

Focus Newsletter

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Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

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1610 State Route 521
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740-368-1921



Upcoming Events

July 15 – Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

August 9 – Ag Tire Recycling Day, Morrow County Fairgrounds

August 16 – Shawnee Hills Safety Day, 3pm – 6pm

August 19 – Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

September 1 – Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed

September 13 - 17 – Delaware County Fair, Conservation Park
Events – *Come see Delaware SWCD!*

September 18 – Little Brown Jug Day, Office Closed ½ Day

September 23 – Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

September 27 – Sunbury Litter Clean-up, 10am – 12pm

October 4 – Stratford Harvest Fair, 10am – 2pm

October 9 – Fish Sale, 3pm pick-up

FISH SALE

FISH SALE OPENS SOON

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District will soon be accepting orders for our Annual Fingerling Fish Sale until Tuesday, September 30, 2025. **Pick-up is scheduled for Thursday October 9, 2025 at 3pm** at our office, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015 in the front parking lot.

Every year we provide fingerling fish for sale to restock your pond. This year, **we have a new vendor!** Our fingerling fish will come from Remlinger Fish Farm in Kalida, Ohio

moving forward. You will see fixed quantities and different prices on our order form from last year due to the change in vendors. Orders are taken on a per-unit basis and will arrive pre-boxed ready for pick-up. Don't hesitate to call or email us with any questions regarding these changes.

Species include largemouth bass, bluegill, hybrid bluegill, channel catfish, redear shellcrackers, black crappie, black fathead minnows, white amur, and yellow perch.

[2025 Fish Sale Order Form](#) (coming soon!)

[Sign up by clicking here](#) to receive an update when the order form is ready, or follow us on social media for updates.

If you are a new pond owner (or need a pond management refresher), please visit our [Resource Guides](#) for more information and document downloads (including the Ohio Pond Management Handbook, fish species selection for pond stocking, and white amur management).



KEEP DIRT WHERE IT BELONGS

KEEP DIRT IN ITS PLACE TO REDUCE EROSION AND PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Did you know that dirt is one of the most common pollutants in our streams and rivers? That's right, dirt or sediment from bare yards, farm fields, and construction sites erodes and washes into our waterways. A large portion of our soil ends up in the Gulf of Mexico! This is due to widescale wind and water erosion and lack of soil protection. Soil belongs in the ground, not in the ocean or other local bodies of water. You can do your part to protect soil with the following practices:

Cover and Stabilize

- Cover dirt by planting native plants, grass, or cover crops – this will help hold soil in place.
- Mulch once every year or every other year.
- Cover dirt piles with a tarp and secure the corners.
- Don't till the soil – if you have a large area to plant, contact us to rent our no-till drill.

Sweep

- Sweep excess dirt, fertilizer, and yard waste off your driveway and place back on your lawn or leave for your local yard waste pick-up.
- Never hose down your driveway, as sediment or fertilizer will get carried to the nearest storm drain and stream.

What is Sediment?

Sediment is the cumulation of dirt and rocks that move from one place to another through wind or water erosion. It may also contain organic matter such as dead plants and animals. Erosion creates sediment. Wherever erosion happens in a watershed, whether on land or in a streambank, the newly displaced sediment travels toward the closest waterway, and can wash into storm drains and creeks.

Why Is Sediment A Problem?

Sediment can harm plants and animals in a stream. Cloudy water prevents sunlight from reaching aquatic plants, and makes it hard for fish and other animals to find their food and breathe. Sediment destroys habitat for small animals that live at the bottom of a stream like young fish, dragonfly nymphs, and other aquatic insects.

Do Your Part

The loss of all this sediment is rather alarming when you consider the fact that it takes 500-1,000 years to form just one inch of topsoil! We are losing sediment far quicker than the soil can regenerate. Do your part to protect soil by keeping it covered and stabilized so it doesn't get blown or washed away!



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

SHIVANI RAMAMURTHY WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Shivani Ramamurthy is a 2025 Olentangy High School graduate and the winner of our annual \$500 College Scholarship! Her commitment to conservation, involvement in her school's Environmental Club, and plans to study Environmental Science all stood out and made her our top candidate for this award.

After her own experience researching and planting native plants at home to reduce turfgrass, improve pollinator habitat, carbon storage, and soil and water quality, Shivani became the gardening lead of her school Environmental Club.

Shivani shared her newfound knowledge with her peers, and with her leadership they planted native plants and vegetables at their school. Shivani was involved in several other extracurriculars during high school, including representing the Olentangy High School Team at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Teen Eco Summit.

In the Fall, Shivani will attend The Ohio State University where she plans to study conservation and biodiversity concepts in her Environmental Science major.

Our pollinators and natural resources depend on the actions of people like Shivani for protection. We need more leaders like her in the conservation space to improve biodiversity and inspire others to do the same. Our scholarship is intended to support students who are making these improvements at the local level, and encourages them to pursue a career in conservation.

We wish Shivani a bright future and a prosperous experience at OSU! Congratulations, Shivani!

If you know a student who is interested in pursuing a career in agriculture, natural resources, or related field, we encourage them to apply for our scholarship next spring.



PARTNER UPDATES

BECOME A POLLINATOR AMBASSADOR

The North Central Ohio Pollinator Pathway (NCOPP) initiative is promoting a new Pollinator Ambassador program.

You can help spread the good word about the importance of pollinator habitat by placing a pollinator garden in a visible location in your yard. NCOPP volunteers have a new program where they will help you install your garden.

Check out their website for the full application and more information:

www.northcentralohio-pollinatorpathway.org


**North Central Ohio
Pollinator Pathway**

BECOME A POLLINATOR AMBASSADOR


Logo by Samantha W. Age 7

Would you like to be a Pollinator Ambassador for your neighborhood?

Enter for a chance to be selected to have a front yard 10' x 6' pollinator habitat garden bed installed to spread awareness about the importance of pollinators! Donations raised will be used to help create more pollinator habitat within our community.

****** Must be a resident of Delaware, Marion, or Morrow Co******

A \$10 suggested donation gives you a chance to win:

- A front yard design measuring 10' x 6' for your new pollinator habitat garden bed
- Native plants selected for your site
- Volunteer help for installation
- Signage to post with the habitat

Questions?
Email thermsen@otterbein.org



Enter by Aug 15, 2025:

Fill out this form and mail with suggested \$10 donation to 162 Page Ct,
Or Delaware, OH 43015

Scan QR Code

to fill out Pollinator Ambassador Form on our site

Photo by Randy Litchfield


Red-Spotted Purple

Personal information

Name

Address

Email

Phone

Complete on back

PARTNER UPDATES

The Delaware, Knox, Marion, and Morrow (DKMM) Solid Waste District is hosting an Ag Tire Recycling Event at the Morrow County Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 9, 2025. These are some of the cheapest recycling fees you will find, so don't miss this opportunity! Registration is required – sign up today!



Ag Tire Recycling

Sat., Aug. 9 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Morrow County Fairgrounds, 195 S. Main St., Mount Gilead

By appointment for residents of Delaware, Knox, Marion and Morrow Counties only.

To schedule call DKMM at 419-751-2290 by Aug. 1.

Must have count and size of each tire when registering.

Tire size is measured from side to side (not the inside diameter) and passenger tires will not be accepted.

Fees:

- \$2 36" and under (typically semi, front tractor, implement, wagon)
- \$5 37" - 60" (typically most rear tractor)
- \$10 61" and over (typically large rear tractor, combine)

Partially funded by



Supported by:

Delaware, Knox, Marion, and Morrow Solid Waste District
Delaware, Knox, Marion, and Morrow County Farm Bureaus
OSU Extension - Delaware, Knox, Marion and Morrow Counties
Delaware, Knox, Marion and Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

POISON HEMLOCK

BE AWARE OF POISON HEMLOCK



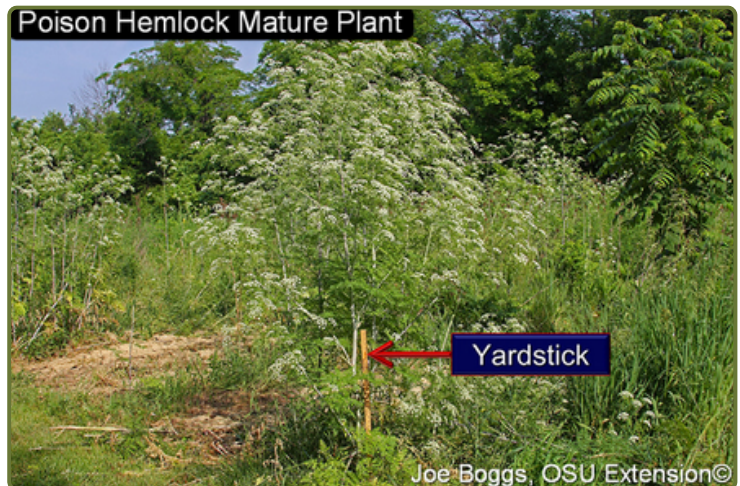
Poison Hemlock is thriving across the state due to the wet Spring we had. Learn how to identify it – and how to avoid it!

This plant is extremely toxic to humans and animals if ingested or inhaled (touching it is not a good idea either). A tall plant with purple-speckled stems and fern-like leaves, poison hemlock is one of the most toxic plants in North America.

DO NOT touch, mow, or burn it – even contact with skin can cause a reaction, and inhaling fumes while burning can be dangerous.

It's often mistaken for wild carrot or Queen Anne's Lace. Protect yourself when removing it, and dispose of it properly. Do not burn or compost poison hemlock to get rid of it! Instead place in a sealed trash bag and put in the garbage.

Check out the full article from Joe Boggs at Brown County OSU Extension by [clicking here](#), as well as [info from ODNR](#).



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Pierce Minter

Meet Pierce, our summer intern! Pierce joined us last Spring during an internship for his Wildlife Resource Management class at the Delaware Area Career Center (DACC), where he graduated from in May.

At DACC, Pierce was an FFA chapter officer and he came in 3rd place for his FFA Agri Science research. He also worked at a taxidermy shop where he preserved this American Mink.

Pierce plans to major in Civil Engineering and Surveying in college. Last spring and this summer we have given him hands-on experience surveying as well as drainage maintenance and a variety of other resource conservation projects.

In his free time, Pierce enjoys playing baseball (he played Varsity at Westerville Central), hunting, and spending time with friends and family.



Bob Sherman

Bob is one of our longest employees, as he has been with the District since 2013, and interned with us from 2004-2005. He spent four years with Franklin SWCD before that, after attending OSU for Environmental Science.

Bob is showing Pierce the ropes with surveying, serves on our drainage maintenance team, and manages our no-till drill rentals. We rely on the institutional knowledge of employees like Bob to show new employees the way!

Bob's family holds several Farmland Preservation easements, leading the way for protecting farmland in our county.

In his free time, Bob helps farm his family's 600 acres, tends to their small herd of cows, and enjoys traveling to antique tractor shows.