

SCIOTO SWCD NEWSLETTER

SCIOTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EST. 1946

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bald Eagle Conservation

June 29, 2026

**Portsmouth Public Library
10am-12pm**

All are welcome to join us at the Portsmouth Public Library to learn about the return of the Bald Eagle population. Following the talk we will venture to the riverfront to observe our Eagle pair with a spotting scope.

Rain Barrel Workshop

June 30, 2026

**Portsmouth Public Library
5:30pm**

Learn how to conserve water in your garden or on the farm. We will demonstrate how to assemble a rain barrel that will also be raffled off. This is a free event!

Fiesta de los Colores

July 11, 2026

**Fellowship Garden
1308 Waller St. Portsmouth**

Learn about traditional companions, like the Three Sisters, corn, beans, and squash. Come out for live music and local food trucks. Scioto SWCD will have a pollinator display.



Backyard Conservation

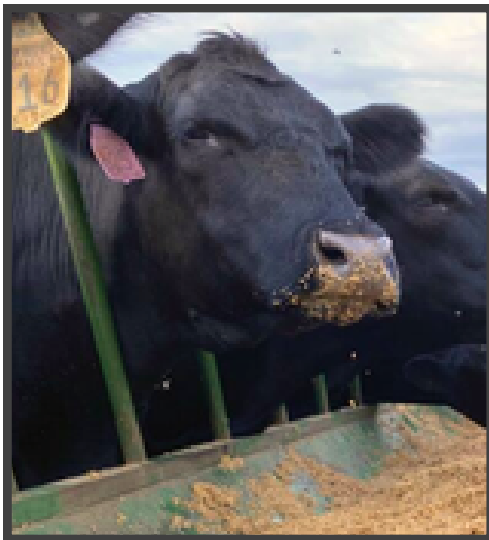
The Conservation District advocates for many backyard conservation practices. Often by making thoughtful choices a person can make a huge impact on the world around them. We offer consult and workshops for making your backyard a wildlife friendly habitat. Our yearly Tree Sale also includes bluebird boxes and bat houses that will help naturally control insect pests. Call our office today to find out if we have any of our rain barrel kits in stock to get you harvesting the rainwater for your lawn or garden. The District also advocates for native plants in landscaping, composting, and yard care practices that lessen the negative impacts on your lawn and the environment. Please feel free to contact us for information about these topics and utilize the links on our website.

Rain barrels save water for you lawn or garden and also help to slow the flow of rainwater into our local systems and waterways and that can reduce flooding.

Join us at the portsmouth Public library on July 30th at 5:30pm where we will be discussing the benefits of having rain barrels in your garden! During this session, a presentation will be given where you will learn the facts around rain collection. Then, Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District will lead a discussion how to setup a rain barrel.

This session is a part of our monthly gardening program hosted at the Portsmouth Library. Each month, the community comes together to discuss ideas, learn new gardening tricks, and to better ourselves as stewards of the garden!

For more information, visit scioto.osu.edu, scioto.library.org, or sciotoswcd.org



Feed Analysis Test Packages

Feed analysis test is a crucial laboratory analysis that determines the nutrient levels (protein, energy, fiber, minerals) in animal feed. We can help you balance livestock rations, identify nutrient gaps, prevent health issues, and calculate the economic value of your feed. Our tests analyze moisture, crude protein (CP), Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF), Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF), fat, ash, and minerals (Ca, P, Mg, K, S).

Basic packages start out at \$35.
Call or stop by for more details

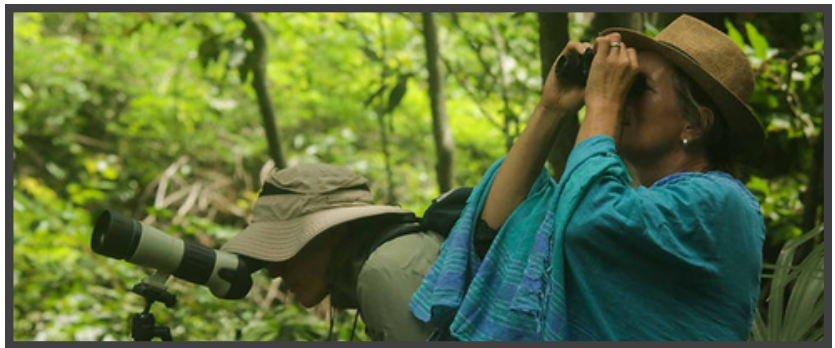
Soil Tests

The Conservation District offers a variety of soil tests for your crop, pasture, hay ground, gardens, lawn and more. A soil test can go a long way in determining the current pH and nutrient levels of your soil, helping you to apply the proper amounts of fertilizer.

**BIG PROPERTY?
NO PROBLEM.**



LET US TAKE THE SAMPLE FOR YOU



Beautiful Birds

July 2nd - June 29th 1pm - 2pm
Shawnee State Park Nature Center

Join us any Thursday in July for a free birding program at Shawnee State Park. Participate in a gentle nature walk while contributing to a global citizen science project. Learn how to attract and care for backyard birds. Participants will receive a pair of pocket binoculars and free Birds of Ohio guide.



Archery For All

July 3rd 10th 24th
4pm @ Shawnee State Park Nature Center
6pm @ Ohio River Campground

Try your hand at a new outdoor skill or join us to show of your precision shooting. All equipment is provided.



Creek Crawl

4pm Thursdays
@ Turkey Creek Camp Store

Investigate the tiny creatures living under rocks; the animals tell the story of the stream.

Wear old clothes and shoes and be prepared to get wet and dirty.



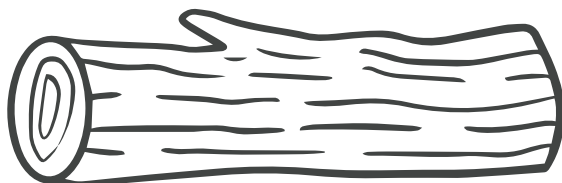
Wildlife Spotlight American Beaver

The beaver is North America’s largest rodent, weighing up to 60 lbs and measuring 25-30 inches long. They are well adapted to life in the water. Their webbed feet, waterproof fur, clear “third-eyelids,” and flattened, rudder-like tail enable them to be excellent swimmers. Their huge front teeth help them to cut through hard woods like maple and oak. These teeth grow throughout the animal’s lifetime and are necessary for survival.

Beavers are generally monogamous and sexually mature at about three years of age. Peak breeding activity occurs during the winter season, usually in January or February. Young are born between April and July, after a gestation period of about 128 days. Litter size ranges from 1-4 kits. The kits are born furred, with their eyes open, and are able to swim within 24 hours. They usually stay with their parents in colonies until they move out to find a new home.

This furbearer occurs in forested ponds, lakes, and rivers with the highest abundance being found in the eastern and western portions of Ohio. Beavers living along a river make burrows with an underwater entrance in the riverbank; those in streams, lakes and ponds usually build dams that generally incorporate a lodge, which has one or more underwater entrances and living quarters in a hollow near the top. Wood chips on the floor absorb excess moisture and a vent admits fresh air. Typical foods include poplar, aspen, willow, birch, and maple trees.

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Orphaned or injured Wildlife?

In the spring and early summer, when wildlife reproduction is at its peak, you may have the good fortune of observing baby animals in the wild. Often, the babies you see will be unattended by a parent. Unless something seems amiss, keep your distance and leave them alone. Human intervention is always a wild animal’s LAST hope for survival, NEVER its best hope.

If you see open wounds or other injuries, or you know in fact that a young wild animal has lost its parent, consult a local wildlife rehabilitator or our Scioto county wildlife officer:

Tyler Fields (614) 565-9064

Do not attempt to capture or feed wildlife until proper, expert guidance is provided to you. Also, limit contact with the animal to reduce stress and the possibility of it becoming habituated. It is illegal to keep wildlife without a rehabilitators permit. Rehabilitators go through extensive training on how to raise and treat young and injured wildlife. Leave it to the professionals and you’ll greatly increase the animal’s chance of survival.

Visit Ohiodnr.gov for more information

Got Rain?

ONLY \$45

Our office has Rain barrels on sale!