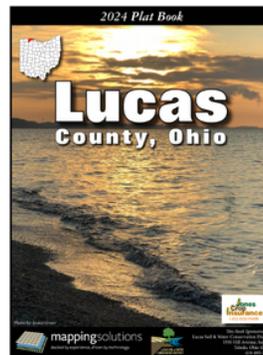




2024 Lucas County Plat Books Are Now Available at our Office, sponsored by the Lucas SWCD!

This spiral-bound book features the standard landownership map pages showing townships and ranges within Lucas County, including property boundaries for all rural parcels. It also includes an updated Lucas County government directory, Lucas County SWCD pages, soils map, watershed map and much more. Each book is \$25 plus tax.

Wall maps and a digital version are also available for purchase. Learn more at: LucasSWCD.org/platbook.



Welcome (back), new staff of the Lucas SWCD!

Olusola Oyewumi - Urban Waters & Grant Coordinator

Olusola first joined the Lucas SWCD in the fall of 2023 as an intern and was later hired as the Urban Waters & Grant Coordinator. He officially started this new position on January 3, 2024 and has hit the ground running!

In the Urban Waters Coordinator position, Olusola is responsible for networking, communication, coordination, and the facilitation of project collaboration efforts between local, state and federal partners. This portion of his job is through the USDA Forest Service and EPA. As Grant Coordinator for Lucas SWCD, Olusola will manage current grants and write and administer new grant projects for the District. He recently graduated with his Master's Degree in Geology from Bowling Green State University.

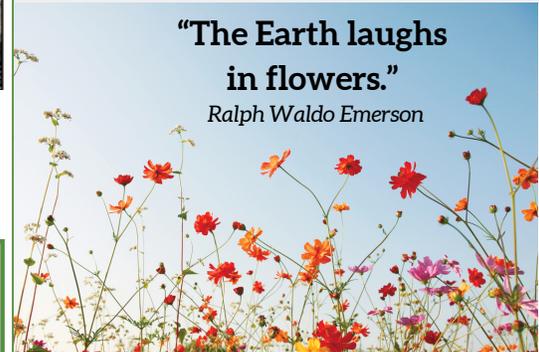


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**"The Earth laughs
in flowers."**

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Get to know your soil this spring!

You can purchase a soil test kit through our office for \$10 plus sales tax. Stop by the office or go to our online store (Lswcd-shop.square.site) to learn more!

Reminder: ORC 939.08/905.326 Manure & Fertilizer Please know the rules and your responsibilities prior to application.

Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/2POBH7u>

 **ALWAYS CHECK THE FORECAST!**



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO STAY UP TO DATE! @LUCASSWCD

Upcoming Events

February 19
Presidents Day - Office Closed

February 21
Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

March 20
Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

March 29
Good Friday - Office Closed 12pm

April 17
Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

April 22-23
Tree Sale Pick-up Dates

May 10
Backyard Conservation Celebration
& Native Plant Sale

May 15
Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

May 16
Spring Fish Sale Pick-up

May 27
Memorial Day - Office Closed

June 19
Juneteenth - Office Closed

June 26
Board Meeting - 5:00 PM

July 4
Fourth of July - Office Closed

July 8-14
Lucas County Fair

July 17
Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

July 20
Lucas County Farm Connection

August 21
Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

Congratulations to the 2023 Conservation Award Winners!

2023 Conservation Educator Award

Lianne Genzman, Ottawa Hills Elementary

Lianne is a 5th grade science teacher at Ottawa Hills Elementary School. Apart from inviting Lucas SWCD into her classroom on a regular basis for programming, Lianne and her students are annual participants in the TMACOG Student Watershed Watch (SWW) and invasive species removal.



2023 Cooperator of the Year Award

Bench Family Farms

For decades, the Bench Family of Jerusalem Township has been sharing their love of the land, food, and farming with their community. The family owns and operates the Bench Farms State Route 2 Greenhouse & Roadside Produce Market and also participates in the H2Ohio Phosphorus Reduction Program.



2023 CRP Award

Peter E. Durbin

Peter Durbin enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through NRCS three decades ago and has since created and maintained an oak savanna and wetland on his property in the Village of Berkey. He is a retired English teacher and has welcomed students to his property for field days and to conduct research.



2023 Community Partner Award

Cherie Blair

Cherie Blair is the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) Coordinator and a Grants Manager for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. She helps facilitate projects that restore and maintain the health of the Maumee AOC. In 2023, she assisted the Lucas SWCD with acquiring/managing a stream restoration grant for the Headwaters Tenmile Creek Watershed.



2023 Community Service Legacy Award

Tina Skeldon Wozniak

The Board and staff of Lucas SWCD wanted to recognize Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak for her public service career and congratulate her on her retirement.



2024 Tree, Shrub & Garden Sale

Below you will find the species descriptions and pricing for our 2024 Tree, Shrub & Garden Sale!

We are no longer accepting mail-in orders. Orders are due by March 29th. No delivery.

To place an order, you can:

- 1). Go online to Lswcd-tree.square.site OR
- 2). Visit our office at 3350 Hill Ave., Suite K in Toledo

You can pick-up your order on:

April 22nd 1-6 PM **OR**

April 23rd 8 AM - 1 PM

@ The Lucas Co. Fairgrounds

Conifers - Bareroot Seedlings



Norway Spruce *Picea abies*

\$20.00 per 25-pack

Approx. 12-18" Seedlings

A large tree with dark green foliage and heavy spreading branches. Needles are short. Grows moderate to fast, reaching 35 ft. in 20 years. Grows well in most soil and drainage conditions. Height 40-60 ft. at maturity and 25-30 ft. in spread.



Douglas Fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca

\$22.00 per 25-pack

Approx. 18-24" Seedlings

Although not a true fir, this evergreen is beautiful alone or used in a group as a screen. Grows 40-80 ft. tall and is moderate to slow growing. Does best in well-drained soils and full sun.

Windbreak Special!

100 Norway Spruce Seedlings for \$70.00

Windbreaks are a conservation practice that protect topsoil from erosion, as well as protect homes or structures from cold or damaging winds. Norway Spruce are a common tree used for this practice. Contact our office and ask about renting our tree planter! (419) 893-1966



Green Rocket Hybrid Cedar

Thuja plicata x

\$15.00 per approx. 18-30" tree

Fast growing, up to 3 ft./year! A white-tail deer resistant Arborvitae hybrid with nice cedar-like aroma. Stays green longer than other Arbs in winter. Tolerates most soil conditions. Up to 25 ft. tall by 6-10 ft. wide.

Hardwoods - 3 gallon pots



Serviceberry *Amelanchier laevis*

\$30.00 per tree (approx. 4-5')

Also known as Juneberry. Edible berries are a good substitute for blueberries in alkaline soils. Can be grown as a small tree or large suckering shrub, loaded with white flowers in the spring followed by red/purple fruit in summer. Birds love this tree! Mature height is 15-25 ft.



Sycamore *Platanus occidentalis*

\$30.00 per tree (approx. 5-6')

This fast-growing native tree reaches 20 ft. in 5-8 years, and up to 100 ft. at maturity. Lovely flaking white-green-brown bark adds interest year-round. Terrific shade tree that grows well in most soils and tolerates flooding. Attracts many birds, insect pollinators and small mammals.



Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*

\$30.00 per tree (approx. 4-5')

A small tree forming a graceful, rounded crown. Lavender pink flowers come in April followed by lovely heart-shaped leaves and small bean pods. Bright yellow fall leaf color, this makes for a nice landscape tree. Grows to 15-30 ft. in height by a similar spread.



Bur Oak *Quercus macrocarpa*

\$30.00 per tree (approx. 5-6')

This native tree can grow up to 90 ft. tall by almost as wide. It has large leaves and acorns with "fuzzy" caps. A member of the White Oak family, these trees are of great value to wildlife! They typically live for more than 300 years and can tolerate many soil types and conditions. Require full sun.

Shrubs - Bareroot Seedlings

(seedling size varies between 12-24" based on species)



Red-twig Dogwood *Cornus sericea*
 (\$10.00 per 5-pack) A showy native shrub with white summer flowers, clusters of small white berries, bright fall foliage and attractive red winter bark. It has excellent nectar and wildlife benefits. Reaches a height of 5-15 ft. with similar width. Fast-growing, adaptable to most soils. Good hedge or windbreak plant. It is very moisture tolerant.



Smooth Rose *Rosa blanda*
 (\$10.00 per 5-pack) Also known as Meadow Rose, it is a nearly thorn-less native rose that spreads underground via rhizomes. Grows to 3-5 ft. in a mounded shape. Beautiful, fragrant pink flowers and rosehip fruits attract pollinating insects, birds, and other wildlife. Prefers dry to medium soil and full to part-sun.



Silky Willow *Salix sericea*
 (\$10.00 per 5-pack) Like other Willows, this native shrub thrives in moist/wet soils and can help control erosion along a waterway. Beautiful gray catkins with yellow tips bloom March - April before silvery green leaves emerge, providing important early food for pollinators. Grows quickly, reaching up to 12 ft.



Steeplebush *Spirea tomentosa*
 (\$10.00 per 5-pack) This upright, multi-stemmed native shrub is known for its spires of showy pick flowers and reddish-gold foliage in autumn. It prefers moist growing conditions and full-sun but can tolerate some shade. Attracts butterflies! Grows 3-4 ft. in height with a slightly larger width. Member of the Rose family.



Sweet Shrub *Calycanthus floridus*
 (\$10.00 per 5-pack) Also known as Carolina Allspice, this native shrub has glossy, dark-green, aromatic leaves and reddish-maroon flowers. It has yellow fall foliage and reaches 6-9 ft. in height. It is very adaptable to many soil, water and light conditions. Drought tolerant. Prune immediately after flowering to keep shape.

Fruit & Berries Bareroot Seedling Packet

\$40.00 per 10-pack

Contains:

- (2) 12-18" Coralberry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*
- (2) 12-18" Highbush Cranberry, *Viburnum trilobum*
- (2) 12-18" Black-cap Raspberry, *Rubus occidentalis*
- (2) 12-18" Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*
- (2) 12-18" Black Chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa*

This packet of ten plants (2 of each species) will benefit both people and wildlife with bountiful fruit! Information on each species included can be found at Lswcd-tree.square.site.

★ NEW! Variety Habitat Packet
\$15 for 5 Bareroot Seedlings
You will receive 1 of each of the shrub species listed above!
(does not include Fruit & Berries Packet)

Native Prairie Seed Packets - \$10 each

Our 1-ounce seed packets cover approximately 250 square feet (about 12' by 20'). They are a mix of prairie flowers and grasses genetically native to our region. Good for naturalizing small areas, or for use as transplants for landscaping! Two mixes are being offered for \$10 each -- a dry mix suitable for sandy, well-drained soils and a moist mix suited for average to wet soils.

Scan the QR Code to view the species in each seed mix!

To place your order:

1. Stop by our office during normal business hours (M-F 8-4:30)
2. Go online at Lswcd-tree.square.site or scan this QR code with your smart device's camera.



Orders due by: March 29th

Order Pick-up:
April 22nd 1-6 PM OR
April 23rd 8 AM-1 PM
at the Lucas County Fairgrounds.



BACKYARD CONSERVATION CELEBRATION & NATIVE PLANT SALE

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY
10

This open-house style event is your one-stop-shop for all things backyard conservation this spring. **We will have native plants, rain barrels, compost bins, soil test kits, bird houses, bat shelters, raised garden beds & more for sale!** We will also have a children's activity, information tables, and staff on hand to answer any questions. This event is family-friendly and free to attend.

Time: 3:00-6:30 PM

Location: Lucas SWCD Office (3350 Hill Ave., Suite K in Toledo)

Planning your Vegetable Garden

By: Penny Bollin, Urban Conservation Technician

Planning a garden can, and should be a fun winter activity! And yet, sometimes it can also be a challenge to know where or how to start the planning process. Below are some tips to help you get off on the right foot!

DEVELOP A LIST OF PLANTS YOU WANT: It is important to first review your garden diary or notes from last year to be reminded of what plants did well. Now is the time to look through seed catalogues for other inspiration. Then, whittle down your list based on your actual space. We all fall guilty of planting too many plants in our gardens sometimes...

PLANNING YOUR BED: There are two methods for organizing your garden; the square-foot method or traditional row gardening. The square-foot method allows for 1 square-foot of space per plant, so your garden ends up looking like a grid rather than rows. The seed catalogues will tell you the spacing as does the back of your seed packets. You can use a free (or paid for) online garden planner or use graph paper, a pencil, and a ruler to plan out your garden. Keep in mind that taller plants can possibly shade out smaller ones. For example, if they are on the south-side, they will cast shade on your garden for most of the day. Also, if you are going to grow plants that need support, decide what you will use based on plant size.

GETTING YOUR PLANTS/SEEDS: Make a list that includes the seeds you still have, what plants you think your local greenhouse will have, and which seeds you will purchase from catalogues. Keep in mind that local greenhouses tend to have the basics. So, if you want an uncommon variety, you should consider ordering those from a seed catalogue.

A FEW REMINDERS BEFORE SPRING: Return to your plan and compare your diagram to your list. Is anything missing? It is also a good idea to look at your property to identify extra spots (including pots) to stuff the bonus plants you know you will have. Consult an online planting calculator for your zone (the Toledo area is in Planting Zone 6). Use this calculator to determine which plants to start indoors, when to start them, and when to plant seeds or transplants outside.

Hopefully this has given you some ideas on how to manage your garden planning. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me at PBollin@co.lucas.oh.us. Garden on!!

Spring Fish Sale - Orders due May 9th (mail-in orders no longer accepted)

An aerator truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery will distribute pre-ordered live fish fingerlings (juvenile fish) on **Thursday, May 16, 2024** from **10:30 - 11:30 AM** at the **Lucas County Fairgrounds** in Maumee, Ohio. Each customer **MUST** bring their own container(s) to transport the fish home in. Each container **MUST** be lined with an unscented plastic bag (at least 10-gallon capacity) and half-filled with water from the pond. One container per 100 small fish or 1,000 minnows.



Number of fish to stock per acre:					
Stocking Combination	Bass	Bluegill	Catfish	Perch	Minnows
Bass-bluegill	100	500			1,000
Bass-bluegill-catfish	100	500	100		
Bass-perch	100			100	
Bass-bluegill-perch	100	500		100	
Bass-bluegill-catfish-perch	100	500	100	100	

***NOTICE** - The Lucas SWCD will no longer be offering White Amur or Redear Sunfish. These two species are not native to Ohio and pose a risk of becoming invasive species that alter native ecosystems.

Species	Size	Price per Fish
Largemouth Bass	2" - 3"	\$1.30
Yellow Perch	2" - 3"	\$1.10
Bluegill	2" - 4"	\$1.00
Channel Catfish	4" - 5"	\$0.90
Fathead Minnow	1" - 3"	\$0.11

Nature's Pond Conditioner
 This all-in-one organic pond conditioner uses naturally-occurring beneficial bacteria, plant extracts, and enzyme blends to create clean, healthy ponds!



1-gal - \$92.75
 5-gal - \$386.25



To place your order:

1. Stop by our office during normal business hours (M-F 8-4:30)
2. Go online at Lswcd-fish.square.site or scan this QR code with your smart device's camera.

Spring Cover Crop Sale - Orders due March 29th (mail-in orders no longer accepted)



We are offering four cover crop seed mixes this spring for use in your garden later this year that are well-suited for NW Ohio. Planting a cover crop in areas that are otherwise left barren protects your soil and also rejuvenates the soil and improves water infiltration. Mixes will be ready for pick-up either during Tree Sale Pick-up on **April 22-23** at the **Lucas County Fairgrounds** in Maumee or after the 23rd at our office in Toledo.

1-lb. Cover Crop Mixes: \$7.50 per bag plus sales tax (cover 200-300 sq. ft.)

Summer Mix: a complex mix designed to rejuvenate and protect fallow ground through the summer for planting of late, cool season vegetables or fall cover crop. Plant after last frost or when soil is above 65F.

Color & Cover Mix: this mix is designed for maximum improvement in soil health and nutrient cycling. Plant August through mid-September. Can be planted around warm season vegetables.

Raised Bed Mix: this mix is designed to provide diverse root structures and organic matter to fortify and amend depleted soils. Attracts pollinators and beneficial insects! Plant August through mid-September.

Buckwheat: is a broadleaf, short-season cover crop that establishes, blooms, and reaches maturity in 70-90 days. Attracts pollinators with its white blooms and suppresses weeds. Plant through summer as needed.



To place your order:

1. Stop by our office during normal business hours (M-F 8-4:30)
2. Go online at Lswcd-shop.square.site or scan this QR code with your smart device's camera.

Education Program Update:

By: Patrick Troyer, Education Specialist



In honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day later this spring, Lucas County students have the opportunity to receive a tree or shrub seedling, free of charge, compliments of Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District! As part of this program, students receive a seedling pre-packaged with instructions on how to care for it along with a fun program where they learn all about the needs of trees. If you would rather do a class tree planted at the school, we can do that too! **Supplies are limited. To reserve your trees, please contact me via phone at (419) 280-6827 or email PTroyer@co.lucas.oh.us by Friday, March 22nd.**

Agricultural Program Updates:

By: Matthew Browne, H2Ohio Technician



Department of Agriculture

Farmland Preservation

With the increasing pressure of farmland to be converted to residential and commercial developments, the Lucas SWCD is committed to keep farming in our area viable and our food sources local. We are proud to announce that the Lucas SWCD is now a Local Sponsor of ODA's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). This program offers agricultural landowners a financial incentive of \$2,000 per acre for establishing an agricultural easement on their property. The easement establishes that the piece of property will forever be used for agriculture and no development can occur on the site. The application period for this round of funding is open until April 18th. Additionally, through a partnership with the American Farmland Trust, we are able to offer 'mini-grants' of up to \$4,000 to help offset the landowner's cost of establishing an agricultural easement, such as legal, realtor, or title fees. Interested farmers and landowners should contact me at MBrowne@co.lucas.oh.us or (419) 377-0901.

H2Ohio

For crop year 2023, over 11,250 acres were enrolled in H2Ohio through the Lucas SWCD, with the year's total cost-share payment to area farmers reaching nearly \$190K! See below for a break-down of the 2023 numbers. (Note that numbers for 2023 are skewed compared to previous years as some practices and acres have been rolled over into the new version of the H2Ohio program). The new iteration of the H2Ohio program is underway, with participants currently working on their nutrient management plans and enrolling practices for 2024 and 2025.

Interested farmers who have not yet signed up are encouraged to contact the Lucas SWCD and get registered, as ODA will continue to accept contracts as funds allow on a first-come, first-serve basis.

H2Ohio Cost-Share Practice	Acres Completed	Amount Paid
VNMP Implementation	11251.1	\$ 22,502.20
VRT Phosphorus Application	3539.7	\$ 28,317.60
Subsurface Phosphorus Placement	3625.8	\$ 108,774.00
Manure Incorporation	294.7	\$ 17,682.00
Conservation Crop Rotation	354.2	\$ 12,397.00
Total 2023 Cost-Share Paid:		\$ 189,672.80

Ditch Maintenance Update:

By: Dj Mears, Drainage/Agricultural Conservationist

The following ditches are scheduled for maintenance in 2024:

- **Spraying for regrowth of brush:** Ballard 20,000'; Beacher 2,000'; Bench/Hagerman 8,500'; Collins 4,500'; Disher 7,500'; Drennan 12,000'; Householder 4,500'; Lone Oak 15,000'; Morrison 2,000'; Mosquito Creek 8,000'; Schmitz 21,000'; Van Fleet 4,000' and Zaleski 5,000'.
- **Tree and brush removal:** Ballard; Bench/Hagerman; Lone Oak; Niles and Wilhelm
- **Tree and brush disposal:** Ballard and Bench/Hagerman
- **Bottom dip-out:** Householder

Also, the 2023 Annual Report to the County Engineer can be found on our website at LucasSWCD.org/ditchmaintenance. If you have questions about our ditch maintenance program, please contact me at (419) 344-2371 or at DMears@co.lucas.oh.us.



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Fax: (419) 893-3131

www.LucasSWCD.org



In this issue... Plat Books, Spring Plant Sales, Fish & Cover Crop Sales, Program Updates, & more!

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(419) 898-6431 ext. 3

Farm Service Agency Wauseon Service Center

(419) 335-6061

Lucas County Commissioners

Pete Gerken
Lisa Sobecki
Anita Lopez

The Lucas SWCD wishes to thank the following entities, whose financial support at the local level draws matching funds from the State of Ohio and/or in-kind support that enables the District to provide services to Lucas County:

- Lucas County Commissioners
- Cities of: Oregon, Toledo, and Sylvania
- Townships of: Harding, Jerusalem, Monclova, Richfield, Spencer, Springfield, and Sylvania
- Villages of: Holland; Ottawa Hills
- Lucas County Farm Bureau
- Lucas County Engineer's Office
- In-kind services from the USDA-NRCS, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture, and OFSWCD
- Grants from Ohio EPA and ODA