

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2017

Volume 69

Inside This Issue:	
Upcoming Workshops	2
Sponsor Page	3
Other News	4
Portage County Fair	4
White Amur Fish Sale	5
Poster Contest Winners	5
Farm Science Review	5
Order Form	6

Annual Election & Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Garden Meeting Room 6970 State Route 88

Ravenna, OH, 44266

6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:00—7:00 p.m. - SWCD Board of Supervisors Voting

Please join us for our 71st Annual Election!

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Portage Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and/or corporations that own land or occupy land in Portage County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- (1) at the annual meeting, which will take place September 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Garden Meeting Room at 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH 44266
- (2) at the SWCD office on September 14, 2017 until 4:00 p.m.
- (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address: Portage SWCD, 6970 St. Rt, 88, Ravenna, Ohio, 44266

The Portage SWCD will have the annual banquet and election on September 14, 2017 with voting starting at 6:00 p.m. with dinner provided by Ravenna's own Guido's Restaurant starting at 6:30 p.m. Join us after for a presentation by Robert Grau, author of *'Five Million Steps on a Journey of Hope'* at 7:00p.m. as he recounts his experiences through-hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Tickets for the event are \$10.00. Please **preorder** Banquet tickets by using the order form in this newsletter (back page). Reservation requests should be received by this office no later than September 7, 2017. If you have any questions you can contact Marybeth at 330-297-7633 x101 for more information.

REMINDERS

August 22nd-27th

Visit our booth at the Randolph Fair!

September 14th

SWCD Annual Election & Meeting (voting 6:00 to 7:00pm) (optional dinner \$10)

September 20th

Farm Science Review Bus Trip (A deal at only \$40!)

September 28th

White Amur Fish Sale Pick Up (11:00am sharp at the Randolph Fair Grounds)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Trumbull County Land Management Workshop

- When:** Tuesday September 12th 9:00AM to 3:00 PM
- Where:** Trumbull County Agriculture Center, 520 West Main Street, Cortland, OH 44410
- What:** This workshop is sponsored by Davey Resource Group and presentations will cover a wide variety of topics including construction, drainage, water testing, wetlands, stream restoration, nutrient management, farming, forestry, ponds, etc.
- Register:** Call (330) 637-2056 x3 to register for AM or PM sessions. Lunch will be provided for those participating in both sessions.

Homeowner Septic Information Workshop

- When:** Thursday September 28th 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Where:** Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266
- What:** Septic Systems 101 for Homeowners – Mary Helen Smith of the Portage County Health Department will provide an overview of how a home sewage treatment system works and what to do when a system doesn't appear to be working properly. She will define system repairs, alterations and replacements as they pertain to new Ohio Department of Health Sewage Treatment Regulations. Mary will also discuss the new septic tank pumping regulations as well as other critical do's and don't's for homeowners. Additional information about "Point of Sale" and other "Real Estate Transfer Evaluations" will be shared. Time is also scheduled for participant questions.
- To Register:** Contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org. Please include name, address and phone number.

Backyard Birds

- When:** October 5th 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- Where:** Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna Ohio 44266
- What:** Want to attract birds to your backyard? Then please join us for this workshop with Jamey Emmert, ODNR Wildlife Specialist, to learn about the essential elements of every successful backyard habitat. Topics from landscaping for the birds to selecting bird seed, feeders, and houses will be covered. Bring your questions and join us for a cup of bird friendly coffee!
- Register:** Due to the popularity of the topic, reservations are encouraged. Please contact Marybeth to register for this event at mwillett@portageswcd.org. Please include name, address and phone number.
- Other:** Several nest boxes will be given as door prizes during this event!

Green Holiday

- When:** November 9th 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m .
- Where:** Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna Ohio 44266
- What:** Nothing enhances the holiday season like a fresh-cut Christmas tree. But the good news is that there are many other traditional holiday products grown in Portage County! Join us for this workshop to learn about the variety of holiday treats and decorating materials that are available from local growers. Participants will also learn how local purchases "green up" the local economy while conserving our natural resources. Come meet our local producers and enjoy some holiday treats.
- To Register:** Contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org. Please include name, address and phone number.
- Other:** Participants will have a chance to win several holiday-themed door prizes!

Newsletter Sponsors

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

Other News

Farewell to Edith Chase

Edith Marie Cates Chase, 92, of Ithaca, NY, formerly of Kent Ohio, passed away on Tuesday, June 13th, 2017. An award-winning scientist, community activist, and public official, Edith lived in Kent for fifty-six years. While raising two children, she became active in the League of Women Voters of Kent and focused her scientific expertise on water quality public policy for the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. A founding member of the Kent Environmental Council in 1970, she continued to participate in the League of Women Voters.

Edith helped to establish and subsequently chaired the Lake Erie Basin policy conference of the League of Women's Voters. Recognized nationally, Edith was a writer and editor of scientific papers published by the Hydrology Section of the United States Geological Survey, from 1979 to 1994. Also known across Ohio, Edith was a founding member of the Coastal Resources Advisory Council when that Council was organized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 1982, and she served for several years as Chair.

Acting locally, Edith was Kent's zoning inspector for fifteen years. In that role, she created one of the first hydrology studies of the effects of oil drilling on groundwater in 1989 and devised a method for monitoring well hydrology that was used by local governments.

In 2005, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded Edith the Walter B. Jones Memorial Award for Coastal Steward of the Year. She was later awarded the Burning River Foundation's 2014 award for Outstanding Environmental Leader. Also in 2014, The Edith Chase Symposium was created in her honor to continue the environmental work of the League of Women's Voters of Kent and the Kent Environmental Council that she had been so dedicated to for over fifty years.

A memorial service will be held in Kent on Saturday, August 12th at the Kent United Church of Christ 1400 E. Main Street, Kent. Donations in Edith's memory may be sent to the Kent Environmental Council, P.O. Box 395, Kent, OH 44240 or the Longview Horticultural Program, 1 Bella Vista Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850 or The Kent United Church of Christ.

For the full obituary please visit <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theithacajournal/obituary.aspx?pid=185824202>

2017 Portage County Fair

The Portage County Randolph Fair will be held August 22nd—August 27th. Please visit our booth in the Ag. Building across from the 4H Dairy Bar! Also, check out our Rain Garden located on the east end of the Ag Building.

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 infiltration in soil. Cover crops help retain 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 passageways 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 inter-planted with your fall crops between August 15th and September 15th. Portage SWCD has partnered with Walnut Creek Seeds to offer a fall cover crop seed mix that is well suited to Northeast Ohio. Five-pound bags will be available and will cover 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 after Monday, August 7th while supplies last.**

We Want Your Plant Suggestions For Our 2018 Tree Sale

September is almost here and in our office that means it's time to select and order tree seedlings for our Spring 2018 Tree Sale. We would like to continue to offer as many Ohio natives as possible in our sale, and are seeking your suggestions for berries, shrubs, evergreens, deciduous conifers and plants for tough sites. Customer suggestions for the 2018 tree sale can be emailed to Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org. Based on availability, we will do our best to include as many patron suggestions as we can in our sale.

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 Thursday, September 21, 2017**

Pick up: Thursday, September 28, 2017, 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.

Poster Contest Winners

Over 600 fifth grade students from five school districts in Portage County participated in the 2017 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 *"Healthy Soils are Full of Life"*. This contest gives teachers an opportunity to introduce environmental concepts to their classes. Various Portage County Garden Center 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	Julie Rach - Waterloo
Second Place	Rida Shaikh - Henry Defer
Third Place	Shamyah Henderson - Willyard
Fourth Place	Mario Russo - Brimfield
Fifth Place	Leah Bailey - James A. Garfield
Honorable Mention	Gracie Abbe - Waterloo

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 20th, 2017.**

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!



SWCD Event & Item Order Form

Please check one or more:

Annual Banquet
 White Amur
 FSR Bus Trip
 Cover Crop 5lb

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Annual Banquet Tickets _____ X \$10.00 each = _____
 FSR Bus Tickets _____ X \$40.00 each = _____
 White Amur Carp _____ X \$13.00 each = _____
 5lb Cover Crop Seeds _____ X \$18.00 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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