

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2015

Volume 63

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Annual Election & Meeting !!!

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Garden Meeting Room 6970 State Route 88

Ravenna, OH, 44266

8:30am - 9:45am Buffet Breakfast

8:30am-9:45am - SWCD Board of Supervisors Voting

Please join us for our 69th Annual Election!

This is your opportunity to elect an individual to the Portage SWCD Board of Supervisors. The candidates will be highlighted at the entrance. There are two ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the annual election: which will take place **September 10, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.** or (2) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address:

Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88

Ravenna, OH 44266.

All absentee ballot request must be received

before 4:00 p.m. August 27, 2015.

You only need to purchase a \$4.00 ticket if you will be joining us for breakfast. **Please preorder breakfast tickets by using the order form in this newsletter.**

Tickets should be ordered **no later than September 4, 2015.**

Contact Marybeth at 330-297-7633 x101 for more information.

REMINDERS

August 25-30, 2015,

Visit our booth at the
Randolph Fair!

September 10, 2015

**SWCD Annual
Election & Meeting
Voting 8:30 am-9:45 am
with \$4.00
breakfast Buffet**

September 15

**White Amur Pick Up
11:00am SHARP
Randolph Fairgrounds**

September 23

**Farm Science Review
Bus Trip A Deal at
\$40.00 !!!**

Farm Science Review Bus Trip

It's that time of year...time to sign up for the Farm Science Review Bus Trip! This year we will be meeting on **WEDNESDAY** at Maplewood Career Center parking lot (like always!) and heading to the Farm Science Review on

Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

Please register by using the order form in this newsletter .

Bus departs at 6:00am from Maplewood Career Center & returns around 9:30pm, \$40.00 per person - A Great Deal !!

Deadline for ordering tickets is Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Cost includes ticket, bus ride, morning refreshments, and dinner at Der Dutchman Restaurant!! This popular trip fills up fast, so reserve your seat today!



Perennial Crops Offer Many Benefits

Portage SWCD began working with both the Ohio Nut Growers & the Northern Nut Growers Associations in 2011 in an effort to support perennial agriculture. Perennial species offer many advantages over annual species both above and below-ground in terms of maintaining ecosystem functions. Ecological benefits provided by perennial crops include maintaining soil cover, structure, and organisms. Perennial crops have deeper root systems than annuals and thus provide soil stability and enhanced soil health. They can also tap available soil nutrients, increase biodiversity, make more water available to plants, and capture and sequester carbon. Perennial crops typically require reduced fertilizer and energy inputs when compared to annual crops. Reduced chemical inputs result in fewer chemicals such as nitrogen and phosphorous entering our waterways. Improved soil health increases the water holding capacity of the soil which further reduces soil erosion and storm water pollution.

Long term planning is required to insure availability of quality nut trees for future tree sales. Working with the ONGA and NNGA members we plan to offer the following seedlings in the spring of each year: 2016 – Mid-season Crop Chestnut seedlings selected from the best mid-season trees out of a 4500 tree plot; 2017 – Hazelnuts grown from the seed of Eastern Filbert Blight resistant plants that was collected by Rutgers University; 2018 – Butternut grown from seed of State Champion Tree located near Kent.

In each instance the seedlings we offer will be bred for disease resistance, nut quality, quantity and size and propagated by professional nut growers. Additionally, we will promote membership in the Ohio Nut Growers by including a one-year membership in the organization with each seedling packet purchase. To further support this effort, in the fall of each year we will hold an educational workshop in November that highlights the nut tree we plan to offer the following spring. As with any crop, weather conditions impact both seed production and propagation. So, we cannot guarantee we will have the above mentioned seedlings, but we have a committed group of nut growers that will be doing their best to make these plants available.

New Regulations for Home Sewage Treatment Systems

After heavy summer rains in Northeast Ohio it is not uncommon to hear news reports about swimming restrictions in Lake Erie because of high coliform concentrations. We hear the term CSO's (Combined Sewer overflows used during these newscasts. Storm water systems in urban areas are sometimes combined with sanitary sewer systems in route to sewage treatment plants. Excessive storm water can cause this joint system to overflow. In this event, excess flow will be directed into waterways untreated, resulting in sewage contamination. But large scale sewage treatment systems are not the only problem. Home septic systems can also leach sewage into local waterways and ditches during storm events. Sewage is a complex mixture and can contain many types of contaminants. Contamination of drinking water sources by sewage can also occur during storm events. The good news is that most large cities are working diligently to limit discharges of untreated sewage to waterways. And with those efforts in place, home sewage treatment systems are now falling under closer scrutiny.

On January 1, 2015, the Ohio Department of Health updated their Home Sewage Treatment Regulations. In Portage County alone, there are over 20,000 home septic systems. Recent reports indicate that there are approximately 630,000 for the state of Ohio. When you consider those kinds of numbers, it is easier to understand the impact home systems can have on the quality of Ohio's water resources. To help our residents better understand how these new regulations might impact them, we are offering a workshop in September. Please join us to learn about how a home septic system works and what to do when it does not appear to be working properly. Participants will also hear about the financial assistance programs available to Portage County residents for septic system repair/replacement. A liberal amount of time has been set aside to answer specific homeowner questions. Please see our **'Fall Workshops'** section to learn more about this event.

Newsletter Sponsors

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

Local Workshops

Cover Crops for Home Gardens

At the end of the garden season you may be ready to rest, but your soil is not. All gardens benefit from the use of cover crops, or “green manures” planted at the end of the season. Tilling, weeding, harvesting, and foot traffic tends to destroy soil structure. Planting cover crops is an easy way to revitalize the soil. Garden cover crop mixes help to reduce erosion and compaction, and increase water permeation in the garden. They also hold minerals normally leached from your soil over the winter. Densely planted cover crops will suppress perennial and winter annual weed growth. The top growth and roots add organic matter to the garden soil. The cover crop’s root system also opens passages that help improve air and water movement and supports microbial life. This microbial life works synergistically with the roots, bacteria and fungi to improve soil health. Reducing soil erosion and nutrient leaching also improves the water quality within your watershed. Planting a winter-kill seed mix is an excellent way to get acquainted with cover crops. For best results, the fall cover mix should be planted prior to mid-September. Portage SWCD has partnered with Walnut Creek Seeds to offer a fall cover crop seed mix that is well suited to Northeast Ohio. Available in two sizes, the one-pound bag covers 200 – 300 square feet, and the five-pound bag covers approximately 1000 square feet. Please see the order form on the back of this newsletter for pricing. Packets are available on a pre-sale basis for **pick-up in our office from Monday, August 10th through Friday, August 21st.**

White Amur Fish Sale

White Amurs are sterile, plant-eating fish used to control submerged aquatic vegetation such as pondweeds, coontail, and milfoil. They **do not prefer** to eat algae and are not a good control option for floating weeds such as duckweed. Use the form in this newsletter to place your **prepaid order by Friday, September 11, 2015**

Pick up

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

11:00 am - sharp!

Randolph Fairgrounds (4215 Fairgrounds Rd, Randolph 44265)

Bring a covered container, lined with a plastic bag, and recently filled with your own pond water

- ◆ (use one 5-gallon bucket per 2-3 Amur).
- ◆ Stock 5-10 amurs per acre, depending on weed problem
- ◆ Arrive promptly—the fish truck will be there a short time
- ◆ Please mark pick up dates and location on your calendar.
 - ◆ NO reminders will be sent.

Contact Marybeth at 330-297-7633 x101 with questions.

lvogel@portageswcd.org

Poster Contest Winners

Over 600 fifth grade students from five school districts in Portage County participated in the 2015 Conservation Poster Contest. The annual contest is sponsored by the Portage County Garden Center and the Portage SWCD. The theme for this year's contest was "Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators". This contest gives teachers an opportunity to introduce environmental concepts to their classes. Our local Garden Clubs work very hard to sponsor participating schools and facilitate the school contests. Countywide winners receive award certificates, seedlings, and prizes from the SWCD.

First Place – Willyard - Piper Hershberger

Second Place – Henry Defer - Noor Chima

Third Place – James A. Garfield - Kaytlin Haylett

Fourth Place – Waterloo – Christopher Mori

Fifth Place (Tie) – Holden – Ben Pazderak & Crestwood—Elizabeth O'Bryant

Newsletter Sponsors

The SWCD has a number of spaces available for newsletter sponsors—please consider this opportunity to market your business! The newsletter is distributed to over 8,000 local households three times a year. An annual SWCD newsletter sponsorship cost only \$150! Interested? Please contact **Marybeth at 330-297-7633 X 101.**

SWCD Event & Item Order Form

Please check one or more:

Breakfast Banquet
 White Amur
 FSR Bus Trip
 Cover Crop 5lb
 Cover Crop 1lb

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Breakfast Tickets	_____ X \$ 4.00 each =	_____
FSR Bus Tickets	_____ X \$40.00 each =	_____
White Amur Carp	_____ X \$13.00 each =	_____
Cover Crop Seeds	_____ 5lb X \$18.00 each=	_____
	_____ 1lb \$6.00 each=	_____
	TOTAL =	_____

Office Use Only

Paid: Yes___ No___

Cash or Check # _____

SWCD Initials: _____

Receipt # _____

Detach & return with check payable to:
 Portage SWCD 6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266



Please Join Us at the
 Portage SWCD Annual Election



USDA and SWCD are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

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Portage Soil & Water Conservation District
 6970 State Route 88
 Ravenna, Ohio 44266
 330-297-7633 fax: 330-296-5917
 www.portageswcd.org