

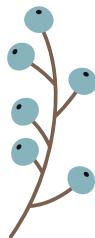
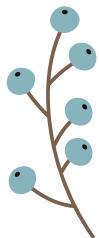
# Focus Newsletter

## In This Issue...

- Board Election Results
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- Winter Salt Awareness Week
- Farmland Preservation
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- 2025 In Review

### Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 8006  
1610 State Route 521  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
740-368-1921



## BE SALT SMART!

## Upcoming Events

**January 19** - Office closed for MLK Day

**January 20** - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 4:00p.m.

**January 26 - 30** - Winter Salt Awareness Week

**February 6** - Pre-Applications due for Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)

**February 16** - Office closed for Presidents' Day

**February 17** - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

**March 17** - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

**March 27** - Ohio Rivers Symposium

**April 14 - 17** - Bare Root Tree Sale Pick-Up

**April 21** - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

# BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER ERIC PENKAL

We are excited to welcome our newly elected board member, Eric Penkal. Eric has been a friend of the district for many years, formerly providing us with legal counsel. He has dedicated his career to public service and community leadership, which will make him an excellent addition to our board!

[Read more in our blog post here.](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN SKINNER

Our team is also excited to welcome back Brian Skinner to his second term on our board. Brian has been an engaged and supportive board member in his first three years, so we have no doubt that he will continue to move the district forward with his dedicated service. Brian and his family have proudly supported the district, and farmed in Delaware County, for generations.

**2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION**  
- RESULTS -



**BRIAN SKINNER**



**ERIC PENKAL**

Delaware  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District



## THANK YOU, SUE!

FOR 24 YEARS OF SERVICE



**SUE CUNNINGHAM**



## A FOND FAREWELL TO SUE CUNNINGHAM

We would be remiss not to thank Sue Cunningham for her service of 24 years as board supervisor, with the last eight years as board chair. Sue's steady leadership has been a great asset to our district. She has led us through many changes, and has helped our district adapt to every challenge we come across. She leaves a legacy of conservation that future generations will certainly strive towards.

Thank you, Sue! You will be missed!

# ANNUAL TREE SALE

## BARE-ROOT TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Tree Sale is now open for orders! Tree quantities are limited, so orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Order early to ensure you get your desired species. Since we do not offer online sales, our office will contact you if your selection is not available at the time we receive your order.

### Tree Pick-Up

Orders can be picked up at our office April 14-17, 2026 from 8:00am-4:30 pm. Arrangements can be made for after-hours pick-up if needed. Our tree selection is ordered from a Native Tree Nursery in Pennsylvania and shipped. Bare root seedlings are relatively small and orders are filled in Delaware SWCD tote bags; a large vehicle is not necessary for pick-up unless your order is above average size.

### What are Bare Root Trees?

Bare root trees and shrubs are plants that have not yet been potted. Instead, they are dormant trees with no soil around their roots. Each seedlings' bare roots are dipped in a preservative gel and placed in a plastic bag. Seedlings should be planted immediately into your yard or into a permanent container while still dormant for best chance of survival.

### Ready to Order?

[Download the Order Form by clicking here.](#)



# BE SALT SMART

## WANT TO HELP REDUCE SALT POLLUTION?

### Shovel, Scatter, Sweep.

- **Shovel:** Clear snow from sidewalks and parking lots before it turns to ice. The more snow you remove, the less salt you'll have to use - and the more effective it will be!
- **Scatter:** If you use salt, scatter it so there's space (about 3 inches) between the grains. A 12 oz coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway, 10 sidewalk squares, or two parking spaces.
- **Sweep:** Once the salt has done its job, sweep up the excess so you can reuse it for future storms and prevent it from washing away.

### You do not have to feel "the crunch" for salt to do its job.

- Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water so snow and ice can be more easily removed. Putting more salt on a surface does not make snow and ice melt faster or eliminate the need for plowing or shoveling.

### Beware of package labels.

- There is no regulation around road salt packaging. Deicers labeled "ecofriendly" or "pet safe" might still contain chloride. Read the product label closely. If there is sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, or potassium chloride, it still contains salt!

### Chloride pollution is not just a winter problem.

- Research finds that road salt can continue to pollute streams in the summer, and that aquatic life may be even more sensitive to salt in warmer weather.

**Winter Salt Awareness Week is January 26 - 30, 2026!**

**Learn More and get involved at [www.SaltWatch.org](http://www.SaltWatch.org).**

# WINTER SALT AWARENESS WEEK

## Winter Salt Week 2026



<b>MONDAY</b> <b>JAN 26</b> <b>1:30 ET</b>	<b>Freshwater Salinization</b> Causes, Consequences, and Trends Dr. Megan Rippy and Dr. Stan Grant, Virginia Tech
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>JAN 27</b> <b>1:30 ET</b>	<b>Salt Wise Stories</b> Phill Sexton, WIT Advisors Aron Rodman, Extra Mile Snowplowing LLC
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>JAN 27</b> <b>1:30 ET</b>	<b>Smart Salting Contracts</b> Martin Tirado, Snow and Ice Management Assn Jim Turcan, Cornerstone Partners Hort. Serv. Co.
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>JAN 29</b> <b>1:30 ET</b>	<b>Engineering Solutions</b> Connie Fortin, Bolton & Menk Wilf Nixon, Professional Snowfighters Association
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>JAN 30</b>	<i>Virtual Conversation Table Options: Advocating for Change (12-1pm ET) hosted by Abby Hileman and Mary Rooney; Salt Monitoring 101 (1-2pm ET) hosted by Lauren Eaton and Paige Vichiola</i>

Learn more and register online  
[www.wintersaltweek.org](http://www.wintersaltweek.org)



# FARMLAND PRESERVATION

## NOW ACCEPTING PRE-APPLICATIONS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Delaware County Board of Commissioners serves as the Certified Local Sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program in Delaware County. On behalf of the Commissioners, the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District coordinates the application process and annual monitoring of easements.

Once all pending easements are finalized, over 2,036 acres in Delaware County will be under preservation through ODA easement programs. The farmland preservation program began in 2002 and has preserved more than 729 farms, totaling over 108,000 acres in 62 counties, as of December 2024. These voluntary, legal agreements among the landowner, the local community, and the state ensure that farmland remains in agricultural use forever. Under an agricultural easement, the land itself stays under private ownership, but the easement prohibits any future non-agricultural development by landowners.

If you are interested in applying for the program, please take a look at [ODA's website](#) for additional information and minimum guidelines for eligibility.

Complete applications must be received in the Delaware SWCD office by the end of the business day, Friday February 6, 2026 at 4:30pm. Materials can be submitted in person at 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015, or via postal mail to: PO Box 8006, Delaware, OH 43015, Attention Erin Fisher.

[Find Application Here](#)

[soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us](http://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OHIO RIVERS SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE:

### *Flowing Through Time* OHIO'S RIVERS



Bridge over Raccoon Creek      Cattle by the Little Miami River      Olentangy Scenic River



1934      1960      2023

## 2026 Ohio Rivers SYMPOSIUM

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026**  
Villa Milano Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio

Registration opens January 8, 2026  
[ohiodnr.gov/scenicrivers](http://ohiodnr.gov/scenicrivers)



Department of  
Natural Resources

This day-long event is for natural resources and water planning professionals as well as river enthusiasts and conservationists. Inspired by American's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, several presentations will focus on natural and cultural history. Topics include history of Ohio's rivers, watershed management, and fascinating aquatic species.

Learn more and register at [wmao.org/2026RiverSym](http://wmao.org/2026RiverSym)

[soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us](http://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NORTH CENTRAL OHIO POLLINATOR PATHWAY THIRD ANNUAL SUMMIT



**(Re)Learning the Earth:  
Joining the Pollinator Pathway**

**North Central Ohio Pollinator Pathway  
Third Annual Summit**

**Saturday, January 31, 2026  
1:00-4:15pm**

**Ohio Wesleyan University, Benes Room  
Delaware, OH**

Join us for presentations, pop up talks, and breakout sessions!

Keynote Speaker  
**Dianne Kadonaga, Founder at Sunny Glen Garden**

Special Guest  
**Jana Hogan, Executive Director, National Pollinator Pathway**

Featured Guests

**Traci Cardinal, President, Dark Sky Ohio**  
**Dave Heithaus, Director, Knox County Parks**  
**Michael Keeler, Owner, Ohio Native Concepts**  
**Susan King, Licking County Pollinator Pathway**  
**Alison Meyer, Art teacher and native plant designer**  
**Patty Shipley, Owner, Leaves for Wildlife Native Plant Nursery**

Plus

**Delaware City Schools  
Naturalists from Preservations Parks**

Please use the QR code to register.  
**\$10.00 Admission**

North Central Ohio  
Pollinator Pathway

# 2025 IN REVIEW

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH



8 Community Events Attended



River Bucket Challenge

## TREE SALE



1,090 Seedlings donated  
4,424 Seedlings sold



4 Mini Grants for Schools Awarded  
9 Resource Kits Loaned

## PARTNER AGREEMENTS



5 Working Agreements with Partner Municipalities

[soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us](http://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us)

## DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE



33,000 Parcels with an assessment  
2,000 Work orders completed  
900 Ravine and annual inspections  
650 Drainage Maintenance Projects

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Over 100 Technical Assistance appointments provided

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION



Preserving Farmland Across Delaware County

1,889 acres protected