

Conservation News

VOLUME 29 No. 1 WINTER 2025

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Union SWCD

18000 St. Rt. 4 Suite D Marysville, OH 43040 937-642-5871 x 4

Union SWCD 2025 Annual Tree Sale to be held on April 26!

Mark your calendars for this year's tree sale! The sale will be held at the Union County Agricultural Center parking lot and we will be conducting the sale as a drive through event again this year.

Evergreens will be sold in packets of 25 for \$40/pkt and Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, and White Pine

Hardwood and Shrub species sold in packets of 5 for \$15/pkt
American Chestnut, American Hazelnut, Black Cherry,
Common Paw Paw, Common Persimmon, Red Maple, Red Oak,
Red Osier Dogwood, Red Bud, and White Flowering Dogwood

The sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. and run until noon, or until **SOLD OUT!**

Trees are available on a first come first serve basis.

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

Order form and a description of each species is include in this newsletter

Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast Meetings

The Hardin, Logan and Union Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Hardin and Union OSU Extension offices are hosting the Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast meetings in 2025.

This year there will be four meetings January 16, January 30, February 13, February 27

All meetings will start with breakfast at 7:45 a.m. at new location: Mid-Ohio Energy, 1210 W. Lima St., Kenton, OH 43326

PLAN TO JOIN US!

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 <u>Cash</u> or <u>Checks</u> only for payment. Make Checks Payable to: <u>Union SWCD</u>

		EVERGREENS			
# Packets	$25/\text{Pkt.} (\cos t + \tan x)$	Species	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	Sub-Total
	\$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)	
	<u>\$40/pkt</u> . (\$37.38 + \$2.62)	White Pine	8-12"	(2-1)	
		HARDWOOD/SHRUB			
# Packets	5/Pkt. (cost + tax)	Species	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	Sub-Total
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	American Chestnut	6-12"	(1-0)	
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	American Hazelnut	12-18"	(1-0)	
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Common Paw Paw	12-18"	(2-0)	
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Common Persimmon	12-18"	(1-0)	
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Red Maple	12-18"	(2-0)	
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$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)	
	<u>\$15/pkt</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	White Flowering Dogwood	12-18"	(1-0, 2-0)
		ACCESSORIES			
# Bundles	100/bd. (cost + tax)	Description			Sub-Total
	<u>\$15/bd</u> . (\$14.02 + \$.98)	Marking Flags			
			TOTAL	DUE \$	
Name:			Phone:		
E-Mail: _	Please include your email add	dress below if you would like to receive	ve our quarterly	newsletter	
OFFICE US	SE: Cash / C	heck Check #	Rec	eipt#	

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, lavendar-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.

Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist. bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov

Winter Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

What's In-Season

Always Refer to the Current Year's Regulations.

Hunting Regulations: Fishing Regulations:

"Hunting With Permission" forms and hard copies of the Hunting and Fishing Regulations are available at our office.

Get the <u>HuntFishOH Mobile APP</u> and get everything in one place!

Muskrat or Beaver Problems?.... Now is the Time!

A timely reminder for anyone experiencing chronic damage from Muskrats or Beaver.

Now is the time to recruit trappers to reduce the potentially explosive muskrat population.

In Union County, the regulated Muskrat and Beaver trapping seasons run until

February 28, 2025

Duck, Duck, Goose!

Waterfowl seasons will be ending soon and the nesting season is right around the corner. Now is the time to think about next years ducklings by constructing nest structures and placing them before the ice melts.

I have nest plans available in my office.

On another note, if you have had nuisance geese problems in the past, you are likely to have them again. Efforts to legally discourage Canada geese from nesting on properties should begin early. It takes uncommon persistence to keep them from instinctively nesting. If, despite one's very best efforts, one still needs assistance, the Ohio Division of Wildlife has an on-line website to assist with human-geese conflicts.

To learn more about human/ goose conflicts and to apply for a **Goose Damage Permit click HERE!**

Christmas Trees for Wildlife

Placing a wildlife brush shelter on your property can add an interesting and important element to your backyard habitat, attracting a wide variety of wildlife that may have been missing. Providing dense, heavy and secure shelter close to the ground can attract many animals that may not feel comfortable otherwise. An old Christmas tree can make a great base. This is the easiest thing you can do with your tree if you have a yard. It directly benefits the wildlife in your backyard during winter months because brush piles and dead trees offer food and needed protection from the chill.

Wildlife Brush PilesCottontail Condos

Winter is a great time to construct heavy-duty brush piles. No, not small piles of limbs. Begin by placing large diameter pieces (Six inch +.), at the base. Arrange the base to have four compartments by placing logs across the middle of each side. As each row goes up, move the logs "in" one width, so that a pyramid shape begins to form. At about four feet high, place leftover limbs and other cuttings on top as a roof. Add to the top of the pile as necessary.





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 PROGRAM

Looking for some new places to hunt?
Have you heard about the OLHAP program?
Check out the above link to find out more about the newest hunter access program in Ohio.

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."

Are you an adult who has always wanted to learn to hunt, but didn't know where to start?

The Union County Chapter of the NWTF is facilitating such a course.

Our program is comprised of eight learning sessions and a hunt. Activities include an Orientation, 3 shooting range sessions, an archery range session, a field to table event and concludes with a guided pheasant hunt.

This course is free and all equipment will be provided.



Dates:

Jan. 12, 2025 - Orientation 1-4 pm Delaware Wildlife Area Public Shooting Range, 1110 OH-229, Ashley, OH

Richwood Gun Club Shooting Sessions -1-4 pm - Jan. 19, Feb. 2, March 2

Feb. 16 Keegs Outdoors Archery - 1-4 pm

Feb. 22 Field to Table Event 12noon -5pm

March 8 Mad River Sportsman's Club Guided Pheasant Hunt

For more information, contact: Tim Soller 937-243-3639

<u>Unioncountynwtf@gmail.co</u>m

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.

Joseph Grove, Urban Technician - jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



The Nitty Gritty

When we talk about pollutants, we usually think about manure, fertilizer, litter, or similar contaminants. But did you know that soil can also be a pollutant? When water flows across loose or bare ground, it can pick up soil and carry it with it. This not only leads to the erosion and loss of topsoil (which decreases agricultural productivity), but it can also lead to water quality issues.

Reduced Capacity

When soil is eroded, it can be deposited in ditches, streams, rivers, or other watercourses. This essentially fills the channels in, leaving less space for water and increasing the risk of flooding. Soil can also reduce the storage capacities of lakes and reservoirs.

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of how cloudy water is and is determined by the amount of stuff (including soil) suspended in that water. Water with a high turbidity can impact wildlife in various ways. For example, suspended soils can decrease the amount of sunlight penetrating the water, which can cause aquatic plants to die. This decreases the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water that is available for fish and other aquatic organisms, reducing their populations. Soil can also clog up gills and interfere with the feeding habits of fish.

Chemical Carrying Capacity

Some chemicals such as pesticides, phosphorous, and ammonium are absorbed by soil and can be transported with it. Once in the water, these chemicals can be released from the soil over an extended period of time, contributing to long term pollution of the waterway by chemicals or excess nutrients.

How To Reduce Soil Erosion

One large contributor to soil erosion is the management of land in damaging ways. Farming on steep slopes, heavy tillage, and a lack of conservation practices can all significantly increase the erodibility of soil. However, there are also various practices that can increase the health, productivity, and stability of soil. Cover crops help to remove excess nutrients from soil, promote a healthy soil microbiome, and the plant's roots help to hold the soil in place during the times when it may be the most vulnerable to erosion. Conservation tillage (leaving enough crop residue on the surface to provide 30% soil cover) can also help to prevent erosion by creating barriers between rain and the soil underneath. No-till farming (where seeds are sown directly into untilled soil) can help to prevent erosion as well, as untilled soil is more stable and less likely to erode. Another common conservation practice is the use of grassed waterways, which are vegetated ditches established in the locations where water would normally flow and erode.

For more information on any of these practices, please contact our office at (937) 209-5871 ext. 4.

Drainage Maintenance Update

Drainage Maintenance Crews managed to dip out Rocky fork ditch, Elliot ditch and a section of lower green joint ditch. Crews will be back in the spring to level spoils and restore the filter strip.





Other big news in ditch maintenance is the Mill Creek Log jam project has kicked off and H&H Land clearing has begun removing the logjams and cutting dead trees along the stream corridor.





If you have any drainage related questions, please contact Joe Eads, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor jeads@unioncountyohio.gov or 937-209-2236 Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Technical Trivia: Surface Inlets

Covering conservation and drainage topics on a quarterly basis.

What are they? Surface inlets are vertical perforated stand pipes that typically stick above the ground by a couple of feet and are surrounded by a stone armored depression (funnel) area. They connect to subsurface drainage tile that conveys the water to an appropriate downstream outlet. They are used mainly for two reasons. The first, is to drain surface water from an area that puddles for an undesired amount of time. The second and lesser known use, is to minimize surface water trickle flow from creating saturated ground conditions which can impede protective vegetation vigor. This creates erosion problems especially in grassed waterways.



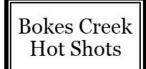
If you have questions or want to learn more, feel free to contact us!

Union SWCD Board of Supervisors and staff would like to **THANK** the 2024 Affiliate Members for their continued support!

Diamond Memberships



Platinum Memberships









Gold Memberships













Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Association, Inc.



MitchellAgri, Inc.









Silver Memberships

Al's Leather Craft LTD









Become a Union SWCD Affiliate Member

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking 2025 Affiliate Members. These contributions help the Board of Supervisors continue their efforts to educate the people of Union County about protecting our natural resources. Such efforts include field days, pond clinics, displays, tours, camp scholarships, and presentations to schools and civic groups.

Contributions to the District are voluntary and tax deductible.

The following memberships are available to those contributing

Diamond Membership \$500 or more

Platinum Membership \$250 - \$499

Gold Membership \$100 - \$249

Silver Membership \$50 - \$99

As an Affiliate Member, we will list your business name and logo in our quarterly newsletters, the Annual Report, the Annual Meeting Program, and on the District website and Facebook page.

Contributions should be dropped off or mailed to 18000 State Route 4, Suite D, Marysville, OH 43040.

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

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

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 Med	eting Tickets	Listed in our Annual Meeting Program			
Listed in ou	ır Annual Report	Listed on our website			
Recognized	d in our quarterly newslette	r Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoi	int		
Please cor	mplete the form below:				
Business	Name:				
Contact N	Name:				
Email:		Phone:	Phone:		
Address:					
City:		State:Zip:			
Website:					
	Choose one of the follow	ring Affiliate memberships available:			
	Diamond Membershi	p \$500 or more			
	Platinum Membershi	р \$250 - \$499			
	Gold Membership	\$100 - \$249			
	Silver Membership	\$50 - \$99			

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

Union SWCD

18000 State Route 4, Suite D

Maryville, OH 43040

Send this form along with a check payable to:



2025 Farmers' Breakfast Series

Friday, January 24th:

9:00 am-10:30 am **Agricultural Law Outlook: What We're Watching in 2025**

Peggy Kirk Hall, J.D. — Attorney and Director, Agricultural and Resource Law Program, OSU Extension. Expert in property rights, contracts, and regulatory compliance.

Robert Moore, J.D. – Attorney, OSU Agricultural and Resource Law Program. Specializes in agricultural law, estate planning, and f arm succession planning.

Friday, February 28th:

9:00 am-9:45 am Carbon Intensity

Mike Estadt— Educator, OSU Extension Pickaway County. Specializes in sustainable agriculture, energy systems, and farm carbon strategies.

9:45 am-10:30 am **Soil Health**

Jm Ippolito— Soil Scientist and Professor, The Ohio State University. Expert in soil fertility, nutrient management, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Friday, March 28th:

9:00 am-9:45 am CAUV

Andrea Weaver – Union County Auditor since 2011. Brings extensive experience in leadership, and government linance.

Andrew Bishop— CAUV Administrator, Union County.
Experienced in G1S data tools and dedicated to working with farmers, drawing on his deep agricultural heritage.

9:45 am-10:30 am Workers Compensation

Note: Ohio Farm Bureau Group Rating members are required to attend one safety seminar annually, and this session qualifies for the yearly training.

Wayne Dellinger – Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, CSU Extension Union County. Focuses on agricultural lisk management, farm safety, and sustainable farming practices. Join or renew your Farm Bureau membership at the event and receive a gift!

Location: Der Dutchman, 445 S Jefferson Ave, Plain City

When: Doors Open 8:15 am

Cost: FREE (pre-registration required)

Registration: Go to

Jan 24th: https://go.osu.edu/aglawoutlook

Pre-register by Jan 20th

Feb 28th: https://go.osu.edu/carbonandsoil

Pre-register by Feb 24th

March 28th: https://go.osu.edu/cauvandworkcomp

Pre-register by March 24th

For more information, contact:
Delaware Extension Office at 740-833-2030
Madison Extension Office at 740-852-0975
Union Extension office at 937-644-8117

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Upcoming Events / Office Closures:

January 1, 2025: Holiday: The office will be closed for New Year's Day

January 9, 2025: USWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room

January 20, 2025: Holiday: The office will be closed for Martin Luther King Day

February 13, 2025: USWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room

February 17, 2025: Holiday: The office will be closed for President's Day

March 13, 2025:: USWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 pm in the Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg Room

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

Would you like to receive our Conservation News by email quarterly? Email bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov to be included on our list.

Union Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibit discrimination in their programs based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

STANDARD RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #3
Marysville, OH 43040

Conservation District
Union Soil & Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4, Suite D
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937) 642-5871 option 4

https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/USWCD