

CONQUEST

“Capture your students love of learning about the Environment”

Spring 2023



Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District / 428 W. Liberty St. / Wooster, Ohio 44691 / (330)-263-5376

Kelly's Korner ~

Greetings! By now if you don't have Spring Fever, it probably won't be long. As you forge ahead in your routines, please remember that my educational services are free to anyone in Wayne County. I offer conservation educational programs and resources, so please let me know if there is something I can do for you or someone I can connect you with! This newsletter is just a sample and a reminder of educational programs and events we have going on! Information is also online at <https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/education>. I hope you enjoy **CONQUEST!**

Important Dates:

- 3/23 [Soil Health Workshop @ Buckeye Ag Museum](#)
- 3/31 [Fish Orders Due](#)
- 4/11 [Fish Sale pick up at Fairgrounds](#)
- 4/13 [Tree sale pick up at Fairgrounds](#)
- 4/22 [Earth Day](#)
- 4/28 [Arbor Day](#)
- 4/28 [Poster Entries Due to our office.](#)
- 5/13 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

One tree produces nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year. Found your trees value at <https://mytree.itreetools.org/#/>



DID YOU KNOW?

80% of the Migrating Birds in North America make their seasonal flights at night.

POSTER CONTEST!

Calling ALL Artists! ALL Grades Levels, Kindergarten through 12th grade, we are looking for entries this year! We miss you! The annual conservation poster contest awards cash prizes to each winner in each age category at the local level. We then send each winner on to be judged at the State Level over the Summer. In 2023, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NADC) Stewardship Week will be focused on watersheds and the theme of **"One Water."** But what is a [watershed](#)? A watershed is an area of land that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, eventually leading to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean. Those bodies of water are all connected, so every drop that falls becomes part of **one water**.



You can [also visit https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/water-quality/watersheds](https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/water-quality/watersheds) for local information on watersheds!

Contest rules follow NACD guidelines. The theme **"One Water"** must be displayed as the title on each poster! **For more information go to the following link:** www.nacdnet.org - for more details click on the [Conservation Education Hub](#) tab and look for contests, or check out all the details on our website at <https://www.wayneswcd.org/home/education/poster-contest>. Entries due April 28th

With the recent interest in water quality, watersheds, contamination... I wanted to share some helpful links! Please visit these for great resources:

How's my Waterway: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/> - Put in your zip code or address! Also, To see where one drop of water drains... visit <https://river-runner.samlearner.com/>

EPA Division of Drinking & Ground Water <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/drinking-and-ground-waters>

Wayne Co. Health Dept.: <https://www.wayne-health.org/private-water-wells> - Info on testing.

Look up your well log: <https://waterwells.ohiodnr.gov/search> -Search map or address.

Bring Birds Back



From www.3billionbirds.org/ - We have lost 1 in 4 BIRDS since 1970! Across the continent, numbers have plummeted, even among common species. In less than a single lifetime, North America has lost more than 1 in 4 of its birds, according to a report in the world's leading scientific journal. Watch a full video and gain more insight here <https://youtu.be/cdzU84AyCdI>. There is also HOPE. Hope that we can make a better planet for birds. Please share and commit to one or more of these 7 simple actions that can help birds. Visit <https://www.3billionbirds.org/7-simple-actions> to see the list & #bringbirdsback.



Migratory Birds

2.5 BILLION MIGRATORY BIRDS LOST SINCE 1970

-28% POPULATION LOSS IN MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES SINCE 1970

2 IN 5 BALTIMORE ORIOLES LOST SINCE 1970

Aerial Insectivores

160 MILLION AERIAL INSECTIVORES BIRDS LOST SINCE 1970

-32% POPULATION LOSS IN AERIAL INSECTIVORES SINCE 1970

2 IN 5 BARN SWALLOWS LOST SINCE 1970

ENVIROTHON—gear up for 2024!

ATTENTION High School Educators! We are looking for Wayne County Teams! In April of 2024, Wayne SWCD will host the Area 2 Envirothon! [The Envirothon](#) is an annual competition that has proven to be an exciting and useful tool for incorporating environmental education into high school classrooms. The teams consist of five dedicated students, who compete **first** at the Area 2 Envirothon, which includes 17 counties in Northeastern Ohio. This event is a hands-on outdoor field experience, that fosters student learning in the areas of AQUATIC ECOLOGY, FORESTRY, SOILS and LAND USE, WILDLIFE, and CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. The winners from the top four teams in each Area advance to the State Envirothon. Please consider it...



SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE

Ohio's bald eagle population has increased dramatically in recent years, [with an estimated 824 nesting pairs statewide in 2022](#). Eagles prefer aquatic habitats such as rivers, wetlands, and lakes, or occasionally sitting in open fields. An eagle's large size, dark-colored plumage, and impressive wingspan are easy to spot. The white head and tail of the adult bird contrasts sharply with its dark body, a distinctive feature used to identify the species. An immature bird is more difficult to identify and has a mottled brown and white plumage for four or five years before attaining the recognizable field marks of an adult. [Bald eagles in Ohio](#) typically lay eggs and incubate in February and March, nesting in large trees such as sycamores, oaks, and cottonwoods. The bald eagle was once an endangered species, with only four nesting pairs in Ohio in 1979. After much hard work and continued conservation, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in 2007, and from Ohio's list in 2012. Bald eagles are protected under both state law and the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, making it illegal to disturb bald eagles. When viewing these majestic birds, remember to respect the bird's space and stay at least 100 yards away. Disturbing bald eagles at the nest site could lead the pair to abandon the eggs. A favorite site to go online and watch birds live (including Eagles) is <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/>





Re-Imagine Your Lawn or School Yard



Photo: credit K. Burley

Lawns provide great settings for picnics and recreation. However, turf lawns often consume far more outdoor space than is required for these activities. Sections of these overly expansive or underutilized lawns can be converted into a beautiful food garden or native habitat. Native plants require less maintenance than lawns, reducing use of harmful chemicals, water, and fossil fuels. They also provide food and habitat for wildlife, and celebrate local heritage and landscape. Think about the lawns in your community. How much is just a “dead zone”? Consider repurposing it. By making wise use of outdoor spaces we can produce food, reduce pollution and energy use, and support wildlife. Click on this list : [8 Super Fragrant Flowers That Pollinators Love, from Birds & Bloom](#). Another helpful link to bring more Birds into your yard with native plants is <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> . Enter your zip code, and get a list of plants that are suitable for your area! Happy planning & planting!

BIG TREE CONTEST

We are looking for the LARGEST white pine tree in Wayne County! So, keep your eyes open, be on the lookout, and get that tape measure ready! We decided on the Eastern White Pine for a few reasons: first to give everyone a good head start. As a Conifer, the EWP tree keeps their needles all year long (also known as evergreen trees). Cedar, Spruce, Fir, Cypress, Hemlock and Pine are all evergreen conifers too, [so please make sure you know you have an Eastern White Pine](#). One sure telltale sign of the EWP is the needles – they have clusters of five, and the pine needles are bundled together at the base of the cluster. Spruce and Fir needles grow individually on the branch. Big Tree nominations are due July 14th [Forms and more information are on our website— Landowner Assistance—Trees](#).



Kelly's COOL Links... Just had to share! ~Enjoy

[Total Solar Eclipse](#) - [Eclipse.Ohio.Gov](#) Get lots of info for the April 8th 2024 EVENT!

[Climate & Weather Explorer](#) from Sea-Grant Indiana-Illinois– Great Teaching Resources! This website has 2– Explorer links with great educational links!



[CAMP CANOPY](#) any HS students interested in Forestry and Wildlife would love this summer camp, please share! www.campcanopy.com.

[Spring Cleaning with SAFER CHOICE!](#) EPA has done the homework, so you don't have to. Look for EPA's Safer Choice label to find products that work well and are made with safer ingredients. [Click here for a link for a list of Safer Choice products!](#)



[Ever wondered how many birds migrated across Wayne County last night?](#) You can click on this dashboard by BIRDCAST and now know! It's is so cool. Look up any location. <https://birdcast.info/>

CONTACT ME, Kelly Riley to schedule programs Monday—Thursday by email at kriley@wayneoh.org or call the office/leave a message at Wayne SWCD (330) 263-5376. Free Conservation Education Programs.