



Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740) 454-2027
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Newsletter Issue 3

muskingumswcd.org

Fall 2020, Published Quarterly

Nature Journaling Club coming October 2020

In conjunction with the Muskingum County Library Systems, we will be developing and hosting a **FREE** Nature Journaling club, "The Art of Nature".

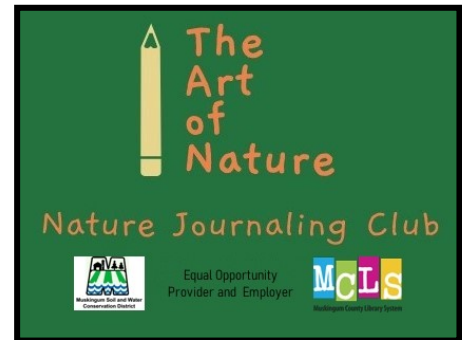
Children and adults need nature. Connecting with nature can improve health and reduce stress and it is also a meaningful place to learn. There are no substitutions to being in nature. There you can see habitats, animals, insects, and the natural world up close. You can engage your mind and discover the world using art, writing and science. Nature is more than just wilderness. It can be farmlands, urban parks, community gardens, playgrounds, or national forests. Nature journaling is about observing whatever is in front of us.

Nature Journaling is not just about drawing pictures. You can use numbers, tables, graphs, words, photography, and math to observe and study the world around you. The purpose is to increase your skills in observation, thinking, and memory. Whatever technique you use, you develop a life-long connection with nature.

At this time, "The Art of Nature" journaling club is geared towards adults (high school age and older). However, it is a fun, relaxing family activity, and we will have details in the future on our upcoming youth nature journaling club. Nature journaling is also an inexpensive hobby - the only materials needed are a blank notebook of some sort and colored pencils. To assist some with getting started, the Muskingum County Library is sponsoring the materials for the first 25 that register for the initial kick-off event!

Due to COVID-19, our current monthly events will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. The events will feature speakers and instruction on how to get started nature journaling, and experts on various aspects of the natural world. If you want to learn more about drawing, trees, bees, or wildflowers, you won't want to miss our upcoming virtual events. The events will also provide time for questions and sharing. Future plans include taking local field trips (once we're allowed to gather in groups again) and on-site speakers. The events will be held the third Monday of each month at 6pm, and details can be found through the Muskingum County Library's website at <https://muskingumlibrary.org/> as they are handling registration. Make sure to enter your email in the registration to receive the virtual invite.

Updates and information can also be found on our website at www.muskingumswcd.org and our social media sites.



Thank you to Scott Bush for serving on the Board of Directors

Scott recently resigned from the Board because he retired out of state. His empty position will be filled with the upcoming election this fall.

Best of luck, Scott!

Volunteer Summer Intern Scholarships Awarded



Pictured: Board Chair, Becky Vansickle, Ben Phillips and Allie Murphy.



[Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District](#)

Meet the new face at Muskingum Soil and Water

Ashlee Kopchak-Education and Information Specialist

I was born and raised right here in Muskingum County, and I am proud to be working in this community again. I am a mama to two amazing little boys, and a fur mama to a German Shepherd. I graduated from West Muskingum in 2010 and then I moved to Houston, Texas and attended Sam Houston State University to receive my bachelor's in animal science, wildlife management and agribusiness. After that I felt like I wanted more, so I returned to Sam Houston where I earned a master's in sustainable agriculture. During my time as an undergrad I took an internship with the Houston Zoo in their education department. This is where I found my passion; I loved working with kids and educating them about conservation, animal knowledge, and why we have zoos and preservations all over the world. When I returned to Ohio, I continued working in education at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Now I am back in an education role in my home community and I am excited to see where this path takes me. Be sure to follow us on social media and check out our website for updates and information on events coming up this year.



Join the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District for their

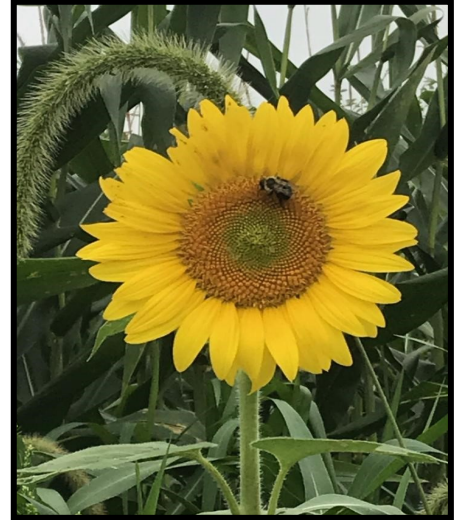
#5MinuteNatureChallenge

Feeling cooped up during
this pandemic?

Then Get Outside!

Several years ago, the EPA funded the National Human Activity Pattern Survey as part of the Clean Air Act. That study showed that, on average, Americans spend only 8% of their time outside. There is now a vast variety of subsequent research to show that our mass exodus from nature is causing a variety of health and mental struggles, especially in our youth, who are disconnected more than ever. Getting outside is such a simple way to reconnect with yourself and the universe around you.

There are so many health benefits from getting outside, even if it is only for five minutes.



Join us for our #5MinuteNatureChallenge! This fun activity is an easy one for all ages, encouraging you to spend five minutes outside and observe things you view everyday but do not actually see. Every night we will post on social media what the 5-minute challenge is for the following day, or follow along with the calendar provided in this newsletter. Simply snap your picture and use the hashtag #5minutenaturechallenge to post on Instagram and Facebook. If you post to Facebook, you will need to tag Muskingum Soil and Water, with @MuskingumSWCD. Make sure you also check out others` pictures, as well. We will also be creating an online [Nature Gallery](#), you will need to visit the page to submit your picture each day. Take this challenge and get outside (socially distanced, of course)!



<https://sites.google.com/muskingumlibrary.org/nature-galleries/home?authuser=0>



Join the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District for their



#5MinuteNatureChallenge

Starting September 1, Muskingum Soil and Water, in conjunction with Muskingum County Library Systems, will be hosting an online challenge to encourage our community to spend five minutes each day outside for 30 days.


09

SEPTEMBER

To participate in this Nature Challenge, take a picture of the day's prompt and post it on social media with the hashtags #5minutenaturechallenge #MuskCoNatureGallery

30 DAY NATURE CHALLENGE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Nature walk	2 Follow the story walk in Downtown Zanesville	3 Try a tree bark rubbing	4 Find a leaf	5 Cloud watch
6 Find something yellow outside	7 Wildflowers	8 Pinecones	9 Sunrise, sunset	10 Find a special rock	11 Go to a park	12 Duncan Falls obstacle course
13 Roasted Marshmallows	14 Take a picture of your pet or draw your dream pet	15 Visit a local library	16 Wildlife	17 Collect some acorns	18 Water	19 Birdwatch
20 Find a bug	21 Take a picture of the weather	22 Play outside	23 Draw your favorite place	24 Take a picture of a mushroom	25 Go to your favorite spot and read	26 Eat an apple and find the seeds
27 Leaf rubbing	28 Farm animals	29 Signs of Autumn	30 Go outside and find something red			

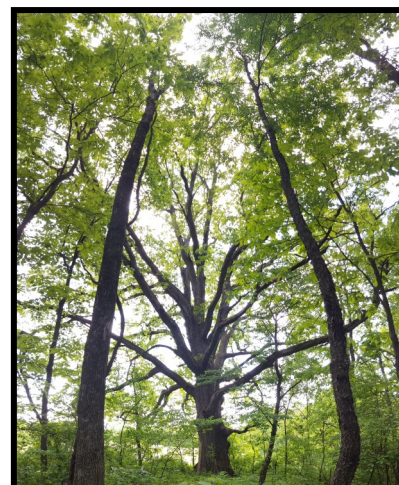
To participate, spend five minutes outside each day for 30 days. Snap a picture of the subject for the day and post your pictures to Instagram and Facebook using the hashtag #5minutenaturechallenge. Your photos will be displayed on Instagram, Facebook and the Nature Gallery website. If you post to Facebook, you will need to tag Muskingum Soil and Water, with @MuskingumSWCD. Subjects for the following day will be posted on social media sites the night before or refer to the above calendar.



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Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District



MSWCD



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The SWCD and NRCS prohibit discrimination in any program activity or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, retaliation, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or genetic information. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (Braille, large print, etc.) or who need special accommodations for meetings should contact the SWCD office at (740) 454-2027.

Planting Cover Crops

King Solomon said there is nothing new under the sun. Cover crops are nothing new. The 1957 Yearbook of Agriculture published by the USDA was dedicated to soil. When you open to the center of the book there is a set of pictures. Under one of the pictures is the following paragraph:

“Productive surface soil cannot exist for long without protection. Uncover it, and the wind and rain may blow or wash it away. Keep it covered, and you will lose less of it and less of the moisture in it. The farmer mulches with grain straw and other material left after harvest. The gardener must buy this straw or find some suitable substitute. In his little plot, he spreads the mulch around the growing plants to keep the earth cool, save moisture, and keep weeds in check.”

What goes around comes around! 63 years later and we deal with the same issues. Cover crops are a long-term investment and are not a quick fix. They are a management tool. They can provide protection for the soil, food for the microbes, and additional forage in the spring if needed.

The chart below includes suggested seeding rates and dates for some cover crops. The earlier they can be planted the more benefit they provide. If you would like to discuss potential options for cover crops feel free to contact the office at 740-454-2027.

Fig 1. Cover crop seeding dates, seeding rates and seeding depths.

Plant Species	Life cycle ³	Seeding rate (lb/ac) ¹						Seeding depth (in)	Planting Date Range ²	
		Pure Stand	¾	½	⅓	¼	Forage Stand		Northern	Southern
Cool-Season Growth										
Non-Legumes										
Winter Rye (Secale cereale)	nwk	50	38	25	17	13	88	¾ to 1 ½	7-15 to 11-1	8-1 to 11-15
Winter Triticale (× Triticosecale)	nwk	60	45	30	20	15	94	¾ to 1 ½	7-15 to 10-22	8-1 to 11-1
Winter Barley (Hordeum vulgare)	nwk ⁴	59	44	29	19	15	-	¾ to 1 ½	7-15 to 10-22 or 3-15 to 5-1	8-1 to 11-1 or 3-1 to 4-20
Winter Wheat ⁵ (Triticum aestivum)	nwk	64	48	32	21	16	94	¾ to 1 ½	9-22 to 10-22	9-30 to 11-1
Spelt ⁵ (Triticum aestivum var. spelta)	nwk	64	48	32	21	16	94	1 to 1 ¾	9-22 to 10-22	9-30 to 11-1
Annual Ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum)	nwk ⁴	18	13	9	6	4	28	¼ to ½	8-1 to 9-20 or 3-15 to 5-1	8-1 to 9-30 or 3-1 to 4-20
Oats (Avena sativa)	wk	40	30	20	14	10	88	½ to 1 ½	8-1 to 9-20 or 3-15 to 5-1	8-1 to 9-30 or 3-1 to 4-20
Oilseed Radish (Raphanus sativus)	wk	-	-	-	1	0.7	12	¼ to ¾	7-15 to 9-15 or 3-15 to 5-1	7-15 to 9-30 or 3-1 to 4-20
Rapeseed/Canola/Kale (Brassica napus)	nwk ⁶	4	3	2	1.5	1	8	¼ to ½	7-15 to 9-15 or 3-15 to 5-1	7-15 to 9-30 or 3-1 to 4-20
Turnip (Brassica rapa)	wk	2.5	2	1	.75	.5	6	¼ to ½	7-15 to 9-15 or 3-15 to 5-1	7-15 to 9-30 or 3-1 to 4-20
Legumes										
Alfalfa (Medicago sativa) ⁷	nwk	16	12	8	6	4	-	¼	8-1 to 8-15 or 4-1 to 5-1	8-1 to 8-30 or 3-30 to 4-25
Red Clover (Trifolium pretense)	nwk	9	7	5	3	2	-	¼ to ½	7-20 to 8-30 or 2-1 to 5-1	8-1 to 9-15 or 2-1 to 4-15
Yellow Sweet Clover (Melilotus officinalis)	nwk	8	6	4	3	2	-	¼ to ½	7-20 to 8-30 or 2-1 to 5-1	8-1 to 9-15 or 2-1 to 4-15
Crimson Clover (Trifolium incarnatum)	nwk	12	9	6	4	3	-	¼ to ½	6-1 to 9-15	6-1 to 9-30
Balansa Clover (Trifolium michelianum Savi)	nwk	3	2.2	1.5	1	0.8	-	¼ to ½	6-1 to 9-15	6-1 to 9-30
Winter Pea (Pisum sativum)	wk	40	30	20	14	10	-	1 to 1 ½	7-20 to 9-20 or 3-10 to 5-1	8-1 to 10-1 or 3-1 to 4-20
Hairy Vetch (Vicia villosa)	nwk	15	11	8	5	4	-	½ to 1 ½	7-20 to 9-20 or 3-10 to 5-1	8-1 to 10-1 or 3-1 to 4-20



Ohio NRCS EQIP Signup Underway

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio for the Fiscal Year 2021 funds.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which helps producers make conservation work for them. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations.

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations. Through EQIP, you can voluntarily implement conservation practices, and NRCS co-invests in these practices with you.

Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, and organic. Several special projects are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations, applying best management practices and many more. All available agricultural categories are listed on the Ohio NRCS website homepage under the "Environmental Quality Incentive Program" link.

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest landowners and must meet eligibility criteria. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the Round 1 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2021 funding.

To learn more about EQIP or other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit [Get Started with NRCS](#) or visit your local [USDA Service Center](#). The USDA Service Center NRCS office for Muskingum and Morgan Counties is located at 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville Ohio. You can contact the NRCS office at 740-454-2767 Extn. 3 to speak with Lori Ryan-Griffin, NRCS District Conservationist. In Morgan County, you may also call 740-962-4234 to speak with Dee Wiseman, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician.

Election Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

There are two (2) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1. At the SWCD office from October 24, 2020 until November 6, 2020 during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.); or
2. Voting absentee from September 24, 2020 until November 6, 2020, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville, by calling 740-454-2027, or email doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 4:30 p.m. on November 6, 2020.



Two (2) Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023.

Nominees will be posted at www.muskingumswcd.org September 20, 2020.

2020 Supervisor Election Details

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District has decided to cancel the 2020 Annual Celebration of Conservation. Traditionally, part of annual celebration was the election of Board Supervisors. By law, we will still be holding our Supervisor Election, but it will just look differently this year!

In-person voting will be held at the MSWCD office from October 24 through November 6, 2020, during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To vote in person, simply stop in the office and the official ballot and envelope will be provided; there will be a ballot drop box in the front office.

Absentee voting begins September 24, 2020. There are four (4) ways to request an absentee ballot: stop by the office at 225 Underwood Street, Ste. 100, Zanesville; mail a note requesting a ballot to the office at the same address; call 740-454-2027; or email doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org and ask for a ballot to be sent. An official Ballot Application and Election Ballot and envelope will be supplied to you. No mail-in ballot requests will be able to be honored after November 2 because of the mail turn-around time, so we suggest you request your ballot early or plan to vote in the office in person.

In order to be counted, all absentee ballots must be received by 4:30 p.m. on November 6, 2020 at the MSWCD office, whether the ballot is mailed in or dropped off at the office.

Please fill out the Ballot Application in its entirety. Information will be used for the sole purpose of ballot validation and will only be seen by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation (ODA) election official. Ballot Applications will be separated from the actual Election Ballot once validated so please leave the paper intact when submitting. Please mark no more than two (2) candidates. Seal the Ballot Application and Election Ballot in the provided envelope marked "SWCD Election Ballot". Return to the MSWCD office via mail or in-person so that it is received by 4:30 p.m. on November 6, 2020.

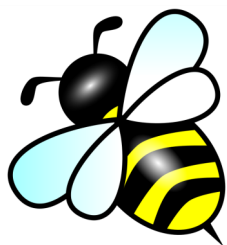
Failure to fill out the ballot information completely and accurately will invalidate the ballot. The ODA election official must be able to determine the voting intent, so please fill out neatly. To be eligible to vote, voters must be 18 years of age or older and must be a resident of Muskingum County, own land in Muskingum County, or own a corporation, partnership, association or other entity registered with the Ohio Secretary of State in Muskingum County.

Two (2) supervisors will be elected to a three (3) year term, commencing on January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023. The final slate of candidates will be available on September 20, 2020. Please check our website and Facebook page for the candidates and their bios. This information will also be posted at the office. The ODA election official will certify the election and provide the results to the MSWCD office sometime after November 6, 2020 and results will be posted on our website and Facebook page.



What's Buzzing in My Field

This year we have had the opportunity to connect with bee researchers at The Ohio State University. There is a limited body of research that suggests that placing additional pollinators near soybeans fields could increase soybean yields. Some studies have suggested up to a 10-15 % increase is possible. That could be substantial if it is reality. A ten percent increase on 50 bushel soybeans is five bushels. Five bushels at \$8.00/bu. Is \$40.00. That could be the difference between profit and loss.



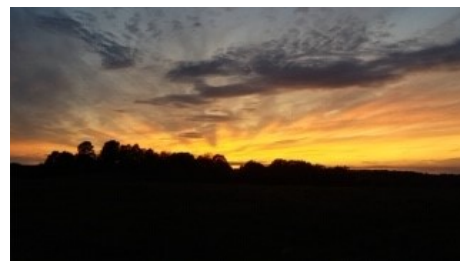
At one location two small hives were placed in the middle of a soybean field. The producer has a yield monitor on their combine so we are hoping that if there is any increase due to the bees that it will show up on the monitor. In addition, hand harvesting of soybean plants at different distances from the hives will also take place. If the production differences correlate between the hand harvesting and yield monitor it will allow for more research in the future.

In Ohio there are over 300 species of native bees. In an attempt to see what they may be doing, we have placed a limited number of bee traps in soybean fields to identify what is there. So far we have captured Long Horned bees and Sweat Bees.

We are also working with landowners to plant small pollinator patches to see if we can attract additional pollinators and determine if we can use what native plants we have to enhance our productivity. Stay tuned. Time will tell!

Farming After Dark...Finding a Better Way

In the immortal words of Clint Eastwood's character in the movie Heartbreak Ridge "you have to adapt and overcome". The age of Covid-19 has put us all in a position that we need to adapt and overcome. One of the ways we will be adapting is to start a series of ZOOM meetings titled "Farming After Dark...Finding a Better Way". These meetings will be available to anyone who has a phone or computer access. They will cover a whole host of topics. Some of the topics will include pasture management, soil health, cover crops, pollinators, beneficial insects, no till, soil fertility...etc.



The goal is to provide a platform to share information that is beneficial to production agriculture and the general public. These meetings will be held in the evenings, probably between 7pm and 9pm depending on the time of year (and after dark). We will be posting information about the meetings on our website www.muskingumswcd.org and Facebook.

All the details have not been worked out yet for this new adventure. If you would like to be added to an invite list please email Van Slack van.slack@muskingumswcd.org or Melissa Devore melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org with your contact information. All of us working together can fine tune our operations and perhaps find a better way.

Yet Another Exotic Invader

As we all know the world has become a place of international trade, and while this opens up the opportunities to purchase things that wouldn't have been available 20 years ago, this international trade also comes with risks. USDA APHIS works to eliminate exotic species moving into the United States from other countries, but unfortunately they cannot catch everything. This leads to new nonnative invasive species being introduced to the United States.

The newest invader to be on the lookout for is Spotted Lanternfly. This pest was originally discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has been slowly creeping west as time goes on. It is now found in 26 Pennsylvania counties as well as additional counties in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and West Virginia.

The major concern with this pest is the damage that can be done to the grape and orchard industries, but it feeds on and can cause damage to a wide variety of species. The damage is done by piercing parts of the plant and sucking of the sap. This reduces the vigor of a tree and over time can kill them. While this pest has not been found in Ohio yet, the potential is always there.



One of the preferred hosts of Spotted Lanternfly is Ailanthus, which some of you may know as tree of heaven or one of many other names that are not suited for print. This nonnative invasive tree is one of the larger issues that I see throughout woods in Muskingum County. This tree can produce tremendous growth rates every year and will out compete even our fastest growing native species. This reduces the long term timber and wildlife value of the property.

Combining the impact of Ailanthus to the forest along with the potential for it attracting another nonnative species that could impact our woods and other industries, I recommend working on controlling Ailanthus on properties. This time of year is a perfect time to treat Ailanthus as you can treat everything from a new small sprout up to mature trees easily.

Small sprouts up to about three or four feet tall trees can be easily killed using a foliar herbicide mixed according to the label directions and applied to the green growing foliage. These can be applied with anything from a small quart spray bottle up to twenty five and larger gallon twelve volt sprayer. When dealing with larger trees, foliar spraying is not advisable due to the off target kills that would occur in spraying herbicides onto large tree canopies.



With larger trees there are several options, some of which are more work than others. Basal Bark applications of a mixture of an oil based carrier and a herbicide is applied to the lower section of the bark, ideally in late summer or early fall. Hack and squirt is accomplished by making cuts around the circumference of the tree and applying the herbicide to these cuts. The last option is cut stump, where, after the tree has been cut down, the herbicide is applied to the remaining stump.

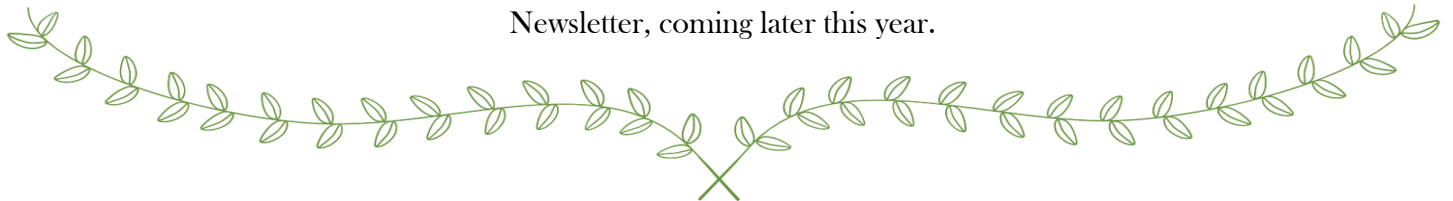
Any of these methods will require follow up due to the potential of root sprouting as well as seed germination. For exact herbicide names, concentrations and instruction please see Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet F-65-09: Controlling Non Native Invasive Plants in Ohio: Ailanthus.



76th Annual Meeting and Banquet Cancelled!

Due to COVID-19 and CDC guidelines, the Board has moved to make the decision to cancel the in-person celebration of the 76th Annual Meeting and Banquet.

In light of this cancellation we will continue with our award nominations and awards will still be given. Other measures will be taken to highlight our year and upcoming events. Included in this will be a video created describing events that have taken place in the year 2020 and also be on the look out for a special edition Newsletter, coming later this year.



Virtual Resource Library

September 11- Woodland Wildlife Implications of our changing times, [Day in the WOODS](http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods) u.osu.edu/seohiowoods

October 9- Tools and Equipment to manage your woodland and wildlife lands, [Day in the WOODS](http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods) u.osu.edu/seohiowoods

November 13- Building and Maintaining Woodland Roads and Trails, [Day in the WOODS](http://u.osu.edu/seohiowoods) u.osu.edu/seohiowoods

[Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations](http://agcrops.osu.edu)- agcrops.osu.edu

[Fertility Calculator Ohio Recommendations](http://agcrops.osu.edu)- agcrops.osu.edu

[Poultry Litter Application](http://agcrops.osu.edu)- agcrops.osu.edu

[Grazing Management Minute](http://agri.ohio.gov)- agri.ohio.gov

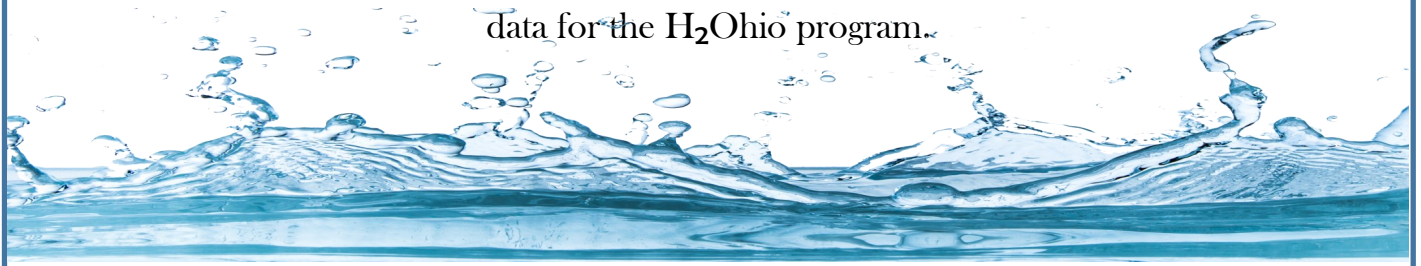
[Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District Webpage](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) www.muskingumswcd.org

 [Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District YouTube](#)



Water Testing

The Muskingum Soil and Water staff are at it again! If you see us out and about on bridges or any public lands, do not be alarmed. We are collecting water samples so we have base-line data for the H₂Ohio program.





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Save the Date

Ag Breakfast	September 1
#5MinuteNatureChallenge	September 1
MSWCD Office Closed	September 7
Live at Noon	September 8
MSWCD Board Meeting	September 8
Live at Noon	September 22
Election for Supervisors	September 23
Ag Breakfast	October 6
MSWCD Office Closed	October 12
Live at Noon	October 13
MSWCD Board Meeting	October 13
The Art of Nature Meeting	October 19

Live at Noon	October 27
Ag Breakfast	November 3
Election for Supervisors Ends	November 6
Live at Noon	November 10
MSWCD Board Meeting	November 10
MSWCD Office Closed	November 11
Live at Noon	November 24
MSWCD Office Closed	November 26 & 27
Live at Noon	November 30
Ag Breakfast	December 1
Live at Noon	December 8
MSWCD Board Meeting	December 8



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