

STARK STEWARDSHIP

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District

2021 District of the Year

Volume 34 (2024)

Issue #1

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Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed: President's
Day (February 19th)

Board Meetings: 2nd
Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Pond Workshop

Looking to rejuvenate an old, stagnant pond? Join us for a presentation by Alec Hillyer, Aquatic Biologist, with Dynamic Lake and Land Management. He will present material on managing your pond so you can improve its visual appeal and overall ecological health.

- March 18th (6:00 p.m.) at 2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon - Register for the workshop by visiting starkswcd.org or calling the District at 330-451-7645.

Stark Library Eco Fair

Stark Library is hosting its annual Eco Fair at the Main Branch in downtown Canton. Come check out a variety of environmentally themed programs and presentations at the fair. Stark Soil & Water will have a table loaded with information and friendly staff at the fair. Stop by our table, say hello, and pick up information packed material.

- April 13th (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.) at 715 Market Ave. N, Canton - Attendance is free.

Master Rain Gardener 2024 Spring Class

Registration for the 2024 Master Rain Gardener class is now open! This course is a 6-week step-by-step training that teaches individuals how to design and build a rain garden. Courses take place weekly and in-person at the Stark SWCD office. Certifications are given to students that attend the classes, complete the associated homework, and construct or adopt a rain garden. The course is \$40.00 per person and includes a t-shirt and a metal Certified Master Rain gardener sign to display proudly for those who complete the course. Seating is limited and preregistration is required.

- April 5th, April 12th, April 19th, April 26th, May 3rd, and May 10th (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) For more information and to register, visit starkswcd.org/master-rain-gardener-course

Eastern Ohio Grazing Council Pasture Walks

Join the Eastern Ohio Grazing Council for the first spring pasture walk! The location will be announced closer to the date, so stay updated by checking out their Facebook page or checking their website at www.carrollswcd.org/eastern-ohio-grazing-council.html.

- April 25th (6:00 p.m.), location TBD.

Stark Soil & Water greatly appreciates our Stark County Commissioners — Janet Weir Creighton, Richard Regula, and Bill Smith— for their continued financial support of the District.

2024 Tree Sale Descriptions

| Name | Height at maturity | Spread | Sunlight | Soil Moisture | Notes/Uses |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| American Hazelnut (<i>Corylus americana</i>) | 6'-12' | 10'-12' | Full sun to partial shade | Moderate | Shrub, will form root suckers, good as a hedgerow or wind break, aids wildlife, edible |
| American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>) | 10'-20' | 15'-20' | Full sun to partial shade | Moderate | Will form root suckers, white spring blooms, aids pollinators & wildlife, edible |
| Black Gum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>) | 30'-50' | 20'-30' | Full sun to partial shade | Wide range Dry-wet | Birds love the berries, nectar for pollinators, great fall color |
| River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>) | 40'-70' | 40'-50' | Full sun to partial shade | Moderate-wet | Multi-stem or single stem tree, showy bark, good for wet areas |
| Staghorn Sumac (<i>Rhus typhina</i>) | 15'-25' | 10'-25' | Full sun to partial shade | Wide range Dry-wet | Multi-stem tree, root suckers, aids pollinators & wildlife, showy in winter |
| American Persimmon (<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>) | 30'-80' | 35'-50' | Full sun | Prefers moist/ well-drained | Edible fruit, benefits wildlife, multiple trees recommended to encourage fruiting |
| Shingle Oak (<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>) | 50'-75' | 40'-70' | Full sun to partial shade | Moist, well-drained | Wildlife benefit, unique leaf, uncommon in Stark |
| Mixed Pack Species | | | | | |
| Native Foraging Pack (2x: Hop Tree, Pecan 3x: Am. Persimmon, Pawpaw) | Hop Tree – 10'-20' Pecan – 70'-100' Persimmon – 30'-80' Pawpaw – 12'-25' | 10'-20' 40'-75' 25'-30' 10'-20' | Full sun to partial shade | Moderate | Great for permaculture or sustainable living, aids pollinators & wildlife |
| Deer Pack (2x: American Hazelnut, Chinkapin Oak, Coralberry, Dom. Apple, Persimmon) | Hazelnut – 10'-20' Chinkapin Oak – 50'-80' Coralberry – 3'-4' Dom. Apple – 20'-30' Persimmon – 30'-80' | 10'-12' 50'-70' 4'-5' 12'-20' 25'-30' | Full sun to partial shade | Moderate | Preferred food for deer food plot, habitat improvements |
| Soggy Yard/Wetland Mix (2x: Buttonbush, Nannyberry, Pussy Willow, River Birch, Spicebush) | Buttonbush – 6'-12' Nannyberry – 10'-25' Pussy Willow – 6'-15' River Birch – 40'-70' Spicebush – 6'-10' | 5'-8' 10'-15' 4'-12' 40'-60' 4'-12' | Full sun to partial shade | Wet-medium | Troublesome/wet areas, landscape worthy, pond margins, erosion control, pollinator habitat |
| 25 Pack Species: | | | | | |
| White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>) | 50'-100' | 100' | Full sun to partial shade | Wide range Dry-wet | Keystone species, aids pollinators & wildlife, great fall color |
| White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>) | 60'-80' | 20'-40' | Full sun to partial shade | Medium | Evergreen, windbreak, wildlife habitat |



2024 Tree Sale



Quantities are limited. Please complete the order form below and ensure the form and

payment are submitted to our office ASAP. Order deadline is March 15, 2024. Only exact cash or checks are accepted. Checks should be made out to Stark SWCD. Our office is located at 2650 Richville Drive SE, Suite 100, Massillon, OH 44646. Our hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

| 5 Pack Tree Saplings | Size | Quantity | Price | Total |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Staghorn Sumac Liners | 2'-3' | | \$10.00 | |
| <u>10 Pack Seedlings</u> | | | | |
| American Persimmon Seedlings | 6"-12" | | \$10.00 | |
| River Birch Seedlings | 6"-12" | | \$10.00 | |
| Shingle Oak Seedlings | 6"-12" | | \$10.00 | |
| <u>5 Pack Seedlings</u> | | | | |
| American Hazelnut Seedlings | 12"-24" | | \$10.00 | |
| American Plum Seedlings | 12"-24" | | \$10.00 | |
| Black Gum Seedlings | 12"-24" | | \$10.00 | |
| <u>25 Pack Tree Seedlings</u> | | | | |
| White Pine Seedlings | 6"-12" | | \$12.00 | |
| White Oak Seedlings | 6"-12" | | \$18.00 | |
| <u>10-12 Pack Variety Seedlings</u> | | | | |
| Soggy Yard/Wetland Mix (2x each: Spicebush, Pussy willow, River Birch, Button Bush, Nannyberry) | 12"-18" | | \$25.00 | |
| Deer Food Pack (2x each: each American Hazelnut, Chinkapin Oak, Persimmon, Domestic Apple, Coralberry) | 12"-18" | | \$25.00 | |
| Native Foraging Pack (2x each: Hop Tree, Northern Pecan; 3x each: Pawpaw, American Persimmon) | 6"-12" | | \$25.00 | |
| | | | Subtotal | |
| | | | Sales tax (6.5%) | |
| | | | Grand Total | |

Only exact cash and checks are accepted at this time. Please make all checks out to Stark SWCD. Payment deadline is March 27, 2024.

Order pick up is April 12th from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m

Thank you for choosing natives!



2024 FISH SALE



Quantities are limited. Please complete the order form below and ensure the form and payment are submitted to our office. Order deadline is March 22, 2024. Only exact cash or checks are accepted. Checks should be made out to Stark SWCD. Our office is located at 2650 Richville Drive SE, Suite 100, Massillon, OH 44646. Our hours are Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

First name: _____ Last name: _____
 Phone number: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____

| Species | Size | Quantity | Price | Total |
|--|---------|----------|--------------------|-------|
| Largemouth Bass | 2"-3" | | \$1.30 each | |
| Bluegill | 2"-4" | | \$1.00 each | |
| Channel Catfish | 4"-5" | | \$.90 each | |
| Hybrid Bluegill | 2"-4" | | \$1.00 each | |
| Red Ear Shellcracker | 2"-4" | | \$1.00 each | |
| Fathead Minnows (minimum 100) | 1"-3" | | \$.08 each | |
| Japanese Koi | 5"-7" | | \$13.00 each | |
| White Amur | 8"-10" | | \$16.00 each | |
| Perch | 2"-3" | | \$1.10 each | |
| Black Crappie | 2"-4" | | \$1.00 each | |
| Other Items | | | | |
| Nature's Pond Conditioner | 1 gal. | | \$90.00 | |
| Optimal Fish Food (40% protein) small pellet | 40 lbs. | | \$47.00 | |
| | | | Subtotal | |
| | | | Sales tax (6.5%) | |
| | | | Grand total | |

Bring a container with plastic liner & 1/3 full of pond water for each pond.

No more than 100 fish of same species per container; 1,000 minnows per container.

Only exact cash and checks are accepted at this time.

Please make all checks out to Stark SWCD. Payment deadline is March 26, 2024.

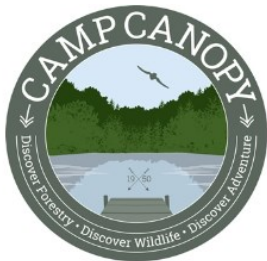
Order pick up is **Tuesday, April 2nd, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. on the road entering our office at 2650 Richville Dr SE, Massillon, OH**

Early Interseeding of Cover Crops May Pay Off

Cover crops are a proven practice to building healthy, fertile soil and keeping it where it belongs: in the field. But, in northern Ohio, cover crops planted in the fall have fewer optimal months to establish and grow significant biomass compared to more temperate regions of the country. This provides an opportunity for cover crops to bring even greater benefits for growers in Stark County.

Interseeding (the practice of planting a cover crop into an already growing cash crop) offers a solution to the problem of a short growing season, as supported by a growing body of research. Instead of waiting until after harvest, you plant sooner. An earlier planting means greater biomass, which means all the usual benefits of cover cropping are enhanced, and so far, studies have shown no major losses in yield with interseeding.

Most consider V4-V6 the sweet spot for timing interseeding cover crops with corn. Once the corn reaches canopy, it shades out the cover crop which goes dormant, but rebounds after harvesting the cash crop. As for interseeding with soybeans, Ohio State University recommends waiting until they have dropped 10% of their leaves before seeding a cover crop for an optimal balance of maximum growth and minimal interference.



2024 Camp Canopy Scholarship Application

Our Camp Canopy scholarship application will be available to Stark County high school students starting on February 20th. Camp Canopy is a week-long summer camp (June 9-14, 2024) and held at Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum in Carrollton, OH. The scholarship covers the cost of camp, including meals and programs (\$400 value). The deadline to apply is April 20, 2024 by 4:00 p.m. The winner will be notified May 9, 2024. Once the scholarship application is open, you can find more information at starkswcd.org or email igbruder@starkcountyohio.gov. For more information about Camp Canopy, please visit: campcanopy.com

Drainage Desk: What is a Sinkhole??

A common type of drainage call we receive is about sinkholes. While these typically are not “true” sinkholes in the geological sense, they are depressions that form in the ground due to burst sewer lines, abandoned mines, buried and rotting debris, unremoved tree stumps, or buried rocks from construction. Water leaking from a pipe or filtering through the ground eats away at loose layers of soil, creating an underground void. When these voids become large enough, the soil and grass will collapse to form unnatural holes that we commonly refer to as sinkholes. If you notice a sinkhole in your yard, take caution around the area and do not enter the sinkhole as this can lead to serious injuries. In most situations, these can be repaired by the homeowner, but it is recommended that a professional determine the extent and cause of it. Here at Stark Soil & Water, we can pull up existing sewer pipes and mines maps as well as visit your property to help determine the cause of the sinkhole. Since we are not professional geologists though, we cannot give recommendations on how to fill the holes - true sinkhole or not. To fill the sinkholes, we can provide you with a list of professionals to contact that know how to do it correctly and safely.

A common question with sinkholes is determining who is responsible for the repair. According to Ohio’s drainage law, if the cause of the sinkhole, such as a burst sewer pipe, lies on a private property, then the owner of the said property is responsible. This holds true even if the problem such as a pipe or buried debris was not installed by the property owner. At Stark Soil & Water, we can look at your property and research any existing county storm sewer pipe lines or abandoned mines to help determine the cause of the sinkhole. We can then direct you to professional geologists and contractors that can help you fill in the hole and reduce the risk of sinkholes on your property.

If you’re curious about true sinkholes, these occur from natural landforms called karst. These landforms consist of carbonate bedrock that dissolve due to water from bedrock fractures or streams. As the bedrock dissolves, the surface materials above begin to erode and collapse, creating sinkholes. While there are thousands of these in the state of Ohio, they only exist in about 2% of the central and western portions of the state, making it extremely unlikely that residents of Stark County will ever see a true sinkhole. We won’t get caught up in terminology though. If you see a hole in your yard that shouldn’t be there don’t hesitate to give us a call and get it checked out. “True” sinkhole or not, they can be dangerous, and our goal is to help you find the right solution.



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Smart Salting



Throughout the winter months, salt is a common pollutant contaminating storm water. While salt is necessary to keep our roads and paved surfaces safe for travel, it presents a significant risk to ecosystems and sources of freshwater. Once salt reaches water bodies, it is virtually impossible and incredibly expensive to remove. This is why practicing responsible salt usage is an important part of storm water stewardship. Below are environmentally friendly tips to consider when applying salt this year.

When applying salt, remember that a coffee cup of salt covers approximately 250 square feet, or ten sidewalk squares. It is best to scatter it so that there is space between the grains, helping cover a larger area with a smaller amount of salt. Afterwards, sweep up the salt when it is no longer needed, and if it's dry, you can reuse it. It is also important to remember that salt doesn't work when the temperature drops below 15 °F, so instead you can opt for sand for traction or an alternative ice melter. If possible, the best way to avoid over salting is to shovel first. The more snow removed, the less salt is needed and the more effective it will be.

For more information about responsible salt usage, visit Wisconsin Salt Wise's webpage at <https://wisaltwise.com/Take-Action/Smart-Salting>. Stay safe and stay warm, and remember it's just a few months until spring!

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.