



# PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## CONSERVATION NEWS

Volume 79, Issue 2

Conservation News — Published Quarterly

April 2022

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District, 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, Ohio 43113

### Upcoming Events

April 15  
Scholarship Applications Due

April 19  
Board Meeting  
8:00 am

April 22  
Earth Day

April 24 - May 1  
Stewardship Week

May 17  
Board Meeting  
8:00 am

May 30  
Memorial Day  
Office Closed

June 14  
Board Meeting  
8:00 am

June 18 - 25  
Pickaway County Fair

July 1  
EE Camp Registrations Due

July 1  
Friday in the Park  
10:30 a.m. to Noon

July 4  
Independence Day  
Office Closed

July 19  
Board Meeting  
8:00 am

## Tree Sale & Fish Sale

We have been very busy this spring with our annual tree sale and fish sale. Thank you for your support in these sales!

For the 2022 Tree Sale, we sold a total of **8,264 trees**, 50 other items, and 1,247 flags to 102 individuals.

For the 2022 Fish Sale, we sold **17,150 fish** and 2 other items to 26 individuals. Pick up at the fairgrounds went very well, though it was very cold!



## 2021 Annual Report

Be sure to check out our annual report to see photos and numbers of all the things we accomplished throughout 2021!

The report is posted on our website:  
[www.pickawayswcd.org/annual-reports](http://www.pickawayswcd.org/annual-reports)

# Are You Interested in Becoming a Pickaway SWCD Supervisor?

A district supervisor is a local board member, elected from a non-partisan slate of general election, to assess local conservation needs and to develop conservation programs to address these needs. The district is funded by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the General Assembly, and the County Commissioners.

Supervisors serve three year terms on the board. There is no limit on the number of terms a supervisor can serve, but when their three year term ends they must re-run if they wish to serve another term on the board. Supervisors receive no compensation; they are reimbursed for travel to meetings, registration, meals, and other associated expenses when conducting work of the district.

## Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Attend monthly district meetings (3rd Tuesday of the month, currently meeting at 8:00 am in the morning).
- Participate on district committees and in work groups.
- Be willing to represent the citizens of Pickaway County in regard to conservation issues.
- Be willing to stay informed and inform others about conservation issues.
- Be willing to learn.
- Be willing to participate in statewide meetings and workshops on conservation issues.
- Participate in district policy and program development.
  - a. Prepare strategic and annual plans of work.
  - b. Establish and implement district policies regarding natural resource conservation issues as well as personnel and office matters.
  - c. Develop and/or implement conservation programs (educational and/or technical) to meet the needs of the district.
- Provide financial direction.
  - a. Be responsible for the proper expenditure and management of public funds.
  - b. Review and approve annual budget and financial statement.
  - c. Approve monthly treasurer reports.
- Participate in public and community relations' activities/programs.
- Participate in personnel management.
  - a. Provide guidance and direction to staff and maintain fair and equitable personnel policies.
  - b. Maintain an open working relationship between staff and board members.
  - c. Serve on personnel committee and participate in all aspects of personnel management to include hiring, personnel reviews, etc.

If you are interested in running for a 3-year term as a Pickaway SWCD board member, please contact the District office (740-477-1693), or view the website ([pickawayswcd.org](http://pickawayswcd.org)) for details and info. Thank you!

Our upcoming supervisor election will take place this summer. The official dates and voting location(s) will be posted to the Pickaway SWCD website soon.



# Affiliate Memberships for 2022

**THANK YOU** to everyone who signed up to be an affiliate member this year! We appreciate all of your support to our office and dedication to conservation and education. We couldn't do all we do without your help. You are very much appreciated and truly make a difference! While we renew all memberships the beginning of each calendar year, anyone is welcome to send in a form at any time during the year.

Some of our many education and outreach endeavors include graduating senior scholarships, school programs, Experience Earth Camps, the Junior Conservationist Program, the Pickaway County Fair, our farm-to-table book project, tree saplings to students, and many other community activities as well. **THANK YOU** for helping us with these important and impactful initiatives!

This year's affiliate members are:

## **Corporate Members (\$250)**

Anonymous (1)  
Columbus Turf Nursery, LTD.  
Honeyrun Farm  
Lightning Tree Barn, LLC  
Pickaway Farms - Jay & Marci Wippel  
Pickaway County Farm Bureau  
Randy & Cindy Metzger  
Richard & Judy Clifton  
Ruff Agri-Services LLC  
The Savings Bank  
Vickers Farms

## **Soil and Water Protector (\$30)**

Anonymous (2)  
Darren & Susan Metzger  
John & Kathy Ellis  
Mark & Toni Schein  
Paul Marshall  
Thomas E. Ebenhack

## **Steward of the Land (\$100)**

Clyde Ohnewehr  
Crawford Apiaries  
Dunlap Farms-John & Susie Dunlap  
Drummond General Partnership  
Hartsock Ag  
Laurina Harper  
Pickaway County Banking Center  
Shaw Farms  
Tim & Amy Colburn  
Wiseheart Farms

## **Future Conservationist (Students) (\$10)**

Clara Wilson  
Maggie Wilson  
Mark Wilson  
Reese Moehl  
Zac Scott  
Zoe Scott  
Trey Dille  
Trenton Dille  
Mackenzie Dille

*Thank  
you*



# Ohio Native Plant Month



April is Ohio Native Plant Month! Be on the look out for the Green “O” with the Great White Trillium (Ohio’s State Wildflower). This logo represents Native Plant events in Ohio. Check out our Facebook page throughout the month to see posts on native Ohio plants!

In Ohio, we have over 1000 native trees, shrubs, perennials, vines and grasses that are important to our pollinators, birds, insects, and other wildlife, and humans too! They are part of an intricate, balanced web that helps to filter and clean our drinking water, remove contaminants from the air we breathe, cool our planet, and feed the bees that pollinate most of our food crops. At the very core of this elaborate system are our native plants.

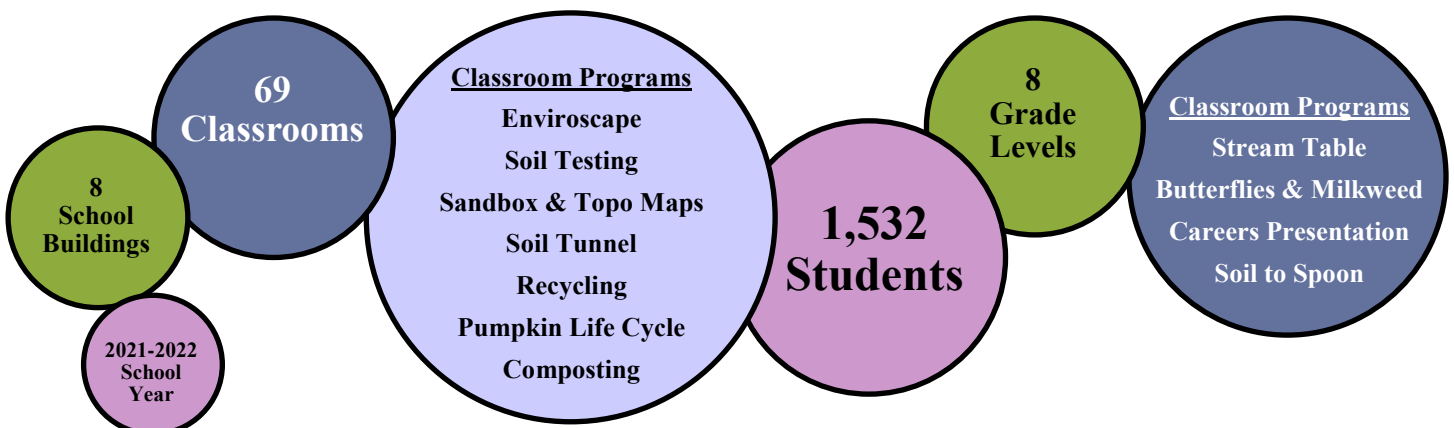
Going native can save money and time over non-native plants, while also providing needed nutrients for butterflies and insects to feed birds. Even better, deep roots of native plants break clay soil to soak up more rain and protect streams by preventing erosion. Non-native invasive plants displace or crowd native plants. Invasive plants impact wildlife, which rely on native plants for food, shelter, and habitat. Not all non-native plants are invasive. About 900 non-native species grow in Ohio and fewer than 100 of them are considered invasive.

Check out some of these Ohio resources to learn more about identifying, preventing and removing invasive plants, and replacing them with native plants:

- Ohio Invasive Plants Council - [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)
- COPRISM – Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management - [centralohprism.org](http://centralohprism.org)
- Ohio Native Plant Month - [www.ohionativeplantmonth.org](http://www.ohionativeplantmonth.org)

## Education Update

It’s been a busy school year for programs so far, and we have A LOT of school programs scheduled for April and May that we’re looking forward to. Some program data to share from this school year so far:



# Upcoming Opportunities

## Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship

The Donald E. Minor Scholarship was created by the Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisors in memory of Donald E. Minor, Sr. and his 25 years of service to the board and community. Mr. Minor began as a supervisor in 1985 and served on the board until he passed in October 2010. Funds from the scholarship are currently accumulated from Affiliate Memberships and Pumpkin Show parking lot fees. The award is available to any Pickaway County High School or Home School Senior who will be majoring in Agriculture or Natural Resources. The scholarships are for the purpose of continuing higher education at a two- or four-year college or university. Last year we were able to give out scholarships to three students! Details and applications can be found on our website. **The deadline to apply is Friday, April 15, 2022.** For further information on the scholarship and how to apply, please visit our website at [www.pickawayswcd.org/scholarships](http://www.pickawayswcd.org/scholarships).

## High School Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon is a problem solving contest where groups of high school students test their environmental knowledge. Teams of five students compete in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and current environmental issues. Anyone in Pickaway County can gather a team of students to participate. Each school is permitted a maximum of three teams. Pickaway SWCD covers the registration cost of all teams from Pickaway County. Contact [katerina-sharp@pickawayswcd.org](mailto:katerina-sharp@pickawayswcd.org) to register before April 26 (day of event). Envirothon details and resources can be found on the Area 5 Envirothon website: [www.area5envirothon.org](http://www.area5envirothon.org)

## Jr. Conservationist Program

The Jr. Conservationist Program is designed to encourage kids to have fun learning outside over the summer months. Hosted by Pickaway SWCD, the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Register to participate and be eligible for a free hat and button if youth complete the required number of activities from each topic category: Animals, Plants, Soil, Water, Exploration and Community. Program details and the activity list can be found on our website: [www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program](http://www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program).

## Pickaway County Fair

Come find us at the fair! We plan to have a display and our augmented reality sandbox set up again this year at the fair. The dates for fair are June 18-25, 2022.

## Experience Earth Camps

This summer we are offering a three-day day camp to incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students July 19-21, and also a one-day Jr. Camp to incoming 1st and 2nd grade students July 22. Both will take place at Mary Virginia Crites-Hannan Park. We will again be partnering with the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District for these camps. Registration forms and camp details are posted on the website: [www.pickawayswcd.org/experience-earth-camps](http://www.pickawayswcd.org/experience-earth-camps)

# Technical Corner

## Technical Program Update Since January

5 Waterway sign-ups

2 Surveys

1 Waterway design

2 Layout and pre-construction meetings

6 Construction phase

26 Drainage assistances

20 Miscellaneous technical assistances

18 Tile plans printed off for landowners or solar projects

Tile finder to locate 1 underground tile

39 CRP waterway re-enrolls for 2023

1 Animal waste storage facility

1 Drill rental

## Protect the Edge

Whether its grasses, native wildflowers, or trees, buffer strips will help shield streams, ponds, and lakes from receiving excess nutrients. Buffer strips absorb some surface runoff and act as a natural filter of fertilizers, chemicals, and sediment before they enter into the waterway.

Farmers are always looking for ways to leave their land in better shape each year. It makes economic sense to keep nutrients and soil where they belong – on the farm and not in streams and ditches. Surface runoff from an unbuffered field can degrade aquatic habitats and threaten public health, recreation, and drinking water supplies. Buffers are a proven conservation practice and are beneficial for many reasons:

- Buffers help filter surface runoff. Manure and fertilizers are as good at growing algae blooms in streams as they are at growing corn. Excessive growth can lead to harmful algal blooms which are unsafe for people, farm animals, pets, and wildlife.
- Plant roots help stabilize stream banks and ditch banks. Unstable banks are susceptible to slumping and undercutting which can lead to a loss of farmland.
- Buffers intercept sediment and prevent its accumulation in the water. Sediment build up can affect the freeboard of farm tiles that outlet into streams and ditches. Sediment also smothers aquatic organisms that live along the stream bottom and make it difficult for fish to find food.
- Buffers absorb rainwater and snowmelt, recharging groundwater supplies and allowing runoff to be released more slowly. This may reduce the intensity and frequency of flooding of valuable cropland, protecting valuable topsoil and preventing deposition of debris.
- Flourishing native vegetation in the buffer makes excellent habitat for predatory insects and insect-eating birds. The buffer provides a smorgasbord for essential pollinators.
- Buffers improve fish and wildlife habitat for hunters and anglers.
- Buffers can boost the farm's bottom line by growing hay, lumber, fruit trees, and bees for honey, just to name a few nontraditional crops.
- Buffers may decrease property taxes. Farmers who have land in Current Agricultural Use Valuation and have a conservation buffer necessary to abate soil erosion in the management of the farm, may be eligible for a lower valuation. Please check with your county auditor for details.



According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, properly installed and maintained buffers have the capacity to remove up to an astounding 50 percent or more of nutrients and pesticides, up to 60 percent or more of certain pathogens, and 75 percent or more of sediment! You can be the change for clean water. Consider conservation buffers along your streams and ditches.

PICKAWAY SWCD  
110 ISLAND ROAD, SUITE D  
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113

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PERMIT NO. 199

Check out our website at [www.pickawayswcd.org](http://www.pickawayswcd.org) for resources such as:

- Office News and Events
- Rental Equipment
- Residential Resources
- Education Program Info
- Scholarships
- Newsletters
- Tree and Fish Sales
- Contractor and Vendor Lists
- Poster Contest
- Affiliate Members
- Lending Library Book List
- Photo Gallery!



Like us on Facebook!  
@ Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District

Follow us on Facebook @Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District to keep up to date with what we are doing and to see photos we post from school programs and SWCD events!

### IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER:

- ♦ Details for the 2022 Annual Meeting and Banquet
- ♦ Details and dates for the 2022 Supervisor Election & Voting

## Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone: 740-477-1693 Website: [pickawayswcd.org](http://pickawayswcd.org)



### Office Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator  
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator  
Nate Taylor, District Technician  
Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist  
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Resource Conservationist  
Lindsey Douglas, Civil Engineering Technician

### PSWCD Board

Matt Anderson  
Bill Black  
Jonathan Lohstroh  
Dewey Mann  
Brian Reid

### Pickaway County Agencies-Phone Numbers

Farm Service Agency 740-477-1691  
Pickaway County Commissioners 740-474-6093  
Jason Van Houten-ODNR Service Forester 614-265-6703

### Affiliate Members 2022

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OSU Extension 740-474-7534  
Pickaway County Engineer 740-474-3360  
Division 1 ODNR 614-644-3925