pond water. A 5-10 gallon
trash can with a plastic liner would be adequate for 100 fingerlings. The white amur must be placed in something with a
plastic liner.

Stocking rates vary according to pond size.

Guidelines for a one-acre pond are:

100 largemouth bass, 500 bluegill, 100 channel catfish, and 5-10 white amur.

We would recommend that the crappie and perch be stocked in two-acre or larger ponds only.

Please fill out the order blank listed below and send with payment to:

Union SWCD, 18000 State Route 4, Suite B, Marysville, Ohio, 43040.

If you have questions, call our office at 937/642-5871, Option 3 on the automated menu.

Item	Size Range (inches)	Benefit	Price (per fish)	Quantity	Subtotal
• Largemouth Bass	2 to 4	Recreational/ Predator	\$0.85	_____	_____
• Bluegill	2 to 4	Recreational Fishing	\$0.80	_____	_____
• Channel Catfish	4 to 5	Recreation/Bottom Feeder	\$0.75	_____	_____
• Hybrid Bluegill	2 to 4	Recreational Fishing	\$0.80	_____	_____
• Shell Cracker	2 to 4	Eats snails from pond	\$0.80	_____	_____
• Black Crappie	2 to 4	Recreational/ Predator	\$0.80	_____	_____
• Yellow Perch	2 to 3	Recreational Fishing	\$0.80	_____	_____
• Fat Head Minnows	1 to 3	Recreational Fishing	\$6.00/ 100	_____	_____
• White Amur	8 to 10	Aquatic Weed Control	\$13.00	_____	_____
Totals				\$	_____

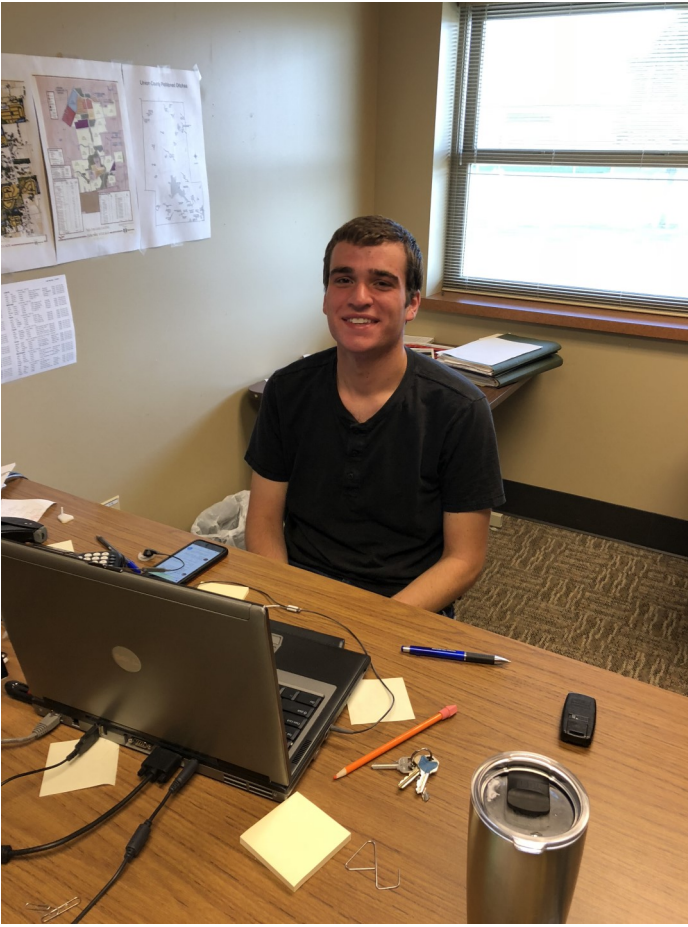
Note: Fish are guaranteed to be delivered in good condition; however, we cannot guarantee survival after being
placed in your pond. A reasonable mortality rate can be expected and may well result. (>20% Mortality –
ODNR Division of Wildlife).

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Welcome and Thank You to our Summer Interns



Michael Bills - I am an intern with Soil and Water this summer and I've been working on correcting ditch maintenance assessments. The experience working here in Union County has been valuable to me in understanding many parts of public sector work. I will be senior at Ohio State this fall studying City and Regional Planning with a minor in Engineering Sciences and I am part of the Architecture Scholars program. I am from Findlay, Ohio and I've previously been an intern at the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission.

Jaime Schmotzer - I am from Canton, Ohio and will be a senior at the Ohio State University this fall. My major is City and Regional Planning and I also have a minor in Architectural Studies. At OSU, I am in both the honors and scholars programs, as well as the City and Regional Planning Student Association. Additionally, I am looking forward to being a teaching assistant for the incoming freshman scholars class during the fall semester. Some of my previous experience includes working with the City of Green, Ohio as a summer intern and with the Ohio State Planning and Real Estate Department as an office assistant and intern. My role here at Soil and Water is to help correct ditch maintenance assessments and it has been a great learning experience!



Congratulations to our NRCS Partner, Robin Sweeney on her Retirement!



Robin is leaving us after 35 yrs. of public service. She has put time in for NRCS in Union, Logan, Champaign and Shelby Counties in Ohio along with a year in New Jersey. She also served a stint for Union County SWCD back in the day. Many thanks goes out to her for all of the great things that she has brought to table for our landowners and farmers over the years. Thanks again Robin!, You will be greatly missed.



Upcoming Events:

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

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

Aug. 14, 2019 - Union SWCD Annual Mtg. - Der Dutchman Restaurant - Plain City, OH
- Find details on page one of this newsletter

Aug. 22, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM at Bill Conklin's Shelter House
- Call for details and address

September 2, 2018 - Labor Day HOLIDAY—Office Closed

Sept. 12, 2019 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM in the Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

Sept. 28, 2019 - National Hunting and Fishing Day - 9:00AM - Noon
Heart of Ohio Fishing Club - NW Parkway just off of ST RT 33

October 3, 2019 - Union SWCD Fish Sale Pick Up - 9:30 AM at the Ag Center Parking Lot

Oct. 12, 2019 - Union County Pheasants Forever Outdoor Skills Day 9:00– 12:00 or until done
1 Ross Lane, Richwood Ohio

Oct. 19-20, 2019 Union County Pheasants Forever Annual Youth Hunt and New Adult Mentor Hunt
Contact Union Co PF via their Facebook page for details on how to register

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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
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(937) 642-5871 option 3
www.co.union.oh.us/Soil-Water-Conservation-District/

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