



# Ottawa Soil & Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your agriculture & conservation resource

Winter/Spring 2024

## OTTAWA COUNTY AG BREAKFAST

March 15th at 8:00am at St. John's Lutheran Church

### JOIN.

#### *Celebrate Agriculture*

March 15th at 8:00am at St. John Lutheran Church; 122 W. Ottawa St., Oak Harbor

Cost: \$5:00

RSVP by March 11th 419-898-1595 or [mike.libben@ottawaswcd.com](mailto:mike.libben@ottawaswcd.com)

### LEARN.

#### *Quintin Smith, owner Gideon Owen Winery*

Quintin will speak about the former Mon Ami Winery and the past and present of agriculture and wine making on Catawba Island.

### DISCOVER.

#### *Past & Future Agriculture*

We will announce our scholarship winners! See the future of our agriculture and conservation fields.

### EAT.

#### *Pancake Breakfast*

Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast made for you from local products!



To celebrate agriculture and honor our local producers, the Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension, and various sponsors are hosting an Agriculture Community Breakfast. Our speaker will be Quintin Smith, owner of Gideon Owen Winery who will give a talk about the historic Catawba Island winery and farming on the peninsula. The 2024 Breakfast will be held **at 8:00 a.m. at St John's Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor**. The cost for the all-you-can-eat scrambled egg, pancake and sausage breakfast is **\$5.00**. All proceeds go back into the community through scholarships to be awarded to High School students residing in Ottawa County that are pursuing a career in agriculture, wildlife, forestry, or soil and water fields.

**Call Ottawa SWCD to get your ticket: 419-898-1595**

**Deadline to RSVP: March 11**

### OSWCD

## Agriculture & Natural Resource Scholarship

*Donate in honor or memory of someone!  
Encourage Ag & Natural Resource Careers!*

To apply for the scholarship or to donate,  
visit [ottawaswcd.com](http://ottawaswcd.com)



Ottawa  
Soil & Water  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



### Staff

**Michael Libben**, District Administrator

**Becky Simpson**, Fiscal Manager/Environmental Educator

**Joe Uhinck**, Wildlife Specialist

**Jarred Molesky**, District Technician

**Jason Laubacher**, District Technician

**Kylie Nissen**, District Technician

**Beth Ann Hermes**, Nutrient Management Specialist

**Dan Toris**, Deputy Drainage Engineer

### Supervisors

**Bill Hartman**, Chairman

**Rich Thorbahn**, Vice-Chairman

**Roland Sandrock**, Treasurer

**Todd Hecht**, Secretary

**Jim Sass**, Member

### NRCS Partners

**Clint Geldine**, NRCS District Conservationist

**Emma Jahns**, NRCS Soil Conservationist

**Joe Rumschlag**, NRCS Engineering Technician

*Have an interest in conservation? Want to help  
guide the district? We are looking for candidates  
for our Board of Supervisors.*

*Contact the office for more information!*

Find us on:

**facebook.**



**240 W. Lake Street  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449  
419-898-1595**



Women In Conservation!

The Ottawa SWCD will once again host the “Women in Conservation” series in 2024. The goal of these workshops is to introduce different environmental topics and activities to women in a safe and fun environment. We are currently working on topics for our 2024 workshops that are held once a month April Thru September. Past sessions have included: brewery & orchard tour, fermentation class, wildlife photography, archery, canoeing, shooting and gun safety, fishing, and much more! If you would like to receive a brochure on the program once it is finalized, and have not attended for the past 3 years, please contact Becky Simpson at 419-607-4027 or email [becky.simpson@ottawaswcd.com](mailto:becky.simpson@ottawaswcd.com).



2024 Area Envirothon!!

The 2024 Area Envirothon is taking place on April 24th in Allen County at the OSU Lima/Rhodes State College Campus. The program encourages cooperative decision making, team building, and problem solving, while teaching high school students about the diversity and management of natural resources, environmental careers, and environmental challenges.

The 5-member teams will be tested in 5 different categories: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues, which for 2024 is “Renewable Energy for Sustainable Future”.

We would like to congratulate the 2023 Port Clinton Team (pictured above) for placing 3rd in Area 1 and 5th overall in the State Competition!!

Find out more about Area 1 Envirothon by contacting our office or go to [www.area1envirothon.com](http://www.area1envirothon.com).

Day on the Wild Side

Date: July 25, 2024

For the past 14 years, the Ottawa SWCD in cooperation with Winous Point Marsh Conservancy, ODNR Division of Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have invited youth in grades 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> to spend “A DAY ON THE WILD SIDE.” Participants have had an opportunity to learn many different outdoor skills in a safe and fun environment. Some of the activities have included: **archery, bird banding, fishing, canoeing, shooting, wildlife law enforcement, and learning the importance of habitat.**

If your student (5th—8th grade) has never attended in the past, and you would like to receive future correspondence regarding this event, please send an e-mail to [becky.simpson@ottawaswcd.com](mailto:becky.simpson@ottawaswcd.com) or contact Becky Simpson at 419-607-4027.



Coming up next

March

- 9: Ottawa SWCD Board Meeting
- 15: AG Breakfast
- 16: Pheasants Forever Banquet
- 17-23: National Ag Week

April

- 9: Ottawa SWCD Board Meeting
- 17: Women in Conservation
- 18: Tree Pick Up
- 24: Area 1 Envirothon

May

- 14: Ottawa SWCD Board Meeting
- 15: Women in Conservation
- 16: Fish Sale Pickup
- 27: Office Closed

June

- 2-4: State Envirothon
- 11: Ottawa SWCD Board Meeting
- 12: Women in Conservation
- 19: Office Closed

July

- 4: Office Closed
- 9: Ottawa SWCD Board Meeting
- 14– 21: Ottawa County Fair
- 17: Women in Conservation
- 25: Day on the Wildside

Chad Gargas: 419-340-1202



Thank  
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240 W. Lake Street  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449  
419-898-1595  
[ottawaswcd.com](http://ottawaswcd.com)



Office: (419) 663-2457  
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## H2Ohio Keeps Growing

Governor DeWine’s H2Ohio program has been a great benefit to Ottawa County and water quality. The District has helped the Department of Natural Resources facilitate millions of dollars of work in Ottawa County on state and federal lands as well as in the private sector. Contractors have been busy keeping up with the interest that this program has developed.

On the agricultural side, nearly 100 farmers are now in the H2Ohio program and following nutrient management plans on nearly 50,000 acres in Ottawa County. This program is the most important step that has been taken for water quality in our region. Correctly identifying nutrient needs on our fields and putting those nutrients where they should go is a huge step in reducing phosphorus runoff to the lake.



### H2Ohio Participants

Participants in H2Ohio should check with the SWCD to see if we have all of their documentation needed to make payments this spring. This would be seed receipts, seed germ tags and any fertilizer records of application. They should also be checking in with their agronomist to see what the progress is on their Nutrient Management Plan and if updates are needed. Adhering to the NMP is crucial for the producer to receive payment for cover crops planted in the fall of 2023 and other practices.

## Salt Smart

Did you know it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems?

### S.A.L.T. SMART BEST PRACTICES

**Stuff:** Road salt (sodium chloride) works best above 20°F. For colder temperatures, you can use a small amount of sand for added traction, or switch to melting product designed to work at colder temperatures.

**Amount:** Contrary to popular belief, spreading more salt does not improve deicing. One 12-ounce coffee cup full of salt is enough to cover about 10 standard sidewalk squares. There should be about 3 inches between salt granules. Using a spread helps ensure consistent spacing, and you always sweep up excess salt if you find you’ve used too much.

**Location:** Salt only belongs on your sidewalk and driveway. That means there’s no need to salt your lawn, flower beds, or the bases of trees. Accidentally applying salt to these areas will likely harm your plants!

**Timing:** Salt works best when applied before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from your sidewalk or driveway. Never apply salt when rain is in the forecast, as it will wash away into the storm drain and out into our waterways.

*Information provided by the Stormwater Coalition, a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG).*

## GLRI and Maumee AOC

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) are two programs that have helped bring funding into Ottawa County for water quality.



The District acquired a wetland property along Turtle Creek in Benton Township this year through the AOC program. Funding was provided for the acquisition and restoration of the property. Most of the work is complete now with just grass and tree seedlings to be done. This property will become a land lab for the district, schools and the public to use when it is finished.

Several other large projects are in the engineering stages for work to be done on Packer Creek. These projects will use a combination of wetlands, 2-stage ditches and other common best management practices to help with flood stage waters on the creek. Physical construction will begin soon on this project.

Great Lakes Restoration funds were also used for several ARTS projects (see below). This has been an innovative relationship between needed drainage and improving water quality through the creation and enhancement of wetlands.



## Program Spotlight: ARTS—Ag Runoff Treatment Systems



Treating agricultural runoff or drainage has become more and more important over the years as we try to determine better ways to solve the algal bloom issues on Lake Erie. We know that wetlands are nature’s “kidneys” and provide natural cleansing of the water as well as habitat for wildlife. Because our neck of the woods was part of the Great Black Swamp, we also know that our soil types are well suited to becoming wetlands again, so drainage is very important to continued agricultural production.

Using that idea, we are working with landowners to solve two important issues in our landscape. Providing good drainage and improving water quality. We are doing this by combining resources from various programs that see the benefit in both. To create an Agricultural Runoff Treatment System (ARTS), we are working with landowners/farmers that have a traditionally wet area and enhancing that through a managed wetland. Funding has been through the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program or through other means such as H2Ohio, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds and through other partners.

To create the drainage benefit, we design a surface water and/or tile capture system that directs all of the agricultural runoff to a pump system to deliver the water to the wetland. Funding to do this has also come from various sources. The landowner takes over responsibility of the pump system upon completion as well as enjoys the added benefits of the tiling and ditch enhancements.

Currently there are half a dozen such projects in Ottawa County with more being planned. In all cases, this has been a win-win for the producer and for water quality. Taking out the worst portions of a field and enhancing the wetland creates better drainage, better yields on the remaining cropland, less nutrient loss, less crop insurance claims, and provides the opportunity for the wetland to work its wonders capturing those nutrients and keeping them out of Lake Erie.

If you would be interested in learning more about the ARTS program, contact our office to make an appointment to look at your property and the possibilities it holds.

*Thank You*  
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240 W. Lake Street  
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419-898-1595  
[ottawaswcd.com](http://ottawaswcd.com)

Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District

2024 Tree Sale

# PER PACKET	VARIETY	SIZE	AMOUNT	# ORDERED	COST
10	Colorado Blue Spruce	9"-15"	\$10.00/packet		
10	Norway Spruce	14"-20"	\$20.00/packet		
10	Shellbark Hickory	12"-18"	\$25.00/packet		
10	Bald Cypress	12"-18"	\$15.00/packet		
10	White Cedar	7"-12"	\$10.00/packet		
10	Wildlife Tree Pack (Native)	6"-12"	\$25.00/packet		
10	Pollinator Tree Pack (Native)	12"-18"	\$30.00/packet		
10	Nut Tree Pack (Native)	12"-18"	\$30.00/packet		
1	Green Rocket Hybrid Cedar	14"-26"	\$15.00/each		
1	River Birch	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Redbud	4-5 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Red Oak	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Swamp White Oak	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Red Maple	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Black Cherry	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Sycamore	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Tulip Poplar	4-5 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	Black Walnut	2-3 ft.	\$30.00/each		
1	American Elm	5-6 ft.	\$30.00/each		

Deadline for ordering is  
Thursday, March 29, 2024

Numbers are limited. To assure receiving  
your selection, we suggest ordering  
promptly.

Pick up day will be April 18, 2024.  
A postcard reminder will be sent to  
you in early April.

NOTICE:

Trees not picked up within 1 week of assigned  
pick-up day will not be eligible for a refund.

\*\*\*\*\*New this Year, due to limited quantities, orders must be placed online at ottawaswcd.com or  
in person at our office located at 240 W. Lake St. Unit B, Oak Harbor, OH 43449\*\*\*\*\*

2024 Spring Fish Sale

SPECIES	PRICE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Bluegill – 2-4"	1.00 each		
Hybrid Bluegill - 2-4"	1.00 each		
Channel Catfish – 4-5"	.90 each		
Fathead Minnow—1-3"	.10 each		
Largemouth Bass – 2-3"	1.30 each		
White Amur – 8-10" (Grass Carp)	16.00 each		
Perch – 2-3"	1.10 each		
Red Ear Shellcracker (Sunfish) - 2-4"	1.00 each		
Japanese Koi - 5-7"	13.00 each		
Nature's Pond Conditioner—1 Gallon (treats 1/4 acre)	90.00		
****Go to ottawaswcd.com to order online or to print an order form!!!*****		Subtotal	
		Sales Tax 7%	
		TOTAL (with Sales Tax)	

Or  
ORDER ONLINE!  
ottawaswcd.com

Order deadline: Friday, May 3rd Pick-up Date: May 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:30pm

Please mail your check (made payable to Ottawa SWCD) and this form to  
240 W. Lake Street, Unit B, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449.

WE REQUEST THAT ALL ORDERS BE PREPAID – THANKS!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



240 W. Lake Street  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449  
419-898-1595  
ottawaswcd.com

NOTICE:

You will need to bring your own container, filled with pond water. A trash container  
(with a plastic trash liner) is ideal. A 5-10 gallon (clean) bucket is adequate for 100 fish.

For more info call 419-898-1595