

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2015

Volume 61

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Cover Crops for the Home Garden

Date & Time: Thursday, February 19, 2015 @ 9:00 AM (Registration from 8:40 to 9:00)

Location: Southeast High School Cafeteria, 8423 Tallmadge Rd, Ravenna 44266

(Please report to school office to obtain visitor's pass)

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 @ 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 @ 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 @ 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:

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 @ 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. Registration details on back of newsletter.

Ron Powell is a nationally recognized pawpaw expert, with over eighty varieties of pawpaw growing in his research orchard in southern Ohio. Ron is donating scion wood from his best trees and will assist participants as they learn to graft a pawpaw. All participants will take home their grafted pawpaw and receive an additional pawpaw seedling.

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

2015 Tree Sale Information

The Columbiana County and Portage County Tree Sale patrons include hunters, beekeepers, birders, nature enthusiasts, timber producers, and fruit and nut growers. Since we know that conservation land management choices are not always black and white, we have once again sought the input of area experts to better meet the challenge. We have worked together to offer a list of plants that will meet a number of landowner needs without compromising the future integrity of our natural areas and resources. Please visit our website for a full list of **Tree Descriptions** along with site and cultural recommendations www.portageswcd.org

Forestry: Foresters Mark Wilthew, Dan Bartlett & Jason VanHouten, all with ODNR Div of Forestry, Kathy Smith, Ohio State University, Forestry Program Director & Mary Slingluff, Avalon Garden Center, Chardon

First our office would like to congratulate Mark Wilthew on his retirement and thank him for the expert service he has provided our office over the years. Mark Wilthew and Kathy Smith have closely reviewed, edited and tweaked our plant list for several years. Beginning last year we decided we should share the expert advice we receive with our patrons. New this year to our team is Dan Bartlett and he recommended both the **Chestnut Oak** and the **Burr Oak** for timber and wildlife benefits. He mentioned that the state nurseries had a difficult time growing Burr Oak because deer had such a strong preference for the large, apparently tasty acorns that they would break through protective fencing and dig them up before they could germinate! Jason VanHouten, also new to our team focused on plants for wet sites or riparian zones (area near streams). He noted that **Pin Oak, River Birch, and Redosier Dogwood** are all excellent choices for areas prone to frequent flooding. In addition to stabilizing soils, each of these plants is a food source for wildlife. Birds love the white berries of **Redosier Dogwood** and the catkins, buds and seeds of **River Birch**. And the **Pin Oak** has such small acorns, that wood ducks are able to eat them. Jason also mentioned that **Pawpaw** can be grown in riparian areas that are well drained. One pawpaw, through root expansion, can form a thick colony of pawpaws in the forest understory - good at preventing invasive plant introductions! **Pawpaw** also produces edible fruit in September that is prized by many. Mary Slingluff has been working with our office for several years and has become one of our “go to” experts when it comes to native plants. She was particularly glad to see the **Pagoda Dogwood** included in our sale and has this to say about it, “Pagoda Dogwood has unusual horizontal branches giving the tree a unique layered appearance. The tree structure is great for nesting robins, waxwings, etc., and the songbirds love the fruits. **Pagoda Dogwood** is shade tolerant, but also grows in full sun. Mary also chimed in on our groundcover, **Bunchberry**. Adding groundcovers to your woodlot should be carefully considered. Groundcovers impede germination of invasive species, which is wonderful, but may also hinder germination of native plants. By carefully selecting the right groundcover for the right location, landowners can realize the benefits they offer such as: providing a living mulch that helps to build up humus levels in the soil while also protecting the soil from erosion and water loss. Groundcovers collect leaves and plant debris and the decomposition of these plant materials keep that nutrient-rich organic matter in the soil. They also create a healthy habitat for many beneficial insects and wildlife. And bunchberry is one of the most attractive groundcovers you can grow. The spring flowers are mini versions of the White Flowering Dogwood and the fall color and fruit also mimic those of White Flowering Dogwood.

Wildlife (Hunters, Birders & Nature Enthusiasts) Naturalists: Emliss Ricks, Hiram College & Judy Semroc, Cleveland Natural History Museum.

Occasionally our experts chime in for the same plant. This year both Mark and Dan, our ODNR foresters and our naturalists suggested we offer *Juniperus virginiana*, commonly referred to as **Eastern Red Cedar** (although it is not actually a cedar). And luckily we found some nice sized seedlings to offer. Judy Semroc says that the ERC is an important wildlife tree for both food and cover. Eastern Mockingbirds relish the blue juniper berries, which are actually soft cones, and will stay in the area until every “berry” has been eaten.

2015 Tree Sale Information

Many birds such as Northern Saw-whet and Brown Thrashers choose **Eastern Red Cedar** for cover because of its dense branch arrangement. She suggests planting them close together to enhance the cover benefit for birds. Juniper berries also have many culinary uses and are often used in fresh game recipes. Other plants in our sale that offer both culinary uses and wildlife benefits are **Serviceberry, Persimmon, Butternut, Hazelnuts, & Pawpaw**. We've secured larger stock on all of these plants and hope you will give them a try. **Buttonbush** is another fabulous wildlife plant and is a wonderful addition to butterfly gardens or wet areas. Many species of moths and butterflies visit this plant. By planting **Pawpaw** and **Buttonbush**, you will be supporting the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Native Plants (L.E.A.P.) goals as these are their *2015 Woody Plants of the Year*.

Beekeepers Kim Flottum, author, and editor of *Bee Culture* magazine & Denise Ellsworth, Program Director, Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Education

In 2014 we offered American Basswood, which is often referred to as the "bee tree". Kim Flottum suggested we also offer **Littleleaf Lindens**, the European cousin to our native American Basswood. Both trees are in the genus "Tilia", with the American Basswood blooming earlier than the **Littleleaf Linden**. And since the species of Tilia does not affect the sensory characteristics of Linden Honey, you can lengthen the production of this exquisite honey by having both species on site. We are also offering **Black Locust**, which is sometimes referred to as Acacia in Europe. In regards to **Black Locust**, Kim says that, "you can't get better honey than that and it blooms early for a good start". In the early spring, bees depend on our native trees for nectar and pollen. Since we all benefit from the pollination services provided by bees, we should try to improve our landscape by adding plants that keep these important insects well nourished. Kim says that planting **Red Maple** and **Sugar Maple** is like providing pollinators with meat and potatoes. Maples are among our earliest flowering plants and provide bees with their first food of the season. Other trees we have in our sale that help bridge the gap before spring gets into full bloom are **Redbud, River Birch, Serviceberry** and **Kentucky Coffeetree**, which Kim says offers unique honey. Providing native plants for our native bees is another strategy we can utilize to sustain pollination services. Denise Ellsworth, from O.A.R.D.C. Bee Lab was impressed with our selection of native shrubs that benefit pollinators, specifically the **Northern Bush Honeysuckle**, *Diervilla lonicera*. This native shrub is new to our sale and was selected for its benefit to wildlife. This shrub's long and flexible style and readily accessible flowers (produced in large quantities) are known to draw significant numbers of bumble bees. Bird species also make use of the shrub. Nests are often constructed from its branches for protection from the elements, and the fruits serve as a readily available food source. **Sumac** and **Elderberry** are also attractive to pollinators and have the added benefit of being used for nesting by some solitary (non-aggressive) bees, such as mason and leafcutting bees.

Ohio Nut Growers - Bob Stehli, ONGA Member and owner Wintergreen Tree Farm

Bob continues to work with our office in an effort to increase membership in the Ohio Nut Growers Association. There is a tremendous amount of orchard experience within this group for anyone interested in growing nuts commercially or in the home garden. Included with the purchase of each 'Super-Hybrid Chestnut' packet is four hybrid chestnut seedlings and a one year membership to Ohio Nut Growers. These seedlings were specifically bred to fill the niche once held by the American Chestnut. Trees from these seedlings have strong, apical dominance and fast mast; both characteristics common to the American Chestnut. Nut production has begun in field plantings in as little as three years – and that is some serious fast mast! Another bonus is that the high nut quality is similar to commercially grown chestnuts.

Thanks to all of our experts for continuing to educate us so we can better serve our patrons as we work together to conserve our natural resources.

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.

~

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 yr | 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> | G,N,W | 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!

PAW PAW REGISTRATION FORM

PAW PAW WORKSHOP: Please fill out this form & send it with your \$25.00 check payable to Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Sign Up Now for
USDA Conservation
Programs!



USDA and SWCD are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

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Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330-297-7633 fax: 330-296-5917
www.portageswcd.org

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