



# Conservation News

VOLUME 26, No. 3

SUMMER 2022

## **Board of Supervisors**

Andy Clarridge  
Matt Staley  
Randy Trapp  
Cheryl Trivisonno  
Rick Weigand

## **SWCD Personnel**

Brent Nickel  
Mark Watkins  
Matt Archer  
Stephen Johnson  
Joseph Grove  
Taylor Golden

## **NRCS Personnel**

Ron Nieman, DC  
LaRae Baker

## **Pheasants Forever**

Ashley Dawson

## **Union SWCD**

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

**[www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district](http://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district)**

## **You're Invited to join us for our 77th Annual Election & Banquet**

**The Union Soil and Water Conservation District  
will hold its 77th Annual Meeting  
on Wednesday, August 3rd,  
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,  
Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno  
will be expiring on December 31, 2022.

An election for two supervisors to be held before the meal  
beginning at 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The buffet meal will begin at 6:30 p.m.  
followed by the Ohio Wildlife Center at 7:30 p.m.

Banquet Tickets are \$20.00 per adult and  
\$10.00 for children between the ages of 3-12.

To purchase tickets, contact  
Taylor Golden at (937)642-5871 ext. 2221 or  
by email: [tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov)  
by July 25, 2022.

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

# 77th Annual Election & Banquet

## To be eligible to vote:

- ♦ 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
- ♦ The applicant must be over the age of 18.

## There are 3 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1) At the SWCD office from July 5, 2022 until 3:00 p.m. on August 3, 2022 during normal business hours

OR

2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Der Dutchman Restaurant: 445 S Jefferson Ave, Plain City, OH 43064 on August 3, 2022 from 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.;

OR

3.) Voting absentee from July 5, 2022 until August 3, 2022, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following Address:  
18000 State Route 4, Suite B, Marysville, OH 43040,

by calling (937) 642-5871 Ext. 3

or email [tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov).

**Absentee ballots must be received by the  
SWCD office by 3:00 p.m. on August 3, 2022.**

Two supervisors will be elected to a three year term commencing  
January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

**Nominees are:**

**Andy Clarridge**

**Cheryl Trivisonno**

## 35th ANNUAL FISH SALE

Union Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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 4, 2022**, and may be picked up at 9:30 a.m. in the Union SWCD parking lot located at 18000 State Route 4, Marysville.

When the fish are picked up bring enough containers to hold the purchased fish. Five-gallon buckets work well. Each container must have an unscented poly liner (trash bag). Do not use a lid; use a twist tie or twine to close the bag. Each container shall be filled with customer's pond water, but just **one-half full**. General rule of thumb: one container per 100 small fish, one container per 1,000 minnows, one container per 4-5 large fish. 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.

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

### **Payment must accompany orders!**

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.**

<b><u>Species</u></b>	<b><u>Size</u></b>	<b><u>Benefit</u></b>	<b><u>Quantity</u></b>	<b><u>Price</u></b>	<b><u>Subtotal</u></b>
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>	2" - 4"	Recreational/ Predator	_____ @	\$1.00	= _____
<b>Bluegill</b>	2 to 4	Recreational Fishing	_____ @	\$0.90	= _____
<b>Channel Catfish</b>	4 to 5	Recreation/Bottom Feeder	_____ @	\$0.90	= _____
<b>Hybrid Bluegill</b>	2 to 4	Recreational Fishing	_____ @	\$0.90	= _____
<b>Shell Cracker</b>	2 to 4	Eats snails from pond	_____ @	\$0.90	= _____
<b>Fathead Minnows</b>	1 to 3	Recreational Fishing	_____ @	\$8.00/ 100	= _____
<b>White Amur</b>	8 to 10	Aquatic Weed Control	_____ @	\$14.00	= _____
<b>Totals</b>					<b>\$ _____</b>

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district>

# **Descriptions of Fingerlings**

## **Largemouth Bass**

The largemouth bass is a popular sport fish. It is native to Ohio and can be found in every county in the state.

Largemouth bass have a very large mouth that extends beyond the rear edge of the eye when it is closed. This characteristic distinguishes it from the smallmouth and spotted bass where the back of the mouth does not extend passed the eye. Young largemouth bass do not have an orange tail like juvenile smallmouth and spotted bass. The largemouth also has a black stripe that extends down the side of the body. This sport fish belongs to the Centrarchidae (sunfishes) family, and is also called black bass, bigmouth bass, and bucket mouth. It is typically 15-18 inches and 1-5 pounds but can reach up to 26 inches and 13 pounds in Ohio.

**Source:** <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/animals/fish/largemouth-bass>

## **Bluegill**

Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) are an important and abundant sport fish in the United States. They are also one of the most common species in Ohio and can be found in almost every body of water throughout the state. Larger fish are usually caught in late spring or early summer while they are spawning in large colonies near shore.

A deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and a long pointed pectoral fin. They have 5-9 dark bars on their side and an overall dark green body color. When caught in muddy water, they can appear more silver in overall coloration. The ear flap (opercle) is always black without a red tip, like redear sunfish. Bluegill sunfish often have a black blotch near the back of the soft dorsal and anal fins. They have blue along the bottom edge of their jawline and rear bottom edge of their gill covers. They do not have any wavy blue lines on the cheek like pumpkinseed, green and longear sunfishes. Their belly is white in young, yellow in females, and orange to a rusty red in breeding males. They are in the Centrarchidae family with other sunfishes and are also known by the name "bream." They are typically 6-10 inches long, but can reach up to 12 inches, and can typically weigh less than one pound, but can weigh up to two pounds.

**Source:** <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/animals/fish/bluegill-sunfish>

## **Channel Catfish**

The channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) is a popular sport and food fish. It is active during the night, moving around and finding food after dusk. During the day it will most likely be found in deep water with little activity.

The channel catfish, like other catfish, has no scales, a single bony spine in each pectoral fin and the dorsal fin, and 8 barbels around the mouth. They have a deeply forked tail and the upper jaw is longer than the lower jaw. The dorsal and pectoral spines are sharp and deeply serrated, and the anal fin is curved and has between 24 and 30 rays. The body can be blue, gray, silver, or almost black. Their belly is usually white or cream colored. Small individuals are usually more silver in color and often have many black spots on their sides. Some anglers mistakenly call large channel catfish with few or no spots blue catfish, but the blue catfish has an anal fin with a straight edge and more than 30 rays. A member of the Ictaluridae family (North American catfishes), the channel catfish is also called: spotted cat, silver cat, and squeaker cat. This sport fish typically weighs in at 2-10 pounds but can reach up to 37 pounds. On average, it measures 15-25 inches in length, but it can get to over 40 inches.

**Source:** <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/animals/fish/channel-catfish>

## **Yellow Perch**

The yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) is native to Ohio and is found in lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and slow moving rivers.

Yellow perch are golden yellow to brassy green with six to eight dark vertical bars and a white to yellow belly. Yellow perch do not have large canine teeth like the closely related walleye or sauger. Their pelvic and anal fins usually have some orange coloration and the first dorsal fin has a dark blotch near the rear of the fin. All other fins are relatively clear with no distinct markings. Also referred to as the lake perch or ringed perch, the yellow perch is in the Percidae (perches and darters) family. It is a sport fish that usually measures 5-12 inches in length but can reach 16 inches. It typically weighs .25-1 pound but has been known to reach just over 2 pounds.

**Source:** <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/animals/fish/yellow-perch>

## **Descriptions of Fingerlings (cont.)**

### **Hybrid Bluegill**

Hybrid bluegill/sunfish are among the most publicized and promoted sunfish in the nation.

Hybrids are great for small ponds with a goal to grow 1-pound sunfish—fast. They are not a forage species and should not be stocked in lakes managed for bass. This brightly-colored, greenish panfish has hot-orange rimmed fins, is aggressive, and readily consumes fish food. Hybrids outcompete bluegill because their mouth is five times larger than a bluegill. Bigger mouth, bigger meals. It also means hybrids compete in a larger food chain of insects and small fish. They definitely have an advantage over bluegill, especially in new ponds. They cohabitate well with channel catfish. For long-term success, restock every few years.

**Source:** <https://americansportfish.com/news-updates/hybrid-bluegill-good-choice-for-small-ponds-2018-11-4756>

### **Redear (Shellcracker)**

The Shellcracker or Redear is a species of sunfish or bream related to the bluegill. This fish is adapted for feeding on snails and other mollusks, in addition to insect larvae. They coexist well with bluegill and do not compete with them for nest sites.

Stocked by themselves they will not reproduce in sufficient numbers to support a bass population. Therefore, we suggest stocking them in combination with the bluegill. The common stocking combination of these fish is 85% bluegill and 15% shellcracker.

**Source:** <https://americansportfish.com/fish-stocking-2/redear-shellcracker>

### **Fathead Minnows**

The fathead minnow is a small, olive-colored baitfish that has been used for a century or more as bait for small predator fish such as crappie. They are often called “tuffies” or “tuffie minnows” and are available at live bait stores throughout most of the United States. They are native to central North America and were originally found from Canada to Mexico. Through many decades of use as live bait, they are now found throughout most of the United States.

Fathead minnows are not only good live bait but are also beneficial in providing forage (food) in newly stocked bass-bluegill ponds. These minnows begin spawning during the early spring, often several months before the bluegill spawn and provide a valuable food source for small bass fingerlings. Fatheads can actually increase the growth rate of bass during their first year of life.

**Source:** <https://americansportfish.com/articles/fathead-minnows-a-great-food-fish-for-new-ponds-2010-12-135>

### **White Amur**

White Amur (uh-moor), also known as grass carp, originate from the Amur River that forms a border between China and Russia. The Amur is a true example of a herbivorous fish, surviving on nothing but plant matter alone. These fish grow very rapidly with adults reaching nearly 4 ft in length and weighing up to 75 lbs. They live an average of 12-15 years.

These fish were imported to the southern US. in 1963 to control algae growth in ponds along fairways on various golf courses. To accommodate an increasing demand for white amur, yet to avoid the possibility of them becoming established in systems where they are not wanted, a sterile triploid form was developed. In 1987, the Ohio Division of Wildlife allowed the importation of these forms of Amur and shortly thereafter, Freshwater Farms began to carry them for their pond customers.

**Source:** <https://fwfarms.com/white-amur/>

# ***Up the Crick...***

**Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.**  
Joseph Grove, Urban Technician - [jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov)



## **Protecting Against Drought and Erosion on Farms**

During the summer months, Ohio can face two different extremes of weather. In recent years, we have experienced longer hot and dry periods punctuated by intense and sudden rainfall. Drought can wreak havoc on crops, either by stunting their growth or causing them to die. Intense rainfall can also be problematic, as it can cause topsoil to erode away. Here are three agricultural practices that can help farmers to guard against both drought and erosion while also promoting the health of the soil.

### **1. No-Till Farming**

No-till farming involves the planting of crops without tilling the soil. This leaves a lot more plant material on the surface, which helps water infiltrate the soil and prevents it from evaporating as fast. This can increase the soil's moisture content, which is helpful in times of drought. No-till also keeps the soil fixed in place rather than stirring it up, which makes it less likely to wash away after heavy rains.

### **2. Cover Crops**

Cover crops are plants that are planted to cover the soil rather than for the purpose of being harvested. The crops create a physical barrier between raindrops and the ground, which can help to slow water down and make it more likely to infiltrate the soil than erode it. Cover crops also contain a lot of moisture and incorporating them into the field later (by tilling them under or letting them lay on top) can increase the soil moisture, which helps to make the soil more drought resistant.

### **3. Crop Rotation**

Crop rotation is the practice of alternating the crops that are grown in a particular area (like growing corn one year and soybeans the next for example). The different root systems create new channels for air and water to enter in the proper amounts. This not only increases the soil moisture (protecting against drought) but also increases the soil's stability (protecting against erosion) and improves the levels of nutrients, microbes, and organic matter in the soil (which makes the soil healthier and more productive).



# **SWCD Equipment for Sale and Rent**

## **The following items are available for sale:**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Marking flags           | \$10 per 100 flags, available year round       |
| • Soil Survey Narratives  | \$15 each or free online, available year round |
| • Topographic Quadrangles | \$6 each, available year round                 |
| • Soil Survey Aerial Maps | Free   |
| • Fish Fingerlings        | Prices vary, sale held in Fall                 |
| • Tree Seedlings          | Prices vary, sale is in April                  |



## **The following equipment is available for rent: (subject to schedule and availability)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill (15-foot)            | \$15/ acre w/ \$150 minimum charge                   |
| • Tree Puller  | \$100 per day<br>\$150 per weekend<br>\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)<br>- \$150 deposit | \$100 per day<br>\$150 per weekend                   |
| • Tree Planter                                       | \$40 per day   |

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



# Wildlife Habitat Learning Circle

**August 13, 2022 at 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
in West Mansfield, OH**

Women landowners and farmers (current or future) who are interested in learning more about conservation, wildlife habitat, and pollinators are invited to join female resource professionals for a **FREE** morning learning circle and afternoon informational habitat tour. Come network with like-minded ladies and explore ways to accomplish your goals for your land!

Shaded seating will be available, but please dress for warm weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Lunch will be provided. When registering, please note if you have any dietary restrictions.

Please **RSVP** at <https://OhioWomenOnTheWing.eventbrite.com> or scan the QR Code below. If you need an accommodation to participate in this activity, contact Farm Bill Biologist Ashley Dawson at (540) 622-4323 or [adawson@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:adawson@pheasantsforever.org)





## ***Become a Union SWCD Affiliate Member***

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/affiliate-members--donors>



*Affiliate membership dollars are used to help contribute to a variety of natural resource education efforts for Union County residents. Such efforts include field days, pond clinics, displays, tours, camp scholarships and presentations to schools and civic groups.*

### **Membership Benefits:**

Annual Meeting Ticket(s)	Listed in our Annual Meeting Program
Listed in our Annual Report	Listed on our website
Recognized in our quarterly newsletter	Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoint

### **Please complete the form below:**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Choose one of the following Affiliate memberships available:**

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

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

If you have any questions please contact Taylor Golden at  
937-642-5871 x 2221 or [tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov)

# 2022 Affiliate Members

## Platinum Level Affiliate Members



## Gold Level Affiliate Members



UNION COUNTY



**MJS Oil Inc.**



**BLUESCREEK  
FARM  
MEATS**

*& Market!*

## Silver Level Affiliate Members



**Seed  
Consultants**



**Stir  
Fresh**  
Asian Canteen



Family owned and operated since 1982.



*We treat your car like our own*

343 E. Blagrove St. P.O. Box 65 Richwood, OH 43344  
740.943.2412

MITCHAGRI, INC

## Bronze Level Affiliate Members



# Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.  
[bnickel@unioncountyoohio.gov](mailto:bnickel@unioncountyoohio.gov)

## Summer Wildlife and Habitat Interests

### NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Come join us for FREE Kids outdoor activities on  
**Saturday Sept. 24 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, and Trapping Displays.  
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:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/education-training/hunter-education/hunter-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

### Hunting Regulations:

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

### Fishing Regulations:

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

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

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

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

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

## 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."*

# **Union Soil and Water Conservation District**

Serving Union County's Conservation needs for 76 years

## **2021 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. All meetings are open to the public and held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

### **2021 Board of Supervisors**

**Rick Weigand, Chair**

**Andy Clarridge, Vice-Chairman**

**Cheryl Trivisonno, Fiscal Agent/Treasurer**

**Matt Staley, Secretary**

**Randy Trapp, Member**

### **2021 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	\$ 225,000.00
*City of Marysville	\$ 49,005.04
*Township Trustees	\$ 21,500.00

#### **Other Sources:**

*State Matching Funds	\$ 233,053.98
*ODNR Wildlife Specialist Grant	\$ 15,300.00



## **Annual Meeting & Election**

The Union Soil & Water Conservation District held its 76th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 63 people were in attendance. The election of Supervisors was held with candidate Matt Staley elected to 3-year term to begin January 1, 2022.

Entertainment: Columbus Zoo staff brought several Animal Ambassadors to share with the group. Animals included a penguin, a fox, a bearcat, a skunk, an owl, and a sloth.

Awards: 2021 Cooperator of the Year went to Hickory Plains Farm/Rausch Family. Service awards were presented to Jeremy Burrey, 5-years of service, Brent Nickel, 21-years of service, and Mark Watkins, 41-years of service. .

### **Associate Supervisors**

Bill Conklin	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

Stephen Johnson, District Technician

Joseph Grove, Urban Technician

Jeremy Burrey, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor

Matt Archer, Drainage maintenance Technician

### **USDA NRCS Staff**

Ron Neiman, District Conservationist

LaRae Baker, Resource Conservationist

### **Pheasants Forever Staff**

Ashley Dawson, Pheasants Forever Biologist

## **Conservation Products**

- Rentals: No-till drill was rented out (16) times for a total of 595.4 acres  
Straw blower was rented out (1) times.  
Tree Planter was rented out (0) times.  
Tree puller was rented by (2) people for weekend rentals.
- Tree Sale: Union SWCD 2021 Tree Sale was held as a drive-thru in April, 4,200 seedlings were available the sale was a complete success as we sold out with in 45 minutes.
- Fish Sale: Union SWCD 2021 Fish Sale was held in October we sold 2,992 fingerlings

## **Drainage Maintenance**

Maintained (87) 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.

## **Education**

- School Presentations: Cancelled due to COVID! The Groundwater Simulator, Enviroscape modules, AR Sand table were made available for union county teacher to use if their classrooms as we were unable to enter the buildings.
- National Hunting & Fishing Day:  
Assisted with – (100) participants
- Hunting & Fishing Education:  
Assisted with - (8) classes for over 400 participants
- Pheasants Forever Youth & Ladies Shoot and Hunt:  
(2) presentations / 65 participants
- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfasts: Cancelled due to COVID

## **Outreach**

- Don Cook Memorial Scholarship Fund: 4-H Camp was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Provide subscription of the Ohio Woodland Journal to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools
- Participated in the Richwood Independent Fair by provided educational displays
- 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>
- District Facebook Page: Provided announcements, events, conservation and drainage information to the public

## **Technical**

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

- Agricultural Easement Inspections: (4) Inspections completed
- CRP-MCM Assessment/Review & Landowner Meetings: (14) Field visits & (14) landowner meetings
- Grassed Waterways: (6) installed and (15) others designed
- Pollution Abatement Complaints: (0)
- Pond Management Assistance: Provided assistance for (37) pond owners
- Pond Site Evaluations and Planning Assistance for (1) resident
- Provided assistance for erosion, sediment, stormwater control and management for (39) residents.
- Surface Drain: designed for (1) landowner
- Subsurface Drainage Systematic: designed for (1) landowner
- Petition ditches: Beery/Morris, Blues Creek, and Lincoln
- Solar Projects: Cadence and AEUG

## **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:  
(26) Home site visits to determine proper lot drainage for new homes were performed and (3) 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.bethechangeforcleanwater.org>
- Drainage Complaints/Investigations/Information:  
(47) incidents were addressed

## **Wildlife Assistance**

- (22) Wildlife Conflict/Damage Investigations  
Bats, Beaver, Bees, Coyote, Fox, Feral Cats, Geese, Muskrats, Raccoons, Groundhogs, Blackbirds/ Starlings, Squirrels, Swans, and Turtles.
- (20) 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.
- (32) 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***

**2021 Supporters**

Union County Commissioners	Union County Engineer	Union County Auditor
Union County Treasurer	Union County Health Dept.	City of Marysville
Union County Farm Bureau	UC Pheasants Forever Chapter #535	
USDA Farm Service Agency	Union County Ag Assoc.	OSU Extension
The Scotts Company	Darby Twp. Trustees	Dover Twp. Trustees
Millcreek Twp. Trustees	Paris Twp. Trustees	Taylor Township Trustees
ODNR Division of Forestry		ODNR Division of Wildlife
National Association of Conservation Districts		
ODA Division of Soil & Water Conservation		
Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission		
Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts		

**2021 Affiliate Members**

<u>Cook Real Estate</u>	57 years
<u>Ohigro Inc.</u>	48 years
<u>MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing</u>	35 years
<u>Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance</u>	29 years
<u>Select Sires, Inc</u>	27 years
<u>Smart Oil, LLC</u>	8 years
<u>Scotts Miracle-Gro</u>	3 years
<u>Millcreek Gardens LLC</u>	2 years
<u>NOVUSag/Cardinal Ag. LLC</u>	2 years
<u>Seed Consultants</u>	2 years
<u>Vititoe Construction, Inc.</u>	2 years
<u>Connolly Construction Co.</u>	1 year
Seed Center, The	1 year
MitchellAgri	1 year
Union County Farm Bureau	1 year

## **Upcoming Events:**

July 14, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

Aug. 3, 2022 - Union SWCD Annual Mtg. - Der Dutchman Restaurant  
- Find details on page one of this newsletter

Aug. 11, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

September 5, 2022 - Labor Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

September 8, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

September 24, 2022 - National Hunting and Fishing Day - 9:00AM - Noon  
Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Association Inc. Lakes - NW Parkway just off of ST RT 33

October 4, 2022 - Union SWCD Fish Sale Pick Up - 9:30 AM at the Ag Center Parking Lot

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

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?  
Email [bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov](mailto:bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov) 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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(937) 642-5871 option 3  
[www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district](http://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district)

# *Conservation News*

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