



Conservation News

VOLUME 24, No. 3

SUMMER 2020

OFFICE UPDATES

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
Emmett Phelan

NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC
LaRae Baker

Pheasants Forever

Mark Wallen

Due to concerns over the Coronavirus, the Union Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will remain closed to the public.

Our staff is available by email, phone, and appointment only. Please contact the district staff during business hours if you have any questions or to schedule an appointment. For an in-person meeting, we ask that you follow all Ohio Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and Union County Health Department recommendations and guidelines.

If you need to drop-off/pickup call 937-642-5871 ext. 3 to schedule.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility during this ever-changing time.

Union SWCD District Staff - Office # 937-642-5871

Brent Nickel	(ext. 2220)	bnickel@co.union.oh.us
Sherry Maisenbacher	(ext. 2221)	smaisenbacher@co.union.oh.us
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Jeremy Burrey	(ext. 2228)	jburrey@co.union.oh.us
Garrett Carpenter	(ext. 2228)	gcarpenter@co.union.oh.us
Emmett Phelan	(ext. 2216)	ephelan@co.union.oh.us

75TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

We are sorry to inform everyone that our Annual Banquet will be **CANCELLED** this year due to concerns over COVID19. We want to celebrate our 75th Anniversary properly with everyone and felt that it would be in everyone's best interest to postpone the celebration until next year. So, we have decided to cancel this year so that everyone can be safe to celebrate with us next year at our **75+1 Anniversary!** We are disappointed that these measures needed to be taken but look forward to seeing everyone as soon as safety allows. Be Safe!

We will still be holding an election of Supervisors!

The Supervisor Election Information follows on pages 2-5.

**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
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/

Supervisor Election Info

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (Union SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Two (2) Supervisors will be elected to a three (3) year term commencing January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2023.

Nominees are: **Rick Weigand** **Andy Wedding** **Randy Trapp**

Contact our office direct at 937-642-5871, or email smaisenbacher@co.union.oh.us, to schedule an appointment or to request the Ballot Application and Election Ballot by mail.

Election Procedures

In-person voting may occur from July 23, 2020, until August 5, 2020, during our normal business hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Absentee ballots available upon request!

1. When submitting the Ballot Application and the Election Ballot, submit both together in an **Official SWCD Election envelope provided**. All ballot application and election ballots that are mailed or delivered in-person to the SWCD office must arrive at the Union SWCD office by 4:00 pm on August 5, 2020.
2. Votes may be cast, by either:
 - a. Completing a Ballot Application and Election Ballot in person at the Union SWCD office 18000 State Route 4, Ste. B, Marysville Ohio 43040; during the 14-day election period; **Drive Thru Dates/Times:**
 - Friday, July 24, 2020, 10 am - 2 pm**
 - Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 10 am - 2 pm**
 - Thursday, July 30, 2020, 10 am - 2 pm**
 - Monday, August 3, 2020, 10 am - 2 pm**
 - Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 8 am - 4 pm**
 - b. Mailing a completed Ballot Application and Election Ballot to Union SWCD office 18000 State Route 4, Ste. B, Marysville Ohio 43040; by the deadline; or
 - c. Delivering the completed Ballot Application and Election Ballot to the Union SWCD office, 18000 State Route 4, Ste. B, Marysville Ohio 43040, by the deadline.
3. Ballot Application and the Election Ballot will be available for absentee voting 30-days prior to the start of the 14-day election period starting on 07/23/2020 and concluding on 08/05/2020.
4. Eligible voters must complete a Ballot Application in its entirety for validation. Information provided will be used for the sole purpose of validating ballots.
5. To be eligible to vote:
 - a. The applicant must be a resident of Union County, own land in Union County, or own a corporation, partnership, association, or other entity registered with the Ohio Secretary of State in Union County; and
 - b. The applicant must be over the age of 18.
6. Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) will certify the election and provide results to the ODA-DSWC and SWCD office.

Meet the Candidate

Rick Weigand



Rick is the owner and operator of The Seed Center in Ostrander, Ohio, and has served as a Union SWCD district supervisor since January of 2015. He has a life-long commitment to the ecology of the soils, not only in Union County but throughout the mid-west. Investing in the future of soil is the key to sustainable agriculture for generations to come. This year, he is celebrating 33 years of cultivating and creating the building blocks for the success of his companies.

He has implemented and worked with government agencies to create best management practices for agriculture, cover crops, CRP, waterways, and pollinators. Rick also supplies the grass seed for hundreds of thousands of acres that have been seeded to turf. The Seed Center has engineered the mixes for pipelines, athletic field complexes as well as the Columbus Zoo Africa exhibit.

In closing, on behalf of himself, his wife, and sons, Rick would like to thank the neighbors and friends of Union County for their support in his run for Board Supervisor.

Meet the Candidate

Andy Wedding



Andy is a lifelong resident of Union County. He grew up near York Center and graduated from North Union High School. After high school, Andy attended The Ohio State University and studied agronomy before returning home in 1996 to the family farm full time.

Andy is the third generation to work on the farm he works alongside his father and two sons raising corn, wheat, and soybeans each year. Andy has utilized several conservation practices over the years, including wetland programs, quail buffers, and CRP. Andy uses no-till and minimum-till practices to preserve the soil and improve water quality.

Andy and his wife, Tracey, are the parents of four children, including Carter and Madison (21), Tucker (15), and Zoe (14). They have raised all of their children on the family farm since 2004. Andy's hobbies include camping, gardening, and enjoying the outdoors. He is also a volunteer for the North Union Athletics Boosters.

Meet the Candidate

Randy Trapp



Randy is a lifelong resident of Union County. Randy and his wife Christine, along with their son Emerson and his parents Bud and Jeannie Trapp grain farm in the west-central part of the county. He has served two terms as Liberty Township Trustee and as Assistant Zoning Inspector for Liberty Township before that. Randy is a sixteen-year member of the Northwestern Lions Club, where he served as President and a term as Vice President.

Randy has worked with the District on many projects over the years he was the 2006 Union SWCD Cooperator of the year. He would look forward to the opportunity to learn more about the District and to serve its members.

Mill Creek Log Jam Project

I have spent the last few months performing an Inventory & Evaluation survey of new and existing log jams in Mill Creek within Union County. The survey was made possible by gaining permissions from eager cooperative landowners that own parcels adjacent to the creek. I have performed the survey by hiking along the creek banks and by floating sections of the creek with a kayak. The vast majority of Mill Creek is surveyed for log jams and debris within Union County to date. In doing so, I have been very fortunate to have experienced some incredible natural areas, agricultural lands, and abundant wildlife along the way. We now have an accurate inventory of the locations & magnitude of log jams that exist within Mill Creek in Union County to assist in making management decisions to improve the drainage within the Mill Creek watershed in Union County. Thank you to all the landowners who have made the survey possible!

Emmett Phelan,
Drainage Project Manager Technician
18000 St. Rt. 4
Marysville OH 43040
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2216
ephelan@co.union.oh.us



Wild About Wildlife

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

Summer Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Come join us for FREE Kids outdoor activities on **Saturday Sept. 26 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 may be provided. Share the Great Outdoors with a young person and reap the benefits for years to come.

We are still in the planning stages for this years event due to COVID19. We will follow recommendations of the Union County Health Department as we near the event date. We'll keep you posted on our Facebook Page -
Union Soil and Water Conservation District

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

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.

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.

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/>

33rd 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 Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 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 bluegills, 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 blank order form 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.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Size Range</u> (inches)	<u>Benefit</u>	<u>Price</u> (per fish)	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Largemouth Bass	2 to 4	Recreational/ Predator	\$0.90	_____	_____
Bluegill	2 to 4	Recreational Fishing	\$0.85	_____	_____
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	\$0.85	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2 to 3	Recreational Fishing	\$0.85	_____	_____
Fat Head Minnows	1 to 3	Recreational Fishing	\$7.00/ 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: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Update

Drainage maintenance projects throughout the county have kept our crews busy. Our Staff have been performing various maintenance activities on the following county maintenance ditches: Blues Creek, Leo Rausch Sugar, Long Ditch, Pleasant view Farms. The maintenance activities have included bank and berm repair, tile replacement and repair, dip out of main channels, and flow line improvements along with seeding. Ditch maintenance projects will continue throughout the coming months. Beach ditch and Jerome Village GPN 6&7 will be on the schedule for the late summer and early fall projects.

The County Ditches and Subdivisions will continue to be mowed and sprayed on alternating years. This year, the Southern ditches will be getting sprayed to help maintain the 15 ft. buffer strip and for weed and brush control. The Northern ditches will be mowed by the SWCD staff to help maintain the 15 ft. buffer strip and control weeds and brush.

We also have been working on 4 petition projects for this year. The Beery Morris, Lincoln Joint and Wenrick Joint, and Farrington. We have asked for extensions on some of the hearing dates for these projects due to the Covid19 restrictions for public hearings. We are currently working on alternative plans to hold these hearings to keep these projects moving towards completion.

If you have any drainage related questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Jeremy Burrey
Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
18000 St. Rt. 4
Marysville OH 43040
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2228
jburrey@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) | \$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.**

Happy 75th Anniversary to Us!

2020 marks the 75th Anniversary for Union SWCD
This is part 3 of 3 of our 75 yrs. of service to Union County.



2019 UNION SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
L-R: Supervisors Andy Clarridge, Matt Staley,
Rick Weigand, Steve Robinson, Bill Conklin

We have had many supervisors serve our District over our 75 years; some even went on to serve further:

Clarence Durban was OFSWCD president from 1975-1976, NACD president from 1985-1988. In the early 1980s, Clarence met with President Reagan to discuss the farm bill. Clarence served as a board supervisor for Union SWCD from 1961 – 1988 for a total of 27-years.

Steve Robinson served as the OFSWCD president from 1999 - 2001, NACD President from 2009 - 2011, and as a Board Supervisor from 1988 - 2020. To date, Steve is the longest-serving board supervisor for a total of 33-years.

Bill Conklin served as District Director of the OFSWCD 2000 - 2018. Bill served as a board supervisor for Union SWCD from 1998 – 2019 for a total of 21-years.

The 1990s

1990: The 1st Area IV Envirothon, held on May 14th at the Cincinnati Nature Center.

1992: The no-till drill was used by 87 landowners, for a total of 4,228 acres.

1994: Soil Conservation Services (SCS) name was changed to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to reflect the broadened scope of the agency's concerns. In doing so, Congress reaffirmed the federal commitment to the conservation of the nation's soil and water resources, first made more than 80 years ago, that continues to this day.

1995: The Don Cook Memorial Scholarship established in memory of Don Cook, allows campers to have learning experiences which will enable them to develop an appreciation for conservation and the outdoors, both of which were important aspects of Cook's life. The scholarship sponsored by Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Insurance, and Union SWCD and is still in existence today.

September 9, 1995: Union SWCD celebrated 50th Year celebration and Annual Meeting was held at the Richwood Fair Grounds, with 155 people in attendance.

April 4, 1996: The Federal Agriculture and Reform Act, formerly known as the Freedom to Farm Act, The FAIR Act, or the 1996 U. S. Farm Bill, was the omnibus 1996 farm bill that, among other provisions, revises and simplifies direct payment programs for crops and eliminates milk price supports through direct government purchases.

In 1998 the district hired there first Wildlife Specialist, John Rockenbaugh, through a grant from the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Only 12 districts throughout Ohio were awarded this grant.

The 2000s

March 2000: Union SWCD acquired the County Ditch Maintenance Program from the Union County Engineer.

April 2000: The first District Website was created and up and running.

May 13, 2002: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, also known as the 2002 Farm Bill, was enacted. It includes ten titles, addressing a great variety of issues related to agriculture, ecology, energy, trade, and nutrition.

2007 Supervisor Steve Robinson received the "Ohio Outstanding Board Member of the Year" Award.

2008: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act expands farm subsidies, and it is enacted over a presidential veto.

2013: John Rockenbaugh Memorial Scholarship was created.

2014: The Agricultural Act changes the structure of farm subsidies, but does not reduce the overall level of benefits. The law ends the direct payment program, the countercyclical program, and the Average Crop Revenue Election program. However, it expands the largest farm subsidy program—crop insurance—and it adds two new subsidy programs, the Agricultural Risk Coverage program and the Price Loss Coverage program.

2014: Incomes of farmers soar far above the incomes of other Americans. The average income of farm households in 2014 is \$134,164, which is 77 percent higher than the \$75,738 average of all U.S. households. The median income of farm households is \$81,637, which is 52 percent higher than the U.S. median of \$53,657.

2016: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program balloons in size during the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations. The number of recipients rises from 17 million in 2000 to 44 million by 2016. The program's cost quadruples from \$18 billion in 2000 to \$74 billion by 2016.

Upcoming Events:

July 3, 2020 Independence Day - HOLIDAY - Office Closed

July 9, 2020 Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

Aug. 5, 2020 Union SWCD Annual Mtg. - **CANCELLED DUE to COVID19**

** Find details on page one of this newsletter

** Election details can be found on pages 2-5 of this newsletter

Aug. 20, 2020 Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM at Bill Conklin's Shelter House

** Call for details and address

Sept. 7, 2020 Labor Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

Sept. 10, 2020 Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

Sept. 26, 2020 National Hunting and Fishing Day - 9:00AM - Noon -

Heart of Ohio Fishing Club - NW Parkway just off of ST RT 33

****Details to Come w/ Health Dept. Guidance****

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
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The Union Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Mailing Address Goes Here

Union Soil & Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4 North, Suite B
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(937) 642-5871 option 3
www.co.union.oh.us/Soil-Water-Conservation-District/

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