

SPRING 2024 • APRIL

# CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

SHELBY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

## WE LOVE TREES!

The 2024 Shelby SWCD Tree Seedling was a success. Over 2,800 trees were sold. Thank you to everyone who ordered trees. Tree pick-up will be Thursday April 11th from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm at the Shelby County Fairgrounds (Highland Street Entrance). The tree seedling are bare-root and will need to be planted soon after pick-up.

In other tree news, the theme for National Association for Conservation District's Stewardship Week and the Conservation Poster Contest is "May The Forest Be With You, Always." Shelby SWCD has already had submission from Botkins Elementary. Students K-12 are eligible to participate and we hope to get many more submissions. There is still time to enter the contest with poster submissions due by 5/10/2024. Email [amanda.hurley@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.hurley@usda.gov) for more information and poster contest entry forms.

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# Reduce Stormwater Pollution & Runoff

BY OHIO EPA

In open fields, forests and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

According to U.S. EPA's National Water Quality Inventory, polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to U.S. water bodies that do not meet water quality standards — nearly 40 percent of those surveyed. This discharge can destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water supplies and recreational waterways. Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, stormwater pollution comes from many different sources.

Stormwater runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants. Many types of litter can create stormwater pollution as well.

More steps you can take:

- Don't waste water — Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best) and only water plants according to what they need. Check with your local extension service or nurseries for advice.
- Keep your yard healthy — dethatch, use mulch, etc.
- Sweep outside instead of using a hose.
- Landscape using "rain garden" techniques to save water and reduce storm water runoff.
- Use a rain barrel - available for purchase at Shelby SWCD.
- Do not over apply pesticides and fertilizers. Follow directions and use judiciously. Pull weeds by hand when possible.
- Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed town or put into storm drains.
- Allow roof gutters to drain over your lawn instead of draining directly to the street.
- Reduce non-point source water pollution by minimizing use of fertilizer and pesticide on lawns.
- Use a watering gauge when you water your lawn to prevent overwatering.

See: <https://epa.ohio.gov/make-a-difference/conservation/reduce-storm-water-pollution-and-runoff> for full article and other resources.

"May the  
flowers  
remind us  
why the rain  
was so  
necessary."

XAN OKU



**RAIN BARRELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE @  
THE SHELBY SWCD OFFICE!**

**55 Gallon Barrel & DIY Converter Kit \$45**

**DIY Converter Kit \$35**

**Cash or Check - 822 Fair Rd. Sidney, OH**

**Please email or call ahead so rain barrel is ready  
for pickup.  
amanda.hurley@usda.gov, 937-419-2597**





# 2024 Fish Fingerling Sale

**ORDERS DUE MAY 14TH BY 4:00PM**

## Yellow Perch (2"-3")- \$28 per packet



Good reproduction, poor hatch survival  
Restock every 3-4 years. Great eating fish  
Needs forage species present in pond

## Bluegill (2"-4")- \$28 per packet



Used to maintain proper food chain  
Mature at less than 1 year old. 4" long  
Great forage fish. Stocks nicely with bass.

## Channel Catfish (4"-5")- \$28 per packet



Mature at less than 2 years old and  
Less than 2 lbs., 15"-16" long  
May exceed 10 lbs. in less than 5 years

## Largemouth Bass (2"-3")- \$35 per packet



Mature at 2 yrs old, 13"-14" long, 1 1/2-2 lbs  
Can reach sizes up to 10 lbs  
Diet: Bluegills, minnows, crawdads, worms

## Redear Sunfish (2"-4")- \$28 per packet



Reach 10"-12" long and 1 to 1 1/2 lbs.  
Eats snails that can carry parasites  
Slow reproduction, not good forage fish

## Hybrid Bluegill (2"-4")- \$28 per packet



Reach 10"-11" long and 1 to 1 1/2 lbs.  
Hard fighting pan fish, great for angling  
Should be restocked every few years.

## Fathead Minnows (1"-3")- \$10 per 100



Great for forage until bluegill spawn  
Typically only used for predator forage  
Great for bass, perch, catfish & crappie

## Japanese Koi (6"-8")- \$14 per fish



Eats vegetation, duckweed & watermeal  
Lives up to 50 years  
Can grow up to 2-3 feet long

## White Amur (8"-10")- \$17 per fish



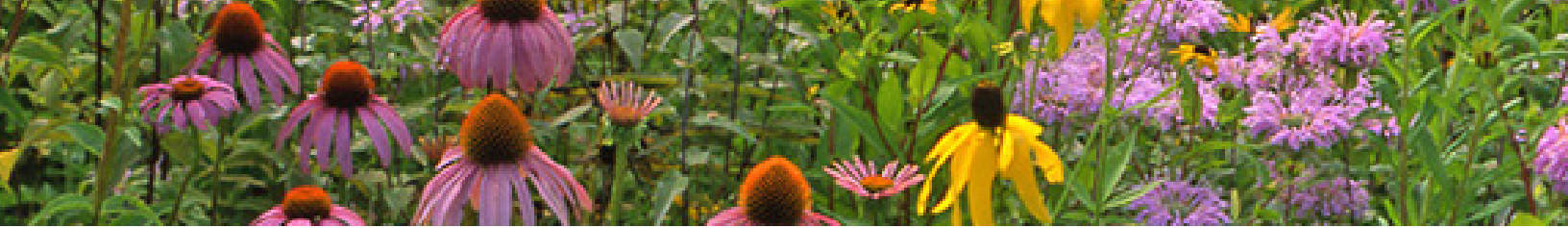
Eats vegetation, great for weed control  
Recommend 8-10 per acre, Don't overstock  
Grows very large. Sterile.

**FISH FINGERLING PICK UP  
IS MAY 21ST AT 10:30AM**

ORDER FORM	Recommended stocking rate (per surface acre)	Packs	Quantity
Yellow Perch (2"-3")	100	\$28 for 25 fish	
Bluegill (2"-4")	350-500	\$28 for 25 fish	
Channel Catfish (4"-5")	100	\$28 for 25 fish	
Largemouth Bass (2"-3")	100	\$35 for 25 fish	
Redear Sunfish (2"-4")	150-500	\$28 for 25 fish	
Hybrid Bluegill (2"-4")	100	\$28 for 25 fish	
Fathead Minnows (1"-3")	1000 (if no bluegill or sunfish)	\$10 for 100 fish	
Japanese Koi (6"-8")		\$14 per fish	
White Amur (8"-10")	*depends on vegetation	\$17 per fish	

Order Form at  
[www.shelbyswcd.org](http://www.shelbyswcd.org)  
Sale page or scan





# Programs for Pollinators

AMANDA HURLEY

Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District (Shelby SWCD) is working to help pollinators in Shelby County and they hope you will join them! From planting pollinator plots to educating children about the importance of pollinators there are many ways Shelby SWCD is hoping to “spread the word” and help the animals that “spread pollen.”

Pollinators are animals that transfer pollen from male to female flower parts (pollination). Bees and butterflies are commonly known examples of pollinators, but birds, bats, and many other insects are as well. With adequate pollination, flowering plants can produce enough seeds for dispersal and propagation; maintain genetic diversity; and develop fruits that promote seed dispersal. About 80% of crops require pollination. Pollination of agricultural crops is valued at about 10 billion dollars in the United States annually. It can't be overstated; we cannot live without pollinators.

However, despite the essential nature of pollinators their populations have been declining. To help increase populations of pollinators people can plant native flowering plants that provide habitat for pollinators (as well as many other benefits) in their landscapes and yards. This can range from including native plants in small, landscaped areas to converting a large, grassed area to a native wildflower field. Avoiding pesticides in yards and landscapes will prevent pollinators from being impacted by those chemicals. Using native plants usually decreases the need for pesticides. If pesticides must be used, applying them at times when butterflies and bees are not active can help lessen the damage to pollinators. Shelby SWCD aims to make more people aware of the importance of pollinators, spread awareness of how people can support pollinator populations and create more habitat in Shelby County for pollinators.

In April, Amanda Hurley, the Education & Outreach Coordinator at Shelby SWCD, will be teaching about butterflies at Conservation Storytimes at multiple Shelby County Libraries locations (open to the public), Fort Loramie Elementary School and Care-a-Lot Preschool in Botkins, OH. Amanda will also be sharing the importance of pollinators at the Amos Memorial Public Library's Annual Tea Party on April 20th (open to the public, registration required). To find out more about these events, visit [www.shelbyswcd.org](http://www.shelbyswcd.org) and [www.shelbycountylibraries.org](http://www.shelbycountylibraries.org).

On May 18 at 11:00am, Shelby SWCD welcomes Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative for a workshop at Amos Memorial Public Library to talk about an exciting new program called, “Won't You BEE My Neighbor.” This program focuses on increasing pollinator habitat in landscapes and yards in Ohio. This workshop will be free, open to the public and no registration required. Shelby SWCD hopes to have native plants available for purchase at this workshop but details about this are not finalized currently.

Along with OSU Extension, Shelby County Master Gardeners and Shelby County Libraries, Shelby SWCD planted multiple pollinator plots last year through the Plant By Numbers program offered by Ohio State University. These plots can be seen at the Shelby County OSU Extension office (810 Fair Road) and at Amos Memorial Public Library (230 E. North Street) in Sidney. There are plans for more plots to be planted in Shelby County this summer through the Plant by Numbers Program. The Plant by Numbers program makes it simple to incorporate pollinator friendly areas into landscapes.

There are also federal programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program, that provides financial and technical assistance to help private landowners increase pollinator habitat on their land. Contact Justin Wagner, NRCS District Conservationist at 937-419-2590 for more information on these programs.

Throughout the year, Shelby SWCD will be distributing milkweed seeds. These seeds are collected annually in collaboration with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative by Shelby SWCD and many other county soil & water districts throughout the state. Once the seeds are collected, they are processed, cold stratified, sorted and redistributed to local soil & water districts. Shelby SWCD will hand out milkweed seed at public events throughout the year.

If you want more information about how you can help pollinators visit: <https://www.ohiopollinator.org/>, <https://u.osu.edu/plantbynumbers/>, and/or <https://www.pollinator.org/>. If you have questions about large land projects to help pollinators that may qualify for cost share programs, contact Shelby SWCD office 937-492-6520. If you have questions about specific events mentioned in this article, contact Amanda Hurley ([amanda.hurley@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.hurley@usda.gov) or 937-419-2597).



**PLANT BY NUMBERS POLLINATOR PLOT AT AMOS MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**



# Dirty, Wet, *and* Wild!

## 2024 MULTI-COUNTY EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

**DARKE, MIAMI, MONTGOMERY, AND  
SHELBY COUNTIES**

Join us for a 2 day educator workshop focusing on hands-on soil and water related lessons in Montgomery County (Miami Valley CTC 6800 Hoke Rd, Clayton, OH). Day ONE we will get “Down & Dirty” introducing multiple soil-related topics, developing vermiculture for your classroom, and taking a field trip to a CSA. Day TWO will be “Wet and Wild” covering water testing basics, in-stream macroinvertebrate sampling, and water cycle lessons. End the workshop with a field trip to a water treatment plant to see how water is cleaned before consumption and to a local brewery to see how water is essential in food production. Cheers!



**JULY 31  
& AUG 1**

### JOIN US

Montgomery SWCD  
Mike Mullen  
937-854-7646  
mullenm@mcoho.org

Miami SWCD  
Linda Raterman  
937-335-7645  
lraterman@miami  
swcd.org

Shelby SWCD  
Amanda Hurley  
937-419-2597  
amanda.hurley@usda  
.gov

Darke SWCD  
Jared Coppess  
937-548-1715 x3  
www.darkeswcd.com

Contact the above staff to get a registration form

**Register before July 19th**

Spring is here and that means planting season is just around the corner. H2Ohio producers are required to provide nutrient application records for all nutrients applied for the 2024 crop (N, P, and K). Acceptable records include bills, scale tickets, as applied maps, etc. Any manure applications done in Fall 2023/ Spring 2024 will need to be reported as well. Producers who have chosen to variable rate phosphorus for the 2024 crop will need to turn in applicator information and as-applied nutrient application maps.

Records are used to verify that producers are following their nutrient management plans.

Producers can turn in records as different nutrients are applied or they turn in records after all 2024 nutrients are applied. The deadline to turn in application records is Monday, July 1, 2024.

Questions? Contact Cassie Lefeld, H2Ohio Coordinator, (Cassandra.Lefeld@usda.gov or 937-419-2589)



## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES UPDATES

### Conservation at Work Video Series

A video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, Conservation at Work, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they've implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money. We've got videos showcasing high tunnels, no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and many more.

Check out the Conservation at Work video series at [farmers.gov/conserves/conversationatwork](https://farmers.gov/conserves/conversationatwork).

Contact Justin Wagner, NRCS District Conservationist, with any questions about this or other NRCS programs (justin.wagner@usda.gov or 937-419-2590).





## Staff Spotlight

CASSIE LEFELD - TECHNICIAN

Role: **H2Oho Coordinator**

Employee Since: **July 2021**

What I do: **I manage all the H2Oho contracts for Shelby County. I work with producers to make sure needed paperwork is turned in to verify completion of practices. Conduct field checks for different H2Oho practices.**

What conservation practice resonates most with you? **The conservation practice that resonates with me the most is cover crops. Cover crops provide many soil benefits such as reducing excess nutrients in the soil. Nutrient reduction is a goal of H2Oho.**

About Cassie: **My husband Jacob and I have been married for 8 years and have three kids. As a family, we enjoy camping and being outdoors.**



## Supervisor Spotlight

MACK KNUPP

Years as a Supervisor: **4 years**

What made you want to be a Supervisor? **I wanted to follow in my grandpa's footsteps who was a supervisor for around 10 years. I wanted to help conserve and protect our precious resources here in Shelby County.**

What conservation practice resonates most with you? **Our family farm has been no-till since before I was born so I would say that is what resonates most with me. I am also incorporating other practices into my operation.**

Best place you visited for a conservation related conference or training? **The Ohio Federation meeting this year in Columbus. With starting as a supervisor during COVID and working full-time this was the first time I was able to attend and I enjoyed all of it.**

Favorite part of being a Supervisor: **I enjoy the collaboration with other supervisors to keep Shelby SWCD moving forward and thriving. I enjoy bringing a young perspective to the board as well.**

About Mack: **My wife Kaitlin and I are fourth generation to live on our farm in Green Township. We currently raise corn, soybeans, and wheat. We also bale a little hay and straw and have some sheep.**

May you be  
proud of the  
work you do,  
the person you  
are, and the  
difference you  
make.

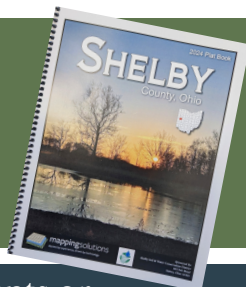
[See www.shelbyswcd.org](http://www.shelbyswcd.org)  
[for full staff directory.](#)



## Events & Announcements

4/5/2024 @ 11:15am	<u>Conservation Storytime "Beautiful Butterfly"</u> - <u>Anna Community Library</u>
4/5/2024 @ 12:30pm	<u>Conservation Storytime "Beautiful Butterfly"</u> - <u>Fort Loramie Community Library</u>
4/8/2024	Solar Eclipse - Shelby SWCD Office Closing @ 12:00pm
4/9/2024	Conservation Day Camp Registration Opens
4/11/2024 7:30am - 5:30pm	<u>Tree Seedling Sale - Tree Pick-up</u> <u>Shelby County Fairgrounds</u>
4/16/2024	Multi-County Practice Envirothon - Willowbrook Land Lab UVCC
4/19/2024 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
4/24/2024 @ 10:00am	<u>Special Conservation Storytime "Beautiful Butterflies"</u> - <u>Greenhaus Coffee</u>
4/25/2024 @ 5:30pm	Longfellow Elementary Summer Sneak Peak
4/26/2024 @ 9:00am	ODNR 75th Anniversary Tree Planting - Hardin-Houston Elementary
4/26/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime "Beautiful Butterfly"</u> - <u>Jackson Center Community Library</u>
4/26/2024 @ 4:30pm	<u>Camp Canopy Scholarship Applications Due</u>
4/30/2024	<u>Area IV Envirothon</u>

2024 Plat Books  
are available for purchase!  
\$20 cash or check at the  
Shelby SWCD office.



If you have questions about events or announcements, please contact Amanda Hurley (937-419-2597 or [amanda.hurley@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.hurley@usda.gov))

5/3/2024 @ 12:30pm	<u>Conservation Storytime "Crawdad Creek"</u> - <u>Fort Loramie Community Library</u>
5/10/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime "Crawdad Creek"</u> - <u>Jackson Center Community Library</u>
5/14/2024 @ 4:00pm	<u>Fish Fingerling Sale Orders Due</u>
5/17/2024 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
5/18/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>"Won't You BEE My Neighbor" Native Plant Workshop with OPHI</u> - <u>Amos Memorial Public Library</u>
5/21/2024 @ 10:30am	<u>Fish Fingerling Sale - Pick-Up</u> <u>Shelby SWCD Office</u>
5/27/2024	Federal Holiday - Shelby SWCD Office Closed
5/29/2024 @ 2:00pm	<u>Conservation Storytime "HBD Smokey"</u> - <u>Botkins Community Library</u>
5/30/2024 @ 10:00am	<u>Level 1 Quality Data Collectors Water Quality Monitoring Training</u> - <u>Ohio EPA</u>
5/31/2024 6:00-8:00pm	Shelby County Libraries Summer Reading Kick-Off (free, Tawawa Park) SWCD teaching about macroinvertebrates
6/4/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Smokey Bear Reading Challenge</u> <u>Amos Memorial Public Library</u>
6/7/2024 @ 12:30pm	<u>Conservation Storytime "HBD Smokey"</u> - <u>Fort Loramie Community Library</u>
6/11/2024 @ 2:00pm	<u>Conservation Storytime "HBD Smokey"</u> - <u>Anna Community Library</u>
6/14/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime "HBD Smokey"</u> - <u>Jackson Center Community Library</u>
6/19/2024	Federal Holiday - Shelby SWCD Office Closed
6/21/2024 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
6/25/2024-6/27/2024	<u>Conservation Day Camp</u> - <u>Shelby Fish &amp; Game Association</u>