

SCIOTO SWCD NEWSLETTER

SCIOTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EST. 1946

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adams-Scioto Place-Based Woodland Landowner Program

Thursday, October 29th
**1503 Knoxel Hill-Bracken
Ridge Rd. Otway, OH 45667**

Your woodlands can offer a wide array of benefits. Join us at this FREE collaborative program designed to connect you to the programs and organizations available to help you set goals for your property.

Call to register 740-259-9231

Rooted in Resources for Landowners and Managers **Saturday, November 14th**

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**OSU South Centers
1862 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661**

Join us during Ohio Soil Health Week to learn how to care for your forests, wildlife, ponds, and soil. Rooted in Resources aims to be your one-stop shop to browse displays from various organizations and learn about the resources that are available to landowners and land managers. There will be educational displays for all ages and a food truck will also be on site.

Scioto SWCD's 80th Annual Meeting

November 20th 2026
Scioto County Fairground
Save the date!



Thousands of New Acres for Hunting and Trapping

Ohio has finalized a \$25 million funding approval to acquire 10,407 acres of public hunting and trapping land in southern Ohio, formerly owned by the Mead Paper Company.

People consistently cite a lack of access as the prime driver for giving up hunting. For this reason, many conservation organizations have supported state efforts to acquire public hunting land, a priority that Governor DeWine has also adopted. DeWine previously championed the acquisition of 60,000 acres of American Electric Power (AEP) lands, now known as Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area.

This decision enables the state to gain access to federal matching funds that will make the purchase of hunting lands even larger. In all, the approval will result in the

purchase of 10,407 acres (6,817 acres as new wildlife area land adjacent to Broken Arrow Wildlife Area and 3,590 acres for state forests near Brush Creek State Forest) in southern Ohio. All of the land will be open for public hunting and trapping.

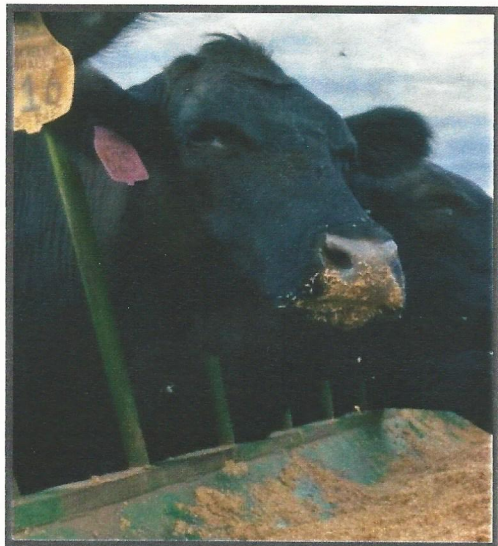
(sportsmensalliance.org)

Looking for a Hunter Ed course?

November 7, 2026 8am-8pm
Frederick FWB Church 3605
Frederick Rd. Wheelersburg, Ohio

Hunter education is required of all first-time hunters in Ohio, unless the Apprentice License option is chosen.

The class will cover a range of topics, from conservation, safety, and ethics to the proper handling of shotguns, handguns, bowhunting gear, and more.



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



Dr. E. Lucy Braun Lookout Trail

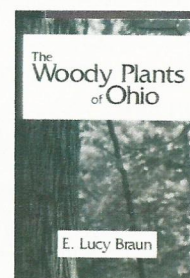
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources welcomed visitors, community members, and nature enthusiasts to Shawnee State Park on Sunday for a ceremony to officially open the newly named Dr. E. Lucy Braun Lookout Trail. The celebration honored both the park's rich natural heritage and the extraordinary legacy of Dr. E. Lucy Braun, one of the most influential botanists and ecologists in American history.

Guests gathered at the shelter house on Mackletree Road for opening remarks before embarking on a guided walk along the 2 mile loop trail that features interpretive signs showcasing Dr. Braun and her remarkable efforts in the region. The upgraded route also features new interpretive signs highlighting the work of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 1545, whose efforts in the 1930s helped open the region to visitors and laid the foundation for future scientific exploration.

"Dr. Braun helped reveal the story written in these forests," said Jenny Richards, Shawnee State Park Naturalist. "Her research shaped our understanding of Ohio's ecosystems, and this trail gives visitors a chance to walk in her footsteps and discover the diversity she worked so hard to document."

Additionally, the event celebrated Dr. Braun's historic connection to Shawnee State Forest. As a pioneering scientist known for her groundbreaking studies of deciduous forests, Dr. Braun frequently brought her students to Shawnee to examine its remarkable biodiversity. Her work analyzing forest composition and plant communities remains foundational in modern conservation science. The newly named trail honors her contributions and the generations of learners she inspired.

The ceremony highlighted the beauty and significance of Shawnee State Park, a rugged 1,095 acre landscape once used as hunting grounds by the Native American Shawnee tribes. Nestled within the 68,000 acre Shawnee State Forest, the area is lovingly known as Ohio's "Little Smokies." (ohiodnr.gov)





Wildlife Spotlight Eastern Grey Squirrel

The gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) was one of the most populous species of wildlife in Ohio at the time of settlement. Gray squirrels had extensive habitat in the state taking advantage of the widespread forest in Ohio. Early historical records speak of gray squirrel populations so dense that "...it took a month for an army of squirrels to pass." In fact, gray squirrels disrupted early agricultural efforts in the state to such an extent that Ohio law required each taxpayer to turn in a quota of squirrel skins along with his tax payment. But, as the human population grew and more land was cleared, elimination practices continued and gray squirrel numbers began to dwindle. By 1885, hunting laws were enacted restricting the hunting seasons and bag limits for the gray squirrel.

As its name indicates, the gray squirrel is gray in color. These gray hairs may have orange tips that will give the animal a reddish cast. Its belly is more of a grayish-white or rusty color. Many gray squirrels have a white trim on the back of their ears and a straw-colored ring around their eyes.

Gray squirrels are polygamous breeders. They breed during December-January and May-June. Gestation lasts 44 days and young are born February-March and July-August. Litters consist of 2-3 young. The male will have no role in rearing the young. Young squirrels are reared in leaf nests, dens and occasionally birdhouses. When they are born, the young have no teeth or fur, and their eyes and ears are tightly shut. Young squirrels are slow maturing- their eyes won't open for about 36 days, it will be nearly seven weeks before they begin to sample solid foods, like greens and bark, and approximately 10 weeks before they venture out of the nest onto the ground.

Gray squirrels prefer large expanses of wooded areas of hardwood trees. Gray squirrels will take shelter in leaf nests they have constructed or in tree dens. Leaf nests are made of twigs, leaves and sometimes grasses. Gray squirrels typically eat nuts, seeds and fruits of hickory, beech, oak, black walnut, tulip tree, sugar maple, flowering dogwood, buckeye, wild grape, pawpaw, persimmon, butternut, black cherry and a variety of insects.

(OHIODNR.GOV)

If you have nuisance Squirrel or other nuisance wildlife issues please contact our office or our local wildlife officer.



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!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US TODAY!

740-259-9231

12167 STATE ROUTE 104
LUCASVILLE, OHIO 45648

**CONSERVING, MAINTAINING, AND IMPROVING
SCIOTO COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
80 YEARS**