# **CONSERVATION NEWS**

## Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

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Winter 2023—2024

Spring 2024 Tree Sale Updates

Our 2024 Spring Tree Sale has begun! A mail-in order form is included in this newsletter. The deadline for mail-in orders is January 31st, 2024. Online ordering opened on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline for online orders is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

To shop online visit: https://www.portageswcd.org/shop-online

For additional plant information see page 7 of this publication.

### **Growing Northern Pecans**

Portage SWCD staff have worked with the Ohio Nut Growers Association for over two decades with the common goal of increasing nut production in Ohio. Every year we feature a nut tree in our spring tree sale. Seedlings are selected for their potential as a commercial crop as well as being suitable for the backyard grower. The nut tree seedlings are offered in cooperation with the Ohio Nut Growers Association and the purchase includes a one-year membership to ONGA. Each year Portage SWCD also hosts a nutgrowing workshop that focuses on the featured nut selection. Our ONGA nut tree for 2024 is Northern Pecan. Please join us on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM for our nut-growing workshop. Presenter: Brian Farmer, ONGA.

Please note that commercial nut growers are in attendance at our nut growing workshops and are always happy to provide information about growing other nut species. To register for this event, please email Lynn at lvogel@portageswcd.org

## Apply Now for Conservation Cost Share Programs

Applications are now being accepted for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) & the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP.) Application deadlines are February 16, 2024 and April 5, 2024, respectively. These programs, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), are designed to help producers and landowners improve conservation efforts on land that they own or manage. EQIP & CSP both help to offset costs of conservation efforts & provide landowners with guidance to conduct activities using best management practices. Popular activities supported by the programs include creating habitat for wildlife, improving timber production in woodlands, creating infrastructure to support rotational grazing and confined animal operations. integrating cover crops into crop production systems, extending the growing season for specialty crops using high tunnels, and much more. Check out the Conservation at Work video series online to see examples of activities that NRCS programs support.

EQIP and CSP are available to landowners and operators across the US. To discuss project ideas & financial assistance available through Farm Bill programs, contact your county's local NRCS office. NRCS can help you to identify natural resource concerns and discuss ideas for improvement. The Portage NRCS office can be reached at 330-297-7633 Extension 3. You may also visit us at 6970 OH-88 in Ravenna. Direct Wildlife habitat questions to local Farm Bill Biologist, Abby Prieur, at 330-577-3804.

**CHaRM Recycling REMINDERS** Visit the SWCD online at www.portageswcd.org **January 31st** 

**Mail in Tree Order** Deadline

March 31st **On-line Tree Order** Deadline

April 17th—19th **TREE PICK UP** 9:00am-6:00pm SWCD Office

April 12th Fish Sale Order Deadline

April 16th Fish Pick Up 10:30am **Randolph Fairgrounds** 

## TIPS FOR REDUCING HOLIDAY WASTE

Most trash haulers servicing Portage County are experiencing labor shortages which are already resulting in delays to service for Portage residents. During the holiday season Americans generate an additional 25% more trash every week from Thanksgiving through January 1st. That adds up to an additional **1** million tons of solid waste **per week.** By thinking about waste **prior** to making holiday purchases we could all reduce our waste contribution this holiday season. We hope these ideas will be helpful!

**Skip the Boxl** - Think outside the box and give the 'gift of experience'— tickets to concerts, zoos, museums, and sporting events make wonderful gifts and provide an opportunity to create cherished memories. Gift certificates for local restaurants and other venues can be very welcomed gifts for busy folks that enjoy an occasional break from cooking! Passes to one of our National Parks can provide additional opportunities for special experiences with nature. **Buy Local** - If you prefer to give a gift, consider sourcing gifts locally. When purchases are made from independent, locally owned businesses rather than national chains, a greater portion of the money we spend is cycled back through our local economy—which includes local taxes that support our schools and protective services! Fortunately, Northeast Ohio has an abundance of local farms, farm markets and crafters. Also, buying locally grown food for holiday meals can mean fresher products on your holiday table!

<u>Wrap it Up</u> - Gift bags, wrapping paper, ribbon and bows are a large part of holiday waste. Just because you place wrapping materials in the recycling bin does not mean it will be recycled. Shiny, metallic, glittery or embossed paper are usually not recyclable and can contaminate paper that IS recyclable when placed in recycling bins erroneously. Using tea towels, reusable grocery bags, pillow cases, newsprint or other reusable wrapping materials is an option. Using natural fiber 'ribbon' (raffia, cotton, sisal, twine) and items such as twigs, greenery and berries are also good options for adding beauty to your gifts without the negative environmental impact.

Holiday Décor - The holiday tree is the center of many holiday traditions. Artificial trees are very popular, but they are NOT an eco-friendly choice. Neither are artificial wreaths, garlands and other 'silk' or plastic décor. We might be tempted to think that an artificial tree is a better option than a fresh cut tree, but that is not the case. Christmas trees are grown on local farms so buying one supports the local economy. Natural holiday trees are biodegradable whereas artificial trees can sit in a landfill for centuries! More importantly, an annual trip to a local Christmas Tree farm to select a tree can create lasting family memories that are priceless! Portage County is home to quite a few Christmas Tree Farms and we have provided a listing of those for which we could find information. Many tree farms have wreaths, garlands and other holidav décor as well!

In addition to the above suggestions, the very best way we could all have a greener holiday is to be more mindful of the holiday waste we are generating and RESOLVE TO REDUCE!

Holiday Tip: Go WILD !! -Give a gift that keeps on giving. Trees, shrubs, bird and bat boxes make excellent holiday gifts! Creating a backyard retreat for your loved ones can be an enduring gift. Inviting Ohio's wild residents and visitors to the landscape by adding a few native plants and possibly a nest box will increase the potential for wildlife encounters. Numerous research studies indicate that time spent outdoors in natural settings can have positive impacts on both our mental and physical health! Native plants = Healthy Habitats for All Creatures! Gift certificates are available for any amount. For more information contact Carey at csells@portageswcd.org

#### WINTERGREEN TREE FARM

http://wintergreentreefarmohio.com/ 3898 Winchell Road Mantua, Ohio 44255 330-221-3835

BUTTERNUT HILL TREE FARM Facebook 12232 State Route 700 Hiram, OH 44234 330-842-2754

#### **ADOLF TREE FARM**

Facebook 1950 Waterloo Road Mogadore, OH 44260 <u>330-603-4265</u>

#### RIVER RUN FARM

https://riverruntreefarm.com/ 5620 Streeter Road Mantua OH 44255 330-888-9005

#### FLOWER TREE FARM

https://www.flowertreefarm.com/ 1180 Hudson Road Kent OH 44240 330-678-8967

#### DIVERSIFIED TREE FARM Facebook

8546 Nichols Road Windham OH 44288 330-527-7409

## SNYDER FAMILY TREE FARM

11405 OH-88 Garrettsville, OH 44231 330-647-3761

#### MOORE'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

http://www.moorestreefarm.com/ 6767Edison Street NE Hartville, OH 44632 <u>330-887-6520</u>

#### SHAWNEE TRAIL TREE FARM Facebook

Facebook 896 Terex Road Hudson OH 44236 330-486-7024

#### HERITAGE FARMS

https://www.heritagefarms.com/ christmas-trees 6050 Riverview Rd. Peninsula, OH 44264



# 2024 Spring Fish Sale

Date: Tuesday, April 16th, 2024						
Time: 10:30 a.m. SHARP!! Place: Randolph Fairgrounds, 4215 Fairground	s Road Bandolph OH 11265					
* Complete the order form below and mail with	payment PRIOR to April 12th, 2024.					
	rder, the fish truck will only be there for a short time.					
	bag and recently filled with your own pond water (be careful not to					
puncture the bag when you cover the container						
* Please mark pick-up date and the location on	your calendar!					
SPRING FI	SH SALE ORDER FORM					
Pick up is on Tuesda	y, April 16th 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						
i Ordor Door	lling: Friday, April 12, 2024					
	Iline: Friday, April 12, 2024					
Name						
Address						
CityState	Zip Daytime Phone # I					
I I I Cell Phone #	Email					
	X = \$					
Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$1.30 each						
Bluegill (2-4") @ \$1.00 each	X = \$					
Channel Catfish (4-5") @ \$0.90 each	X = \$					
Shellcrackers (2-4") @ \$1.00each	X = \$ X = \$					
Perch (2-3") @ \$1.10 each Koi (6-8") @ \$13.00 each	$\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & & \\ X & & = \\ \end{array}$					
	·∧ = ♥					
Ì	SUBTOTAL \$					
Add 79	6 Sales Tax \$					
	TOTAL DUE \$					
To receive our newsletter please indicate you	r preference below:					
Emailed Newsletter D Mailed Print No.	ewsletter					

# **Newsletter Sponsors**

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



## 2024 TREE ORDER FORM:

#### Preorder Deadlines are: Mail-in orders: January 31, 2024; On-line orders: March 31, 2024

We will be accepting mail-in and walk-in orders from December 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. All orders placed after February 1, 2024 must be made online using a credit card. This change is necessary to allow us to better manage our inventory. Procuring native plant material continues to be a problem, so we have limited supply again this year. We encourage you to order early! As our inventory starts to dwindle, we update our plant availability on-line daily. Ordering online reserves your selections immediately. Please visit: <u>https://www.portageswcd.org/tree-sale</u>

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	**Office Use Only**
Name	Check # M.O#
	Cash Certificate
Address	SWCD Employee Initials
City State Zip	Date Receipt #
Email Address	**Ordering Deadlines**
	Mail-in Orders:
Contact Phone	January 31st
Check here if you are ordering <u>NORTHERN PECANS</u>	On-line Orders: March 31st
To be added to our newsletter list please check your preference	e:
Emailed NewsletterMailed Print Newsletter	
<u>2024 Tree Sale Pic</u> Wednesday—Friday, April 17th through 19th, Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88,	, 2024 9:00am - 6:00pm
Ordering Information	<u>n:</u>
For mail-in orders please enclose completed order form and $\sim$	d check made payable to <b>Portage SWCD.</b>
Please mark pick-up dates on your calendar. Re $\sim$	eminders will not be sent out!
Orders must be picked up April 17th t ~	hrough 19th, 2024
Please note the number of trees per packet. $\sim$	. Packets cannot be split.
Plants are bare-rooted and packed in a moisturizing gel. The $\sim$	ey should be planted as soon as possible.
Due to varied weather and digging conditions, we cannot $\epsilon$ ~	guarantee availability of all listed plants.
For a description of all the plants in our sale, visit our we	b site www.portageswcd.org/tree-sale
Mail order form & payme Portage SWCD, 6970 SR 88, Rave Phone: 330-235-682	enna OH 44266

## Portage SWCD 2024 Plant Sale

We will be accepting mail-in and walk-in orders from December 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. All orders placed after February 1, 2024 must be made online using a credit card. This change is necessary to allow us to better manage our inventory. Plant shortages are continuing and supply is tight. We encourage you to order early! We update our plant availability on-line daily as plant inventories dwindle. You can also see a list of plant descriptions on our web site. <u>https://www.portageswcd.org/tree-sale</u>

2024 Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Features						
Blueberries (1-Blue Ray, 1-Blue Crop, 1-Elliot) bareroot seedlings	BCEF	1-yr	bareroot	3 for \$40		
Cherry Trees (sweet)(1 'Benton, 1- 'Summit') bareroot	BEF	1-yr	3-5 ft	2 for \$80		
Red Raspberries - 'Caroline' bareroot	BEF	1-yr	bareroot	5 for \$21		
Fothergilla 'Mt. Airy'	BCFN	SP-4 pot	6-12"	2 for \$20		
Rhododendron (3- Rosebay & 2- Flame Azalea)	BCFN	1-yr	plugs	5 for \$22		
Vernal Witchhazel Hamamelis vernalis	BCFNW	1-yr	24"	2 for \$22		
White Fringetree Chioanthus virginicus	BCFN	3" pot	6-12"	3 for \$17		
Evergreens						
Canaan Fir Ables balsamea phanerolepi	BG	P+2	10-18"	5 for \$21		
Canadian Hemlock Tsuga canadensis	BGN	2-2	7-12"	3 for \$17		
Eastern Red Cedar Juniperus virginiana	BGN	2-0	10-16"	5 for \$12		
Eastern White Pine Pinus strobus	BGN	2-1	8-12"	5 for \$12		
Norway Spruce Picea abies	BG	2-0	18-24"	10 for \$16		
Western Arborvitae Thuja plicata	BG	RC+1	7-14"	3 for \$23		
White Spruce Picea glauca	BG	2-1	12-18"	5 for \$13		
Deciduous						
Bald Cypress Taxodium distichum	BCNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$12		
Black Cherry Prunus serotina	BFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$11		
Bur Oak Quercus macrocarpa	BFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
River Birch Betula nigra	BCNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$11		
Scarlet Oak Quercus coccinea	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$13		
Shagbark Hickory Carya ovata	BCFN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$18		
Sugar Maple Acer saccharum	BCN	2-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Swamp White Oak Quercus bicolor	BCNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$12		
Tulip Poplar Liriodendron tulipfera	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$12		
Shrubs						
American Hazelnut	BCEFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$12		
Black Elderberry Sambucus canadensis	BCEFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Buttonbush Cephalanthus occidentalis	BCFNW	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$10		
Northern Bayberry Myrica pensylvanica	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$12		
Redosier Dogwood Cornus sericea	BCFNW	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$11		
Spicebush Lindera benzoin	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$13		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
Allegheny Serviceberry Amelanchier laevis	BCEFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$14		
American Plum Prunus americana	BCEFN	1-0	12-18"	5 for \$11		
Eastern Redbud Cercis canadensis	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$12		
Pawpaw Asimina triloba <b>1- #1 container &amp; 3 seedlings</b>	BCEFN	2-0	18-24"	1 set for \$28		
White Flowering Dogwood Cornus florida	BCFN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$13		
Other Items						
Northern Pecans (ONGA 1-yr membership plus 5 seedlings)	BCEN	1-0	18-24"	5 for \$25		
Bat House (all-cedar exterior with plywood baffles)				1 for \$70		
Bluebird Houses (New Style: Peterson all-cedar design)				1 for \$35		
	I	I	I	SUBTOTAL		
Note: Plant descriptions at www.portageswcd.org/tree-sale					SALES TAX	
B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering/fruiting				TOTAL		
G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet soils						

## 2024 Tree Sale Highlights

Please note that inventory remains strained for native plant growers. The availability of evergreens is especially tight. We encourage you to order early if you are hoping to buy evergreens.

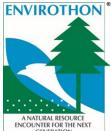
Even with the low inventories, we are excited that we were able to procure a few species that we have had on our wish list for years. New this year are Rhododendrons! Our mixed packet will include three 'Rosebay Rhododendrons' *R. maximum* and two Flame Azalea *R. calendulaceum*. The genus name derives from the Greek words *rhodo*, which means rose, and *dendron*, meaning tree. Rosebay Rhododendron is probably the plant that comes to mind when folks think of the native Rhodies growing in the Appalachian Mountains. This species typically grows 10 to 15 ft tall and wide. Flower color can range from white, light pink, and to rose-purplish pink. The leathery green leaves tend to be evergreen but can be deciduous in northern Ohio. The Flame Azalea boasts bright orange flowers and glossy, dark green deciduous leaves and matures to a height and width of 4 to 8 ft. Flame Azalea is a Rhododendron – actually, all azaleas are Rhododendrons but not all Rhododendrons are Azaleas. Taxonomy is like that! We want our patrons to understand that even though we are very enthusiastic about finding these species to offer, we are not as thrilled about the size we were able to find. The packet of five plants are deep-rooted plugs. The grower stated that he feels like the Rosebay could be directly planted in the ground, but that the Flame Azalea might benefit from a season in a pot prior to planting. After we receive the plants in the spring, we should be able to provide additional advice on planting. Even with this disclaimer, we expect the Rhododendrons to sell out early.

Another species that is not so easy to find is Vernal Witch-hazel. American Witch-hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana* is more readily available and is the species we typically offer. The *H. virginiana* blooms mid-fall to late winter while the *H. vernalis* blooms late winter to early spring. Growth habit, flower color, leaf shape and color are similar in both species. However, with the *H. vernalis*, it's just a special treat to find a spidery yellow flower blooming in late winter when everything else is dormant. *H. vernalis* is native to the forest understory on slopes, moist stream banks, and upland areas, and the plant is adaptable to many growing conditions. It can mature to a height of 20' and should perhaps be thought of as a small tree when siting it in the landscape. Select a location that has moist, well-drained soil. We viewed these plants at the nursery this fall, and they are a real bargain considering their size, developed branching and root structure. Don't miss the opportunity to add these to your landscape!

Finding the native Fringe Tree, *Chioanthus virginicus* is also a bit of a challenge. Most garden centers carry the Chinese Fringe Tree. Our native Fringe Tree has, as the name implies, fringy white flowers. Fringe Tree is a great choice for gardeners that are trying to create a 'layered' landscape. A part-shade location with well-drained soil is an excellent site for this species. Growing to a height of 12 to 20 ft. Fringe Tree is a perfect addition to a woodland edge or shrub border. The Fringe Trees are sold in a packet of three plants in 3" pots.

We learned from the 2023 spring sale that small, potted raspberries are not a good option for our sale, so we have returned to dormant, bareroot plants. We have always received vigorous plants from the grower we are using for our 2024 sale. The selected cultivar, *'Caroline'* is a productive, thornless, primocane variety with large, flavorful berries.

## **2024 Envirothon Information**



The Envirothon<sup>®</sup> is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience and competition for high school students (grades 9-12 or ages 14-19) across the United States, Canada, and China. Incorporating STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*) principles, experiential learning and hands-on outdoor field experiences, the Envirothon fosters student learning in the areas of *Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issue.* 

The 2024 Current Environmental Issue is: "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future"

The Area 2 Envirothon competition will be held on April 24th, 2024 and hosted by Wayne County SWCD. Registration details for the Area 2 Envirothon will be available soon. Contact Anthony at <u>alerch@portageswcd.org</u>.

For more information about the 2024 topic visit: https://envirothon.org/the-competition/current-competition/ You can be placed on a contact list for these updates.

## Portage County Recycling CHaRM Center

There are new options at the Portage County Recycling Center and we are excited to share them with you. They are making tremendous efforts to collect many '<u>h</u>ard to <u>recycle</u> <u>m</u>aterials' at their newly opened **CHaRM Center** located at 3588 Mogadore Road, Kent, OH 44240. The link below provides information about hours of operation as well as what items are acceptable and any special conditions or fees associated with various materials. Some of the hard to recycle items include: appliances, electronics, tires, automotive fluids, batteries (auto & household), scrap metal, cooking oil, and plastic bags. The PC Recycling Center is also accepting food waste and yard debris—see their website for additional information.

https://portagerecycles.com/c-h-a-r-m-facility

Please contact your municipality for additional holiday waste collection.

**City of Aurora** Phone: 330-995-9116

City of Kent Service Department Phone: 330-678-8105

**City of Ravenna Service Department** Phone: 330-296-6326

City of Streetsboro Service Department Phone: 330-626-2856 Village of Garrettsville Street Department phone: 330-527-2150

Village of Hiram Village Hall Phone: 330-569-7677

Village of Mantua Service Department Phone: 330-274-8188

Franklin Township Township Hall: 330-673-2194

> for Up Now for NSDA Conservation Programs!



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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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