



Conservation News

VOLUME 18, No. 1

WINTER 2013

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Hate Seeing A Drab Winter Landscape? **SWCD can help with that!**

On April 20, 2013, the Union Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its annual tree and shrub sale! If the landscape around your home looks drab and dreary this year, check out the tree sale and make winters to come a bit more lush. We have a variety of evergreen species, perfect for adding color to your landscape all year long. In addition to our conifers, we offer many hardwood species and smaller urban shrubs as well. The trees we sell are seedling size, but most grow between 1 and 2+ feet per year, making them a great investment. Buy them small and in just a few years, you'll have beautiful trees to help "spruce" up your landscape.

Check out the following pages of this newsletter for a complete listing, description, and pricing information on all of our trees!



**We Even Sell the Famed
OHIO BUCKEYE!**



Union SWCD
18000 St. Rt. 4 North
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Marysville, OH 43040
tel: 937-642-5871 x 3
fax: 937-642-2825

[www.co.union.
oh.us/SWCD](http://www.co.union.oh.us/SWCD)

2013 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The main sale date for 2013 will be Saturday, April 20 at the Union County Agricultural Center's Buckeye Meeting Room located at 18000 State Route 4 North, Marysville, Ohio. The sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Any remaining seedlings will be sold the following week, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in the Union SWCD office located in Suite B of the same building.

All stock is sold on a first come, first served basis.

No orders may be placed prior to the sale. All stock are seedlings only. Please make selections below, bring completed form with you on the day of the sale, and make checks payable to: Union SWCD.

Note: Please do not make checks out before the sale. Items which you wish to purchase may not be available.

#	Packets	<u>EVERGREENS (25 trees per packet)</u>	TOTAL
_____	\$16/pkt.	Norway Spruce, 9-15"	_____
_____	\$16/pkt.	White Pine, 8-15"	_____
_____	\$16/pkt.	White Spruce, 9-15"	_____
<u>HARDWOOD PACKETS (5 trees per packet)</u>			
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	Pin Oak, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	Sugar Maple, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	Swamp White Oak, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	River Birch, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	Black Cherry, 6-12"	_____
<u>URBAN PACKETS (5 trees per packet)</u>			
_____	\$ 7.00/pkt.	Ohio Buckeye, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	American Elderberry, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	Red Osier Dogwood, 6-12"	_____
_____	\$7.00/pkt.	Butterfly Bush, 6-12"	_____
<u>ACCESSORIES</u>			
_____	\$10/bundle	Marking Flags (100 in bundle)	_____
TOTAL:			_____

Please include email address if you would like to be included in our newsletter mailing list.

*(See more information on tree species at: www.co.union.oh.us/SWCD under Sales & Rentals.)

2013 Union SWCD Tree Sale - Brief Descriptions of Species

(CW stands-for Coefficient of Wetness. Typically 0 to +5 are drier site suitable; and 0 to -5 are wetter site suitable.)

1. Norway Spruce – *Picea abies*

Though non-native, this hardy spruce is a fairly fast growing evergreen that can reach a mature height of 80'+ and a naturally pyramidal spread of 25-30'. Its dark green needles make it a fine landscape specimen or very effective as screen plantings. Norway spruce **will not tolerate excessive wetness for prolonged periods of time.** CW: 5

2. White Pine – *Pinus strobus*

According to many the Eastern White Pine is a NE Ohio native. This beautiful pine is majestic in appearance and may reach a mature height of 80'+ with a 40' pyramidal spread. Its soft blue-green needles add beauty to the landscape. It is a fairly fast grower and loves full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. It prefers moist, but very well drained soils. CW: 3

3. White Spruce – *Picea glauca*

This non-native spruce, to 60' high and 20' wide, is more tolerant of heavier clay soils and wetness than the Norway spruce. It is slower growing than Norway spruce and has a symmetrical shape with blue-green needles. **The primary benefit locally is that it will better tolerate the acidic heavy clays.** It will not survive extended seasonal wetness. CW: 3

4. Pin Oak – *Quercus palustris*

This is a common native oak in wetter areas of Union County and central Ohio. It tolerates extended and is at home around wetlands, as well as in upland backyards. Pin Oak grows medium- fast to 70' in height, with a mature canopy spread of 40'+. This site adaptable oak is a good choice where space permits, CW: -3

5. Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum*

Another Union County native, Sugar Maple can be expected to grow across Union County – except in areas of extended seasonal wetness. This maple is the most efficient at producing maple syrup. Growth habit includes a broad canopy and beautiful fall color. It prefers plenty of space and sunlight. Will tolerate shade with subsequent slower growth, CW: 3

6. Swamp White Oak, or “Bicolor Oak”– *Quercus bicolor*

If Union County had an official tree, this would be an excellent candidate. While it is tolerant of extended seasonal wetness, this white oak family tree is just as much “at home” on higher and drier sites. It is used as a tree lawn tree where space is afforded, but grows anywhere adequate space will permit (Mature height 60', with a 50-60' wide crown). Swamp white oak has recently been referred to as “Bicolored Oak” in the landscape industry - taking from its scientific second name of *bicolor*. This reference is to the summer's glossy green leaves that are silvery white on the backside. CW: -4

7. River Birch – *Betula nigra*

River birch is a 30-50 ft., usually multi-trunked tree which can reach 90 ft. in height. River birch is fast growing and long-lived and is probably our most trouble-free birch. The tree's selling point is its satiny, silver bark that peels to reveal a cinnamon-brown trunk beneath. Its ability to thrive on moist sites makes it useful for erosion control. CW: -3

8. Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*

A rapidly growing woodland tree common throughout all of Ohio, is often found in open fields and previously harvested forests. Its small fruits are relished by birds and mammals as a food source in late summer. Also known as Wild Black Cherry, this tree may grow to 60 feet tall by 30 feet wide (or larger) when it is found in an open field. CW: 3

9. Ohio Buckeye – *Aesculus glabra*

Our state tree, this native can be expected to thrive in moist, but well drained areas – *such as floodplains*. Here it obtains its optimum size, health, and vigor. Fall color can be brilliant and often occurs earlier than other deciduous trees. CW: -1

10. American Elderberry – *Sambucus canadensis*

Also known as American Elder and Common Elder, this native deciduous large shrub, or small tree, produces small black-purple berries that many people and wildlife enjoy. Commonly found in wetter areas and fencerows, this shrub will adapt to backyards, as well as wild areas – especially near forest edges. It may grow to 12' tall, with arching branches. CW: -2

11. Red Osier Dogwood – *Cornus stoniflora* (Also Known as *Cornus sericea*)

This is a colorful deciduous shrub that is often thicket-forming. It is a great plant for naturalizing an odd area or property boundary. It will reach a mature height of 7-9', with an equal or wider eventual spread. Red Osier Dogwood prefers full sun, but often naturalizes in the light shade of woodland edges. Berries produce food for wildlife and the brilliant red stems offer winter landscape appeal. This is a plant that will often tolerate extended seasonal wetness. CW: -3

12. Butterfly Bush – *Buddleia spp.*

True to its name, one can expect to attract countless butterflies to this 6-12' deciduous shrub. “Butterfly bushes perform best in moist, well-drained soils in partial to full sun. Avoid wet, poorly drained sites. Also, select sites that provide winter protection. Butterfly bushes planted in open, exposed sites are more likely to be destroyed by harsh, winter weather. CW: 5

2013 Union SWCD - Tree Sale Species at a Glance

	Tree Species	Scientific Name	Coefficient of Wetness Scale (0 to +5; Drier (0 to -5; Wetter Sites)	Ohio Native	Size @ Maturity on <u>Ideal Sites</u> : Mature Height & Spread	Rate of Growth on <u>Ideal Sites</u> : F: >2 Feet / Yr. M: 1-2 Feet / Yr. S: <1 Feet / Yr.	Tolerates Extended Seasonal Wetness	Moist - Well Drained Sites	Well Drained Sites	Urban Tolerance	Fall Leaf Color	Sunlight Preference
1	Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	5	No	40' - 60' (>100') ✓ 25'-30'	Medium to Fast		✓	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun to Light Shade
2	White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	3	Yes (NE OH?)	50' - 80' (>100') ✓ 20' - 40'	Fast		✓	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun to Light Shade
3	White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	3	No	40' - 60' ✓ 10'-20'	Medium		✓ +	✓	✓	Evergreen Conifer	Full Sun to Light Shade
4	Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	-3	Yes	60' - 75' ✓ 25'-40'	Medium to Fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	Russets to Reds	Full Sun
5	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	3	Yes	60' - 70' (120') ✓ 40'-50'	Slow to Medium		✓	✓	✓	Brilliant Yellow to Burnt Orange	Full Sun. Tolerates Shade
6	Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	-4	Yes	50' - 60' = Equal Spread	Slow to Medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yellow to Bronze	Full Sun to Light Shade
7	River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	-3	Yes	30' - 50' (90') ~ Irregular Spread	Medium to Fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	Golden Yellow to Yellow Brown.	Full Sun to Light Shade
8	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	3	Yes	70' - 80' (120') ✓ 25'-35'	Fast	✓	✓	✓	✓	Various Yellow & pale Reds	Full Sun
9	Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	-1	Yes	20' - 40' (80') ✓ Similar Spread	Medium		✓	✓	✓	Yellow to Orange-Red (Often turns early)	Full Sun to Light Shade
10	American Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	-2	Yes	5' - 12' "suckers"	Fast	✓	✓	✓	Variable	Not Significant	Full Sun
11	Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus Sericea</i> ; <i>C. stoniflora</i>	-3	Yes	7' - 9' 10' or more	Fast / Vigorous	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reddish - Purple	Full Sun
12	Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	5	No	6'-12' Equal +	Fast		✓	✓	✓	Non-Descript	Full to Part Sun

Additional Notes:

Please refer to **2013 Union SWCD Tree Sale – Brief Descriptions of Species** on page 1 for more species-specific details.



2013 Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast Meetings

Jan. 8 – Soil Fertility and Soybean Plant Nutrition
Speaker - Laura Lindsey, OSU Soybean Specialist

Jan. 22 – Grain Marketing Outlook
Speaker - Cal Whewell, FC Stone Risk Management

Feb. 5 – Evaluating Vertical Tillage
Speaker - Tony Vyn, Purdue University Agronomist

Feb. 19 – Drainage and nutrient management
Speaker – Mark Seger, ODNR Engineer

Location: Plaza Inn

491 South Main Street
Mount Victory, OH 43340

7:30 am Breakfast
8:00 am Program

This program is free and open to the public and is jointly sponsored by OSU Extension and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Hardin, Logan and Union Counties.

Thanks to our many sponsors:

Ag Credit – Kenton, Central Ohio Farmers Co-op, Community First Bank, Crop Production Services, Farm Credit Services, Hardin County Farm Bureau, Heritage CO-OP, Home Savings and Loan, Indian Lake Watershed Project, Integrated Ag Services, Kale Marketing, LandTech Co., Liberty National Bank, Logan County Farm Bureau, Logan County SWCD, Parrott Implement, Powell Seeds, Quest Federal Credit Union, Silver Creek Supply, Trupointe, Union County SWCD, Wingfield Crop Insurance

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

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Kath L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Giff Chair in Extension Education and Leadership.
703/777-1-800-750-0750

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.



Nutrient Management and Winter Manure Application

Manure application to farm fields has come under additional scrutiny, particularly the application of manure to frozen or snow covered ground. Livestock producers and custom manure applicators should always exert extreme caution, follow best management practices (BMPs) and utilize best available technologies (BATs) when applying manure, particularly when field conditions are less than ideal, which definitely includes winter time application. The top priority of any manure application is to protect water quality by minimizing the migration of valuable nutrients away from the crop production zone.

By adopting and following the USDA-NRCS Practice Standard 633, livestock farmers and custom manure applicators can significantly reduce the risk of pollution problems. Application of manure to frozen or snow covered ground is **not** recommended unless it becomes necessary due to extreme situations. Such situations typically arise from lack of storage capacity (a minimum of six months capacity is recommended; one year is ideal) or other extenuating circumstances (e.g. – weather conditions or other problems delayed application). If manure application becomes necessary on frozen or snow covered fields, only limited quantities of manure should be applied to address storage limitations until more suitable soil conditions become available. These situations should be documented in the farm's comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) and in all producer records.

However, keep in mind that with fluctuating weather conditions that are typical of late fall/early winter and late winter/early spring, winter manure applications are very risky and pose a threat to water quality. Uncooperative weather may lead to manure runoff from farm fields and pollution to nearby watercourses, even for farmers who follow winter manure application standards and guidelines. For example, manure applied mid winter can remain frozen in the field for weeks or even months, but after a thaw surface water flow and drain tiles can carry it to a watercourse. This is a violation of Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Law. This not only harms the environment, but the public's image of production agriculture and livestock producers in general.

By voluntarily complying with USDA-NRCS Practice Standard 633, livestock farmers and custom manure applicators are helping: themselves by retaining this sometimes necessary winter time option, their watershed through improved water quality and the economic feasibility of many small and medium sized livestock farmers in their community.

There are additional options farmers should consider as well. For some, increasing storage would help, and cost share assistance may be available through the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Union SWCD's Ohio Pollution Abatement Program. Others might need a CNMP to manage application more carefully through crop rotation and identifying/reserving low risk fields if winter manure application becomes necessary.

Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.
brent.nickel@oh.nacdn.net

Winter Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

Follow the Forest!

The Winter Woodlands...

Each winter is another great opportunity to manage local woodlands. The absence of leaves allow us to better "see" the woodlands' trees. The colder temperatures allow working in the woods to be more comfortable. Thinning trees, called timber stand improvement (TSI), will enable the trees that are released from competition to grow faster and stronger. The felled trees can become building materials, welcomed fire wood... or Cottontail Condo brush piles.

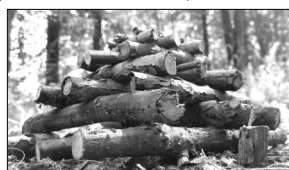
Wildlife Brush Piles.....Cottontail Condos

Winter is a great time to construct heavy-duty brush piles.

No, not small piles of limbs. Begin by placing large diameter pieces (Six inch +.), at the base. Arrange the base to have four compartments by placing logs across the middle of each side. As each row goes up, move the logs "in" one width, so that



a pyramid shape begins to form. At about four feet high, place left-over limbs and other cutting on top as a roof. Add to the top of the pile as necessary.



Recommendations to PONDER!

Remember this most basic of all pond truths...*every living thing and every dying thing in every pond is using up precious dissolved oxygen 24 hours a day throughout the entire year—even winter!*

Should extended snow cover blanket thick ice, safely attempt to create "alleys" to allow sunlight to penetrate the ice windows. Several swipes with a snow shovel or snow blower will help. Yes, plants still photosynthesize in winter.

Winter Kill FactSheet <http://ohioline.osu.edu/a-fact/0008.html>

Wildlife Conflict Management

...Forget Control!

Experiencing wildlife conflicts? Try the solutions associated with this wildlife conflict resolution website!

The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management:
<http://www.icwdm.org/>

What's In-Season

Always Refer to the Current Year's Regulations.

See what is currently "In-Season" at this website:

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/dow/regulations/seasons.aspx>

Fishing Regulations:

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/dow/regulations/fishing.aspx>

"Hunting With Permission" forms and
Hunting Regulations and **Fishing Regulations**
are available at our office.

Healthy Wetlands Don't Bite!

...Re-Printed for Pond Owners, as well!

A timely reminder for anyone experiencing chronic damage from muskrats. Now is the time to recruit trappers to reduce the potentially explosive muskrat population. In Union County, the regulated muskrat trapping season is from

November 10, 2012 through February 28, 2013.

Don't Forget Your Best Friend

Upland season and waterfowl seasons are in full swing and are ready for your participation. Deer seasons are winding down and competition for available hunting grounds will be letting up. With only a couple of months left before the last of the seasons close, get out there and enjoy the outdoors with your best friend while still being able to take the gun along.

Share Your Love for the Outdoors - Take A Kid Hunting

Small Game Hunting: Passport to the next Generation

Squirrel and Rabbit hunting are a staple of basic hunting tradition. A trip to the winter woods with a bag of snacks and a thermos of hot cocoa can yield much more than just a game bag of fat squirrels or rabbits. Instilling an interest in the outdoors and creating great childhood memories is well worth the time spent of maybe not being the most quiet or productive hunter. What you may gain is a lifetime hunting partner and advocate of the outdoor lifestyle. The next generation may very well be where the hunting tradition lives or dies. Get out there and share your knowledge and passion for the great outdoors and it will return the favor with another generation of passionate outdoors men and women leading the way in wildlife and natural resource conservation. **Take a Kid Hunting**

Injured—or what appears to be Helpless Wildlife?

Call or contact the **Ohio Wildlife Center** – 614-793-WILD (9453) – then follow their every instruction!

<http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/index.cfm>

NRCS Update

DID YOU KNOW?

Union County still remains largely agriculture even with the latest news about being ranked 3rd in housing growth in Ohio. The 2011 Ohio Department of Agriculture Annual Report and Statistics show Union County ranked among the top agriculture counties in Ohio. Census of Agriculture 2007 shows the number of farms to be around 932, with the average owned farm size to be 235 ac, and total land in farms to be around 218,657acs. Union County is centrally located within Ohio and is approximately 100 miles to major cities with great highways access for easy transportation. Union County residents profit from cash crops, corn, soybean, some wheat, oats and hay, and even beef cows, some dairy, hogs, chickens and sheep. Soils, topography, and good water quality, coupled with landowner's conservation efforts have kept Union County a great place for production agriculture. However, there is still much more we can do. Union County can still carry the name of Rural County USA. With a few major manufacturing companies, small business, commuting distance to the city, as well as three great school districts it's a wonderful place to raise a family. With the trend to shop local, buy fresh from local producers, and support small business owners, Union County offers great opportunities to start a small business, begin a specialty farm or expand an existing farming operation.

WHERE TO START?

There are a number of places to go for assistance depending what your ambitions are. The rule of thumb is to start small, have a set of goals, and of course, have a great product you would be proud to sell. The United States Department of Agriculture includes agencies like the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency that can get you started on that path. Based on your needs, there may be small business loans, legalities of a small business, marketing, conservation and technical challenges. It's out there; you may just need some assistance locating it. These two agencies have field offices here in the county at the Agricultural Service Center, 18000 State RT 4, just north of Marysville.

WHATS AVAILABLE?

Some landowners may already have the bricks and mortar but are having challenges with existing operations, want to expand, increase production, having resource concerns, water quality, and quantity issues, costly energy issues, soil health and organic issues, pest management, wildlife challenges. Again, the USDA may have programs that can help with these challenges. It can be technical assistance, conservation planning, or as simple as where to find an answer. There are cost share programs available for particular conservation practices, management systems, and even if you're doing a good job, there are programs available for enhancements.

WHAT ARE LANDOWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES?

Landowners who are interested need to have established farm numbers, eligibilities with the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. There is a lot of paperwork involved but the staff will walk you through it. Conservation planning to take care of resource concerns whether it is financial or technical is a key to a successful program. Eligibility for funding needs to reflect resource concerns: a reason for approving funds needs to be addressed. Ranking criteria has been set up for approving funds, as the dollars are limited and tax payers want to make sure dollars are spent on projects that will benefit our natural resources. Committing time to do the paperwork and to implement the projects will make for a successful plan and will help you reach your goals.

To learn more, a meeting will be held at the Agriculture Service Center, 18000 State Route 4, in the Buckeye Room, Thursday January 17, 2013 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Come with questions, ideas, and an interest in Union County and see learn how we can make Union County EVEN BETTER!

Ditch Maintenance and Rental Equipment

Ditch Maintenance Winter Update

The ditch maintenance program has been quite busy this year with the addition of several phases in Jerome Village and a new subdivision called Woodbine Village. Both of these subdivisions are found in Jerome Township. The Cattail Swamp project was also completed this earlier this year..

During the winter months we tend to utilize the Union County Engineers crews to conduct a majority of our excavation work such as dip outs, rock chute construction and bank stabilization projects. We have work scheduled on Blues Creek, Blue Joint, Rocky Fork and Ottawa ditches this winter as the weather allows. We also tend to use the winter months for any tree work projects because of the lack of leaves and absence of wildlife concerns. Projects with tree work scheduled are Long Ditch and Autumn Ridge Subdivision.

As always, our ditch maintenance program strives to keep drainage as its primary concern while delivering maintenance as cost effectively and efficiently as possible.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office and speak with Bob Scheiderer.

No-Till Drill For Rent



The Union SWCD has a John Deere 1590 no-till drill for rent. The drill is 15 foot with 7.5 inch row spacing and is equipped with markers and a grass seed box.

A 100 horse-power tractor with 2 hydraulic outlets is needed to pull the drill. The drill rents for \$10.00 per acre and there is a \$75 minimum charge.

If you are interested in using the drill, call or stop in our office to sign-up.

Straw Blower for Rent



The Union Soil and Water Conservation District has a Model 20 Tailgate Mulcher on a 6'x12' trailer to rent to the public. The Tailgate Mulcher is electric start, will blow straw about 40 ft. and can spread an average of 100 bales per hour. It will rent for \$75 per day and \$100 for a weekend. This type of blower is typically used for new seeding establishment, and for waterway and pond bank grass establishment.

Please contact Union SWCD at 937-642-5871 x104 for more information or to schedule.

Upcoming Events

January 10, 2013—Union SWCD Board Meeting—6:00 PM
Ag Center—Conservation Mtg. Room

January 17, 2013—NRCS Education Outreach Meeting—1:00 to 4:00 PM
Ag Center—Buckeye Mtg. Room

January 21, 2013— Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday—Office Closed

February 14, 2013— Union SWCD Board Meeting—6:00 PM
Ag Center—Conservation Mtg. Room

February 18, 2013— Presidents Day Holiday—Office Closed

March 14, 2013—Union SWCD Board Meeting—6:00 PM
Ag Center—Conservation Mtg. Room

April 9, 2013— Union SWCD Annual Pond Clinic— 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Ag Center— Buckeye Mtg. Room

April 20, 2013—Union SWCD Annual Tree Seedling Sale— 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Buckeye Mtg. Room.

2013 Pond Clinic Reminder!

Join us on April 9th from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM for the Annual Union SWCD Pond Clinic.

The meeting will be held at the Union County Ag Center in the Buckeye Meeting Room. Various topics will be discussed, so please consider attending if you would like to learn more about your pond or to gain more information about ponds.

Please also note that Union SWCD offers technical guidance related to pond design and construction.

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Email kaylee.port@oh.nacdnet.net to be included on our list.**

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