



LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.lorainswcd.com

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 50

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

WINTER/SPRING 2026

LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2026 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 2026 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 17, 2026

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.

2025 Conservationist of the Year!



Our 2025 Conservationist of the Year, Jeanie Girman. Pictured here is Jeannie and District Administrator, Patti Donnellan

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NACD 2026 POSTER CONTEST

Soil.
Where it all Begins



The annual National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest for 2026 is open for submissions! The 2026 theme is **“Soil. Where it all Begins”**. 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 Soil & Water 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 Friday, May 1, 2026. Visit our website for the entry form & more information. <https://www.lorainswcd.com/nacd>

2026 AREA II OHIO ENVIROTHON

Lorain County might be the host for the 2027 Area 2 Envirothon! We would love to see lots of teams from all over Lorain County represented. Contact us for more info on getting a team together or to sponsor the event.

You can also find more details on our website at: www.lorainswcd.com/envirothon



Wellington FFA 2025 Envirothon teams. The teams consisted of first row: (L-R) Sophia Lyon, Daisy Bockmore, Alexa Gallion, Katherine Stannard & Morgan Denes. Second row: (L-R) Wyatt Norton, Doug Mohrman, Tyler Burns, Nicholas Sword, & Max Hook.

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: **“Non-Point Source Pollution: It begins at home!”** The Area 2 Envirothon will be held April 29, 2026 at the Holden Arboretum, 9550 Sperry Rd., Kirkland, OH. The State Envirothon will be held at Franciscan University in Jefferson County. For more information, including registration forms & much more, visit our website at: <https://www.lorainswcd.com/envirothon> or call (440) 326-5800. You can also pick up an informational packet from any Lorain County High School counselor.

JOEL MCROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Scholarship

The Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship was created in 1998 in memory of Joel, who was a District Technician with 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. A minimum GPA of 2.5. is required.

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 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 24, 2026.**

Joel McRoberts Continuing Education Scholarship:

This scholarship is offered by 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, May 29, 2026.**

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

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 to Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035. We appreciate support of any size and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

2026 Lorain County Conservation District Annual Seedling Sale

Plant Descriptions

EVERGREENS

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

Excellent tree for windbreak and wildlife cover. Deer generally do not browse this evergreen. 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 feet.

HARDWOOD TREES

N. Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*):

Our 2026 choice for our annual Big Tree Contest! A lovely landscape tree with large, showy flowers in early summer. Grows to 50 feet tall. Great shade tree with large, heart-shaped leaves. Also called cigar tree for its long, dark brown seed pods.

American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

Sycamores love our damp Lorain County soils. You can find these large, stately trees along rivers & streams. Look for the bright white bark of mature trees. 75-100 feet tall. Fast growth, especially in full sun.

Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

Their mature height depends on growing conditions, with rich, well-drained soil and full sun encouraging faster growth. Open grown walnuts tend to be shorter & wider, typically up to ~60 feet. Important wildlife tree.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*): the king of trees! White oak supports more species than any other tree in Ohio. Found statewide in diverse habitats, it's a tall (80-100 feet), long-lived species (centuries), with lobed leaves and beautiful, reddish-brown fall color, making it an important timber and landscape tree.

SHRUBS/SMALL TREES

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

Patti D.'s pick for favorite shrub. This native shrub can be found in the SE states but is predicted to do well as our growing zones shift northward. Clusters of pale pink flowers precede explosions of bright magenta edible berries. Does best in full sun. Grows to 6 feet tall & wide. It's stunning!

Pink azalea 'Boudoir' (*Rhododendron hybrid*) Looking for long lasting color in a hardy shrub? Azaleas have long been a favorite for landscaping for their perfect landscaping size, evergreen foliage, & showy flowers. Up to 5 feet tall & wide in part shade.

Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*): Known for its early spring, fragrant, white blossoms, small yellow-to-red edible fruit in late summer, and distinctive peeling bark, wild plum offers benefits to pollinators and wildlife. It's also a great native replacement for invasive pears, thriving in full sun and well-drained soil across Ohio. Grows to 20 feet.

TREE PACKS – We've taken the guesswork out of what to buy. We have 4 different packs to choose from this year!

Wildlife Pack: Packed with nutritious goodness, this pack contains 2 of each: swamp white oak, hazelnut, ninebark, American plum, and red-osier dogwood. This mix is sure to please all your local feathered & furred neighborhood wildlife.

Wild Berry Pack: Looking for fruiting plants for jams or to feed wildlife? This pack contains 3 elderberries, 3 red currant, 2 Allegheny serviceberry, & 2 red mulberry.

Beauty Pack: This flowering pack will provide beauty for months on end! You get 2 of each of: redbud, serviceberry, lilac, flowering dogwood, black chokeberry. Their fall leaf color is just as stunning!

Wetland Pack: Do you have a low, wet area that you'd like to plant? This selection of 2 each of spicebush, pussy willow, river birch, button bush, & nannyberry viburnum is for you!

WILDFLOWER SPECIES



Purple passionflower



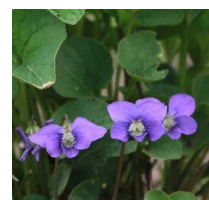
Wild petunia



Winged monkeyflower



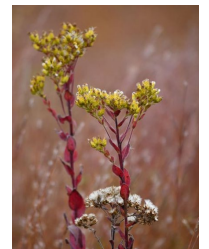
Seedbox



Blue violets



Ohio spiderwort



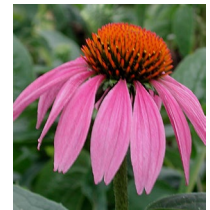
Stiff goldenrod



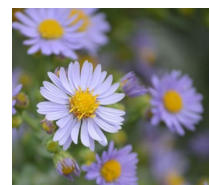
Royal catchfly



Mountain mint



Purple coneflower



Smooth aster



Anise hyssop

ORDER PICK UP:

Friday, April 17th, 11am – 6pm
Grobe Fruit Farm
43875 Telegraph Rd, Elyria,
44035

2026 SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM

Page 5

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
American Beautyberry	1-0		12.00	
Black Walnut	1-0		12.00	
Norway Spruce	1-0		12.00	
Sycamore	1-0		12.00	
White Oak	1-0		12.00	
Wild Plum	1-0		12.00	
Catalpa	2-0		12.00	
Azalea Pink (1 shrub)	4-8" pot		6.00	
Tree Packs - 10 seedlings per pack				
Beauty Pack			38.00	
Wetland Pack			38.00	
Wild Berry Pack			35.00	
Wildlife Pack			30.00	
Total A				

Native Perennial Wildflowers

2.5" potted plants

	Qty	Cost	Total
Anise Hyssop		4.50	
Smooth Aster		4.50	
Purple Cornflower		4.50	
Hoary Mountain Mint		4.50	
Royal Catchfly		4.50	
Stiff Goldenrod		4.50	
Ohio Spiderwort		4.50	
Common Blue Violet		4.50	
Seedbox		4.50	
Monkeyflower		4.50	
Purple Passion Vine		4.50	
Hairy Wild Petunia		4.50	
Total B			

Add on Item

	Qty	Cost	Total
Marker Flags		.25 each	
Marker Flags		25/ \$6.00	
2023 Plat Books		25.00	
Total C			

Total A + _____

Total B + _____

Total C + _____

Subtotal + _____

Sales tax (6.50%) + _____

Total = _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____ Rec. No. _____

Check No. _____ Cash _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



Will Schlechter, Ian Wilkshire (Board Chair) and Tom Holmes (ODA Program Specialist). Will was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his 15 years of service.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL BIG TREE CONTEST- NORTHERN CATALPA

We are kicking off our Eleventh Annual Big Tree Contest starting right now! This year we are looking for Lorain County's biggest **Northern Catalpa** (*Catalpa speciosa*) 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 the Original Don Mould's Plantation. Please visit our website at www.lorainswcd.com/big-tree-contest or our Facebook page for contest rules.



N. Catalpa is a great landscape tree with large, fragrant flowers & heart shaped leaves. Catalpa is often called cigar tree for its long, brown seed pods.



HELLO & GOODBYE

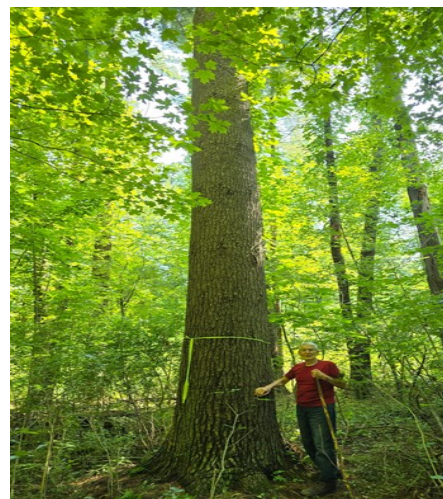
Trent Hill was sworn in at the first official Board meeting of the new year on January 20, 2026. Trent was elected to a three-year term after voting was held last fall at our Annual Meeting. He will be serving his term alongside fellow Supervisors Ian Wilkshire, Carl Wesemeyer, Kolin Bendickson and Peggy Vasu. As Board Supervisors, they will help oversee the operations of the District.

The District said goodbye to Will Schlechter at their December board meeting. Will served on the board of supervisors for 15 years! His knowledge of and dedication to the county were incomparable and he will be missed.

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



Ian Wilkshire & Trent Hill congratulate each other after being sworn in as Supervisors for the 2026-2028 term.



2025 Big Tree Winner– John Arnold
Species: White Pine

SPRING FISH SALE

Fish order form on back page. You must include sales tax at 6.5%. If you are tax exempt, please include a fully completed tax exempt certificate with your order.

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

ORDERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED:

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026
****12:00 PM—1:30 PM****
 AG CENTER PARKING LOT
 42110 RUSSIA ROAD

ORDER DEADLINE

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

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.

Please bring enough containers to hold the purchased fish. Five-gallon buckets work well. Each container must have an **UNSCENTED** poly liner (30 gallon trash bag). The bags are necessary to hold oxygen to keep the fish alive during transport.

Do not use a lid; use a twist tie or twine to close the bag. Each container shall be filled with customer pond water, but just **one-third full**. General rule of thumb: one container per 100 small fish, one container per 1,000 minnows, one container per 4-5 amurs and koi.

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 \$25.00 each.

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026
1 - 3PM

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE CREATION OF 2.5 ACRES OF POLLINATOR HABITAT AT THE LORAIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

42110 RUSSIA RD., ELYRIA, OH 44035
 440-326-5800

Logos: Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, John Stangle Family, Lorain County, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, LEAP, NFWF

Lots to celebrate in Lorain County! Stop by our office Friday, May 15th from 1-3pm to help seed our pollinator plot. Seeds will be provided.

Our Black River is getting closer to being de-listed as an Area of Concern (AOC) as two more impairments have been removed. Learn more at www.blackriveraoc.com or call 440-406-3365.

BLACK RIVER AOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BLACK RIVER AOC MILESTONES!

Our Black River is now TWO steps closer to being de-listed as an Area of Concern (AOC)!

Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) removed:

- ✓ Degradation of Fish & Wildlife Populations
- ✓ Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat

One remaining BUI:

- Degradation of Benthos

QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO:

440-406-3365
www.blackriveraoc.com

TARGET FOR DE-LISTING: Spring 2027

This advertisement was financed in part or totally through a Ohio EPA Lake Erie Management Assistance Agreement from the US EPA through an assistance agreement with the Ohio EPA.

Logos: Black River AOC, Ohio EPA, Lake Erie Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Ian Wilkshire, Chairman
Carl Wesemeyer, Vice-Chair
Kolin Bendickson, Secretary
Peggy Vasu, Treasurer
Trent Hill, Member

ASSOCIATE

SUPERVISORS

John Born
Bob Pandey
Kathleen Bradley
Lawry Babitt

DISTRICT STAFF

Andy Cooksey, Drainage Engineer
Patti Donnellan, District Administrator
Jack Fisher, Stormwater Specialist
Hayden Matus, Conservation Technician
Lynne Parsh, Office Manager

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist
Annie Wolodzko, Resource Conservationist
Josh Denton, Area 2 Engineer
Samantha Martinez, Civil Engineer Tech.

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Martin Gallagher, David Moore, Jeff Riddell



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Order deadline date: Friday, April 17, 2026

Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone # (required): _____

Order pick-up date: April 24, 2026

From: 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.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"	\$1.50	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.20	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.20	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.95	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	5-7"	\$14.00	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$1.20	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-4"	\$1.20	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	Per 100	\$9.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$18.00	_____	_____
Pond Management-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$25.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 gallon per 1/4 acre		\$95.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein)		\$52.00	_____	_____
			SUB TOTAL	\$ _____
			TAX 6.50%	\$ _____