

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2021

Thank You Kenny!

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As with most things in 2020, COVID-19 has changed the way our annual supervisor election was held. Traditionally we host an annual banquet and take that opportunity to acknowledge our dedicated board members. Our volunteer supervisors devote their time each month to attend business meetings and provide guidance for conservation efforts in Portage County. Sadly, we missed the opportunity to publicly acknowledge our exiting board member, Kenny Rufener. Kenny served the Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District faithfully for fifteen years. During his tenure, he readily accepted any duty or official post that was needed. As a fifth-generation farmer, Kenny understands the challenges in and benefits of conserving and preserving farmland and provided our board with valuable insights. Kenny consistently advocated for programs that supported community education and his delightful wit will be greatly missed! Thank you, Kenny, for all you have given over the years!

Welcome New Board Members

On October 8th an election was held for two supervisory positions for the Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. As a result of COVID-19 we had a record number of absentee ballots cast for the two positions for which terms will begin January 1, 2021. Please join us in welcoming our new board members Beth and Sarah. Below is a brief bio of our new supervisors:

Beth (Wallbrown) Padisak was re-elected to this position and we are very pleased to have the privilege of working again with Beth. Beth grew up in Deerfield and currently lives in Deerfield with her husband, Bill and son, Alex. Beth is co-owner and manages Deerfield Ag Services, along with her brothers. Beth is a graduate of both Hiram College and Kent State University. Beth has served on the Ohio Agribusiness Association Board and currently serves as Fiscal Agent on the Portage SWCD Board of Supervisors. Beth also volunteers and serves on the Board for Mina's Foster Closet, a non-profit that provides clothing, toys and supplies to foster families. Beth enjoys gardening, taking long walks with her dogs and horseback riding. Beth, Bill and Alex attend Old North Church in Canfield, Ohio.

Sarah Eichler: I had the good fortune to grow up on a farm in Randolph and curiosity about the stream and land there led me to study water resources at Kent State and University of Notre Dame. I worked with landowners on streams and wetlands in Alabama, and conservation farming practices in Tennessee where I later earned a doctorate in Energy Sci & Engineering with a focus on Environmental Sci. I continued work on farming efforts to improve soil at Penn State. Now I teach biology, horticulture, and pest management at Kent State Salem and do research locally to highlight regenerative practices at the cross-roads of food production, energy, and climate science - such as using cover crops for soil and water conservation. I'm working to make sure farmers and land managers have tools to ensure long-term community and environmental sustainability, and systems to further reward farm stewardship. I'm looking forward to the joys and challenges as a 5th generation farming family.

A special thanks to Mike Rufener for his willingness to serve on our Board of Supervisors and to run for this position.

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

April 9th
Tree Order Deadline

April 22nd & 23rd
TREE PICK UP
9:00am-6:00pm
SWCD Office

April 16th
Fish Sale Order
Deadline

April 21st
Fish Pick Up
10:30am
Randolph Fairgrounds

2020: A Year of Sad Farewells and Warm Welcomes

2020 has been a year of challenging changes at Portage SWCD. January began with a sad farewell to Taylor Talley when she resigned her position to pursue a different career path. With a youthful spirit and open mind, Taylor brought many positive changes to our office. Visitors to our website can still appreciate her hard work with the ease and function she created when she designed our website. We hated to see her go, but knowing Taylor was following her passion and that we would still see her often made it easier to accept.

However, some losses are not as easy to accept. We continue to struggle with the sad goodbye to our beloved office administrator, Marybeth Willett who unexpectedly passed away in June. Each week that passes reveals another task or duty that Marybeth magically managed. She took very good care of her co-workers. Marybeth was a loyal friend to each of us and her absence is ever-present as we limp along without her.

In November we also suffered the loss of a dear friend, conservation partner, and relentless prankster, Larry Hurd. For over two decades Larry hosted the Portage SWCD Tree Sale Packing at his home. His generosity allowed several dozen folks (multi-county staff and volunteers) to invade his home and property to bag and tag the tree packets we sell each spring. We took over his barns and equipment, garage, rec room and kitchen while also expecting him to work alongside us! Larry made us feel welcome and comfortable and our work was made lighter by his congenial (and conspiratorial) nature.

We recently received a Western Reserve Land Conservancy/Dominion Watershed Grant to restore the riparian area behind our office. This restoration will include a tribute to Marybeth in a small woodlot we now refer to as Willett Grove. We will commemorate our gratitude to Larry with this project as well. He was a tremendous woodworker and we are trying to determine what tree species we could add to our restoration project that would make a fitting tribute to him.

Welcome New Employee Anthony Lerch

Welcome new hire Anthony Lerch. Anthony came from Stark SWCD as a district technician to portage SWCD at the beginning of September, he will be assisting the stormwater team with urban and agricultural needs. Anthony has experience working with a variety of different projects, from construction sites to waterways. He brings a new way of looking at things and will make a good addition to our excellent staff that we currently have. Anthony looks forward to working with our staff to develop a good working relationship as well as working with community members to resolve any issues that may arise.

Winter Conservation

Road salt is the cheapest and most effective means of clearing snow and ice from the roads, and millions of tons of salt are used in the United States each winter. But before throwing a bunch of salt on your driveway and sidewalks, it's a good idea to understand how it works and how it may affect the environment. First, the salt we use to treat icy surfaces is similar to the salt we use on our food, although it is not as pure and contains minerals and other contaminants not safe for consumption. Basically, salt, or sodium chloride, lowers the freezing point of water. On its own, water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. When salt is applied, it lowers that freezing point to about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. That is why salt isn't particularly effective in the snows we have at the end of January through February; it is usually too cold for it to work. Using more salt will not yield better results. If you see salt left on the ground after the snow and ice clears, you are using too much. Sweep up the excess salt and throw it away rather than allowing it to run off.

Here are some more tips that can help you reduce the amount of salt you release into the environment:

- Shovel first. Clear snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice.
- Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps. Clumped salt is wasted salt.
- Untreated salt stops working if the temperature is below 15 degrees. When temperatures drop that low, switch to sand for traction or choose a different deicer formulated for colder temperatures.

Upcoming Virtual Education Programs

Woodland Wednesdays returns with Wicked Weeds!

Invasive species impact all of us and there's no better time than the new year to commit to make a positive change. Join us for this online presentation to learn about problematic invasive plants and techniques on how to remove them. Gain new skills, helpful resources, and a renewed desire to tackle invasive species on your own property! Don't miss this special "winter woody edition" of Wicked Weeds. Featured speakers include Natalie Gertz-Young, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and Joel Firem of Firem Forestry Consulting. Collaborators include Natural Resources Conservation Service, Geauga, Lake, Ashtabula, Portage, and Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Division of Forestry, Farm Bureau, and Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Wednesday, January 13th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

This online class is free, but registration is required by January 12th.

To register visit woodlandwednesdaysjanuary2021.eventbrite.com

For more information contact Geauga SWCD at gprunty@geaugaswcd.com or 440-834-1122.

Woodland Management Tips That Pay

Woodland owners and CAUV/OFTL participants are encouraged to participate in this virtual presentation to learn about resources and recommendations to help you better manage your woodlot to achieve the goals you have for your property. This program will also help you understand the benefits of participating in the Portage CAUV tax reduction program.

Join John Kehn, ODNR Division of Forestry and Dave Apsley, OSU-Extension Natural Resource Specialist to learn about some key economic and environmental benefits that forests provide.

Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 PM

To register e-mail: alerch@portageswcd.org or call Lynn at (330)235-6806.

Hosted by: Portage County Farm Bureau and the Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Curbing the Consequences: How Trees are Taking Root for Stormwater and Climate Change

Many areas of the U.S. are experiencing an increase in the frequency of intense storms, heavy precipitation events, and associated flooding. Join us to examine the vital role trees can play in curbing the negative consequences of a changing climate. While all trees "feel the heat," some are experiencing increased stress and mortality in certain areas, yet increased growth in others. Join us for this informative online presentation to learn more about the challenges facing our future forests and some simple strategies you can use to take root for storm water!

Our presenter for the evening is Dan Herms, VP of Research & Development, Davey Tree Expert Company

Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 PM

To register e-mail: lvogel@portageswcd.org

Hosted by: NEOPIPE with funding from Western Reserve Land Conservancy/Dominion

Conservation Incentives Program

Would you like to receive free native plants? In response to COVID-related cancellations of in-person education programs, Portage SWCD is providing free native plants for a variety of self-directed conservation practices. We will continue the program as long as plants are available. Some plant-earning practices are as simple as requesting a copy of the 'Green Yards, Healthy Homes' publication and are found under Super Simple Starters on our website. These practices will earn one free native plant per completed activity. If you want to double down on free plants, then you can also participate in our 'Double-Down Duos', where each activity earns two plants! Our final tier is titled, Triple Threats and you have probably guessed it! Triple Threat activities will provide up to three plants per completed activity. For more details visit our website at www.portageswcd.org. A list of available plants can be found on each of the activity pages. Plants can be reserved now for spring.

Newsletter Sponsors

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



Any of combination of this clip art will work



2021 TREE ORDER FORM:

***Preorder Deadline is:
Friday, April 9, 2021***

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 wish to be added to our mailing list or an update to our mailing list is needed.

___ Check here if you are ordering HAZELNUTS

Drive-Through Tree Pick-Up

**Thursday, April 22nd & Friday, April 23rd, 2021 9:00am – 6:00pm
Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266**

Ordering Information:

Please note that due to COVID, we will be offering a drive-through pickup only in 2021. We will not have our annual sidewalk sales. All plants will be sold during our pre-sale ordering from January 1, 2021 through April 9, 2021. Packets will be reserved on a first come, first served basis so we recommend that you

ORDER EARLY!!

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 22nd & 23rd; 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.

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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 plant descriptions can be found on our web site www.portageswcd.org

Mail order form & payment to:

Portage SWCD, 6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-235-6815

Portage SWCD 2021 Plant Sale Changes

In preparation for a drive-through pick-up due to continued COVID-19 safety precautions, we have reduced the number of species we are offering in our 2021 Portage SWCD Plant Sale. Additionally, since we cannot safely offer the sidewalk sale, all plant sales must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by the Friday, April 9th deadline. Considering these reductions, we encourage you to order early.

We are continuing our collaboration with the Ohio Nut Growers Association to expand nut growing and promote membership. Our 2021 crop grade nut selection will be hazelnuts from John Kelsey's hazelnut trial orchard in West Virginia. The mother plant for these seedlings is 'Sacajawea', a cultivar that has excellent resistance to Eastern Filbert Blight. Each packet will include two potted seedlings from John's orchard and two bareroot American Hazelnut *Corylus americana* seedlings for pollination. A one-year membership to ONGA is included with the purchase.

2021 Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Features						
Blueberries - 'Duke', 'Blue Ray', 'Elizabeth'	BCEFW	1-0	1 liter pot	3 for \$18		
Evergreens						
Arborvitae (White Cedar) <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	BEN	2-2	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	GN	2-1	7-12"	5 for \$11		
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	G	2-0	10-15"	5 for \$7		
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	2-1	8-12"	5 for \$8		
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	2-0	10-18"	5 for \$7		
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	2-0	10-18"	5 for \$7		
Deciduous						
American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i>	BCNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$10		
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	CW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	BNW	1-0, RC	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	BFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	BCNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Scarlet Oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	2-0	18-24"	5 for \$10		
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	BCNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Shrubs						
Blackhaw Viburnum <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	BCFN	1-0	3-6"	5 for \$11		
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	BCFNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$10		
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
Allegheny Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	BCEFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$12		
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$10		
Pawpaw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BCEFNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$13		
White Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$10		
Other Items						
John Kelsey Hazelnut (ONGA 1-yr membership)	BE	1-0	2 potted 24" 2 bareroot 24"	4 for \$25		
Bat House (all-cedar exterior with plywood baffles)				1 for \$50		
Bluebird Houses (New Style: Peterson, all-cedar)				1 for \$20		
B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering/fruiting G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet					TOTAL	

Spring Fish Sale

2021 Spring Fish Sale

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

Call 330.235.6806 if you have any questions

Date: Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

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

Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

* Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to **April 16th, 2021**

* 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 16, 2021

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Pick up is on Wednesday, April 21st 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 16, 2021

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each X _____ = \$ _____

Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$1.00 each X _____ = \$ _____

Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.90 each X _____ = \$ _____

Yellow Perch (2-4") @ \$0.95 each X _____ = \$ _____

Channel Catfish (4-5") @ \$0.80 each X _____ = \$ _____

Shellcrackers (2-4") @ \$0.90 each X _____ = \$ _____

Hybrid Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.90 X _____ = \$ _____

Coy (6-8") @ \$12.00 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 _____

Pesticide Applicator's Recertification 2021 Update

2021 - All Recertification is Online
Two Ways to Recertify!

Live Commercial Recertification Online Webinars

- Five webinars
- 5-7 commercial categories offered each date

Self-Paced Online Recertification

- All commercial categories are offered
- Offered by the credit hour

For more information or to register visit:

<https://pested.osu.edu/recert2021>

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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