



# LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[www.lorainswcd.com](http://www.lorainswcd.com)

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 48

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

## WINTER/SPRING 2025

### LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2025 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 2025 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 18, 2025

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](http://lorainswcd.com) to print an order form.

### 2024 Cooperator of the Year!



Our 2024 Cooperator of the Year, Woods Family Farm. Pictured here is Brett and Julene Woods

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

SEEDLING SALE	1
POSTER CONTEST ENVIROTHON	2
SCHOLARSHIPS	3
SEEDLING SALE DESCRIPTIONS	4
SEEDLING ORDER FORM	5
NEW BOARD MEMBER, BIG TREE CONTEST	6
RAIN GARDEN INFO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	7
FISH SALE	
FISH ORDER FORM	8

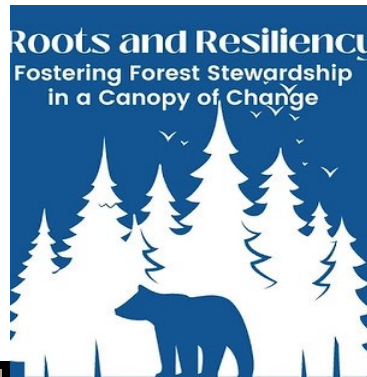
# NACD 2025 POSTER CONTEST



The annual National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest for 2025 is open for submissions! The 2025 theme is “**Home is where the Habitat is**”. 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 1<sup>st</sup> (\$50.00) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$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 Thursday, May 1, 2025. Visit our website for the entry form & more information. <https://www.lorainswcd.com/nacd>

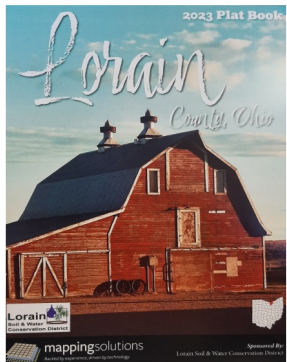
Have you checked out our website lately? Many updates & informative pages have been added. Visit <https://www.lorainswcd.com/> & let us know what you think!

## 2025 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: **“Roots & Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change.”** The Area 2 Envirothon will be held April 9, 2025 at the Cooke Family Wildlife Conservation Park, Shiloh, OH. The State Envirothon will be held at Wilmington College.



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

**\$25+ tax**



Wellington FFA 2024 Envirothon team. The team consisted of Jillian Stannard, Amandolin Williams, Brandi McCraw, Landon Davison, Scotty Hook shown in the photo from left to right.

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.

## 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.

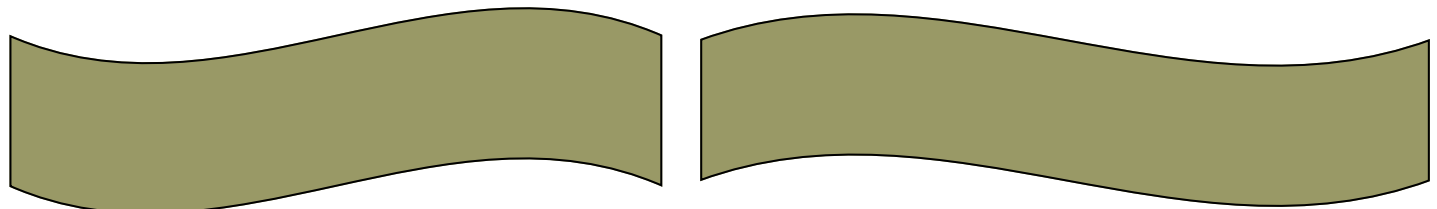
#### [Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship:](#)

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 18, 2025.**

#### [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, May 30, 2025.**

Applications can be found by visiting our website: [www.lorainswcd.com](http://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.



## 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 windbreak 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: 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

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.

American Chestnut Hybrid: A fast-growing hybrid reaching a height of 80-100 feet. 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 pollination and nut production. Limited quantities!

Dawn Redwood: A fast-growing, coniferous tree with a long life span. Does well in our Lorain County soils. Look for the stately trees at our office by the pond. They reach up to 60 feet in full sun.

Bur Oak: This is a no-fuss tree species! It tolerates a wide range of sun, soil, & moisture conditions. The spread of the roots can extend 2 to 3 times the width of the canopy, so plant it away from structures. Can grow up to 80 feet tall.

N. Red Oak: A Midwest native and one of the faster growing oaks for the home landscape. This hardy, fast-growing, and long-lasting tree can grow up to 70 feet tall in well-drained soil of most any type. Great fall color & a keystone species for hundreds of pollinators.

## HARDWOOD SPECIES, continued

Osage Orange: Once considered the best fencing material because it is "horse high, bull strong, and pig tight." It is a small to medium size tree, typically 35 to 40 feet tall, with deeply furrowed bark and thorny branches. The large fruits are borne on female trees & are colloquially known as hedge apples &/or monkey balls. Can grow in poor soil in full sun to part shade.

Persimmon: Grows in a wide range of conditions from very dry to moist. It thrives on almost any type of soil in full sun but can also tolerate part shade. Drought resistant once established. Grows to 50-80 feet. Delicious orange fruits when ripe.

## SHRUBS/SMALL TREES

Nannyberry Viburnum: This large upright shrub (15-20 feet) can spread and form colonies, making it a good choice for a hedgerow, or can be maintained as a small tree by pruning stems. Adaptable to a wide range of soils, this native viburnum is found in low, moist woods or near stream banks, but will tolerate drier sites. Very shade tolerant in nature, it grows larger in open sunny areas. Tolerant of air pollution, making it a good option in urban areas. Nannyberry is a host plant for the Spring Azure butterfly.

Black Chokeberry: Great for the berm of a rain garden. It grows to 6 feet in full sun but is moderately tolerant of shade. The best growth and fruit production occurs on moist but well-drained sites in full sun. Attractive red fall color & wildlife value. A staff favorite!

Smooth Sumac: Extremely versatile specimen plant. Often found in disturbed areas, open woodlands, prairies, or dry, rocky hillsides. Best in full sun, but tolerates some shade. Neutral to slightly acidic soil. Gorgeous fall color.

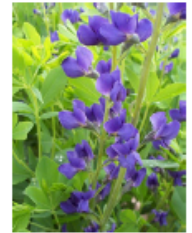
Witch Hazel: Resistant to most pests and diseases, witch hazel grows ~20 feet tall. Keep it watered until established. Full sun for best growth & flowering. Blooms late fall into winter.

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

## NATIVE WILDFLOWERS



Red Columbine



Blue False Indigo



Wild Quinine



Blue mistflower



Bottlebrush grass



Downy skullcap



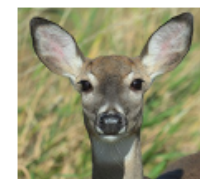
Prairie larkspur



Blue flag iris

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NEW FOR 2025 - TREE PACKS!  
VERY LIMITED SUPPLY!



Wildlife Pack

- 2 Swamp White Oak
- 2 Hazelnut
- 2 Ninebark
- 2 American Plum
- 2 Redtwig Dogwood



Wild Berry Pack

- 3 Elderberry
- 2 Serviceberry
- 3 Raspberry
- 2 Red Mulberry



Wetland Pack

- 2 Spicebush
- 2 Pussy Willow
- 2 River Birch
- 2 Buttonbush
- 2 Nannyberry



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



Newly elected Board Supervisor, Kolin Bendickson is sworn in by Will Schlechter, Board Chair



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

The District welcomed Kolin Bendickson at their first official Board meeting of the new year on January 14, 2025. Kolin 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 Will Schlechter, Ian Wilkshire, Carl Wesemeyer and Peggy Vasu. As Board Supervisors, they will help oversee the operations of the District.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Thank you to Roger Nikiforow for serving as a member of the Lorain SWCD Board of Supervisors from 2019-2024!

Your service was greatly appreciated and you will be missed!

TENTH ANNUAL BIG TREE CONTEST



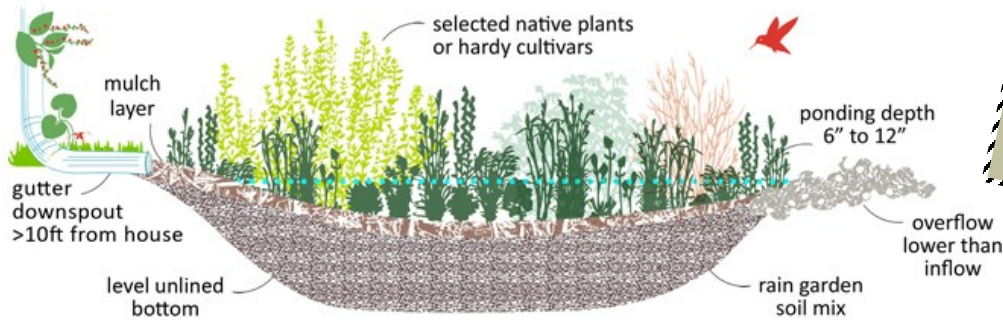
FOR SALE! BAT BOXES, BLUEBIRD & WREN HOUSES



We are kicking off our Tenth Annual Big Tree Contest starting right now! This year we are looking for Lorain County's biggest **White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) 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](http://www.lorainswcd.com) or our Facebook page for contest rules.

2024 Big Tree Winner—Shelly Langford  
Species: Weeping Willow

The 2025 Lorain County Master Rain Gardener Program is a great way to learn about rain gardens and how to construct one yourself with guidance from three of Lorain County's experts in stormwater—our own District Administrator Patti D., Lorain County Stormwater District's Lyn Ickes, & Stormwater Coordinator for the City of Oberlin Jennifer Reeves. Master Rain Gardeners earn their certification by taking the five week class and constructing their own rain garden, or by "adopting" a public rain garden. Stay tuned for details about a condensed two Saturday version! Learn more by visiting <https://www.lorainswcd.com/rain-gardens>



Check out our Seedling Sale pages in this newsletter for great selections for your rain garden!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Help with the 2025 Seedling Sale! A lot of prep goes into a successful Seedling Sale every year and we would love for you to be a part of it! The seedlings need to be separated, bundled into packs of five, then placed into the orders received. Seedling packing day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th at Grobe Fruit Farm (43875 Telegraph Road in Elyria) Email [conservation@loraincounty.us](mailto:conservation@loraincounty.us) for more information.

## SPRING FISH SALE

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

**ORDERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED:**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025**  
**\*\*12:30 PM—2:30 PM\*\***  
**AG CENTER PARKING LOT**  
**42110 RUSSIA ROAD**

**ORDER DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025**

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.

**\*\*Note: Different pickup time frame!!\*\***



**LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**DISTRICT SUPERVISORS**

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

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

John Born  
 Bob Pandy  
 Kathleen Bradley

**DISTRICT STAFF**

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

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist  
 Annie Wolodzko, Resource Conservationist

**LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Martin Gallagher  
 David J. Moore  
 Jeff Riddell



**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**FISH SALE ORDER FORM**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone # (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**Order deadline date:** Friday, May 2, 2025

**Order pick-up date:** Thursday, May 8, 2025

**From:** 12:30 p.m.—2:30 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"	\$1.40	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.90	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	5-7"	\$14.00	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-4"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	Per 100	\$9.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$17.00	_____	_____
Pond Management-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$20.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 gallon per 1/4 acre		\$95.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein) no sales tax		\$51.00	_____	_____
		<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
		<b>TAX 6.50%</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>