

CONSERVATION NOTES

Mission: To promote conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education and technical assistance.

Welcome New Leadership

Congratulations to our newest Board member, Mamie Hollenback. Mamie holds a B.A. in Business Administration and Human Resources Management. She is a chicken farmer in the Utica area who has made many conservation improvements on her property.

Mamie participated in the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Conservation Reserve Program. Some of the conservation practices include installing and repairing over 3,000 feet of grass waterways. She uses cover crops and no-till practices to build soil health and protect the land from soil erosion.

In 2010, Mamie and her family were honored with the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District Conservationist of the Year award for protecting and conserving our natural resources by developing a conservation plan, implementing conservation practices, and promoting conservation to others throughout the county.



Mamie considers manure management to be a natural resource challenge facing Licking County. As a Board member, she hopes to improve farmer education related to manure, especially providing assistance with efficiently and effectively spreading manure. On her farm, she installed a stream crossing and heavy use pad that keeps cattle on firm ground in the winter and early spring, thus reducing nutrient runoff to a nearby stream.

Additionally, Mamie is concerned about substandard rural roadside drainage and would like to work with township trustees and residents on improvement efforts. She is also interested in identifying funding sources for continued natural resource conservation improvements
(continued on page 2)

Milkweed Update

Thanks to your efforts approximately 2,500 gallons of milkweed pods were collected throughout the state. All of the milkweed pods collected have been delivered to Department of Corrections institutions where they are currently harvesting the seeds from the pods. The harvested seeds will then be stratified (placed in cold storage) for approximately 40 days to improve germination. Once this process is complete a portion of the seeds will come back to Licking County. Remaining seed will be used on habitat projects in Ohio.

Tree Sale
Details and Order Form
pages 3-6

Runoff Reducers

Native plants, including trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals, all help with stormwater management.

Natives are naturally adapted to local growing conditions including sunlight, annual rainfall amounts, soil type, slope, pH and drainage. These characteristics allow native plants to thrive in a variety of settings. For example, black willow and bald cypress actually thrive in standing water.

Native plants can handle periods of drought and large amounts of rainfall. Natives also require less fertilizer and pesticides than many non-natives. They have adapted to nutrient levels in the soil and have developed resistance to local pests and diseases. And once established, native plants can be easy to maintain.

So what's their secret to reducing runoff? Extensive, deep root systems allow native plants to absorb more

(continued on page 2)



Thank you Sponsors

Funds raised during the Annual Giving Campaign help support many mission-based programs for youth and adults. For more information or to make a donation, call 740-670-5330 or visit www.lickingSWCD.com.

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(Runoff, continued from page 1)

water and help hold soil in place. As roots die, they leave vertical air channels in the soil allowing water to soak far into the ground instead of running off into waterways. The soaked soil helps filter out pollutants that could impair underground drinking water supplies.

Soil erosion and downstream flooding are two reasons to reduce stormwater runoff. Another very important reason is that polluted runoff carries chemicals, dirt, salt, and other waste that negatively affects surface water quality for drinking, recreation and wildlife.

Native plants are a best management practice for reducing stormwater runoff. Some species like tuliptree and black walnut are good for controlling erosion on hillsides or other steep areas because they are fast growing. Other plants like American beech and river birch can help dry out areas that tend to stay wet. Many native species like swamp white oak and shellbark hickory provide food and habitat for wildlife, pollinators and other insects. For more information, check out the native trees, wildflowers and grasses available for sale on pages 3-6.

Locally Grown & Gathered Dinner Fundraiser



Friday, April 28
COTC Reese Center

(Board, continued from page 1)
on private land.

Thank you to Licking County Engineer Jared Knerr for swearing Mamie in and participating in the January Board meeting. After being sworn in, Mamie was nominated to serve as Fiscal Agent. The Board also elected Megan Evans as Chair, Mike Birkmeyer as Vice-Chair and Jeff Baker as Secretary/Treasurer.



Give a Kid a Tree

Thanks to our generous sponsors, Licking Soil & Water is offering free seedling trees to elementary and middle schools who serve Licking County students. Pick one of two options to reserve trees for your students.

Option 1: Each student receives a tree to take home. This option is ideal for schools where students have a place at home to plant a tree.

Option 2: Request trees to plant on school grounds. This option is perfect for enhancing an outdoor classroom. Additionally, this option allows all students to

have ownership and responsibility for the trees planted.

In addition to the seedling trees, each school will receive tree planting guides and educational resources. Most importantly the free seedling trees program is an opportunity to show students how important trees are to their health, their community, and their environment.

Order trees by April 1st for pick-up on Monday, April 17th. For more information and to order seedling trees, contact Kristy, adminassist@lickingSWCD.com, 740 670-5330.



Calling on Tree Sale Volunteers

Annually, we distribute tens of thousands of trees. Consider helping inventory and package the delicate seedling trees, put together wildflower seed packets and assist customers when they pick up their trees.

- On Monday, April 10 in the afternoon, we'll be inventorying trees and prepping the barn for packaging.

- On Tuesday, April 11 in the morning and afternoon we'll be packaging the trees in bundles, labeling the bundles, organizing the barn for customer pick up, and packaging and labeling wildflower seed packets

- On Wednesday, April 12 we'll be filling and distributing large orders in the morning through early afternoon, then inventorying and preparing for Thursday's pick-ups in the afternoon

- Thursday, April 13 in the morning, afternoon, and evening we'll be assisting customers when they pick up their orders and preparing seedling trees for students.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Denise, 740 670-5330, information@lickingSWCD.com.



A Few of Our Favorite Things

Denise likes American beech because its whitish-gray bark is striking in winter. Kristy likes sugar maple because of childhood memories playing with whirly gigs and leaves in the fall. Pat likes hackberry because bluebirds flock to them to eat their ripened fruits. What is your favorite tree and why? Share with us on Facebook.

Wildflowers for Pollinators

Consider planting flowers around your home and property that are both beautiful and support butterflies and bees. Choose lots of different plants for diversity and ones that are native to our area like lanceleaf coreopsis, great blue lobelia, prairie blazing star and wild bergamot.

When shopping at nurseries, make sure the plants have not been pre-treated with any chemicals, especially pesticides. If buying seed, ask if the seed has been tested for germination and noxious weeds.

The wildflowers in our custom seed mix are specifically chosen to show our commitment to a beautiful and robust community full of native flowers and healthy pollinators.

Planting Guide

Licking Soil & Water and NRCS developed a new resource guide that helps you select trees that best fit the soil types on your unique property. With a quick visit to the Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>, you can view what soil types you have in a map format.

Then use the *Tree Planting Guide: A Plant Selection Guide for Soils of Licking County, Ohio* to determine what trees NRCS recommends for each soil drainage class. For example, American beech needs moderately well drained to well drained soils. Stop by our office to pick up your copy of the new Tree Planting Guide or view it at www.lickingSWCD.com.

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District 2017 Seedling Tree Sale

Native Evergreen Species	Mature Height	Mature Width	Growth Rate	Light Required	Soil Moisture	Soil pH	Comments/Uses
Eastern White Cedar	20' - 60'	10' - 15'	S-M	S	M, W	A	aka American Arborvitae, well-adapted
White Pine	60' - 80'	20' - 40'	F	S	M	N, A	windbreaks, timber, wildlife
Native Deciduous Species	Mature Height	Mature Width	Growth Rate	Light Required	Soil Moisture	Soil pH	Comments/Uses
American Beech	50' - 80'	40' - 70'	S-M	S, P	M, W	A, N, B	wildlife, shade tree, prefers constantly moist soil
American Plum	20' - 24'	12' - 18'	M	S	M, W	A, N, B	edible fruit, adaptable but prefers well drained soil
Bald Cypress	50' - 100'	20' - 40'	M	S	D, M, W	A	deciduous conifer, wetland species, timber, wildlife
Black Walnut	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	F	S, P	D, M, W	A, N	nuts, timber, wildlife
Black Willow	30' - 60'	30'	F	S, P	M, W	A, N, B	great for stream banks/permanently wet/poorly drained soil
Hackberry	50' - 60'	70' - 80'	F	S	D, M, W	N	adaptable, interesting bark, wildlife
Northern Pecan	80' - 120'	60' - 100'	S	S	M, W	A, N	nuts, wildlife, shade, fall color
Ohio Buckeye	45' - 100'	20' - 30'	M-F	S, P, SH	M	A, N	Ohio's State Tree! early to leaf out in spring, interesting flowers
Persimmon	40' - 50'	25' - 30'	S-M	S, P	M, W	N	edible fruits, fall color, specialty lumber
Red Oak	50' - 60'	50' - 60'	F	S	D, M	N	tolerates dry conditions, landscape, timber
Redbud	25' - 30'	26' - 33'	M	S, P	M, W	B	adaptable, abundant lavender flowers
River Birch	40' - 60'	30' - 50'	M	S, P	M, W	N	landscaping beauty, interesting bark
Shellbark Hickory	100' - 120'	74' - 80'	M	S, P	W	A	great in bottomlands/floodplains, wildlife
Sugar Maple	60' - 80'	20' - 40'	S-M	S	M	N	landscaping, timber, orange fall color, maple syrup
Swamp White Oak	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	S-M	S, P	M, W	A	does great in bottomlands, adaptable, wildlife, timber
Tuliptree	70' - 90'	35' - 45'	F	S	M	N	interesting flowers, timber
White Flowering Dogwood	20' - 30'	20' - 25'	S-M	S, P	M	A	four-season appeal, white flowers, red-purple fall color
White Oak	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	S-M	S, P	D, M, W	N	timber, very beneficial to wildlife and ecosystems

Soil Moisture: W = wet, M = medium, D = dry
 Soil pH: N = normal pH range (6.5 - 7.5), A = acidic (6.5 or less), B = basic/alkaline (7.5 or higher)

For more plant information, visit: <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/trees>

Additional Items and Details

- Wildflower Seeds: plants up to 200'sq., showy annuals and native perennials
- Boundary marking paint: yellow, long-lasting aerosol, 8" wide spray pattern, fast-drying
- Tree tube and wood stake: 4", improves seedling survival, reduces wildlife damage
- Marking Flags: white, 21" metal shaft, 4" x 5" flag
- Dibble Bar: cast blade tapers to a thin wedge, quickly plant seedling trees
- Rainbarrel: store up to 55g of rainwater, use to water plants and animals

Order Deadline: Wednesday, March 29th
 Questions/Special Orders: Call (740) 670-5330
Tree Pick Up: Thursday, April 13th

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District
www.lickingSWCD.com
 740-670-5330

Order at www.lickingSWCD.com or Mail Order and Payment to LCSWCD, 771 E. Main St., Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055

Tree Tubes

Don't let the deer feast on your young trees. Protect those seedlings with tree tubes, plus create a mini greenhouse to speed growth.



Dibble Bar

Why dig holes by hand when you can save time and energy by buying or renting a dibble bar to plant seedling trees.



Marking Flags

Marking flags remind everyone that there is a tender young tree to be mindful of when mowing and string trimming.



2017 Seedling Tree Sale

Trees are such an important part of our daily life. We appreciate their beauty as leaves change colors in the fall and their shade on a hot summer day. We look forward to their buds bursting open in spring. But trees do so much more for us every day. They give us clean air to breath by absorbing carbon dioxide and expelling oxygen, they slow down raindrops to protect our soil from eroding; their roots loosen compacted soil so stormwater soaks in, they help us save money on energy bills, and they increase our property values.

Get in touch with your roots and order your trees today!

Native Evergreen Trees - PLEASE CIRCLE PACK OF 5, 25 or 100					
Species	Qty.	Pack of 5 12"-18"	Pack of 25 9"-16"	Pack of 100 9"-16"	Total
E. White Cedar/Amer. Arborvitae		\$10.00	\$20.00	\$60.00	
White Pine		\$10.00	\$20.00	\$60.00	

Native Deciduous Trees - PLEASE CIRCLE PACK OF 5, 25 or 100					
Species	Qty.	Pack of 5 12"-18"	Pack of 25 6"-12"	Pack of 100 6"-12"	Total
American Beech		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
American Plum		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Bald Cypress		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Black Walnut		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Black Willow		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Hackberry		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Northern Pecan		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Ohio Buckeye		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Persimmon		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Red Oak		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Redbud		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
River Birch		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Shellbark Hickory		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Sugar Maple		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Swamp White Oak		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
Tuliptree		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
White Flowering Dogwood		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	
White Oak		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	

Additional Items				
Item	Qty.	Cost		Total
Wildflower Seeds		\$4.50		
Boundary marking paint (yellow)		\$7.00		
Tree tube and wood stake		\$5.00		
Marking Flags (white)		\$0.10		
Dibble Bar		\$55.00		
Rainbarrel		\$65.00		

Please indicate quantity next to item. **Grand Total**
Order Deadline: Wednesday, March 29 ~ Pick Up: Thursday, April 13

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Make checks payable to LCSWCD. (12/9/16)

Order at LickingSWCD.com or Mail Order and Payment to LCSWCD, 771 E. Main St., Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055.

Trees: A Gift for the Ages

Licking Soil & Water Conservation District's 2017 Tree Sale is going on now. With plenty of native species to choose from, it is a great opportunity to celebrate: Earth Day on April 22nd and Arbor Day on April 28th.

Just picture a family planting



a tree. As the family grows, so does their tree. Before we know it, those kids become grownups with their own kids. And those grown children are telling their kids a special story about that tree they planted years ago. We've been creating these priceless moments in Licking County for years. Now you can be part of the story.

Businesses and community organizations might consider gifting seedling trees to team members, supporters and customers. Bare root seedlings cost \$1 apiece and potted gift options are also available for a small additional fee. A thoughtful and appreciated gift today, your trees will go on to make a contribution to the world for generations to come. For more information, contact Kristy, adminassist@lickingSWCD.com, 740 670-5330.

Plan, then Plant

It is dangerous to dig a hole if there are buried wires, pipes, gas lines, or septic tanks. Call 811 or go to www.oups.org to have utilities marked for free. Typically, the soil depth needed to plant by hand does not impact utilities, but calling is recommended in any urban or developed settings.

Locate any power lines, structures, or other trees that are in the way. If you see power lines, the tree you plant should be a low-growing tree. If there is a tree or structure above, will it shade the new tree?

Finally, look around for any other obstructions like a sidewalk, curb or driveway. Make sure there is enough room for the tree to grow without damaging the structures and that the structures won't limit water getting to the tree's roots.



2017 Rain Barrel Order Form

(2-1-2017-NL)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Pick up barrels at the Soil & Water office after March 15th. Please call first, 740-670-5330, to confirm availability.

55g Rain Barrel: # _____ x \$ 65.00 ea. \$ _____

Un-plumbed Barrel: # _____ x \$ 30.00 ea. \$ _____

Donation for Education Programs \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Reserve your rain barrel now by ordering at www.lickingSWCD.com, by phone at 740-670-5330, or by mail with payment to: Licking SWCD, 771 E. Main St., Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055.



ANALYTICS
Recorded responses (timeliness, yield data, vegetative status, etc.) will be analyzed and shown in a statistical format on the summary report.

SHARING
This app allows data to be shared in a summary report format to individuals trusted by the user such as crop consultants, agronomists, or other producers.

Smarter Choices, Cleaner Water

A new app from Ohio State University allows growers to compare the effectiveness of different management decisions within fields. The aim, in part, is to improve water quality.

Called Ohio State PLOTS, the free app allows growers, as well as consultants and others who support growers, to design replicated plot layouts by creating on-farm trials. According to John Fulton, Precision Agriculture Specialist for OSU Extension, the trials compare hybrids, seeding populations, fertilizer rates and nutrient management systems, among other practices and inputs.

The app allows users to digitally compare various treatments within their fields to determine the best management plan, before extending financial or labor resources. "The app is a great way to help growers ensure their farm remains productive and profitable, as well as aiding in making smarter choices for cleaner water" said Fulton.

The app is available for both Apple and Android through the App Store or Google Play Store respectively. View an informative video, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPr__fredwg for more information.

Adapted from <http://field2faucet.osu.edu/news/new-field-faucet-app-helps-farmers-plot-farm-management-decisions>.

Register Today for Agronomy Workshop

Get ready to planting by learning successful techniques to improve soil health and achieve high yields. The Agronomy Workshop & Expo is set for 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, February 23, at All Occasions Catering near Waldo, Ohio.

Licking Soil & Water sponsors this annual event in collaboration with the Upper Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Partnership. The partnership supports 4R Tomorrow, an outreach program focused on nutrient stewardship and how a conservation approach can improve water quality and resource challenges.

Visit vendor displays and network with agricultural producers. Earn Certified Crop Advisor and pesticide certification credits. Learn from engaging presenters. Speakers and topics include:



- Successful Management Strategies for No-till, Bill Haddad, Independent Consultant

- Insect Issues in Agronomic Crops for 2017, Dr. Andy Michel, Associate Professor, OSU

- The Economics of Conservation Practices, Rodney Rulon, Rulon Enterprises

- Properties of Ohio Soils and Their Response to Soil Health Practices, Steve Baker, State Soil Scientist, Ohio NRCS

The \$10 registration fee includes morning refreshments, lunch, and materials. The deadline for registration is February 17.

For more information and event flyer visit www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar.

Reserve Now

Consider renting or purchasing conservation equipment and supplies to assist with your planting needs. From small tools like Dibble/Planting Bars (see page 5) to large seed drills, choose items that make your job easier.

Geo-textile Fabric: 12.5' wide, water permeable material, used as a barrier between soil and gravel to prevent erosion on high traffic areas.



John Deere 1590 No-till Drill (10ft): used for soybeans, oats, alfalfa, grass seed, etc;



Great Plains 706NT No-till Drill (7ft): used for warm and cool season grasses, small grains;



Straw Mulcher: used for preventing soil erosion and helping establish new seedings;



Rentals are first come, first served. For reservations and additional information, call 740 670-5330 or visit www.lickingSWCD.com. Pick up is at the Licking Soil & Water office, 771 East Main St. in Newark.

LICKING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

771 East Main Street
Suite 100
Newark, Ohio 43055-6971

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Issue 1 2017



Licking County Soil & Water
Conservation District Office
740-670-5330 * www.lickingSWCD.com

*Email information@lickingSWCD.com
to sign up for electronic deliver
and conserve natural resources.*

*For updates and more activities, visit
www.lickingSWCD.com/calendar.*

Seeking Wisdom and Opinions

The Licking Soil & Water Board and staff have committed to refocusing on the purpose and intention of our soil and water conservation district. According to OSU Extension Facilitator Becky Nesbitt, strategic planning "forces the organization to examine the potential future and develop strategies to positively influence the outcomes, as well as clearly define the organization's purpose." As we identify goals and understand their importance, we also endeavor to improve our service to the community. That is why we are asking the community to share opinions, wisdom and concerns.

In the coming weeks, you'll be asked to participate in a needs assessment survey. Your feedback is critical to the strategic planning process. What do you want from your soil and water conservation district? What should we keep doing? What should we be doing that we aren't yet doing? Who should we partner with? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your soil and water conservation district? These are just a few examples of questions that we are wondering about. Look for the web-based survey announcement and link in the monthly e-news, @ConservingSoilandWater on Facebook and at www.lickingSWCD.com.

Important Dates

- NOW - Mar 29: Seedling Tree Sale
- Feb 8: LCSWCD Board Meeting
- Feb 18-19: @ STEMfest
- Feb 20: Presidents' Day - Office Closed
- Mar 8: LCSWCD Board Meeting
- Mar 11 @ Farmers Share Breakfast
- Mar 20: @ OEFFA Heart of Ohio Meeting
- Mar 28: @ Landscape for Life Kickoff*
*1st day of 5-part series on Tuesdays
- Apr 13: Tree Sale Pick Up
- Apr 20: @ Nature Trivia Night
- Apr 28: Locally Grown & Gathered Dinner
- Aug 6-12: @ Natural Resources Area
- Sep 9: Licking County River Round Up
- More events at lickingSWCD.com/calendar