



CONSERVATION NEWS

PORTAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Volume 58B

Winter 2014

WORKSHOPS

PAWPAW GRAFTING

Selectively grafted Pawpaw trees have resulted in increased size, quality and quantity of fruit. Ron Powell, North American Pawpaw Growers Assoc. has offered to assist us in hosting a Pawpaw Grafting Workshop. If suitable plant material is available, we will schedule the workshop for May of 2014. However, we may have to purchase and grow plants throughout the 2014 growing season to have plants that are a “graftable” size – which would delay this workshop to the spring of 2015.

INVASIVE WEED ID AND MANAGEMENT:

We are currently working with Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Division of Forestry to offer a workshop where participants will receive hands-on instruction for field I.D. of some of the most troublesome non-native plants that are threatening our woodlands and wetlands. Participants will also receive information about various suppression methods to manage these weeds on their own property.

If you have questions about either workshop please contact Marybeth at mwillett@portageswcd.org or at (330) 297-7633 x101

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WILD SIDE

When it comes to protecting our natural resources “leaving the edges wild” is a worthwhile conservation practice. If winter provides you some additional time for pondering such things, we would like to encourage you to think about your “edges”. Edges that meet ditches, streams, and woodlands are particularly valuable areas to consider adding well-suited, native trees and shrubs. With a little P & P (planning and planting) these areas can become filter strips that conserve both water and soil while also providing wildlife habitat. Please see our **2014 Tree Sale Order Form** for a list of plants we are offering. A copy of our tree descriptions can be found on our website.



PORTAGE COUNTY PLAT BOOKS!!

Portage SWCD has Portage County Plat books available for purchase at \$25.00 each.



2014 Tree Sale Information

LYNN VOGEL



The **Columbiana County and Portage County** Tree Sale patrons include hunters, beekeepers, birders, nature enthusiasts, timber producers, and fruit and nut growers. Since we know that conservation land management choices are not always black and white, we have once again sought the input of area experts to better meet the challenge. We have worked together to offer a list of plants that will meet a number of landowner needs without compromising the future integrity of our natural areas and resources.

Forestry :

Mark Wilthew, ODNR Div of Forestry and **Kathy Smith**, Ohio State University, Program Director, Forestry

Eastern Wahoo received kudos from both of our consulting foresters. For those that may not know this plant, Eastern Wahoo, is our native *Euonymous*. The non-native, “Burning Bush” is the *Euonymous* that has been widely planted in the landscape and is now wreaking havoc in our woodlots. We encourage you to remove burning bush and other invasive, non-native species. Mark Wilthew assures us that the very attractive autumnal seed capsules have hues of pink, red and orange and red and purple foliage makes up for the fall foliage display that may have lured you to plant the Burning Bush in the first place. Mark amusingly suggests that perhaps that is how our native *Euonymous* first got its name – the display was so colorful it demanded a “Wahoo”! However, we only found one nursery growing this plant. We purchased all they had (which isn’t many). The one gallon potted plants also come at a price much higher than plants we usually offer. But when two foresters concur – well, we knew it had to be worth the effort and we wanted to make it available. Our foresters also help us avoid potential threats. At one point we were excited to have a native chestnut shrub on our list. However, Kathy Smith’s research found that this exciting plant is also an alternate host for *oak wilt*!

And that is why we consult the experts!!

Beekeepers:

Kim Flottum, author, and editor of *Bee Culture* magazine

We received several plant requests from beekeepers this year. Kim had wonderful insights and several species on our lists were removed and replaced by plants that offered a higher value to honey bees as well as native bees. *American Basswood* was specifically requested and we are happy to offer this tree. Since we all benefit from the pollination services provided by bees, we should try to improve our landscape by adding plants that keep these important insects well nourished. Kim says that planting **Red Maple** and **Sugar Maple** is like providing meat and potatoes. Maples are among our earliest flowering plants and provide bees with their first food of the season. Other trees we offer that help bridge the gap before spring gets into full bloom are **River Birch**, **Tuliptree**, and **Sycamore**. But we have one last plant to recommend based on our conversations with Kim. He told us about being in Ireland for a beekeeping workshop. He said that while he was there he was served “Hawthorn” honey and he now claims it is some of the best honey he has ever tasted. **Hawthorn** is also a great plant for birds. And if you are thinking its main attraction is the berries, well you might be interested to learn that over 160 species of insects use this plant as a food source.....think that might attract some birds?



2014 Tree Sale Information

LYNN VOGEL



Wildlife

(Hunters, Birders & Nature Enthusiasts) **Dan McMillan**, Ohio Division of Wildlife

We also consulted with Dan for plant recommendations for hunters and landowners that want to attract deer, turkey, and other wildlife. We always have requests from hunters for hard mast trees, especially the gobbler or sawtooth oaks. The gobbler oaks are a non-native species and they are raising some concerns with area foresters in regards to their potential to become invasive. We have therefore removed them from our list. When it comes to oaks, both Kathy and Dan agree that planting them in suitable, full sun locations will result in earlier acorn production from our native oaks. Our Ohio native oak that has the greatest potential for early acorn production is the **Swamp White Oak**. And the good news is that the name is quite misleading. **Swamp White Oak** grows well on upland sites. They prefer an acid soil and full sun, and for a tree with “swamp” in their common name, they are surprisingly drought tolerant. Dan also suggested we include **Northern Red Oak**. Dan collected 400 pounds of acorns from a 20” diameter red oak this fall. Even though red oak acorns may not be the first choice for deer, these acorns fill the gap when other foods are not available – remaining viable on the ground much longer than most other acorns. We have also included **Chinese Chestnut** to our list. It might seem odd that we would remove one non-native (Sawtooth Oak) and retain other non-natives on our list. After reviewing research and talking with area experts, we feel the potential for invasion to our natural areas by **Chinese Chestnut** is negligible. And Dan says that a **Chinese Chestnut** seedling planted in a suitable, sunny site could bear fruit in as early as three years, and then provide a consistent, annual food source. But it is not all about hard mast. A well-managed wildlife or hunting property should also provide soft mast plantings and security cover. Two plants you might want to consider adding are the **Chokecherry** and **American Plum**. Fruits of both plants are sought out and eaten by various wildlife species, including grouse, squirrels, deer, foxes, coyotes, opossums, raccoons, and black bears. Thickets from either plant also provide thermal and escape cover for many birds and mammals and offer excellent nesting habitat for several game bird species, particularly those preferring edges or early succession habitat like sharp-tailed grouse, northern bobwhites and wild turkeys.

Other Plants

A few words about other plants on our list: The **American Larch** and the **Carolina Silverbell** are both offered as large seedlings this year. The **Silverbell** is an understory tree that offers a lovely floral display and is cold hardy to zone 5b, and we have seen it blooming in Kent! The **Beautyberry** is aptly named. The magnificent purple berries that appear in early fall are a color rarely seen in nature! The berries are small but demand attention by clasping around the stem in clusters along the length of the branch. **English Oak** is a frequently requested plant. This non-native tree met the scrutiny of our foresters and has been included because the mature canopy is much more narrow than that of our native oaks, making it better suited for small urban lots. The **Oregon Grape Holly** is new to our list and with yellow spring flowers and dark purple fruit, it offers multi-season interest. The **Shining Sumac** (also called Webbed Sumac) could be the poster child for ornamental shrubs – shiny, webbed green leaves, fabulous fall color, and showy flowers and seeds *and* it is NOT poisonous – no rashes from this plant! Lastly, we are once again supporting the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Native Plants (L.E.A.P.) by offering both of their 2014 Woody Plants of the Year, **Black Gum** (Tupelo) and **Witchhazel**.



2014 TREE ORDER FORM

Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 4, 2014



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Office Use Only	
Check #	_____
M.O#	_____
Cash	_____
Certificate	_____
Receipt #	_____
SWCD Employee Initials	_____

___ Check here only if you are a new customer or an update to our mailing list.

Tree Pick-Up

April 16, 17, 18, 2014 (Wednesday-Friday)

9:00am - 6:00pm

Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Ordering Information:

Packets are reserved on a first come, first served basis - ORDER EARLY!!

We order from nurseries in the fall, so we may "sell out" of popular species.

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Please enclose completed order form and check made payable to *Portage SWCD*.

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Please mark pick-up dates on your calendar Reminders will not be sent out!

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Orders must be picked up April 16-18; otherwise refunds will not be guaranteed.

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Please note the number of trees per packet - packets cannot be split.

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Plants are bare-rooted and packed in a moisturizing gel. They should be planted as soon as possible after pick-up.

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Due to varied weather and digging conditions, we cannot guarantee availability of all listed plants

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A copy of our tree descriptions can be found on our web site

Mail order form & payment to:

Portage SWCD, 6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-297-7633 x101 Fax: 330-296-5917

2014 Tree Sale Order Form

Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets	Total
Get It While You Can						
American Basswood <i>Tilia americana</i>	BFN	1 yr	18 - 24"	5 for \$13		
American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i>	NW	1 yr	24 - 36"	5 for \$12		
Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	CFN	1 yr	12 - 18"	3 for \$9		
Blueberries (3 pk) 'Blue Ray', 'Draper', 'Elizabeth'	CE	2 yr	liter pots	3 for \$18		
Carolina Silverbells <i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	FN	4 yr	24 - 36"	2 for \$13		
Chinese Chestnut <i>Castanea mollissima</i>	BE	1 yr	6 - 12"	5 for \$8		
Eastern Wahoo <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	BCFN	2 yr	gallon pot	1 for \$15		
English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	BC	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Red Raspberry 'Heritage'	BE	1 yr	bareroot	5 for \$10		
Evergreens						
American Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	G, N	3 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$7		
Blue Spruce <i>Picea pungens</i>	G	2 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9		
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	G, N	2 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9		
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	G	2 yr	10 - 15"	5 for \$9		
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	G, N	3 yr	10 - 18"	10 for \$9		
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	2 yr	10 - 16"	10 for \$9		
Deciduous						
Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	BN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Black Gum (Tupelo) <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BCNW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	BEN	1 yr	10 - 24"	5 for \$8		
Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	BCN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	CNW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	CNW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	CN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	CEN	2 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	BCNW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	NW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	BCN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Shrubs						
Chokeberry <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	BEFNW	1 yr	20 - 35"	5 for \$8		
Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	BEFN	2 yr	24 - 36"	5 for \$8		
Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	BCFN	1 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$8		
Oregon Grape Holly <i>Mahonia aquilifolium</i>	BCFN	1 yr	large plug	5 for \$8		
Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BCFNW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Shining Sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	BCFN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	BCFN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Witchhazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	CFN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Flowering & Fruiting Trees						
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	2 yr	24 - 36"	5 for \$8		
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	EFN	2 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8		
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BEN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$12		
Washington Hawthorn <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	BFN	1 yr	18 - 24"	5 for \$8		
White Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	BCFN	2 yr	10 - 24"	5 for \$8		

B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet soils



Spring Fish Sale



Our 2014 Spring Fish

Sale pick up is going to be at the Randolph Fairgrounds off State Route 44 in Randolph. Call 330-297-7633 x101 with questions

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2014
Time: 9:00 a.m. SHARP!!
Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

Order Deadline:
Friday April 18, 2014
at 3:00 p.m.

- Arrive promptly – the fish truck will only be there for a short time
- Bring a covered container recently filled with your own pond water
- Due to the tree sale, pick-up reminders will NOT be sent out prior to pick up date.
- Please mark pick up date and the location on your calendar!

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 9:00 am SHARP!!
Randolph Fairgrounds—4215 Fairgrounds Road, Randolph 44265

Please fill out this form & send it with your check payable to Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

White Amur Carp @ \$13.00 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.75 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Yellow Perch (2-4") @ \$0.80 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Channel Catfish (4-5") @ \$0.75 each	X _____ = \$ _____
Shellcrackers (2-4") @ \$0.85 each	X _____ = \$ _____

****Office Use Only****

Date _____

Check # _____

M.O# _____

Cash _____

Certificate _____

Receipt # _____

SWCD Employee Initials _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Order Deadline: Friday, April 18, 2014



NRCS



Applications for Conservation Stewardship Program Due Jan. 17

Popular Farm Bill conservation program seeks producer participation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 2013 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is opening the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new enrollments for federal fiscal year 2014. Starting today through January 17, 2014, producers interested in participating in the program can submit applications to NRCS.

“Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are going the extra mile to conserve our nation’s resources,” NRCS Chief Jason Weller said. “Through their conservation actions, they are ensuring that their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run.”

The CSP is an important Farm Bill conservation program that helps established conservation stewards with taking their level of natural resource management to the next level to improve both their agricultural production and provide valuable conservation benefits such as cleaner and more abundant water, as well as healthier soils and better wildlife habitat.

The program emphasizes conservation performance – producers earn higher payments for higher performance. In CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, animal resources and energy.

Eligible landowners and operators in all states and territories can enroll in CSP through January 17th to be eligible during the 2014 federal fiscal year. While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods.

To be eligible for this year’s enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the closing date.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

Learn more about CSP by visiting the NRCS website or a local NRCS field office.

Dates to Remember

January 20, 2014.....Office Closed Martin Luther King, Jr.

February 17, 2014..... Office Closed George Washington’s Birthday

Friday, April 4, 2014.....Tree order deadline

Wed—Fri, April 16-18, 2014...Tree Sale Order Pick Up

Friday, April 18, 2014...Fish sale order deadline

Tuesday, April 22, 2014.....Fish Order Pick up @ Randolph Fairgrounds

May, TBA..... PAWPAW GRAFTING workshop

