



Conservation News

VOLUME 27, No.1

WINTER 2023

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937-642-5871 x 4

**www.unioncounty
ohio.gov/union-
soil-water-
conservation-
district**

Union SWCD 2023 Annual Tree Sale to be held on April 15!

Mark your calendars for this year's tree sale!
The sale will be held at the Union County Agricultural Center parking lot
and we will be conducting the sale as a drive through event again this year.

Evergreens will be sold in packets of 25 for \$30/pkt and
Colorado Blue Spruce , Concolor Fir, and White Pine

Hardwood and Shrub species sold in packets of 5 for \$10/pkt
American Hazelnut, Black Cherry, Common Paw Paw,
Common Persimmon, Northern Red Oak, and Eastern Redbud

The sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. and run until noon, or until
SOLD OUT! Trees are available on a first come first serve basis.

Cash and checks are accepted, but please wait until
time of purchase to write fill out your checks.

Order form and a description of each species is include in this newsletter

Annual Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast Meetings

Once again, the Hardin, Logan and Union Soil and Water Conservation
Districts and Hardin and Union OSU Extension offices are hosting the
Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast meetings in 2023.

This year there will be four meetings -
January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23.
All meetings will start with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the
Plaza Inn, in Mt. Victory.

Topics: Corn Disease Program, Soybean/Marketing Program,
Farm Bill Programs, and Precision Ag
PLAN TO JOIN US!

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

2023 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The sale date for 2023 will be Saturday, April 15th, at the Union County Agricultural Center's Ditch Maintenance Building located in the rear parking lot at 18000 St. Rt. 4, Marysville, Ohio.

The sale will start at **9:00 a.m. and run until noon, or until SOLD OUT**. 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 D of the same building.

All seedlings to be sold will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

We will not accept orders prior to the sale. All stock are seedlings only. Please make selections below and bring the completed form with you on the day of the sale. After ensuring that all species desired are still available, we will total your order. Cash or check only for payment., we do not accept credit cards.

EVERGREENS (transplants) (25 per packet)

<u># Packets</u>	<u>Cost/pkt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>
_____	\$30/pkt.	Colorado Blue Spruce	10-18"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$30/pkt.	Concolor Fir	8-14"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$30/pkt.	White Pine	8-12"	(2-1)	_____

****Evergreen packet cost breakdown – packet \$27.90 + tax \$2.10 = \$30**

HARDWOOD/SHRUB (seedlings) (5 per packet)

<u># Packets</u>	<u>Cost/pkt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	American Hazelnut	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Black Cherry	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Common Paw Paw	6-12"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Common Persimmon	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Northern Red Oak	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Eastern Redbud	12-18"	(1-0)	_____

****Hardwood/Shrub packet cost breakdown – packet \$9.30 + tax \$0.70 = \$10**

ACCESSORIES

_____	\$10/bundle	Marking Flags (100 in bundle)	_____
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****Marker flag bundle cost breakdown – packet \$9.30 + tax \$0.70 = \$10**

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

PAID w/ CASH \$ _____

PAID w/CHECK \$ _____ # _____

Please include your email address below if you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter.

*(See more information on tree species at our webpage under the Sales & Rentals, Tree Sale tab.)

<http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/>

2023 Union SWCD Tree Sale - Brief Descriptions of Species

1. **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.

2. **Concolor Fir – *Abies concolor***

The Concolor Fir will grow 30 to 100 ft tall and 15 to 25 feet wide and has a shallow spreading root system. Its branches are not quite as strong as spruces but with its pyramid shape, snow and ice usually cause little damage. In the wild this tree can live 100 years and longer but outside of its normal range one could expect 40 or more years to be an old tree. It will do quite well in poor dry soils, but should not be planted in clay or poorly drained soils. Does well with 15" of rain per year and does well in higher soil PH than any other Fir.

3. **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.

4. **American Hazelnut - *Corylus americana***

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

5. **Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina***

A rapidly growing woodland tree common throughout all of Ohio, is often found in open fields and previously harvested forests. Its small fruits are relished by birds and mammals as a food source in late summer. Also known as Wild Black Cherry, this tree may grow to 60 feet tall by 30 feet wide (or larger) when it is found in an open field.

6. **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.

7. **Common Persimmon – *Diospyros virginiana***

Common persimmon is sometimes used as an ornamental for its hardiness, adaptability to a wide range of soils and climates, and immunity from disease and insects. Moist, well-drained soils provide best conditions but the plant will tolerate hot, dry, poor soils, including various city conditions. Fruit may be produced by 10-year-old trees but optimum fruit-bearing age is 25-50 years.

8. **Northern Red Oak – *Quercus rubra***

This Union County native may reach a mature height of 80+ feet. Unlike other oaks, this species grows fairly rapidly on ideal sites with ideal conditions. Fall foliage features vivid russet red to bright red colors. It is tolerant of lower pH (4.5 – 6.0) and prefers full sun, space, and moist, but well drained soils. This is the northernmost Eastern oak.

9. **Eastern Redbud – *Cercis canadensis***

Considered a small tree, this native species proclaims spring with a showy abundance of lavender-pink flowers that cover its twigs before leaf break. Its heart shape leaves add extra appeal to any landscape. The Eastern Redbud is often found to naturally occur along the edges of deciduous woods. Whether planted singularly, or in masses, the redbud makes a fine ornamental (25'). It prefers full sun, but tolerates partial shade. A small pea-like pod is produced in fall.

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.

Joseph Grove, Urban Technician -

jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



Protecting Water In Winter Weather

When most of us think of water pollution, we might imagine spills or runoff that occur during the warmer months. However, winter brings its own set of challenges. As snow and ice accumulate, they pick up pollutants like road salt, dirt, litter, and other chemicals. When it melts, those pollutants are washed down storm drains and discharged into local waterways like Mill Creek and the Scioto River. But, there are some simple things you can do to help prevent pollution and protect water quality during the winter months:

- **Keep Snow Off Pavement When Possible:**
When snow melts on pavement, it typically flows into storm drains. But, if it is shoveled onto lawns, planters, or other level areas, it can soak into and filter through the soil instead. Be sure to get to the snow before it is compacted or frozen into ice though. After it becomes ice, it is very difficult to remove without melting it.
- **Choose The Right Deicer:**
Some deicers, such as rock salt and calcium chloride can be dangerous for children, pets, and water quality. Look for eco-friendly and pet-safe ice melt for a safer alternative.
- **Use Only Enough To Get The Job Done:**
The most common mistake with applying deicers is using too much. Read and follow the directions on the package when applying. If you spill any extra, please remember to pick it up with a shovel or broom.
- **Use Traction Instead:**
If you want to avoid deicers, using small amounts of sand or sawdust can help provide traction without chemicals. However, if too much sand flows into a waterway it can cause sedimentation, so be sure to use this sparingly and sweep up any that is left after the ice melts.

Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.
bnickel@unioncountyoiohio.gov

Winter Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

What's In-Season

Always Refer to the Current Year's Regulations.

Hunting Regulations:

Fishing Regulations:

"Hunting With Permission" forms and hard copies of the **Hunting and Fishing Regulations** are available at our office.

Get the **HuntFishOH Mobile APP** and get everything in one place!

Muskrat or Beaver Problems?.... Now is the Time!

A timely reminder for anyone experiencing chronic damage from Muskrats or Beaver.

Now is the time to recruit trappers to reduce the potentially explosive muskrat population. In Union County, the regulated Muskrat and Beaver trapping seasons run until

February 28, 2023

Duck, Duck, Goose!

Waterfowl seasons will be ending soon and the nesting season is right around the corner. Now is the time to think about next years ducklings by constructing nest structures and placing them before the ice melts.

I have nest plans available in my office.

On another note, 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.

To learn more about human/ goose conflicts and to apply for a **Goose Damage Permit** [click HERE!](#)

Christmas Trees for Wildlife

Placing a wildlife brush shelter on your property can add an interesting and important element to your backyard habitat, attracting a wide variety of wildlife that may have been missing. Providing dense, heavy and secure shelter close to the ground can attract many animals that may not feel comfortable otherwise. An old Christmas tree can make a great base. This is the easiest thing you can do with your tree if you have a yard. It directly benefits the wildlife in your backyard during winter months because brush piles and dead trees offer food and needed protection from the chill.

Wildlife Brush PilesCottontail Condos

Winter is a great time to construct heavy-duty brush piles.

No, not small piles of limbs. Begin by placing large diameter pieces (Six inch +.), at the base. Arrange the base to have four compartments by placing logs across the middle of each side. As each row goes up, move the logs "in" one width, so that a pyramid shape begins to form. At about four feet high, place leftover limbs and other cuttings on top as a roof. Add to the top of the pile as necessary.



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/>

Recommendations to PONDer!

Remember this most basic of all pond truths...*every living thing and every dying thing in every pond is using up precious dissolved oxygen 24 hours a day throughout the entire year—even winter!*

Should extended snow cover blanket thick ice, safely attempt to create "alleys" to allow sunlight to penetrate the ice windows. Several swipes with a snow shovel or snow blower will help. Yes, plants still photosynthesize in winter.

OLHAP - OHIO LANDOWNER/HUNTER ACCESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Looking for some new places to hunt?
Have you heard about the OLHAP program?
Check out the link to find out more about the newest hunter access program in Ohio.

Injured—or what appears to be Helpless Wildlife?

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

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

Drainage Maintenance Quarterly Update

This fall drainage maintenance crews have been busy dipping the following ditches Cattail Swamp, Leo Rausch / Sugar Run and Wildcat Pond Group SCS ditch. We have managed to dip about 15,000 feet of maintained ditch. We will be back in the spring to level spoil piles. We will then level and grade the areas effected and plant grass seed to restore the filter strip.

Pictured are some of the drainage improvements we were able to accomplish.



Friendly reminder:

Please avoid dumping any debris and grass clipping along side or in the ditch.



If you have any drainage related questions, please contact our office
Monday - Friday from 8a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the contact information listed below.

Joe Eads
Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
18000 St. Rt. 4 Suite D
Marysville OH 43040
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2236

USDA Wetland Reserve Easement Funding Now Available To Ohio Landowners

Apply by February 17, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from landowners interested in restoring, enhancing, and protecting wetlands with financial and technical assistance through the Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (WRE). Applications for WRE are taken on a continuous basis. The deadline to receive fiscal year 2023 funding is February 17, 2023.

Wetland Reserve Easements can help landowners protect land from development, preserve critical wildlife habitat for outdoor recreation, and improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals and reduce flooding.

“Wetlands are one of nature’s most productive ecosystems. The greatest potential for wetland restoration is working hand-in-hand with Ohio landowners,” said John Wilson, NRCS State Conservationist in Ohio. “Once the site is restored, landowners can enjoy the benefits that an easement brings – such as privacy, wildlife abundance for hunting and other recreation, and a legacy to be passed down to future generations.”

Many of the state’s landowners can take advantage of this program, as eligible lands include farmed or converted wetlands that can successfully be restored; croplands or grasslands subject to flooding; and previously restored wetlands and riparian areas that connect protected wetland areas.

WRE enrollment options include permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 30-year contracts. NRCS staff are available to help landowners plan and implement individual projects. The agency will pay a percent of the purchase value as well as restoration costs for each easement option.

Find Ohio’s ranking dates as well as other program information on the [**Ohio NRCS WRE website**](#) or contact Barbara Baker at [**barbara.baker2@usda.gov**](mailto:barbara.baker2@usda.gov). To learn more about other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit [**Get Started with NRCS**](#) or contact your local [**USDA Service Center**](#).

LaRae Baker
Resource Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
Union, Champaign, & Logan Counties
937-209-2224
[**larae.baker@usda.gov**](mailto:larae.baker@usda.gov)

Welcome to Union SWCD's newest staff Member, Ross Carter!



Ross grew up just outside of Columbus and graduated from Grandview Heights High School in 2016. He studied mathematics at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania and graduated in 2020. While in Pennsylvania, he served as an intern for the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District, which inspired his interest in soil and water in Ohio. He moved back to Ohio in July of 2021 and is excited to continue supporting conservation efforts here in his home state. In his free time, he likes to spend time with family, cook, and enjoy the outdoors as often as possible. Welcome Ross!

Welcome to our newest NRCS partner in Union County, Adam Slappy!

Adam is a new soil conservationist based in Union County (Marysville FO). He has completed the pathways internship program, working in area 5 and 3. He recently received his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education and a minor in sustainable agriculture from Central State University in spring of 2022. Also, he played basketball and ran cross country for CSU. Adam's background before NRCS was youth instruction and development, where he student taught at Trotwood Madison and was intern for OSU extension.



We have expanded! Union SWCD and the Drainage Maintenance Department have moved wings. We are now located in Suite D of the Union County Ag Complex. The door is open...come see us! You can reach us by the same phone #, but now we are on option 4. NRCS remains in the same location and hopes to expand their staff in the newly vacated offices.

**Union SWCD Board of Supervisors and staff
would like to THANK the 2022 Affiliate Members
for their continued support!**

Cook Real Estate (Gold Member)	58 years
Ohigro Inc. (Silver Member)	49 years
MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing (Gold Member)	36 years
Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance (Gold Member)	30 years
Select Sires, Inc (Platinum Member)	28 years
Union County Farm Bureau (Gold Member)	25 years
Smart Oil, LLC (Silver Member)	9 years
Millcreek Gardens LLC (Silver Member)	3 years
Seed Consultants (Silver Member)	3 years
Vititoe Construction, Inc. (Platinum Member)	3 years
Connolly Construction Co. (Silver Member)	2 years
MitchellAgri (Silver Member)	2 years
The Seed Center (Gold Member)	2 years
Benny's Pizza (Gold Member)	1 year
Bluescreek Farm LLC (Gold Member)	1 year
Bokes Creek Hot Shots (Platinum Member)	1 year
Bokes Creek Orchard (Gold Member)	1 year
Mitchell's Berries & Blooms (Bronze Member)	1 year
Plain City Druggist (Gold Member)	1 year
Richwood Tire Center (Silver Member)	1 year
Rooster's Wings Marysville (Platinum Member)	1 year
Steve Stolte (Gold Member)	1 year
Stir Fresh Asian Canteen (Silver Member)	1 year
The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek (Silver Member)	1 year

The Union SWCD 2023 Affiliate Membership drive has begun, to become an Affiliate Member complete the Affiliate Membership Application and return to our office or contact Sherry Maisenbacher at (937) 642-5871 x2221 or smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov.

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.

Union SWCD Affiliate Members Benefits

Annual Meeting Tickets (2)

Listed in our Annual Report

Listed in our Annual Meeting Program

Listed on our website

Recognized in our quarterly newsletters

Recognized in the Annual Mtg. PowerPoint

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

Affiliate memberships available

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

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 Tickets (2)

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

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 x2221 or
smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov

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
\$150 per weekend
\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)
- \$150 deposit | \$100 per day
\$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.

We have expanded! Union SWCD and the Drainage Maintenance Department have moved wings. We are now located in Suite D of the Union County Ag Complex. The door is open...come see us! You can reach us by the same phone #, but now we are on option 4. NRCS remains in the same location and hopes to expand their staff in the newly vacated offices.

Upcoming Events:

January 2, 2023 - New Years HOLIDAY - Office Closed

January 12, 2023 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 5:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

January 16, 2023 - Martin Luther King Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

February 9, 2023 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

February 20, 2023 - President's Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

March 9, 2023 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

April 13, 2023 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

April 15, 2023 - Union SWCD Tree Seedling Sale - 9:00-Noon Ag Center - Parking Lot

May 11, 2023 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM in the Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email 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.

Mailing Address Goes Here

Union Soil & Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4 North, Suite D
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937) 642-5871 option 4
www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district

Conservation News

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