Jefferson Soil & Water
Conservation District
500 Market Street
Mezzanine, Suite 4
Steubenville, OH 43952

740-264-9790

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

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JSWCD Mission Statement

"Promoting Conservation of Our Lands and Waters"

JSWCD BOARD:
Mark Nelson, Chair
Ken Perkins, Vice Chair
Stephanie Vance, Secretary
Jodee Verhovec, Treasurer
Duayne Wetherell, Public Relations

JSWCD STAFF:
Irene Moore, District Administrator
Wendee Dodds, Operations Mgr/Nat. Resources Spec.
Brandon Andresen, Water Quality Coordinator
Aaron Dodds, Projects Manager
Amy Browning, Bookkeeping Manager/Program Asst.

We are online and on Facebook
www.jeffersonswcd.org

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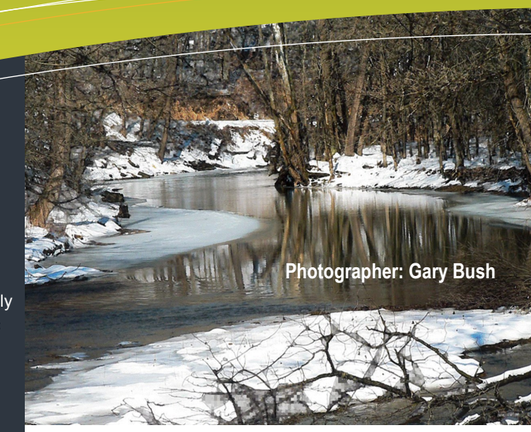
dates to Remember

JSWCD Board Meeting · March 16 @ 4:30
Pond Restocking Order Deadline · March 27
Easter Observance · Office Closed · April 13
JSWCD Board Meeting · April 20 @ 4:30
JSWCD Board Meeting · May 18 @ 4:30
Memorial Day · Office Closed · May 25
JSWCD Board Meeting · June 15 @ 4:30
July 4th Observed · Office Closed · July 6
JSWCD Board Meeting · July 20 @4:30
Ohio State Fair · July 29 - August 9
Labor Day · Office Closed · September 2
JSWCD Board Meeting · September 16
Farm Science Review · September 17 - 19
Columbus Day · Office Closed · October 14
JSWCD Board Meeting · October 21

The County Cooperator

February 2020

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEFFERSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Photographer: Gary Bush

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Dates to Remember back

Historic Farms

There are roughly 1500 historic family farms registered with Ohio's Historic Family Farms program through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Jefferson County is home to eleven Historic Family Farms.

Swickard Family Farm (Est. 1807)

Kithcart Family Farm (Est. 1808)

Carnahan Jr. Farm (Est. 1812)

Maple Valley Farm - Parkinson (Est. 1824)

Stone Goepper Farm (Est. 1837)

Packer Farm (Est. 1842)

McLain Farm (Est. 1858)

McConnell-Burns Family Farm (Est. 1866)

Miller Farm (Est. 1883)

Franckhauser Farm (Est. 1892)

Mercer Family Farm (Est. 1915)

To search the extensive list of Ohio historic farms, simply visit:

https://agri.ohio.gov
(Division of Markets)

The program grants three designations based on the number of years of same-family ownership: Century Farms (100-149 yrs); Sesquicentennial Farms (150-199 yrs) and Bicentennial Farms (200 years and more).

Start of a New Decade

Mark Nelson and Ken Perkins have both been re-elected to a new three year term on the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District. The public election was held at the 75th Annual Meeting and Banquet in September. Three highly qualified candidates ran for the two open seats.

The District started the decade with County Commissioner Dr. Tom Graham administering the Oath of Office to Supervisors Mark Nelson and Ken Perkins at the Board of Supervisors monthly meeting this past January.

Following the Oath of Office, the Board reorganized for 2020. Mark Nelson, Chairperson, and Ken Perkins, Vice-Chairperson, joining Jodee Verhovec, Treasurer; Stephanie Vance, Secretary and Duayne Wetherell, Public Relations.

> **"I look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on Jefferson county by utilizing the capacities in which I currently serve."**
>
> ***-Mark Nelson***
> ***Board Chair***

The unique areas of expertise, diverse mix of qualities and skill sets as well as backgrounds of the members are essential to ensuring a well rounded board, allowing JSWCD to fulfill our mission and strategic goals.

Left: Ken Perkins, Vice Chair; Mark Nelson, Chair and Commissioner Dr. Tom Graham

Board meetings are open to the public and are scheduled for the third Monday of the month at 4:30 pm at 500 Market Street, Mezzanine, Suite 4, Steubenville. Notice of a date change will appear in the newspaper, on the district Facebook page and will be posted on the office doors. You may also call the office for more information.

2019 Annual Meeting and Banquet

Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

Curt and Virginia Glenn received the JSWCD Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. This recognition is given each year to acknowledge agricultural producers who send a strong conservation message which is exemplified in their passion for their farms, through leading by example, and in their interactions with others.

They began their conservation journey in 1985, when they first became cooperators with the District. At that time, they were milking 60 head of dairy, and sought conservation assistance that included a waste storage structure, contour strips, conservation tillage, pastureland management, and a water system consisting of a spring development and trough.

The face of the farm changed over time, eventually converting to beef cows and horses, and the family of five grew. Over those years, they incorporated more conservation practices, including additional water systems, nutrient management, roof water management, fence, and livestock use areas. They also enrolled 32 acres of wetlands in a permanent easement under the Wetlands Reserve program, and their encouragement led other farms in the watershed to enroll an additional 80 acres.

The Glenn's not only have a passion for their farm but also for history and the Yellow Creek Watershed. This led them to play a key role in the Yellow Creek Watershed Restoration Coalition, and their passion for history has opened doors for others to enjoy as well. They have passed the love of the farm and of the Yellow Creek Watershed on to their children and grandchildren, who are pursuing futures that follow in their family's footsteps. They are very proud of the hard-working example that they have set and all that they continue to accomplish. They have made their own place in history.

Photo Contest Winners

M & M Hardware and **DiGregory's Greenhouse** sponsored the Annual Photo Contest. Winners in each of the three categories were presented with a monetary award for placing first out of a number of entries.

75 Years of Conservation in Action (Gary Bush)

Beauty of Our Landscape (Diane Bannister)

Ohio's Native Wildlife (Virginia Glenn)

Big Tree Contest Winners

The JSWCD in partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and **DeNoon Lumber** proudly sponsor the Annual "Big Tree Contest". The tree of focus varies from year to year but this year any variety could be entered.

FIRST PLACE

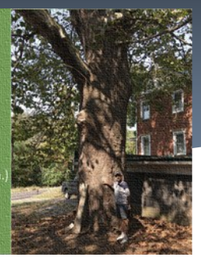
Nominated by:
Fred Posgai

Species: Sycamore

Location: Mount Pleasant Twp.

Tree Measurements:
Circumference = 17.2 ft. (206.4 in.)
Height = 122 feet
Avg. Crown Spread = 109 feet

Total Score = 355.65



SECOND PLACE

Nominated by:
Carl and Shirley Hughes

Species: Silver Maple

Location: Richmond

Tree Measurements:
Circumference = 15.4 ft. (184.8 in.)
Height = 91 feet
Avg. Crown Spread = 88 feet

Total Score = 297.8

THIRD PLACE

Nominated by:
Philip and Pam Granatir

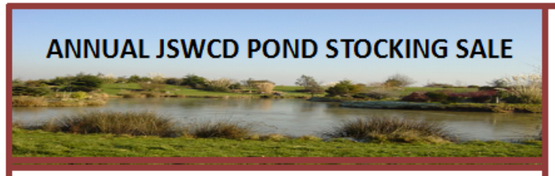
Species: White Oak

Location: Island Creek Twp.

Tree Measurements:
Circumference = 13.5 ft. (162 in.)
Height = 103 feet
Avg. Crown Spread = 95.5 feet

Total Score = 288.9

ANNUAL JSWCD POND STOCKING SALE



A properly stocked and managed pond will provide years of quality fishing. Some of the finest fishing in Ohio for largemouth bass, bluegills, and channel catfish can be found in the state's farm ponds according to information provided by ODNR, Division of Wildlife and Ohio State University Extension documents. An initial stocking of a combination of these fish is usually recommended for new or renovated ponds. Properly managed largemouth bass and bluegills will produce self-sustaining populations, whereas channel catfish usually require periodic restocking.

Stocking the recommended sizes and numbers of fish is very important for good fishing. Fingerling fish (1"-3") are recommended for stocking new or renovated ponds. Starting a pond off by stocking larger fish is tempting, but can lead to an "unbalanced" pond with too many fish of one kind and too few of another.

Biological vegetation control reduces the amount of aquatic vegetation by stocking plant-eating fish. The white amur is a certified triploid grass carp legalized for stock in 1988; these fish are incapable of reproducing in your pond.

For additional guidance on managing your pond, download the Ohio Pond Management Handbook.
https://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov

Stocking Recommendations for One-Acre Established Pond

100	Bass	200	Bluegill
100	Perch	100	Shell Cracker
100	Crappie	50-100	Catfish
1000	Minnows	10-12	White Amur

(Depending on present vegetation)

For ponds with a surface covered by more than 60 percent vegetation, stock them at 10 fish per acre, but reduce the rate to 5 fish per acre for ponds with 40 to 60 percent vegetative cover, and to 2-3 fish per acre for ponds with 20-40 percent vegetative cover.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS MARCH 27, 2020

Send or drop off order form and payment to:
Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District
500 Market Street, Suite 4
Steubenville, OH 43952
Phone: (740) 264-9790

Fish pick-up:
Thursday, April 2, 2020
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
JSWCD parking lot

Please bring buckets lined with plastic trash bags filled with your own pond water for transport.
****No Refunds on orders not picked up****

2020 FISH POND STOCKING ORDER FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Species Descriptions	Price/Item	# Ordered	Line Total
2-3" Largemouth Bass (most popular predator fish)	$1.00		
2-4" Bluegill (most popular forage fish)	$1.00		
4-5" Channel Catfish (diet consists of insects, fish, crayfish)	$1.00		
2-3" Yellow Perch (predator that consume insects and small fish)	$1.00		
2-4" Hybrid Bluegill (great gaming appeal and table fare)	$1.00		
2-4" Red Ear Shell Cracker (consume snails and small mollusks)	$1.00		
2-4" Black Crappie (one of the most popular panfish species)	$1.00		
2-3" Fathead Minnows (used as feeder fish) *Must order 100 at a time*	$10.00		
8-10" White Amur (used to consume aquatic vegetation)	$14.00		
6-8" Japanese Koi (colorful fish/used to consume aquatic vegetation)	$12.00		
Pond Management Book by Steve Fender	$20.00		
Nature's Pond Conditioner - 1 gallon, does 1/4 acre (all natural bacteria + dye in one)	$90.00		
Nature's Pond Conditioner - 5 gallon, does 1 acre (all natural bacteria + dye in one)	$375.00		
If you have any questions or need assistance with selecting species, please feel free to call our office at 740-264-9790.		GRAND TOTAL	

OFFICE USE ONLY: DATE _____ CHECK# _____ CASH _____ RECEIPT# _____

Reasons for planting trees and shrubs vary between landowners. Whether you are thinking of planting for aesthetics, wildlife, to eat, or to generally improve your property, we can let you choose the best species for your goals and your location. Not every species works in every situation, so let us know what you want to do and where you live, and we will be glad to help direct you to what should work the best.

Evergreens

Techny Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis "Techny"*- Survives in a variety of conditions, long lived, medium sized. Makes for great windbreaks, animal habitat, and privacy.

White Pine, *Pinus strobus* –Occurs in a variety of conditions, prefers acidic, moist, deep soils. Good for bird nesting sites and wind breaks in younger trees.

Norway Spruce, *Picea abies,* quickly reaches 80 feet in height by 40 feet in spread with its medium to rapid growth rate, and adapts to a variety of harsh soil and sparse moisture conditions.

Shrubs/Small Trees

American Plum, *Prunus americana* - Fast growing, small tree/large shrub, tolerates wide variety of soils and sites and prefers being open grown. Pale pink flowers in spring, medium sized edible fruit, very good animal habitat and food sources. Can form thickets.

Silky Dogwood, *Cornus amomum* - prefers moist to wet sites in soils of various composition and ph. It adapts to dry soils, poor soils, or soils that are wet in winter and spring, and dry in summer and autumn.

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis* - It heralds the arrival of spring with its showy, lavendar-pink flowers that typically open in April, long before the foliage emerges.

Black Chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa* - prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soils of average to rich quality. However, this shrub thrives in a wide variety of sites and may form pure stands in wet sites with clay soil. It also tolerates soils that are alkaline in pH, dry in summer, and sandy or rocky in composition. It is excellent for its soil-gripping capacity, rapid establishment, fall foliage colors, and winter fruit display.

Large Trees

Chinese Chestnut, *Castanea mollissima* - Planted today for the production of its chestnuts, which serve as a replacement for those from American Chestnut. Does well in open areas including strip-mined ground. The hard mast provides great wildlife food.

Honey Locust (thornless), *Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*- Medium sized, quick growing, tolerant of most situations. This variety is thorn less and provides a much nicer version to plant around a house. Seeds are used by squirrels, deer and some birds.

Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*- Medium to large tree, long lived and fast growing, generally does well in drier upland soils. Widely grown and can be an important timber species as well as an important source of food for deer.

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*- Medium sized, fast growing, prefers well drained soil and tolerates shady conditions. It is prized for syrup and timber production.

Bitternut Hickory, *Carya ovata*- Bitternut Hickory prefers deep, moist soils that range from poorly drained to well-drained, but is often found in drier conditions. It is much faster growing than the other hickories and is often called swamp hickory.

Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra* – Very sought-after timber tree, grows well in moist alluvial soils, slower growing in drier soils. Produces large nut, that is great for wildlife.

White Oak, *Quercus alba* - prefers rich, deep, moist, well-drained, acidic soils, but adapts well to dry and average soils that are neutral to slightly alkaline in pH. It thrives in full sun to partial sun but is shade tolerant in youth.

Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor* - prefers rich, deep, moist to wet, poorly-drained, acidic soils, but adapts well to dry and average soils that are neutral to slightly alkaline in ph. Along with Pin Oak and Swamp Chestnut Oak, it is one of the best hardwoods for wet soils, but it adapts better than many Pin Oaks to wet soils that also have a neutral to slightly alkaline ph.

CAMP CANOPY (Forestry Camp)

Scholarships Available

Steel Valley Loggers Chapter provides annual scholarships to Camp Canopy. Scholarships are awarded to youth who are interested in conservation issues.

It is a unique experience that will expose students to the great outdoors and to possible careers in forestry, conservation and natural resource protection. Camp Canopy is a week-long program that is held at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County June 7 - 12, 2020.

Five lucky campers will leave with college scholarships to the Ohio State University's School of Environment & Natural Resources; Hocking College's School of Natural Resources or Ohio University's Department of Environmental and Plant Biology and another scholarship will be awarded for a student to use at a natural resources school of their choice.

Students must be 15 years of age by June and have completed 8th grade.

For more information and registration applications go to www.ohioforest.org and click on events and then on to Camp Canopy; or call the JSWCD office at 740-264-9790.

Hellbenders
The Warriors of Our Watersheds

In the immortal words of lyricist Ray Parker, Jr: "*If there's something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call?*"

Over the last decade the JSWCD has been working with several local, state, and federal agencies in conserving and growing the population of the state-endangered and federally-threatened species, the Eastern Hellbender. The groups of agencies, collectively known as the Ohio Hellbender Partnership, have taken the lead in protecting the Eastern Hellbender, but many do not realize that while we are trying to protect the hellbender; the hellbender has been protecting the watersheds of Jefferson County.

So, "*if there is something weird and it don't look good, who you gonna call*?" Well, the hellbenders may not be your first thought or really your best option because quite frankly they are a bit stand offish and a little bitey, so by all means still call the agency that best fits the need or the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District. However, the presence of hellbenders within the watersheds of Jefferson County does elicit at times a quicker and more thorough response from state and federal agencies when it comes to pollutants entering the watersheds.

The mere existence of hellbenders in the streams creates added weight when it comes to stopping pollutants and cracking down on polluters. Agencies can leverage the state-endangered animal to show a critical need to address the concern because of the fragility of their population and the fact that they are an exceptional water quality indicator and warrant a quicker and stronger response to the concern.

So, if you are ever wonder as to why there is such an emphasis that has been put on hellbenders here are a couple quick facts to note. Since 2015, the Eastern Hellbender has brought in over $882,000 worth of grant dollars to the county for infrastructure and stream projects, and they have been used in court cases against some of the largest polluters in the county to justify remediation and potential fines. When it comes to preserving the waters of Jefferson County the Eastern Hellbenders are truly the warriors of the watersheds.

Jefferson County Home Sewage Treatment System Repair/Replacement Assistance Program Continues

County residents again have an opportunity to have their faulty septic system repaired or replaced with funding administered through the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Jefferson County Health Department. The county has recently been awarded $150,000 in funding from the Ohio EPA to assist income-eligible homeowners with the repair or replacement of existing failing home septic systems that are causing impairment to groundwater, creeks and streams in Jefferson County's watersheds.

The program funding comes from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF), which made approximately $11,125,000 dollars in principal forgiveness funding available to Ohio's health districts during 2020 for projects that repair or replace failing home sewage treatment systems or connect homes with failing systems to existing centralized sanitary sewer systems.

To be considered eligible for the program, total household income must be under 300% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines and the home must be owned and occupied by the applicant. The home's septic system must also be documented as failing by the Jefferson County Health Department.

Due to the large number of failing septic systems in the county and the high cost of replacing a system, we anticipate there will be more eligible projects than there are dollars to fund them. Eligible applications will be scored based on watershed and environmental factors in order to determine the order in which projects are funded. The number of septic systems that can be replaced or repaired with the funding will depend on the actual costs of individual projects.

Applicants who are successful in securing the funding can qualify for 50%, 85% or 100% of the septic system repair or replacement project or connection cost, depending on income.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Wendee Dodds, JSWCD Natural Resources Specialist, by telephone at: (740) 264-9790 or by email at: wzadanski@jeffersoncountyoh.com.

H2Ohio Protecting Ohio's Water

Have you heard about Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative to ensure safe and clean water for all Ohioans? Ohio is currently in the midst of many water quality challenges. In particular, high levels of nitrates and phosphorus producing harmful algal blooms, driven by nonpoint source runoff across large areas of the state.

H2Ohio is an investment in targeted solutions like increased implementation of agricultural best practices, the creation of wetlands, improving wastewater infrastructure, replacing failing home septic systems, and preventing lead contamination in high-risk schools. Over the next two years H2Ohio will provide $172 million in funding, with $86 million being shared between the Ohio Department of Resources, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and to the Ohio Environmental Protection agency for watershed planning, scientific research, and community projects.

H2Ohio represents addressing water quality problems for Ohio's communities that rely on clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure for public health, high quality of life, and economic vitality.

You can find more information on the H2Ohio initiative by visiting http://h2.ohio.gov/

Harrison Soil and Water Conservation District 2020 Tree Seedling Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____State:_____Zip:_____

Phone: _____

*Email: _____

If you would like to receive our Newsletters by email, please provide your email address.

Office Use Only

Check #_____ Cash

Receipt #_____

SWCD Initials_____

Date_____

MAKE ORDERS PAYABLE & MAIL TO:
Harrison SWCD, 538 N. Main Street, Cadiz, Ohio 43907
ALL SALES ARE FINAL, EXACT CHANGE OR CHECK ONLY, PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

DEADLINE FOR PLACING ORDERS IS March 20th, 2020
Available for Pick-Up April 9-10 at Harrison SWCD, 2020 8:00am-4:30pm - No refund on orders not picked up

2020 Species		**	*Size*	*Packet Price*	*# Packets*	*Total*
Fruit & Berries						
Blueberries "Blue Crop", "Sweetheart", "Jersey"		BCEF	12-18"	3 for $15		
Red Raspberries "Caroline", "Heritage"		BEF	2.5" pot	2 for $8		
Evergreens						
Norway Spruce *(Picea abies)*			7-15"	5 for $8		
Eastern White Pine *(Pinus strobus)*			7-15"	5 for $8		
Arborvitae, Techny *(Thuja occidentalis "Techny")*			12-18"	5 for $8		
Deciduous						
Red Oak *(Quercus rubra)*		BC	18-24"	5 for $8		
White Oak *(Quercus alba)*		BC	18-24"	5 for $8		
Sugar Maple *(Acer saccharum)*		BCE	18-24"	5 for $8		
Bitternut Hickory *(Carya cordiformis)*		BW	18-24"	5 for $8		
Swamp White Oak *(Quercus bicolor)*		BCW	18-24"	5 for $8		
Black Walnut *(Juglans nigra)*		BEW	18-24"	5 for $8		
Thornless Honeylocust *(Gleditsia triacanthos)*		BCFW	18-24"	5 for $8		
Chinese Chestnut *(Castanea mollissima)*		BE	18-24"	5 for $10		
Flowering/Fruiting Shrubs & Small Trees						
American Plum *(Prunus americana)*		BEF	18-24"	5 for $8		
Eastern Redbud *(Cercis canadensis)*		BCF	18-24"	5 for $8		
Silky Dogwood *(Cornus amomum)*		BCF	18-24"	5 for $8		
Black Chokeberry *(Aronia melanocarpa)*		BCEFW	18-24"	5 for $8		
*** B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering/fruiting W-tolerates wet soils*					**TOTAL:**	

If you have any question or need assistance with selecting species, please feel free to call our office at 740-942-8837 or email Billy at bwilson@harrisoncountyohio.org.

Eastern Ohio Grazing Council

Helping Producers 'Turn Knowledge into Action'

Pasture Walk at Morelli's Diekmann farm in Jefferson county, September 2019

Photo courtesy of Beth Kruprzak

If you raise livestock and are in search of ways to enhance or improve your grazing operation, the Eastern Ohio Grazing Council is a great place to start! The council, comprised of local producers, and assisted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, Stark and Tuscarawas counties, offers assistance to landowners wanting to learn more about grazing and pastureland management.

The EOGC plans workshops and pasture walks to answer grazing related questions, share grazing ideas and encourage livestock producers to become more sustainable, both economically and environmentally. The events are an opportunity to interact with knowledgeable presenters, conservation staff and fellow grazers. Pasture walks are rotated to different counties monthly, and are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month, starting at 6 p.m.

The group kicked off its winter workshop series on January 23, focusing on the nutrient quality comparison between stockpiled forages and hay; frost seeding; the benefits of well-maintained pastures to wildlife; and pasture planning for 2020. Additional workshops are scheduled for February 27th and March 26th at the Carrollton Elementary School Cafeteria located at 252 3rd Street NE, Carrollton, OH 44615, beginning at 6 p.m. Pasture walks are scheduled to begin in April.

The EOGC invites producers to attend any of its monthly activities. For more information, or to receive pasture walk and workshop information, please contact the JSWCD.
https://www.facebook.com/EasternOhioGrazingCouncil

Ohio Native Tree Sale

We are excited to announce that JSWCD will again be selling trees native to Ohio this **SPRING**.

The trees being offered in this sale are native to this section of Appalachia Ohio and were indigenous to this area prior to settlement in the late 1780's. These plants will be offered in three gallon pots with trees being roughly 4 foot tall and shrubs being about 2-3 feet in size. The plants were selected for being species that are beneficial for pollinators, wildlife, or erosion control, therefore, these plants will have a high reward for your property.

Why Plant Native?

Native trees, shrubs and perennials are vital to a healthy environment in many ways. They are host plants for many species of butterflies and moths. They are important nectar sources for pollinators, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Many of the trees and shrubs produce fruit or nuts that may be tasty and nutritious for you, birds, other wildlife, or all of the above! Many also provide great bird nesting habitat. If you love feeding the birds, then planting native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses in your yard would be a great next step to attracting and keeping many species healthy and happy in your yard! Once established, native plants require less care and water because they are adapted to the normal changes in moisture and temperatures of our area.

Using plants native to Ohio makes maintaining a beautiful garden easier for you and better for many native species of birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

Watch for more information about ordering Native Trees coming soon.

If you are interested in seedlings, see Newsletter Insert for Harrison SWCD Seedling Sale Order Form. All Seedling orders will be picked up at the Harrison SWCD, Cadiz.

Mystery Photo

While sitting at her desk working away, Amy Browning, got a notification that she had received an email. Upon reading, her heart instantly warmed. Lynne Smith, the daughter of John Parkinson, had reached out to JSWCD. During a recent trip to see her father, she found a pile of JSWCD newsletters that her Dad was saving for her. In that pile was the issue of "The County Cooperator" that included a photo of her Mom, as a member of the women's auxiliary. Judee Parkinson passed away last year after a deeply courageous battle with cancer.

Lynne went onto say "I remember every single one of those ladies (women's auxiliary) pictured as each one in some way, shape or form was part of my life growing up on the farm, in 4-H, or on the Farm Bureau Youth Council.

While helping her father go through belongings, they came upon a box of photos that included the photo to the right. Mr. Parkinson explained that it was a photo of a JSWCD Board. Lynne fondly described those pictured as,

"gentlemen that definitely made a huge impact in Jefferson County and taught all of us to be good stewards of the land".

Be the first to Identify these past board members and receive a free ticket to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Email your guesses to abrowning@jeffersoncountyoh.com or mail to our office.

YES, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR TIMBER....AND WILDLIFE TOO!!

Numerous plants, insects, and aquatics that live in Ohio do not belong here. **Invasives** can cause extensive economic damage and do immeasurable harm to our trees and other natural resources and the natural heritage of our state. According to the ODNR, Division of Forestry website - invasive plants are characterized by fast growth rates, excessive fruit production, and efficient seed dispersal and germination. Exotic plants often escape the natural enemies, predators, and pathogens that keep them in check in their native range. This lack of natural control contributes to their ability to spread. Some invasive plants were intentionally introduced for erosion control, food, forage, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, or medicinal use. Others arrived accidentally through international trade routes. Some invasive plants also escape to natural areas from home gardens. Managing invasives is a critical issue.

You are invited to attend the second session in the series that has been designed to provide woodlot owners with the tools and assistance, both financial and technical, to best manage their properties. The session topics have been developed based on landowner input and interests.

Please join local landowners and conservation experts on

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

for a session that focuses on the **GREEN**.
Presentation topics will spotlight on:

- **Plant/Insect Invasive Species and current research control options**
  (Erika Lyon, OSUE Extension Educator; Agriculture and Natural Resources; Jefferson and Harrison counties
- **How Invasives impact Wildlife Habitat**
  (Travis Bowman, Ohio District Biologist; National Wild Turkey Federation)
- **Increase Your Wealth and Woodland Health (tools & resources to sustainably and profitably manage woodlands on your property)**
  (Jamie Regula, State Forester; ODNR, Division of Forestry)

The event will be held at

Jefferson County JVS
1509 County Highway 22A
Bloomingdale, Ohio

· Doors open at 5:00 pm · Buffet served from 5:15 - 6:00 pm ·
· program begins at 6:00 pm · Cost is $5.00 per person ·

RSVP by March 13, 2020 either by calling the Jefferson SWCD office at 740.264.9790 or imoore@jeffersoncountyoh.com

Photo Credit: Gary Bush

Stormwater and Urban Activities in Jefferson County

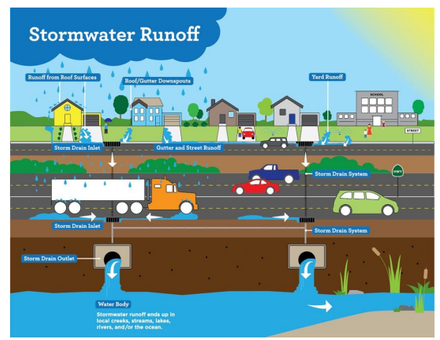
Jefferson County & Others Stormwater Consortium Group is composed of the cities of Steubenville and Toronto, villages of Mingo Junction, Wintersville, Tiltonsville and Yorkville and parts of Jefferson County and Townships of Cross Creek, Island Creek, Steubenville, Wayne and Wells. These areas have been deemed Small MS4s by the OEPA based upon their population in 2000.

What is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)?

A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) which are owned or operated by a public body, designed and used for collecting storm water, is not a combined sewer and is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW).

The JSWCD helps to oversee and keep the Jefferson County & Others Stormwater Consortium Group in compliance by assisting with the Jefferson County & Others Stormwater Management Plan which outlines 6 categories and activities that have been completed and/or continue to be on-going. The JSWCD completes the OEPA Small MS4 Report on all the activities that have taken place in the previous year for Jefferson County & Others Stormwater Consortium Group.

The 6 categories are as follows with examples of some of the activities happening in regards to that category:



- ⇒ **Public Education and Outreach** – School/Community presentations, brochures, news articles, training sessions, Facebook and website
- ⇒ **Public Participation/Involvement** – Student stream monitoring, storm drain marking and participation in county recycling programs
- ⇒ **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination** – Dry-weather screening of outfalls, responding and investigating illicit discharge complaints, mapping out outfalls
- ⇒ **Construction Site Runoff Control** – Update erosion and sediment control regulations to current OEPA regulations, complete Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) reviews and conduct site inspections for erosion and sediment control compliance as per the SWP3 (countywide, not just the MS4 areas)
- ⇒ **Post-Construction Stormwater Management** – Update stormwater regulations to current OEPA regulations, conduct inspections on Post-Construction BMPs
- ⇒ **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping** – O&M Plans, document salt usage, street sweeping, ditch maintenance and other municipal operations, spill prevention and clean-up during municipal operations,

For more information on any of the activities or to get involved with stormwater pollution prevention contact Brandon Andresen, Water Quality Coordinator, at the JSWCD.

Visit The **Farmers' gateway Market**

And support the efforts of local growers & producers.

Local Growers, this is your opportunity to begin thinking about what you will be planting in your gardens and or fields this spring and if you would like to sell your produce at local farmers markets.

JSWCD will be coordinating the 11th year of farmers' market events beginning in June 2020. The local vendors sell their products in the Eastern Gateway Community Colleges lower parking lot located at the intersection of Sunset Blvd and John Scott Highway on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

A Thursday-daytime; downtown Steubenville market is also open for seasonal produce sales through the Steubenville Visitors' Center.

Why the District is involved in the Crossridge Landfill

Since the fall of last year, the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) has taken an adamant stand against the redevelopment of the former Crossridge Landfill site into a new municipal solid waste landfill. The JSWCD has the mission of "Promoting Conservation of Our Lands and Waters" by promoting wise land-use management through technical and educational services in order to help people conserve and enhance the natural resources base for a better quality of life, and the JSWCD Board as elected officials takes the duty and responsibility entrusted in them to carry out this mission very seriously. Thus, the Board feels any redevelopment on the site that consists of starting a new landfill will not only continue to negatively impact the Cross Creek watershed, but greatly affect the quality of life for people in the area and of the region.

JSWCD currently holds a conservation easement at the Apex Environmental Landfill which requires the staff to go to the landfill on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Although, the odor and air quality issues plaguing the landfill are not within the jurisdiction of the JSWCD, the District Board and staff has bared witness to the problems with Apex and have stood at the very face of the landfill and seen the enormity and scale of such an operation. After seeing such a place no one would ever want to have such a place duplicated within the county.

Crossridge is a very unique situation. The landfill has been spewing leachate into the waters of the County since the late 1980s, polluting the Cross Creek watershed. In 2010, the Ohio EPA released their Biological and Water Quality Study of the Cross Creek Basin and Selected Ohio River Watersheds in the report it specifically calls out the Crossridge site and states:

> Leachate from the Crossridge Landfill is supposed to be collected and disposed of at the Jefferson County M WWTP, but the owners stopped hauling the leachate. As a result, leachate from the facility is collecting onsite and is potentially discharging to Cross Creek or into the groundwater. Ohio EPA collected leachate samples in October 2009 and found detections of numerous organic compounds including benzene, 1,1 dichloroethane, ethylbenzene, isopropylbenzene, napthalene, toluene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, vinyl chloride, oxylene and diethylphthalate as well as highly elevated ammonia (80.1 mg/l) and various metals (aluminum, arsenic, iron, barium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, strontium, selenium and nickel

The leachate entering the watershed has gone unchecked for over a decade and in the spring of 2019 Notice of Violations by the Ohio EPA documented with photographs pictures of a pump hooked up to the leachate tank with hoses running over the hill towards the main channel of Cross Creek. On August 28, 2019, the Jefferson County General Health District Sanitarians discovered the leachate tank being actively pumped over the hill, and notified state officials and JSWCD. The Health District later invited the JSWCD Board Chair and Vice-Chair to attend a special meeting of the Health District where they hosted an east coast company that was looking to establish a new landfill on a different section of the 1000 acre Crossridge site, and upon becoming profitable the company then would address the leachate issues plaguing the overall site.

The JSWCD vehemently stands against the establishment of a new landfill within the borders of Jefferson County, and particularly on the property known as Crossridge. The terrain and slope of the property along with several headwater and tributary streams on the parcels that flows directly into the bordering main channel of Cross Creek does not make this site suitable for development of a landfill.

Additionally, the persistent and un-remediated issues that are affecting the general welfare of the surrounding population need addressed. The property has had court fines levied against it in excess of $24 million, and the owners and operators have simply scoffed at the judicial system and done a disservice to the people of Jefferson County and the area. JSWCD has been very vocal in the need to address and correct the environmental concerns of the property. If any development does occur on the property it just be development which spurs economic growth and quality of life improvements.

Another landfill simply has no place here. The District wants wise and long range forethought be applied to this issue where the quality of life of the people and the environment are considered and not the revenue generated by the disposal of trash in the valleys and hills of the county. The addition of another landfill will only dilute the amount of local oversight and create more burdens on the people surrounding Apex Environmental. The Jefferson County General Health District and the Jefferson-Belmont Solid Waste Authority will hopefully join JSWCD in taking a strong stand against the landfill and let the word go forth that Jefferson County is no longer a dumping ground in the name of the health of our soils and waters as well as for the quality of life for current and future generations of Jefferson County residents.