

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,
Fiscal Officer & Treasurer
Larry Morris, Secretary
Randy Trapp, Member

USWCD Personnel

Brent Nickel, DA/Wildlife Specialist
Sherry Maisenbacher, AA
Mark Watkins, District Tech
Matt Williams, District Tech
Ross Cater, District Tech
Emma Scott, Urban Tech
Joe Eads, DM Supervisor
Cody Beery, DM Tech
Matt Archer, DM Tech

USDA/NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC
Adam Slappy, Soil Con
Mariah Lashley, Soil Con
Sierah Geldbaugh, Soil Con
LaRae Baker, Training Coord.
Brent Smith, ACES

Pheasants Forever

Riley Porter,
Wildlife Biologist II

Union Soil & Water Conservation District to hold their **81st Annual Meeting**



The District will hold its 81st Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 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 Wyatt Marshall, Keith Rausch, and Randy Trapp.
- * The buffet meal will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7:30 p.m. featuring the Ohio School of Falconry. Banquet Tickets are \$25.00 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 by August 4, 2025.

Fall Fingerling Sale pickup is October 8, 2026.

Order form and Descriptions are included in this edition

Don Cook Memorial Scholarship

Congratulation to our 2025 recipients!

Boston Bruce

Theo Bruce

Preston Davis

Maddie Halley

Each recipient received an \$80 4-H camp scholarship sponsored by

[Cook Real Estate](#), [Dean Cook Insurance](#), and [USWCD](#).

Union SWCD 81st Annual Election Notice

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 14, 2026, until August 12, 2026. 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 August 12, 2026. 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from July 14, 2026, until August 12, 2026, 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 calling (937) 642-5871 Ext. 2221 or email smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov. Absentee ballots must be in the SWCD office by August 12, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2027, and ending December 31, 2029.

Nominees are

Wyatt Marshall, Keith Rausch, and Randy Trapp

Meet candidate Randy Trapp



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

Randy has worked with the District on many projects over the years and was the 2006 Union SWCD Cooperator of the year. Randy has enjoyed his time on the Union SWCD Board of Supervisors and has learned a lot about the District over the last two terms and would like the opportunity to continue.

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Meet candidate Keith Rausch



Keith Rausch is a lifelong resident of Union County. Growing up on the family dairy farm, he obtained a degree in Dairy Production and Management from OSU/ATI, and then returned to the farm and helped to expand operations and increase efficiency during the past 40 years.

He still currently operates the family grain and livestock farm that was established in 1864, operating in both Millcreek and Jerome townships. The farm has adopted no-till practices and created waterways and buffer strips in an effort to help control erosion, as well as best practices for manure management. These changes were made to help balance agricultural activity with environmental stewardship. The farm also performs extensive soil sampling to see where nutrients are most needed instead of blanketed applications.

Keith has firsthand experience with the challenges and opportunities facing local landowners, farmers, and communities. Witnessing the tremendous growth and development of southern Union County, he is interested in maintaining soil and water quality for the future.

Meet candidate Wyatt Marshall



Wyatt Marshall is a lifelong resident of Union County and was born and raised in the Broadway area. He attended The Ohio State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 2017. Wyatt is currently pursuing his Master of Environment and Natural Resources, with a focus on pedology and soil morphology, furthering his knowledge of soils, land use, and natural resource management.

Wyatt obtained his license as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist through the State of Ohio in 2017 and has worked in public service at the local health district level since that time. His professional experience includes service with both the Licking County Health Department and the Union County Health Department. Wyatt currently serves as the Deputy Environmental Health Director for the Union County Health Department, where he helps oversee environmental health programs related to plumbing, private water systems, and sewage treatment systems. Through this work, he has gained extensive experience with soil-based wastewater treatment, water quality protection, regulatory programs, and responsible development practices.

Wyatt, his wife Kristen, and their two daughters, Paisley and Parker, live in Marysville. Having grown up in Union County and continuing to serve the community professionally, Wyatt has a strong appreciation for the county's agricultural heritage, natural resources, and continued growth. He looks forward to the opportunity to support the Union Soil and Water Conservation District in its mission to protect soil, water, and related resources for current and future generations.

39th Annual Fish Sale

Order Deadline: September 28, 2026

Union Soil and Water Conservation District Pick Up Date: October 8, 2026, at 2:00

Union SWCD is accepting orders for our annual fall fish sale. Fish are sourced from Remlinger Fish Farm in Kalida, Ohio. 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. **We accept Cash or Checks only for payment.**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>UNIT</u> <u>Qty. / Cost (+ tax)</u>			<u>ORDER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2" - 4"	Bluegill (popular panfish)	25	\$33.00	(\$30.84+\$2.16)	-	-
4" - 6"	Bluegill (popular panfish)	20	\$50.00	(\$46.73+\$3.27)	-	-
2" - 4"	Hybrid Bluegill (popular sport panfish)	25	\$33.00	(\$30.84+\$2.16)	-	-
4" - 6"	Hybrid Bluegill (popular sport panfish)	20	\$50.00	(\$46.73+\$3.27)	-	-
2" - 3.5"	Redear Shellcracker (preys on mollusks and snails)	25	\$42.00	(\$39.25+\$2.75)	-	-
3.5" - 5.5"	Redear Shellcracker (preys on mollusks and snails)	20	\$52.00	(\$48.60+\$3.40)	-	-
2" - 4"	Black Crappie (popular panfish species)	25	\$53.00	(\$49.53+\$3.47)	-	-
4" - 6"	Channel Catfish (preys on crayfish, insects, & small fish)	25	\$36.00	(\$33.64+\$2.36)	-	-
4" - 6"	Jumbo Yellow Perch (popular gamefish)	20	\$56.00	(\$52.34+\$3.66)	-	-
6" - 8"	Jumbo Yellow Perch (popular gamefish)	10	\$51.00	(\$47.66)+\$3.34)	-	-
8" - 10"	Jumbo Yellow Perch (popular gamefish)	5	\$45.00	(\$42.06+\$2.94)	-	-
2" - 4"	Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	25	\$52.00	(\$48.60+\$3.40)	-	-
4" - 6"	Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	20	\$66.00	(\$61.68+\$4.32)	-	-
6" - 8"	Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	10	\$55.00	(\$51.40+\$3.60)	-	-
8" - 10"	Large Mouth Bass (popular predator fish)	5	\$56.00	(\$52.34+\$3.66)	-	-
8" - 12"	White Amur (used to control aquatic plants)	2	\$43.00	(\$40.19+\$2.81)	-	-
1" - 3"	Black Fathead Minnow (feeder fish)	500	\$52.00	(\$48.60+\$3.40)	-	-
					TOTAL \$	_____

Make Checks Payable to: Union SWCD 18000 St. Rt. 4, Ste. D Marysville, OH 43040

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 spawns 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 is 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.

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 10.8 inches and the maximum reported length for a black crappie is 19.3 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.

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.

Large Mouth Bass

Large Mouth Bass, one of the most prized game fish, do not readily 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.

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.

White Amur

White Amur, or the Grass Carp, is a cost effective, natural alternative for weed control in ponds. The use of amur in place of 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.

Yellow Perch

Yellow Perch is sought after for the good tasting fillets. Their primary food is zooplankton, 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.

Wild about Wildlife

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

Summer Wildlife and Habitat Interests and Concerns

What's In Season?

Hunting Regulations:

Fishing Regulations:

"Hunting with Permission" forms and printed Hunting and Fishing Regulations are available in our office.

The Division of Wildlife has an APP for that! Get it HERE!

Get the APP and do ALL of your Division of Wildlife Business right from your phone! Don't forget to update the APP annually to keep up on the most recent regulations.

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 wildfire 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.

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.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Come join us for **FREE** Kids activities on **Sat. Sept. 19, 2026, from 9am – Noon at the Heart of Ohio Fishing Club.**

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

FREE LUNCH will be provided!

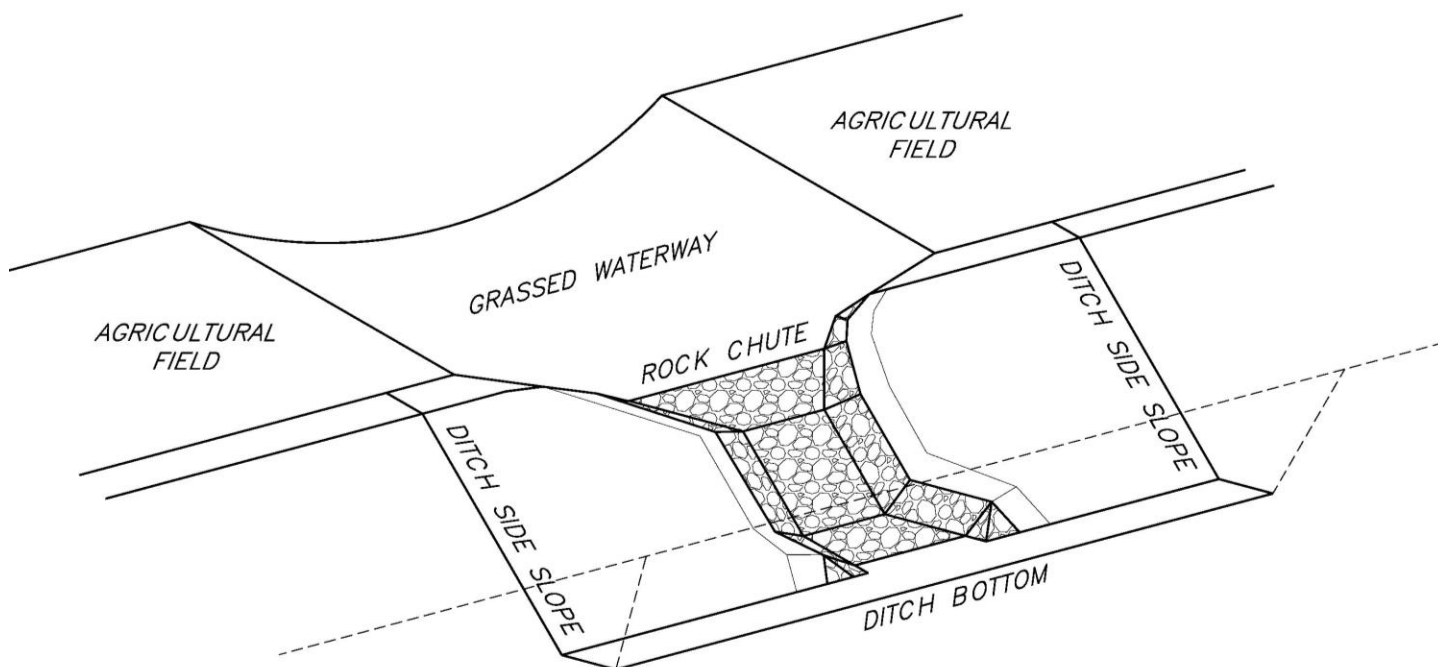
Share the Great Outdoors with a young person and reap the benefits for years to come.

**Be TICK Smart - Ohio.Gov/Tick
Protect*Check*Remove*Watch**

Technical Trivia: Rock Chute

Covering conservation and drainage topics on a quarterly basis

A rock chute is a designed, riprap armored channel that conveys surface water to a lower elevation outlet, usually a ditch, creek, or stream bottom. Rock chutes, at the end of grassed waterways, are used instead of rock pads when the overfall elevation exceeds 2 feet and are designed to convey the surface water safely to the lower outlet elevation. Using a rock chute will stabilize the grade, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. The chute design takes into account the quantity of water moving into the chute entrance during a storm event with a specific intensity, the steepness of the chute slope, the bottom width of the chute, the flow depth of the chute, and the velocity of the water moving down the chute. The voids in between the type “C” riprap should be filled with gravel and/or dirt, seeded, and mulched to lock it in place and smooth out the surfaces of the chute.



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

Drainage Maintenance Update

Drainage maintenance crews will be mowing the northern ditches and spraying the southern ditches this year. Maintenance crews will also be performing the annual inspections on the maintained ditches and subdivisions.

Mill creek Logjam update

H&H Land Clearing has begun 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 feet of the bank. H&H is currently working in Liberty Township, removing log jams and trees from the main channel of Mill Creek.



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
18000 State Route 4, Ste. D, Marysville, OH 43040
Email: jeads@unioncountyohio.gov
Ph: 937-209-2236

Upcoming Events / Office Closures

July 3, 2026	Holiday: USWCD Office CLOSED to observe Independence Day
July 9, 2026	USWCD Board Mtg.: 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room
August 12, 2026	USWCD Board Mtg.: 5:00 p.m., at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City
August 12, 2026	USWCD 80th Annual Mtg.: 5:45 p.m. <u>Election</u> and 6:30 p.m. Meal, at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH.
September 7, 2026	Holiday: USWCD Office CLOSED to observe Labor Day
September 10, 2026	USWCD Board Mtg.: 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room
September 26, 2026	National Hunting and Fishing Day: 9:00 a.m. – Noon At Heart of Ohio
October 8, 2026	USWCD Annual Fall Fish Sale: Pickup 2:00 p.m., in the back parking lot
October 8, 2026	USWCD Board Mtg.: 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room
November 11, 2026	Holiday: USWCD Office CLOSED to observe Veterans Day
November 12, 2026	USWCD Board Mtg.: 6:00 p.m., in the Buckeye Mtg. Room

2026 Affiliate Members

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

Diamond Member

Bahan Excavating LLC

Platinum Member

Vititoe Construction, Inc

Gold Members

Ag-Pro Richwood

Connolly Companies

Cook Real Estate

Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance

Gravatt Farms

MitchellAgri, Inc.

Seed Consultants

Smart Oil, LLC

Steve Stolte

Silver Member

Richwood Tire Center