

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2018/2019

Holiday Conservation Tips

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The holiday season is upon us and Americans throw away a **million extra tons** of garbage **each week between Thanksgiving and the December holiday season!** Global trade issues have 'reduced' U.S. options to sell our recycled waste, resulting in most of plastic waste ending up in landfills. In response, we need to make 'reduce' and 're-use' our main focus as it relates to the waste we generate with our daily habits and choices. Currently **ONLY #1 & #2 plastic** can be accepted at the Portage County Recycling Center, that means bottles, jugs and tubs. Paper, glass, and metal are also still accepted, but check their website often because more changes are expected. www.portagerecycles.com

Here are a few holiday suggestions:

Reconsider Your Gift Wrap Options: If every family reused just 2 feet (0.6 meter) of holiday ribbon, we would have 38,000 miles (61,000 kilometers) and could tie a bow around the entire planet. Consider saving and reusing holiday gift bags. Other green wrapping options include re-usable tote bags – (especially canvas bags that are biodegradable), paper grocery bags, newsprint or purchasing gift wrap made from recycled paper. Depending on the gift, you might be able to use functional items like socks, napkins, pillow cases or towels to wrap gifts!

Go Local: Purchasing local products when possible strengthens the economy where you live, supports jobs and farmers, and even saves fuel and carbon emissions since many retail products are shipped from across the country or further. Buying locally grown food for holiday meals is also a fairly easy choice for Portage County residents. We are fortunate to live in an agriculturally diverse community. Portage County Farm Bureau maintains a list of local farm markets at these sites:

<http://www.portagefb.org/buy-local/> <https://www.localharvest.org/ravenna-oh/farmers-markets>

Christmas Trees: While considering local purchases, don't forget about your tree! There are quite a few Christmas Tree farms in Portage County and many growers have other products such as winterberry, chestnuts, evergreen wreaths, etc. But have you ever wondered if buying a cut tree annually makes economic and environmental sense when compared to purchasing an artificial tree and using it for several years? Many experts have weighed in on the decision and have the following to say:

Christmas tree farms stabilize soil, protect water supplies and provide refuge for wildlife while creating scenic green belts. Often, Christmas trees are grown on soils that could not support other crops. Additionally, Christmas tree farms provide a benefit to the atmosphere. Live trees absorb carbon dioxide and other gases, emitting fresh oxygen. This helps prevent the "greenhouse effect". One acre of Christmas trees produces the daily oxygen requirement for 18 people. With about one million acres of Christmas trees in the United States, that translates into oxygen for 18 million people every day.

Real Christmas trees are an all-American, recyclable resource. Artificial trees, most of which are manufactured overseas, consist of plastics and metals that aren't biodegradable. When disposed of, the artificial trees remain in landfills for centuries! In contrast, according to the U.S. E.P.A., 93% of real trees are recycled through more than 4000 available recycling programs. Recycled trees are often chipped and used for mulch, which also provides soil benefits. With an average of three seedlings being planted for every Christmas tree harvested, real trees are not only recyclable, they are also renewable.

Reduce De-Icing Salt Around Your Home

Each winter excess road and sidewalk salt enters our streams and rivers. Salt is a real threat to water quality. It only takes one teaspoon of road salt to pollute five gallons of water. Try these tips:

Shovel. The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be. Break up ice with an ice scraper and decide if application of a de-icer or sand is even necessary to maintain traction.

More salt does not mean more melting. You only need about 8 oz of salt (a paper cup's worth) per 150 square feet of pavement (about the size of a parking space).

15 degrees F is too cold for salt to work. Most salts stop working around this temperature. Instead, use sand for traction.

Sweep up extra salt. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away to the nearest stream.

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

April 5th
Tree Order Deadline

April 17-19
TREE PICK UP
9:00am-6:00pm
SWCD Office

April 19th
Fish Sale Order
Deadline

April 23, 2019
Fish Pick Up
10:30am
Randolph Fairgrounds

Upcoming Workshops

Soil Health Partnership Workshop - Thursday, December 6th, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Deerfield Town Hall, 1450 Ohio-14, Deerfield, Ohio 44411

Hosted by: Deerfield Farms, a Soil Health Partnership Farmer

Agenda: Soil Health Partnership Overview: *John Stewart, SHP*
Interseeding Cover Crops: *Ryan Haden, ATI*
Soil Cation Balancing: *Steve Culman, OSU Extension*

Lunch provided for registrants immediately following presentations. To help us plan for the meal, please register by emailing Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org or call 330-235-6806

Farmer's Round Table Series:

This new program series is geared towards market farmers and is a collaboration between Portage Soil & Water Conservation District (PSWCD) and Countryside. This series will bring 1-3 programs per month on a variety of topics on Thursday evenings from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. This series is intended to promote discussion, problem solving and networking among local market farmers in their off-season. This series may also be beneficial to those hoping to begin farming in the near future. Some programs will be farmer-led, while others will have a field professional present to facilitate discussion and field questions. These programs are free, just bring yourself and a willingness to add to the discussion! Here are the program dates, topics and locations:

12/13/2019 – Direct Marketing and Identifying your Core Customer Base (Countryside)

1/10/2019 – Finding and Funding your Farm (PSWCD)

1/17/2019 – Seed Starting and Soil Preparation (Countryside)

1/31/2019 – Integrating Cover Crops and No-Till Practices into your Market Farm (PSWCD)

2/12/2019 – Savings for your Pocket and the Planet: Creating a Closed Loop Farming System (Countryside)

2/14/2019 – Savings for your Pocket and the Planet: Fertilize Right (PSWCD)

PSWCD Location—6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266. To Register email Taylor at thillyer@portageswcd.org or call (330) 235-6811

Countryside Location—will vary, email Annie Preston at apreston@cvcountryside.org or call (234) 334-4622

CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Value) & Ohio Forestry Tax Law Programs: Thursday, January 24th, 6:00 pm, Maplewood Career Center, 7075 State Rt. 88, Ravenna, OH 44266

Hosted by: Portage County Farm Bureau

Join Leah Curtis, legal counsel for the Ohio Farm Bureau and ODNR Division of Forestry District 3 Manager, John Kehn, as they explain these two tax reduction programs available for Portage County landowners that have 10 acres of agricultural land or qualifying woodlot that meet the criteria that will be outlined during their presentations. Join these experts to see if you are eligible for these tax reduction programs. Please register with Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org or call (330) 235-6806.

Annie's Project - Empowering Women in Agriculture

Dates: Six Thursday evenings (6-9pm) from February 21st to March 28th at various locations in Portage & Summit Counties

10 Week OSU Master Gardener Volunteer Training Course at Portage County Extension Office & Portage SWCD

Dates: Wednesdays 9:00 am to 3:30 pm from January - April 3rd

For information for Annie's Project or the OSU Master Gardener Training call Jeanie (330)296-6432 or email Christensen.227@osu.edu

Fruit Growing Workshop - Wednesday, March 13th 1pm to 4pm, Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Rt 88, Ravenna

Hosted by : OSU Extension, Portage Master Gardeners & and Portage SWCD

Having problems with apple trees, blueberries, brambles or other fruit? Then please join us as Erik Draper, OSU Extension Educator in Geauga County, guides us through the selection, planting and maintenance of a variety of fruits in northeast Ohio. Additionally, Erik brings a wealth of knowledge about plant disease and insect damage common with Ohio fruit growing. Erik's entertaining teaching style is sure to inspire attendees! Portage SWCD will also offer an expanded list of fruiting plants that will be available for pre-order to workshop participants. This list is also available on our website at www.portageswcd.org

Growing Hazelnuts Workshop - Saturday March 23rd, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Hosted by: Ohio Nut Growers Association & Portage SWCD

Join us for this rare opportunity to learn from a field expert! John Kelsey, Kelsey Farm, Southside, WV will be our presenter. John's cultivar research has resulted in cultivation information that is more pertinent to our location than the info that is available from the east and west coast universities. Hazelnut cultivars, 'Sacajawea' and 'York' were recommended by Mr. Kelsey for the ONGA 2019 membership drive and are available through Portage SWCD 2019 plant sale (see page 6). Please register with Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org or call (330) 235-6806.

Chainsaw Safety Workshop: Friday March 29th 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Camp Asbury, 10776 Asbury Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

This hands-on workshop includes morning classroom activities and lecture that focus on personal protective equipment (PPE), safety features of the chainsaw head, five point safety check, maintenance of the power head and guide bar, components of the saw tooth, angles and their functions, proper filing, and the reactive forces of the chain and guide bar. The afternoon will be outdoors (so dress for the weather) and will cover the five step pre-felling plan, and the benefits of several felling options including open-face felling and a hinge & bore method. Participants will observe a tree felling demonstration. In this course each participant will fell a tree under the guidance of an instructor. All participants must wear a hard hat at all times while in the field. Please note: A full class is required to run this workshop. Registration fee of \$65 made payable to Portage SWCD is required to reserve your space. To register for this workshop complete and return the registration form on page 7 of this newsletter.

Beekeeping Classes

Beginner Beekeeping Classes: The Portage County Beekeepers Association - Classes will be held in the Portage Soil & Water Conservation District meeting room on Wednesdays Feb. 6th, 13th, and 20th from 6:30 - 9:00pm. \$60 registration. These classes will provide an excellent opportunity for new beekeepers to meet with veteran beekeepers and develop mentoring relationships.

For more information or to register for these classes visit www.portagecountybeekeepers.com or call (330) 338-6140

ENVIROTHON: The High School Environmental Marathon Contest

The 2019 Area 2 Envirothon will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at Camp Beaumont, 2429 Ohio 45, Rock Creek, OH 44084 in Ashtabula County. Envirothon is an academic, outdoor environmental competition sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation Services, and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for students in grades 9-12. Teams are tested on their knowledge of *soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and a current environmental issue*. This year's current environmental issue is "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World". Working together, the students gain team building skills, knowledge of science and appreciation for natural resources. This unique opportunity provides a fresh perspective as students compete within a diverse setting in the field, rather than on the field. The 2019 competition is being co-hosted by Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties. All Portage County high schools (public, private, and home-schools) are invited to participate. Please contact Taylor Hillyer for more information: thillyer@portageswcd.org or call (330) 235-6811

Portage County NACD Poster Contest

The Portage County Conservation Poster Contest has been the 5th Grade Poster Contest for as long as we can remember, but this year for the first time in Portage SWCD's history, we are opening the contest to students K-12! The NACD themes often rotate between soil and water. We believe that these topics can be related to a wide range of curriculum requirements throughout the grade levels. This contest is open to all students in Portage County, whether from a public, private, vocational, or homeschool. One winner will be selected from each grade division, K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12, then sent on to state. For more information please contact Taylor Hillyer at thillyer@portageswcd.org or call (330) 235-6811.

1st Annual Portage County Conservation Photo Contest



This year we are launching our first ever county-wide conservation photo contest! The contest will be open to all Portage County Residents and will include four categories: Conservation Practices, Close-up Conservation, Conservation in Action, and Agriculture and Conservation Across America. There will be two age divisions that will be judged separately: Youth - 18 years and under, and Adult - 19 years and older (as of December 1st 2019). Contestants may enter as many as five photos each year that fit into one of the four categories. Photos must be taken in Portage County to qualify for this contest. Photos will be judged anonymously in office to determine the semifinalists, and finalists will be determined by a public vote at the Randolph Fair in late August. The first place winner from each age division will receive a gift-certificate to use at any of our programs or sales. Five honorable mentions from each age division will be chosen and all finalists will be displayed on our website and sent on to the NACD Photo Competition for a chance to win a cash prize. If you are interested in participating in this competition you can find more information and entry forms in our office, on our website, or you can contact Taylor at thillyer@portageswcd.org or (330) 235-6811. Photo entries will be accepted through Friday, July 26th 2019.

Spring Workshops in the Planning

Pond Clinic - Geauga and Portage Counties are teaming up to offer a March pond clinic. We are currently working with our speakers to confirm dates. Our planned location is: Centerville Mills Dining Hall, 8558 Crackel Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023.

Please check our website for updated information or contact Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org or call (330) 235-6806

Managing Stormwater On-Farm: Date TBA

Hosted by: Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy, Portage SWCD, Summit SWCD, Wyatt Run Farm & Ecology Center, & Purple Brown Farmstead.

Storm water is an invaluable resource on a farm when managed properly, but if not managed well it can bring many issues including soil erosion and nutrient runoff among many others. Join this group of experts to explore the many different ways to manage storm water to your benefit as a farmer through rainwater catchment systems, ponds, swales, and increased soil health.

Cover Crops for the Home Gardener: Portage SWCD is working with Walnut Creek Seeds to offer a mid-March workshop on how to use various warm-season cover crops for soil health and weed management. Contact Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org

Plastic Pollution in Water: Portage SWCD, Kent Environmental Council and the Portage County Health Department are working on an educational campaign for 2019 and beyond that aims to reduce single-use plastic in our county. Plastic pollution in the Great Lakes is prevalent, and is being recognized as a detriment to public health. More than 13 million people (over 3 million Ohioans) get their drinking water from Lake Erie. With better choices and possibly a little inconvenience, we can greatly reduce the plastic entering our Great Lakes and other Ohio streams and rivers. Our presenter will be Dr. Sherri Mason, 2018 Heinz Award recipient for her work identifying plastic microbeads and microfibers in the Great Lakes and the resulting policy changes that banned the inclusion of microbeads in cosmetic products and cleaners. We are also working with local schools and youth organizations and will hopefully have their participation in our May workshop. Contact Lynn for more info. lvogel@portageswcd.org

Newsletter Sponsors

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



Any of combination of this clip art will work



2019 TREE ORDER FORM

Orders accepted after January 1, 2019 please. Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 5, 2019

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 hazelnuts

Tree Pick-Up

April 17th-19th 2019 (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 17-19; 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

2019 Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Features						
American Holly <i>Ilex opacata</i> 1 male, 1 female	BGF	1 yr	Qt. pot	2 for \$28		
Apple Trees 2-pk Semi-dwarf 1 - 'Crimson Crisp', 1 - 'Gold Rush'	BEF	1-0	3-4' bareroot	2 for \$46		
Arctic Kiwi Vine- 2-female 'Anna', 1 male 'Meader'	BEF	1-0	2.5" pot	3 for \$17		
Blueberries 'Blue Crop', 'Draper', 'Toro'	BCEFNW	1-0	6-12"	3 for \$18		
Bottlebrush Buckeye <i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	BCN	1-0	bareroot	2 for \$20		
Bush Cherries 1- 'Jan', 2 - 'Joel'	BEF	1-0	3.25" pot	3 for \$28		
Hardy Fig 'Chicago'	BEF	1-0	4.5" pot	2 for \$20		
Yellow Raspberries 'Anne'	BEF	1-0	3.25" pot	5 for \$17		
Evergreens						
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	GN	2-1 TR	7-12"	5 for \$10		
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	G	2-0	10-15"	5 for \$7		
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	GNW	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$9		
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	2-1	10-16"	5 for \$8		
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	2-1	14-20"	5 for \$7		
Western Arborvitae <i>Thuja plicata</i>	G	RC+1	7 - 14"	5 for \$12		
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	2-1	8-14"	5 for \$7		
Deciduous						
American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i>	CNW	2-0	18-30"	5 for \$14		
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	BENW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	BNW	1-0 RC	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Chinkapin Oak <i>Quercus muehlenbergi</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	CNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Shellbark Hickory <i>Carya laciniosa</i>	BEN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$14		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Shrubs						
American Witchhazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	BCENW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	BFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Eastern Wahoo <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	BCFN	1-0	6-24"	5 for \$12		
New Jersey Tea L.E.A.P. <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	BCFN	1-0	6-12"	5 for \$10		
Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$8		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
American Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	BEFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
Pawpaw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BCEFNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$12		
Red Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>	BCEFNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$7		
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Sweetbay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
Other Items						
Hazelnuts 1- 'Sacajawea' 1 - 'York' (ONGA 1-yr membership)	BE	1-0	6 - 12"	2 for \$42		
Bat House (all-cedar exterior with plywood baffles)				1 for \$50		
Bluebird Houses (New Style: Peterson all-cedar design)				1 for \$18		
B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering/fruiting G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet soils					TOTAL	

CHAINSAW SAFETY CLASS REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Due to the limited class size, payment in full is required along with completed registration form to hold your reservation.

All participants should bring safety glasses, hard hat, hard-toe shoes, and chaps (if you have them) to class on March 29th.

Complete & return with check in the amount of \$65 made payable to: Portage SWCD at 6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Spring Fish Sale

2019 Spring Fish Sale

Pick up will be at the Randolph Fairgrounds off State Route 44 in Randolph.

Call 330.235.6798 if you have any questions

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019

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

Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to **April 19, 2019**.

* 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 19, 2019.

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Pick up is on Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:30 a.m. 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 19, 2019

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 # _____

OSU Extension Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Certification

Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Certification Portage County

Date: Friday, February 8, 2019 Pesticide 8:00 to 11:00 AM; Fertilizer 11:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Location: Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH 44266

Private Applicator testing dates

Location: Portage County Extension Office, 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Dates: January 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19 and November 21, 2019

Time: Testing Begins at 10:00 a.m.

For registration information call Jeanie at (330) 296-6432 or email stenson.16@osu.edu

New! We have bat houses for sale!

Wait, bat *houses*? You mean I should *attract* bats to my yard? That's right! They play an important role in our local ecosystems, and bat populations are declining across the state. Installing a bat house is a great way to do our part to protect that natural resource. Plus, bats are great for pest control. It's been said that some species of bats can eat over 1,000 mosquitos in just 1 hour! The bat houses that we will have for sale are a triple chamber design and they will be constructed of cedar to help them withstand the elements. They will be available in April and you can place an order for them on the Tree Sale Order Form found in this issue. They will be \$50 each (a great deal!), but we will have a limited supply, so order soon!



Note: Images for example purposes. Actual house will be similar.

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
330-235-6815 fax: 330-296-5917
www.portageswcd.org

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