

Frankly Speaking

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

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www.franklinswcd.org



Not Your Grandpa's Woods

I often wonder about my grandfather's woods: were there long, unbroken swaths of maples, beeches and oaks? What was the understory like, if not filled with impenetrable honeysuckle and multiflora rose that angrily snags your pants? Were the night insects deafening at the height of summer? Was the lumbering box turtle, now a Species of Concern in Ohio, more easily encountered then?

Our forests are in constant flux, their composition dictated by factors including historical logging and fire and, more recently, threats of invasive species and climate change. The inevitable loss of our ash trees from the emerald ash borer (EAB) is reminiscent of Dutch elm disease

and chestnut blight, pathogens that permanently altered forest composition. American chestnut, for example, was a dominant hardwood species and cash crop in its range that included the eastern half of Ohio. In less than 50 years, bears, wild turkeys and passenger pigeons lost an important food source, while several moth species became extinct upon losing their sole food source. Other species, such as red oak and tuliptree, became more successful.

Many Ohio counties are experiencing a variety of pathogens and pests, some more localized than others: Asian longhorned beetle, thousand cankers disease, hemlock woolly

SEE **WOODS**, PAGE 4

Order your trees and fish by March 21! Send a check with the order form on page 6, or order online at www.franklinswcd.org

We're moving! Check our Web site or call us for tree and fish pick-up locations!

Tree Packets Available in 2014 Sale

This year, landowners can choose from seven 'themed' tree packets. Packets contain two seedlings each of five different species, for a total of ten plants.

The **Ash Replacement Packet** includes a selection of medium to large trees that are hardy and relatively fast growing to quickly replace ash trees infested by the emerald ash borer. They include two each of tulip poplar, red oak, hackberry, Kentucky coffeetree and thornless honeylocust.

The **Lawn and Woodland Packet** is a collection of classic, handsome and stately native trees to complement and personalize your property for decades to come. It includes two each

of sugar maple, American beech, white oak, black gum and sweet gum.

The **Honeysuckle Replacement Packet** is for those landowners who have removed bush honeysuckle and are looking for replacements. It includes two each of American hazelnut, highbush cranberry, red twig dogwood, coralberry and shining sumac.

The **Streamside Packet** is for planting along ponds and streambanks to provide erosion protection, bank stabilization and wildlife habitat. It includes two each of red osier dogwood, button bush, ninebark, pussy willow and sycamore.

SEE **TREE PACKETS**, PAGE 2



Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa

NRCS News

USDA NRCS district conservationist Mary Ann Core has retired after promoting conservation on the land for over 30 years. Until the position is filled, landowners will be ably assisted by Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, who is the soil conservationist in Delaware County. Here is his story:

Everything starts with farming, the reason why we are all here. I started my life in the town of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. For those not familiar with Puerto Rico, it's a beautiful island 100 miles in length by 35 miles wide. It is a US territory located in the Caribbean next to the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

This small and cozy island saw me grow up on the farm. Mayaguez is located on the west side of the island, in the upper mountains where coffee, plantains and bananas are the most common crops. My mom and dad always taught me to respect God and mother earth, as they were the only ones who could bless you with food and life. It was not until I worked at the coffee farm with my grandfather that I learned the real meaning of farming and how hard it could be helping soils produce for you.

At the age of 17, I decided that my passion was agriculture, so I went to the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez to get a degree in General

Agriculture with specialization in Animal Science, Educational Agriculture and Extension. My dream came true after I received my BS, and I decided to move to Ohio to learn more about agriculture.

I became a soil conservationist with NRCS in Fairfield County in August 2008. After two wonderful years of learning there, I was transferred to Delaware County where I have been assisting landowners for the past three years.

Recently, I have been assisting landowners in Franklin County, and again, it has been an awesome experience due to the diversity of this county. I have started to realize how different ecosystems, soils and weather could be within state limits.

I have never forgotten the words of my grandfather about "respecting the land that can feed you." I still have family in Puerto Rico, and I started a new one this past fall when I married, but never do the words go away and always they whisper in my ears, that farming and knowing how to treat the land is the base for everything. Like my grandfather used to say "respect the land that can feed you."

Eliezer and Denise Shafer, Delaware NRCS district conservationist, can be reached at (740) 362-4011.

Conservation Mini-Grant Applications

It's time! Time to think about how a Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Fund mini-grant can help your organization get a conservation practice installed during 2014.

The Conservation Fund will provide grants of up to \$1,500 to three qualifying organizations. Applications for funding will be accepted through February 28.

The application can be found at www.franklinswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/2014-Conservation-Fund-Mini-Grant-application.pdf.

Please download the application and return it to Kyle Wilson at kwilson@franklinswcd.org. Questions may be directed to Kyle at (614) 486-9613.

Read more about the Conservation Fund Mini-Grant Program, including preferred projects and restrictions at <http://www.franklinswcd.org/2014/01/conservation-fund-mini-grants-application/>.

TREE PACKETS

FROM PAGE 1

The **Shady Area Packet** is a selection of trees and shrubs that thrive in wooded understories and shady areas. Together they offer showy flowers, winter interest and food and cover for wildlife. Species include two each of pagoda dogwood, spicebush, nannyberry, musclewood and Canada hemlock.

The **Songbird Packet** provides food and shelter for many bird species. High-energy, high-fat fruits like acorns and bayberries are particularly important for helping birds survive the winter or reach their migratory destinations. Includes two each of northern bayberry, white cedar, black chokeberry, swamp white oak, blackhaw viburnum and shadblow serviceberry.

The **Bees, Bugs and Butterflies Packet** includes tree and shrub species selected as pollen and nectar sources for pollinators, and as host plants for their caterpillars. This packet includes two each of shingle oak, hop tree, chokecherry, ninebark and fragrant sumac.

More information about trees sold in tree sale at www.franklinswcd.org.

Native Perennials Available in Tree Sale

Sullivant's milkweed *Asclepias sullivantii*

Clusters of bright pink flowers appear in July and August. An excellent plant for adding color to difficult wet areas, it also grows well in any moist garden soil in full sun. It will reach 3-4 feet and is exceptionally attractive to monarch butterflies. LFS, B, OP, H, RG, DR

Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*

The brilliant orange blooms of this milkweed are irresistible to native bees, butterflies and wasps. It can grow to 2 feet and is a favorite food source of the monarch butterfly. Grows best in dry soils, in full to part sun. LFS, B, OP, H, RG, DR

Blue false indigo *Baptisia australis*

Tall spikes of blue flowers tower above the beautiful foliage in June to early July. This plant grows 3-5 feet in full sun and well-drained soil. LFS, B, OP, RG, DR

Plains coreopsis *Coreopsis palmata*

Long blooming and low growing, it produces bright golden flowers on 1-2 feet tall stems. It provides mid-summer pollen and nectar for pollinators. Requires full sun and well-drained soil, but is also suitable for difficult dry sites. B, OP, DR

Sawtooth sunflower *Helianthus grosseserratus*

This beautiful member of the aster family adds a punch of color to the late season landscape. Golden yellow flowers appear July-October atop plants that reach 3-10 feet or more in height. This robust plant adapts to many soils, but prefers full sun and moist, loamy soil. LFS, B, OP, SM

Soft rush *Juncus effusus*

The soft, 1-2 foot tall foliage appears to be stiff and spiky. It grows in a tight ornamental clump in very shallow water or saturated soil. Recommended for sunny shoreline plantings or the

wettest parts of rain gardens. Seeds are eaten by wide range of birds and small mammals. LFS, S, SM, RG

Rough blazingstar *Liatris aspera*

This plant erupts into blazing wands of lavender in late summer. It grows 2-5 feet tall in dry to medium soils in full sun. B, OP, H, S

Cardinal flower *Lobelia cardinalis*

Striking red flowers along tall spikes appear in August and September. Grows 2-5 feet tall. Prefers moist to wet soils in sun or partial shade. B, H, RG, DR, BWT

Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*

Showy purplish-pink flowers appear from June through August above fragrant foliage that reaches 2-4 feet tall. Prefers full to part sun in dry to moist soils. The fresh leaves can be used to brew a minty tea. LFS, B, OP, H, RG, DR, BWT

Purple prairie clover *Dalea purpureum*

Bright purple flowers appear in mid-summer on 1-2 foot tall plants. This deeply taprooted, long-lived beauty is virtually immune to heat and drought and it fertilizes the soil naturally with nitrogen that it takes from the air. B, OP, S, SM

Obediant plant *Physostegia virginiana*

Bright pink flowers that resemble snapdragons are produced in August and September. Grows 2-4 feet tall in full sun and medium to moist soil. This vigorous plant creeps rapidly by rhizomes to quickly fill in wet areas. OP, H, RG, DR, BWR

Royal catchfly *Silene regia*

The brilliant red flowers of this rare beauty bloom over a period of weeks in July and August. The spectacular flowers, on plants 2-4 feet tall, must be seen in person to be fully appreciated. Prefers rich, well-drained soil in full sun. B, H

Ohio goldenrod *Solidago ohioensis*

The showy golden flowers appear in late summer and attract a variety of pollinators to the large flat flower clusters. It will grow 2-3 feet tall in wet to medium sites. It does not spread by rhizomes. B, OP, S, RG, DR, BWR

Virgin's Bower *Clematis virginiana*

A good alternative to the overly-aggressive Japanese version and various hybrids. Over 50 species of insects are attracted to this deciduous and hardy flowering vine. Fragrant, white flowers appear in late August followed by wispy, attractive seed heads. B, OP, S, DR, BWT

Goat's Beard *Aruncus dioicus*

In early summer showy plumes of creamy white flowers rise above plants that can reach 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Prefers moist soils in full or part shade. LFS, B, OP, RG

Large Flowering Trillium *Trillium grandiflorum*

Ohio's state wildflower is found in all its counties. This spring-bloomer is the largest and showiest of the trilliums, reaching 1-1.5 feet tall, and commonly found in rich old-growth forests where it receives full or part shade. OP, BWT

Key to benefits:

- LFS larval food source
- B attracts butterflies
- OP attracts other pollinators
- H attracts hummingbirds
- S attracts songbirds
- SM attracts small mammals
- RG rain garden appropriate
- DR high deer resistance
- BWT black walnut tolerant

WOODS

FROM PAGE 1

adelgid and sudden oak death are just a few. Unfortunately, we are all united in sharing EAB, an exotic beetle that has been in Ohio for 10 years and threatens to decimate our green, white, blue, black, and the lesser-known pumpkin ash trees. EAB has been apparent in the central Ohio area in recent years, with swaths of the popular street trees dead and dying.

As the Ohio Department of Natural Resources estimates that 1 in 10 trees is an ash, its loss is very visible, with far reaching economic and ecological impacts. While native borers target already-weakened trees, EAB kills healthy trees as well. Because most ash species prefer moist soils along streambanks and swamps, their disappearance means less shade to offset temperature extremes for sensitive aquatic animals, and fewer roots that prevent soil from eroding into waterways.

In addition, forest communities' soil characteristics (pH, nutrients and moisture) are changing. Large gaps are appearing that allow in sunlight and invite exotics, and many species are losing an important host species. Researchers at The Ohio State University report that 44 kinds of insects and spiders rely solely on the ash, with nearly 300 partially dependent on it. It seems that the only winners here are woodpeckers, with a new and a widely abundant food source.

EAB is now so well established in Ohio that local quarantine regulations are no longer in place to regulate its movement, and homeowners need not report EAB. However, you are strongly encouraged to buy and burn local firewood (within your county) to prevent the spread of other pests like gypsy moth, for which there is a quarantine.

Important Information About the Tree Sale

1. Fill out the order form on pages 5 and 6 and return with check to Franklin Soil and Water. Call or visit our Web site for our new address!
2. Or, place your order online at www.franklinswcd.org.
3. Last day to order from the tree sale is March 21.
4. Tree pick up will be Friday, April 11, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 12 from 8 a.m. to noon at a location yet to be determined.
5. Arrange for someone to pick up your tree-sale items if you are unavailable. Tree sale items that are not picked up during pick-up hours will be donated to local nonprofits at noon on April 18.
6. It is important to plant bare-root seedlings immediately. Do not leave them in your car or a hot garage. Please read about proper tree planting on our Web site, www.franklinswcd.org.
7. Conservation-grade, bare root seedlings are generally small, so a large-capacity vehicle is not necessary.
8. There are no refunds.
9. Order early as there may be limited quantities of some plants. Your payment will be refunded, if a plant is unavailable.
10. Orders received by February 15 will be entered into a drawing for a rain barrel!
11. Additional information and photos of trees, shrubs and perennials are available on our Web site, www.franklinswcd.org.
12. The species we sell (except for edible landscaping) are Ohio natives or cultivars, but may not be native to Franklin County. Details on species and genus can be seen online.

There is ongoing research about how to combat EAB, such as predatory wasp releases. But for now, all species of ash on your property are at risk. Preventative treatments are most effective on healthy trees; infected trees usually die within three to five years. Contact a certified arborist for options, and don't forget we are again offering an ash-replacement packet featuring hardy, fast-growing trees. There's strength in diversity—planting a number of different species will ensure that some of them are resistant to future threats, whether it be climate change, disease or bugs.

Landowners can help identify changes in local forests. Get to know

what species are on your property, so you can recognize and treat unusual symptoms—don't leave it up to outside agencies.

Perhaps my grandpa believed in natural balance, and that the state of things would eventually right itself without human intervention. But after decades of stress and ever-emerging threats, natural resource conservation does require vigilance and action. Oftentimes, it is the landowner who reports something unusual that leads to detecting and tracking invasions. It's these individuals who are learning bird songs, removing honeysuckle and planting natives.

SEE WOODS, PAGE 8

SPECIES	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE (P/B)	QUANTITY (Q) (# of bundles)	Cost (P/B x Q)
EVERGREEN TREES (Bare Root)				
White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	7-10" bare root	25 trees for \$15		
White Spruce (<i>Picea glauca</i>)	8-15" bare root	10 trees for \$9		
BROADLEAF TREES (Bare Root)				
Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$10		
Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$9		
Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$9		
Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>)	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$9		
SHRUBS (Bare Root)				
Black Elderberry (<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>)	12-18" bare root	5 shrubs for \$9		
Red Chokeberry (<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>)	12-18" bare root	5 shrubs for \$9		
TREE PACKETS (Bare Root) - 10 trees, 2 of each species listed				
Ash Replacement Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
red oak, thornless honeylocust, hackberry, Kentucky coffeetree, tulip poplar				
Honeysuckle Replacement Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
american hazelnut, highbush cranberry, red-twig dogwood, coralberry, shining sumac				
Shady Area Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
Pagoda dogwood, spicebush, nannyberry, muscledwood, canadian hemlock (CERTIFIED to be wooly adelgid free)				
Streamside Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
button bush, red osier dogwood, ninebark, sycamore, pussy willow				
Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
shingle oak, hop tree, chokecherry, ninebark, fragrant sumac				
Songbird Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
swamp white oak, white cedar, bayberry, blackhaw viburnum, shadblow serviceberry				
Lawn and Woodland Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$23		
sweet gum, sugar maple, American beech, white oak, black gum				
CONTAINER PLANTS				
Yellowwood (<i>Cladrastis kentukea/lutea</i>)	3 gallon	1 tree for \$25		
Smooth Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>)	3 gallon	1 shrub for \$20		
Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)	3 gallon	1 shrub for \$20		
Pignut Hickory (<i>Carya glabra</i>)	3 gallon	1 tree for \$25		
Eastern Wahoo (<i>Euonymus atropurpurea</i>)	1 gallon	1 shrub for \$12		
Chestnut Oak (<i>Quercus montana/prinus</i>)	1 gallon	1 tree for \$10		
Arrowwood Viburnum (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)	1 gallon	1 shrub for \$10		
Ohio Buckeye (<i>Aesculus glabra</i>)	1 gallon	1 tree for \$10		
FRUITS (Bare Root)				
Apple Packet	4-5' bare root	2 trees for \$30		
'Liberty' and 'Enterprise' one of each variety on semi-dwarf rootstock				
Tart Cherry Tree	5/8-3/4 dia., BR	1 tree for \$24		
'Jubileum'® on dwarf rootstock				

SPECIES	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE (P/B)	QUANTITY (Q) (# of bundles)	Cost (P/B x Q)
PERENNIALS				
Goat's beard (<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>)	1.5 gallon	1 plant for \$10		
Large flowering trillium (<i>Trillium grandifolium</i>)	1 gallon	1 plant for \$15		
Virgin's bower (<i>Clematis virginiana</i>)	1.5 gallon	1 plant for \$15		
Blue False Indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Cardinal flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Sullivant's milkweed (<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Wild Bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Obediant plant (<i>Physotegia virginiana</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Sawtooth Sunflower (<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Soft rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Rough blazingstar (<i>Liatris aspera</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Royal catchfly (<i>Silene regia</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Plains coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Purple prairie clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
WILDFLOWER SEED PACKETS				
Native Ohio Prairie Wildflower Mix	1/4 ounce	1 packet for \$7		
Pollinator Wildflower Mix	1/8 ounce	1 packet for \$7		
EXTRAS				
Tree ID Tags	1" by 3.5"	5 tags for \$1		
My tax-deductible contribution to the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Fund				
My 2014 Tree Sale TOTAL COST				

Species included in seed packets and information about tree species can be found at www.franklinswcd.org

We're moving! Check our Web site or call us for tree and fish pick-up locations!

2014 Tree Sale Order Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address (include city and zip) _____

Phone number (daytime) _____

E-mail address (for reminder) _____

Pond Stocking

Largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill are recommended species for stocking Ohio ponds. Forage species, such as minnow or bluegill, should be stocked as a food source for largemouth bass. Stocking rates will vary according to pond size.

Guidelines for a one-acre pond are 100 largemouth bass, 500 bluegill, 100 channel catfish, and 5 to 10 white amur (depending on the quantity and species of pond weeds).

Yellow perch cohabit well with bluegill when they are stocked with a 1:1:1 ratio of bass, bluegill and perch. Yellow perch will spawn in early April, while bluegill will spawn in late May.

The white amur sold by Franklin Soil and Water are sterile triploid and cannot reproduce. It is important that you do not overstock these fish, as some aquatic weeds in your pond are desirable for oxygen production and fish habitat.

Good resources for pond stocking guidance are the Fender's Fish & Llama Farm's *Farm Pond Management Guide*, or the online *Ohio Pond Management Handbook*, available from ODNR at www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/9/pdf/pondmgt.pdf.

2014 Fish Sale Order Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address (include city and zip) _____

Phone number (daytime) _____

E-mail address (for reminder) _____

Important Information About the Fish Sale

1. Fill out order form completely and return, with check, to Franklin Soil and Water. Call or visit our Web site for our new address!
2. Or, place your order online at www.franklinswcd.org
3. If you order online, and you already have a PayPal account, please check that your contact information is up-to-date.
4. The last day to order fish is March 21, 2014
5. **Pick up fish on March 27 from 11:00 a.m. to noon**
6. Bring water from your pond in a plastic bag, sealed with a twist, in a five-gallon bucket. (See photo below.)
7. Deliver fish to pond immediately. This is important for survival.
8. Fish are delivered in good condition, but there is no guarantee of survival.
9. There are no refunds. Please make arrangements to have the fish picked up if you are not available.

Species	Size (inches)	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Bluegill	2-4	10 for \$7.50		
Channel catfish	4-5	\$0.75 each		
Largemouth bass	2-3	5 for \$4.00		
Yellow perch	2-3	\$0.75 each		
Minnow	1-2	100 for \$10.00		
White amur	8-14	\$13.00 each		
<i>Farm Pond Management Guide</i>		\$20.00 each		
My contribution to the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Fund				
My fish sale total cost				\$

We're moving! Check our Web site or call us for tree and fish pick-up locations!





Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100
Grandview Heights, Ohio 43212

www.franklinswcd.org

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District programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

January 2014

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Frankly Speaking

WOODS

FROM PAGE 4

Stewardship isn't just for parks, nor will biodiversity be protected only by laws or governmental entities. If you are a homeowner and you own land, or even just a garden, you are the conservationist.

About the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus Planipennis*)

Ohio has local and federal quarantines in place to prevent infestations from spreading. Though this primarily concerns producers who ship nursery stock, homeowners are highly encouraged to burn and buy local firewood.

Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture for questions about moving firewood and local quarantines effective in your area at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/>, (614) 728-6201.

All ashes are at risk. Treatment may be more effective if trees have at least 50% healthy canopy. Costs vary according to size, duration, frequency of treatment, and method used. Find a certified arborist at the International Society of Arboriculture, <http://www.isa-arbor.com/faca/findArborist.aspx>.

You may be asked to remove dead and dying trees on your property, if they pose a public safety threat. Unfortunately, there is no financial assistance available for private landowners.

Visit The Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Program's EAB Web site at <http://ashalert.osu.edu> or go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info> (a national cooperative website) for more information.

We're moving! Check our Web site or call us for tree and fish pick-up locations!

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