

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2016

Volume 67

Inside This Issue:

Local Workshops	2
Bluebirds	3
USDA NRCS	3
Fish Order Form	4
Tree Order Form	5&6
Sponsor Page	7
Peterson Nest Box	8

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

♥ **Love Your Soil, Love Your Water: Valentine's Day Cover Crop Workshop** *Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 9:00 to 11:30 AM*

Location: Portage SWCD Meeting Room 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna 44266

Cover crops improve farm productivity and farm profitability while also providing valuable environmental benefits. Cover crops build soil health which reduces soil erosion and storm water runoff. Keeping soil in place is critical for nutrient management and water quality. Please join us to hear two of Ohio's leading experts talk about how to incorporate cover crops into your farm plan.

Presenters:

♥ **Jim Hoorman, Northeast Region NRCS-Soil Health Division**

Using Soil Health and Cover Crops to Improve Water Quality

♥ **David Brandt, Walnut Creek Seeds, LLC**

How to Incorporate Cover Crops into Your Farm Plan

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or (call (330) 297-7633 x3. Registration deadline is Feb. 9, 2017!

• **Ohio Nut Growers Workshop: Growing & Selling Nuts in Ohio** *Saturday, February 25, 2017 1:00 to 3:00 PM*

Location: Portage SWCD Meeting Room 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna 44266

For the past seven years the Portage SWCD has collaborated with the Ohio Nut Growers Association to promote this small, yet growing component of Ohio's agricultural landscape. ONGA members provide an annual nut-growing workshop at our office and also propagate crop-grade nut-tree seedlings for the SWCD spring tree sale.

This year, Joe Hietter and his daughter Cindy will join us to share their experience with growing and selling nuts in Ohio. This father/daughter team grow a variety of nuts in central Ohio including heartnuts, black walnuts, butternuts, hicans, hazelnuts and chestnuts. The informal format at our annual workshop provides an excellent opportunity for people interested in growing nuts to come and ask questions from successful growers.

Our 2017 Tree Sale will feature John Kelsey hazelnuts as our seedlings promoting membership to the ONGA. A one-year membership to ONGA is included in the purchase of the seedlings.

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x3

2017 Tree Sale

We have many wonderful native plants in our spring sale. New to the sale this year are the Bush Cherries. We have waited for years to make this plant available and are thrilled to finally offer a packet of two cherries, 1 sweet (Romeo) and 1 tart (Carmin Jewel). They cost a little more than our typical fruit plants, but you will not find these plants at a better retail price anywhere! Portage County fruit growers are having good success with winter hardiness and disease resistance with the two varieties of bush cherries we are offering. Other new plants include Fothergilla, Clethra 'Ruby Spice', 'Sugar Shack' Buttonbush (all beautiful -flowering native shrubs). *Ilex compacta*, our native inkberry is also new to our sale. This plant is a great substitute for boxwood and is also a high-quality pollinator plant. See our complete list on page 6. Orders accepted after January 1st, 2017.

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

April 7th
Tree Order Deadline

April 19-21
TREE PICK UP
9:00am-6:00pm
SWCD Office

April 21
Fish Sale Order
Deadline

April 25
Fish Pick Up
11:00am
Randolph Fairgrounds

Local Workshops in the Planning

**Please check our Spring newsletter for additional information about our planned workshops.*

Pond Clinic: Thursday March 16th at 6:00 PM , Centerville Mills Dining Hall, 8558 Crackel Road, Chagrin Falls, OH
Portage and Geauga SWCD welcome Eugene Braig, Aquatic Ecosystems Specialist, OSU Extension.

Eugene's presentation will address species selection and fish production for a recreational pond. Various strategies for aquatic plant management will also be addressed.

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x3

Landscaping with Native Plants: Saturday April 8th at 10:00 AM to Noon, Portage SWCD 6970 St. Rt. 88 Ravenna OH
Portage County Master Gardeners will host this workshop with Mary Slingluff, Owner of Avalon Garden Center. Mary's presentation will provide information about the benefits of utilizing native shrubs, trees, and perennials in the landscape. Join us to learn how to add beauty and function to your landscape with native plants.

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x3

Third Annual Edith Chase Symposium: Friday June 2nd and Saturday June 3rd.

The theme for the 2017 Edith Chase Symposium is "Restoration through Vegetation"

- Friday night's event will begin at 6:30 PM and will be held at the new home of Kent State's College of Architecture and Environmental Design located on the Kent State Main Campus at 132 S. Lincoln. Christina Znidarsic, Senior Watershed Manager of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, will provide an overview of the importance of watershed management. Attendees will learn strategies to improve water quality in their watershed and community.
- Saturday's program will begin at 1:00 PM at Plum Creek Park Shelter House #2. Ken Christensen with Davey Resource will lead a tour of the Plum Creek Restoration site. Participants will be able to observe several restoration and management strategies and learn firsthand what is working at this site and what is not. Native plant packages will be provided to registrants on a first-come basis.

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x3

Composting Workshop with Portage Master Gardeners: Saturday June 10th at 10:00AM to noon at Portage SWCD 6970 St. Rt. 88, Ravenna, 44266 . This workshop will include a presentation and hands-on demonstrations of various composting strategies and methods. Please check our spring newsletter for registration details.

Portage SWCD Annual Meeting

Portage SWCD held it's annual meeting and election on November 10th. Fred Rodenbucher was elected for a second term as board supervisor. Thank you Fred for your continued service! In addition to our annual election, Portage SWCD honored three very worthy people with a conservation award.

- Stephanie Zimmerman received the "New Farmer Award". Stephanie worked with NRCS staff to implement a grazing management plan which included rotational grazing, fencing and manure management.
- Ken Riley with Waterloo Schools was chosen as the 2016 Conservation Educator. Ken goes the extra mile every day for his students. Ken provides his students with many project-based learning opportunities. Some of the projects include a two-mile nature trail, planting projects involving native plants, participation in the Monarch Watch program, "Waste Free Wednesdays", installation of bluebird boxes, and on-site composting. Our board of supervisors approved a \$500 donation to the Waterloo Science Club that Ken coordinates. Ken plans to use the funds to purchase additional equipment and supplies to study macroinvertebrates.
- And lastly, we honored Jim Hudson with a Lifetime Conservation Award. Jim attended the meeting with his wife, Dee and his daughter Cathy. James Bierlair shared several stories that conveyed the strong work ethic Jim Hudson brought to his conservation efforts. James also talked about how Jim had repeatedly extended generosity to our organization. Many humorous anecdotes were also shared that spoke to Jim's tenacious spirit. It was truly an honor for us to have the opportunity to publicly thank Jim for his years of loyal friendship and many contributions to conservation. And it is with great sadness and sympathy for his family that we share the news of his passing on November 14th.

Bluebirds

For many years Eldon Villers has made the bluebird boxes we have sold at Portage SWCD. Thank you Eldon for your contribution to conservation! Eldon has retired from woodworking and our search for a new supplier lead us to Maplewood Career Center. Jon Hall has agreed to work with Maplewood students to provide our new bluebird boxes. This new collaboration presented an additional opportunity to seek advice about bluebird box design. We consulted George Newberger, our resident Portage County bluebird expert and retired NRCS District Conservationist. George has used a variety of boxes and the one he suggested we use is a modified Peterson box. The modification enlarges the interior space for the birds. George has used this design for over thirty years and has annually observed the preference the bluebirds have for these boxes over others he has on his property. Our new all-cedar design should provide many years of housing for nesting bluebirds! Check out a picture of the new bluebird boxes on the last page of this newsletter.

George has also influenced our plant sale this year. Early in 2016 George called our office and suggested we add Sumac to our plant sale. He said he has often found evidence of late-winter sumac consumption while inspecting his boxes. Not long after his phone call, I had the opportunity to have George's observation confirmed. My son and I stood under a Staghorn Sumac while seventeen (yes, we counted them!) Eastern Bluebirds enjoyed a feeding frenzy. The birds were so intent on their feeding that they didn't seem to notice we were there. It was like being in a red snow storm as the bluebirds cast off the red-fuzz covering the seeds.

But the problem with sumac is that many people regard them as weeds or mistakenly believe that all sumacs are poisonous. Poisonous sumac are wetland species. Staghorn and Smooth Sumac are the most common species in our area and neither of them are poisonous. People are starting to realize the functional and ornamental benefits sumacs provide. Plant breeders are beginning to cultivate sumacs for their fiery-autumn foliage and showy seed-heads. As George observed, sumacs are without equal as a winter emergency food for a wide range of birds (including bluebirds) and mammals. So we hope you will consider the Shining Sumac we have added to our tree sale this year to round out our commitment to Eastern Bluebirds! Shining Sumac is a small tree with glossy leaves and an open, architectural structure, making them suitable for any size landscape. Add their benefit to pollinators with their summer flowers, flaming red-orange fall color, and abundant red fruit to provide a late winter food source for birds and you have one nearly perfect landscape plant!

USDA Now Accepting Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest conservation program. Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. "This year, the Conservation Stewardship Program provides even more opportunities for conservation and greater flexibility at the local level to prioritize resource concerns and conservation approaches," says Terry Cosby, State Conservationist in Ohio. Customized CSP tools for Ohio will improve the customer experience during application evaluations.

NRCS offices will accept applications through February 3, 2017. People interested in the additional opportunities the updated CSP will offer can find information on the new CSP portal, located at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp>. This one-stop shop, which provides information to help producers determine whether CSP is right for them, will be continually updated as more information becomes available. Please contact Dee Waters at dee.waters@oh.usda.gov or (330) 297-7633 x114

The Edith Chase Symposium

The Edith Chase Symposium is a series of educational programs to acquaint people who are not specialists, with issues of importance in the Earth Sciences and Water Sciences. The Symposium was initiated in 2014 to honor Edith Chase, a scientist who contributed her expertise, energy, and outstanding analytic and communication skills to benefit the ecosystems of the City of Kent, the State of Ohio, and the Great Lakes Basin. The Edith Chase Symposium Association, Inc., was registered as an Ohio non-profit corporation, and has been approved by the US Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, so that donations may be deducted for federal income tax purposes by donors. More information about Edith Chase, the Edith Chase Symposium Association and how to contribute to this organization can be found at <http://www.edithchasesymposium.org>.

Portage County Plat Books!! Available for \$25.00 each. For information call 330-297-7633 Ext 101

Spring Fish Sale

2017 Spring Fish Sale

Pick up will be at the Randolph Fairgrounds off State Route 44 in Randolph.
Call 330-297-7633 x101 if you have any questions

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Time: 11:00 a.m. SHARP!!
Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to **April 21, 2017**.

- * 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 21, 2017.

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

at 11:00 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

Order Deadline: Friday, April 21, 2017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.90 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Yellow Perch (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Channel Catfish (4-5") @ \$0.80 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Shellcrackers (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Coy (6-8") @ \$11.00 each	X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

****Office Use Only****

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

Check here if you want to be added to our mailing list

2017 TREE ORDER FORM

Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 7, 2017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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

____ Check here if you are ordering Chestnuts

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

Tree Pick-Up

April 19th-21st 2017 (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 19-21; 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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Due to varied weather and digging conditions, we cannot guarantee availability of all listed plants

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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	Total
Features						
Blackberries Thornless 'Triple Crown'	BEF	1-0	2.5" pot	5 for \$22		
Blueberries 'Blue Ray', 'Blue Crop', 'Duke'	BCEF	1-0	6-12"	3 for \$18		
Bush Cherries 'Carmine Jewel', 'Romeo'	BEF	1-0	6-12", 11-24"	2 for \$36		
Buttonbush 'Sugar Shack' Cephalanthus	BCFNW	1-0	4" pot	2 for \$17		
Fothergilla 'Mount Airy' <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	BCFN	1-0	6" pot	2 for \$14		
Inkberry <i>Ilex compacta</i>	BFGNW	1-0	4" pot	2 for \$13		
Prickly Pear <i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	BFN	1-0	#1 pot	1 for \$12		
Summersweet 'Ruby Spice' <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	BCFN	1-0	6" pot	2 for \$13		
Evergreens						
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	GN	2-1 TR	8-16"	5 for \$9		
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	G	4-0	10-20"	5 for \$9		
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	GNW	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$8		
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	4-0	10-20"+	10 for \$10		
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	4-0	10-24"+	10 for \$10		
Western Arborvitae <i>Thuja plicata</i>	G	RC+1 TR	7-14"	5 for \$12		
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	4-0	8-18"	10 for \$9		
Deciduous						
American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i>	BCNW	2-0	18-30"	5 for \$10		
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	BCNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	BN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Hop Tree <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Littleleaf Linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	BC	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BEN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	CNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Striped Maple <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	1-0	20-40"	5 for \$9		
Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	CNW	2-0	15-30"	5 for \$7		
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	BFCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Shrubs						
Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	2-0	15-30"+	5 for \$8		
Shining Sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	BCFNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Dolgo Crabapple <i>Malus x 'Dolgo'</i>	BCEF	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	EFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Red Buckeye <i>Aesculus pavia</i>	BFN	1-0	6-9"	2 for \$8		
Shadblow Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	BCEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Other Items						
John Kelsey Hazelnuts Ohio Nut Growers	BEF	1-0	12-16"	4 for \$25		
Bluebird Houses (New style: Peterson all-cedar design)				1 for \$18		

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!

Keith,

Just to update:

- 1) the Michael Marozzi ad has been cancelled
- 2) I sent you the update for Ohio Prairie Nursery on 10/31/16 please confirm that you did receive it
- 3) Also need you to confirm that you received the new ad for Jack Kohl Realty
- 4) AND PLEASE NO MATTER WHAT DO NOT MOVE THE "ADVANCE DISPLAY AD" LOL LOL

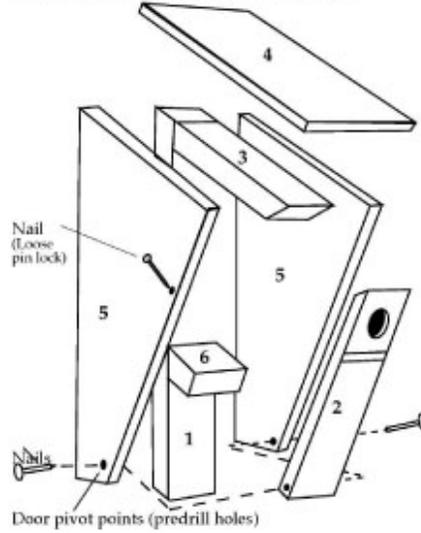
Lastly, thank you for all your help! I wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday. Mb

Any of combination of this clip art will work



Peterson Bluebird Nesting Box

Next year we will be offering a new style of bluebird nesting box. The Peterson nest box has been found to be preferable for bluebirds in this area. Some advantages of this sloping design are that it reduce the chance of predators interfering with the nest, and it helps to keep rain from entering the box. The nest boxes that we offer will be modified from the design shown to the right to increase the interior space of the box slightly. They will be made of cedar which typically holds up longer than other materials. We should have them available early next year (sometime in January), and they will be \$18 each.



Sign Up Now for
USDA Conservation
Programs!



USDA and SWCD are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District
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www.portageswcd.org

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