

Conservation News

Union Soil & Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4, Suite D
Marysville, OH 43040



Phone: (937) 642-5871 ext. 4

www.unioncountyohio.gov/USWCD

USWCD Board of Supervisors

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Mariah Lashley, Soil Con

Sierah Geldbaugh, Soil Con

LaRae Baker, Training Coor.

Brent Smith, ACES

2025 Annual Tree Sale to be held on April 26!

The sale will be held at from 9:00 a.m. and run until noon, or until **SOLD OUT** in the Union County Agricultural Center parking lot and will be conducted as a drive-through.

**Trees are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
We reserve the right to limit individual quantities.**

Cash and checks are accepted. Due supply running out wait until time of purchase to write your checks.

Evergreens will be sold in packets of 25 for \$40/pkt.

Canaan Fir, Norway Spruce, and White Pine

Hardwood & Shrub will be sold in packets of 5 for \$15/pkt.

American Chestnut, American Plum, Black Elderberry,
Pussy Willow, River Birch, Shagbark Hickory,
Sugar Maple, and Swamp White Oak

The order form and species description are included in this newsletter. For the most up-to-date order form and species description sale information, click on the link below.

www.unioncountyohio.gov/departments/USWCD/tree-sale

2025 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE

Sale date will be Saturday, April 26, 2025

The sale will be held at the Union County Agricultural Center's Ditch Maintenance Building in the rear parking lot at 18000 St. Rt. 4, Marysville, Ohio. Sale starts at **9:00 a.m. to Noon or until SOLD OUT**

Any remaining seedlings will be sold the following week in our office, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

We will not accept orders prior to the sale. All stocks are seedlings only and **sold will be on a first-come, first-served basis**. Please make selections below and bring the completed form with you on the day of the sale. After ensuring that all species desired are still available, we will total your order.

We accept Cash or Checks only for payment. Make Checks Payable to: Union SWCD

EVERGREENS

<u># Packets</u>	<u>25/Pkt. (cost + tax)</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>
_____	\$40/pkt. (\$37.38 + \$2.62)	Colorado Blue Spruce	8-12"	(2-1)	_____
_____	\$40/pkt. (\$37.38 + \$2.62)	Norway Spruce	18-24"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$40/pkt. (\$37.38 + \$2.62)	White Pine	8-12"	(2-1)	_____

HARDWOOD/SHRUB

<u># Packets</u>	<u>5/Pkt. (cost + tax)</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	American Chestnut	6-12"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	American Hazelnut	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Common Paw Paw	12-18"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Common Persimmon	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Red Maple	12-18"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Red Oak	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Red Osier Dogwood	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Redbud	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$15/pkt. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	White Flowering Dogwood	12-18"	(1-0, 2-0)	_____

ACCESSORIES

<u># Bundles</u>	<u>100/bd. (cost + tax)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Sub-Total</u>
_____	\$15/bd. (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Marking Flags	_____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please include your email address below if you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter

OFFICE USE:

Cash / Check

Check # _____

Receipt # _____



2025 Brief Descriptions of Species

Evergreens:

Colorado Blue Spruce – *Picea pungens* (non-native)

The Colorado Blue Spruce will grow to 60 ft tall and 15 ft wide and is very wind firm due to its large spreading root system and tough flexible wood. This tree can live a long life (100 years+) in its native area, outside of that it varies greatly and many times live no longer than 25 years. will do quite well in poor soils that other spruce do not like. It is very drought resistant needing only 15" or less per year of rain and can tolerate hot dry summers better than many other spruce species. They are often grown as ornamental trees in gardens and parks and also grown for the Christmas tree industry

Norway Spruce – *Picea abies*

This hardy spruce is a fairly fast growing evergreen that can reach a mature height of 80'+ and a naturally pyramidal spread of 25-30'. Its dark green needles make it a fine landscape specimen or very effective as screen plantings. Norway spruce will not tolerate excessive moisture for prolonged periods.

White Pine – *Pinus strobus* (native)

The White Pine is a fast growing (2-3 ft per year or more) evergreen that has needles of from 3—6 inches long and are arranged in bundles of five on the stem. In Sep-Oct this pine “sheds “ all of its needles that grew out the previous year. It will grow to 80 feet tall by 40 feet wide or larger under optimum conditions, with a rapid growth rate. Its shape is upright pyramidal when young but becomes irregular with maturity. The White Pine performs best in evenly moist, rich, well-drained, acidic soils in full sun.

Hardwoods/ Shrubs:

American Chestnut – *Castanea dentata*

American Chestnut was predominately located in the eastern half of Ohio, where the soils are more acidic. Its nuts were a staple food of the Native Americans and pioneers, while its wood was harvested for the production of furniture, musical instruments, caskets, crates, and tannin. Dimensions of 80 feet tall by 60 feet wide were regularly obtained when it was located in the open. As a member of the Beech Family, it is related to the Oaks and the Beeches, in addition to other Chestnuts.

American Hazelnut - *Corylus americana*

one of several related large shrubs known for their tasty nuts that provide food for humans or wild-life, is found throughout Ohio along roadsides, in fields, at the edges of forest, and in fencerows, in dry or moist sites. Also known as American Filbert or Hazel, it develops a broad, rounded, strongly suckering growth habit with age.

Common Paw Paw – *Asimina triloba*

Pawpaws flourish in the deep, rich fertile soils of river-bottom lands where they grow as understory trees or thicket-shrubs. Fruit set in the wild is usually low and may be pollinator or resource-limited but under cultivation, tremendous fruit loads have been observed. They are ideally suited for the residential 'edible' landscape due to their lush, tropical appearance, attractive growth form, size, fall color, and delicious fruit. This small tree is easily recognized by its large, tropical-looking foliage and prized for its delicious fruits that mature in late summer. When found in the open, it may reach 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide as an individual tree. Pawpaw strongly prefers soils of variable pH that are evenly moist but well-drained, deep and rich (high in organic)

2025 Brief Descriptions of Species (Continued)

Hardwoods/ Shrubs: (continued)

Common Persimmon – *Diospyros virginiana*

The Persimmon tree is primarily known for its ripened fruits, when provide food for animals and humans alike in mid to late autumn. Persimmon is quite adaptable to a variety of soil, moisture, and polluted conditions. It prefers moist, well-drained, average soils of various pH's, but easily adapts to poor, rocky, clay, sandy, or even organic soils of dry or moist constitution. Fruit may be produced by 10-year-old trees but optimum fruit-bearing age is 25-50 years.

Red Maple – *Acer rubrum*

This is a colorful deciduous shrub that is often thicket-forming. It is a great plant for naturalizing an odd area or property boundary. It will reach a mature height of 7-9', with an equal or wider eventual spread. Red Osier Dogwood prefers full sun, but often naturalizes in the light shade of woodland edges. Berries produce food for wildlife and the brilliant red stems offer winter landscape appeal. This is a plant that will often tolerate extended seasonal wetness.

Red Oak – *Quercus rubra* (native)

The Red Oak is a major timber tree of the eastern and Midwestern United States. The tough, heavy wood of Red Oak has a reddish-orange coloration and is an important hardwood for the Ohio timber industry, involved in the production of beams, railroad ties, furniture, flooring, and other usages. Reaching 60 feet tall by 70 feet wide when found in the open under urban landscape conditions, it may grow taller and more massive in the wild. It prefers moist, deep, rich, well-drained soils of slightly acidic pH. It adapts readily to dry soils of acidic, neutral, or slightly alkaline pH

Red Osier Dogwood – *Cornus sericea*

This is a colorful deciduous shrub that is often thicket-forming. It is a great plant for naturalizing an odd area or property boundary. It will reach a mature height of 7-9', with an equal or wider eventual spread. Red Osier Dogwood prefers full sun, but often naturalizes in the light shade of woodland edges. Berries produce food for wildlife and the brilliant red stems offer winter landscape appeal. This is a plant that will often tolerate extended seasonal wetness.

Redbud – *Cornus florida*

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), also known as Eastern Redbud or Judas Tree, is abundant in the southern two-thirds of Ohio, with scattered distribution in the northern one-third of the state . It heralds the arrival of spring with its showy, lavender-pink flowers that typically open in April, long before the foliage. This ornamental tree is rapidly growing and usually multitrunked in the wild, having a vase shape with a rounded crown that reaches about 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide at maturity, when found in the open. However, since it is often located at the edge of woodlands, it commonly has a leaning growth habit, trying to grow into as much sunlight as possible. Redbud prefers deep, moist, organic, well-drained soils, but adapts to many less-than-favorable soils of either acidic or alkaline pH as long as they are not wet

White Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*

Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 30' high and is often wider than it is tall when mature, with a trunk diameter of up to 1'. Flowering dogwood does best in moist, acidic soil in a site with some afternoon shade, but good morning sun. The fruit is a cluster of two to ten drupes, which ripen in the late summer and the early fall to a bright red, or occasionally yellow with a rosy blush. They are an important food source for dozens of species of birds. The leaves turn a rich red-brown in fall.

Drainage Maintenance Update

Drainage Maintenance Crews dipped out Rocky Fork Ditch, Elliot Ditch, and a section of Lower Green Joint Ditch. In the spring, our crews will be level spoils and restore the filter strips



Mill Creek Logjam update

H&H Land Clearing started the project on December 17, 2024. Work began on the section of Infirmary Ditch and headed downstream about one mile to remove the dead trees and log jams from the stream to allow flow. H&H pulled 90 + various log jams from the channel of Mill Creek and Infirmary ditch in that section. H&H crews headed North to the Logan County line and have begun working downstream, removing dead trees from the top 25 feet of the bank and log jams from the main channel.



If you have any drainage-related questions, contact our office
Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Joe Eads, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
18000 State Route 4, Ste. D, Marysville, OH 43040

Email: jeads@unioncountyohio.gov
Ph: 937-209-2236

Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.
brent.nickel@unioncountyohio.gov

Spring Wildlife and Habitat Interests and Concerns

Share Your Love for the Outdoors - Take A Kid Fishing

Spring fishing affords many opportunities for nice catches of Crappie, White Bass, Bluegill and larger species such as Saugeye, Walleye and Catfish. So string up an extra pole and take a youngster with you when you head out to your favorite hole to wet a line. Teach them to tie a fishing knot, let them play in the bait box or minnow bucket, make a game of packing out litter and show them how much fun a few hours wetting a line can be. Take pictures and display them. It's amazing what kids can remember from photos. Most of all, have fun and create memories!

**Secure the future of Fishing for Tomorrow.
Take a Kid Fishing**

Wildlife Conflict Management ...Forget Control!

Experiencing wildlife conflicts? Try the solutions associated with this wildlife conflict resolution website!
The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management:
<http://www.icwdm.org/>

OLHAP



OHIO LANDOWNER/HUNTER ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

- This is private property open to access for the purpose of wildlife-based recreation.
- OLHAP permit is required.
- Please practice leave no trace by packing all trash out.
- Funding for OLHAP is partially funded by grant monies in the VPA section of the Farm Bill.
- For more information on this program or to obtain your OLHAP permit visit ohiodnr.gov.



VPA-HIP

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



**NEED A PLACE
TO HUNT?
[OLHAP](#)
has you
covered!**

The Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership program is up and running!

Check out the great properties enrolled in this program to expand your hunting opportunities.

What's In-Season

Hunting Regulations:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/hunting-trapping>

Fishing Regulations:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources>

"Hunting With Permission" forms and **Hunting Regulations** and **Fishing Regulations** are available at our office.

The Division of Wildlife has an "APP" for that!

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/huntfishoh-mobile-app>

Get the APP and do all of your Division of Wildlife business right from your phone! Don't forget to update your APP on an annual basis for updated hunting and fishing regulations!

Don't Forget Your Best Friend

Training and Testing seasons are upon us and most dog related hunting seasons won't be back until early fall. Take advantage of any local training groups and keep your best friend in shape and sharp on their skills.

Most wildlife areas are open for training and exercising now until May 1.

Dogs may not be trained or exercised on state public hunting areas May 1 through August 31, except on designated dog training areas.

Keep an eye out for testing and trial days and come out and watch some amazing dogs show off their talents.

Recommendations to PONDer

Look now for any unwanted curly-leaf pondweed, filamentous algae, duckweed, and watermeal in ponds.

If there is a history of their presence, they will likely be there again...

I have fact sheets available in my office that covers a wide variety of common pond problems and the potential treatments of those problems

Injured—or what appears to be **Helpless Wildlife?**

Call or contact the **Ohio Wildlife Center** – 614-793-WILD (9453) – then follow their every instruction!

<http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org>

"Humans are often wildlife's last hope for survival – not necessarily their best hope."

Technical Trivia: Adequate Tile Outlet

Covering conservation and drainage topics on a quarterly basis.

A good drainage outlet is essential for most building sites in Union County. The drainage outlet should have adequate capacity, depth, and stability. If the outlet is inadequate, the value of the entire drainage system can be greatly reduced or lost. This drainage system can include, but is not limited to, the necessary outlet for on-site sewage systems, sump pump drains, roof drains, geo-thermal, and water softener discharge.

Criteria of an Adequate Outlet:

An adequate outlet is an existing tile main, open ditch, or stream which is deep enough and has sufficient capacity to provide a free outlet with adequate cover over a connecting subsurface drain. There are several references which will be used to determine the adequacy of the outlet; the USDA Soil Survey of Union County, the USGS Topographic Maps, and the County Watershed Maps. An indicator of an adequate outlet is a three dot stream in the USDA Soil Survey, a blue line stream on the USGS Topographic Maps, and/or a county maintained ditch or tile on the County Watershed Maps.

The outlet also needs to be relatively free from obstructions that would hinder the flow of water. Public road ditches are not considered to be acceptable outlets. Ponds are typically not an acceptable outlet.

When a subsurface drain outlets into an open ditch, the end of the drain should be protected against erosion, damaging periods of submergence, and entry of rodents or other animals into the drain.

The vertical distance between the bottom of the subsurface drain and the ditch bottom should be at least 1.0 feet. (This vertical distance may be reduced if (1) the outlet ditch is not subject to any significant deposition of sediment, or (2) there is an effective maintenance program on the ditch.) In all cases, the subsurface drain shall outlet above the normal low water stage in the outlet ditch.

The outlet pipe of the subsurface drain shall be a continuous section of rigid pipe and shall be 20 feet in length. At least two thirds of the outlet pipe should be embedded into the ditch bank with the overhanging length discharging at the toe of the ditch slope. If the outlet pipe discharges on the ditch side slope, the slope shall be protected from erosion. The recommended materials for outlet pipes are smooth-wall Corrugated Polyethylene pipe or Schedule 40 PVC pipe. Animal guards are needed on all outlets to exclude small animals. Gratings or attached screens should not be used, since debris may enter through the inlets and collect on the gratings.

Existing Tile Mains

Existing tile mains that are used as outlets for proposed subsurface drains shall be carefully checked to see that they are an acceptable outlet. To be adequate as an outlet for proposed subsurface drains, or to accommodate additional tile laterals, an existing tile main should:

1. Be free from breakdowns, fractured tile, excessive sedimentation, or clogging.
2. Appear to be working properly and have an adequate outlet as described above.
3. Have sufficient capacity based on the grade (slope of tile main) and degree of drainage required for the area presently drained, and for areas to be drained into the tile main in the future. Please note that most existing tile mains in Union County were not designed to handle the amount of discharge required by residential development.
4. Have sufficient depth to provide a minimum cover of 2.5 feet on all subsurface drains used as part of the drainage system. If there is insufficient cover, smooth-wall pipe, as described above, may be used until adequate cover is obtained.

If you have questions or want to learn more, feel free to contact us!

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.
Joseph Grove, Urban Technician - jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



Prepping Your Backyard for Spring

Slowly but surely, Spring is returning here in Union County. That means that there are various steps you can take to get your backyard ready for new growth!

- **Now is an excellent time to clean out and mulch your flower beds**

Surrounding your plants with a layer of mulch will help to protect their sensitive roots and hold in moisture as temperatures rise.

- **Remember to use fertilizers and weedkillers responsibly**

Always read package directions to ensure that products are properly applied. When applied in excess, these chemicals are washed into waterways by rain, polluting our rivers and contributing to algal blooms in larger water bodies.

- **Remember to return grass clippings to your yard**

Mowing will begin soon enough. Leaving the clippings in your yard will provide a natural source of nitrogen to help new blades grow. Some people also use grass clippings in their gardens as a natural fertilizer and weed suppressant. Just don't lay down more than an inch or two at a time. A layer that thick can block air and water from reaching the soil.

- **Consider a rain barrel**

Using a rain barrel is an excellent way to make use of spring rains while saving on your water bill. While there are various styles of rain barrels that you can purchase or make yourself, the City of Marysville has a partnership with Rain Water Solutions to offer 50 gallon rain barrels for almost half off their normal price.

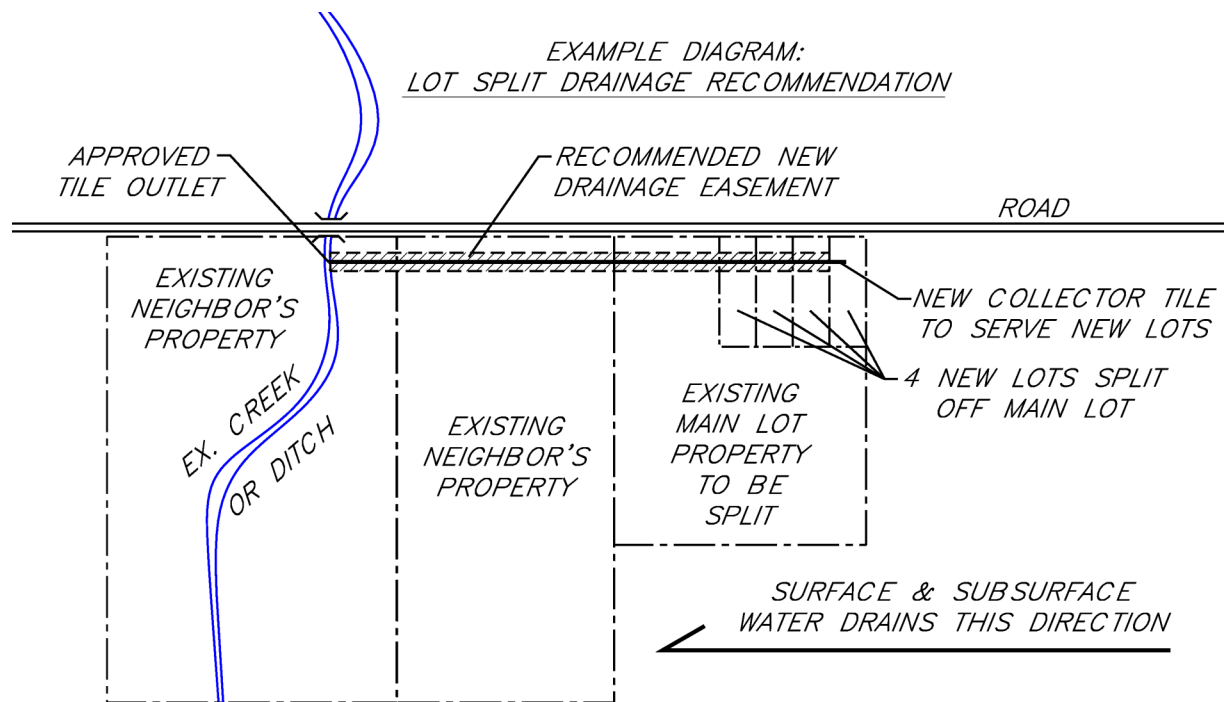
The deadline to place online orders is April 16th at 11 PM.

Pickup is April 26th from 9 to 11 AM at 455 North Maple Street.

Visit www.rainwatersolutions.com/products/marysville for more information.

PSA: Lot Splitting for New Residential Lots

Recommended infrastructure needed to avoid a future headache during permitting.



As we are all aware, development in Union County is increasing exponentially. Here at Union County Soil and Water, we have MOU's with some of the Townships in Union County to determine how new homes deal with the water shedding off their property. The Townships that we have this agreement with are the following: Darby, Dover, Leesburg, Liberty, Millcreek, Paris, Union and York.

Above is an example showing what we would recommend to someone wanting to sell off some new lots for residential homes. We would recommend a new subsurface collector tile to service the new lots. The new houses would tie into the collector with their residential needs, such as water softener backwash and sump pump drain. This subsurface tile should run to an approved outlet, which is typically a stream, creek, or stable ditch. Our reasoning behind this is to help the upstream homeowners avoid saturating the yards of the downstream neighbors, causing feuds or even lawsuits. We also highly recommend that an easement is recorded to envelop this new drainage tile. This easement protects the homeowners access for future repairs of the tile. A title company or your legal representative can assist with this easement recording process. If you are planning to split lots off for sale, we implore you to get this infrastructure installed prior to putting the lots on the market to avoid a future headache.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact us at (937) 642 5871 ext. 4

Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Serving Union County's Conservation needs for 79 years

2024 Annual Report

Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and enhance the wise use of our natural resources for the people of Union County by providing technical, financial and educational assistance.

The Union SWCD was formed in 1945, the 47th District in Ohio, for the purpose of planning and carrying out natural resources conservation programs. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Union County, who serve staggered three-year terms. The supervisors donate their time to serve Union County landowners.

Monthly board meetings of the Union SWCD Board of Supervisors are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month to conduct business. All meetings are open to the public and held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

2024 Board of Supervisors

Matt Staley, Chair

Andy Clarridge, Vice-Chairman

Cheryl Trivisonno, Fiscal Agent/Treasurer

Randy Trapp, Secretary

Rick Weigand, Member

2024 Union SWCD Operating Funds

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District operates on funding provided by the Union County Commissioners, the Union County Township Trustees and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil & Water Resources.

Local Funds:

Union County Commissioners	\$400,000.00
Township Trustees	\$ 1,200.00

Other Sources:

State Matching Funds	\$308,384.00
ODNR Wildlife Specialist Grant	\$ 22,000.00

Annual Meeting & Election

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District held its 79th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at the Der Dutchman Restaurant at 445 South Jefferson Avenue, Plain City, Ohio. There were 72 people in attendance.

The election of Supervisors was held with candidates were Cat Hufnagle and Larry Morris. Larry Morris was elected for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2025

Entertainment: Emily Mullen of The Mullen Dairy and Creamery. Emily's presentation explained how she diversified her family's dairy operation and the inspiration behind its success.

Associate Supervisors

Bill Conklin	Jay Rausch	Jim Mitchell	Joe Wiley
Matt Furer	Steve Drumm	Suzi Clarridge	

District Staff

Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Wildlife Specialist
Sherry Maisenbacher, Administrative Assistant
Mark Watkins, District Technician
Ross Carter, District Technician
Matt Williams, District Technician
Joseph Grove, Urban Technician
Joe Eads, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
Matt Archer, Drainage maintenance Technician
Cody Beery, Drainage maintenance Technician

USDA, NRCS Staff

Ron Neiman, District Conservationist
LaRae Baker, Resource Conservationist
Adam Slappy, Soil Conservationist
Mariah Lashley, Soil Conservationist
Sierah Geldbaugh, Soil Conservationist
Brent Smith, ACES

Conservation Products

- Rentals: No-till drill was rented out (17) times for a total of 658 acres
Straw blower was rented out (1) times.
Tree Planter was rented out (2) times.
Tree Puller was rented out (0) times.
- Tree Sale: Union SWCD 2024 Tree Sale was held as a drive-thru on April 15th, 2024 With 5,090 seedlings available to 129 customers.
- Fish Sale: Union SWCD 2024 Fish Sale was held October 1st and we sold 5,364 fingerlings to 9 customers.

Education

- School Presentations: Presented the Groundwater Simulator and the Enviroscape modules to Fairbanks Middle School, North Union Middle School, and North Union High School. Read The Lorax to the first graders at North Union on Earth Day.

The Groundwater Simulator, the Enviroscape modules, and the AR Sand table were made available to Union County teachers upon request to use in their classrooms.

- National Hunting & Fishing Day:
Assisted with 100+ participants
- Hunting & Fishing Education:
Assisted with - 10 classes for over 400+ participants
- Pheasants Forever Youth & Ladies Shoot and Hunt:
2 presentations and 75+ participants
- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfasts:
(4) Conservation Tillage Club breakfasts were held in 2024 at the Plaza Inn in Mt. Victory with (200+) people attending.

Outreach

- Don Cook Memorial Scholarship Fund: Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance and Union SWCD sponsored Anna Headings, Cory Meyer, John Heffelfinger, and Sophia Cramer to attend 4-H Camp at Camp Clifton.
- Provide a subscription of the Ohio Woodland Journal to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools.
- Participated in the Richwood Independent Fair by providing educational displays
- Union SWCD Website: Provided announcements, events, quarterly newsletters, conservation and drainage information to the public.

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/USWCD>

- District Facebook Page: Provided announcements, events, conservation and drainage information to the public

Drainage Maintenance

- Ditches: (35) Maintained with 62.59 miles of ditches by spraying (southern ditches) and mowing (northern ditches).
- Subdivisions: (39) maintained with 16.58 miles of subsurface drainpipe along agriculture drainage systems, (52) urban subdivision retention basins, and (199) concrete drainage structures which included headwalls, manholes and catch basins and (40) projects are pending awaiting the final punch-outs
- Construction Projects: Morris Beery completed in the fall.
- Petition Projects: Mill Creek Logjam approved and started in the fall.
- Subdivision Plat Reviews: (30) subdivision plats reviewed.
- Assessment Spreadsheets: (72) spreadsheets are maintained.

Technical Assistance

The following are some of our technical accomplishments of the past year:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): (4) Inspections completed
- Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP): (5) Complaints: Investigated
- CRP-MCM Assessment/Review: (39) Field Visits and Landowner Meetings
- Grassed Waterways: Assisted (47) landowners designing/planning
- Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP): (4) UC landowners
- Pond Management: Provided assistance to (32) pond owners.
- Pond Site Evaluations and Planning: Assisted (9) residents
- Drainage Assistance: Assisted (90) UC landowners with Erosion, sediment, stormwater control and management
- Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI): Assisted (6) UC landowners
- Low Water Crossing (LWC): Assisted/designed (3) for UC landowners
- H2Ohio Clean Water Initiative: Assisted (20) landowners with P1 signups
- Agricultural Subsurface Drainage: designed (1) for UC landowners
- Drainage Maintenance: Developed an inventory and project tracking system
 - ◇ Petitioned ditches (repairs): Beach Open, Blues Creek, Cattail Swamp, Elliott Run SCS, Leo Rausch Sugar Run, Lower Green Joint, Marriott Open, Morris Beery, Prairie Run SCS, Kile, Rapid Run SCS, and Rocky Fors SCS
 - ◇ Construction: Mill Creek Logjam project began in the fall of 2024.
 - ◇ Petitioned subdivisions (repairs): Britonwood GPN 10, Darby Braeside, Glacier Pointe Ph. 1, Jerome Village - Hyland Croy, ERN01, GPN01, GPN03, GPN07, GPN08, GPN12, Mitchell Crossing, New Cali. Hills 13, and Waterford Estates
 - ◇ Pending Projects: Ditches - Lincoln, Wenrick, Farrington and Subdivisions - Curry Farm, Del Webb, Jerome Professional Park, Jerome Village Market, and Memorial Jerome Medical Center
- Solar Projects: Acciona/Union Solar; Invenergy/Cadence Solar, and Samsung/Richwood Solar.

Urban Conservation

- Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) Townships: Currently we have agreements to provide technical assistance on soils and drainage for all new home sites. In addition to home site inspections, the following townships require a zoning permit for ponds as well

Darby Township Trustees
Dover Township Trustees
Leesburg Township Trustees
Liberty Township Trustees
Millcreek Township Trustees
Paris Township Trustees
Union Township Trustees
York Township Trustees

- Home Site Reviews: (18) Home site visits to determine proper lot drainage for new homes were performed and (2) construction site for sediment and erosion control BMPs.
- Be the Change for Clean Water Partner: The Be the Change initiative exists to keep you informed about programs and services in Central Ohio & how they can benefit you! When it comes to protecting our water resources we all need to be part of the solution. Be The Change for Clean Water is bringing together ten counties and a multitude of partners to provide education, resources, and opportunities to make it easier for all Central Ohio residents to Be the Change for Clean Water.
<http://www.bethechangeformcleanwater.org>
- Drainage Complaints/Investigations/Information: (37) incidents were addressed

Wildlife Assistance

- Wildlife Conflict/Damage Investigations (9):
Bagworms, Bats, Beaver, Bees, Caterpillars, Coyote, Fox, Feral Cats, Geese, Hawks, Muskrats, Raccoons, Groundhogs, Woodpeckers, Blackbirds/ Starlings, Squirrels/ Chipmunks, Rabbits, Swans, and Turtles.
- Wildlife Assistance (17):
Provided assistance to variety of individuals concerning pheasant rearing, wildlife rescue information, “orphaned wildlife”, wildlife exclusion methods, habitat, muskrat/dike damage, wildlife conflict/nuisance investigations, Nuisance Trapper Lists, plant ID, etc.
- Wildlife Habitat Assistance (10):
Landowner discussions for field management/contract requirements.
Assist landowners with Native Plant ID’s.

***Union SWCD Board of Supervisors would like to thank all
the Partners, Funders, Sponsors and Supporters***

2024 Supporters

Union County Commissioners

Union County Engineer

Union County Auditor

Union County Treasurer

Union County Health Department.

City of Marysville

Union County Pheasants Forever - Chapter #535

Union County Farm Bureau

OSU Extension

USDA Farm Service Agency

Union County Ag Association

The Scotts Company

Darby Township Trustees

National Association of Conservation Districts

ODNR Division of Forestry

ODNR Division of Wildlife

ODA Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

2024 Affiliate Members

Cook Real Estate (Gold Member)	60 years
Ohigro Inc. (Silver Member)	51 years
MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing (Silver Member)	37 years
Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance (Gold Member)	32 years
Select Sires, Inc (Platinum Member)	30 years
Union County Farm Bureau (Gold Member)	27 years
Smart Oil, LLC (Gold Member)	11 years
Millcreek Gardens LLC (Silver Member)	5 years
Seed Consultants (Silver Member)	5 years
Vititoe Construction, Inc. (Platinum Member)	5 years
Connolly Construction Co. (Silver Member)	4 years
MitchellAgri (Gold Member)	4 years
The Seed Center (Gold Member)	4 years
Benny's Pizza (Gold Member)	3 years
Bokes Creek Hot Shots (Gold Member)	3 years
Bokes Creek Orchard (Gold Member)	3 years
Richwood Tire Center (Silver Member)	3 years
Steve Stolte (Gold Member)	3 years
Al's Leather Craft LTD (Silver Member)	2 years
Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Association (Gold Member)	2 years
Bahan Excavating LLC	1 year
Gravatt Family Farm	1 year
Heflin Catering	1 year

Don Cook Memorial Scholarship

Established in 1995, the Don Cook Memorial Scholarship was in memory of Don Cook. This scholarship allows campers to have learning experiences that will enable them to develop an appreciation for conservation and the outdoors. These were key aspects of Cook's life. Sponsored by Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Insurance, and Union SWCD, scholarships are available for youth attending 4-H Camp.

Dave Cook, Dean Cook, and Union SWCD will sponsor (4) - \$80 Don Cook Memorial Scholarships to 4-H members attending 4-H camp @ Camp Clifton in Yellow Springs, Ohio, June 9th - 13th, 2025.

To Apply:

- ◆ Write a short essay. The theme for the essay is "Camp Clifton Goes Live."
- ◆ Mail or drop off your essay to:
Union Soil and Water Conservation District
18000 St. Rt. 4, Suite D
Marysville, OH 43040.
- ◆ Essays are due April 23, 2025
- ◆ Include contact information with your essay. We will notify recipients directly.**

Looking for USWCD Supervisor Candidates

Interested in being a Board member and serving Union County?

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) Nominating Committee is currently seeking eligible individuals interested in learning more about the role of a SWCD board member. SWCD Board members are Ohio public officials elected at a special election as prescribed by [Ohio Revised Code 940](#).

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for the leadership role in developing and implementing all short and long-term goals for the SWCD. Some of the duties of the locally led board include identifying local conservation needs and developing, implementing, and evaluating strategic plans and programs to meet them; educating and informing landowners and operators, the general public, and legislators on conservation issues; and coordinating assistance and funding from federal, state, and local government, district association, and private groups.

Board members should have a sincere interest in conservation and must have the enthusiasm, dedication, and time to serve as elected officials.

What a potential supervisor needs to know:

- * Candidate must be over 18 years old and a resident of Union County.
- * This is a volunteer position and runs for 3-year terms.
- * Board meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month @ 6:00 p.m.
- * Attendance at occasional outside meetings and events is required.
- * Click link to view the [SWCD Board Supervisor Position Description](#)

For more information, contact the USWCD District office at (937) 642-5871 Ext. 4 or email Sherry Maisenbacher at smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov.

The USWCD 80th Annual Banquet and Election is planned for August 13, 2025 at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, Ohio.

Union SWCD Affiliate Member Application

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/departments/USWCD/affiliate-members--donors>

Affiliate membership dollars are used to help contribute to a variety of natural resource education efforts for Union County residents. Such efforts include field days, pond clinics, displays, tours, camp scholarships and presentations to schools and civic groups.

Membership Benefits:

Annual Meeting Tickets	Listed in our Annual Meeting Program
Listed in our Annual Report	Listed on our website
Recognized in our quarterly newsletter	Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoint

Please complete the form below:

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Website: _____

Choose one of the following Affiliate memberships available:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Membership | \$500 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Membership | \$250 - \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership | \$100 - \$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership | \$50 - \$99 |

Send this form along with a check payable to: Union SWCD
18000 State Route 4, Suite D
Maryville, OH 43040

If you have any questions please contact Sherry Maisenbacher at
(937) 642-5871 x2221 or smaisenbacher@unioncountyohio.gov

Upcoming Events / Office Closures

April 10, 2025:	USWCD Board Meeting , 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room
April 26, 2025:	USWCD Annual Tree Sale , 9:00 a.m. - Noon or until SOLD OUT
May 8, 2025:	USWCD Board Meeting , 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room
May 26, 2025:	Holiday: The office will be closed for Memorial Day
June 12, 2025:	USWCD Board Meeting , 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room
June 19, 2025:	Holiday: The office will be closed for Juneteenth
July 4, 2025:	Holiday: The office will be closed for Independence Day
July 10, 2025:	USWCD Board Meeting , 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room
August 13, 2025:	USWCD Board Meeting , 5:00 p.m. at Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH
August 13, 2025:	Union SWCD 80th Annual Banquet & Election , Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH. (Election 5:45 p.m. & Meal 6:30 p.m.)
September 1, 2025	Holiday: The office will be closed for Labor Day
September 11, 2025	USWCD Board Meeting , 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room

2025 Affiliate Members

www.unioncountyohio.gov/departments/USWCD/affiliate-members--donors

Platinum Member

Burrey Aquatic Restoration LLC

Gold Members

Ag-Pro Richwood
Gravatt Family Farm

Connolly Companies
MitchellAgri, Inc.

Cook Real Estate
Sheely Ag Services, LLC

Smart Oil, LLC

Steve Stolte

Silver Member

Richwood Tire Center