



# Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027

FAX (740)454-1451

Newsletter Issue 1

[muskingumswcd.org](http://muskingumswcd.org)

Spring 2021, Published Quarterly



Do you know where your food comes from? Have you ever thought about the process, from farm to table? Do you want to make better, healthier, fresher choices? Have you thought about starting your own garden? Thinking about canning, but have no idea where to start? What about having chickens in your backyard?

These are all things we are going to talk about in our newest program, Back to Basics. We are going to provide you with the information and instructions to do all of these things and more.

Back to Basics will be a series of 30 minute episodes providing you with information, instructional videos, interviews, and so much more to help you make better decisions in your food choices. We will be encouraging buying locally, supporting local farmers and producers, supporting your local economy, supporting local businesses and getting your hands dirty in the process of gardening and providing food materials for yourself and your family. Each episode will focus on a different aspect of our local food industry. This will include do-it-yourself gardening, backyard poultry, cooking and baking instructional videos, virtual on-farm tours, virtual butcher shop tours, harvesting and canning instructional videos and more. Our first introductory video is now available on our YouTube channel.

<https://youtu.be/yYI-dS0ndEc>

## We hope you're ready to get Back to Basics!



On Wednesday March 17, 2021, 7:30 PM on ZOOM, "Farming After Dark...Finding a Better Way" will feature Dr. Steve Culman, Associate Professor and State Specialist of Soil Fertility for The Ohio State University. Dr. Culman led the charge on the update to the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Ohio. He will be speaking on the benefits of on-farm research. This will be a great episode and you will not want to miss it, if I do say so myself! On-farm research is the key to farm profitability and environmental sustainability.

To register visit our website's events page and select the Farming After Dark link. [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsd-yurzlrHt04i5Jpix5cCM9MsvD4b9Lt>

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# Backyard Habitat for Birds

## Outside Looking in– As Learned by Doreen

What is a backyard habitat? Most backyards already have what it takes to encourage some wildlife to visit, but little additions can bring specific wildlife to your backyard. Let's say birds are what is needed to bring your backyard to life. What could be done to make this happen?

All living things need food to survive. When creating a sustainable backyard habitat for birds, the food source is a major decision maker. No food, no life. Staying close to what nature provides is the best choice when establishing a food source. Bird feeders are a fun and easy way to provide food for birds and allow you to observe and enjoy their presence while they are feeding. Bird feeders should only be supplied with feed that is a part of the bird's natural diet. Some birds prefer nectar and insects. Planting native plants to provide a food source for birds is also a good choice.

Water is another major source for survival. Not only does water have a life sustaining use, it is also a source to help birds keep clean. A simple birdbath would fulfill this need. Try to place the birdbath near shrubs or trees to allow birds a safe escape from predators and also provide shelter from warmer temperatures. The water level of the birdbath should be no more than three inches deep. This allows smaller birds access to the water. The birdbath needs to be kept clean in warm weather and free of ice in the winter. Another water source is a container water garden, which is a small, above-ground pond. This would allow you to create your own backyard oasis for not only birds, but other living things such as insects, fish, plants, etc. Add a bench and bring a book, and this could be a really relaxing area for you and the birds.

Food and water are a good start to your habitat. Providing shelter and a safe place for birds to lay eggs and raise their young will make your habitat complete. It could be as simple as hanging a nesting box. Check that the box is well constructed and contains these basic features:

- Constructed of natural untreated wood (pine, cedar or fir)
- Lumber for walls that is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch thick to provide insulation
- An entrance hole of the appropriate size to allow desired birds to enter but keep larger birds out
- An entrance that is the correct distance from the floor to accommodate the nest
- An extended and sloped roof to keep the rain out
- A recessed floor and drainage holes to keep the interior dry
- Rough or grooved interior walls to help fledglings exit
- Ventilation holes to allow the interior to remain cool
- A side or top panel that opens to allow easy access for monitoring and cleaning
- No outside perches, which aid predators and other harassing birds

Food, water, shelter, and a place to raise their young will make your backyard an ideal place for a bird to drop by and maybe stay a while.



Go to [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) for more information regarding wildlife habitats.



# Muskingum SWCD Shop

**Thistle Bird Feeder**



\$45.00

**Hanging Bird Feeder with Two Stainless Steel Suet Holders**



\$46.00

**Sunflower Bird Feeder**



\$27.00

**Wood Duck Nest Box**



\$78.00

**Three Chamber Bat Box**



\$51.00

**Bluebird Nest Box**



\$24.00

**Slanted Bluebird Nest Box with Vents**



\$38.00

**Wren Nest Box (Mounting)**



\$20.00

**Wren Nest Box (Hanging)**



\$20.00

**Marking Paint \$7.00**

**Blue**



**White**



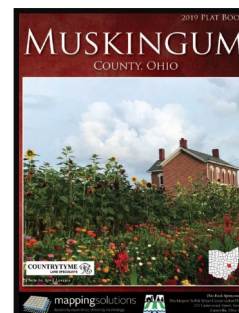
**Orange**



**Yellow**



**Plat Book**



**\$30.00/\$35.00 Shipped**

**Marking Flags \$11.00**

**Pink**



**Orange**



# Muskingum SWCD Shop Order Form

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

I would like to order the following:

#5 Bird Feeder	\$46.00	QTY		=	
Thistle Feeder	\$45.00	QTY		=	
Sunflower Feeder	\$27.00	QTY		=	
Bluebird Nest Box	\$24.00	QTY		=	
Slanted Blue Bird Box	\$38.00	QTY		=	
Wren Nest Box	\$20.00	QTY		=	
Hanging Wren Nest Box	\$20.00	QTY		=	
Wood Duck Box	\$78.00	QTY		=	
3 Chamber Bat Box	\$51.00	QTY		=	
Marking Paint-Blue	\$7.00	QTY		=	
Marking Paint-White	\$7.00	QTY		=	
Marking Paint-Orange	\$7.00	QTY		=	
Marking Paint-Yellow	\$7.00	QTY		=	
Marking Flags-Orange	\$11.00	QTY		=	
Marking Flags-Pink	\$11.00	QTY		=	
Plat Book	\$30.00	QTY		=	
Plat Book with Shipping	\$35.00	QTY		=	
		Total Enclosed		=	

Make Check Payable To:

Muskingum SWCD

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100

Zanesville, OH 43701

Phone: (740) 454-2027

All prices include tax

You will be notified by phone or email when your order can be picked up.

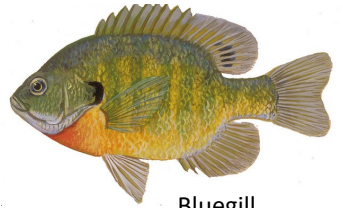
Curbside pickup available upon request

Order must be picked up at the District Office.



Redear Shellcracker

# 2021 FISH SALE



Bluegill

APRIL 16, 2021

PICK-UP HOURS: 1:00— 2:00 P.M.

IN THE MSWCD PARKING LOT (ELBERON STREET SIDE)

**PLEASE BRING WITH YOU WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR FISH:**

1. CONTAINER: (5-GALLON BUCKET OR 10-20 GALLON TRASH CAN)
2. PLASTIC LINER IN CONTAINER
3. LINER HALF FULL OF POND WATER.



THE CONTAINER MUST BE LINED IN ORDER TO KEEP THE OXYGEN IN THE WATER.



## MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



### 2021 FISH SALE ORDER FORM

ORDER DEADLINE: **APRIL 9, 2021**

FISH SPECIES	QTY.	COST EACH	TOTAL
BLUEGILL		90¢	\$
CHANNEL CATFISH		80¢	\$
FATHEAD MINNOWS		\$7/100	\$
HYBRID BLUEGILL		90¢	\$
LARGEMOUTH BASS		\$1.00	\$
JAPANESE KOI		\$12.00	\$
RED EAR SHELLCRACKER		90¢	\$
WHITE AMUR		\$14.00	\$
YELLOW PERCH		95¢	\$
POND CONDITIONER 1 GAL.		\$90.00	\$
POND CONDITIONER 5 GAL.		\$375.00	\$
POND MANAGEMENT BOOK		\$17.00	\$

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:

MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100  
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT THE TIME OF ORDERING THE FISH. TO ORDER, CLIP THE ORDER FORM IN THIS FLYER AND MAIL IT ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO MSWCD OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG](http://WWW.MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG).

**GRAND TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>BLUEGILL 2-4"</b> THEY ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE STATE IN NEARLY EVERY STREAM AND BODY OF WATER. BLUEGILL REACH 7 TO 10 INCHES, BUT IF THEY BECOME OVERCROWDED, WILL REMAIN LESS THEN 5 INCHES IN LENGTH. BEST FISH FOR FOR- AGE BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGH REPRODUCTION NUMBERS.	90¢ EACH
<b>CHANNEL CATFISH 4-5"</b> FOUND IN MOST LARGE STREAMS, LAKES AND MANY FARM PONDS, THIS OHIO NATIVE CAN TOL- ERATE A WIDE RANGE OF CONDITIONS, BUT PRE- FERS AREAS OF DEEP WATER, AND A LOW TO MOD- ERATE CURRENT. THE AVERAGE SIZE CATFISH IS 12 TO 14 INCHES IN LENGTH.	80¢ EACH
<b>FATHEAD MINNOWS 1-2"</b> MINNOWS ARE A FEEDER FISH THAT TOLERATE A WIDE RANGE OF WATER CONDITIONS, MAKING THEM SUITABLE FOR FARM PONDS. RECOMMEND- ED IN NEW PONDS TO HELP BOOST GROWTH OF GAME FISH UNTIL BLUEGILL BEGIN TO SPAWN.	\$7/ 100
<b>HYBRID BLUEGILL 2-4"</b> A CROSS OF A MALE BLUEGILL AND FEMALE GREEN SUNFISH, GIVING IT THE LENGTH OF BLUE- GILL AND THICKNESS AND AGGRESSIVENESS OF SUNFISH. IF THE FOOD IS THERE, THEY REACH THE SIZE OF 10 TO 11 INCHES AND CAN WEIGH UP TO 1 TO 1.5 POUNDS.	90¢ EACH
<b>POND MANAGEMENT BOOK</b> THIS BOOK IS FOR THE SMALL POND OR BIG LAKE OWNER TO USE AS A GUIDE TO STOCK AND PROPERLY MANAGE THEIR PONDS AND/OR LAKES.	\$17
<b>JAPANESE KOI</b> JAPANESE KOI LOVE TO EAT DUCKWEED SO IF YOU REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF FOOD YOU GIVE THEM IT WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO EAT THE DUCKWEED.	\$12 EACH
<b>LARGEMOUTH BASS 2-3"</b> NATIVE TO OHIO, LARGEMOUTH BASS PREFER PONDS, LAKES AND SLOW, SLUGGISH STREAMS. ADULT BASS EAT CRAYFISH, FROGS, LARGE IN- SECTS AND OTHER FISH. AVERAGE SIZE WEIGHS FROM 1 TO 2 POUNDS.	\$1 EACH
<b>REDEAR SHELLCRACKER 2-4"</b> REDEAR ARE NOT NATIVE TO OHIO, BUT HAVE BEEN STOCKED IN STATE WATERS FOR MANY YEARS. THEY PREFER A DIET OF SNAILS AND CAN REACH 9 TO 11 INCHES IN LENGTH.	90¢ EACH
<b>WHITE AMUR 8-10"</b> ALSO KNOWN AS GRASS CARP, THEY EAT WEEDS AND PLANTS AND GROW VERY RAPIDLY. WHITE AMUR OFTEN ATTAIN 4 FEET IN LENGTH AND WEIGH 70-90 POUNDS AS ADULTS. AMUR USED FOR WEED CONTROL ARE STERILE, TRIPLOID FISH THAT EAT UP TO THREE TIMES THEIR OWN BODY WEIGHT.	\$14 EACH
<b>YELLOW PERCH 2-3"</b> NATIVE TO OHIO, PERCH ARE FOUND IN LAKES, PONDS AND SLOW MOVING RIVERS. YELLOW PERCH NORMALLY RANGE FROM 6 TO 12 INCHES IN LENGTH AND WEIGH FROM 1/4 TO 1 POUND.	95¢ EACH
<b>NATURE'S POND CONDITIONER</b> NATURE'S POND CONDITIONER BY KOENDERS IS A TWO IN ONE BOTTLE PRODUCT. YOU CAN PRE- VENT THE BLACK MUCK FROM CAUSING HIGH FER- TILITY RATES AND GROWING VEGETATION, AND PREVENT FISH KILLS WHILE KEEPING YOUR POND HEALTHY. MORE INFORMATION AT <a href="http://fendersfishhatchery.com/">HTTP:// FENDERSFISHHATCHERY.COM/</a>	\$90 1 GAL \$375 5 GAL

### STOCKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW ONE ACRE POND

THESE TWO MAKE YOUR BALANCE:

100 LARGEMOUTH BASS  
200 BLUEGILL

THESE ADD VARIETY TO THE MENU:

100 CHANNEL CATFISH  
100 REDEAR SHELLCRACKER  
100 HYBRID BLUEGILL  
1000 FLATHEAD MINNOWS

\*10 WHITE AMUR

NOTE: IF THE POND YOU ARE STOCKING IS SMALLER THAN ONE ACRE, MULTIPLY THE SURFACE AREA OF THE POND BY THE RATE IN THE CHART TO THE LEFT.

FOR EXAMPLE: 0.65 ACRE POND  
0.65 X 1000 (MINNOWS) = 650 MINNOWS

\*SUGGESTED RATE FOR ONE ACRE POND WITH MODERATE POND WEED PROBLEM. NEW PONDS SHOULD NOT BE STOCKED UNLESS POND WEEDS EXIST (MODERATE = 50% INFESTATION).

# 2021 BIG TREE NOMINATION CONTEST

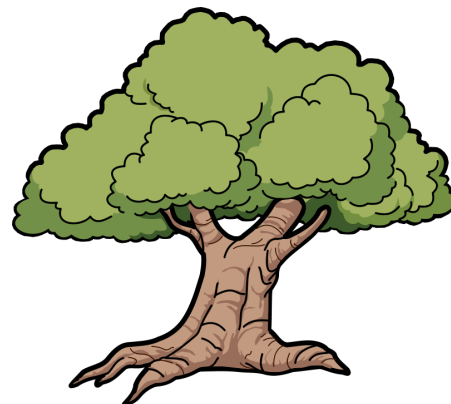
For a number of years now, the MSWCD has sponsored a Big Tree Contest in Muskingum County. The purpose of the contest, in addition to locating, measuring and documenting our county's big trees, is to provide an opportunity to remind us of the importance of trees and their role in our quality of life. Trees nominated for this contest may be on your own property, or on other privately owned or public land in Muskingum County. Trees are scored using a format utilized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry in determining Ohio's big trees, many of which remain National Big Tree Champions. The tree's height, average crown spread, and Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) are factored in this measurement, earning specific points or values.

When you nominate a tree, we ask that you approximate these dimensions.

SWCD staff will measure each nominated tree for points. Also, it is very important to be specific as to the location of the nominated tree. It is equally important that the nominator or owner be available for the measurement by the staff during the field visit.

An award will be presented to the owner of the largest tree in Muskingum County, regardless of species. A custom made plaque and recognition in the District Newsletter will be awarded to the owners of the "Big Tree 2021".

Last year, a Red Oak owned by Rix Mills Presbyterian Church, scored 312.4 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (198 inches or 5.25 feet in diameter), the height (92 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (89.5 ft x .25).



Each tree entered is in the contest for two years. Previous big tree winners can enter again, but a different tree must be submitted for consideration. If you would like to submit a tree for consideration, complete the form below and return by April 30, 2021. Additional entry forms can be found on our website.

## 2021 MUSKINGUM COUNTY "BIG TREE" CONTEST OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Species: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circumference at 4 1/2' (in inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. Vertical Height (in feet): \_\_\_\_\_  
Average Diameter/Spread of Crown (in feet): \_\_\_\_\_  
Exact Location of Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a brief sketch of the property showing the approximate location of the tree in the space provided below, or stop into the office and show us on an aerial map.

Complete and return by April 30, 2021 to:  
Muskingum SWCD "Big Tree" Contest  
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100  
Zanesville, OH 43701



# Yet Another Exotic Invader

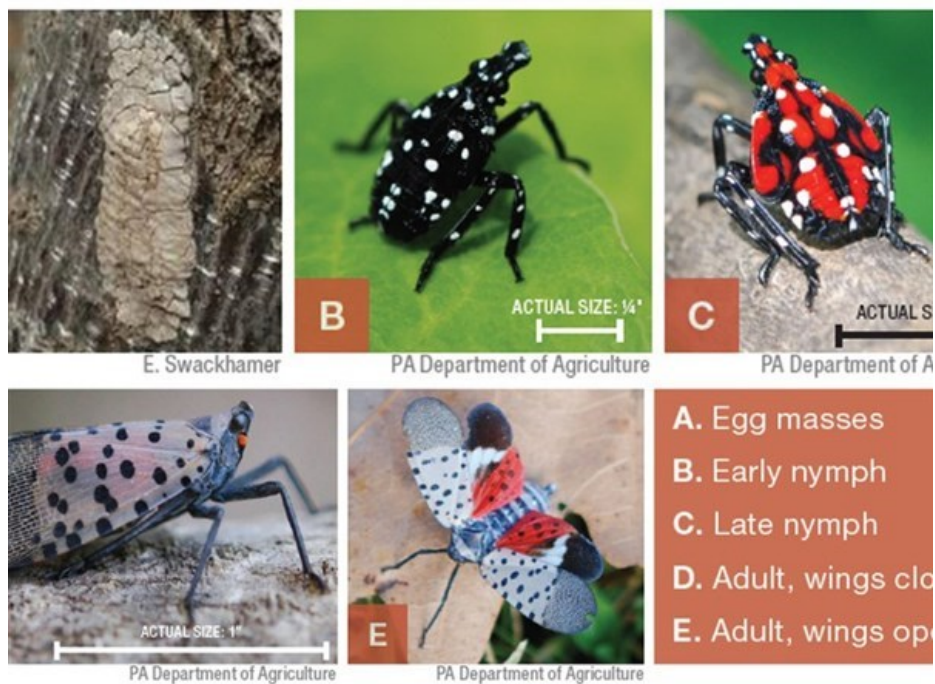
For anyone who watches the news or follows the forestry industry it seems like every week there is a new invasive species that has made its presence known in Ohio. First, we saw Emerald Ash Borer, then Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Asian Longhorned Beetle. Unfortunately, there is yet another new invasive on the horizon to be aware of. Spotted Lanternfly, native to China, India and Vietnam, was discovered in Jefferson County in late 2020. While not established in Ohio currently, there is the concern of inhabitation.

Spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has slowly been spreading since that time. This pest, like many others, is a very slow spreader, naturally, but can be spread rapidly by humans, unintentionally. This has led to established populations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and New Jersey. This insect is a planthopper that feeds on the sap of many tree species. The biggest concern with these species is that it prefers grapes and fruit trees. This is a multimillion dollar industry across the state. An infestation of Spotted Lanternfly has the potential to be a billion-dollar impact across the range that can support spotted lanternfly, which encompasses the entire eastern half of the United States and portions of the West Coast.

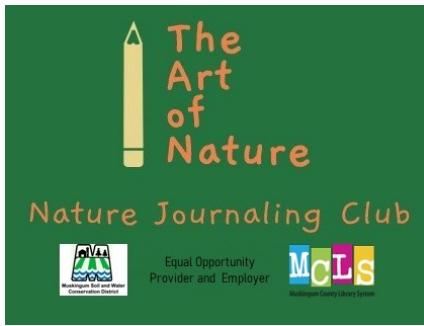


The best thing we can do as a community is to keep our eyes open for oddities while we are in the woods. Late summer and into the fall are the best time to spot these insects, as that is when they are adults, and they are most visible with their brightly colored wings. Asking questions about things we see is a great way to learn and also allows us to find and minimize the effects of invasive species. If you have questions or concerns about any insects or plants, please feel free to contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District, Extension Office or Ohio Department of Agriculture office. You can also submit findings on the [Great Lakes Early Detection Network](https://apps.bugwood.org/apps/gledn/) app or website for viewing and confirmation of findings.

<https://apps.bugwood.org/apps/gledn/>



# Nature Journaling: “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.

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, except when that falls on a holiday. 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](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) and our social media sites.

Kid's Nature Journaling sessions are pre-recorded and can be found on our YouTube channel.

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## Intern Opportunities

The MSWCD is looking for Volunteer Interns for the summer of 2021. The need is dependent upon how the Covid-19 pandemic continues affecting programming in 2021. To be eligible, students must be high school graduates and in college. Those interested will be required to fill out an application and submit a resume and short essay. Selected students must be able to pass a criminal background check.

Two interns are needed to assist with Youth Camp, should we be able and are permitted to hold camp. Students in environmental or teaching fields of study are encouraged to apply. Those selected to assist with camp must be able to work during camp times.

One intern is needed for the Urban Greens program. This intern will help with the community gardens in the Putnam area.

Interns will also work with the other MSWCD staff in various program areas, including agriculture, forestry, wildlife, urban agriculture, water quality monitoring, education and soil sampling. Again, everything is contingent upon need and the continuation of the pandemic.

While these are all volunteer positions, there is a scholarship opportunity available. The MSWCD Board has approved granting up to three \$1,000 scholarships to interns who successfully meet the requirements and standards for the position and complete the required hours. Also, a copy of the students' 2021 fall college class schedule will be required for college enrollment verification. To be considered for the scholarship opportunity, the application, resume and essay must be submitted by March 15, 2021. Applicants will be contacted for phone interviews.



For more details, contact the MSWCD office at 740-454-2027 or check out our website at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org).

# COMING SUMMER 2021

All activities are Covid-19 dependent

## Monarch Butterfly Tagging

Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District will be an additional Monarch Tagging Waystation in Muskingum County. Tags will be provided and if you are interested please let us know by calling the office at 740-454-2027 or emailing Ashlee at

[ashlee.kopchak@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:ashlee.kopchak@muskingumswcd.org).

<https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/>



Want to help protect your pollinators? Our annual plant sale will begin in late spring/early summer. All plants are native and will encourage the health and population for our pollinators.

Stay tuned and follow us on all social media platforms and be sure to subscribe to our website, [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org).

## Pollinator Plant Sale



Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District is planning for a new camp experience for Summer 2021. Introducing Camp WILD. We have hopes of an in-person camp for ages 3-12. Camp will include lessons on water quality, habitats, ecosystems, adaptations, stream monitoring and more.

If the Covid-19 pandemic continues through the summer there will be a Camp WILD virtual alternative.

If you're interested in receiving information please contact

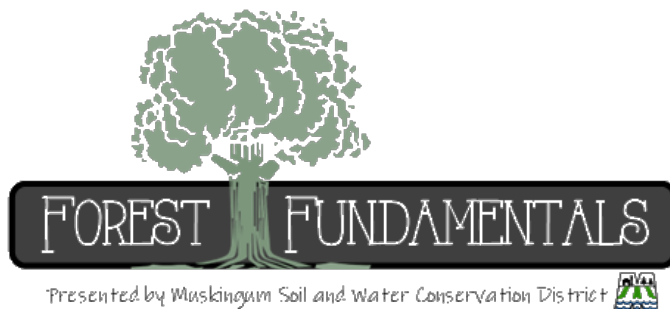
Ashlee at 740-454-2027 or by email at

[ashlee.kopchak@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:ashlee.kopchak@muskingumswcd.org)

In attempt to adapt to the new virtual formats, due to Covid-19, we will be providing new and exciting forestry programs!

Stay tuned and follow us on all social media platforms and be sure to subscribe to our website,

[www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org).





## MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100  
ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ZANESVILLE, OHIO  
PERMIT No. 262

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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DOUG MCCONNELL, SECRETARY  
BECKY VANSICKLE, MEMBER

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

ROBERT BOEHLE  
LISA CROCK  
MELISSA DEVORE  
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DOREEN MAURER  
VAN SLACK

### NRCS PERSONNEL:

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN  
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Save the Date

Live at Noon	March 9
MSWCD Board Meeting	March 9
The Art of Nature Meeting	March 15
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	March 16
Farming After Dark	March 17
Live at Noon	March 23
Live at Noon	March 29
MSWCD Board Meeting	April 13
Live at Noon	April 13
The Art of Nature Meeting	April 19

WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	April 20
Farming After Dark	April 21
Live at Noon	April 27
MSWCD Board Meeting	May 11
Live at Noon	May 11
The Art of Nature Meeting	May 17
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	May 18
Farming After Dark	May 19
Live at Noon	May 25
Live at Noon	May 31

