

#### Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027

Newsletter Issue 1

muskingumswcd.org

Winter 2024, Published Quarterly

#### 79th Annual Celebration of Conservation Meeting and Banquet

The 79th Annual Celebration of Conservation Meeting and Banquet was held Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Lindsley's Banquet Barn in Dresden, Ohio. Van Slack served as Master of Ceremonies.









A total of 101 people attended the event. A buffet meal of pulled pork and brisket, cheesy potatoes, corn, green beans, an assortment of cookies, soft drinks and water were served.









The speaker for the evening was Danae Wolfe. Danae is a writer, photographer, and content creator focused on fostering appreciation and stewardship of backyard bugs and wildlife. Her topic was "Backyard Stewardship for Beginners: Protecting Our Littlest Neighbors". Danae shared information regarding the good, bad, and ugly of the insect population, and the importance of creating a habitat for them.









After the speaker, the program continued with the Resource Conservation Awards (RCA). Van Slack extended our appreciation to the 2023 Awards Committee members, Doug McConnell, Becky Vansickle, Janet Taylor-Lehman, and Brenda Larrick. There were two RCA Agricultural award winners.



Doug McConnell presented the first RCA Agricultural Division-Large Farm, Cooperator of the Year award to Brian Stemm.



Becky Vansickle presented the second RCA Agricultural Division-Small/Non-Traditional Farm, Cooperator of the Year award to Carlos M. Dandridge.

(See page 3 for more Awards.)

#### WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS



800-521-9879 www.gmenergy.com





















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.

### More Conservation Awards



Lance Deal presented the RCA Non-Ag Division award to Pea Ohana Watersports. Kenneth "Bear" and Marissa Davis accepted the award.



Mark Sterling presented the first Backyard Conservationist award to Nikki Slack.



Becky Vansickle presented the second Backyard Conservationist award to Eva Bowden.



Lance Deal presented the third Backyard Conservationist award to April and Emma Lovejoy.



Mark Sterling presented the Educator of the Year award to Lesley Viney.



Doug McConnell presented the first Friends of Conservation Award to the Muskingum Valley Park District (MVPD). The award was accepted by Michelle Illing and Parker Young.



The second Friends of Conservation Award was presented by Becky Vansickle to the Boy Scouts of America Troop 174.

#### Urban Greens Volunteers Awards



Mark Sterling
presented the Urban
Greens volunteer
awards to Keith
Dilley, Kristina
Davis, and Adam
Keirns.



Lance Deal presented the Muskingum County Big Tree Award to John and Anne Janusz.

The Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District would not be in existence if it were not for the farmers, students,

businesses, teachers, landowners, community leaders, and local, state, and federal agencies that make our programs possible. For this, we thank you.

The Board of Supervisors also play a huge part in the success of the MSWCD. In 2024, we will be welcoming newly elected supervisor Larry Daniels and welcoming back second term supervisor Doug McConnell.

Supervisor Becky Vansickle will be leaving the MSWCD Board after six years of service, and she will be greatly missed. This is not goodbye, but see you around the county. Becky, thank you for all your time and dedication to the District.

# MUSKINGUM AND GUERNSEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, IN COOPERATION WITH ZANE STATE COLLEGE, INVITE YOU TO THE

#### 2024 Muskingum Valley Wildlife Conference

Zane State College April 6, 2024 9AM — 4PM

Registration Starts at 8AM

Pre-Registration is Required, Cost \$25.00 Registration Includes Light Breakfast and Lunch

#### Topics Include

Pond Management, Owls of Ohio, Creating a Mitigated Wetland, Tracking Wildlife Using MOTUS, Mushrooming, Spadefoot Toad Management, Box Turtle, Tree Frog and Salamander Studies, Bobcats in Ohio, Bats in Ohio, and more.

Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	
Total Numb	per Of Attendees X \$25 per person—Total Due \$

Registration Deadline March 22, 2024

me:					
dress:					
y:		State		ZI	IP .
ytime Phone #:		Cell Pho	ne #:	•	
nail (update you when the ord	ers come in):	<u>.</u>			
Supply is limited. Deadline to	order is <b>Friday</b> , l	February 23rd	<b>1, 2024</b> . Proje	ected pick-up da	te is mid-April 20
If you are tax exempt, please figorder, regardless of the metho	d of payment.	out the sales tax		submit a Tax Exem	ption form with th
SPECIES	PACKET PRICE	PLUS TAX	TOTAL PRICE	# OF PACKETS	Total Cost
	THESE ARE S	OLD IN 25 TE	REES PER PA	CK	
BLACK WALNUT	THESE ARE S \$25.17	SOLD IN 25 TE \$1.83	REES PER PA \$27	СК	
BLACK WALNUT BUR OAK		1		СК	
	\$25.17	\$1.83	\$27	СК	
Bur Oak	\$25.17 \$30.77	\$1.83 \$2.23	\$27 \$33	СК	
Bur Oak Douglas Fir	\$25.17 \$30.77 \$27.04	\$1.83 \$2.23 \$1.96	\$27 \$33 \$29	CK	
BUR OAK  DOUGLAS FIR  COMMON PERSIMMON	\$25.17 \$30.77 \$27.04 \$27.04	\$1.83 \$2.23 \$1.96 \$1.96	\$27 \$33 \$29 \$29	CK	
BUR OAK  DOUGLAS FIR  COMMON PERSIMMON  RED OAK	\$25.17 \$30.77 \$27.04 \$27.04 \$25.17	\$1.83 \$2.23 \$1.96 \$1.96 \$1.83	\$27 \$33 \$29 \$29 \$27	СК	

\$0.95

\$0.68

\$0.95

\$0.68

\$0.95

THESE ARE SOLD IN 5 TREES PER PACK \$1.55

\$2.03

\$1.15

TREE PACKETS-FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE BACK OF PAGE

\$2.03

\$2.23

\$14

\$10

\$14

\$10

\$14

\$23

\$30

\$17

\$30

\$33

Mail order form & payment to **TOTAL BULK AMOUNT DUE \$** Muskingum SWCD, 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, PACKET COST \$

Zanesville OH 43701 **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$** 

\$13.05

\$9.32

\$13.05

\$9.32

\$13.05

\$21.45

\$27.97

\$15.85

\$27.97

\$30.77

ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM

**CHOKEBERRY** 

SERVICEBERRY SILKY DOGWOOD

**BUTTERNUT** 

Paw Paw

WINTERBERRY HOLLY

HYBRID CHESTNUT

POLLINATOR PACKET

WILDLIFE PACKET

For more information contact the office at (740) 454-2027, or visit our website at muskingumswcd.org.

All sales are final, no refunds or exchanges. We reserve the right to make substitutions. No shipping. Please check your tree order well, upon receipt, and notify the office within 48 hours of any issues such as receiving the wrong trees, receiving the wrong amount of trees, trees are not healthy, etc. To order by credit card, please stop by the office or order on-line. Credit card orders will not be accepted through the mail. An additional 4% service fee will be charged to credit card orders.

# 2024 Muskingum SWCD TREE SEEDLING SALE

BLACK WALNUT	Information	COST W/TAX PER BUNDLE	Size	AGE	Mature Height	SOIL MOISTURE	GROWTH RATE	LIGHT	
VALNUT	•	THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF 25 TREES	SOLD IN PACKS OF	F 25 TREES					Edible Parts
<i>y</i> .	S S S	\$27.00	8" - 16"	-	60' - 80'	WD - MWD	ഥ	S, P	
		\$33.00	12" - 24"	7	70' - 80'	WD - MWD	S, M	S, P	Evergreen
Douglas Fir		\$29.00	12" - 24"	Ŋ	40' - 80'	WD - MWD	S, M	S, SH	•
COMMON PERSIMMON	O   <b>  %                                     </b>	\$29.00	18" - 36"	7	30' - 80'	WD - MWD	M · F	S, P	Good For Birds
RED OAK		\$27.00	15" - 30"	7	60' - 80'	MWD - SPD	M F	S, P	<b>)</b>
SUGAR MAPLE		\$33.00	10" - 20"	က	60' - 80'	MWD - SPD	S	S, SH	Ľ
WHITE OAK	<b>₹</b> •• <b>1</b>	\$38.00	18" - 36"	3	50' - 80'	MWD - WD	S. M	S, P	Good For Deer
EASTERN WHITE PINE	<b>♣ } / / ( ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !</b>	\$27.00	10" - 20"	4	50' - 80'	MWD - SPD	H	S	Ê
	T	THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS	SOLD IN PACKS C	OF 10 TREES	33				Good For
ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM	**************************************	\$14.00	24" - 36"	വ	10' - 12'	WD - SPD	ഥ	S, P	Pollinators
CHOKEBERRY		\$10.00	6" - 12"	က	20' - 30'	WD - SPD	ഥ	S, P	خ
SERVICEBERRY	IIOI RAYY	\$14.00	10" - 20"	4	15'-25'	WD - MWD	M.F	S, P	Good For
SILKY DOGWOOD	\$ 7 X	\$10.00	15" - 20"	4	10'-15'	WD - SPD	M	S, P	Siliaii Waliiliais
WINTERBERRY HOLLY	\$ 1 × 1	\$14.00	10" - 20"	4	10' - 15'	WD - MWD	S, M	S, P	Sciolibora + IN
		THESE TREES ARE	ES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF	OF 5 TREES					**************************************
BUTTERNUT \$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	101 <b>4 8</b>	\$23.00	24" - 48"	2	40' - 60'	WD - SPD	S	S, P	#
HYBRID CHESTNUT	<b>№ 14</b>	\$30.00	8" - 16"	1	80' - 100'	MWD - WD	M	S	Timber Tree
PAW PAW	K. 12 10 10 1	\$17.00	8" - 16"	С	15'-30'	WD - SWD	M F	S, P	

WILDLIFE PACKET - \$33.00	5— Arrowwood Viburnum

5- CHOKECHERRY 5- BUR OAK

5- COMMON PERSIMMON

5- WHITE OAK

5- ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM 5-SILKY DOGWOOD 5- CHOKECHERRY 5- SERVICEBERRY

5- WINTERBERRY HOLLY

POLLINATOR PACKET - \$30.00

# Soil Moisture:

SPD= Somewhat Poorly Drained MWD= Moderately Well Drained PD= Poorly Drained WD= Well Drained

#### **Growth Rate:** M= Medium S= Slow F= Fast

**Light:**S= Sun
P= Part Sun/
Shade
SH= Shade

Supply is limited, so order early. For more tree information, visit: http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/trees, or contact our office. All sales are final – no refunds or exchanges. Deadline to order is Friday, February, 23rd 2024. Projected pickup date is mid-April 2024.

#### Tree Shelters - Are They Worth The Cost?

The Muskingum SWCD has been selling tree shelters for many years. To provide a good comparison of sheltered versus non-sheltered trees, we asked several past tree shelter customers why they continue to use shelters year after year.

One farmer that we visited has been planting trees since he purchased the property in 2015. As time has gone on he has increased the percentage of sheltered trees. He sees multiple benefits from using the shelters, including what is likely the most importantprotection from the deer. Small twigs are high in nutrients throughout the year, which makes these desirable snacks for the deer. especially in late winter. The shelters also discourage the bucks from rubbing the trees. In addition to deer protection, the shelters also increase growth significantly.

In the spring of 2018, American Plum were planted in several areas of the farm, and in just one growing season those that were sheltered have outperformed the unsheltered ones by at least a four to one ratio. The faster the trees grow the guicker they will produce mast for wildlife feed. There has also been a significant reduction in damage caused by moles, voles, mice and rabbits. While these small animals typically won't eat the tree, they will strip the bark to eat, which in turn essentially strangles the trees.

This landowner in particular has seen, and continues to see, the value in tree shelters. In addition to increased growth rates, deer protection, and other animal protection, shelters have also greatly reduced the labor needed to control weeds around his trees. He is able to spray the weeds and reduce competition with much less concern of any herbicide getting on the trees due to the shelter. To decrease the time period to maturity you can either spend \$50 plus on a 3/4" caliper tree and then have to plant a large ball or you can buy a \$2 seedling and protect it with a \$15 shelter and have the same result in the next five years. If you have any questions regarding the benefits of tree shelters please contact the office at 740-454-2027.

#### Tree shelters can be picked up during tree seedling pickup. Orders of 50 or more shelters, please call the office for bulk pricing. Deadline for orders is February 23rd, 2024.



**Sheltered Tree** 

Bur Oaks planted within 50' of each other on a farm in northern Muskingum County. The tree on the left was placed in a shelter at that time, while the one on the right was not. The one on the left has grown out of the top of the 5' tall shelter and is well on its way to the 6' mark while the one on the right just barely reaches the 1' mark.



Unsheltered

Tree

Price

#### **Tree Shelter Order Form**

Name:			
Addres	ss:		

	Shelter	Each	Tax	w/lax	Shelters	Price
Name:	Three Foot	\$10.26	\$0.74	\$11.00		
Address:	Four Foot	\$13.99	\$1.01	\$15.00		
City: State: Zip:	Five Foot	\$15.85	\$1.15	\$17.00		

Price

# of

Total

Plus

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_
Please make checks payable to: MSWCD

**Total Amount Due \$** 

To order by credit card, please stop by the office or order on-line. An additional 4% service fee will be charged to credit card orders placed online or at the office. Credit card orders will not be accepted through the mail.



## POLLINATOR TREE PACKET



CHOKEBERRY







SILKY DOGWOOD WINTERBERRY HOLLY ARROW VIBURNUM

As always, we are providing our annual tree seedlings sale again. This year we are offering some species that I know we haven't offered in the last 11 years, and some of them we may have never offered before. As we all know the concern for pollinators has swept across the nation and has made impacts in how we manage our properties. After the success of the pollinator packs and those type of species last year, we have decided to offer a different pack and a few additional species this year.

Many of the new species that we are offering this year are small trees and shrubs that provide excellent pollinator value for our native bees and butterflies. The five species we are offering specifically for pollinators are Chokeberry, Silky Dogwood, Serviceberry, Arrowwood Viburnum and Winterberry Holly. Most of these species max out in the 12' to 15' range while a couple will reach closer to 25 or 30'. These can be great ornamental species that, for all but the Chokeberry, can be planted around and under powerlines.

The pollinator value comes with flowers, which also provides aesthetic values as well. All these species have flower blooms that appear in the spring. These provide aesthetic value through the spring and lead to berries in the late summer, fall and even into winter with a few of the species. This provides aesthetic value throughout a large portion of the year. Several of these shrubs can also provide excellent screening properties, which can provide visual or wind breaks.

These species also make great wildlife buffers along the edges of woods. Planting these small trees and shrubs creates a buffer effect as well as some transitional habitat from mature woods to open field. This transitional habitat plays a huge role in providing space for wildlife to hide from predators. All of these trees and shrubs produce seeds or berries that are consumed by wildlife including song birds, turkeys, small mammals and deer.









The weather outside is frightful and thinking of spring is delightful! The seed catalogs are piling up beside the chair or on the kitchen table. It's a long time until we can put seeds or plants in the ground. We can start dreaming about what to plant and how that first, ripe, juicy tomato will taste. We can start picking out what new variety of cucumber, summer squash, or green bean we want to try from the mounting stacks of catalogs. But now what?

As long as the ground or soil is not frozen solid you can take a soil sample from your garden area and send it off to a lab to get it analyzed. If you have the information that is provided in the results of your soil test you can create a happy environment in which seeds and plants can thrive. The fertility of the soil can have an impact on the growth, production, and even the taste of your bountiful harvest. Too much or too little fertility is bad for your plants.

Now what? Test your soil. There is a phrase that comes up every once in a while, "test don't guess". Give your garden the best chance at success and pull a soil test. The local OSU Extension office has soil test kits that are available for purchase. All you have to do is provide the soil sample, complete the paperwork, and mail it to the lab. You should get the results back In a couple of weeks. Once you have the results, you can start researching what the best soil amendments are to meet the needs of your garden.

If you want or need help interpreting the results of your soil test, OSU Extension or Muskingum SWCD can assist you with that. Now that you have the "now what" you can dream away into the New Year!



MSWCD's Urban Greens program grew to six community gardens this year! The program has a goal of "growing food, growing community, and growing with purpose"—to that end (and with the help of 32 community partners, 150 volunteers, and 940 volunteer hours), Urban Greens was able to grow and donate 18,000 lbs of produce to local food pantries and hot food services, Muskingum County Center for Seniors, Veterans, and the Zanesville City Schools Summer Lunch Program this year, all while implementing conservation practices such as low-till, irrigation, cover crops, plastic mulch, trap cropping, and growing in a high tunnel! The program works directly with the Muskingum County Hunger Network and was able to provide fresh produce to not only these 16 food pantries in our area, but also to several other pantries who heard about our program and expressed the same need. We have already distributed surveys to these pantries to better understand their specific needs moving forward as we continue to address food insecurity in our area. With an acre and a half (and room to grow), our Marshall Greens Garden (located off Licking Lane) generated the bulk of this produce and has become the perfect educational site to show people how to grow their own food and to demonstrate these conservation practices.

Continued on page 10.

We also launched a new Youth Garden this year at our Brighton Grows Garden, which will be used for garden education for after school and summer youth programs and will provide a fun and safe space for youth in this community. We plan to grow the educational opportunities in the gardens even more next season! Stay tuned for the 2024 Garden Olympics and other exciting things happening in our gardens!

#### APPLY TODAY!

#### Interns Wanted

#### The MSWCD has two different internship opportunities for summer of 2024!

First, we are looking for up to three Volunteer Interns to assist MSWCD staff with a variety of projects and programs. Activities might include, but are not limited to, agriculture field visits, forestry management visits and plan creation, wildlife habitat establishment, water quality monitoring, soil sampling, pollinator plantings, youth camps, educational events, urban agriculture, and more. To be eligible, students must be high school graduates and in college. Those interested are required to fill out an application, and submit a resume and short essay. Students must be able to pass a criminal background check. Students in agriculture, environmental, and/or natural resources management are encouraged to apply.

While these are volunteer internships, there is a scholarship opportunity available. The MSWCD Board has approved granting, at a minimum, a \$1,000 scholarship to each Volunteer Intern who successfully meets the requirements and standards for the position and completes the minimum required hours (100 hours within 10 weeks). Students will receive the scholarship check to spend on their educational needs as they see fit. A copy of the student's 2024 fall college class schedule will be required for college enrollment verification. If a student's school requires more than 100 hours for an internship, that can be obtained as well.

The second internship opportunity is funded through the MSWCD and the Muskingum County Auditor's office and is a paid part-time position, lasting 10-12 weeks (total number of hours yet to be determined). This intern will assist our Forestry/Wildlife Specialist with forestry inspections and plans. To be eligible, students must be high school graduates and in college majoring in forestry or an environmental or conservation science field. Must be able to pass a criminal background check and a driving record check and be insurable to drive a District vehicle. For more information about this internship, please contact Robert Boehle at <a href="mailto:robert.boehle@muskingumswcd.org">robert.boehle@muskingumswcd.org</a> or 740-454-2027.

All Internship positions are flexible as to what days/hours must be worked, as long as the required hours are obtained within 12 weeks. To be considered for either of the internship opportunities, the application, resume and essay must be submitted by March 15, 2024. Applicants will be contacted for phone interviews before the end of March. For more details, contact the MSWCD office at 740-454-2027 or check our website at <a href="https://www.muskingumswcd.org">www.muskingumswcd.org</a>. Applications are available online.



#### Save the Date

#### **2024 Wildlife and Forestry Roundtable**

Network with other landowners and natural resource professionals February 8th, May 9th, August 8th, and November 14th 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

February and November will be via Zoom, May and August will be in person Subjects to be determined

Register on-line at www.muskingumswcd.org or by calling 740-454-2027



2024

January 17th 7:30PM February 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM March 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM

From the comfort of your own home after a long day join us on ZOOM for informative speakers on a variety of topics!

Please visit our website at https: //www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Farming-After-Dark/

For up-to-date information and to register.

#### THE CLIFTON, MELISSA, AND VAN SHOW

PIZZA, POP & PROFIT

Come and discuss nutrients and crop management with Van, Clifton, and Melissa.

Rural Service Building Meeting Room 225 Underwood Street Zanesville, Ohio 43701



January 19, 2024—Greg Lebarge, OSU Extension– soil tests and current fertility recommendations.

February 23, 2024—Kip Studer, ODA – H2Ohio Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans.

March 22, 2024—Laura Lindsey, OSU – Biological products for crop production.

LIVE AND ON ZOOM A
Register on-line

Register on-line at www.muskingumswcd.org or by calling 740-454-2027.

Registration is due the day before each event.

#### MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100 ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Lance Deal Larry Daniels Doug McConnell Mark Sterling Mark Weiser

#### **DISTRICT PERSONNEL:**

ROBERT BOEHLE LISA CROCK MELISSA DEVORE DOREEN MAURER ABRIANA NEWSOM BETSY ROSSER VAN SLACK

#### **NRCS PERSONNEL:**

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN DEE WISERMAN

# Save the Date

<u> </u>		
Ag Breakfast	January 2	
WHIZ Mid Day News	January 9	
Board Meeting	January 9	
MLK Day Office Closed	January 15	
Radio	January 16	
Farming After Dark	January 17	
Pizza, Pop, & Profit	January 19	
WHIZ Mid Day News	January 23	
WHIZ Mid Day News	January 29	
Ag Breakfast	February 6	
MSWCD Board Meeting	February 13	
WHIZ Mid Day News	February 13	
Forestry Wildlife Roundtable	February 8	
Presidents' Day Office Closed	February 19	

Radio	February 20
Farming After Dark	February 14
Pizza, Pop, and Profit	February 23
Tree Sale Ends	February 24
WHIZ Mid Day News	February 27
Ag Breakfast	March 5
MSWCD Board Meeting	March 12
WHIZ Mid Day News	March 12
Radio	March 19
Farming After Dark	March 20
Pizza, Pop, & Profit	March 22
WHIZ Mid Day News	March 26
Conservation Craft Night	March 26
Muskingum Valley Wild- life Conference	April 6









