

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2018

Volume 72

### Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Workshops	2
2018 Envirothon	2
Sponsor Page	3
Poster Contest	4
Portage County Fair	4
Plant Sale Suggestions	4
Farm Science Trip	5
White Amur Fish Sale	5
Order Form	6

## Annual Election & Meeting!

Thursday, September 13, 2018

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 72nd 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 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 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Garden Meeting Room at 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH 44266; or**
- (2) at the SWCD office until 4:30 p.m. on **September 13, 2018; or**
- (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 13, 2018. Voting starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner provided by Ravenna's own Guido's Restaurant starting at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, please join us for a presentation.

**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, 2018. If you have any questions you can contact Marybeth at 330-235-6798 for more information.

### REMINDERS

#### August 21st-26th

Visit our booth at the Randolph Fair!

#### August 30th

Preparing Your Garden for Winter workshop  
(In the Garden Meeting Room from 6:30-8:00pm)

#### September 13th

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

#### September 19th

2018 Farm Science Review Bus Trip  
(A deal at only \$40!)

#### September 27th

White Amur Fish Sale  
(Pick Up 10:00 am sharp at the Randolph Fair grounds)

# 2018 Envirothon

The Portage and Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation Districts hosted the 2018 northeast Ohio high school Envirothon competition this year on April 26, 2018 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Middleburg Heights, OH.

The Envirothon competition is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. A competitive outdoor team event, Envirothon offers a unique and enjoyable learning experience and encourages cooperative decision-making and team building. The students are tested in five areas – Soils, Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife and a Current Environmental Issue (this years being Western Rangelands). This event presents a rare opportunity for students to compete “in the field” instead of “on the field.”

This year we had over 300 students, advisors and volunteers from northeast Ohio participate in the event. Portage County sent 9 teams to compete from 5 schools (Crestwood, Kent, Ravenna, Southeast, and Waterloo), the most teams to compete from one county in the Area 2 competition. We are proud to say for the second year in a row Crestwood placed 4th in the Area 2 Competition and their team, the Monkey Wrench Gang (students Sara Miller, Frank Fugman, Austin Shaffer, Lilly Bissell, Maddie Baker and advisor Andy Brown), went on to place 15th at the state competition.

We are also proud to say that this was a Zero-Waste Event. A zero-waste event or operation strives to reduce waste generated and capture as much as possible for composting and recycling in order to minimize the amount of waste discarded into landfills. In order for an event to be considered zero-waste it must divert at least 90% or more of its waste from the landfill, and we surpassed that goal! After feeding roughly 350 people and hosting a day-long event, we ended with one contractor bag 3/4 of the way full with trash that we sent to the landfill. 122 lbs of food and compostable service ware was diverted from the landfill and made into roughly .135 cubic yards of compost resulting in keeping the equivalent of 87.84 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering our atmosphere, and the rest was recycled. Most of our waste, however, was diverted during the planning process by sourcing products locally and responsibly keeping waste reduction in-mind every step of the way.

We had an outpouring of support through sponsorship between our two county's that went a long way to help support teams with awards, testing materials, food, and state competition travel expenses. Thank you to all who supported this event!

Below are our Platinum donors:

**Portage Stormwater District, Portage County Farm Bureau, Hiram College, Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Lake Erie College, & Dominion Energy**

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### Preparing Your Garden for Winter

**When:** Thursday, August 30th, 2018 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

**Where:** Portage SWCD Garden Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna Ohio 44266

**What:** Join Storm Water Educator and Master Gardener Volunteer, Lynn Vogel, for an informative talk about fall gardening strategies. Learn how to improve soil health and reduce weeds and pathogens. Topics covered will include: dormant season cover crops, conservation tillage, fall garden cleanup, and reaping the benefits of fallen leaves!

**Cost:** There is no cost to participate in this workshop, but due to the popularity of the topic, reservations are encouraged. Please contact Robin Christensen to register for this event at (330) 296-6432 or Christensen.227@osu.edu

### Portage County Bee Keepers Fall Field Day

**When:** Sunday, September 23rd, 2018 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Where:** Portage SWCD Garden Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna Ohio 44266

**What:** Fall hive inspection, pot luck, presentation

**Cost:** There is no cost to attend this event

For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/portagecountybeekeepers>

# **Newsletter Sponsors**

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

## 4th and 5th Grade Poster Contest Winners

Roughly 500 fourth and fifth grade students from three school districts in Portage County participated in the 2018 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 "*Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home*". 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.

### 4th Grade Winners

**First Place—James A. Garfield—Ben Lang**  
**Second Place—James A. Garfield—Holly Warren**  
**Third Place—James A. Garfield—Derik Stanley**  
**Fourth Place—James A. Garfield — Mandy Cardinal**

### 5th Grade Winners

**First Place—Waterloo—Allie Makin**  
**Second Place—James A. Garfield—Hannah Nering**  
**Third Place—Henry Defer—Victoria Blangero**

A Watershed is an area of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas and drains to a common place. Portage County is home to many watersheds, most of which drain either to the Cuyahoga River or the Mahoning River. We can all take actions to protect the water in our watersheds, to learn more please contact us.

### 2018 Portage County Fair

**When:** August 21st—August 26th

**Where:** 4215 Fairground Road, Randolph Ohio 44265

**What:** The Portage County Randolph Fair showcases agriculture, livestock, floriculture, fine arts, photography, clothing, woodwork, hand made jewelry, food, needle craft and more. Stop by to see us in the Ag. Building across from the 4H Dairy Bar! Our SWCD employees will be available to discuss our 2018 topic, Pollinators, and any other conservation topics of concern. 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 first come, first served basis while supplies last.

### **We Want Your Plant Suggestions For Our 2019 Tree Sale**

September is almost here and in our office that means it's time to select and order tree seedlings for our Spring 2019 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 2019 tree sale can be emailed to Lynn at [lvogel@portageswcd.org](mailto:lvogel@portageswcd.org). Based on availability, we will do our best to include as many patron suggestions as we can.

## Farm Science Review Bus Trip

Are you a farmer? Do you just want to learn more about agriculture and natural resource management? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow farmers and community members?

Join us on Portage County's annual bus trip to the OSU Farm Science Review! Farm Science Review attracts upwards of 140,000 visitors from the US and Canada who come to discover 4,000 product lines from 600 commercial exhibitors, to get the most up to date information on farm science and technology, to witness field demonstrations on combines, tillage, nutrient and lime applications, drainage installations, and more. The Gwynne Conservation Area, a 67-acre demonstration and education area for agriculture and natural resource management practices, is another great attraction. This site is home to a natural stream, wetland, ponds, windbreak plantings, crop tree plantings, wildlife food plots, soil pit, riparian forests, dry hydrant and more.

In an effort to best serve our community members, Portage SWCD has been providing community transportation to this event for over 30 years. This annual tradition includes your ticket, the commercial bus ride to and from the event, morning refreshments, and dinner at Der Dutchman Restaurant, all for the cost of \$40.00!!

**ALSO, for the first time this year we will be offering a group rate! For groups of 5 or more tickets the price will be reduced to \$35.00 each, so gather your family and friends and bring them to this great event! To qualify for this discount you must be registered by the closing of business on Friday, August 31st. There are only 56 seats available on the bus, so reserve your seat today!**

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 19th at 5:45 a.m.** at the Maplewood Career Center parking lot (like always!) and heading to the Farm Science Review.

**Please register by using the order form in this newsletter.**

**Bus departs at 6:00 a.m. from Maplewood Career Center & returns around 9:30 p.m.  
\$40.00 per person or \$35.00 per person in a group of 5 or more - A Great Deal!!**

**Deadline for ordering standard tickets is Monday, September 10, 2018.**

**Friday, August 31st to qualify for the group rate.**

To learn more about what awaits you at this year's event, please visit [www.fsr.osu.edu](http://www.fsr.osu.edu)



## 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 Friday, September 21, 2018.**

**Pick up: Thursday, September 27, 2018, 10:00 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 and take care not to puncture the bag (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 330-235-6798 with questions.**

# 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 =	_____
FSR Group Rate (5 or more)	_____ X \$35.00 each =	_____
White Amur Carp	_____ X \$13.00 each =	_____
Cover Crop Seeds	_____ 5lb X \$18.00 each =	_____
<b>TOTAL =</b>		_____

<b><u>Office Use Only</u></b>
Paid: Yes ___ No ___
Cash or Check # _____
SWCD Initials: _____
Receipt # _____

Detach & return with check payable to:

Portage SWCD at 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*

Non-Profit Organization Postage Paid Akron, OH 44309 Permit #351
--

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