

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2017

Volume 68

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS "Clean Water, Don't Waste It!"

Our 2017 education theme is "*Clean Water, Don't Waste It!*". We are hoping to use this message to address the importance of reducing water use (don't waste it) and reducing water pollution by reducing human and animal wastes (don't waste it) which enter our streams and lakes through stormwater. We are working with the Portage County Health Department to offer a fall workshop for home septic systems and collaborating with Portage Parks to promote education relating to pet wastes on our public hike and bike trails.

The wonderful thing about conservation education is that regardless of the particular focus of any given program, nature works in harmony. For instance, utilizing landscaping strategies that support wildlife, will usually improve soil and water conditions as well. We hope you can attend some of our 2017 conservation workshops to learn ways to better manage our natural resources.

Pond Clinic: Thursday March 16th at 6:00 PM, Centerville Mills Dining Hall, 8558 Crackel Road, Chagrin Falls, OH

Portage and Geauga SWCD welcome Eugene Braig, Aquatic Ecosystems Specialist, OSU Extension. Eugene's presentation will address species selection and fish production for a recreational pond. Various strategies for aquatic plant management will also be addressed.

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x3

Landscaping with Native Plants: Saturday April 8th at 10:00 AM to Noon, Portage SWCD 6970 St. Rt. 88 Ravenna OH

Portage County Master Gardeners will host this workshop with Mary Slingluff, Owner of Avalon Garden Center. Mary's presentation will provide information about the benefits of utilizing native shrubs, trees, and perennials in the landscape. Join us to learn how to add beauty and function to your landscape with native plants.

To register contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x3

Woodland Management Field Day: Saturday, April 8th from 9:00AM to 1:00PM at Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area, Parking Area off of Sisson Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. Aaron Kash & Ryan Jackson of ODNr will join Jonathon Mauk of NRCS to discuss and demonstrate options for private woodland management, timber harvesting, wildlife habitat, and conservation practices. To register for this FREE event, call (440) 564-5883 or email aaron.kash@dnr.state.oh.us

Pasture Walk: Tuesday, May 9th 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Goodell Family Farms, 9370 Peck Rd, Mantua 44255. (Park in front of barn) Goodell Family Farms is a certified organic dairy farm. Join us to learn about prescribed grazing and pasture management for all types of livestock.

3rd Annual Edith Chase Symposium: Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd. See page 2 for details

Composting A-Z Workshop with Portage Master Gardeners: Saturday June 10th at 10:00AM to noon at Portage SWCD 6970 St. Rt. 88, Ravenna, 44266. This workshop will include a presentation and hands-on demonstrations of various composting strategies and methods. The first fifty registrants will receive an under-counter compost bucket. The Kent Environmental Council provided grant funding for this event. To register please call Jeanie Stenson at OSU-Extension at (330) 296-6432 or email christensen.227@osu.edu

REMINDERS

Visit the SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org

April 7th
Tree Order Deadline

April 19-21
TREE PICK UP
9:00am-6:00pm
SWCD Office

April 21
Fish Sale Order
Deadline

April 25
Fish Pick Up
11:00am
Randolph Fairgrounds

Local Workshops

The 2017 Edith Chase Symposium: Restoration Through Vegetation June 2nd & 3rd

The public is invited to a multi-media presentation and examination of strategies to restore riveredge ecosystems and their effects on water quality and economic productivity. There is no charge for admission.

Water quality impacts every life on Earth. Whether you are a tenant or landowner, the way **you** manage the property on which you live affects water quality for everything living in that watershed! **The 2017 Edith Chase Symposium** offers several opportunities to learn how to improve water quality with simple land-use strategies.

June 2nd - Join us on Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM to celebrate river environments with selected poetry readings at the Wick Poetry Center of Kent State University.

Later that evening at 7:00 PM meet us at the Cene Lecture Hall at the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Christina Znidarsic, Senior Watershed Manager with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, will provide a presentation titled '*Restoration Through Vegetation*' that will guide us through the watershed process. We will learn specifically about native vegetation and the critical role it plays in water quality. The information Christina shares will help you make informed decisions about how to better manage your landscape to improve the health of the water within your watershed. (Doors open at 6:30 PM) Native seed packets will be available on a first-come basis.

June 3rd - Then on Saturday at 1:00 PM Ken Christensen will provide a guided tour of the riparian restoration at Plum Creek. Ken was the lead ecologist in the creek edge ecosystem restoration following the dam removal in 2011.

Kent Parks and Recreation is hosting this workshop. Please meet at the #2 Shelter House at Plum Creek. The first fifty registrants for this program will receive free native plant packages. To register for the Saturday event contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or call (330) 297-7633 x101.

The Edith Chase Symposium Association is an Ohio non-profit scientific educational organization based in Kent. Donations are deductible for federal income tax purposes. For more information about the **3rd Annual Edith Chase Symposium** please visit <http://www.edithchasesymposium.org/2017event.html>

Please check our summer newsletter for information about our upcoming fall workshops. We are planning a septic system workshop for homeowners and a backyard birding program for September/October.

Featured Plants

Fruit & Nuts

We have quite a few first-time offerings in our 2017 Spring Plant Sale. The **Bush Cherries** have been on our radar for years and we are really excited to finally have them! Both varieties are introductions from the University of Saskatchewan and are cold-hardy to zone 2. Our selections include one tart variety (Carmine Jewel) and one sweet (Romeo). The cherries have a small pit and are exceptional for fresh eating, pies, preserves, canning, freezing, wine and juice. An added bonus with the attractive shrub habit is the ornamental value they provide with rich green foliage and white and pink spring blossoms. Our 2017 bramble selection is '**Triple Crown**' **Thornless Blackberries**. Triple Crown is reported to be the tastiest cold-hardy thornless blackberry available. Rounding out our fruit selection are blueberry recommendations from Bob Stehli, Wintergreen Tree Farm. Bob considered factors such as size, taste, shelf-life and plant disease resistance when recommending, '**Blue Ray**', '**Blue Crop**', and '**Duke**' blueberry varieties. The **John Kelsey Hazelnuts** are seedlings from the two best performing hazelnut varieties growing in John Kelsey's cultivar trials. The parent trees, 'Jefferson' and 'Geneva', are late-blooming varieties which are better-suited for northern climates.

L.E.A.P. (Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Native Plants)

Since 2011 we have supported the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Native Plants by including their annual selections of woody plants of the year in our sale. The featured 2017 woody plant is Eastern Red Cedar. Judy Semroc with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History shared her thoughts and experiences with ERC with us in 2014 and they are reprinted in the 'Wildlife' section of this article to underscore the importance of adding and maintaining this plant in our landscapes. We were also intrigued that the 2017 LEAP selections included a native succulent and decided to add the '**Prickly Pear**', *Opuntia humifusa* to our sale. This low growing cactus bears large, waxy, yellow flowers with masses of showy stamens. A reddish-colored, edible fruit follows. Small, hair-like spines occur on the pads and fruits.

Shrubs: (Correction: Please note that we are offering *Fothergilla gardenii* and **not** 'Mt. Airy' as listed in Winter newsletter)

Shrubs, in general, are underused in our landscapes. A very common mid-Western landscaping practice is to add non-native shrubs such as Burning Bush, Japanese Barberry, Lilacs, Boxwoods, etc. as foundational plantings near the front of homes and entrances. You can create a more functional landscape by adding shrubs to property borders, tree edges or along driveways. Increasing the number of native plants in your landscape can improve the quality of water leaving your property while also promoting wildlife and pollinator habitat. If you do not have the space for additional trees, then adding shrubs is a great alternative. Shrubs near property borders can provide screening while adding color, fragrance, and texture to your landscape. Shrubs can be added to the edges of tree lines to naturalize the transition to your lawn while creating cover and food for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Windbreaks utilizing deciduous trees and shrubs are an excellent option when wet or otherwise unsuitable site conditions do not favor evergreens.

Featured Plants (continued)

Shrubs: (continued)

We have a nice selection of shrubs for a variety of site conditions. New this year is *Fothergilla gardenii*, a small shrub with multi-season interest, with a mature size of 3' high and 4' wide makes this a good choice for foundational plantings. Since Fothergilla can tolerate full sun to part-shade conditions, it can also be successfully added to naturalize a tree border. With showy, fragrant, bottle-brush shaped spring flowers that attract pollinators and vibrant fall color, this hard-to-find plant deserves a space in your landscape! **Inkberry**, *Ilex glabra 'Compacta'* is a good substitution for boxwood. Evergreen inkberries are tough plants that tolerate harsh winter conditions, full-sun to shade sites and heavy, clay soils. 'Compacta' has a mounding growth habit with a 3'-4' mature height. The glossy leaves are attractive throughout the growing season. **American Beautyberry** *Callicarpa americana* is a wonderful, large understory shrub with a naturally loose and graceful arching form. In the fall and early winter, the branches are laden with magenta purple berry clusters that look spectacular as the leaves drop in autumn. It is useful as a screen in wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting. It can be cut to 12" above the base each winter to encourage more compact growth, flowers and fruit. It can also be left to mature naturally into a tall woody shrub. **Summersweet 'Ruby Spice'** *Clethra alnifolia* is a pink-flowering hybrid. The fragrant, bottle-brush flowers attract butterflies, bees, and other insects in late summer and early fall. 'Ruby Spice' grows to about 4 to 6 feet tall and almost as wide, making this shrub suitable for a bed or border, a woodland or shade garden. Its yellow fall color extends the season of interest. You can also plant **Redosier Dogwood** to extend the ornamental interest in your landscape. The bright red stems add color and form to the winter landscape. Redosier is an excellent choice for wet locations and erosion control, but is adaptable to many soil conditions.

Wildlife: **Red Buckeye** is a small tree or large shrub (15' typical height) that is best grown in moist, well-drained soils. Plants thrive in heavy shade but become denser in full sun. Plants growing in sunny areas should be mulched and watered as necessary to maintain a cool, moist root zone. The large, red, panicle-shaped flowers are spring show stoppers. And when they bloom it's time to look for **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds!** And when the blooms drop, it's time to put out the hummingbird feeders. **Winterberry** is also an excellent landscape choice, performing well in full-sun to shade conditions and tolerant of wet sites. The bright red fruit on Winterberry is especially showy after fall leaf-drop when not much else is looking good! Throughout the growing season, winterberry supports native insects and the fruit is used by **Bluebirds, Robins, Waxwings, and Woodpeckers** to make it through the winter. *Judy Semroc, CMNH shared the following with us in 2014.* "**Eastern Red Cedar** is an important wildlife tree for a variety of reasons. The soft cones are very much relished by **Eastern Mockingbirds** in Fall and Winter and will they stay in the area until every blue "berry" has been eaten. This tree also is an important cover tree, not only in winter because its dense branch arrangement helps the birds to hide and stay out of direct winds, but in the Spring, I have had Brown Thrasher fledglings hide in these trees when the parents are still feeding them. This is also a favorite species for the **Northern Saw-whet** for roosting in Fall and Winter, especially to hide from the harassment of Jays, Crows and woodland songbirds during the daylight hours. It is helpful if the Cedars are planted close together to enhance the cover aspect of multiple trees." **Hop Tree** is a small tree which will perform well in variable light and soil conditions, although it does prefer a moist soil (not wet). A member of the citrus family, the leaves will have a faint lemony scent when crushed. The fall seeds are showy "wafers". This plant is recognized as a principle larval host for a variety of **Swallowtail Butterflies**. Hop Tree is an especially good choice for a small urban lot that needs to maximize the function of every plant added. **Oh Deer!** Some of our patrons want to attract deer and some want plants that are deer resistant. Hop Tree and Red Buckeye are both rated as highly resistant to deer. But if you want to attract those deer, read on. **'Dolgo' Crabapple** will be found near the top of just about every list that has been written by hunters as a fabulous plant to attract deer. Dolgo Crabapple was developed for its ornamental qualities with large, showy pink buds. It is highly disease resistant and is an excellent pollinator for other apples and crabapples. 'Dolgo' produces heavy crops of red fruit up to 1-1/2" in diameter - large and tasty enough for home gardeners to use in sauces & jellies. The fruit drops slowly and persists into December. **Bees:** Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture Magazine provided the following: **Little Leaf Linden**, the European cousin of the American Basswood is a somewhat dainty relative, but from the perspective of honey bees and other nectar and pollen feeding insects and animals has all the fine attributes of our home grown Basswood. From a beekeeper's perspective, having both of these species nearby is a distinct advantage because the American Basswood blooms 7 - 10 days sooner than the Little Leaf, which lasts 7 - 10 days after the American bloom is done - a good rule of thumb for this part of Ohio is that July 4th is the height of basswood bloom - thus extending the Basswood bloom a couple of weeks...combined then 4 - 6 weeks, under ideal conditions. It's those conditions that can make or break a basswood honey crop though. Basswood blossoms are very fragrant, but are also fragile and delicate, and they hang completely exposed to the elements. In ideal conditions the weather is somewhat humid, maybe a bit cloudy, and certainly not windy. Humid, moist conditions allow the flowers to last as long as possible, where hot, dry weather...all too common at the end of June through the first part of July...dry them out quickly, ending the bloom and the honey flow. A good season will add 100 pounds of honey to a beehive, a real treasure. Understandably, beekeepers secretly wish for 'unsummerlike' weather during bloom. Linden honey is one of the best summer honeys there is, with a beautiful light yellow color, uncharacteristic of summer honeys. Its flavor has a musty sweetness to it at first and some compare it to butter scotch with a pineapple overtone. It ends with a distinct, somewhat metallic bite to its short-lived aftertaste. **Black Willows**, of course make excellent erosion control trees, with their large network of fibrous roots holding stream bed soils in place. That, and they make an attractive tree when mature. From a beekeeper's point of view though, their greatest value is their bloom. Producing a lot of nectar and pollen very early in the spring, they are a mainstay for hungry honey bees looking for lots of food to feed lots of baby bees at a critical time of year. Willow honey is seldom harvested by beekeepers because it comes, and goes far too early in the season, and is immediately fed to a growing population, getting ready for the later spring and summer honey flows. Willows, like the early blooming maples are the insurance crops bees, and beekeepers need to make it to summer.

To learn more about functional landscaping using native plants, please join us on April 8th for a workshop . See details page 1

Spring Fish Sale

2017 Spring Fish Sale

Pick up will be at the Randolph Fairgrounds off State Route 44 in Randolph.
Call 330-297-7633 x101 if you have any questions

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Time: 11:00 a.m. SHARP!!

Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

Simply complete the order form below and mail with payment PRIOR to **April 21, 2017**.

- * 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 21, 2017.

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

at 11:00 am 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 21, 2017

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

2017 TREE ORDER FORM

Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 7, 2017

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 19th-21st 2017 (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.

~

Please enclose completed order form and check made payable to *Portage SWCD*.

~

Please mark pick-up dates on your calendar. Reminders will not be sent out!

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Orders must be picked up April 19-21; otherwise refunds will not be guaranteed.

~

Please note the number of trees per packet - packets cannot be split.

~

Plants are bare-rooted and packed in a moisturizing gel. They should 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 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

<u>Species</u>		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Features						
Blackberries Thornless 'Triple Crown'	BEF	1-0	2.5" pot	5 for \$22		
Blueberries 'Blue Ray', 'Blue Crop', 'Duke'	BCEF	1-0	6-12"	3 for \$18		
Bush Cherries 'Carmine Jewel', 'Romeo'	BEF	1-0	6-12", 11-24"	2 for \$36		
Buttonbush 'Sugar Shack' <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	BCFNW	1-0	4" pot	2 for \$17		
Fothergilla <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	BCFN	1-0	6" pot	2 for \$14		
Inkberry <i>Ilex compacta</i>	BFGNW	1-0	4" pot	2 for \$13		
Prickly Pear <i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	BFN	1-0	#1 pot	1 for \$12		
Summersweet 'Ruby Spice' <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	BCFN	1-0	6" pot	2 for \$13		
Evergreens						
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	GN	2-1 TR	8-16"	5 for \$9		
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	G	4-0	10-20"	5 for \$9		
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	GNW	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$8		
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	GN	4-0	10-20"+	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 TR	7-14"	5 for \$12		
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	GN	4-0	8-18"	10 for \$9		
Deciduous						
American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i>	BCNW	2-0	18-30"	5 for \$10		
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BCNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	BCNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	BN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Hop Tree <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Littleleaf Linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	BC	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BEN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	CNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Striped Maple <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	BCEN	1-0	20-40"	5 for \$9		
Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	BCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	CNW	2-0	15-30"	5 for \$7		
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	BFCN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Shrubs						
Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	BCFN	1-0	6-12"	6 for \$10		
New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	2-0	15-30"+	5 for \$8		
Shining Sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	BCFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	BCFNW	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$9		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$7		
Dolgo Crabapple <i>Malus x 'Dolgo'</i>	BCEF	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	EFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Red Buckeye <i>Aesculus pavia</i>	BFN	1-0	6-9"	2 for \$8		
Shadblow Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	BCEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$8		
Other Items						
John Kelsey Hazelnuts Ohio Nut Growers	BEF	1-0	12-16"	4 for \$25		
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

Newsletter Sponsors

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

Keith,

Just to update:

- 1) the Michael Marozzi ad has been cancelled
- 2) I sent you the update for Ohio Prairie Nursery on 10/31/16 please confirm that you did receive it
- 3) Also need you to confirm that you received the new ad for Jack Kohl Realty
- 4) AND PLEASE NO MATTER WHAT DO NOT MOVE THE "ADVANCE DISPLAY AD" LOL LOL

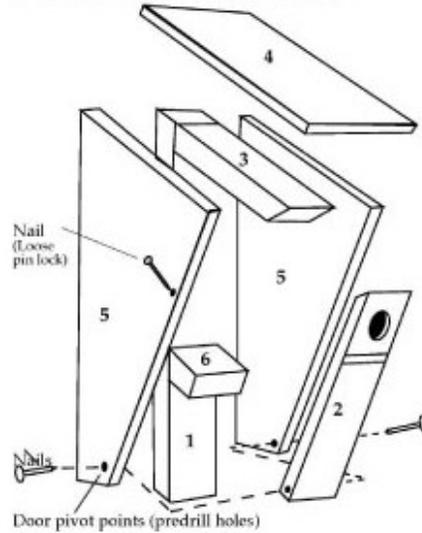
Lastly, thank you for all your help! I wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday. Mb

Any of combination of this clip art will work



Peterson Bluebird Nesting Box

We are offering a new style of bluebird nesting box. The Peterson nest box has been found to be preferable for bluebirds in this area. Some advantages of this sloping design are that it reduces the chance of predators interfering with the nest, and it helps to keep rain from entering the box. The nest boxes are modified from the design shown to the right 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 each. We have a few mounted boxes available for \$30 each.



Tree Pick-Up

April 19th-21st 2017 (Wednesday-Friday)

9:00am - 6:00pm

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
330-297-7633 fax: 330-296-5917
www.portageswcd.org

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