



Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

February 2024

2789 US Rt. 35 E.
West Alexandria, OH 45381
(937) 456-5159
www.prebleswcd.org

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Trees and More

By: Bobby Hansford, Preble SWCD Technician

The Preble SWCD is once again offering a variety of trees and a handful of perennials for purchase this year. Orders will be due Friday, March 1st and cash or check will be accepted as payment. On the list for 2024 we are offering white pine, Norway spruce, American arborvitae, basswood, black walnut, Kentucky coffeetree, shellbark hickory, swamp white oak, sweetgum, pawpaw, persimmon, redbud, black elderberry, common lilac, nannyberry, and ninebark. Perennials include beebalm (bergamot), yarrow, sedum, and asparagus. You will be able to enjoy these plants for years to come!



Black Elderberry

The trees come in packets containing 10 for evergreens, and 5 trees per pack for all other trees listed. The trees are bare rooted, meaning there is no soil on the root ball. An average order of 1-2 year old bare-root stock will fit in a grocery bag. Prices and availability vary between species. Be sure to order what you want quickly to guarantee your plants will be stocked. All plants have been selected to grow quite well in our area. The plants offered can provide shelter, are a food source our native wildlife can consume, and aid to keep our forests free of honeysuckle. Persimmon, pawpaw, and elderberry all come with the added bonus of being delicious to humans as well as animals.

Pick up your purchases on April 10th between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at our office. It is important to get your trees in the ground as soon as you are able and make sure to water them adequately. This will allow the trees to have the best chance of survival. We thank everyone for their continued interest in our environment year after year. The tree order form can be found on our website at prebleswcd.org. Give us a call or stop by the SWCD office if any questions arise, or if you need any additional information.

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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Tyler White - Soil Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

Renee Buck

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Get updates on our website:
www.prebleswcd.org

Preble SWCD Turns 75 This Year!

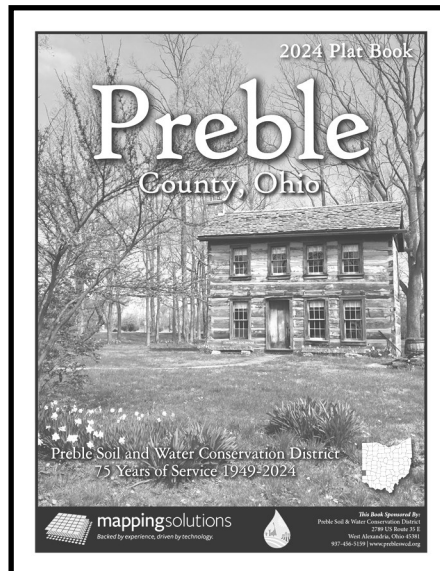
In December of 1948, 221 concerned residents of Preble County petitioned to form what was originally known as the Preble Soil Conservation District. A hearing was held on January 7th to determine the 'desirability and necessity of such District.' Following the hearing, the Ohio Soil Conservation Committee determined that there was a need for the District and a referendum was held on January 31, 1949. The vote of the referendum was 93% in favor of creation of the District. On February 16, 1949, the Preble Soil Conservation District was formed by an act of the Ohio Soil Conservation Committee.

In 1963, the word 'water' was added to the name to better reflect the scope of the work at the District, and the Preble Soil and Water Conservation District came to be named what it still is today.

Be sure to mark you calendar for our 75th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Banquet on August 17, 2024.


2024 Plat Books Have Arrived

The 2024 Preble County Plat Book is here! This is one edition you don't want to miss. Within these pages, you'll find up-to-date land ownership maps and historical aerial photos from 1949. Look in the back for a Preble County Place Names Trivia Page. This is a book full of rich



Preble County history that will become a historical collectable itself. Copies of this plat book are available for \$30, cash or check, at our office located at 2789 US Rt. 35 E, West Alexandria, OH. You can also pick one up at the Land Use Management Office in the Preble County Courthouse or at the Preble County Historical Society. For more information, please call the office at (937) 456-5159.

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2024 & 2025 CRP Grassed Waterway Re-Enrollment

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Preble Soil & Water Conservation District are preparing for site visits to grassed waterways that could be re-enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If your CRP grassed waterway is nearing its 10 or 20 year anniversary, you may be eligible! Cooperators with CRP contracts expiring in 2024 should have received a letter about re-enrolling their grassed waterway in the program. If you wish to continue in the program, please call the Preble SWCD office at (937) 456-5159 or NRCS at (937) 456-4211 ext. 3 to confirm your interest. For contracts that will expire in 2025, please be prepared for our District or NRCS staff to visit and review your grassed waterway. Here are some proactive tips to ensure the eligibility for re-enrollment:

- Repair any tile holes that may be present in or near the waterway
- Remember to mow the grass to maintain the grass stand and control weeds
- Clear out any brush growing in the waterway and in rock inlets or outlets
- Take a look for silt that may have been washed into the waterway

For questions about CRP re-enrollment, please contact one of the offices listed above or stop by the District office, located at 2789 US Rt. 35 E., West Alexandria.

Timber Theft in Ohio: A Brief Summary

By: Dave Apsley, Natural Resources Specialist, Eric McConnell, Ph.D., Forest Operations and Products Specialist, And Peggy Kirk Hall, J.D., Agricultural and Resource Law Field Specialist

What Is Timber Theft?

When someone enters another person's property and knowingly cuts and removes a tree or trees without the permission of the landowner it is known as timber theft.

Why Is Timber Theft a Problem?

The answer is really quite simple. Timber has value! The monetary value of timber in Ohio can be highly variable, but it can be as high as a few thousand dollars per tree or tens of thousands of dollars per acre. In many cases, it is relatively simple to steal timber with only a slight risk of getting caught.

Theft as Part of a Timber Sale

In the case of timber disputes that arise from ongoing timber harvests, it is often the word of the property owner against that of the logger or operator. Without a well-written contract that makes it absolutely clear which trees are to be harvested and the amount and method of compensation for the landowner, it is often impossible to prove that a "theft" has occurred.

Summary of How to Prevent Timber Theft

- Locate and clearly mark property boundaries.
- Inspect property regularly. If you do not live on the property, hire a forester or ask a neighbor or relative to periodically walk the property.
- Leave contact information with neighbors and let them know that you do not plan to harvest timber in the near future.
- Conduct a timber inventory and estimate the value of your timber.
- Report all incidents of trespass and/or theft to the authorities.

When Conducting a Timber Sale

- Do your homework prior to the sale. Ohio's Call Before You Cut campaign is a great place to start: 1-877-424-8288 or visit callb4ucut.com.
- Clearly mark sale and property boundaries.
- Notify neighbors of the impending sale and verify that boundaries are correct.
- Paint each tree to be harvested and keep a record of the number of trees to be harvested. Categorize by species and size.
- Sell timber using the "sealed bid" process and secure a "lump-sum" payment prior to the start of harvesting activities.
- Develop a detailed contract with the help of an experienced forester and lawyer.
- Get help from a qualified forester to assist with all aspects of the sale from marking trees, to contract development, to inspection during and at completion of the contract: osafdirectory.com.

BJ's Philosophy Box

Hope for the best
Prepare for the worst
Deal with what comes

Conservation Contractor List

Need a contractor for your next spring project? Want to build a pond this summer? Need information about septic systems? Looking for someone to tear down and salvage your old barn? Trying to find a local tree service, a land surveyor, or a fence builder? You've come to the right place! Visit our website at www.prebleswcd.org to access our Conservation Contractors List under the "Farmer Resources" tab. It provides up-to-date contact information for local companies and contractors that may be able to help you out with just about everything under the sun.

Preble Soil & Water Conservation District
2789 US Rt. 35 E.
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We don't wish to be a nuisance. To be removed from our mailing list, call (937) 456-5159 or email bjprice@prebleswcd.org

Return Service Requested

Dates to Remember:

February 10 - Winter Forestry Hike at 10:00 a.m.
February 19 - President's Day (Office Closed)
February 21 - Board Meeting at 7:00 a.m.
March 20 - Board Meeting at 7:00 a.m.
April 9 - Board Meeting at 7:00 a.m.
April 10 - Tree Sale Pickup

*All programs and services of the Preble SWCD are offered on a nondiscrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender*

\$1,000 College Scholarship Up For Grabs



Preble SWCD is once again offering a \$1,000 college scholarship to a resident of Preble County entering his or her sophomore year or above at an accredited college. Students pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree in the fields of agriculture or natural resources are eligible to apply.

Applicants must be registered to attend classes during the Fall of 2024. A current, official transcript must accompany the application. The scholarship is based on grade point average, field of study, community involvement, and future goals.

The scholarship application and supporting material are due by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 29th. The application can be found at www.prebleswcd.org or by visiting the office. For more information, please call (937) 456-5159.

Winter Forestry Hike

Even though our trees are bare for the season, they still have an amazing story to tell about our forests! Savannah Ballweg of the Conservatory at Miami University and former Educator at Preble SWCD will share how to identify local woodland species and what techniques these plants use to survive winter year after year. Along the hike, attendees will also explore the dynamics of Southwest Ohio's forests over recent generations, as well as the region's natural history. Binoculars are optional, but if you have a pair, consider bringing them along! Come prepared for the weather and join us for this free, fun event suitable for all ages!

Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m.
Preble County Historical Society
and Nature Reserve
7693 Swartsel Rd, Eaton, OH 45320



Conservation Day Camp

Mark your calendars for the exciting return of Conservation Day Camp, to be held on June 18th-20nd, 2024. Registrations for campers will be made available this April. We are looking forward to seeing our campers for another year of outdoor fun and learning! If you have junior high or high school age students interested in serving as camp helpers or counselors, the applications may be found at www.prebleswcd.org.