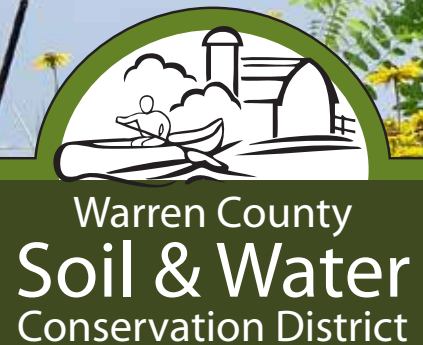


The Warren Report



ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING SALE

Join the reforestation efforts in Warren County

The deadline to place a tree order is March 17 and it is approaching quickly! Our 2017 sale offers 25 different trees and shrubs to pick from. This year we are also offering a unique streambank stabilization pack to combat erosion and collapsing streambanks. To browse the catalog and place your order, visit our website (warrenswcd.com/tree-sale.html). Tree pickup will be at the Warren County Fairgrounds on April 6, 7, and 8.

In order to streamline the ordering process and reduce paper use, we are taking orders online this year. Use the online catalog to read detailed information about each of the tree species, pick your seedling quantity, and purchase your trees with credit card. We understand this process is new, so feel free to contact us at 513-695-1337 with any questions or issues you have with online ordering.

After you pick up your tree seedlings in April they will require water and cool temperatures to survive until planted. Once they are planted, seedlings take a lot of care and water for a few years. A great tip is to plant the seedlings in large pots and recess the pots in the ground close to your house or a water source. When the seedlings have grown significantly and are hardy, a permanent location can be found and re-planting will be easy!

We have strong belief in the power of trees. Trees provide clean air, shade, food, lumber, increased property value, wildlife habitat, flood control, and protection against erosion. Join with us in our native reforestation efforts in Warren County by ordering your tree seedlings from us this year!

"We all sit under the shade of a tree that someone else planted." ~ Unknown

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Upcoming Events in 2017

Annual Tree Sale Pickup

Thursday - Saturday, April 6, 7, and 8
Warren County Fairgrounds

Rain Barrel Benefit Auction

Thursday, April 20
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Envirothon Area IV Competition

Tuesday, April 25
Fernald Preserve

Mason Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 29
Mason, Ohio

For more information about upcoming events or important dates, please visit our website or sign up for our email newsletter on the homepage.

warrenswcd.com





During his more than 25 years on the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Thomas Spellmire was a driving force behind conservation and environmental education. He was a well respected resident, farmer, and strong advocate for protecting water quality and a healthy environment. Tom was a second-generation family farmer who dedicated his life to land and water conservation

through sustainable farming practices, civic involvement, and vision for education. He was conscientious with his farming practices and was eager to share and promote them. His efforts were recognized with many awards, notably the 1990 Southwest Ohio Conservation Farmer and 1995 finalist for Ohio No Till Farmer of the Year. He was also featured in National Geographic's July 2001 article "Urban Sprawl – The American Dream". His ideas and concepts were so progressive that he was asked to provide congressional testimony for United States House committees multiple times.

After Tom's passing in 2013, the District partnered with the renowned Cincinnati Museum Center design team to build a mobile water conservation education exhibit. Tom had a vision for a water education trailer that could travel the state of Ohio and serve as an outreach tool for local schools. In remembrance of his hard work and to continue his legacy, Warren SWCD completed an exhibit in line with this vision that highlights three essential principles of water. Water shapes our land, water is life, and water needs to be protected.

On February 28, 2017 Tom was inducted into the Supervisors Hall of Fame at the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. More than 500 people including family and friends were in attendance to celebrate the contributions Tom made to the farming and conservation community. He was an outstanding board member and will forever be remembered for his legacy to the Soil and Water Conservation District family.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FORESTRY CAMP

Application deadline for both scholarships: April 7, 2017

We believe that the youth of our county are the conservation stewards of the future! This belief fuels the decision of our Board of Supervisors to offer two distinct scholarships annually to qualifying Warren County students. Visit our website to download an application form and application instructions.

Thomas C. Spellmire Future Conservation Leader Scholarship:

This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a high school applicant who plans to enroll in a two or four-year undergraduate program in one of the following courses of study: natural resource management, agriculture, forestry, equine science, wildlife, geography, ecology, environmental science or other related fields of study.

Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp Scholarship:

Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp will occur June 11-16, 2017 and is open to high school students who are passionate about forestry and wildlife. The week-long camp is held at FFA Camp Muskingum on Leesville Lake in Carroll County, Ohio. Be prepared to obtain valuable forestry information, make many new friends, and have fun. Any interested Warren County high school student who has completed the 8th grade through seniors graduating the year of camp are welcome to fill out a camp application, found on the Ohio Forestry Association website and turn it in to Warren SWCD. We will award \$375 towards the costs of camp.

Farmland Preservation Easement Revisit, December 2016



Helping our pollinators progress in Warren County



Common Milkweed. Photo Credit: Anita Gould, Flickr Creative Commons

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative from last fall resulted in approximately 2,500 gallons of milkweed pods collected throughout the state. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort in Warren County.

The milkweed pods were delivered to Department of Corrections Institutions where the seeds are being collected from the pods and placed in cold storage. This process improves the germination of the seeds and will last about 40 days. Once this process is complete, the seeds will be distributed back to Warren County and to the other districts who participated in the initiative. We can expect the seeds back to districts by the beginning of April. Any remaining seeds will be used on other habitat projects in Ohio.

RAIN BARREL ART PROJECT

Save Local Waters Event and Auction at the Cincinnati Zoo



"Just Hangin' Around" By: Barbara, West Chester, Ohio, 2016 Auction

The Rain Barrel Art Project combines creativity and conservation in a fun way to promote the use of rain barrels throughout the Ohio River Valley. Local artists, schools, and organizations have been chosen to paint a rain barrel that will be auctioned off this April during the 5th Annual Rain Barrel Benefit Action. Many Warren County schools will have rain barrels on display this year!

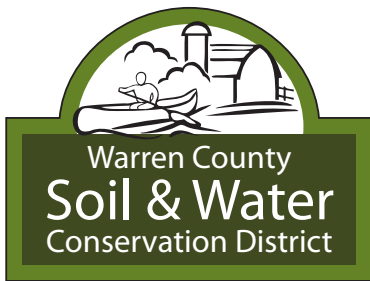
The barrels will be displayed at the Cincinnati Zoo between April 1 and April 20. During that time, anyone can bid on a barrel online by visiting savelocalwaters.org. On April 20, from 4pm-8:30pm in-person bidding will occur at the Cincinnati Zoo during the Party for the Planet.

Rain barrels are one of many practices for backyard conservation. The barrels capture water from a roof and hold it for later use such as on lawns, gardens, washing cars or indoor plants. Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels is helpful in times of drought and reduces the amount of water that flows from your property. It's a great way to conserve water and it's free water for use on your landscape.

You can purchase a rain barrel from the auction in April or visit our website to purchase a non-painted barrel through Warren County SWCD. It is also possible to create your own! Visit the Backyard Conservation section on our website to learn how and to see other conservation practices you can do at home.

Rain Barrel Art Project Workshop, February 2017





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Our mission is to promote the wise stewardship of our natural resources through cooperative partnerships, educational programs and technical assistance in land and water management.

GET YOUR WATER TESTED

Warren County SWCD partners with nearby organizations to offer an annual well water screening. For notices on when the next free screening will occur, check back on our website or sign-up for our email newsletter.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION

We have been awarded a 2017 Healthy Soils Mini Grant! As a result, we will be hosting a workshop for all Warren County residents titled Rediscovering and Harnessing the Nature in Your Yard. Look for more details in the fall.