

SCIOTO SWCD NEWSLETTER

SCIOTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EST. 1946

UPCOMING EVENTS

Live Well Age Well

May 7, 2026

8:30am - 12:30pm

**Wheelersburg Baptist Church
11712 Gallia Pike Road**

A community event focused on helping adults of all ages take steps toward a healthier, more active future. We will be signing individuals up for our bird programs. (More info on page 2)

Nature Wellness Weekend

May 8-10, 2026

Shawnee State Park Lodge

Designed to restore both mind and body. Sessions include creek exploration, natural art, nature writing, identifying wild edible plants, and more. Registration is required and ends May 8th. (More info on page 2)

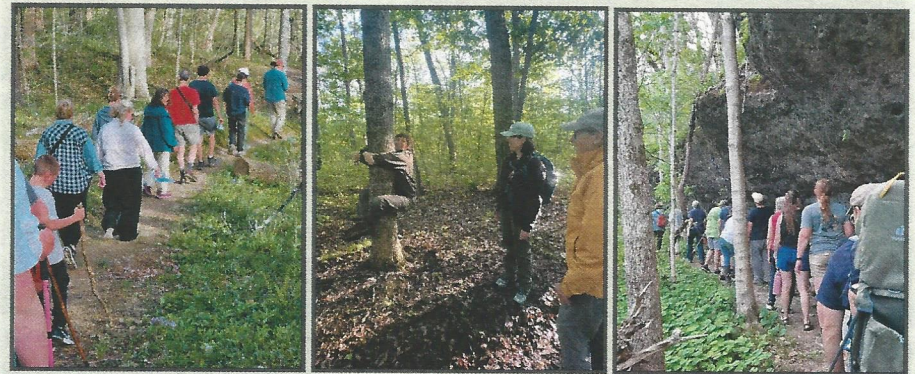
SNAKES!

May 14, 2026

Portsmouth Public Library

2:45pm - 3:45pm

Teens (12+) are welcome to join us at the Portsmouth Public Library to meet Scout, a baby garter snake, and to learn about local snake species including the Timber Rattlesnake!



Wednesdays in the Watershed

Each Wednesday in April, we gathered together to explore the Scioto Brush Creek Watershed. Our goal of these programs was not just to appreciate nature and our local natural resources, but to understand that our region is a critical habitat for diverse plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.

After being rained out our first program, we visited Scioto Brush Creek Nature preserve where we were wowed by the abundance of Virginia Bluebells, the signs of hardworking beavers, and blue waters of Scioto Brush Creek.

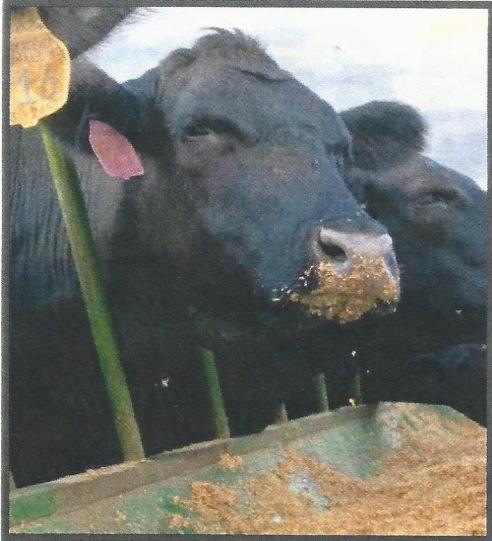
We then visited Shoemaker and Davis Memorial State Nature Preserves where Martin and Jodi McAllister taught us about the unique geology and soils of the region, and pointed out some of the most rare and beautiful wildflowers. We wrapped this series up in Shawnee State Forest's Snake Hollow on a hike led by local naturalist, Jenny Richards.

On this last hike we were greeted by many wildlife species including Wood Warblers and Barred Owls. We found bobcat scat, and mushrooms likely munched on by box turtles. It is hard to put into words the value of these programs but one thing is for sure, you don't truly understand a place until you've walked its boundaries and breathed its air.

We are grateful to provide these experiences in partnership with the Friends of Scioto Brush Creek, Portsmouth Connex, and ODNR. We hope you all continue to get outside, appreciate our natural resources, join an effort to protect them and leave no trace.



Thank you to our 81 participants in this program!



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

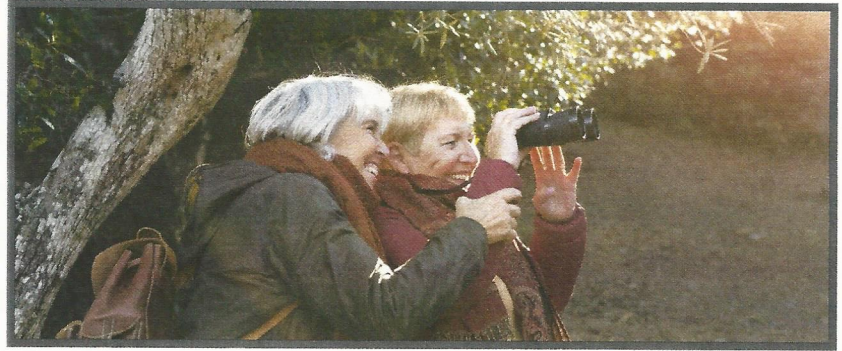
Soil Tests

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



Live Well Age Well with Bird watching!

May 7th, 8:30am - 12:30pm @ Wheelersburg Baptist Church
11712 Gallia Pike Road, Wheelersburg OH 45694

This OSU Extension event is focused on helping adults of all ages take steps toward a healthier, more active future. Participants can explore topics that promote healthy living, connect with local resources, and learn ways to stay engaged through volunteer opportunities. Whether you're looking to improve your health, gain new knowledge, or get involved in the community, this event offers something for everyone! Scioto SWCD will be set up to sign individuals up for a birding program and discuss the benefits of bird watching. Those who stop by the table will be entered to win a bird feeder and seed mix.

Each class will be held every Monday in June at 8AM



Nature Wellness Weekend

May 8th - 10th
Shawnee State Park Lodge
Cost: \$75

This immersive retreat invites participants to slow down, breathe deeply, and experience the calming power of nature in one of Ohio's most scenic state parks. The weekend blends gentle outdoor activities with wellness-focused programming. Participants may choose from a variety of sessions including creek exploration, natural art, nature writing, identifying wild edible plants, and more. Evenings offer time to unwind around the campfire with live music by Ohio singer/songwriter, Megan Bee.

To register or learn more, contact Jenny Richards at
Jenny.Richards@dnr.ohio.gov or call (740) 858-6652.



Wildlife Spotlight Wild Turkey

The wild turkey has returned to the Ohio landscape after many years of absence. This bird once inhabited forested areas of the entire state, providing food and sport for Native Americans and early Ohio settlers. As settlement continued and forest lands were converted to cropland, the wild turkey's population dwindled to the point that no birds remained in the state by 1904.

Adult males (gobblers) have a reddish head, a long, tasseled "beard" that dangles from the breast, black-tipped breast feathers, and spurs on the legs. Females (hens), have a bluish head, usually no beard, buff-tipped breast feathers, and no spurs.

Wild turkeys make a variety of sounds, including a male's gobble, the hen's yelp, a poult's peep, an alarm call that sounds like putt, and an assortment of purrs, trills, croaks, whines, and barks. The best known of these vocalizations is the gobble.

Wild turkeys are polygamous breeders, which means that males breed with more than one female. Breeding activity peaks in April, and their nesting period runs from mid-April through mid-June. A typical clutch has anywhere from 8 to 16 eggs. These eggs are incubated for 28 days. Their first flight usually occurs at about 2 weeks. Most wild turkey broods will remain together for four or five months. Young females may stay with the hen until the following spring at the start of breeding season.

Turkeys usually feed in flocks of family units or groups of adults, scratching through leaf litter for insects, fruits, and acorns. Occasionally they will feed in a vine or tree. Wild turkeys are very adaptable animals. Although they prefer mature forests, with substantial cover and suitable food sources, they can live successfully in areas with as little as 15 percent forest cover.

This highly prized game bird is found in all of Ohio's 88 counties. Ohio's statewide wild turkey population is estimated to be 160,000-180,000 turkeys. (Ohiodnr.gov)



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
\$40

Our office has Rain barrels on sale!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US TODAY!

740-259-9231

12167 STATE ROUTE 104
LUCASVILLE, OHIO 45648

SCIOTOSWCD.ORG

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