

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2019/2020

December Events

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Soil Health Partnership—Friday December 6th 9:30AM to noon Deerfield Town Hall, 1450 OH-14, Deerfield , 44411.

Hosted by : Deerfield Farms, a Soil Health Partnership Farmer

AGENDA: Soil Health Partnership Overview: John Stewart, SHP

Cover Crops: Scott Wohltman, LaCrosse Seed

Ohio's Changing Climate: Aaron Wilson, OSU Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center

Lunch provided immediately following program. To help us plan for food, please register by emailing Lynn : lvogel@portageswcd.org or call (330)235-6806

Farmer's Round Table Series:

Ohio cheesemaking and bringing value to the bottom line with value added products

Tuesday, December 10th 6PM - 8PM, PSWCD Meeting Room, 6970 SR 88, Ravenna, 44266

A conversation on keeping the family farm through the lens of Ohio cheese makers, **featuring a free screening of the new film, "Farmsteads."** "Farmsteads points an honest and tender lens at the beauty and hardship of everyday life, as the Nolans (an Ohio dairy family) work to balance their fears and hopes with so much at stake. For the Nolans only three things remain certain: family is everything, nothing ever stays the same, and the land holds it all together." The community discussion following the film will be led by a panel of local female dairy producers/cheese makers who have found creative ways to keep their farms afloat during hard economic times within the dairy industry. All are welcome.

Register by contacting Taylor at thillyer@portageswcd.org or (330) 235-6811

Do you have experience or knowledge that you would like to share with your fellow farmers? Let us know! January, February, and March Roundtables are still open for discussion leaders. Keep updated on this program series on FaceBook or our website www.portageswcd.org

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

April 3rd
Tree Order Deadline

April 15—17
TREE PICK UP
9:00am-6:00pm
SWCD Office

April 19
Fish Sale Order
Deadline

April 23, 2020
Fish Pick Up
10:30am
Randolph Fairgrounds

Winter Conservation

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 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.

Reduce Holiday Waste:

Americans throw away a **million extra tons** of garbage **each week** between Thanksgiving and the December holiday season! Try these tips:

- Bring reusable bags on all shopping trips, not just at the grocery store.
- Reuse the Sunday Comics page or paper grocery bags to wrap gifts. Decorate packages with the pretty fronts of old Christmas cards. Use and reuse gift bags, ribbons, and bows.
- Use LED holiday lights and recycle old strings of lights! Ship old lights to: Christmas Light Source Recycling Program 4313 Elmwood Dr; Benbrook, TX 76116. Include your name and email address, and they'll send you a coupon for 10% off a single order of new lights from their website!
- Consider giving 'experiences' instead of 'stuff'. Event tickets or even gift certificates for your local SWCD are super options!!!

Winter 2020 Events: Resolve to Reduce

2020 Resolve to Reduce! Let's just get this out there – we are ALL polluters. We waste food, water, energy, money, etc. Additionally, many of the ways we manage our land also leads to additional wasting of our natural resources. We are so fortunate in our abundance that it is easy to forget that very recently, we did not have clean air and water in Northeast Ohio. The Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers, The Portage Park District and the Portage SWCD staff are offering a series of winter workshops aimed at assisting Portage County residents in learning about simple changes we can all make to reduce our negative environmental impacts. This series is open to the public on a first-come basis and is offered at no-cost to participants. Each session will include door prizes that promote the highlighted strategies and 2020 Conservation calendars will be provided to each attendee as supplies last.

Resolve to Reduce Session 1: Reduce your WASTE. Saturday, January 11th, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Portage SWCD staff will provide this session that will focus on homeowner strategies to reduce our dependence on single-use packaging. Providing an overview of some of the statistics will hopefully motivate us to create some new habits. The Portage County Recycling Center staff will provide a current status report on recycling in our county. There will also be an introduction to reducing food waste. Many of these green alternatives should also help keep some green in your pocket!

Resolve to Reduce Session 2: Reduce your RUN-OFF. Saturday, February 8th, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Sandy Barbic, Summit SWCD will provide a presentation that includes information about storm water run-off and how our landscape decisions can lead to water pollution, (including Harmful Algal Blooms). Then we will shift our focus to the plethora of homeowner strategies to improve soil health, water quality, landscape function, and wildlife habitat while also providing a much-needed respite for the homeowner!

Resolve to Reduce Session 3: Reduce your INPUTS. Thursday, March 12th, 2020 at 6:00 PM. This session will look at reducing household and lawn & garden chemicals that are entering waterways. Our focus will be geared more toward IPM (integrated pest management) strategies and lawncare, but we will include a brief primer on green household chemicals. Since this workshop is still in the planning, please visit our website, or see the Spring newsletter for updates as they become available.

To register for any of the above workshops: email Lynn Ivogel@portageswcd.org or call (330)235-6815

Does Money Grow on YOUR Trees?

Ohio has over 8 million acres of forest with approximately 86% being privately owned. If you do some quick math, that is nearly 6.9 million acres of forest! The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry has 19 regional service foresters. You really **don't** need to do THAT math to determine that Ohio does not have enough state foresters to provide adequate assistance to private forest landowners! That is why our office is partnering with other Northeast Ohio agencies to try to get the word out that you should educate yourself about the economic and environmental value of your forest BEFORE you enter into any agreements to sell the timber on your property. Ohio Division of Forestry participates in the 'Call Before You Cut' program and landowners can find useful information by visiting their site <http://callb4ucut.com/ohio/> or calling 1-877-424-8288. However, in Portage County we are taking it one step further and advocating that our landowners 'CALL BEFORE YOU SIGN' a timber harvest contract! Because once a landowner signs a timber harvest contract, it is too late to change your mind. Even if you change your mind THE SAME DAY (which, sadly, we have had happen in our county) - there is no right to rescind these contracts. Unfortunately, there are many unscrupulous timber brokers going door to door and using strong sales tactics to coax landowners to sign unsolicited timber contracts that are:

- NOT financially good for the landowner
- NOT advantageous for wildlife
- NOT good for short-term water quality
- NOT good for landowners recreational enjoyment of their property
- NOT good for property value
- NOT good for minimizing soil erosion
- NOT ecologically good for the short OR long term health of Ohio's forests

Northeast Ohio (including Portage County!) has a higher percentage of these 'bad' timber contracts that result in bad timber cuts. We need to work together to get the word out to, 'CALL BEFORE YOU SIGN' a timber harvest contract! Your woods represent one of your most valuable resources. The decision to harvest, and how to do so, can either improve or set back the future value of your land, its potential for wildlife habitat, and as a source of enjoyment for you and your family. Take the time, call Ohio's Call Before You Cut number listed above or call your local Soil & Water Conservation District. Our staff will be happy to direct you to qualified assistance to help make sure that your timber is marketed by experts to see that you receive fair market value for your timber AND that the timber is harvested using best management practices that will leave your woodlot able to regenerate and continue to provide the eco-services we all need from Ohio's forests.

The Portage County Auditor, the Div. of Forestry, NRCS, the Portage Farm Bureau, and PSWCD have joined together to offer a program for Portage residents to learn more about the assistance available for woodlot and wildlife management. Please join us for this informative event (offered at no cost) on Thursday, February 13th, 2020 at Maplewood Career Center, 7075 OH-88, Ravenna 44266 at 6:00 PM. For more info, or to register contact Lynn at Ivogel@portageswcd.org or call (330)235-6806.

Endangered and Threatened Habitats

When we hear about threatened species in the news, we typically hear about a single species. But these species that are in peril do not live in some isolated ecosystem. In fact, there are many species that live in that ecosystem – plants and animals and they all share the same threat. The most common reason we hear for a species to be listed as threatened or endangered is due to habitat loss or destruction. Could we improve things for many species if we started to think in terms of threatened or endangered habitats instead of threatened or endangered species? The ODNR Division of Wildlife & Division of Forestry have contributed information to this newsletter to assist landowners interested in improving habitat and ecosystem function on their property.

Threatened Habitats: Early Successional Habitat ODNR Division of Wildlife

The Ohio Division of Wildlife's *State Wildlife Action Plan* recognizes over 60 species of wildlife in decline due to the lack of early successional forest habitat. This type of habitat is the thick, new forest growth that is often very difficult to walk through. Early successional growth happens either naturally from storm damage knocking down trees or through active woodland management such as selling timber. Proper forest management is not only vital for the health of the forest but also for the health of Ohio's wildlife populations. Unfortunately, NE Ohio has seen its fair share of poor timbering methods lately. These poor timbering methods remove favorable hard mast such as acorns and hickory nuts. What is frequently left behind are shade tolerant trees such as red maple which have low economic AND low wildlife value. These conditions also favor the increase of invasive plants like glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose and bush honeysuckle that have low wildlife benefits for food and cover.

Fortunately, agencies like the Ohio Division of Wildlife are available to help landowners identify how to create quality habitat, which includes early successional habitat, on their property. Through good timbering methods wildlife can flourish on your property. Although species currently listed as 'in decline' (roughed grouse and the American woodcock) would benefit most from early successional habitat, this type of habitat is also highly beneficial for more common species such as wild turkey, deer and songbirds. Many Soil & Water Conservation District Offices offer annual tree sales where you can purchase native plant species. In Portage, our 2020 Plant Sale is offering the following species to assist landowners with establishing early successional or other wildlife-friendly habitats: White Oak, Bitternut Hickory, American Plum, Silky Dogwood, Dolgo Crabapple, Washington Hawthorn and Nannyberry Viburnum (just to name a few!)

For help on how to ensure that you make wise woodland management decisions for wildlife contact your Private Lands Biologist, Ryan Jackson, at (330) 889-2116 or the Call Before You Cut program at www.callB4Ucut.com/ohio. For more information on the national initiative to increase early successional habitat please visit the Young Forest Initiative at www.youngforest.org.

Threatened Habitats: Wetlands & Pollinators NRCS

Wetlands - Nearly 90% of Ohio's wetlands have been destroyed (drained or filled) since the early 1800's. With that statistic, it is hard to imagine a more threatened or endangered Ohio habitat. Wetlands provide many eco-services and have been called "nature's kidneys" because of their ability to filter impurities from water. Sediment settles out of runoff and dissolved contaminants bind to plant surfaces or are transformed, resulting in improved water quality. Wetlands perform other valuable functions including reducing flood flow and shoreline erosion control (we are talking about human habitat with that reference!). Wetlands also provide a haven for rare and endangered plants, and one-third of the all endangered species depend on wetlands for survival. Many wetlands are important fish spawning and nursery areas, as well as nesting, resting and feeding areas for waterfowl. Wetlands also provide recreational opportunities such as canoeing, fishing, and bird watching.

Depending on their location and characteristics, wetlands are known by many names. Some of these include swamp, marsh, bog, fen, wet prairie, farmed wetland and wet meadow. Wetlands are identified as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often enough to support plants adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. An undisturbed area must have all of the following to be considered a wetland:

- Wetland hydrology – Wetlands have either saturated or flooded soils for some time during the growing season.
- Hydric soils – Wetlands have poorly drained soils that are low in oxygen due to saturation or flooding.
- Hydrophytic vegetation – Wetlands are dominated by vegetation that is adapted to life in saturated or flooded soil. The familiar cattail is just one of more than 1,000 plant species that commonly occur in Ohio's wetlands. Others include trees, annual and perennial herbaceous plants, shrubs, vines and grasses, such as maple trees, rushes and buttercups.

If you need help determining if there are wetland restrictions on your property, please contact our NRCS District Coordinator, Kara MacDowell at: kara.macdowell@usda.gov.

Pollinators - 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, America Plum, Redbud, Crabapples, Viburnums, American Basswood, Tupelo & Black Willow, just to name a few!

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, April 3, 2020

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 CHESTNUTS

Tree Pick-Up

April 15th-17th 2020 (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 15-17; 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

Phone: 330-297-7633 x101 Fax: 330-296-5917

2020 Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Features						
Allegheny Chinquapin <i>Castanea pumila</i>	BEFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
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		
Franklin Tree <i>Frankliniana alatamaha</i>	BCFN	#1 pot	18-24"	1 for \$25		
Red Raspberry - 'BP-1'	BE	1-0	bareroot	5 for \$18		
St. John's Wort <i>Hypericum kalmianum</i> \$18	BCFN	#3 pot	18"	1 for \$28		
Evergreens						
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	GN	2-1	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>	GN	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$9		
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		
Western Arborvitae <i>Thuja plicata</i>	G	RC+1	8 - 14"	5 for \$12		
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	2-0	10-18"	5 for \$7		
Deciduous						
American Basswood <i>Tilia americana</i>	FN	1-0	6-24"	3 for \$9		
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	CW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Bitternut Hickory <i>Carya cordiformis</i>	BFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	BNW	1-0, RC	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	BFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Tulip Poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Tupelo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Shrubs						
American Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	BCENW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle <i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	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 <i>Viburnum Viburnum lentago</i>	BFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
Silky Dogwood <i>Cornus amomum</i>	BCFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Sweet Shrub <i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	FN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
American Hazelnut <i>Corylus americana</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5. for \$9		
American Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	BEFN	1-0	12 -18"	5 for \$8		
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$9		
Dolgo Crabapple <i>Malus domestica</i>	BEF	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	BEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
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		
Washington Hawthorn <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	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 (New Style: Peterson, all-cedar)				1 for \$18		
B–bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering/fruiting G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet					TOTAL	

Beekeeping Classes

Beginner Beekeeping Classes: The Portage County Beekeepers Association — Classes will be held in the Portage Soil & Water Conservation District meeting room on Sundays, Feb. 9th, 16th, 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Beekeepers can 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

**Registration for beginner beekeeping classes would make a GREAT holiday gift!*

Spring Fish Sale

2020 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 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

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Pick up is on Tuesday, 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 17, 2020

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 _____ = \$ _____

****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

This program is still being planned. Date, location and other pertinent information will be posted to our website as it becomes available. Or contact Angie (contact info below) with questions.

Private Applicator testing dates

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

Dates: January 16, 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

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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