



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

81st

Annual Celebration of Conservation Meeting and Banquet



The 81ST Annual Celebration of Conservation Meeting and Banquet of the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District was held Thursday, October 30, 2025 at Lindsley’s Banquet Barn, 4060 New Riley Road, Dresden, Ohio. A total of 81 people attended the event. A buffet meal of brisket, chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans, a roll with butter, apple dumpling with ice, soft drinks and water were served at 6:15 p.m. Lacey Harrier opened the meeting by introducing herself as the new District Administrator and welcomed everyone to the banquet. She introduced Chad Amos, ODA/Division of Soil and Water Resources. Lacey turned the meeting over to Van Slack who served as the Master of Ceremonies. Van introduced supervisors, personnel, and garden coordinators who were in attendance.

Van Slack welcomed Dr. Henry Anton Pellar as the evening’s speaker. Dr. Pellar’s topic was Muskingum County Milpa, and he shared his personal story regarding agriculture, specifically no-till farming with cover crops. Afterwards, many awards were handed out. Doug McConnell presented the first RCA Agricultural Division-Large Farm, Cooperator of the Year award to Austin and Ashley Mahan, and the second RCA Agricultural Division's Small/Non-Traditional Cooperator of the Year award to Nick and Thera Snyder.

Mark Sterling presented the Backyard Conservationist award to Erin Welker. Wayne Kilpatrick presented the Educator of the Year award to Al Parker. Lance Deal presented the Special Educational Outreach Award to Dr. Lois Zook. Mark Weiser presented four Friends of Conservation Awards to four local schools who participated in the Pathways to Agriculture program in 2024. These schools were: Maysville High School, Foxfire Schools, Philo Junior High School, and New Lexington Middle School.

The 2025 Big Tree Contest award recipient was Muskingum Valley Miracle League. The winning tree was a Catalpa, which scored 333 points. Van Slack continued the program by recognizing the 2024 scholarship winners. This year’s summer volunteer interns were Sarah Lute, Syrenna Mann, and Erin Oberle.



Project Evergreen



Project Evergreen Brings Holiday Cheer—and New Trees—to Our Community

Project Evergreen is underway, bringing holiday cheer to five local families while contributing to a greener future for Muskingum County. This new community initiative provides each selected family with a 4'-5' balled-and-burlapped Christmas tree, delivered to their home for the holiday season. After the season ends, the trees will be collected and replanted in City of Zanesville parks—giving each family's celebration a lasting legacy.



This project has been made possible through generous community support:

- **Muskingum County Community Foundation** funded the trees.
- **Circle KD Tree Farm** provided high-quality trees at a discounted rate.
- **Buck Brackman of the Zanesville Tree Commission** sponsored commemorative plaques, which will be given to each family and later displayed beside their tree once planted in the parks.
- **Levi Shegog** sponsored LED lights for each tree.
- **City of Zanesville** is supplying staff and resources for tree delivery, pick-up, and planting.
- **Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District** is coordinating the initiative, offering logistical support, tree-care guidance, and planning an educational event during the spring plantings.



Project Evergreen not only brightens the holidays for five families—it also enriches our urban forest, promotes environmental education, and celebrates meaningful community collaboration. These living holiday trees will soon take root in local parks, growing as enduring symbols of the season and the people who made it possible.



URBAN GREENS NEWSLETTER



Bimbo Good Neighbor Project 2025

A big thank-you to Bimbo Bakeries for choosing Urban Greens for their Good Neighbor 2025 Project! With the help of Bimbo volunteers, Muskingum Wrestlers, and Diane Altman, we revitalized our high tunnel, built new raised beds, refreshed our small greenhouse for seed starting, and added a garden worktable.

This project will help us teach the community how to grow in a high tunnel and extend the growing season. We also want to recognize our AmeriCorps VISTA, LaTrell Davis, who organized and completed this project as he concluded his service year.

Harvest Party 2025

We came together for our Second Annual Harvest Party to honor the many hands and hearts that make our work possible. A huge thank-you to our volunteers, especially the team from Cairn Recovery Resources, LLC, whose dedication ensures local food pantries receive fresh, healthy produce all season long.

We're also grateful for our partners—Muskingum County Library System, Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, Central State University Extension, and Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority—for sharing knowledge, attending events, and helping build a healthier community. Special shoutout to Ro for the delicious fried apples demo and DJ Napps for keeping the celebration lively!

Finally, our sponsors—JW & MH Straker Charitable Foundation, Bimbo Bakeries, Walmart, Williamson Insurance, Muskingum Valley Health Centers, and Muskingum County Community Foundation—your support fuels our mission to connect more people with fresh food, garden education, and community. We are deeply thankful for everyone who helps our gardens—and our community—grow. Here's to another fruitful season!





Thank you to our amazing Garden Coordinators!



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.

Voly | Where your passions and volunteer opportunities click.

<https://zmfriends.voly.org>



Stay connected and informed about Urban Greens



Donate to support the program

DONATE NOW





Interested in purchasing a trailer? We are looking to sell one through a sealed bid process!

- The trailer is 6'10" wide and 12' long with a single axle and wooden deck.
- The trailer also has a tilt feature
- Bids will be opened at the February board meeting
- The purchase price was \$2,850
- Interested buyers **MUST** submit a sealed bid to the SWCD office at 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville, Ohio, 45701. You can contact us at (740) 454-2027.

POLLINATOR TREES AND SHRUBS

This year, the tree seedling sale will again include trees and shrubs beneficial to pollinators as well as wildlife. There will be new species that we have not offered before, or it has been a few years since we sold them. These new species include American Elder (Elderberry), American Plum, and Arrowwood Viburnum.

American elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), also called American elderberry, is a native North American shrub known for its clusters of white flowers and dark purple berries, which are often used in jellies, pies, and wines. It thrives in moist soil and sunny to partially shaded areas, but parts of the plant can be toxic to people if not prepared properly.

American plum (*Prunus americana*) is a native North American small tree known for its fragrant spring blossoms and tart, colorful fruits. American plum blooms in early spring, producing clusters of fragrant white flowers that provide nectar and pollen when few other plants are flowering. Pollination leads to fruit, and the resulting plums provide food for wildlife, linking pollinator activity to ecosystem benefits.

Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) is a hardy, native North American shrub known for its showy white spring flowers, green foliage, and clusters of blue-black berries that attract birds. This shrub is highly beneficial to pollinators, offering abundant nectar and pollen in spring that attract bees, butterflies, and other insects.

Cross-pollination between shrubs enhances berry production, which in turn supports wildlife. The pollinator value of these trees and shrubs comes with flowers that also provide aesthetic values. All these species have flower blooms that appear in 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 fields. This transitional habitat plays a huge role in providing space for wildlife to hide from predators. All these trees and shrubs produce seeds or berries that are consumed by wildlife including songbirds, turkeys, small mammals, and deer.



2026 MUSKINGUM SWCD TREE ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail (update you when the orders come in): _____

Supply is limited. Deadline to order is **Friday, February 20, 2026. Projected pick-up date is mid-April**

If you are tax exempt, please figure your total without the sales tax included and submit a Tax Exemption form with the order, regardless of the method of payment. The tax exempt form is available at the office or on our website at www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/

| SPECIES | PACKET PRICE | PLUS TAX | TOTAL PRICE | # OF PACKETS | TOTAL COST |
|---|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| THESE ARE SOLD IN 25 TREES PER PACK | | | | | |
| NORWAY SPRUCE | \$ 23.19 | \$ 1.81 | \$ 25.00 | | |
| PITCH-LOBLOLLY PINE | \$ 25.97 | \$ 2.03 | \$ 28.00 | | |
| SHAGBARK HICKORY | \$ 32.46 | \$ 2.54 | \$ 35.00 | | |
| SUGAR MAPLE | \$ 26.90 | \$ 2.10 | \$ 29.00 | | |
| PIN OAK | \$ 25.04 | \$ 1.96 | \$ 27.00 | | |
| RED OAK | \$ 24.12 | \$ 1.88 | \$ 26.00 | | |
| WHITE OAK | \$ 24.12 | \$ 1.88 | \$ 26.00 | | |
| COMMON PERSIMMON | \$ 27.83 | \$ 2.17 | \$ 30.00 | | |
| AMERICAN PLUM | \$ 27.83 | \$ 2.17 | \$ 30.00 | | |
| BLACK WALNUT | \$ 28.75 | \$ 2.25 | \$ 31.00 | | |
| THESE ARE SOLD IN 10 TREES PER PACK | | | | | |
| GRAY DOGWOOD | \$ 8.35 | \$ 0.65 | \$ 9.00 | | |
| ELDERBERRY | \$ 8.35 | \$ 0.65 | \$ 9.00 | | |
| AMERICAN HAZELNUT | \$12.99 | \$1.01 | \$14.00 | | |
| ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM | \$12.06 | \$ 0.94 | \$ 13.00 | | |
| NANNYBERRY VIBURNUM | \$10.20 | \$ 0.80 | \$11.00 | | |
| THESE ARE SOLD IN 5 TREE PER PACK | | | | | |
| PAW PAW | \$10.20 | \$ 0.80 | \$11.00 | | |
| TREE PACKETS—FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE BACK OF PAGE | | | | | |
| POLLINATOR PACKET | \$ 27.04 | \$1.96 | \$ 29.00 | | |
| WILDLIFE PACKET | \$ 31.70 | \$ 2.30 | \$ 34.00 | | |

Mail order form & payment to
Muskingum SWCD
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville OH 43701

TOTAL BULK AMOUNT DUE \$ _____










































PACKET COST \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

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 or by phone. An additional 4% service fee will be charged to credit card orders.

2026 MUSKINGUM SWCD TREE SEEDLING SALE

| COMMON NAME | INFORMATION | COST W/ TAX PER BUNDLE | SIZE | AGE | MATURE HEIGHT | SOIL MOISTURE | GROWTH RATE | LIGHT |
|---|---|------------------------|-----------|-----|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF 25 TREES. | | | | | | | | |
| BLACK WALNUT |    | \$31.00 | 24" - 36" | 2 | 60' - 80' | WD - MWD | F | S, P |
| SHAGBARK HICKORY |    | \$35.00 | 8" - 16" | 3 | 60' - 80' | MWD - WD | S, M | S, P |
| PITCH-LOBLOLLY PINE |   | \$28.00 | 8" - 16" | 2 | 40' - 60' | WD - MWD | F | S, P |
| COMMON PERSIMMON |    | \$30.00 | 10" - 20" | 2 | 30' - 80' | WD - MWD | M, F | S, P |
| RED OAK |    | \$26.00 | 8" - 16" | 2 | 60' - 80' | MWD - SPD | M, F | S, P |
| SUGAR MAPLE |    | \$29.00 | 10" - 20" | 4 | 60' - 80' | MWD - SPD | S | S, SH |
| WHITE OAK |    | \$26.00 | 10" - 20" | 2 | 50' - 80' | MWD - WD | S, M | S, P |
| NORWAY SPRUCE |   | \$25.00 | 10" - 20" | 3 | 75' - 80' | MWD - SPD | F | S, P |
| AMERICAN PLUM |    | \$30.00 | 8" - 16" | 1 | 20' - 30' | WD | M | S, P |
| PIN OAK |   | \$27.00 | 8" - 16" | 2 | 50' - 75' | WD - SPD | M | S |
| THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF 10 TREES. | | | | | | | | |
| ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM |   | \$13.00 | 24" - 36" | 5 | 10' - 15' | WD - SPD | F | S, P |
| AMERICAN HAZELNUT |    | \$14.00 | 8" - 16" | 2 | 10' - 15' | WD - MWD | M, F | S, P |
| ELDERBERRY |    | \$9.00 | 5" - 10" | 2 | 5' - 10' | MWD - SPD | M | S, P |
| GRAY DOGWOOD |   | \$9.00 | 12" - 24" | 5 | 10' - 15' | SPD - PD | F | S, P |
| NANNYBERRY VIBURNUM |   | \$11.00 | 5" - 10" | 2 | 15' - 25' | WD - SPD | S, M | S, P, SH |
| THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF 5 TREES. | | | | | | | | |
| PAW PAW |   | \$11.00 | 12" - 18" | 3 | 15' - 20' | WD - SWD | M, F | S, P |

 Edible Parts
 Evergreen
 Good For Birds
 Good For Deer
 Good For Pollinators
 Good For Small Mammals
 Nut Producing
 Timber Tree

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WILDLIFE PACKET - \$34.00 | POLLINATOR PACKET - \$29.00 |
| 5- AMERICAN HAZELNUT | 5- ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM |
| 5- SHAGBARK HICKORY | 5- GRAY DOGWOOD |
| 5- RED OAK | 5- ELDERBERRY |
| 5- COMMON PERSIMMON | 5- AMERICAN PLUM |
| 5- WHITE OAK | 5- NANNYBERRY VIBURNUM |

Soil Moisture:
 WD= Well Drained MWD= Moderately Well Drained SPD= Somewhat Drained PD= Drained
Growth Rate:
 F= Fast M= Medium S= Slow
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, 20th 2026. Projected pickup date is mid-April 2026.

PH Outdoors 3' No-till Drill



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.

Contact Us

📞 740-454-2027

225 Underwood St. Suite 100
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

🌐 <https://www.muskingumswcd.org/>

Grow Native

Species Trade-in

The purpose of this species trade-in is for homeowners to remove invasive, non-native species from their yard or landscaping and replace this invasive with a native species. Through the “Grow Native” grant we received from Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, we are able to offer the first 40 people that remove invasive, non-native species from their landscaping a gift card up to \$100 to replace this invasive species. To receive a gift card, contact the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District office to have someone from the office come to your property and see where an invasive, non-native species has been removed. Some of the non-native, invasive species include Callery pear, non-native bush and vine honeysuckles, burning bush, barberry, etc.

We'd like to recognize Betsy Rosser for her years of service with the district. Thank you for everything you have done, and best of luck on your new adventures!

We'd like to recognize Melissa Devore for her many years of service to the district. We wish you well in all of your new endeavors!

We Would Like to Thank Our Sponsors

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Keep it growing.
LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY IN MUSKINGUM COUNTY

The Muskingum County Community Foundation
The Straker Building
534 Putnam Ave, Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 453-5192
www.mccf.org





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
 Van Slack, Agriculture Resource Specialist
 Abriana Newsom, AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Save the Date!

| | |
|--|-------|
| Board Meeting | 01/13 |
| Mid-Day News, Doreen Maurer | 01/13 |
| <u>Office Closed- MLK Day</u> | 01/19 |
| WHIZ Radio, Doreen Maurer | 01/20 |
| Farming After Dark, 7:30pm | 01/21 |
| Pizza, Pop, and Profit, 12:00pm | 01/23 |
| Mid-Day News, Van Slack | 01/27 |
| Winter Beekeeping (@Duncan Falls Library) | 02/04 |
| Mid-Day News, Dylan McNabb | 02/10 |
| <u>Office Closed- President's Day</u> | 02/16 |
| Board Meeting | 02/17 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| WHIZ Radio, Carah Mladek | 02/17 |
| Farming After Dark | 02/18 |
| Winter Beekeeping (@ Duncan Falls Library) | 02/18 |
| Pizza, Pop, and Profit, 12:00pm | 02/20 |
| Mid-Day News, Carah Mladek | 02/24 |
| Board Meeting | 03/10 |
| Mid-Day News, Lacey Harrier | 03/10 |
| WHIZ Radio, Lacey Harrier | 03/17 |
| Farming After Dark, 7:30pm | 03/18 |
| Mid-Day News, Doreen Maurer | 03/24 |
| Mid-Day News, Van Slack | 03/30 |