



CONSERVATION TRAILS

“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

BEE Home, BEE Happy...

Spring/Summer 2020

As we all know, we have been spending much more time at home. But what you may not know...is that our [pollinator friends](#) are looking for homes, and they are in peril...[That's right...the bee's!](#) I'm not talking homes for the honeybees, rather homes for solitary bees.

Dates to Remember:

- 5/12 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 5/25 Memorial Day
- 6/09 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 7/04 Independence Day
- 7/14 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 8/11 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 9/07 Labor Day
- 9/08 Board Meeting 8:30 am
- 9/12 -17 Wayne County Fair



Honeybees nest in hives. Solitary bees are just that – solitary; they live alone and don't make honey. What you might not know is that 90% of bees don't actually live in hives—but they're important pollinators nonetheless. And by the way, solitary bees are much less likely to sting than honeybees because they aren't defending a hive.

A large proportion of these bees love solitary nesting sites like hollow stems or holes in wood, which means

bee hotels provide the perfect habitat for them. [Call them bee hotels, nests or houses](#), either way...if you build them...they will come! It's a great way to attract pollinators to your flower bed or garden. And it's fun and easy to make one. [There are a variety of different ways to make one... so just try one!](#)

If you have a drill, and some wood, you can make a bee hotel. It can be simple or elaborate. All you need is a wooden box, open on one side, with a sloping roof to deflect rain. Fill it with blocks of wood or small logs into which you have drilled small holes. A variety of solitary bees will use these tunnels as nest sites. The box should

be a minimum of 20 cm (8in) deep, and needs an overhang at the top to keep rain off. Put it on a sunny fence or wall. The drilled holes should be clean (no splinters) and not go all the way through the wood block. You can also fill it with bundles of dried stems of various herbaceous garden plants. Many species of bee's nest in dead stems and will not use drilled holes, any type of tube would work, so long as it **stays dry**. Solitary bees lay their eggs in small holes.

You can tell bees are using your hotel when they make a mud “door” to cover the entrance hole. This means a female bee has laid an egg inside. After the bee hatches, it will eat a supply of pollen until it is ready to break through the mud and fly away. Ladybugs and wasps may also check out a room in your bee hotel. But that's a good thing! Don't forget that “housekeeping” needs to follow up the next year and replace the bedding! So have fun creating your bee hotel and helping the pollinators shelter in place! [~ Enjoy!](#)



The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives.
~Sioux~



Simple or fancy...either type of home will work!



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When in rains, it drains...but to where?

Have you ever hear of the term [storm water](#)? Storm water is something most people don't even think about when it comes to the environment and water quality issues. What I mean by storm water – is just that – it's the rain and runoff after a shower or storm. The main concern is in urban environments – near roads and paved surfaces. The rain runs off of these, what we call impervious surfaces, like blacktop, concrete, roof tops – and it cannot soak in – so, as it runs across these surfaces – it picks up a lot of pollution along the way, and carries it through to the drains and then down to the creeks and streams. Not only does this add to increased waters and potential for flooding, but it also adds to increased risk of pollutants.

Most people think that that dirty, oily, trashy water gets filtered out or sent to a treatment plant first. But that's wrong. Most water that goes down a storm drain – goes straight to a stream or nearby body of water.

Parents should pay attention to any pipe that drains into a stream that their child might play in – and try to figure out where that pipe comes from, and what possible pollutants could that water be carrying to the stream. There could be grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, pesticide, oils, soaps, trash, hazardous waste, and even dog waste all being washed down a storm water drain. Any combination of these pollutants could greatly impair the quality of water in the stream.

So what can be done? What can you do to help? There is good news! Each one of us can do our part!

We can make a difference. Here are some things we all can do to help reduce runoff: **[Plant a rain garden](#)**: Collect water from your roof in a bowl-shaped depression with [native plants to slow and filter rainwater](#) before it flows into a road ditch or waterways; **Install pervious surface** – like pervious pavers – in parking areas to allow water to infiltrate; **[Plant trees and shrubs](#)**: Roots hold water in the ground, making runoff slower which reduces soil erosion. Tree roots from a 12" diameter tree can absorb 120 gallons of water per week!

[On agricultural fields](#), farming practices affect infiltration. For example, the tillage practice used (conventional or no-till) can affect surface crusting, compaction, and even the soil's organic makeup. Also a vegetative cover – like a [cover crop](#) – on bare soil will promote infiltration and reduce erosion and loss of valuable topsoil during the winter months.

We all want clean water to swim and fish in and to give our family and livestock to drink. So why not do everything we can to prevent polluting our waters? Reducing the number of hard surfaces or at least slowing down the runoff from hard surfaces has a positive effect on water quality.



[Visit our website for Rain Garden & Rain Barrel info!](#)

Edible Landscaping



Many of us who live in our area are lucky enough to have at least a small plot of land surrounding our homes. Yet we often choose to put in the typical landscape of grass, marigolds, azalea beds, wisteria, and the occasional hedge or maple—they look nice, but don't give us anything in the way of food or value. There are some [edible plants that are equally beautiful](#), and nearly any homeowner could grow a substantial amount of food in their yard—a much more noble use of the soil.

Consider replacing the typical landscape with decorative borders of herbs, rainbow chard and striking paprika peppers. Instead of the brief color of spring flowering bushes, try the year-round beauty of blueberries—or pear and plum trees, which put on a spring show of flowers, have colorful summer fruits and produce yellow fall foliage. These plants aren't just pretty—they provide healthy food and save money and resources. There's no need to replace everything at once. You can start out with just a few changes each year.



No-Till Drill Rental

No-till and conservation tillage are still [strongly encouraged farming methods](#) supported by Wayne SWCD. Using no-till farming practices reduces soil erosion and helps keep the nutrients on the fields and out of our water. In an effort to promote no-till planting in Wayne County, the Wayne SWCD offers local farmers the availability to rent two pieces of equipment. The equipment includes two (10ft & 15ft) Great Plains no-till drills. Both rent for \$11 per acre. The 10-ft. planting width rents for a minimum of \$88 per delivery, and the 15 ft. rents for a minimum of \$165 per delivery. The 10 ft. should be used with a 60-hp tractor and the 15ft. a 90 hp tractor. The purpose of the [rental program](#) is to promote the use of no-till systems, therefore, the equipment may only be used with conservation tillage. The drills are handled by our No-Till Specialist Luke Nussbaum. Luke can be reached at [330-464-9563](tel:330-464-9563).



Ohio Native Plant Month

What is Ohio Native Plant Month (ONPM)?

On July 18th, 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed legislation designating the month of April as Ohio Native Plant Month. Having a month dedicated to our native plants will provide an annual reminder to learn more about the many benefits of native plants to pollinators, birds, wildlife and Ohio's entire ecosystem.



The United Nations has named 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). **Part of their mandate is to plant 1.2 Trillion Trees!** 2020 is also the 50th Anniversary of Ohio's Natural Areas Act. April 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of [Earth Day](#), and, April is the FIRST Ohio Native Plant Month!

The 2020 Ohio 100,000 Native Tree Challenge!

To help meet the challenge posed by the U.N. to plant 1.2 trillion trees, ONPM is keeping track of the number of *native* trees planted in Ohio this year. Visit www.OhioNativePlantMonth.org to see both the number of trees homeowners and organizations are planning to plant, and the number planted. If you plant even one [native tree in Ohio](#) in 2020, *please* write ONPM by using the "Contact Us" page on their website. If all the trees planned are planted, Ohio could exceed 100,000. With your help, let's see how many native trees we can plant in 2020! **Homebound Activities:** With so many families home together during these difficult times, there is a page on the ONPM website titled, "Homebound Activities." This page has many activities for children and families while they are spending time at home. Take a hike in the woods, participate in the Wildflower Challenge, learn about and remove invasive plants, or plan a special garden for birds or pollinators.

Want to buy some native plants? Check out the [Wilderness Center's Pre-Order Native sale](#) May 1st– 16th

Good Luck Adam!



"Dream No Small Dreams"

It's with mixed emotions we say goodbye to Adam Liston, District Program Administrator. We are excited for him as he embarks upon a new path, but will miss him as well as his huge wealth of conservation knowledge. Adam started his career with Wayne SWCD in 2000 as a District Engineering Technician spending numerous hours in the field with landowners and contractors. Adam assumed the DPA position in 2016. We would like to thank him for his commitment and dedication through out the years. Your soil & water family wishes you the best!



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While many events are cancelled, the good news is the outdoors is always open! Most state, local parks and wildlife areas are open and accepting visitors while still practicing "Social Distancing". Why not take a hike, run the dogs, or get some fresh air? [Spring wildflowers](#) are starting to pop up across the state too! Here in Wayne County we have several great parks and [outdoor wonders listed in this pamphlet](#)...(on website- Newsletters/Conquest)

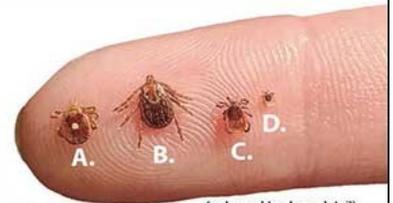
There are thousands of acres of state land to get away from the crowds and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine. So grab the family, get out of the house and forget about the pandemic for a bit. It will certainly do you some good!

Prepare! Warmer weather also brings out the insects! **TICKS in OHIO.**

Tick season is here and you should take the time to learn about Ohio's tick species and how to protect yourself. American Dog Ticks, Blacklegged ticks and Lone star Ticks can all pose a threat to outdoorsmen and women. Read More About Ohio's Ticks Here: at [ODNR](#), [OSU](#), and [Ohio.gov/ticks](#)

Use Deet/ permethrin, wear long sleeves, check yourselves & educate yourselves!

Ohio Tick ID Card



(enlarged to show detail)

- A. Lone star tick, female
- B. American dog tick, female
- C. Blacklegged tick, female
- D. Blacklegged tick, nymph

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