

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2018

Volume 70

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### CELEBRATING TREES & BEES!!

We are planning a variety of programs this year with a special emphasis on trees and bees. Trees are an essential part of our everyday lives, providing food and shelter to many animals on the planet, including humans! Trees are also among our longest-living species on Earth and this longevity plays a crucial role in the stability of our shared natural resources such as clean air, clean water and healthy soil. We hope to give trees the credit they deserve for the good work they do!

While we are on the topic of natural resources that are essential to life as we know it, we should certainly include bees (and other pollinators)! It's possible some of your favorite foods require pollination services. Bees are a keystone species, which are species that have a critical role in maintaining the relationships of an ecosystem. Most of the trees that we depend on need pollinators to produce seed to continue the regeneration of our forests. The sad news is that pollinator populations are decreasing rapidly. The good news is that we can all help by reducing pesticides in the landscape (think of lawn care products that provide multiple functions such as weed, feed, grub control). Improving backyard habitat is the best way we can help wildlife, including pollinators. If we work together to learn how to provide proper habitat, we can change things for trees and bees! *A list of tree and bee programming can be found on page 2.*

#### Portage County's Annual Big Tree Contest Resumes in 2018!

It's been a long time since Portage County held a big tree contest. So it seems fitting that our celebration of trees would include a search for our champion trees!

Do you know of an exceptional tree on your property or in your neighborhood that you would like to nominate for this contest?

The contest procedures are based on requirements of the Ohio Division of Forestry, since local winners may be submitted to the Ohio Big Tree Program as a state champion. You may not have a state champion, but the tree could still be Portage County's champ.

The tree must be located in Portage County but does not have to be owned by the nominator. However, permission must be obtained from the landowner to participate and for district personnel to enter the property to verify the tree statistics. Qualified district personnel will measure all nominated trees to determine the county winner. All nominated trees will be entered into a new database that will be established to maintain a record of our large trees. The grand prize for the County's winning tree will be a \$25.00 coupon to be used for the Portage SWCDs' 2019 Tree Sale and a tree plaque with the tree stats and year.

Nominations will be accepted through the closing of business on July 17th, 2018. For nomination forms contact Taylor at [thillyer@portageswcd.org](mailto:thillyer@portageswcd.org) or call (330) 235-6811 or you can look us up on Facebook.

### 2018 Tree Sale

We are excited about some of the new plants available to our patrons in the 2018 Tree Sale! We are working with a new grower for some of the native plants we are offering and we have very limited quantities of the following: Trailing Strawberry, Witherod Viburnum (native viburnum that is least susceptible to viburnum leaf beetle), Winterberry 3 pack(1 red, 1 yellow, 1 pollinator), and Summersweet 'Hummingbird'. If you have interest in any of those plants, you will want to order early!! Please also note that we have very-limited packets available for the ONGA featured nut, which is Heartnut.

### REMINDERS

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

**April 6th**  
Tree Order Deadline

**April 18-20**  
TREE PICK UP  
9:00am-6:00pm  
SWCD Office

**April 20**  
Fish Sale Order  
Deadline

**April 24**  
Fish Pick Up  
10:30am  
Randolph Fairgrounds

## Beekeeping Classes

**Beginner Beekeeping Classes: The Portage County Beekeepers Association** — Classes will be held in the Portage Soil & Water Conservation District meeting room on Thursdays Feb. 8th, 15th, and 22nd 6:30—9:00pm. Training will include bee biology, beekeeping laws, overview of beekeeping equipment, hive location and maintenance, pests and diseases and it will include 1-year memberships to both the Ohio State and Portage County Beekeepers Associations. Included in the \$60 registration fee is a beginner beekeeping reference book and various discounts for equipment, software and resources. 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](http://www.portagecountybeekeepers.com) or call 330.338.6140**

## Upcoming Workshops

We will be offering a series of workshops in 2018 titled “**Exploring Forests**”. The first of the series will be held March 19th and details can be found below. The SWCD sponsored workshops will be held in the field at various locations within Portage County. Registration for these workshops will be kept to a maximum of 25 participants, so register early. OSU Extension and the Portage County Master Gardeners are also planning some forest-related programs and we will include updates on these workshops as details develop. You may also visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/portageswcd/>

**Growing Heartnuts:** Saturday, February 24th at 12:00 Noon at the Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH The 2018 ONGA featured seedling available through the Portage SWCD Tree sale is **heartnut**. Please join Ohio Nut Growers members Joe & Donna Cullman from Cullman’s Tree Farm in Marysville, OH to learn about growing these heart-shaped members of the walnut family. Cullman Tree Farms has a long history of growing a variety of nuts. This will be a wonderful opportunity to bring your nut growing questions to ONGA members.

### **Exploring Forests Session 1**

**Where:** Tree Farm located in Hiram. Registrants will receive location map and directions prior to event

**When:** Monday, March 19th at 1:00PM (a "rain" date is planned for Thursday, March 22nd in case of inclement weather. Registrants will be notified by email or text if the event is postponed due to weather).

**Who:** Landowners that want to learn how to assess and improve the condition of their woodlot

Observing a woodlot during the dormant season often provides a unique perspective that is helpful in planning maintenance or timber management strategies. *Mark Wilthew, consulting forester with Providence Forestry, LLC*, will be spending the afternoon helping participants learn some key elements of managing a woodlot for these and other landowner goals. Mark will provide an introduction to some of the techniques used in locating permanent stable woodland trails that are suitable for long term use. Actual permanent trail examples will be viewed and discussed. Learning to identify the trees in a woodlot is a key step in any management plan, so a good portion of our time will be spent learning the basics of winter tree I.D. Using key features like branching pattern, participants will learn how to divide eastern hardwoods into common core groups; additional identification techniques including use of key features like twigs, buds and available fruits will be demonstrated to further separate these groups into species. Mark's career as a service forester for ODNR Division of Forestry has provided him with decades of experience working with landowners. You don't want to miss this opportunity to spend the afternoon in the woods with a seasoned forester! Bring your questions and dress for the weather. Wear rugged, waterproof footwear, you will be walking in the woods on uneven terrain.

**Shitake Mushroom Workshop** March 21st 6:00 to 7:30 PM Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna 44266

Join **OSU Extension** for this informative hands-on workshop to learn how to grow shitake mushrooms at home. Each registrant will make and take home their own mushroom log. *For registration information contact Jeanie @ (330)296-6432.*

**Pollinator Workshop:** Saturday March 31st 9:30 am to noon, Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna 44266

Spring is a very busy time for beekeepers and pollinator specialists. OSU Extension, Portage County Beekeepers, Portage County Master Gardeners, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History are teaming up with the Portage SWCD to provide an opportunity for workshop participants to hear from field professionals to learn more about the importance of bees and some of the challenges pollinators are currently facing. Please join us to learn more about some of the pollinator work that keeps our field experts so busy this time of year! Our presenters for the morning will be:

*Geoff Westerfield, President, PC Beekeepers Association & Denise Ellsworth, OSU Department of Entomology, Wooster*

After hearing from the early speakers, we hope you will feel inspired to do something for bees as well. So we have invited Judy Semroc of the *Cleveland Museum of Natural History* to teach us about the importance of good habitat for pollinators. We are currently seeking grant funds to provide participants plant packages to assist them in improving their backyard pollinator habitat. Please register early so we can reserve your plant packages if we are awarded the grant!

**To register for any of the above workshops, contact Taylor at [thillyer@portageswcd.org](mailto:thillyer@portageswcd.org) or call (330) 235-6811**

# USDA-NRCS

## *Total Conservation Planning and Resource Management on Your Farm*

*Dee Waters, Resource Conservationist USDA-NRCS*

Resource management comes in many forms and has many functions. If you are participating in any of the USDA programs, chances are that you are required to have a Conservation Plan or a Resource Management Plan written by NRCS. Conservation Plans are like a jigsaw puzzle, each piece fits together with the others to complete an entire picture.

When designing a conservation plan, you need to consider all the resources on your farm. Take an inventory of all your fields, pastures, ponds, buildings, drainage systems, wooded areas, and so on. Then decide which water quality, soil conservation, wildlife habitat, forest improving programs or systems contribute to what you want to achieve as a goal for the entire farm. Some programs that contribute to your whole farm goal can take little or no financial investment from you to help improve some of the biggest concerns. An example is pest and nutrient management. It does not take a lot of money to implement, but it does require some thought and planning as to how you will apply herbicides, pesticides, and manure. A well designed system can save you thousands of dollars in expenses, and improve water quality. A manure storage system along with a comprehensive manure management plan can save you thousands of dollars in fertilizer costs, and will protect the surrounding areas from pollution and over application. These types of practices can sometimes be cost shared by USDA-NRCS with their Farm Bill programs. We can help you design and write your conservation plan. Call our office for further details or for a free brochure describing some of the conservation choices and programs that are available to you. Dee Waters (330)235-6809 or Kara MacDowell at (330)235-6808

## ENVIROTHON: The High School Environmental Marathon Contest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UScAswsQSo>

The 2018 Area 2 Envirothon will be **co-hosted by the Portage and Cuyahoga County Soil & Water Conservation Districts**. The event will be held April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Berea Fair Grounds.

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 years current environmental issue is *Western Rangelands*. 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.

There are many expenses associated with hosting this event. Generally, there are more than 250 students, coaches and volunteers from northeast Ohio schools who participate in the Area 2 Envirothon. ***We are seeking financial support*** from area businesses, agencies and individuals to help us with this event. ***Your donation, no matter the size, will go a long way to help support teams with awards, testing materials, food, and state competition travel expenses.*** The top four teams from this event will represent northeast Ohio at the Ohio Envirothon in June 2018.

If you would like to help us promote environmental education for Portage high school students, please consider making a donation by submitting the following information along with your tax deductible contribution.

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH 44266 c/o Lynn Vogel

**Questions?** Please contact Lynn Vogel at (330)235-6806 or [lvogel@portageswcd.org](mailto: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



# 2018 TREE ORDER FORM

*Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 6, 2018*

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 heartnuts

<b>**Office Use Only**</b>	
Check # _____	M.O# _____
Cash _____	Certificate _____
SWCD Employee Initials _____	
Date _____	Receipt # _____

## Tree Pick-Up

**April 18th-20th 2018 (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 18-20; 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](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**

Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
<b>Features</b>						
Blueberries 'Blue Ray', 'Blue Crop', 'Sweetheart'	BCEFNW	1-0	6-12"	3 for \$18		
Elderberries <i>Sambucus</i> (3 pk 1-Adams, 2-John's)	BCEFNW	1-0	3.25" pot	3 for \$20		
Red Raspberries 'Caroline'	BEF	1-0	3.25" pot	5 for \$17		
Summersweet 'Hummingbird' <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	BCFN	1-0	4" pot	1 for \$9		
Trailing Strawberry <i>Euonymus obovatus</i>	BCN	1-0	#1.5 pot	1 for \$15		
Witherod Viburnum <i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	BCFN	1-0	#1.5 pot	1 for \$17		
Winterberry 3 pk (1 red, 1 gold, 1 pollinator)	BCNW	1-0	#1 pots	3 for \$38		
Yellow Buckeye <i>Aesculus flava</i>	BFN	1-0	6"-12"	3 for \$11		
<b>Evergreens</b>						
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	GN	2-1 TR	8-16"	5 for \$9		
Canaan Fir <i>Abies balsamea</i> var. <i>phanerolepis</i>	G	P+2	10-14"	5 for \$12		
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	GNW	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$9		
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	3-0	8-12"	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	7 - 14"	5 for \$12		
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	2-1	8-14"	10 for \$11		
<b>Deciduous</b>						
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	CNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
Chinkapin Oak <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	BN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Northern Catalpa <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$8		
Shagbark Hickory <i>Carya ovata</i>	BEN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Silky Willow <i>Salix sericea</i>	BNW	RC	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	BNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
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		
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	BCFN	1-0	15-30"	5 for \$9		
Yellow Birch <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
<b>Shrubs</b>						
American Hazelnut <i>Corylus americana</i>	BCENW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Black Chokeberry <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	BCEFNW	3-0	20-30"	5 for \$9		
Northern Bayberry <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Silky Dogwood <i>Cornus amomum</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos alba</i>	BCEN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$12		
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
<b>Flowering &amp; Fruiting Trees</b>						
Allegheny Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	BCEFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
American Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	BEFN	1-0	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus americana</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Pawpaw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BCEFNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$12		
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Red Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>	BCEFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
White Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
<b>Other Items</b>						
Heartnuts (Ohio Nut Growers Membership 1-year)	BE	1-0	6 - 12"	2 for \$25		
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 G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet soils					<b>Total</b>	

# Spring Fish Sale

## 2018 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 24, 2018

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

**Place:** Randolph Fairgrounds

Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to **April 20, 2018**.

\* 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 20, 2018.**

### SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Pick up is on Tuesday, April 24th 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 20, 2018**

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

# OSU Extension Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Certification

## Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Certification Portage County

**Date:** Friday, February 9, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 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 10, March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12 and November 14, 2018

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

For registration information call Jeanie at 330-296-6432 or email [stenson.16@osu.edu](mailto: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. Its 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.

Heartnuts are the 2018 ONGA seedling!



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

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