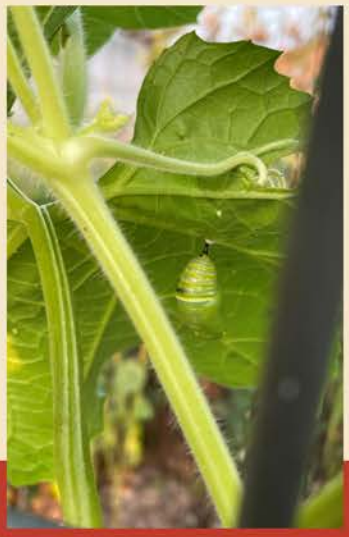
FALL 2022

SUMMIT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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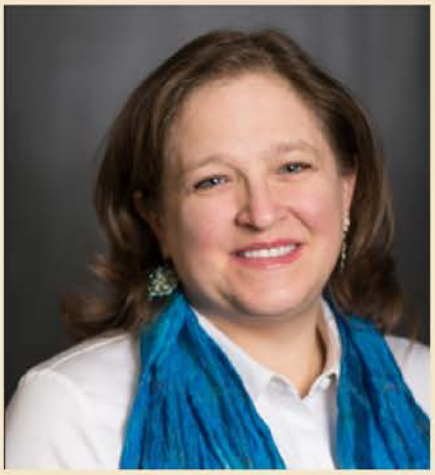
2022 ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS

The 76th Anniversary annual meeting celebration and election for the Board of Supervisors of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District was held on September 8, 2022, at Sarah's Vineyard in Cuyahoga Falls. The event featured highlights of progress and programs and awards presented by members of Summit SWCD's Supervisory Board. Dr. Lara Roketenetz, Director of the University of Akron's Dr. Paul E. Martin Center for Field Studies at the Bath Nature Preserve, was chosen as "Educator of the Year," for her commitment to educating area students about the wonders of our natural environment.

Sophia Sorboro, Summit SWCD's AmeriCorps Service Member, received an award for her outstanding work on Watershed and Outreach initiatives. Sarah's Vineyard stone-fired pizza and luncheon refreshments were served. Elected to the Summit SWCD Board of Supervisors for another three-year term commencing on January 1, 2023, is incumbent, Ana Burns. Her biography follows:



Ana Burns is the Senior Area Manager of Environmental Services for Davey Resource Group's northern Ohio office. She received an M.S.E.S. in Applied Ecology degree from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and holds a B.S. in Biology, from Indiana University.

Her team at Davey provides comprehensive consulting services to governments, development companies, and engineering/design firms. Services provided include ecological consulting, ecosystem restoration, and urban and community forestry consulting. Ana is responsible for business development, client and project management, and supervision of the 45 biologists, restoration ecologists, and urban foresters working out of DRG's main environmental consulting office located in Kent.

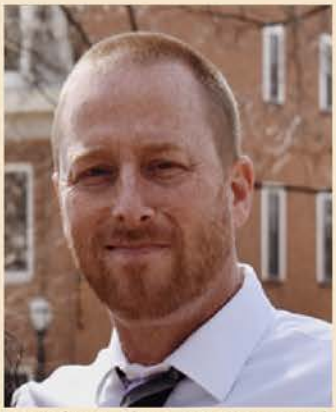
Ana has over 22 years of experience in the natural resources and ecological restoration fields. She has managed a variety of ecological surveys and environmental planning studies, as well as ecological and wetlands permitting projects, mitigation bank planning and monitoring projects, and natural resource restoration design projects. She is knowledgeable of state and federal stream and wetlands regulations, all aspects of Section 401 and 404 permitting, isolated wetland regulations, the federal mitigation rule for compensatory mitigation and its application to mitigation banking, and stormwater management.

Ana has coordinated and facilitated public meetings and hearings and has assisted in developing various planning documents, including greenways planning, watershed planning, and urban forestry management plans. With a background in urban and rural planning, she is well versed in working with planning commissions, steering committees, and local political groups.

Ana is the president of Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners and is on the board of directors for the Ohio Stormwater Association. She also serves on the Cuyahoga Area of Concern Advisory Committee and the District 8 (Summit County) Natural Resource Assistance Council.

Also elected for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2023, is our first-time new Board member, Rob Curtis. Rob's biography is below:

Rob Curtis is a veteran field biologist and lifelong resident of the region. A student of the outdoors since his childhood, he has a deep understanding of the many factors driving natural systems and a passion to protect our natural heritage.



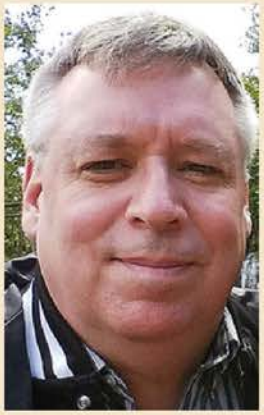
Rob has a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife management from The Pennsylvania State University and has been faithfully serving the community for 18 years as an ecologist for Summit Metro Parks. At the park district, he is responsible for plant and animal surveys, wetland and stream delineation, and habitat evaluation, protection, and restoration.

Rob is respected by his peers throughout the region and active in several state and local conservation efforts. He is a founding member of Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) for Biodiversity (leapbio.org). Prior to his employment with the park district, he worked for six years as a wetlands ecologist for EnviroScience, Inc. in Stow, as well as several other private and public conservation agencies. He and his wife Natasha reside in Tallmadge and have spent the past 25 years living and working in Summit County raising three children.

We are also pleased to have our Associate Board Member, Barry Ganoe, still serving with our Board.

Representative Barry L. Ganoe was born in Akron, Ohio (1961), and has been a resident of Summit County all his life. Barry is a graduate of Springfield Senior High School (Diploma 1979), The University of Akron College of Fine & Applied Arts (B.F.A. Degree 1987), and the Connecticut School of Broadcasting (Diploma 1987).
Barry has a diverse career background with an equal balance between the private sector and local government service.

Barry's career background includes computer operations, retail store management, professional photography, and graphic arts plus previous radio broadcasting experience with WKLM in Millersburg, WGAR in Cleveland, and WHBC in Canton. Barry now owns an Internet radio station, WBLG-DB-Radio, that broadcasts Smooth Jazz and Motown music 24 hours a day. Barry was also the owner and president of Cricket Photo and Imaging, Inc. from 1995 until 2002.



Barry worked as an Assistant Zoning Inspector for Springfield Township between 2002 and 2003 before becoming the full-time Administrator for the City of New Franklin Zoning & Planning Department in 2003, a position he has held for 17 years. Barry's governmental background includes all aspects of zoning and planning plus previous service on the Summit County Board of Health for five years (President of the Board of Health for 2 years).

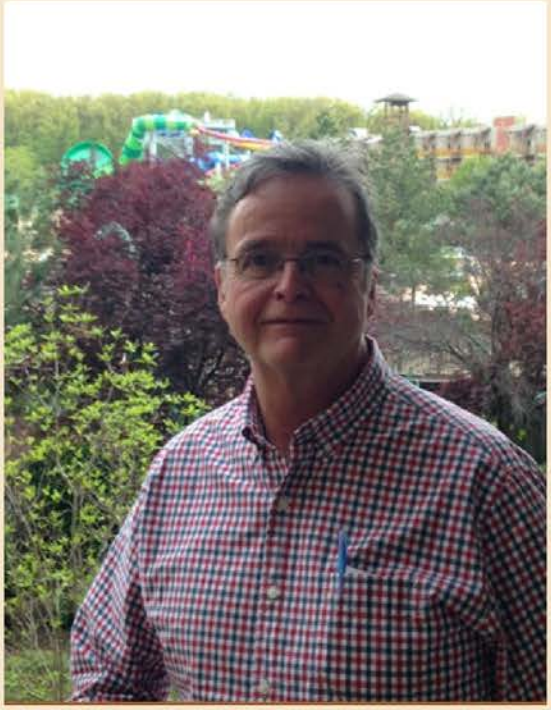
Barry was recently appointed an Associate Supervisor for the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District and has served for four years now. Barry lives in Springfield Township with his wife, Sharon (Furiga) Ganoe and two stepdaughters Lauren and Kaitlyn. Barry and Sharon have two canine family members named Abby and Ginger.

Barry is a member of the Arbor Day Foundation, Green Energy Ohio, and the Ohio Environmental Council, as well as being the Board of Health representative for the General Health District. Barry's interests include natural resource preservation, green energy, specifically solar energy, as well as enjoying the many aspects of nature and the outdoors.

We look forward to working with Ana, Rob, and Barry, and wish to express our gratitude to our long-time Supervisor and supportive advocate, Dennis Stoiber. Dennis is retiring from the Board and will pursue other interests.

Dennis Stoiber has served with distinction, on the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors since 2010 and has been Chairman since 2020. Dennis received his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Dayton in 1969, and a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Ohio State University in 1983.

Mr. Stoiber's professional experiences include the U S Army Corps of Engineers 1970-1971, Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Design Engineer, 1971-1979, Environmental Design Group, Landscape Architect, 1983-1987, Cedarwood Development Company, Landscape Architect, 1987-1990, and GPD Group, Landscape Architect, 1990-2012.



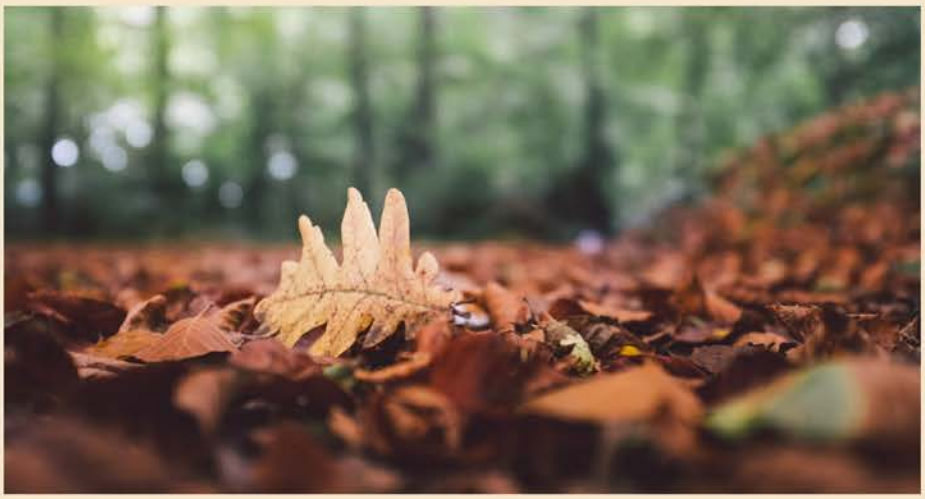
Dennis has been a valued member of our Board for twelve years, and during that time he has used his considerable expertise and talent to lead our District in the direction of many environmentally sustainable programs and projects. We are fortunate to have enjoyed his leadership and hope he enjoys his retirement from the District, but we will certainly miss him.

AUTUMN LEAVES ARE FALLING. "LEAVE" YOUR LEAVES!

SANDY BARBIC

Autumn leaves will be starting to fall and now is a good time to consider alternatives to dumping them in the street for removal. Even though your community may offer this leaf pick-up service, you might want to consider the option of recycling those leaves on your own property, which is, after all, Mother Nature's method of recycling. (Little elves are not out in the forests raking and bagging leaves.) Recycling leaves on your lawn will also keep them out of the storm drains and away from our surface waters where they would only add nutrients and encourage algae blooms. It takes a little bit of time, but eventually, all of the leaves are transformed by worms, bacteria, and other soil organisms into rich humus, which will continue to feed trees, shrubs, and other plants. Your yard will benefit from this natural process for years to come.

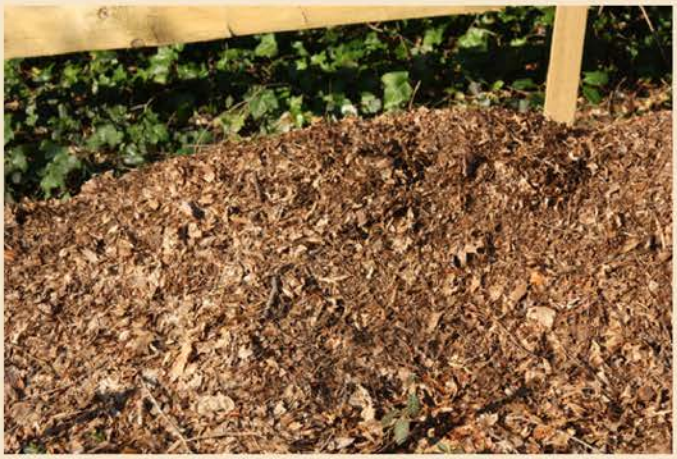
Trees on your property draw nutrients and minerals from the soil, converting them into new leaves and branches. When you rake up and remove those leaves, you interfere with the natural cycle by which nutrients are returned to the soil. After a number of years, the soil will lose its fertility and this loss will ultimately affect the health of all the plants that you are trying to grow. Spreading costly fertilizers on your lawn may restore some nutrients, but not all of the vital minerals and organic matter needed for healthy, vigorous plants. On the other hand, leaves contain all of the nutrients and micronutrients that your lawn needs. So you need to get your leaves back into your soil somehow, and the best way to do that is to use your lawnmower.



For many years now, almost all new lawnmowers have been marketed as mulching mowers. After decades of bagging clippings, a majority of homeowners have learned that it is best to "grasscycle" their lawn clippings when they mow. Clippings left in place decompose quickly and provide nutrients to keep the lawn healthy.

Your lawnmower can do double-duty as a leaf mulcher as well. Mower blades can easily shred whole leaves into small pieces, approximately one-tenth of their original size. Your huge bounty of leaves will disappear into a thin layer of small particles which are easily digested by worms, bacteria, and other tiny soil organisms.In fact, a healthy earthworm population can drag a one-inch layer of organic matter down into the underground burrows in just a few months. Unseen by human eyes, they are diligently loosening and enriching your soil, and feeding the roots of your lawn for free (their ability to alter the leaf litter so efficiently is the reason that these non-native worms can cause so much damage to the ecology of the forest floor, and should never be intentionally released near the forest).

Begin the work of leaf mulching by setting the mower to a normal three-inch height. Remove bagging attachments and block off the chute on a rear-discharge machine. Run your mower over the lawn while walking slowly, giving the mower blades plenty of time to shred up the leaves. Please note that mower-mulching works best when leaves are relatively dry and are no more than one inch deep, so try and start mulching when leaves are just starting to fall. If your mower has a side discharge chute, you will probably want to begin on the outside perimeter of your lawn, blowing your chopped leaves onto unmowed areas, and continue mowing inward.



This will keep the leaf particles on the lawn and even allow your mower to mow over them a few more times. If your first pass over the lawn has left a significant quantity of whole leaves, go back over the leaves while mowing at a right angle to the first cut. Leaves take more work to shred than grass does, especially if they are somewhat damp.

Shredded leaves may be used for other healthy additions to your landscape. You can apply the leaves as mulch two to four inches thick under your trees and shrubs, being careful to keep the shredded material away from the tree trunk and root crown. The leaves can also be applied to planting beds like perennial beds and herb gardens. A two to three-inch mulch layer will help maintain a uniform soil temperature all winter and protect tender root systems.

The mulch blanket will also prevent frost upheaval caused by frequent thawing and refreezing, which is especially damaging to bulbs, tuberous flowers, and some less hardy perennials. The leaf mulch will also feed your plants by recycling nutrients, conserving soil moisture during dry spells, and preventing the emergence of weeds. Avoid applying your leaf mulch until after the first hard freeze.

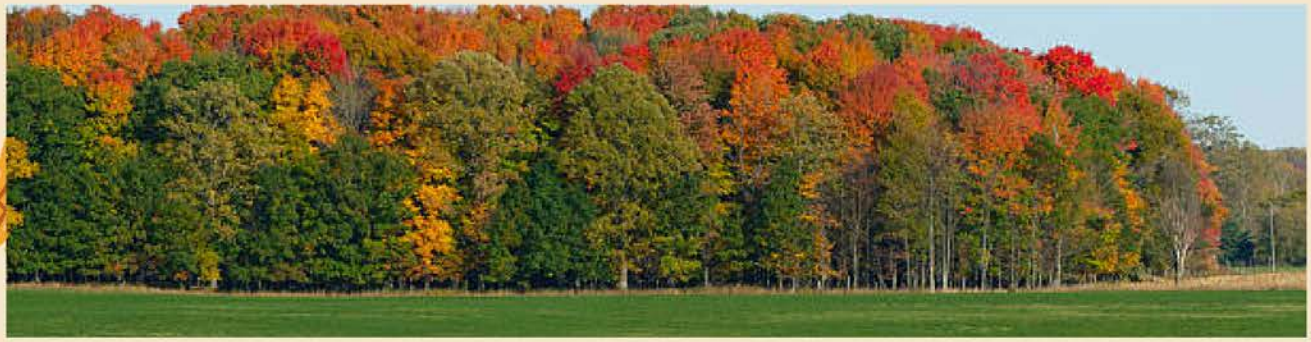
You can also add your shredded leaves to a compost pile or bin. The smaller leaf particles decompose in about 75 percent of the time required by whole leaves and you will be able to add a large number of whole leaves which will give you a lot of mulch to use if you have a property with many mature trees. If you are still cutting some grass blades as you run over the leaves, you are probably creating the perfect combination of materials to establish an effective, fast-working compost pile that will reward you with nutrient-rich compost ready for use in the spring.

Mulching leaves into your lawn is just the first step toward a naturally healthy lawn. You can aerate your lawn with a core-aerating machine available for rent, or you can hire a lawn care service for liquid aeration. Either way, aerating works well, especially on compacted soils, making spaces for air and water to infiltrate, and making room for organic matter to filter deeper into subsoils and root zones.

You should also test your soil to see what nutrients it needs if any, and if your soil needs to be limed to adjust the Ph. Since autumn is the best time to fertilize, you can use your soil-test results to determine fertilizer needs. If you need to fertilize, you should use an organic, slow-release fertilizer, preferably animal manure, to feed the soil and your lawn's roots all winter long.
If you choose to recycle your leaves along with grass clippings, you will protect your landscape from the ravages of winter and you can look forward to spring by creating a healthy environment for spring planting. You will also have the satisfaction of knowing that you have had a lasting positive impact on the water quality of our streams and lakes in Northeast Ohio.

THE BENEFITS OF TREES

SANDY BARBIC



Did you know that trees in our communities provide many services beyond the beauty and curb appeal they lend to streets and properties?

One of the most important benefits is the ability of trees to capture and hold stormwater. This leads to a reduction in the volume of water rushing through gutters and pipes following a storm. The result is, less investment in expensive gray infrastructure (storm sewers,) and cleaner water when the runoff reaches rivers and lakes.

Urban stormwater runoff, a carrier of non-point source pollution, washes chemicals (oil, gasoline, road salts, fertilizers, and other lawn chemicals) from hard surfaces such as roadways and parking lots into streams, wetlands, rivers, and oceans. Drinking water, aquatic life, and the health of our entire ecosystem can be adversely affected by this process.

Trees act as mini reservoirs, controlling runoff at the source. Trees reduce runoff by:

- Intercepting and holding rain on leaves, branches, and bark.
- Increasing infiltration and storage of rainwater through the tree's root system.
- Reducing soil erosion by slowing rainfall before it strikes the soil.
- Tree roots hold the soil in place and prevent sediments, (another major component of non-point source pollution) from entering lakes and streams.

The next time you shelter under a tree canopy in a rainstorm (check for lightning first) and experience the umbrella effect, consider the outstanding service that each tree provides to the quality of our environment. Besides keeping you dry, the leaves and bark of a tree retain large volumes of water, allowing some to evaporate, and some to reach the ground at a slower rate. Depending on the species, a single tree may store 100 gallons or more, until it becomes saturated after one or two inches of rainfall.

A single Eastern Cottonwood planted in Northeastern Ohio, with a diameter of 36 inches will intercept as much as 6,365 gallons of stormwater runoff annually. When multiplied by all the trees in a community, this catching and holding of rainwater is very significant and can reduce annual urban runoff by 2%-7%. When trees are combined with other natural landscaping features such as native plants, as much as 65% of stormwater runoff can be reduced in residential developments. This reduction can be converted into dollar savings due to the use of smaller drainage and artificial stormwater retention systems.

Another important reason to value trees and include them as an integral part of a community's infrastructure is their positive influence on public health. Trees have a huge impact on both the physical and mental health of our citizens.

There are four major mechanisms for explaining the relationship between urban forestry and human health:

Physical Action by Trees

Tree leaves filter the air, absorbing pollutants that trigger asthma and other respiratory diseases. These pollutants include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter (dust, soot, fly ash, diesel exhaust particles, wood smoke and sulfate aerosols). Trees sequester carbon, and this reduces global warming, urban heat islands, and ozone production, as well as saving energy and fossil fuels. Photosynthesis provides oxygen and transpiration gives off water vapor and adds to the cooling influence of trees. Trees reduce smog when they shade asphalt and parked vehicles because the evaporation of hydrocarbon emissions from leaked gasoline is reduced. Trees shading recreation areas reduce harmful exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays which have been linked to certain types of cancer.

Human Physical Activity Encouraged by Trees

Trees make outdoor spaces attractive and invite recreational activities which, in turn, contribute to overall physical health and combat obesity.

Streets with wide sidewalks and 8-foot tree lawns with trees are considered safer for children who walk to school. ·Roadside trees and green landscaping have been shown to reduce driver stress and aggression.

Restorative and Individual Benefits

Hospital patients with a view of trees have an average of 8.5 days shorter recovery time. In various studies, trees and natural settings have been shown to reduce muscle tension and blood pressure. Roadside trees and green landscaping can reduce driver stress and aggression, calming traffic and reducing accidents. Exposure to trees has been shown to improve cognitive function in people and increase problem-solving skills.

Social Support

There is a relationship between trees and a reduction in violence in and around urban housing projects. Urban children play in outdoor spaces with trees about twice as often as in barren spaces and the rate of beneficial play is higher.

So that is why the role of trees in stormwater retention and public health benefits gives us one more reason why the planting and care of trees in our communities is of critical importance. Philanthropist Warren Buffet referred to one of the best reasons for planting trees when he said, "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

References: Tree City Bulletin no. 55, Tree City Bulletin no. 57,

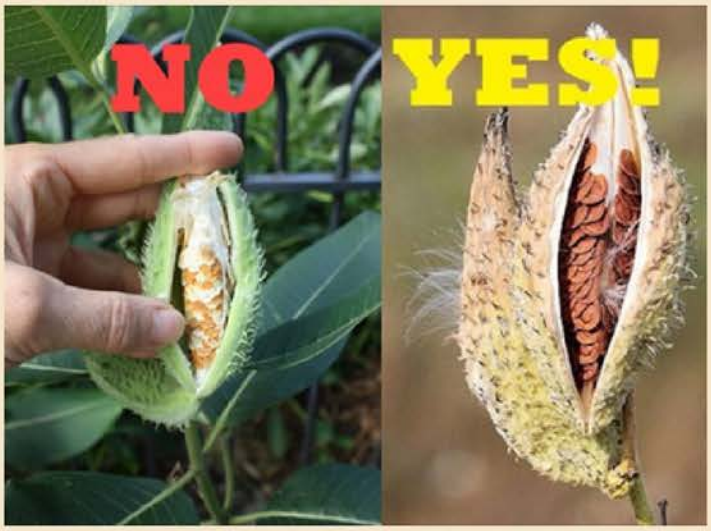
MILKWEED POD COLLECTION

SANDY BARBIC

It's that time again!

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative is calling on Ohioans for the 7th year of Milkweed pod collections! This project started in 2015 as a 7-county pilot and the last few years hundreds of Ohioans worked together to collect the seeds. Since the first year, the volunteers have collected approximately 5000 gallons of common milkweed seed pods, totaling over 22 million seeds! Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing. It also serves as a food source for Monarchs as well as many other pollinator species. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard to change this, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts in 2022 even better by following these simple tips!

- Make sure that before you collect seed, you become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane.
- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS!
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, the seeds can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags because plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.



The collection starts on September 19th and ends on November 15th. The collection site for Summit County is at the Ohio State University Extension Office at 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio, 44307. Please call Summit Soil and Water Conservation District at 330-926-2452 or write sbarbic@summitoh.net with any questions. If you have questions regarding the milkweed collection program statewide, please contact Marci Lininger at Marci.Lininger@dot.ohio.gov.

WATER QUALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SOPHIA SORBORO

Summit SWCD is seeking additional volunteers for the volunteer water quality monitoring program that operates within the district's watershed program. New volunteers will be monitoring for chloride levels throughout the winter and early spring. Volunteers will then monitor a full chemical and biological panel for their sample site. These parameters include chloride, nitrate, phosphate, temperature, pH, macroinvertebrates, and more. Volunteers are needed to monitor sites in the Wolf Creek, Portage Lakes, Pancake Run, and Lake Lucern watersheds. Residents interested in volunteering can visit the volunteer water quality page on the district's website, or they can click here. Any questions can be submitted to the district's Watershed Coordinator, Stephanie Deibel, at sdeibel@summitoh.net.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NAMED

Summit SWCD has named their first "Volunteer of the Year" from its watershed program. Diane Davis, a resident of Uniontown, is currently in her second year of volunteering with the district's volunteer water quality monitoring program. Diane and her dog are also a staple at many community events. Thanks Diane!

CONTACT US!

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Mission Statement:
Summit SWCD provides leadership and advocates for the stewardship of our natural resources and responsible land use through the provision of education, technical assistance, and partnerships in Summit County.

The Summit SWCD is an independent division of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and is funded by the State of Ohio, the Summit County Council, and the Summit County Communities for Clean Stormwater.

In order to provide equal employment opportunities to all individuals, employment decisions in the District will be based on merit, qualifications, and abilities. The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic to the extent protected by law.

Summit SWCD does not discriminate in services with regards to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic to the extent protected by law.

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Summit County Communities for Clean Storm Water

County of Summit — Ilene Shapiro, County Executive