

Winter and Spring Pond Management Tips

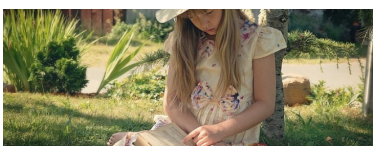


- Aquatic vegetation will continue to produce oxygen throughout the winter, even under ice, as long as sunlight can get through. Extended periods of snow-covered ice may lead to oxygen shortages and potential fish kills, but this can be reduced by safely removing the snow from portions (or all) of the pond's surface.
- During the winter, the water in the pond will go through a stratification process where the warmer water collects in a layer on the bottom of the pond with cooler water near the surface. In the spring this stratification mixes in what's called a turnover. Rapid turnovers, sometimes called pond "flips," are often caused by a heavy, warm rain event and may be detected when the water suddenly turns muddy from sediment being pulled upward off the pond bottom and suspended. In these cases, a sudden oxygen crash may occur resulting in a widespread fish kill, with larger fish, and fish species with higher dissolved oxygen requirements most at risk of a suffering losses.
- Submerged vegetation and algae will begin new growth in early spring as water temperatures start climbing and days become longer. Physical removal of residual filamentous algae can begin as soon as surface ice melts, and proactive chemical treatment in early spring when water temperatures are 50-60F will help maintain control throughout the summer. Other aquatic plants can be addressed as they appear. If you have questions on aquatic plant ID or want guidance on treatment options, please contact [Matt Wallace](#). Re-printed with permission from Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District.

Don't forget to order fish for your pond during our pond fish sale. The deadline to [order](#) is April 16.

Mark your calendar June 10 at 7:00 p.m. for a [Pond Clinic](#) at Headwaters Outdoor Education Center, 151 Home Road, Mt Gilead Oh 43338 (Just north of the Morrow County Sherriff's Office). We're co-hosting the clinic with Morrow SWCD and the featured speaker is Steve Fender with Fenders Fish Hatchery

Virtual Conservation Story Time Closing a Chapter



There are only a few more Virtual Conservation Story times for this season and we hope you have a chance to watch them, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The last book, *10 Things You Can Do to Save Water*, will be shown on the [website](#), April 14. We were proud to partner with

the Mansfield Richland County Public Library (MRCPL) for the season.

Thank you to our guest readers, Caroline Rivers and Jennifer Dean, Emma Sturts, Kelly Snyder, Kathy Hicks, Samantha Altman and Commissioner Darrel Banks. Also thanks to volunteer Candy Brenner, MRCPL, and a grant from the Richland County Foundation for helping make Virtual Conservation Story Time possible.

Only Rain Down the Drain

Join us this year as we share tips on keeping stormwater drains clear through the theme of [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes, Lake Erie or the Ohio River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico so we want to do everything we can to keep them clear of debris, litter, and pollutants. One way we can help is to pick up after our pets.

Here are some reasons why it is important to pick up pet waste:

- Pet waste can cause harmful bacteria in our streams that may be difficult to filter out of our drinking water.
- Pet waste contains parasites and bacteria like ringworm, salmonella, and e-coli.
- A single gram of pet waste could contain an estimated 23 million bacteria. (source LIVESCIENCE.com)
- Pet waste is acidic due to the high protein diet that dogs eat. Dog waste is best cleaned up and put in the trash can.
- Pet waste is high in nitrogen and phosphorus which negatively effects our waterways and helps create algal blooms in lakes.
- Did you know in 2020 there were approximately 17,273 dog licenses issued in Richland County? If each registered dog averages a half pound of waste each day and we conservatively estimate 35% of dog owners do not pick up their dog's waste, approximately **3,023 pounds** of waste is produced **per day**. For a **year**, that equates to **552 tons** of dog waste that may work its way into our storm drains and then out into our streams, rivers, and lakes. This does not even include other meat or protein eating pets. That is a lot of poop that can damage the environment, ecosystems and even our drinking water. Let's all do our part and pick up our pooch's poop. Thanks!



Black Fork Ditch Petition Progress



During an organizational meeting held earlier in the month, Board of Commissioners in Richland and Crawford counties met to discuss the petition for the Black Fork Joint County Ditch Project. Richland county Commissioner Cliff Mears was elected as chairman, Stacey Crall as clerk and Richland County Engineer Adam Gove to oversee the cost/benefit analysis needed to implement a

clean up plan of approximately 18 miles of the Black Fork from 50 feet south of the Mickey Road bridge in Sharon Township through Shelby to the bridge on Ohio 13 near Ohio 96 in Franklin Township. Survey work for the project will be done on foot and with a drone.

The combined board will meet May 20 at 1:30 p.m. to do in person inspections of several portions of the waterway. On May 21 at 9:30 a.m, they will meet at the Richland County Commissioners office to view the drone footage.

A public hearing about the petition will be held August 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Richland County Longview Center at 1495 W. Longview Avenue in Mansfield. The purpose of the Ditch Petition is to help with cleaning efforts and maintain the Black Fork River. More details on the Black Fork Ditch Petition may be read [here](#). There is information on our [website](#) about the general ditch petition process and drone video of a portion of the Black Fork..

Virtual Grazing School

Due to the pandemic, the Pastures for Profit Grazing School was held virtually this year. In case you missed the webinars, or if you do not have access to internet service or if you have poor internet connection, we are sharing the webinars Wednesdays April 14, 21 and 28 from 10a.m. to 12p.m. in the Longview Center Conference Room located at 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield.

Registration is requested by April 7 and may be made by calling 419-747-8686 or with a [registration form](#).

The program is a grassland management school designed for grazing livestock producers and resource managers.

The goals of the Grazing School are to:

- 1) educate producers and resource managers in the art and science of grazing management
- 2) transfer new technology in grassland management to producers and resource managers
- 3) improve the producers' ability to better manage their grassland and related natural resources.

Participants will be able to use the information they receive to help ensure their grazing operations are environmentally responsible as well as economically viable.

The cost to attend is \$30 per person and includes the webinars and resource binder or USB drive and certification.

Tree Seedling Sale

The Clear Fork FFA Alumni Tree Seedling Sale is a great opportunity to purchase seedlings plus help

Clear Fork FFA program. The sale will take place Friday, April 9, 2021, at Clear Fork High School, Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park and Planktown Market. Any leftover seedlings will be sold Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon or until all seedlings are sold, at the Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park. The price remains the same at \$10.00 per bundle of 8 seedlings. The Flowering Pack and Birdhouses will be available again, too. For more details, please visit the [website](#).



Order Fish for Your Pond



Make sure you don't miss your chance to "catch" some fish during our Pond Fish Sale! Order and payment are due April 16, 2021 and pick up is April 23 at the Richland County Fairgrounds from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. **This will be the only pond fish sale we hold this year, so make sure you order!** All prices are the same other than the minnows

are \$7.00 per 100. For species, prices and an order form, please visit the [website](#) or call 419-747-8686.

Meet Noah Cable, Ohio Farm Bill Biologist

My name is Noah Cable and I am the new Ohio Farm Bill Biologist for Pheasants Forever in Seneca, Huron, Crawford, and Richland counties. I am from and currently still live in the small town of Woodville, Ohio. From a very young age I began hunting, fishing, and trapping. Over time I developed an incredible passion for all things outdoors and soon after realized that I wanted these same opportunities and possibilities not just for the people around me but for generations to come. Last May, I received my bachelor's degree of Wildlife and Fisheries Resources with a minor in Forest Management from West Virginia University. Throughout my time at school I have had the opportunity to work in many different states, from Utah to North Carolina, on projects like Sage Grouse brooding studies and Corporate farm upland habitat restoration. With each co-worker, supervisor, partner, and curious passerby that I meet it has become increasingly obvious that my realization is one that many of us share. I am excited to be a part of the Habitat Organization and look forward to working with partner agencies in an effort to expand private lands conservation across the landscape!



Important Dates

April: [Ohio Native Plant Month](#)

April 7: Virtual Grazing School [registrations](#) due

April 9 & 10: Clear Fork Alumni [Tree Seedling Sale](#)

April 14, 21, & 28: [Virtual Grazing School](#), 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Longview Center

April 16: [Pond Fish Sale Orders Due](#)

April 22: Earth Stewardship Celebration [Kick-off](#), 1 p.m., Downtown Mansfield Gazebo in Central Park

April 23: Board Supervisor Meeting, 9:00 a.m. Conference Room

April 23: Pond Fish Orders Pick Up

Ongoing: Virtual [Raising Richland](#) Community Garden Summit

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson
Fred Cooke, Treasurer
Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary
David Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44906. The meetings are open to the public. Call to confirm meeting date, time and attendance. If you plan to attend a board meeting, please contact Erica Thomas, District Administrator, in advance so that enough meeting packets will be prepared.

To be more efficient in answering and managing phone calls, we are using an automated answering system. If you call our main number at 419-747-8686 you will be given the opportunity to connect with a staff member or partnering office. Individual phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the left. If you have any questions, please [let us know](#).

See what's happening on our social sites:



For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including scanning and archiving historical photos and documents, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Quality Monitor, Office Assistant, Photographer, help with Special Events or be an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#). **Congratulations to volunteers for being awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Chief's Field Office awards!**

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Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability or veteran status.