



Conservation Close Up

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation

Spring 2023

Welcome!



Hello! My name is Anna. I am the new Special Projects Technician for the H2Ohio program. I grew up around Toledo and graduated from Anthony Wayne High School. I attended the University of Arizona and received my undergraduate degree in environmental science. I am excited to be back home in northwest Ohio. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, cooking, and playing with my dog Lazlo. I am excited to be a part of the SWCD team!



Celeste LaFleur is the new Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for Hancock, Wyandot and Hardin counties. She graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a bachelor's in Biology and Environmental Science. Before joining Pheasants Forever, Celeste worked in Arizona, northern Michigan, and Wyoming as a field biologist and outdoor educator. Celeste is an Ohio native and 4-H alumni, and is excited to help producers accomplish their conservation goals. In her free time, Celeste enjoys birding, mushrooming, playing bagpipes, photography, and other outdoor activities. You can reach her at clafleur@pheasantsforever.org or at 567-208-0615.

2023 Stewardship Week



Hancock SWCD in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is celebrating the 68th year of Stewardship Week April 30-May 7, 2023, with the theme “One Water.”

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, lakes and the ocean. Those bodies of water are all connected, so every drop that falls becomes part of *one water*.

Have you ever watched it rain? The raindrops fall on the ground and flow through the soil. Water soaks through the soil until it reaches groundwater. A lot of water we use and drink every day comes from water in the ground. All land across the earth is made up of watersheds. We all live in a watershed. We share the water in the watershed with other people, animal, and plants because; it is all *one water*.

For more information about Stewardship Week or for free, downloadable, Stewardship Week resources celebrating the theme “One Water ” visit the NACD website at: <http://www.nacdnet.org> or Hancock SWCD website at: www.hancockswcd.com.

Wetland Restoration for Flooded Fields



Celeste LaFleur, Farm Bill Biologist

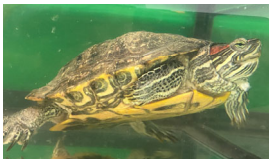
With the increased water-quality initiative funding through the H2Ohio and Farm Bill programs, it is a great time for farmers to turn otherwise unproductive land into grassland practices focused on water quality. If you have a field that floods, tends to hold water, and experiences drainage issues, likely it used to be a wetland at some point. Through the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), farmers can convert their land into a wetland with both water quality and wildlife benefits.

One key benefit of wetlands is their ability to absorb and filter water. Wetlands absorb cropland and livestock nutrients, intercepting phosphorus and nitrogen into our waterways which improves our drinking water quality and reduces the risk of Lake Erie algal blooms. In addition, wetlands act like a sponge by absorbing excess water during high rain or snow events, minimizing flood damage and erosion for nearby residents and cropland. Lastly, installing grassland cover around wetland pools benefits wildlife, which increases more favorable hunting opportunities.

Constructing a wetland starts at the FSA and NRCS offices, which involves testing for hydric soils, developing an engineering plan, and writing up a seed mix and timeline. Once approved, wetland restoration CREP projects include a \$2000/ac. one-time incentive bonus from the state, plus a 15-year annual soil rental payment from the Farm Service Agency. To construct the wetland, you will receive 50% cost-share payment plus a 40% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP), covering almost all the costs associated with installing and seeding the project.

For more information or interest in the Lake Erie CREP program, you can contact myself at clafleur@pheasantsforever.org or Cristhian Carrasquillo, District Conservationist at cristhiancarrasquillo@usda.gov.

Turtle Talk Tuesday with Willie!



Don't forget to watch our informative videos every other Tuesday with our red-eared slider turtle, Willie Jack! Willie has lots of questions about different topics and wants everyone to learn along with him! Please let us know if you have a topic you would like to have Willie investigate!

H2Ohio

H2Ohio 2.0 is planning to roll out this summer! If you are interested in re-enrolling or enrolling for the first time for crop years 2024 through 2026, please consider getting up to date soil tests and creating your VNMPs for the upcoming crop years as soon as you can. More updates to follow as the SWCD learns more!

Updates

- We have gone digital with our Conservation Close-up newsletter! If you would like to have it delivered to your inbox, rather than receiving a paper copy; please visit our webpage at: www.hancockswcd.com and fill out the form with your information or send us an email at: swcd@hancockswcd.com. Don't worry, if you don't want the digital version; we will still send you a paper version by mail.
- Stay up-to-date with Hancock SWCD by visiting our Webpage at: www.hancockswcd.com or call the office at 419-422-6569. We also have a Facebook page that you may wish to follow; you don't want to miss "Turtle Talk Tuesday"! Our regular office hours are: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.



**Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District
2023 Fish Sale
September 21, 2023- 10:00 a.m.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Fingerlings supplied by Fender's Fish Hatchery (Baltic, OH)

Pick-Up Date - September 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Agricultural Service Center Parking Lot

Order Deadline - September 12, 2023

Send check and order to : Hancock SWCD
Agricultural Service Center
7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E
Findlay, OH 45840



<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SIZE RANGE</u>	<u>EACH</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
BLUE GILL	2" TO 4"	\$.94 + \$.06 tax = <u>\$1.00 ea.</u>		
CHANNEL CAT	4" TO 5"	\$.84+ \$.06 tax = <u>\$.90 ea.</u>		
LARGE MOUTH BASS	2" TO 3"	\$1.03 + \$.07 tax= <u>\$1.10 ea.</u>		
HYBRID BLUE GILL	2" TO 4"	\$.94 + \$.06 tax = <u>\$1.00 ea.</u>		
REDEAR SUNFISH	2" TO 4"	\$.94 + \$.06 tax= <u>\$1.00 ea.</u>		
FATHEAD MINNOW	½" TO 1"	\$7.49 + \$.51 tax = <u>\$8.00 per 100</u>		
WHITE AMUR	8" TO 12"	\$14.05 + \$.95 tax= <u>\$15.00 ea.</u>		
JAPANESE KOI	6" TO 10"	\$12.18 + \$.82 tax= <u>\$13.00 ea</u>		
POND MANAGEMENT BOOK - by S. Fender		\$18.50 * \$1.25 tax = <u>\$20.00 ea.</u>		
TOTAL COSTS				



Bluegill are deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and a long pectoral fin. Colors vary, but the ear flap is always black and bluegills often have a black blotch near the back of the soft dorsal fin. Bluegill are nest spawners and typically build nests in large groups, or beds, sometime between May and August. Peak spawning, in Ohio, usually occurs in June.



The largemouth bass is a popular sport fish. It is native to Ohio and can be found in every county in the state. Largemouth bass are moderately compressed with a deep body. The back of the mouth, when closed, extends past the eye. This characteristic distinguishes it from the smallmouth bass where the back of the mouth does not extend past the eye. The largemouth also has a black band that extends down the side of the body. They prefer ponds, lakes and slow, sluggish streams. Large mouth bass usually spawn between mid-April and mid-June..



The channel catfish is a popular sport and food fish. It is active during the night, moving around and finding food after dusk. During the day it will most likely be found in deep water with little activity. The channel catfish has a slender body with a deeply forked tail. The upper jaw is longer than the lower jaw and there are barbels around the mouth. The dorsal and pectoral spines are sharp and deeply serrated, and the anal fin is curved and has between 24 and 30 rays. The body is bluish silver on the sides and generally has dark spots. Channel catfish are native to Ohio and can be found in most large streams, lakes, and many farm ponds. Channel catfish prefer areas with deep water, clean gravel boulder substrates and low to moderate current. However, they are tolerant of a wide range of conditions



The fathead minnow is commonly sold as bait for fishing. Fathead minnows have short bodies with a triangular shaped head. Coloration ranges from olive to olive-yellow on the back tinged with copper or purple in larger fish. Historically the fathead minnow widely populated only in the western part of Ohio. They prefer muddy brooks and creeks, as well as ponds and small lakes. However, fatheads can tolerate a wide range of water conditions. Fathead minnows spawn in the spring and may continue into August.



The grass carp is not native to Ohio, but was introduced from China as a biological way to control aquatic vegetation. The grass carp is a long slender member of the minnow family. Grass carp differ from the common carp with the lack of a sucker-like mouth, and the absence of barbels on the mouth. Furthermore, grass carp are usually silvery-white, rather than the brownish-yellow of the common carp. Grass carp spawn in flowing water and do not reproduce in lakes and ponds. The grass carp grows very rapidly, and young fish stocked in the spring at 8 inches will reach over 18 inches by fall, and adults often attain nearly 4 feet in length and over 70-90 pounds in weight. They grow 10 pounds a year at least. They eat up to 3 times their own body weight daily.



Redear sunfish are a deep, slab-sided fish similar to the [bluegill](#) sunfish, except the ear flap (opercula) is black with a red or orange spot at the rear edge. Redear sunfish do not have distinct vertical bars like bluegill sunfish, when they are present they are broken and blotchy. Redear Sunfish also lack the black blotches at the rear base of the dorsal and anal fins that bluegill sunfish have. Redear sunfish prefer clear waters with more rooted aquatic vegetation than that of the bluegill sunfish. Spawning normally occurs in May or June.



The Hybrid Bluegill is a cross between a Male Bluegill and a Female Green Sunfish. As a result of the cross the Hybrid Bluegill is 80-90% male, giving it a reduced reproductive potential and making it an ideal choice for those ponds prone to Bluegill stunting. This slows down fast reproduction by keeping the female population to a minimum. Do to their hybrid nature, they can also be slightly larger and have a bit more coloration than regular bluegill.



Japanese Koi are ornamental varieties of domesticated common carp. Koi varieties are distinguished by coloration, patterning, and scalation. Koi are an omnivorous fish, and will eat a wide variety of foods, including peas, lettuce, and watermelon. Naturally koi are bottom feeders with a mouth configuration that is adapted for that. Some koi will have a tendency to eat mostly from the bottom and will eat duckweed.

**Information by Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. Visit www.ohiodnr.com for more information.

Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District

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Hancock Soil & Water



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NRCS Staff

Cristhian Carrasquillo,
District Conservationist
Celeste LeFleur,
Pheasant's Forever Farm Bill Biologist

All services of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and Hancock SWCD are available to persons regardless of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Religion, Marital Status, Age, or Handicap.

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