

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

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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

Union Soil & Water Conservation District to hold their **80th Annual Meeting**



Union Soil & Water Conservation District will hold their 80th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 South Jefferson Avenue in Plain City, Ohio.

There are a variety of things planned for the evening:

- An election for two supervisors will be held before the meal at 5:45 p.m. and run to 6:30 p.m. Candidates are Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno.
- The buffet meal will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7:30 p.m. featuring Wild Hearts African Farm.

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

To purchase tickets, contact Sherry Maisenbacher by email at

smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov or phone at

(937) 642-5871 ext. 2221 or , by August 4, 2025.

Fall Fingerling Sale pickup is October 9, 2025.
Order form and Descriptions are include in this edition.

Don Cook Memorial Scholarship

Congratulation to our 2025 recipients!

Alexa Brinson

Gabe Davis

Nevaeh Phillips

Sadie Clevenger

Each recipient received a \$80 4-H camp scholarship sponsored by Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Insurance, and USWCD.

Union SWCD 80th Annual Election

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Union Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

There are (3) three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1) At the SWCD office, 18000 State Route 4, Suite D, Marysville, OH 43040, from July 15, 2025, until August 13, 2025. during regular business hours or
- 2) At the SWCD Annual Meeting and Election, to take place at Der Dutchman 445 Jefferson Ave, Plain City, OH 43064, on Aug.st 13, 2025. 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; or
- 3) Voting absentee from July 15, 2025, until August 13, 2025, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the Union SWCD office at the following address, 18000 State Route 4, Suite D, Marysville, OH 43040, by email smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov or by phone at (937) 642-5871 Ext. 2221. Absentee ballots must be in the SWCD office by August 13, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three year term commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

Nominees: Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno

Meet candidate Andy Clarridge



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

Andy is a registered professional engineer currently managing Clarridge Engineering. Andy has participated in the engineering and oversight of the new water line installation in Mt. Victory, as well as the Honda Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) related to the rail spur expansion. Other projects include numerous onsite wastewater treatment plans, subdivision and street designs, and various surveying projects.

Andy, along with his wife Heather (Greenbaum) and their two children, resides on a small farm located on Paver Barnes Road. He manages a small herd of registered Herefords in addition to various typical farm animals. On the family farm, he also cultivates soybeans and hay. Andy takes pleasure in spending time with his family camping, coaching, and assisting with 4-H projects.

Meet candidate Cheryl Trivisonno



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

Cheryl's parents moved from suburban Akron to a farm in Morrow County where the family learned about soil and water from the ground up. After moving to a Wayne County farm where the soils had been overworked and depleted, the importance of soil and water conservation became clear. Her family farm still operates near Shreve using best practices to conserve and protect the soil and nearby stream. In 2000 Cheryl and her husband Ron worked closely with the Marion County NRCS Wetland Reserve Program to construct approximately 35 acres of wetland pool and a surrounding 35 acres of prairie. Their wetland is located in the critical upper watershed of the Scioto River.

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

Cheryl is currently the secretary for the Herbal Study Group, at the Stratford Ecological Center, in Delaware and is a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Cheryl enjoys reading, working in her herb, flower, and vegetable gardens, keeping up with her extended family, and foraging for wild edibles.

38th Annual Fish Sale

Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Order Deadline: September 30, 2025

Pick Up Date: October 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Union SWCD is accepting orders for our annual fall fish sale. We have a **NEW VENDOR!** The fish will be purchased from Remlinger Fish Farm in Kalida, Ohio. Fish options are listed below. Orders are taken on a per unit basis and will arrive pre-boxed ready for pickup. If you have a large order, please be sure to drive a vehicle that will accommodate your order. All sales are final. **NO REFUNDS!** Fish are guaranteed to arrive in good condition; however, we do not guarantee survival after you have stocked them in your pond.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>Unit</u> <u>Size / Cost (+ tax)</u>	<u>ORDER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2" – 4" Bluegill (popular panfish)	25 / \$32.00 (\$29.76+\$2.24)	-	-
4" – 6" Bluegill (popular panfish)	20 / \$52.00 (\$48.36+\$3.64)	-	-
2" – 4" Hybrid Bluegill (popular sport panfish)	25 / \$32.00 (\$29.76+\$2.24)	-	-
4" – 6" Hybrid Bluegill (popular sport panfish)	20 / \$52.00 (\$48.36+\$3.64)	-	-
2" – 4" Redear Shellcracker (preys on mollusks and snails)	25 / \$44.00 (\$40.92+\$3.08)	-	-
4" – 6" Redear Shellcracker (preys on mollusks and snails)	20 / \$60.00 (\$55.80+\$4.20)	-	-
2" – 4" Black Crappie (popular panfish species)	25 / \$52.00 (\$48.36+\$3.64)	-	-
4" – 6" Channel Catfish (preys on crayfish, insects, & small fish)	25 / \$36.00 (\$33.48+\$2.52)	-	-
4" – 6" Jumbo Yellow Perch (popular gamefish)	25 / \$60.00 (\$55.80+\$4.20)	-	-
6" – 8" Jumbo Yellow Perch (popular gamefish)	10 / \$48.00 (\$44.64+\$3.36)	-	-
8" – 10" Jumbo Yellow Perch (popular gamefish)	5 / \$48.00 (\$44.64+\$3.36)	-	-
2" – 4" Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	25 / \$50.00 (\$46.50+\$3.50)	-	-
4" – 6" Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	20 / \$60.00 (\$55.80+\$4.20)	-	-
6" – 8" Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	10 / \$56.00 (\$52.08+\$3.92)	-	-
8" – 10" Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	5 / \$60.00 (\$55.80+\$4.20)	-	-
8" – 12" White Amur (used to control aquatic plants)	2 / \$40.00 (\$37.20+\$2.80)	-	-
1" – 3" Black Fathead Minnow (feeder fish)	500 / \$50.00 (\$46.50+\$3.50)	-	-

We accept Cash or Checks only for payment.

TOTAL \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Union SWCD

OFFICE USE: Date Paid: _____ Cash / Check # _____ Receipt # _____

Fish Descriptions

Bluegill

Bluegill feed almost exclusively on insects and will also eat commercial fish food. Bluegills begin to spawn in late spring and will spawn 3-4 times throughout the summer. These spawn are primarily used as a forage base for predators, such as large mouth bass. One year old fish range in size from 1 - 4 inches and become sexually mature between 4 - 5 inches.

Hybrid Bluegill

Hybrid bluegill are a cross between a green sunfish and a bluegill. They grow faster than regular bluegill. They will also eat commercial food. Their spawning habits are like the bluegill however they produce less eggs. One year old range in size from 3 - 8 inches. They become sexually mature at 4 - 5 inches.

Redear Shellcracker

The redear sunfish nicknamed the Shellcracker, is a member of the sunfish family and similar to the bluegill. It feeds almost exclusively on mollusks. These are fast growing and fun to catch. They reproduce one time a year therefore they will not overpopulate a pond. One year olds range from 1 - 4 inches and become sexually mature between 5 - 9 inches.

Black Crappie

Crappie prefer cover, such as vegetation, fallen trees or boulders. They often form in large groups, called schools, in clear water among vegetation over mud or sand. They inhabit quiet, warm temperate waters; usually associated with abundant aquatic vegetation and sandy to muddy bottoms. The common length for black crappie is 10 inches and the maximum reported length for a black crappie is 19 inches.

Channel Catfish

Channel Catfish are scavengers that will eat almost anything and are primarily found at the bottom of a pond or lake. They will easily take to commercial feed which results in tremendous growth. They generally do not reproduce in ponds due to inadequate spawning structure. Suitable structures are buckets or drain tiles placed in 3 - 4 foot water depths.

Yellow Perch

Yellow Perch is sought after for the good tasting fillets. Their primary food is zoo plankton, insects, snails and small fish. They are considered prey rather than predators. Reproduction occurs on tree-like structures in water depths of 1 - 6 feet. One year old fish range in size from 1 - 4 inches and become sexually mature at 5 - 12 inches.

Large Mouth Bass

Large Mouth Bass, one of the most priced game fish, readily do not feed on commercial fish food. They eat insects, tadpoles, minnows and other small fish. They spawn in 2 - 4 feet of water at temperatures near 60 degrees. One year old fish range in size between 3 - 7 inches and become sexually mature at 10 - 12 inches.

White Amur

White Amur, or Grass Carp, is a cost effective alternative for some varieties of weed control in ponds. The use of amur in place of some chemical applications is more environmentally friendly. Once an amur reaches maturity it consumes less, therefore 20% of the original stocking should be added annually. They can eat up to 3 times its body weight per day. These fish are sterile due to government regulations to avoid overpopulation.

Fathead Minnow

Black Fathead Minnows are added to ponds as a source of food for other species. They can spawn many times throughout the spring and summer. The use of stacked pallets and trees can create spawning habitats. One year olds range in size from .5 - 3 inches and become sexually mature at 1 - 3 inches. Restocking is necessary if none are visible in pond.

Drainage Maintenance Update

Ditch maintenance crews will be mowing the South ditches this year and spraying the North ditches. Crews have been busy restoring filter strips and repairing washouts along ditches.



Mill creek Logjam update

H&H crews headed North to the Logan County line and have begun working downstream, removing dead trees from the top 25 feet of the bank and removing log jams from the main channel. H&H Land Clearing started the project on December 17, 2024. Work began on the Infirmary ditch section of the project, then continued downstream about one mile to remove dead trees and log jams from the stream to allow flow. H&H has pulled 560 + various log jams from the channel of Mill Creek and Infirmary ditch.



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

**18000 State Route 4, Ste. D,
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Wild About Wildlife

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

Summer Wildlife and Habitat Interests and Concerns

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Come join us for **FREE** Kids outdoor activities on **Saturday Sept. 20, 2025 from 9am - Noon at the Heart of Ohio Fishing Club.**

Usual activities include an archery range, trap shooting, "Passport to Fishing" Instruction, Sling Shot Range, Habitat and Trapping Displays.

LUNCH and REFRESHMENTS will be provided! Share the Great Outdoors with a young person and reap the benefits for years to come.

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:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/recreational-safety/ticks-in-ohio>

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. Firebreaks 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 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 updated hunting and fishing regulations!

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 May 1 through August 31, except on 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."



Join us on September 20, 2025, at The Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Association in Marysville, OH for a morning of outdoor activities from 9:00am to Noon.

Heart of Ohio is located at the intersection of RT 33 and NW Parkway.

Activities will include Fishing, Archery, Slingshots, Trap Shooting, Kayaking, Deer and Turkey call making, Fur and Trap displays and a Habitat Information station.

All activities are FREE!

Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided.

Activities are sponsored by Union Soil and Water Conservation District, The Ohio Division of Wildlife, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ohio Trapper Association, The City of Marysville, and The Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Association.

**Contact Brent Nickel at Union SWCD
bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov or by phone 937-209-2220
for more information.**

**Fishing poles are available for youth and bait will be provided.
Come on out and enjoy the morning and share the outdoors
with the next generation of outdoorsmen/ women.**

Hope to see you there.

9:00 To NOON

More activities and organizations may join us, so don't miss out!



Technical Trivia: Locating Drainage Tile

Covering conservation and drainage topics on a quarterly basis.

In Union County, Ohio, our drainage tile infrastructure is crucial to both farm and home life. On farms, it helps keep fields dry to make them easier to work and Improves crop yields. At home, drain tile is frequently used as a septic system or sump pump outlet in areas where public sewers are not available.

Like all infrastructure, drainage tile needs to be maintained, and will break down from time to time. When repairs are needed, the first step in resolving your problem is locating the tile. You may also need to locate tile to avoid damaging it when doing projects in the area.

There are multiple ways to locate drainage tile. We will discuss additional methods in the next newsletter article. This edition will focus on locating tile with aerial imagery.

Aerial Photography

Aerial photographs are perhaps the most useful resource in locating drainage tile. If taken at the right time, they often show drain tile lines due to the difference in soil moisture where the tile is located. The tile will typically appear lighter than the surrounding area.

In some cases it can be easy to mistake crop rows or other features for drain tile. Making the distinction between what is tile and what isn't can take some practice. to view aerial photography for the county, use Google Earth's historical or Union County Auditor Website's Property Search Tools.

www.unioncountyohio.gov/property-search-tools



Drainage tile visible in aerial photos from 1997.

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.
Joseph Grove, Urban Technician - jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



Keep Sewage Where It Belongs

Compared to other sources of pollution, one faulty septic system here or there may not seem like much of an issue. But, with roughly one million Ohio households relying on septic systems to treat their wastewater, a few faulty tanks can add up fast.

In areas that are not connected to a municipal sewer, septic tanks treat wastewater by using beneficial bacteria to break down waste and then dispersing the remaining liquid in a leach field. When functioning properly, these systems are usually not a concern. However, when these systems begin to fail, they can leach contaminants into groundwater or even into the topsoil. This can contaminate wells and surface water with excess nutrients and harmful pathogens. In some circumstances, discharges can even breach the surface, becoming a smelly nuisance and a breeding site for mosquitos.

There are various reasons that a septic system can fail. Sometimes, the site or its soils may not be appropriate for the type of system installed. Other times, systems can fail because they are not properly maintained. Septic systems are meant to be pumped every 3-5 years. If they aren't, then solids and sludge can build up in the tank. This can result in untreated sewage being leached into the ground, clogging of the leach field, and sometimes even sewage backups into the house. Left unaddressed, the problem can eventually become severe enough that it requires the installation of a new septic tank.

No matter how well a tank is maintained though, it will still eventually wear out and break down. A septic tank normally lasts between 20 and 40 years, although good maintenance (like regular pumping) can sometimes increase its lifespan beyond that.

If you're not sure how your system operates or how it should be maintained, you can visit <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/aex-740-0> (OSU Extension) or <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/sewage-treatment-systems/information-for-homeowners> (Ohio Department of Health) for more information. For help evaluating sites or selecting appropriate systems, check with the Union County Health Department or Union SWCD.

Upcoming Events / Office Closures

July 4, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Independence Day

July 10, 2025: **USWCD Board Mtg.:** 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room

August 13, 2025: **USWCD Board Mtg.:** 5:00 p.m. at Der Dutchman Restaurant

August 13, 2025: **USWCD 80th Annual Mtg.:** 5:45 p.m. Election and 6:30 p.m. Meal, at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH.

Sept. 1, 2025: **Holiday:** USWCD Office **CLOSED** to observe Labor Day

Sept. 11, 2025: **USWCD Board Mtg.:** 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room

October 2, 2025: **USWCD Annual Fish Sale:** 9:00 a.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

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

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Gravatt Farms

Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Assoc.

Millcreek Gardens LLC

MitchellAgri, Inc.

MJS Oil, Inc.

Sheely Ag Services, LLC

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The Seed Center

Union County Farm Bureau

Silver Member

Ohigro, Inc.

Richwood Tire Center