

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2016

Volume 65

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### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

#### Local Organizations Work Together to Protect Rivers

Storm water run-off during rain events transports pollutants like lawn fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, soil sediment and even sewage from poorly functioning home septic systems into our ditches and streams. Portage County has an abundance of freshwater resources being polluted during rain events as a result of poor land management decisions. Local organizations are teaming up to provide multiple opportunities for local residents to learn more about how they can better manage their landscapes to protect our fragile waters.

Kent Environmental Council has provided funds for an "Edible Riparians" workshop which will be held in May in cooperation with the Kent Parks and Recreation 26<sup>th</sup> Annual River Days Celebration. The workshop will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Portage SWCD office, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH 44266. The Portage County SWCD and the Portage County Master Gardeners will co-host this public event where participants will learn about the important role plants play in maintaining the healthy function of land surrounding water, also referred to as riparian areas. Our workshop will focus on edible food plants that grow well in riparian zones. A key speaker, John Kelsey, who is a nut grower and researcher, will provide a presentation about growing hazelnuts. Hazelnuts are well-suited for riparian zones, as are all the plants we will be learning about in our workshop. Also joining us will be Larry Rogers, an avid paw paw grower and researcher. Bob Stehli of Wintergreen Tree Farm will also be on hand to answer questions about growing blueberries. To promote these healthy soil and water practices, workshop attendees will receive generous plant packages including crop-grade hazelnuts, elderberries, blueberries and aronias. Conservation grade paw paws will also be included in the plant packages. There is a participant cost-share fee of \$20.00 for this event.

The Portage County Health Department will also be providing a workshop titled "Septic Systems 101 for Homeowners" on Thursday evening, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Portage County Engineer's Office, 5000 Newton Falls Road, Ravenna, OH 44266. Homeowners are required to maintain their septic systems and to insure that they are functioning properly. Please join us in May to learn more about these requirements. This event is open to the public and free of charge but due to space limitations, registration is required.

There is a registration form on the back of this newsletter that can be used for either or both workshops. For additional information contact Lynn at [lvogel@portageswcd.org](mailto:lvogel@portageswcd.org)

For additional information about the Kent River Days Event please visit: <http://www.kentparksandrec.com/>

#### REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD  
online at  
[www.portageswcd.org](http://www.portageswcd.org)

**April 8**  
Tree Order Deadline

**April 20-22**  
TREE PICK UP  
9:00am-6:00pm  
SWCD Office

**April 22**  
Fish Sale Order  
Deadline

**April 25**  
Fish Pick Up  
10:30am  
Randolph Fairgrounds

#### **Portage County Plat Books!!**

Available for \$25.00 each. If you have any questions call 330-297-7633 Ext 101

# Backyards Matter

Backyards come in all shapes and sizes. Regardless of size, your backyard can be improved to provide greater environmental benefits for you and your community. If we started to think of our backyards as “ecosystems” instead of lawns, it might motivate us to make changes that support the biodiversity that sustains us. That’s right, humans are dependent on biodiversity! It is biodiversity that generates oxygen, cleans water, creates topsoil out of rock, buffers extreme weather events like droughts and floods, pollinates crops, and recycles mountains of garbage we create every day. To determine what is lacking in our landscapes, we might need to better understand what we currently have. Human activity has altered our natural areas (forests, plains, prairies). We have turned 54% of the lower 48 states into an urban/suburban matrix and 41% more into various forms of agriculture. Our urban/suburban lawns now total more than 40 million acres, increasing by another 2 million acres annually. Additionally we have over 4 million miles of paved roads, creating long, barren stretches of land. The dominant plant community in most of our home landscapes is non-native turf grass. Combine that fact with the current agricultural trend of mono-cropping and you can quickly get to the crux of the problem. We have diminished our diverse plant communities. And the fact is, the amount of life that can exist in an area is directly proportional to the amount of vegetation in that area.

## Plants Matter (Please see our 2016 Spring Plant Sale List Page 6)

Plants are the only organisms that capture energy from the sun and turn it into food that supports nearly all the food webs on the earth. In natural areas, a diverse plant community supports a diverse animal community. In addition to supporting the food web, these diverse plant communities provide other environmental benefits such as trapping pollutants and improving soil and water retention during storm events. Trees and shrubs help clean our air and moderate our climate.

However, for over a century, we have planted our landscapes with aesthetic goals in mind. We have demonstrated a preference for ornamental plants from Europe and China over our native plants. Insects are a critical part of our food web, and recent research has begun to quantify the number of insect species that feed on these non-native plants. Plants like Bradford or Callery Pear, Burning Bush, Barberry, Bush Honeysuckle and Boxwood undermine the biodiversity in our landscapes in two ways. First, most plants have some sort of chemical defense in their leaves that make them distasteful or even toxic to insects. Insects that have co-existed for a very long time with plants in their community have adapted to be able to use these native plants as a high-quality food source. But insects that are introduced to a plant from another continent are almost always unable to eat the foreign plant. Why do we care if insects thrive? Insects pollinate our food crops. Insects feed birds and other species that many of us try to lure to our backyard. Insects are a critical part of our food web. The second way non-native plants undermine biodiversity is that in addition to providing few benefits to native wildlife in terms of food, these non-native plants have few natural controls that would impede their advancement. Many of these ornamental plants we planted to beautify our home landscapes have now invaded what few natural areas that remain. As these non-native plants blaze their way through a woodlot or open field, and they often create additional mono-culture plant communities. We can no longer afford to let aesthetics guide our landscaping choices. To increase biodiversity, we must re-consider the function of our landscapes. Doug Tallamy, author and Department Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware states, *“As quickly as possible, we need to triple the number of native trees in our lawns and underplant them with the understory and shrub layers absent from most managed landscapes.”* Dr. Tallamy further explains that homeowners can achieve this by planting their property borders with native trees such as oaks (which feed 550 species of animals, mostly insects), maples (300 species fed), river birch (300), hickories (200+). He also suggests that those trees should be underplanted with woody plants like *Prunus* species such as Black Cherry and American Plum (456), Serviceberry (125), Bottlebrush Buckeye (33), Flowering Dogwood (117), and Witchhazel (63). Numbers in parentheses are number of animal species feeding on the plant, including insects, birds and mammals.

Portage SWCD incorporates Dr. Tallamy’s research and the advice of experts in wildlife, forestry and ecology to provide a plant sale that can assist landowners in improving the biodiversity of the land. We have plants that are suitable for large yards or small spaces, including a variety of shrubs for both full sun and shade conditions. Our sale also includes several new varieties of edible fruit plants this year. Our staff would be happy to assist you in improving your landscape to increase the environmental benefits to your community.

Reference: *The Living Landscape*, written by Doug Tallamy

## **2016 Wonders of Watersheds Educator Workshops Outdoor Explorations for Classroom Applications**

**The Advanced Wonders of Watersheds, Monday, June 27– Wednesday, June 29, 2016**, 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](mailto:lvogel@portageswcd.org). Registration materials can be found on our website under the “What’s New” tab at:

[www.portageswcd.org](http://www.portageswcd.org)

## **NRCS**

**USDA to Invest \$150 Million through Conservation Stewardship Program to Help Improve Working Lands** Contact: Sarah Haymaker, 202.205.9064

### *USDA Offers Renewal Options for Producers with Expiring Contracts*

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2016** – The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), is the USDA’s largest conservation program that helps producers voluntarily improve the health and productivity of private working lands.

The Conservation Stewardship Program is one of NRCS’s most popular programs with producers, because it results in real change on the ground by boosting soil and air quality, conserving clean water, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

NRCS accepts applications for CSP throughout the year, but producers should submit applications by March 31, 2016 to USDA service centers to ensure they are considered for enrollment in 2016.

Funding is available for more than 100 kinds of enhancements nationwide to help participants:

- ◆ Improve soil quality through use of cover crops, conservation crop rotations and other activities that increase soil productivity.
- ◆ Restore habitat for wildlife and pollinators such as the greater sage-grouse, lesser prairie-chicken and monarch butterfly through the use of better grazing systems and improved plant management.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is compatible with their operation. As part of the application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory of their land to determine the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant’s conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

# Spring Fish sale

## 2016 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:** Monday, April 25, 2016

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. SHARP!!

**Place:** Randolph Fairgrounds

Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment **PRIOR** to **April 22, 2016**.

\* 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 22, 2016.**

### SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Monday, April 25, 2016 at 10:30 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 22, 2016

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Order Deadline: Friday, April 17, 2015

# 2016 TREE ORDER FORM

Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 8, 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>**Office Use Only**</b>	
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 20, 21, 22, 2016 (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.

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

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

~  
Orders must be picked up April 20-22; otherwise refunds will not be guaranteed.

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

~  
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](http://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
<b>Features</b>						
Allegheny Chinquapin <i>Castanea pumila</i>	BEN	2-0	10 - 18"	5 for \$11		
Black Chokeberry "Viking" <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	BCEFNW	1-0	4" pot	2 for \$12	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Bottlebrush Buckeye <i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	BCN	1-0	24 - 36"	1 for \$14		
Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	BCEFN	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$11		
Eastern Wahoo <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	BCFN	2-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$11	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Elderberry (2 - 'John's, 1 - 'Adams')	BEFNW	1-0	2.5-3" pots	3 for \$17	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Gooseberries 'Jahn's Prairie'	BCE	1-0	4" pot	3 for \$13		
Honeyberries 'Indigo Treat, I. Gem, Czech 17'	BCEF	1-0	4" pot	3 for \$27		
<b>Evergreens</b>						
Canaan Fir <i>Abies intermedii</i>	G	p+1	8 - 12"	5 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga Canadensis</i>	GN	2-1	8-16"	5 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	GNW	2-0	10 - 16"	5 for \$8	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	3-0	10 - 16"	10 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	3-0	8 - 18"	10 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Western Arborvitae <i>Thuja plicata</i>	G	RC+1	7 - 14"	5 for \$12	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	2-0	12 - 18"	10 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
<b>Deciduous</b>						
American Basswood <i>Tilia americana</i>	BFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$11	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	CW	1-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	BN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	BENW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Box Elder <i>Acer negundo</i>	ENW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	BCN	2-0	10 - 24"	5 for \$8		
Paw Paw <i>Asminia triloba</i>	BEN	2-0	18 - 24"	5 for \$14	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	CNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Shellbark Hickory <i>Carya laciniosa</i>	BEN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Tulip Poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	BFCN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$8		
Shingle Oak <i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	BCN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	1-0	20 - 40"	5 for \$9		
White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>	BCN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
<b>Shrubs</b>						
American Witch Hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	CFN	3-0	10 - 24"	5 for \$8		
Gray Dogwood <i>Cornus racemose</i>	BCFN	3-0	20 - 40"	5 for \$7		
Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	BCFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Summersweet 'Hummingbird' <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	BCF	1-0	4" pot	2 for \$12		
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
<b>Flowering &amp; Fruiting Trees</b>						
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	EFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Red Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>	BEFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
White Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	BCFN	2-0	10 - 24"	5 for \$8		
<b>Other Items</b>						
Mid-season Crop Chestnut Ohio Nut Growers	BEF	1-0	12 - 16"	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



# Workshop Registration Form

Please check one or more:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Septic Systems**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Edible Riparians @ \$20.00 each**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Septic Systems 101 for Homeowners May 19, 2015 # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Edible Riparians Workshop \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Detach & return with check payable to:**

**Portage SWCD  
6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266**

**\*\*Office Use Only\*\***

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ M.O# \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate \_\_\_\_\_

SWCD Employee Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

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



*USDA and SWCD are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider*

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

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