



LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.lorainswcd.com

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 46

THE LATITUDE / LONGITUDE
41° 21' 09" N. - 82° 08' 55" W.

WINTER/ SPRING 2024

LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2024 SEEDLING SALE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve the natural resources and environment in Lorain County.

The 2024 Annual Conservation Seedling Sale is now underway at the Lorain County Conservation District office. Reserve the items that you would like now. They will be ready for pick-up in time for spring planting. Orders are accepted on a first come, first served basis since there is a limited number of each packet available.



We will have a drop off box located in the foyer of the Ag center. Orders and payment can be dropped off in the yellow box or in our office. Order forms will also be available in the foyer.

Orders will be taken until stock sells out – so order early!

Reminder post cards will be sent out one week prior to pick-up.

Payment must accompany order.



Order pick-up date is

One Day Only:

Friday, April 12, 2024

11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Pick-up is at Grobe Fruit Farm

**43875 Telegraph Road (SR 113),
 Elyria**

Most seedlings will easily fit in a grocery bag. Extra seedlings or packets will be for sale during pick-up times. All stock is inspected and offered without warranty.

The District is not responsible for survival of the seedlings after pickup.

Please check and inspect your order before you leave the pick-up location.

For best results and survival rates, seedlings should be planted as soon as possible after pick-up. No refunds will be made on orders not picked up. Do not call Grobe Fruit Farm. Visit our website at lorainswcd.com to print an order form.

Check out LSWCD - The Early Years, part two on page 7

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Pictured is the original sign for Lorain SWCD back when the office was located on Telegraph Rd. in Elyria.

NACD 2024 POSTER CONTEST



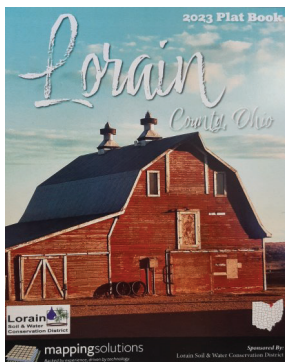
The annual National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest for 2024 is open for submissions! The 2024 theme is “**May The Forest Be With You Always**”. This contest starts at the local SWCD level, moves on to the State, and then to the national competition. It is open to public, private, and home schooled students grades K-12, and the top three posters in each grade category in the national contest win monetary prizes! Lorain County Conservation District is sponsoring the local contest. Cash awards will be given for 1st (\$50.00) and 2nd (\$25.00) place in the following grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. All winners will be sent on to the State contest and will also be featured in the Lorain SWCD Fair Barn during fair week. For more information on the competition, please contact the office at 440-326-5800. Posters must be turned into the Conservation office, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Visit our website for the entry form & more information. <https://www.lorainswcd.com/nacd>

Have you checked out our website lately? Many updates & informative pages have been added. Visit <https://www.lorainswcd.com/> & let us know what you think!

2024 AREA II OHIO ENVIROTHON



Envirothon is an outdoor academic competition in which teams of high school students test their knowledge of natural resource topics and current environmental issues. Each team consists of five students, all from the same high school. They work cooperatively as a team to answer questions at five test stations. The tests are graded and the top four teams are recognized. There are five areas of study: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and this year’s Current Environmental Issue: “**Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.**” The Area 2 Envirothon will be held April 24, 2024 at the Kidron Community Center, 4434 Kidron Rd., Kidron, OH 44636 in Wayne County. The State Envirothon will be held at Hocking College in Nelsonville, OH.



2023 PLAT BOOKS - Stop in our office to pick one up today! Office hours: M-F 8am-4:30pm.

\$25+ tax



Wellington FFA 2023 Envirothon team: L-R: Dustin Andolsek, Jillian Stannard, Scotty Hook, Alaina Collins and Heather Reiningger

For more information, including registration forms & much more, visit our website at: <https://www.lorainswcd.com/envirothon> or call (440) 326-5800. Or you can pick up an informational packet from any Lorain County High School counselor.

RENEWABLE ENERGY



FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

JOEL MCROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Scholarship

The Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship was created in 1998 in memory of Joel, who was a District Technician with the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District for 20 years. Joel died in 1997 of leukemia. The scholarship was created at the request of his widow Connie McRoberts, of Litchfield.

Joel McRoberts was a big supporter of agriculture and higher education. Although he never attended college, he understood the value of education and always encouraged students to further their education and better themselves. Joel was devoted to farming and the farmers in Lorain County. He had a deep appreciation of our natural resources and their protection. This memorial scholarship is administered in his honor.

The scholarship is available to any student in Lorain County who will be majoring in an agriculture or natural resources management related field at any two or four year college. They must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

With the generosity of the individuals in Lorain County, the scholarship has grown with time, expanding to include two awards annually: one for an incoming college freshman and one for any current college student with at least one year completed. If you would like to make a donation to our scholarship fund, please contact the SWCD Office.

Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship is offered by the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00. High school seniors (Lorain County residents) who will enroll in an agricultural or natural resource related two or four-year course of study are eligible to apply. **Application deadline is Friday, April 19, 2024.**

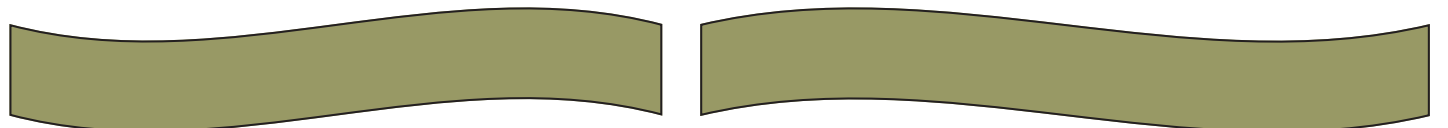
Joel McRoberts Continuing Education Scholarship:

This scholarship is offered by the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00. Applicants (Lorain County residents) must be enrolled as a full-time student in a two or four-year course of study, in an agricultural or natural resource related field. **Application deadline is Friday, July 26, 2024.**

Applications can be found by visiting our website: www.lorainswcd.com, from your high school guidance counselor, or from the Lorain SWCD office, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH, 44035, or by calling (440) 326-5800.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Our board of supervisors decided to award a second scholarship to a 2023 graduating senior high school student, Joel Polen of Elyria. Joel graduated from Firelands School and will be studying Ag Business with a minor in Animal Science at Wilmington College. Congratulations to Joel and best of luck to you!



Donate to the Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship Fund!

Would you like to help a young student on their college journey to an agricultural or natural resources related field? Donations can be made anytime of the year for the Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship Fund. To make your donation, send or drop off a check or cash donation to the Lorain County Conservation District (SWCD), 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035. We appreciate support of any size and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!!

EVERGREENS

Norway Spruce: Excellent tree for wind-break and wildlife cover. Deer generally leave this evergreen alone. This fast-growing spruce grows best on well-drained soils and will tolerate a lot of shade. It will retain its dense drooping branches as the tree matures. Grows to 50 ft.

E. Red Cedar: When is a cedar not a cedar? When it's an eastern red-cedar. This native evergreen grows prolifically in pastures and open fields that are not routinely mowed or maintained. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, including saltier areas along roads & driveways. A moderate to long-lived evergreen, red-cedar grows up to 40' tall.

HARDWOOD SPECIES

Sugar maple: The sugar maple is one of America's most-loved trees. Boasting gorgeous fall color, the sugar maple is not picky about sun or shade, but prefers moist soils. Height at maturity: 60-75'.

PawPaw: A small to medium sized tree whose fruit is valuable to both humans and wildlife. Grows 25 to 40 ft. in height. Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants, so plant several trees near each other.

Ohio Buckeye: Found primarily as an understory tree in the western half of Ohio, where the soils are more alkaline in pH. our state tree may reach 60 feet tall, but as an understory species, it is often half that size. It prefers moist, well-drained soils of variable pH that are rich and deep, in partially sunny to partially shaded conditions. It adapts to average soils that are occasionally dry.

American Chestnut Hybrid: A fast growing hybrid reaching a height of 80 to 100 ft. Spread 30 to 40 ft. Best planted in full sun in well drained soil. Although both male and female flowers can be produced on the same tree, they need another American Chestnut for good pollination and nut production, so we recommend buying several! Limited quantities!

Hackberry: A deciduous tree from the Elm Family. Medium growth rate with a mature height of 80' in full sun. Hackberry can adapt to a variety of sites, including soils that are wet or dry, clay or rocky, rich or poor. It is also very pollution tolerant, as it thrives in the smog and dirty water runoff of cities.

Sweet Gum: Large tree with a mature height of 90 ft. and a 60 ft. spread. Does best in deep moist soils. Beautiful orange and red fall colors. Commonly used for windbreaks, erosion control, reforestation, and wetland restoration.

River Birch: A multi-stemmed small tree reaching up to 25 feet tall. Grows best in light shade in slightly acidic soils. Reaches a height of 30 ft. with a spread of 15 to 20 ft.

SHRUBS/SMALL TREES

Winterberry Holly: A deciduous holly, that grows 8-12 ft. tall and wide, with white flowers clusters in May. Bright red berries in early September persist through winter, providing necessary food for birds.

Wafer Ash: Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*), also known as Common Hop Tree, is a small, deciduous, understory shrub or tree with a thin, crooked trunk. This multi-stemmed tree can withstand somewhat-degraded habitats, as it prefers medium-dry to dry soils. The flowers smell amazing! Sold as a small 2.5" plug.

Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle: A great shrub for those difficult dry, shaded areas. It has beautiful fall foliage (especially if planted in sunnier spots) & is a favorite of native bees, as well as being a host plant for clearwing hummingbird moths. It stays a nice 3' tall by 3' wide size.

Eastern Redbud: Redbuds are very adaptable trees that will grow in most any soil, even poor soils. They prefer a moist but well-drained soil of average fertility. Established trees will even tolerate periods of dry soil. Grows to 25' in full to partial sun.

White-flowering Dogwood: An excellent landscape choice for all four seasons, the white dogwood is a favorite in many yards and gardens. White "flowers" show their beauty in spring, foliage turns a vibrant red-purple in fall, and glossy red fruits attract winter songbirds. This tree offers nice contrast when planted along with E. Redbuds or evergreens like E. red-cedar. Can reach 15 feet tall and 20 feet wide & prefers evenly moist, well-drained, fertile, deep soils of acidic pH, in partial sun.

Common Ninebark: An excellent native shrub for year-round interest, the arching branches give this shrub a full, mounded shape. Ninebark makes an excellent hedge plant and provides good erosion control. Can reach up to 10 feet tall in full sun to part shade.

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS



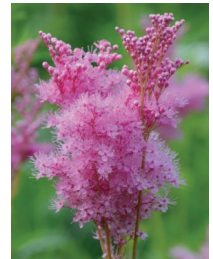
Thin-leaved blue star



Smooth aster



Hairy Wood-mint



Queen of the Prairie



Western Indian Physic



Crimson-eyed Rose Mallow



Monkeyflower



Cardinal Flower



Blue-eyed grass



Fox sedge

Visit our [website](#) for detailed descriptions of bloom periods, size, and preferred habitat of our native perennial wildflowers & woody species.

2024 SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone (required) _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

**PLACE YOUR ORDERS EARLY! Orders will be taken until stock sells out. Checks made payable to:
 Lorain SWCD. Return this form with payment to: 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria OH 44035**

Trees & Shrubs				
5 Seedlings Per Bundle (unless otherwise noted)				
	Size	Qty	Cost	Total
Sugar Maple	1-2 Ft.		12.00	
Winterberry Holly	12-24"		12.00	
Eastern Red Bud	12-24"		12.00	
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	12-18"		12.00	
Paw Paw	6-12"		12.00	
White Flowering Dogwood	12-18"		10.00	
Eastern Red Cedar	1-0		10.00	
American Chestnut Hybrid (One per pot)	1-2 Ft. Potted		11.00	
Norway Spruce	1-0		10.00	
Hackberry	1-0		10.00	
Ninebark	1-0		10.00	
Ohio Buckeye	1-0		10.00	
Sweetgum	1-0		10.00	
River Birch	1-0		10.00	
Total A				

Native Perennial Wildflowers			
2.5" potted plants (unless noted otherwise)			
	Qty	Cost	Total
Thin-Leaved Blue Star		4.00	
Smooth Aster		4.00	
Hairy Wood Mint		4.00	
Queen-of-the-Prairie		4.00	
Western Indian Physic		4.00	
Crimson-eyed Rose Mallow		4.00	
Cardinal Flower		4.00	
Monkey Flower		4.00	
Blue Eyed Grass		4.00	
Fox Sedge		4.00	
Wafer Ash, Hop Tree		4.00	
Total B			

Miscellaneous Items			
	Qty	Cost	Total
Northeast Annual & Perennial Wildflower Mix (1 Ounce Packet)		5.00	
Wildlife Food Plot Mix (Whitetail 365) 1 bag plants 0.5 acre (25# bag)		60.00	
Garden Cover Crop Mix 1lb Packet Available for pickup in August		7.00	
Marker Flags .15 each 25/\$3.50, 50/\$6.00			
Total C			

Total A + _____
 Total B + _____
 Total C + _____
 Subtotal + _____
 Sales tax (6.50%) + _____
 Total = _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____ Rec. No. _____
 Check No. _____ Cash _____

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Newly elected Board Supervisors, Carl Wesemeyer and Peggy Vasu are sworn in by Will Schlechter, Board Chair



Special thanks to Michelle Hung, David Moore and Jeff Riddell, Lorain County Commissioners for their continued support to Lorain County Conservation District!

The District welcomed Carl Wesemeyer and Peggy Vasu at their first official Board meeting of the new year on January 16, 2024. Both were elected to three-year terms after voting was held last fall at our Annual Meeting. They will be serving their terms alongside fellow Supervisors Will Schlechter, Roger Nikiforow and Ian Wilkshire. As Board Supervisors, they will help oversee the operations of the District.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!
Thank you to Jessica Doehr for serving as a member of the Lorain SWCD Board of Supervisors from 2015-2023! We would also like to thank Angela Schriver for serving as a board member for the past three years!
Your service was greatly appreciated and you both will be missed!



**FOR SALE!
BAT BOXES,
BLUEBIRD
& WREN
HOUSES**

NINTH ANNUAL BIG TREE CONTEST



We are kicking off our Ninth Annual Big Tree Contest starting right now! This year we are looking for Lorain County's biggest **Weeping Willow** (*Salix babylonica*) tree. Each tree will receive a score based on trunk circumference, crown spread, and total height to determine the winner. This contest is sponsored by Don Mould's Plantation. Please visit our website at www.lorainswcd.com or our Facebook page for contest rules.



2023 Big Tree Winner—Richard & Christine Smith
Species: Sycamore

Lorain County Conservation District continues to reflect on the past 75 years. The 1970s ushered in a lot of change in Lorain County. The Lorain County Soil Survey was completed & published. The District's Long-Range Program was updated to meet the needs of changing land use in the County. Concurrently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Lorain County Regional Planning Commission to aid with urban planning & land use decisions.

In 1970, the Wildlife Packet program began. Tree & shrub seedlings to promote wildlife were available to the public at a nominal cost, and the tradition continues to this day. (In fact, the 2024 order form is included in this newsletter!) Since its inception, over one million trees & shrubs have been distributed to residents of Lorain County!

The 1980s brought the importance of pollution abatement, both urban & on the farm. Emphasis was on the installation of animal waste systems & demonstrations of different types of tillage practices, planting methods, and fertilizer & pesticide applications, many of which were conducted at the Lorain County Demo Plot. The Demo Plot provided a convenient location to gather residents as it was adjacent to the fairgrounds in Wellington. It was in use for several years until additional space for fair parking was needed.

The ever-popular Rainfall Reporting Program began in 1982. Every year, volunteer residents from across the County diligently track & record rainfall from April-September. Results are posted in the Soil & Water barn at the fairgrounds during Fair Week.

1988 marked the construction of the new Lorain County Agricultural Center at 42110 Russia Rd., where we still reside to this day, though the silo no longer stands at the entrance. The previous building was located at 42670 Telegraph Rd. (pictured is the original sign)



Bob Pickworth, Jim Sheffield & an unidentified man constructing an animal waste holding structure in 1972.

We'll take a look at the 90s through now in our next newsletter. Stay tuned!

SPRING FISH SALE

We are now taking orders for fingerling-size fish for stocking your ponds!

ORDERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED:

**THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024
10:00 AM–11:30 AM
AG CENTER PARKING LOT
42110 RUSSIA ROAD**

ORDER DEADLINE

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

Remember to enclose payment with your order (see last page for order form.)

Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Red ear Shellcracker, Fathead Minnows, Japanese Koi, Triploid White Amur and Yellow Perch are all available.

You will need to bring a container filled with **your** pond water to pick up your order. Approximately 5 gallons of water for each 100 fingerling size fish is needed. We suggest using a trash

can with a new, **unscented plastic liner**—then add the pond water so the top of the bag can be tied shut for transportation. Remember, the Amur are 10"-12" long and need a suitable container.

Triploid White Amur are stocked to control leafy pond vegetation. Algae is not a preferred food. Since the Amur were first stocked in Ohio in the fall of 1987, you may need to replace your Amur. The life expectancy is in the 10 to 12 year range. Recommended stocking rates for the Amur are 2 to 5, per surface acre of water, based on how much weed cover is in the pond at its worst point over the summer.

Stocking recommendation for Largemouth Bass is 100 and for Bluegill 500 per surface acre of pond area. Yellow Perch and Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker) can be stocked at 100 per surface acre of pond as well.

Channel Catfish can be stocked in ponds that are half an acre or larger. Catfish will not reproduce in a pond, however, they provide excellent fishing. The stocking rate is 50 per surface acre of pond area. A 4"-6" long Catfish stocked this spring will double in size by next spring.

Japanese Koi will eat aquatic vegetation such as duckweed and water meal, while adding a little color to your pond. The recommended stocking rate is no more than 5 Koi per acre.

Nature's Pond Conditioner is a once-a-year treatment that adds a natural green color, while lowering fertility levels in your pond.

We have also included in the fish sale, the opportunity to purchase Steve Fender's book, titled "Pond Management" 2018 Edition for purchase at \$20.00 each.



LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

42110 Russia Rd., Elyria Ohio 44035 Phone: 440-326-5800 www.lorainswcd.com

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Will Schlechter, Chairman
 Ian Wilkshire, Vice Chair
 Carl Wesemeyer, Secretary
 Roger Nikiforow, Treasurer
 Peggy Vasu, Member

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lawry Babitt
 John Born
 Dave Manning
 Bob Pandey

DISTRICT STAFF

Patti Donnellan, District Administrator
 Jack Fisher, Stormwater Specialist
 Lynne Parsh, Office Manager

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michelle Hung
 David Moore
 Jeff Riddell



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone # (required): _____

Order deadline date: Friday, April 26, 2024

Order pick-up date: Thursday, May 2, 2024

From: 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Checks made payable to: Lorain SWCD

Mail and return with payment to: Lorain SWCD
 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria OH 44035

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># Ordered</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	\$1.30	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.00	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.00	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.90	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	5-7"	\$13.00	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$1.00	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	Per 100	\$8.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$16.00	_____	_____
Pond Management-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$20.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 gallon per 1/4 acre		\$90.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein) <small>no sales tax</small>		\$48.00	_____	_____
			SUB TOTAL	\$ _____
			TAX 6.50%	\$ _____
			TOTAL	\$ _____