

Conservation News

Union Soil & Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4, Suite D
Marysville, OH 43040



Phone: (937) 642-5871 ext. 4

www.unioncountyohio.gov/USWCD

USWCD Supervisors

Rick Weigand, Chair

Andy Clarridge, Vice Chair

Cheryl Trivisonno, Treasurer
& Fiscal Officer

Larry Morris, Secretary

Randy Trapp, Member

USWCD Personnel

Brent Nickel, DA

Sherry Maisenbacher, AA

Mark Watkins District Tech

Matt Williams, District Tech

Ross Cater, District Tech

Joe Eads, DM Supervisor

Cody Beery, DM Tech

Matt Archer, DM Tech

Joseph Grove, Urban Tech

USDA/NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC

Adam Slappy, Soil Con

Mariah Lashley, Soil Con

Sierah Geldbaugh, Soil Con

LaRae Baker, Training Coor.

Brent Smith, ACES

80th Annual Meeting Highlights

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Union Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Election & Banquet on August 13rd at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH

To start off the evening an election of supervisors was held. We had a great evening with 66 in attendance.

Congratulations to Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno on being re-elected to the USWCD board.



Andy is currently serving his
3rd term on the Board



Cheryl is currently serving
her 2nd term on the Board

Fall Fingerling Sale pickup is October 9, 2025.

Attendees enjoyed an up-close look at several animals from the Wild Hearts African Farm. The animals that came to visit included Shelby (Eastern Box Turtle), Irwin (Blue Tongued Skink), Captain Crunch (African Hedgehog), Amelia (African Millipede), Farmer (Lionhead Rabbit), and Bernie (Barn Owl).



Irwin



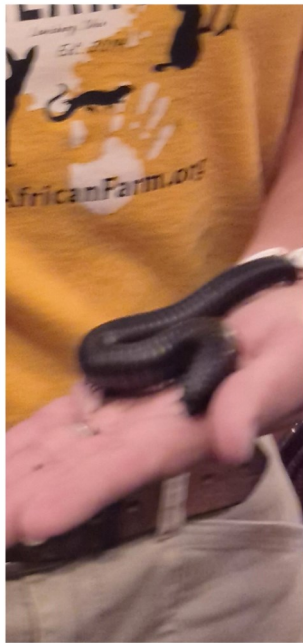
Bernie



Captain Crunch



Shelby



Amelia



Farmer

**USWCD Board and Staff would like to THANK
the following supporters for helping make our
80th Annual Meeting a success.**

Affiliate Members

Ag-Pro Richwood

Bahan Excavating, LLC

Benny's Pizza

Bokes Creek Orchard

Burrey Aquatic Restoration LLC

Connolly Companies

Cook Real Estate

Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance

Gravatt Family Farm

Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Assoc.

Millcreek Gardens LLC

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MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing

Ohigro Inc.

Richwood Tire Center

Sheely Ag Services, LLC

Seed Center, The

Select Sires, Inc.

Smart Oil, LLC

Steve Stolte

Union County Farm Bureau

Vititoe Construction, Inc

Door Prize Donors

A-1 Advanced Plumbing

Auto Inspection Service, LLC

Bokes Creek Orchard

Chefs' Parlour

Cherry Hawk Farm Apple Orchard

Coffee Hall and Creamery

Cook Real Estate

Crazy Richards Peanut Butter

Der Dutchman Restaurant

Donatos Pizza—Marysville

Dutch Mill Greenhouse

Ill Mannered Brewing Co. Taproom

Irwin Farms Christmas Trees

Kale Marketing, Inc.

Leeds Farm

LRX Apparel

LS Treats & Eats

MAiZE at Little Darby Creek, The

Mitchell's Berries & Blooms

Moo Moo Express Car Wash

Richwood Banking Company

Ridge Golf and Gardens LLC

Scooter's Coffee

Smart Oil, LLC

Stillwater Mums, LLC

Suds Brothers (Connolly Companies)

Texas Roadhouse

Union Station 1820

Winans Coffee & Chocolate

Drainage Maintenance Update

Mill creek Logjam update

H&H land clearing will start the second phase of the mill creek logjam removal project. H&H will begin at the Delaware county line and head upstream towards Logan county cutting the dead standing trees from the top twenty five of the bank. Field staff will be out marking trees to be cut. If you have any questions feel free to give union soil and water a call .



If you have any drainage-related questions, contact our office
Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Joe Eads, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor

Email: jeads@unioncountyohio.gov

Ph: 937-209-2236

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Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.
brent.nickel@unioncountyohio.gov

Fall Wildlife and Habitat Interests and Concerns

Share Your Love for the Outdoors - Take A Kid Hunting

Hunting season is here and now's the time to get into that Hunter's Education Class. The Division of Wildlife offers three types of certification courses; instructor-led training, home study courses, and online. The online course has a \$15 fee, but all other options are Free!

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

[ODNR : Hunter Education Courses](#)

If your young one isn't quite ready for Hunter's Education, check out the Hunter's Apprentice Program. Apprentice hunting licenses or fur taker permits allow new hunters and trappers, both adults and youth, to sample the experience of hunting under the mentorship of a licensed adult prior to taking a hunter or trapper education course



OHIO LANDOWNER/HUNTER ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

- This is private property open to access for the purpose of wildlife-based recreation.
- OLHAP permit is required.
- Please practice leave no trace by packing all trash out.
- Funding for OLHAP is partially funded by grant monies in the VPA section of the Farm Bill.
- For more information on this program or to obtain your OLHAP permit visit ohiodnr.gov.



VPA-HIP
Voluntary Private Access and Habitat Improvement Program

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



NEED A PLACE TO HUNT?
OLHAP
has you covered!

The Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership program is up and running!

Check out the great properties enrolled in this program to expand your hunting opportunities.

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/>

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 updated hunting and fishing regulations!

Tallgrass Truths—Revealed! Management is your Friend...

Landowners, there is nothing wrong or "illegal" with mowing random and curving "hunt trails", or walkways, through the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grassland practices. It is always best to mow to an eight-inch height. Hunting trails that wind through the tall and thick vegetation will not place the landowner in "non-compliance" with the voluntary conservation practices' contracts.

Up to 20% of your acreage can be mowed per year under your contract without penalty. If done in sections or strips, this will not only open up the field for wildlife to use but will also open it up more for you to use and be easier to hunt. Be sure to address any woody vegetation growth during this mowing opportunity



**Ohio Pollinator
Habitat Initiative**

**Annual Milkweed Pod Collection
October 1st - 31st**

Contact Your Local Soil and Water Conservation District for More Information

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 SWCD

Common Milkweed Seed Collection



Union SWCD, 18000 ST RT 4, Suite D is an official drop off site for the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) Milkweed collection.

Union SWCD office hours are M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm

There is a bin outside of the office door to collect Milkweed Pods after hours.

The collected seed will be cleaned and offered back to the public for use in plantings to help rebuild habitat for monarch butterflies and other native pollinators in Ohio.

Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing.

It also serves as a food source for Monarchs as well as many other pollinator species.

The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern Monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years.

We are working hard to change this, and you can help!

Let's make our collection efforts in 2025 even better by following these simple tips!

- Make sure that before you collect seed, you become familiar with the Common Milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.
- It is best to collect pods when they are dry and grey or brown.
IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK!
- If the center seem pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in PAPER bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bags when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site

Technical Trivia: Erosion Control Blanket (ECB)

Covering conservation and drainage topics on a quarterly basis.



Erosion Control Blanket (ECB) may be single or double-netted using a mulch medium comprised of straw, coconut fiber, straw/coconut fiber, wood excelsior, or equivalent material. It is used to stabilize freshly graded soil so that a newly grass sown area can become established, especially in highly erodible locations. It is installed with 6" landscape staples and the rolls are overlapped like shingles on a house roof to shed rainwater properly. When installed correctly versus just spreading straw, they can be the difference between a successful stand of grass and failure leading to erosion and bare, exposed dirt.

If you have questions or want to learn more, feel free to contact us!

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.

Joseph Grove, Urban Technician - jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



Stormwater Management: Gray & Green

In the world of stormwater management, the terms “gray” and “green” infrastructure are often used to distinguish between different ways of managing stormwater. Both approaches are interesting, useful, and have their own pros and cons.

GRAY:

“Gray” infrastructure is a more conventional way of dealing with stormwater. It uses engineered systems like pipes, concrete channels, or storm sewers to move stormwater away from developed areas and into bodies of water—usually local streams or rivers—as fast as possible. The use of concrete and other traditional building materials is why this approach is nicknamed “gray”.

PROS:

- Moves stormwater quickly.
- Modular and effective for large projects.

CONS:

- Dumping stormwater into water bodies that fast can cause erosion.
- These systems can carry pollutants directly into water bodies.
- Undersized systems can lead to flooding and property damage.

GREEN:

“Green” infrastructure is a newer and nontraditional way of dealing with stormwater. It uses natural features, like plants and soil (hence the nickname “green”), to manage stormwater where it falls. This is often done through rain gardens, permeable pavements, or bioswales that absorb, filter, and retain stormwater, allowing it to infiltrate into the soil.

PROS:

- Mimics natural processes.
- Soil and plants naturally filter pollutants, improving water quality.
- Can enhance urban environments by reducing the heat island effect and providing aesthetic value.

CONS:

- While maintenance costs are similar to landscaping in a park, the above benefits are not factored into traditional cost-benefit analyses, making these systems seem less appealing to some.
- Undersized systems can lead to flooding and property damage, similar to gray infrastructure.

Upcoming Events / Office Closures

- October 9, 2025: **USWCD Annual Fish Sale:** 3:00 p.m., in the back parking lot
- October 9, 2025: **USWCD Board Mtg.:** 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room
- October 13, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Columbus Day
- Nov. 11, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Veterans Day
- Nov. 13, 2025: **USWCD Board Mtg.:** 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room
- Nov. 27, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 28, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe the day after Thanksgiving
- Dec. 8, 2025: **Area 4 Winter Mtg.:** USWCD Office will be **CLOSED**
- Dec. 11, 2025: **USWCD Board Mtg.:** 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room
- Dec. 24, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Christmas Day
- Dec. 31, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe New Year's Eve

2025 Affiliate Members

www.unioncountyohio.gov/departments/USWCD/affiliate-members--donors

Diamond Member

Bahan Excavating LLC

Platinum Member

Burrey Aquatic Restoration LLC

Vititoe Construction, Inc.

Gold Members

Ag-Pro Richwood

Benny's Pizza

Bokes Creek Orchard

Connolly Companies

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Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Assoc.

Millcreek Gardens LLC

MitchellAgri, Inc.

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Sheely Ag Services, LLC

Smart Oil, LLC

Steve Stolte

The Seed Center

Union County Farm Bureau

Silver Member

Ohigro, Inc.

Richwood Tire Center