



Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

“Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialist”

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740) 454-2027

Newsletter Issue 1

muskingumswcd.org

Winter 2026, Published Quarterly



We're thankful to have had Cairn Recovery Resources LLC come out to Brighton Grows to help tear down the raised beds in the Youth and Veterans Garden. Their hard work helped clear the space to make room for new raised beds that will be built for the upcoming growing season.

We appreciate their willingness to lend a hand and support our community gardens. Thanks to their help, we're one step closer to creating refreshed spaces where youth, veterans, and community members can come together to grow food and learn in the garden.

Cairn Recovery Resources LLC also came to Restoration Park to help tear down our old raised beds and make way for new community garden beds for the upcoming season. The team jumped right in and had the work done in no time. They were a huge help!

The new raised beds will soon be available for community members to reserve and grow their own food, helping more families access fresh produce.

Cairn Recovery has supported our community gardens for years, and we're thankful for their continued partnership. This was the first volunteer day of the year, and we're excited for everything the new growing season will bring!



New to

SOIL AND WATER

Megan Taylor, Urban Agriculture Resource Specialist



Hi, my name is Megan Taylor, and I am the Urban Agriculture Resource Specialist for MSWCD. I am from Caldwell, OH and I recently graduated with a Master of Science from The Ohio State University. I graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in Human and Consumer Sciences in May 2021. I spent my time after graduation as a 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences Educator with OSU Extension in Marysville, OH before moving back to my hometown this past December. I have been married to my husband, Shawn Taylor, for three years and we have a 6-month-old son, Stetson. I am very excited to learn and grow in the Urban Greens program, and mostly for this opportunity and the experiences I will gain.

Grace Rolfe, Agriculture Resource Specialist



Hi, my name is Grace Rolfe and I'm an Agriculture Resource Specialist for MSWCD. I received my Bachelor's Degree in 2024 in Agriculture; Resource Conservation & Regenerative Ag. I grew up on a cattle farm in Southern Ohio. So, getting my hands in the soil And caring for livestock comes naturally. My focus is on forage production/grazing, Regenerative practices and anything in between. I've also had the exciting experience of getting Our Simmental Bull and Simmental/Angus Cow-Calf pair on the front cover of SimTalk & The Register! My Miniature Dachshund is my sidekick on the farm. She enjoys watching us work cattle, Plenty of rides in the tractors during hay season and has loved becoming a shed dog! I'm excited to get started and connect with our local producers!

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

Urban Greens Event Calendar

Wednesday April	01	Brighton Grows Event Series - Easter / Pollinators 604 Baker Street 4:30pm-6:30pm
Wednesday May	06	Brighton Grows Event Series - Day of Care 604 Baker Street 4:30pm-6:30pm
Tuesday May	12	Growing & Preserving at Marshall Greens 3405 Licking Lane 12pm-2pm
Wednesday June	03	Brighton Grows Event Series - Summer Kick Off 604 Baker Street 4:30pm-6:30pm
Wednesday June	17	Growing & Preserving at Marshall Greens - Vegetable Container Gardening 3405 Licking Lane 5pm-7pm
Wednesday July	01	Brighton Grows Event Series - Composting 604 Baker Street 4:30pm-6:30pm
Tuesday July	07	Growing & Preserving at Marshall Greens - Composting 3405 Licking Lane 5pm-7pm
Tuesday August	04	Growing & Preserving at Marshall Greens - Canning Salsa 3405 Licking Lane 12pm-2pm
Wednesday August	05	Brighton Grows Event Series - All about Herbs 604 Baker Street 4:30pm-6:30pm
Wednesday September	02	Brighton Grows Event Series - End of Season Celebration 604 Baker Street 4:30pm-6:30pm
Thursday September	10	Growing & Preserving at Marshall Greens - Canning Pickles 3405 Licking Lane 5pm-7pm

For questions about events call 740-454-2027



Registration Required for Growing & Preserving at Marshall Greens
Please scan the QR code to register!

Donate to support
the program!



Stay connected and
informed about
Urban Greens



Urban Greens



@urbangreensputnam



Muskingumswcd.org

Scan this QR code to
explore volunteer
opportunities!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Make a Difference in Your Community!

Looking to give back? The Zanesville-Muskingum Volunteer Platform connects you with 18 local organizations, making it easy for anyone to get involved. Sign up today to explore opportunities and help make our community stronger, one act of service at a time.



2026 FISH SALE

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026



PICK-UP HOURS: 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
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. UNSCENTED PLASTIC LINER IN CONTAINER (NO LIDS, BAG TO BE CLOSED WITH TWIST TIE OR TWINE)
3. LINER FILLED WITH ONE-THIRD OF POND WATER.

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

(GENERAL RULE OF THUMB: ONE CONTAINER PER 100 SMALL FISH, ONE CONTAINER PER 1,000 MINNOWS, ONE CONTAINER PER 4-5 AMURS AND KOI.)



MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2026 FISH SALE ORDER FORM ORDER DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026**

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____

CELL # _____

FISH SPECIES	QTY.	COST EACH	TOTAL
LARGEMOUTH BASS		\$1.49	\$
BLUEGILL		\$1.21	\$
CHANNEL CATFISH		\$1.03	\$
HYBRID BLUEGILL		\$1.21	\$
YELLOW PERCH		\$1.21	\$
RED EAR SHELL CRACKER		\$1.21	\$
FATHEAD MINNOWS		\$9.32/ 100	\$
JAPANESE KOI		\$13.99	\$
WHITE AMUR		\$16.78	\$

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
225 UNDERWOOD ST., STE. 100
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT THE TIME OF FISH ORDER.
TO ORDER, CLIP THE ORDER FORM IN THIS FLYER AND
MAIL IT ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO MSWCD OFFICE.
ADDITIONAL ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB-
SITE AT WWW.MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG.

FISH CAN ALSO BE ORDERED ONLINE AT OUR
WEBSITE AND PURCHASED WITH CREDIT CARD.
THERE IS A 4.0% SERVICE CHARGE FOR CREDIT
CARD PURCHASES.

ORDER TOTAL \$ _____

7.25% TAX \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

**ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER DEAD-
LINE DATE. ALL FISH MUST BE PRE-ORDERED!**

2026 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 2026".

Last year, a Northern Catalpa, owned by Muskingum Valley Miracle League, scored 333 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (240 inches), the height (75 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (72 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 May 31, 2026.



2026 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 May 31, 2026 to:
Muskingum SWCD "Big Tree" Contest
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, OH 43701

PH Outdoors 3' No-till Drill



Grow Native



Through the "Grow Native" grant we received from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, we were able to purchase a 3' no-till drill to promote landowners to grow native. This drill is perfect for smaller acreage projects including food plots, pollinator plantings, buffer strips, etc. This drill can be used with a UTV or small tractor.



Muskingum Soil and Water
Conservation District

2026 AWARD NOMINATION INFO

We need your help identifying those in our community who are practicing resource conservation in some way! Each year the MSWCD likes to recognize those in our county who are contributing to the betterment of the environment. Examples include a farmer you purchase produce from at the Farmers' Market; a business that has installed energy-saving lighting through-out its site; a neighbor who has established a garden of native plants for pollinators; a group that has started a community garden; or a teacher who is passionate about the environment and passes that on to his/her students. Please consider nominating a deserving individual, group, or business for one of the award categories listed below. You will find nomination information on our website at <https://www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Award-Nomination/>. The nomination form can be printed from our website and mailed to MSWCD, 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville. Nomination can also be submitted via our website. Deadline to submit your nomination is June 11, 2026. If you have any questions, please call Doreen at 740-454-2027.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Resource Conservation Award, Agricultural Division
Resource Conservation Award, Non-Agricultural
Backyard Conservationist
Conservation Educator of the Year
Special Educational Outreach Award
Friends of Conservation Award

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Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

Board of Supervisors:

Lance Deal, Secretary
Wayne Kilpatrick, Member
Doug McConnell, Chairperson
Mark Sterling, V. Chairperson
Mark Weiser, Treasurer/Fiscal Agent

District Personnel:

Lacey Harrier, District Administrator
Doreen Maurer, Administrative Assistant
Dylan McNabb, Forestry and Wildlife Specialist
Carah Mladek, Conservation Technician and Educator
Megan Taylor, Urban Agriculture Resource Specialist
Grace Rolfe, Agriculture Resource Specialist
Van Slack, Agriculture Resource Specialist
Abriana Newsom, AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Save the Date!

Ag Breakfast	04/07
Mid-Day News, Dylan McNabb	04/14
Board Meeting	04/14
Farming After Dark	04/15
WHIZ Radio- Van Slack	04/21
Mid-Day News, Carah Mladek	04/28
Ag Breakfast	05/05
Board Meeting	05/12
Mid-Day News, Lacey Harrier	05/12
WHIZ Radio, Dylan McNabb	05/19
Farming After Dark	05/20

<u>Office Closed- Memorial Day</u>	05/25
Farming After Dark	02/18
Mid-Day News, Grace Rolfe	05/26
Ag Breakfast	06/02
Board Meeting	06/09
Mid-Day News, Megan Taylor	06/09
WHIZ Radio, Grace Rolfe	06/16
<u>Office Closed- Juneteenth</u>	06/19
Mid-Day News, Doreen Maurer	06/23
Mid-Day News, Dylan McNabb	06/29