CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2020		March Events
Inside This Issue:		Resolve to Reduce Session 3: Reduce your INPUTS. Thursday, March 12 th , 2020 at 6:00 PM. Are you looking for ways to reduce the amount of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides that you are currently using in your lawn and garden? Please join our new OSU-Extension Educator, Angie
Conservationist of the Year	2	Arnold and the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers to learn about IPM (Integrated Pest Management) strategies for reducing your lawn and garden chemicals.
Farewell	3	Location: Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 OH-88, Ravenna To register: email Lynn <u>lvogel@portageswcd.org</u> or call (330)235-6815
Sponsor Page	4	Forestry 101 for Landowners: Wednesday, March 18th 6:00 to 7:30 PM
	5&6	Have you ever thought about managing your woodlands but don't know where to start? Come learn the foundations of forest management from State Service Foresters! We will discuss how trees grow, the benefits of different species, and how to improve the overall health of your
Fish Order Form	7	woodlot. This interactive program will help you identify and define your long-term forestry and wildlife management goals and objectives. Join us to take this first and most important step in
Pesticide Applicator's Recertification	8	your forest management journey. Location: Portage SWCD Meeting Room, 6970 OH-88, Ravenna, OH To register: Or for information on upcoming Woodland Wednesday Workshops, call (440)426-4195 or visit woodlandwednesdaysmarch.eventbrite.com
<u>REMINDER</u>		Spring Conservation Tips Slow down, spread out, soak in – These are the driving principles for reducing your storm water runoff! Late winter/early spring is a wonderful time to plan changes to your landscape. Reduc-
Visit the SWCD online at		ing your lawn by increasing native plantings, creating a rain garden and installing rain barrels are all practices that will 'retain the rain' a little longer on your property.
www.portageswcc	l.org	Spring cleaning – Before you start your spring cleaning, both indoors and out, reconsider the products you typically use. There are many Earth-friendly cleaners available at retail centers that still
April 3rd Tree Order Deadl	line	perform very well. There are also many on-line guides for making your own cleaning products using household items such as baking soda and vinegar. Plant a tree – Trees add natural beauty to your landscape while also providing many environmen-
April 15—17 TREE PICK UP		tal and economic benefits. Trees clean our air, reduce stormwater runoff, and moderate temper- ature while also increasing your property value! Trees play an important role in nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration. Native Ohio trees provide wildlife habitat, are well adapted to our cli- mate and soils, and are available in a wide range of ornamental features. On second thought, plant MANY trees! Choosing the right tree for your site is the first step to a long-lasting healthy
9:00am-6:00pn SWCD Office	ſ	tree. Feel free to contact our office for assistance with plant selections. See our native tree and shrub selections on page 6. Pick up after pets! In addition to containing phosphorus, pet waste contains bacteria. Bacteria
April 17 Fish Sale Order Deadline		from animal waste is a growing water quality concern, and pet waste is a large contributor. Col- lect pet waste in plastic bags and place it in the trash. Rain will break pet feces apart into small- er size, but pet waste does not just disappear. When left on the lawn, pet waste will make its way into local streams and possibly sources of drinking water. Mulch grass clippings - Avoid raking by using mulching blades on your mower and the grass clip- pings will be small enough to leave on the grass where they will add nutrients back to your lawn. The tiny grass clippings will settle to the soil where they will also help prevent the sunlight re-
April 21, 2020 Fish Pick Up 10:30am		quired for germination of many turf weeds. The nitrogen retained by mulching your grass while you mow is a valuable natural fertilizer. Mulched grass also adds organic matter to your soil food web which increases the biological diversity and health of your soil.

Everything we do on our lawns, driveways and yards eventually ends up in our rivers, lakes and wetlands. Everyday decisions do matter.

Randolph Fairgrounds

2020 Conservationist of the Year

Our Conservationist of the Year for 2020 is Larry Hurd. For two decades Larry has opened his home to Portage SWCD staff and volunteers to pack the trees for our spring sale. This is a messy, goopy job that I cannot imagine anyone else welcoming into their home! Larry's graciousness and wicked sense of humor has made this task a fun occasion that volunteers are eager to do again. We have tracked mud throughout his house, made a major mess of his kitchen, kicked him out of his garage, fed too many treats to his wonderful dogs and left ruts in his yard! When most folks would have kicked us out for good, Larry instead welcomed us back year after year reminding us that it was one way he could help promote conservation. We are grateful for Larry's generosity and friendship. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our conservation award winners will be honored at our Annual Election and Banquet on Thursday, September 10th. Plans are still underway for this event but details will be included in our Summer Newsletter.

2020 Portage County Master Gardener Programs

The Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers provide many valuable services to the Portage community. In addition to the youth, senior and community projects, they provide excellent educational programs that are open to the public and generally free of charge. They also offer a tremendous annual plant and 'trash and treasure sale' which includes hardy perennials, hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs, shrubs and trees. The Trash and Treasure sale always includes quality finds at bargain prices! This fundraising event also provides an excellent opportunity for patrons to consult with experienced gardeners about their intended purchases. Please support the PCMGV Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9th 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The 2020 lineup of presentations includes the following:

- Straw Bale Gardening (Beth Staas): Monday, March 16th 6-8PM @ 705 Oakwood, Ravenna
- Climate Change (Aaron Wilson, OSU): Thursday, May 21st 6-8PM @ 707 Oakwood, Ravenna
- Care & ID of Hostas (Donna McMillen): Saturday, May 23rd 9:30AM to noon @ Portage SWCD, 6970 OH-88, Ravenna
- Fabulous Flyers (Judy Semroc, CMNH): Saturday, September 19th 9:30 to noon @ Portage SWCD
- Don't Be Spooked! Bats & Spiders (Jamey Emmert, ODNR Wildlife): Thursday, October 20th 6-8PM @ Portage SWCD

To register for any of the above events: email Kim Palmer at palmer.915@osu.edu or call OSU Extension at (330)296-6432

Featured Plants

Franklin Tree, Franklinia alatamaha, is a beautiful tree with an historical provenance. Named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, this tree typically grows slowly to a height of less than 20 feet. The late-summer Camellia-like white flowers are showy and fragrant. This species hosts glossy dark green leaves (to 5" long) which turn quality shades of orange, red and purple in autumn. In 1765, John Bartram was appointed Roval Botanist for North America by King George III. In that same year, John Bartram and his son William discovered Franklinia growing in a 2-3 acre tract along the banks of the Altamaha River in southeastern Georgia. Seed was collected from this site in 1773 by William Bartram and brought back to his Philadelphia garden where the tree was successfully grown. Sadly, this tree has been extinct in the wild since 1803. It has been perpetuated in cultivation (all plants derive from the seed collected by Bartram) not only because of its rarity and its historical relevance but also because of its dramatic beauty. It is not known why this tree disappeared in the wild. Land along the Altamaha River was cleared for cotton plantations leading to one theory that a cotton pathogen found in the soil (carried downstream through erosion) was the main cause of the extinction of the colony. Other extinction theories include decline from climate change, destruction by man, single colony of plants was not genetically diverse enough to withstand pathogens or changing conditions, or a local disaster (flood or fire). Franklin Tree is difficult to find in production and Brotzman's Nursery has propagated these trees especially for this sale and it will not be a regular feature in our rotation, so GET IT WHILE YOU CAN!!!! Allegheny Chinquapin, Castanea pumila is a wonderful wildlife plant providing fast mast and shelter. In the chestnut family, the nuts are palatable for humans as well. This fast growing shrub can form dense thickets or can be pruned to maintain as a single trunk tree growing to approx. 20 ft in height. Nannyberry Viburnum, Viburnum lentago is a versatile shrub that provides year round interest, from the showy white flower in May, to its burgundy color in autumn and dark blue berries in winter. The ripe berries are edible straight off the bush and are popular in jams and jellies. Adaptable to a wide range of sites, Viburnum lentago is found natively in low woods or near stream banks, but also tolerates drier sites. Very shade tolerant in nature, it grows larger in more open sunny areas. Large, upright, and suckering, Nannyberry spreads by roots to form colonies and makes an excellent privacy or hedgerow, or it can be maintained as a small tree by pruning stems and removing suckers at the base. It doesn't matter if you call it Black Gum, Pepperidge, Sour Gum, Black Tupelo or Tupelo, Nyssa sylvatica is a beautiful native Ohio tree that provides many environmental benefits! You cannot top the ornamental value of Nyssa sylvatica when its glossy dark green leaves change to a brilliant shade of red in the fall. Many wildlife species are attracted to the late-summer dark blue drupe produced by female plants. Black Gum will establish in a variety of soil types and is an excellent species in sites with high erosive potential. Tupelo honey is prized by beekeepers and the flowers of Tupelo also provide excellent forage for Ohio's native bees as well. American Basswood also referred to as Linden Trees by beekeepers provides high quality forage for honeybees and native bees. American Basswood is a difficult tree to find in nursery production and we have not been able to procure this tree for several years-so this is another species in which you should 'get it while you can!' Other hard-working trees for bees are American Plum, Black Willow & Downy Serviceberry. Our trees for buffers and wet sites include Silky Dogwood, Swamp White Oak, Washington Hawthorn and Winterberry. We are certain our plant sale has something you need!

Farewell to George

Portage County bluebirds have lost one of their greatest advocates. George Newberger, 96, of Shalersville, passed away on December 17th. George's career and his personal pastimes were deeply connected to the natural world. George was a professional conservationist with 31 years of service with the USDA. By way of avocation, George was a nature photographer, astronomer, traveler and wood worker well into his 90's. As an avid member of the Ohio Bluebird Society, George built and maintained bluebird nesting boxes throughout northern Portage County to help re-establish them in our area. At 94 years of age, George excitedly worked with the instructors and students at Maplewood Career Center to modify the popular Peterson Bluebird Nest Box and to build a prototype that students would use to build over 200 boxes! George's design makes it a little more challenging for raccoons and other predators to reach nestlings. The bluebird boxes sold at Portage SWCD are still made by Maplewood Career Center students using George's design! Our office also consulted with George many times about plant selections to include in our tree sale that would improve habitat for bluebirds as well as many of the other creatures that he cared about. George was a delightful man to partner with and he will be greatly missed for his infectious smile and friendly nature. Thank you George for your many contributions to our community.

6th Annual Edith Chase Symposium Celebrating Pollinators

The 2020 Edith Chase Symposium will focus on the importance of native pollinators and the native plants that support them. Denise Ellsworth, Program Director of OSU-E's Pollinator Education Program at OARDC will be the keynote speaker for the June 5th presentation. This event is still in the planning but will include a pollinator walk and a pollination celebration with selected poetry readings at the Wick Poetry Center of Kent State University. Please visit the Edith Chase Symposium website at http://www.edithchasesymposium.org/ for updates as they become available.

<u>Pollinators</u> - Providing high quality pollinator habitat is critical for protecting the honeybees and native bees that provide the pollination services that is required for many of the foods we love. Most of the education campaigns relating to pollinator habitat focus on herbaceous flowering native plants. However, a new focus is being directed to the benefits to bees provided by our flowering native trees. Native Ohio trees and shrubs begin flowering in very early spring and continue through early summer—a time when our native forbs are not flowering. Adding native trees to your landscape is a great way to provide early nectar and pollen for these hard working heroes! Bees love Maples, Hawthorns, Serviceberries, American Plum, Redbud, Crabapples, Viburnums, American Basswood, Tupelo & Black Willow, just to name a few!

Boxes for Bats & Bluebirds

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!) until <u>April 3rd</u>, but the increased price of cedar is likely to push the cost of these boxes up, so order soon!

Our bluebird nest boxes are modified from the design shown to the right (Peterson Box) to increase the interior space of the box slightly. They are made of cedar which typically holds up longer than other materials. The boxes are available for immediate purchase at our office. *Optimal time to place boxes in our area is mid to late March*. Boxes are \$18 through April 3rd, 2020. The demand for lumber is driving timber prices higher and we are expecting a significant increase in cost for the cedar that we are currently seeking to purchase. Increased pricing for cedar will require us to charge more for the boxes we are preparing to have Maplewood students build.



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

Newsletter Sponsors

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





Any of combination of this clip art will work









2020 TREE ORDER FORM

	Preorder Deadline is Friday,	
Name		_
Address		
City	State Zip	<u>**Office Use Only**</u> Check # M.O#
Email Address		Cash Certificate
		SWCD Employee Initials
		Date Receipt #
Cell Phone		
Check here <u>only</u> i	if you are a new customer <u>or</u> an update to our	mailing list.
Check here if y	ou are ordering <u>CHESTNUTS</u>	
	<u>Tree Pick-U</u>	
	age SWCD, 6970 State Route <u>Ordering Inform</u> Packets are reserved on a first come, first se We order from nurseries in the fall, so we may Please enclose completed order form and check m ~ Please mark pick-up dates on your calendar. Re	nation: erved basis - ORDER EARLY!! y "sell out" of popular species. nade payable to <i>Portage SWCD</i> .
	~ Orders must be picked up April 15—17; otherwise	
	~	-
	Please note the number of trees per packet ~	t - packets cannot be split.
Plants are bare-	-rooted and packed in a moisturizing gel. They sho ~	ould be planted as soon as possible after pick-up
Due to	varied weather and digging conditions, we cannot	guarantee availability of all listed plants
,	~ A copy of our tree descriptions can be found on ou	ur web site <u>www.portageswcd.org</u>
	Mail order form & po Portage SWCD, 6970 SR 88, Phone: 330-235-6815 Fax	Ravenna OH 44266

2020 Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Features						
Allegheny Chinquapin Castanea pumila	BEFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11	LOW	
Blueberries - 'Duke', 'Blue Ray', 'Elizabeth'	BCEFW	1-0	1 liter pot	3 for \$18		
Currant - 'Imperial White'	BEF	1-0	12-10"	3 for \$18	LOW	
Franklin Tree Frankliniana alatamaha	BCFN	#1 pot	18-24"	1 for \$25		
Red Raspberry - 'BP-1'	BE	1-0	bareroot	5 for \$18	LOW	
St. John's Wort Hypericum kalmianum	BCFN	#3 pot	18"	1 for \$28	LOW	
Evergreens						
Canadian Hemlock Tsuga canadensis	GN	2-1	7-12"	5 for \$10	SOLD OUT	
Concolor Fir Abies concolor	G	2-0	10-15"	5 for \$7	SOLD OUT	
Eastern Red Cedar Juniperus virginiana	GN	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$9		
Eastern White Pine Pinus strobus	GN	2-1	8-12"	5 for \$8		
Norway Spruce Picea abies	G	2-0	10-18"	5 for \$7		
Western Arborvitae Thuja plicata	G	RC+1	8 - 14"	5 for \$12	SOLD OUT	
White Spruce Picea glauca	GN	2-0	10-18"	5 for \$7		
Deciduous	GIN	2.0	10 10			
American Basswood Tilia americana	FN	1-0	6-24"	3 for \$9		
Bald Cypress Taxodium distichum	CW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Bitternut Hickory Carya cordiformis	BFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Black Willow Salix nigra	BNW	1-0, RC	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Bur Oak Quercus macrocarpa	BFN	1-0, NC	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Sugar Maple Acer saccharum	BCEN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9	LOW	
Swamp White Oak Quercus bicolor	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8	LOW	
Fulip Poplar Liriodendron tulipifera	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8	SOLD OUT	
					3010 001	
Tupelo Nyssa sylvatica	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7	1.014/	
White Oak Quercus alba	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8	LOW	
Shrubs		1.0	12 10	E fan éo		
American Elderberry Sambucus canadensis	BCENW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9	SOLD OUT	
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle Diervilla Ionicera	BCFN	1-0	12-18""	5 for \$11		
Flowering Raspberry (L.E.A.P. Plant of the Year)	BEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Nannyberry Viburnum Viburnum lentago	BFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
Silky Dogwood Cornus amomum	BCFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Sweet Shrub Calycanthus floridus	FN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Winterberry Ilex verticillata	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
American Hazelnut Corylus americana	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5. for \$9	SOLD OUT	
American Persimmon Diospyros virginiana	BEFN	1-0	12 -18"	5 for \$8	SOLD OUT	
American Plum Prunus americana	BEFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Dolgo Crabapple Malus domestica	BEF	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Downy Serviceberry Amelanchier arborea	BEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Pawpaw Asimina triloba	BCEFNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$12	LOW	
Red Mulberry Morus rubra	BCEFNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$7	SOLD OUT	
Redbud Cercis canadensis	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7	SOLD OUT	
Washington Hawthorn Crataegus phaenopyrum	BFN	1-0	12- 18"	5 for \$8		
Other Items						
Super Hybrid Chestnuts (ONGA 1-yr membership)	BE	1-0	6 -12"	3 for \$25		
Bat House (all-cedar exterior with plywood baffles)				1 for \$50		
Bluebird Houses <u>(all-cedar pricing through 3/31/2020</u>)				1 for \$18		
B–bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flow	vering/fruiting	g G-evergre	en N-native	W-tolerates wet	TOTAL	

Looking for Rain Garden Enthusiasts!

An Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant has been awarded to the Portage Park District in partnership with the Portage SWCD and OSU Extension to fund a rain garden educational workshop on Thursday, May 28th, a demonstration project installation at Morgan Park on Saturday, May 30th, and a late summer county-wide rain garden tour (date TBD). The ultimate goal of this project is to increase the number of rain gardens installed on private property in the county. Participants who register and attend both the workshop and the installation day will receive at least one native plant for their own rain garden installation, plus lots of resources and guidance for a successful new rain garden!

Registration will open in April at www.portageparkdistrict.org Questions? Contact Jen White at jcwhite@portageparkdistrict.org or call (330)813-8023

Spring Fish Sale

2020 Spring Fish Sale

Pick up will be at the <u>Randolph Fairgrounds</u> off State Route 44 in Randolph.

Call 330.235.6798 if you have any questions

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

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

Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to April 17, 2020

* 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 17, 2020

-	•	-):30 a.m. SHARP!! s Road, Randolph 44265
	_	e	your check payable to
			, Ravenna OH 44266
	Order Dear	dline: Friday, April	17.2020
News			
Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	_ Daytime Phone #
Cell Phone #	Email		
			Office Use Only
White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each	x	= \$	**Office Use Only** Check # M.Q#
White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.90 each	x x	= \$ = \$	**Office Use Only** Check # M.O# Cash
White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.90 each Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	x x x	= \$ = \$ = \$	**Office Use Only** Check # M.O# Cash Certificate
White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.90 each Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.85 each Yellow Perch (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	X X X	= \$ = \$ = \$ = \$	**Office Use Only** Check # M.O# Cash Certificate SWCD Employee Initials
White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.90 each Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	x x x x	= \$ = \$ = \$	**Office Use Only** Check # M.O# Cash Certificate SWCD Employee Initials Date

OSU Extension Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Certification

Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Certification Portage County

Thursday, March 26, 2020 at Portage SWCD, 6970 OH-88, in Ravenna, Ohio. 330-296-6432

• Private Pesticide from 12:00pm to 3:00pm & Fertilizer Applicator from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

• To Register for this session make check payable to OSU Extension and mail to Portage County OSU Extension, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266

Private Applicator testing dates

Location: Portage County Extension Office, 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266 Dates: March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17 and November 19, 2020 Time: Testing Begins at 10:00 a.m.

For registration information call Angie at (330) 235-7402 or email arnold.1143@osu.edu

Check out our 2020 Tree Sale offerings!

Sign Up Now for NSDA Conservation Programs!



USDA and SWCD are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District 6970 State Route 88 330-235-6815 fax: 330-296-5917 www.portageswcd.org

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