

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2015

Volume 62

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Cover Crops for the Home Garden (Re-scheduled due to weather cancellation)

Date & Time: Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 10:00 AM

Location: Southeast High School Cafeteria, 8423 Tallmadge Rd, Ravenna 44266
Park in lot on west side of high school which is at intersection of John Thomas Rd and Tallmadge Rd (Rt. 18). Use door 6 on the west side of Southeast High. Parking and entrance should be marked with F.F.A. (Future Farmers of America) signs.

Presenters: Ann Brandt, Walnut Creek Seeds

Registration: This workshop is free of charge and open to the public. The first 60 participants will receive a pre-paid soil test kit (\$9 value) and a packet of cover crop seed mix. To register for this event contact Marybeth Willett at mwillett@portageswcd.org
The topic of cover crops can be very confusing for home gardeners since most available information is written for large scale agricultural growers. Please attend this workshop to learn how to utilize these beneficial soil management practices. These soil benefits include increased moisture retention, increased nutrient availability, and weed suppression.

Pond Clinic

Date & Time: Thursday March 19, 2015 from 6:00PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Centerville Mills Dining Hall, 8558 Crackel Road Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

Presenters: Eugene Braig, OSU Program Director Aquatic Ecosystems
Bob Griesmer Geauga SWCD

Registration: This workshop is free of charge and open to the public. To register for this event contact Gail Prunty at gprunty@geaugaswcd.com. Eugene Braig's presentation will focus on managing nutrients to minimize harmful algal blooms. Bob Griesmer will help participants learn to identify common pond plants and weeds.

New Year, New Yard: Alternatives to the Perfect "Green" Lawn:

Date & Time: Tuesday March 31, 2015 at 6:30 PM

Location: Beachwood Community Center, 25325 Fairmont Blvd. Beachwood

Presenter: Anita Sanchez, author "*The Teeth of the Lion*"

Registration: This workshop is free of charge and open to the public. To register for this event contact Mary Aungst 330-722-9322 or maungst@medinaco.org by March 20, 2015
Please join us to share an evening with this acclaimed environmental author as she discusses her perspective on the home landscape. Anita will help us redefine our lawn and attitudes and learn to keep our water clean by reducing fertilizers and pesticides.

PAWPAW GRAFTING Workshop: Workshop is filled!

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 1:30 PM (tentative)

Location: Camp Asbury, 10776 Asbury Rd., Hiram OH 44234

Presenter: Ron Powell, Ohio Pawpaw Growers Assoc.

Registration: There is a \$25.00 fee for this workshop and space is limited.
Please contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org if you would like to be on a cancellation list.

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

April 3
Tree Order Deadline

April 15-17
TREE PICK UP
9:00am-6:00pm
SWCD Office

April 17
Fish Sale Order
Deadline

April 21
Fish Pick Up
9:00am
Randolph Fairgrounds

NRCS

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a 2014 Farm Bill program that rewards good stewards of the land and encourages further conservation innovation. Through CSP, participants take additional steps to improve the resource conditions on their land—including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation.

CSP provides two types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation. Producers may be able to renew a contract if they have successfully fulfilled the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives.

Eligible lands include private and tribal agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial private forest land. CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced, in all 50 states. Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian tribes that meet the stewardship threshold for at least two priority resource concerns when they apply. They must also agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract.

NRCS: Many Conservation Options Now Available for Ohio Farmers

COLUMBUS, OH, Feb. 20, 2015 – Ohio farmers have until March 20, 2015, to apply for financial assistance to improve natural resources on their land. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ohio designated several focus areas for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds that will go to successful applicants.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding is available for farmers in Ohio's portion of the Great Lakes watershed to apply conservation practices that improve water and soil quality or provide wildlife habitat. Farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin also have the option of focusing on creating honey bee habitat with conservation practices such as planting certain types of cover crops or planting bee-friendly field borders.

All Ohio farmers can apply for assistance to fund energy conserving practices on the farm. Using more energy-efficient fixtures and equipment for animal housing or reducing fuel consumption through precision agriculture not only saves natural resources, but can also result in significant cost savings for the farmer.

Seasonal high tunnels are another conservation practice available to farmers state-wide. Increasingly popular with specialty crop growers, these structures and the management practices used to grow crops in them can improve soil health, improve irrigation efficiency, and help control pests. From a production standpoint, seasonal high tunnels allow for planting earlier in the spring and harvesting later in the fall.

Organic farmers or farmers interested in transitioning into organic production can also apply for EQIP regardless of the farm location. While organic farmers can also apply for other EQIP funding, the probability of receiving funding increases because only organic farmers compete for these funds. All applications for EQIP are ranked for their environmental benefit; those providing the most benefit receive the highest priority for funding.

For more information about EQIP or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local service center OR call Dee Waters or Kara MacDowell at (330)297-7633.

2014 Wonders of Watersheds Educator Workshops Outdoor Explorations for Classroom Applications

The Advanced Wonders of Watersheds, Monday, June 22– Wednesday, June 24, 2015, is an intensive 3-day program at Old Woman Creek National Estuary in Huron, Ohio including activities, tours, and the chance to earn one to three graduate credits. A highlight of this workshop is the unique opportunity to collect research data on Lake Erie with the United States Geological Survey Lake Erie Biological Station. Participants will also receive *Flying Wild*, *The Wonders of Wetlands*, and *Healthy Water, Healthy People* and *T.O.T.E. (Teachers on the Estuary)* curriculum guides. These workshops are open to educators of all grades and disciplines, are proven as effective and engaging trainings, and offer affordable graduate credits through Ashland University. For more information contact Lynn Vogel at lvogel@portageswcd.org

TREES ARE GOOD!

By planting trees we can contribute to the long term conservation of our natural resources while also adding many eco-services to the community in which we live. So we want our tree sale patrons to have successful plantings and want to make you aware of a few changes in our stock for 2015 to help you plan for best handling of your seedlings. We've added a "Seedling Care" instruction sheet to our website. These handouts will also be available at our office during the plant pick-up April 15 – 17. In addition to seeking professional input on what plants to offer, we also seek their guidance regarding transplanting strategies. For the most part, our plant sale is comprised of bareroot seedlings. It is best to get the plants in the ground as soon as weather permits. If you expect planting delays, try to be prepared to pot your seedlings in potting soil or potting mix and keep them watered and out of direct sunlight until you are ready to plant. Mulching and regular watering throughout the first few growing seasons is strongly encouraged. It is also best to wait until the second year to fertilize seedlings. If there is significant wildlife pressure near the planting, some sort of protection is also recommended, tree tubes, chicken wire, or garden fencing can be used to protect young trees. If you ordered blueberries, please note they are also bareroot seedlings this year, NOT potted plants. After speaking with several 'Pick Your Own' blueberry growers, we decided to make this change. We have added a special section to the "Seedling Care" instruction sheet for blueberries and also for pawpaws. Blueberries benefit from soil amendment at planting, and it is detailed in the instruction sheet. We have also learned from Ron Powell, Ohio Pawpaw Association President that there is emerging data which indicates pawpaws may transplant better after being grown in a container. So we have included information on growing your pawpaws in a container for a season for anyone that might be interested in trying this approach. Please visit www.portageswcd.org for the "Seedling Care" instruction sheet listed in the 'Tree Sale' section.

For more information about the many ways trees benefit our communities, please visit: www.arboday.org/trees/benefits.cfm

If you would like to determine the value of a tree in your yard or community, please visit: <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>

Spring Fish sale

Our 2015 Spring Fish Sale

Pick up is going to be at the Randolph Fairgrounds off State Route 44 in Randolph.

Call 330-297-7633 x101 if you have any questions

Date: **Tuesday, April 21, 2015 Time: 9:00 a.m. SHARP!!**

Place: **Randolph Fairgrounds** Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to **April 17, 2015**.

- * Arrive promptly – or early if you have a large order, the fish truck will only be there for a short time
- * Bring a covered container lined with a plastic bag and recently filled with your own pond water
- * Please mark pick up date and the location on your calendar!
- * **Deadline for fish sale orders is Friday, April 17, 2015.**

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 9:00 am SHARP!!

Randolph Fairgrounds—4215 Fairgrounds Road, Randolph 44265

Please fill out this form & send it with your check payable to
Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Order Deadline: Friday, April 17, 2015

White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.75each	X _____ = \$ _____
Yellow Perch (2-4") @ \$0.80each	X _____ = \$ _____
Channel Catfish (4-5") @ \$0.75 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Shellcrackers (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Office Use Only

Check # _____
M.O# _____
Cash _____
Certificate _____
SWCD Employee Initials _____
Date _____

2015 TREE ORDER FORM

Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 3, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Office Use Only	
Check # _____	M.O# _____
Cash _____	Certificate _____
SWCD Employee Initials _____	
Date _____	Receipt # _____

___ Check here only if you are a new customer or an update to our mailing list.

___ Check here if you are ordering Chestnuts

Tree Pick-Up

April 15, 16, 17, 2015 (Wednesday-Friday)

9:00am - 6:00pm

Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Ordering Information:

Packets are reserved on a first come, first served basis - **ORDER EARLY!!**

We order from nurseries in the fall, so we may "sell out" of popular species.

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Please enclose completed order form and check made payable to **Portage SWCD**.

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Please mark pick-up dates on your calendar Reminders will not be sent out!

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Orders must be picked up April 15-17; otherwise refunds will not be guaranteed.

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Please note the number of trees per packet - packets cannot be split.

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Plants are bare-rooted and packed in a moisturizing gel.

They should be planted as soon as possible after pick-up.

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A copy of our tree descriptions can be found on our web site www.portageswcd.org

Mail order form & payment to:

Portage SWCD, 6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-297-7633 x101 Fax: 330-296-5917

<u>Species</u>		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets
Features					
Blackberries 'Chester' Thornless	E	1-0	bareroot	3 for \$16	
Blueberries (Blue Ray, Berkeley, Jersey)	CE	18 mos.	bareroot	3 for \$18	
Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	BCFNW	1-0	lg plug	5 for \$11	
Butternut <i>Juglans cinera</i>	BEN	1-0	2 - 3 ft	3 for \$11	
Ohio Buckeye <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	CFN	2-0	18 - 30"	3 for \$10	
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BEFN	2-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$14	
Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginicus</i>	BEFN	1-0	2 - 3 ft	3 for \$10	
Evergreens					
American Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	GN	4-0	10-24"	10 for \$9	
Blue Spruce <i>Picea pungens</i>	G	4-0	10 - 24"	5 for \$9	
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	G	2-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	GNW	2-2	1 - 2 ft	5 for \$8	
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	4-0	12-24"	10 for \$9	
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	2-0	10 - 18"	10 for \$9	
Deciduous					
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BCNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Black Locust <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	BCN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	BN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Chestnut Oak <i>Quercus prinus</i>	BN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Dawn Redwood <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	C	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$10	
Littleleaf Linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	BF	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	BNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Pagoda Dogwood <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	BCNF	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	BCNW	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	BCNW	3-0	20 - 30"	5 for \$9	
Shagbark Hickory <i>Carya ovata</i>	BEN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$12	
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Shrubs					
American Hazelnut <i>Corylus americana</i>	BCFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Button Bush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	BFNW	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Bush Honeysuckle <i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	BCFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$10	
Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	BEFNW	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Shining Sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	BCFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Silky Dogwood <i>Cornus ammmun</i>	BCFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	
Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	
Sweetshrub <i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	CFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Flowering & Fruiting Trees					
Allegheny Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	BCEFN	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	EFN	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicicus</i>	BCEFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Sweet Bay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	BCFNW	1-0	18 - 24"	3 for \$9	
White Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	BCFN	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Other Items					
Super-Hybrid Chestnut plus (Ohio Nut Growers' membership)	BEF	1-0	12-24"	4 for \$25	
Bluebird Houses				1 for \$10	
B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet soils					

Newsletter Sponsors

Please tell our sponsors that you saw them in our newsletter!

Any of combination of this clip art will work



NRCS

If you'd like to receive updates on local workshops, conferences, and informational articles pertaining to various aspects of resource conservation in farming, please return this questionnaire to the office or send an email to: Kara.macdowell@oh.usda.gov

Please sign me up for the following email list serves:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Crop Farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Crops | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock production | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hay production | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy production | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands and sensitive areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRCS/SWCD Program information and General announcements | | |

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**Sign Up Now for
USDA Conservation
Programs!**



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Portage Soil & Water Conservation District
6970 State Route 88
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