



# LAND TO LAKE

**magazine**

issue six | spring 2017 | [landtolake.com](http://landtolake.com)

## pollinators in peril

Plants with a Purpose  
a win-win for everyone

## Connectivity

Boat, Bike & Walk...Enjoy Our Natural Resources  
Around Defiance County

+ Events, Lake Erie Update & More



# EVENTS | NEWS

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**March 18, 9:30 am**

**Invasive Species Removal**, Join Black Swamp Conservancy at Forrest Woods, County Road 73, to tour the restored wetland and help remove invasive plants.

**March 21**

**City of Defiance Compost Site Opens**

**March 25, 8:00 am to noon**

**Maple Syrup Festival & NW Ohio Woodland & Wildlife Family Festival**, Williams County Fairgrounds. Enjoy breakfast, tour maple syrup production, and learn about local wildlife.

**April 5, 11:30 am Lunch & Learn**

**Backyard Beauty & Biodiversity with Native Plants** by Martha Ferguson of Riverview Native Nursery, location TBA.

**April 6**

**Chocolate Walk**, Downtown Defiance\*

**April 8**

**City of Defiance Annual Clean Up Your Parks Day**

**April 20, 7:00 pm**

**Becoming A Futurist** presented by David Staley, Ph.D., Schomburg Auditorium, courtesy of the Jan J. Younger Colloquium at Defiance College.

## For Youth:

**Science Camp is incr-EDIBLE**

Kid's Outdoor Science Camp, June 5-8 at Camp Palmer for grades 3-8. Scholarships available.

**Kid's Outdoor Camp**

June 13, 14, and 15, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Penney Nature Center, for grades K-2.

**Reminder:** Conservation Photo and Poster Contest entries due April 10.

**details at:** [defiance-county.com/swcd](http://defiance-county.com/swcd)

On The Cover: **Bee Pollinating A Fruit Tree**  
© micha\_h-stock.adobe.com

**April 22 ~ Earth Day**



**May 13**

**Lilac Fest**, Downtown Defiance\*

**June 7, 5:00 pm**

**Attracting/Preserving Pollinators** by Jamie Walters at the Northtowne Mall Community Room

**June 23-24**

**Riverfront Gathering**, Join us at Pontiac park on Friday night (5-9 pm) and Saturday (12-9 pm) for a celebration of our Rivers! Music, food, and activities. The highlight will be the opportunity to enjoy a free pontoon ride! You can also give kayaking a try!

**June 25**

**Art in the Park**, Fort Grounds\*

**\*details at** [visitdefianceohio.com](http://visitdefianceohio.com)

**or** [landtolake.com/calendar-of-events](http://landtolake.com/calendar-of-events)



**Auglaize Village Events\***

**May 6-7** N.O.B. Hammer-In

**May 20-21** Settler's Reenactment

**June 3-4** Black Swamp Historical Farm Museum Show

**July 9** Motorama

**August 5-6** Pow Wow

## Lake Erie upDate

Animals can be invasive too! Asian carp are an example of a nonnative species that can replace native fish populations. These carp are threatening to upset the balance of Lake Erie reducing populations of fish such as walleye. One model suggests that Asian carp could eventually account for up to 34% of the total fish weight in the lake.

Bighead and silver carp, imported from

Asia to control algae, compete with native fish that eat microscopic plants and animals. Another Asian species, grass carp, will feast on aquatic vegetation that provides crucial habitat and spawning grounds. They have been found in Lakes Erie, Michigan and Ontario, although it's uncertain how many there are or how widely they have spread.



**LANDToLAKE**  
magazine

is published to provide the community with information on protecting the water resources of the Maumee River Watershed throughout Defiance County.

**Stephanie Singer**

Watershed Coordinator, Defiance SWCD

**Jennifer English**

MS4 Coordinator, City of Defiance

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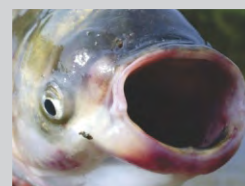
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**Jamie Walters** – 46 yrs, Defiance lifelong residence, Defiance County OSU Extension Master Gardener, Hancock County Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Ohio State Beekeepers Association – Journeyman Beekeeper, Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association – Vice President, CSAW Ohio Forestry Management, Ohio State Pollinator Specialist, Defiance County Apiary Inspector

### **Pollinators seem to be a hot topic these days, can you explain your interest in promoting them?**

When some people think pollinators, they only think of honeybees, in which they are missing the fact that we have over 500 species of bees just in Ohio, let alone the ants, beetles, birds, butterflies, flies, moths & some wasps that also pollinate our flowers, trees, plants, and vegetables.

Most of your fresh fruits and vegetables would disappear from our grocery stores shelves without pollinators. Even some of your favorites such as chocolate and coffee are made from beans that require pollination.

### **Why do you believe pollinator populations are at risk?**

Reduced Forage: Research shows solid concrete proof that forage is disappearing at alarming rates. The pollinators need pollen to survive and store to get through periods when pollen is not available. Pollinators require pollen from the first signs of skunk cabbage blossoms, dandelion, white Dutch clover through summer till golden rod and asters in the late fall. If there isn't enough forage for native pollinators, they move out of that

why we all should care about

# Pollinators...

## an interview with Jamie Walters

area or go extinct, as in the case of the Rusty Patched Bumblebee here in Ohio.

Chemicals: Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides are becoming more abundant on store shelves.

Knowing what to spray, when to spray, and even if you need to spray should be everyone's responsibility. Using an integrated pest management (IPM) practice will help reduce chemicals in our environment. Always follow label directions.

In short, humans wanting the perfect green lawn, spraying chemicals, and cutting back native natural areas is harmful to pollinators.

### **Where do honey bees fit into this equation?**

Honeybees are a big part of this because we place them into a hive, manage them, and they are the only insect that humans get a product from – honey. Pollinators contribute more than \$20 million dollars to the United States economy, of which honeybees account for more than \$15 million dollars through their vital role in keeping, fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets.

### **What can people do to help?**

If everyone would help just a little, the impact would be tremendous. Ideas include: having a "Spray Free Zone" on your property, planting and landscaping with Ohio native plants, and allowing your lawn to include plants that are commonly thought of as "weeds."

***Bombus affinis***, commonly known as the **rusty patched bumblebee**, is a species of bumblebee that is endemic to North

America. Its historical range in North America has been throughout the east and upper Midwest of the United States, north to Ontario, Canada, where it is considered a "species at risk," east to Quebec, south to Georgia, and west to the Dakotas. Its numbers have declined in 87% of its historical habitat range. **On January 10, 2017 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service placed the *B. affinis* on the list of endangered species**, making the rusty patched bumblebee the first bee of any kind to be added to the list in the Continental United States.



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I ask everyone to take the "1 Foot Challenge:" Plant 1 square foot of your property with native plants this year. Each year, add another square foot. I'm asking everyone to do this so pollinators have a place to forage, reproduce, and thrive.

### **Where can people go to learn more?**

I will be at the Northtowne Mall on June 7th at 5:00 pm presenting on Attracting/Preserving Pollinators.

Great websites to visit: [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org) and [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org).

If you have an organization that is interested in hearing more, please contact me and I would be happy to help.

Follow me on Facebook at Walters-GardenBlog where I post upcoming presentations and information.

*Do you have cropland that you are interested in converting to pollinator habitat? Contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency for details.*





# Plants WITH A PURPOSE

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*Native plants are great choices for growing in home gardens and landscapes, along rivers and wetlands, in business and public spaces, parks, trails and natural areas.*

*These trees, grasses, shrubs, vines and flowers have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region, adapting to the unique physical features and climate of a place. Butterflies, birds, ants, bees, beneficial insects and wildlife have co-evolved with native plants and rely on them for food and habitat, playing a vital role to the overall function of a natural ecosystem.*

*Pollinators need this habitat now more than they ever have.*

Because native plants can grow in the wild without human intervention, they are sensible choices for low-maintenance gardens and landscapes. Native plants are disease resistant and remain healthy without extensive use of pesticides. Since they are adapted to our local soils, less fertilizer and soil amendments are required compared to non-native varieties. Plants native to this region are specifically designed to thrive in our climate—they are tolerant of fluctuating moisture levels and generally only require irrigation in periods of extreme drought.

Not only are native plants beautiful, but they are functional, serving as a natural solution for stormwater management and flood control due to their deep root structures. A perennial garden of native plants protects water quality while adding beauty to the yard, where water soaks in instead of running off. Tunnels formed by decaying roots help water and oxygen filter through the ground, recharging precious groundwater supplies. With roots growing down twice as deep as the plants are tall, some native plants are very efficient at absorbing water.

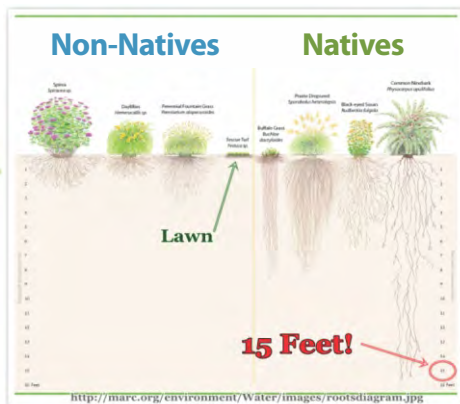
Native plants improve water quality by filtering pollutants from stormwater caused by grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizers, gas, oil and other residue.

*Many deep-rooted native plants that are beneficial for water quality are the same plants that will provide food and habitat for beneficial insects, wildlife and pollinators to help them thrive.*

Native plants provide the keystone elements for an ecosystem to thrive, but unfortunately, native plants are disappearing from our landscapes. Development continues to shrink and fragment natural areas. We live in an enormous network of unseen relationships, so when native plants disappear, the pollinators and other wildlife that depend on them for food and shelter may perish and our environment is impoverished.

Natives grow in a wonderful, wild, changing rainbow of colors and foliage all season long. Luckily, we have the opportunity to restore these native plants to our landscapes and enjoy their diverse beauty. Native plants can be incorporated into the landscape in functional and aesthetic applications, including riparian/streambank areas for erosion control, floodplain and wetland areas, rain gardens and bioretention areas for water quality and flood control as well as landscape borders and beds for beauty and habitat for beneficial insects and

*Coreopsis*



<http://marc.org/environment/Water/images/rootsdiagram.jpg>



# SLOW IT DOWN, SPREAD IT OUT, SOAK IT IN.

wildlife. The large-scale use of natives for ecosystem restoration is also becoming more common, thanks to partnerships between non-profit and government agencies promoting pollinator habitat.

*Native plants attract beneficial insects to your garden by providing food and shelter.*

Landscape DIVERSITY {number of different species} and COMPLEXITY {assortment of growth habits and structures} are important for “beneficials”. Native plants play an important role in the food web. The food web is the interconnected groups of food chains existing together. Each part of the food web is crucial for the survival of a healthy ecosystem.

So what is the danger in selecting a nonnative or exotic plant? Sometimes a nonnative plant can become invasive. **Invasive species can take over natural areas wreaking havoc on the balance of an ecosystem.** They can out-compete natives because our wildlife is not adapted to using them as a food source, so there is nothing to keep their population in check, often

creating a monoculture. Invasive plants can take the place of native plants, crowding them out and leaving little food or shelter for the wildlife that depends on them.

Many well-meaning gardeners and homeowners have planted a beautiful plant with the intention that it will stay in its bed. Because seeds have many modes of travels, and invasive plants usually have prolific seed production, the seeds can travel to nearby fields and woods to create a tremendous imbalance in an ecosystem. Some well-intended examples that have managed to ‘escape’ and ‘invade’ include multiflora rose, purple loostripe, autumn olive, and common reed grass. Other invasive plants that are a familiar site locally include garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and an invasive plant we all love to hate in Defiance County, teasel.

*A plant’s botanical name is its only positive identification.*

A good practice when selecting native landscaping plants is to check the botanical name; make sure you take this information with you to the nursery. Cultivars, or a modified version of a plant made more beautiful to the human eye, should be avoided as they may not serve the same ecological function as the true native species, often lacking nectar and/or pollen.



**Find out how to put native plants to work in your garden. Go to [landtolake.com](http://landtolake.com)**

As humans, we can't separate our gardens and the practices we choose from the natural world. Not only do the chemicals and fossil fuels that we use for mowing, fertilizing and weed or pest control have unintended consequences, but it is possible that the plants we select do as well. Please join us in planting a future we can all enjoy.

*“...I have great faith in the seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.”*

—Henry David Thoreau

Lobelia





# Putting our GREEN SPACE to work.

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## Update on Diehl Park

While we wait for winter to melt away, the Diehl Park project is basically on hold until warmer temperatures allow for finishing touches, including planting of native plants into the landscaping and the new sign shown above. Planting of trees and shrubs happened late last fall as well as the stormwater seed mix that will cover much of the bottom of the basin.

Thomas Born/The Crescent-News.



## Update on Riverbank Stabilization

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding of \$400,000 has been awarded to the City of Defiance, through the Ohio EPA to be used for Riverbank Stabilization—with Pontiac Park as the top priority for implementation of this project. The City is working in conjunction with the Defiance County Metro Parks who owns Pontiac Park and has hired the Mannik & Smith Group (MSG) to complete the site assessment and project design.

During the month of February, the City hosted a public input meeting to get feedback from the community and begin to narrow down design options. MSG has completed a Surface Water/Wetland Delineation as well as an Archeological/Cultural Resources Assessment. Both of these two studies are required when work is planned along a waterway—and in this case, one that has such a rich cultural history of American Indian and Military activity. Additional public meetings will be held prior to project starting.

## Penney Nature Center

Work has been completed and continues at the Penney Nature Center to develop a 20-acre, forested wetland complex. To this end, many thousands of trees have been planted over the course of 12 years. In 2015 alone, 8,000 hardwood trees and shrubs were planted and 6,500 of these were mulched and sheltered to protect

them from the elements and from deer browse. The goal is to replicate the various types of natural wetlands that existed throughout the Great Black Swamp. Many of these wetlands consisted of saturated soils and seasonal ponding, not always what people may envision when thinking about wetlands. Also included are areas of the more traditional “emergent” wetlands that hold water year round. In addition to the wetlands, the nature center transitions to more upland forests and to several acres of tall grass prairies. These varied habitats lend to great plant and animal diversity. The public is welcome to visit the site, with parking off of Ashpacher Road, just over a half mile south of SR 15.

If you or your organization would like to volunteer at Penney Nature Center, please call Defiance SWCD at 419-782-1794 for more details.



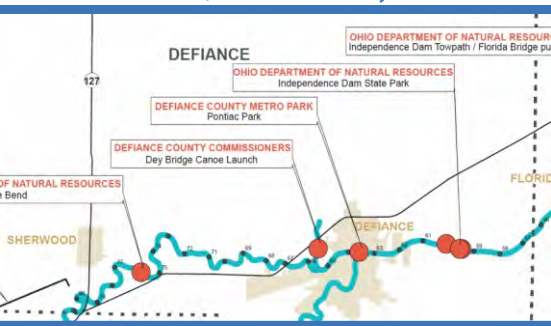
# CONNECTIVITY: BOAT, BIKE & WALK

## Around Defiance County

### Maumee River Water Trail

The proposed Maumee River Water Trail will go from the state line to Lake Erie.

*Pictured here, the Defiance County section:*



### The 'Trail' is the River!

Designation as an ODNR State Water Trail will include signage at access points, water view signs, additional and improved access sites along with printed and digital maps. All of this makes planning your trip on the Maumee River easy, safer and fun. If you were not able to attend a public meeting, please learn more and share your input at:

[metroparkstoleado.com/WaterTrail](http://metroparkstoleado.com/WaterTrail)



### Reservoir Nature Trail

The City has been awarded a grant for \$150,000 from Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Recreational Trails Program toward the construction of a boardwalk-style pathway through the wooded portion of the municipal reservoir site. An asphalt path was constructed around most of the base of the Reservoir in 2015. This new boardwalk pathway will connect both ends of the existing asphalt path, giving trail users a unique woodland experience and completing the loop around the reservoir. This multi-use trail will be fully ADA compliant with select areas designated for birdwatching and educational features.

### Buckeye Trail

The City of Defiance and Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau (DDVB) have submitted an application for the designation of Defiance as a "Trail Town". Watch for opportunities to enjoy the trail and "follow the blue blazes." Details at [buckeyetrail.org](http://buckeyetrail.org).



### Walking Trail at Defiance County East

This trail has two 1/2 mile sections, one gravel and one paved—starting on the back edge of the parking lot, looping around through the woods adjacent to the Maumee River. Spring is coming; it's time to take advantage of these great resources in our community!

### Rotary Walkway

Watch for new benches coming soon to enjoy views of the confluence!

### Trail to Independence Dam

Plans are beginning to create a 4-mile pedestrian/bicycle trail along River Road, or County Road 424, by widening the road from Pontiac Park to Independence Dam State Park. The project is expected to get underway in 2018. We look forward to sharing more details as they become available.



View and download larger maps at  
[LandToLake.com](http://LandToLake.com)



# 2017 Tree Seedling Sale

Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District

419-782-1794 [www.defiance-county.com/swcd](http://www.defiance-county.com/swcd)

## NEW THIS YEAR: BARE ROOT FRUIT TREE SALE

Fruit trees are available in a four-species variety pack at a cost of \$48.00 per pack and include 2 apple, 1 peach, and 1 cherry. Due to limited availability, please call 419-782-1794 to place an order.

Do not send payment without first contacting the District.



	<u>Packets</u> <u>Ordered</u>	<u># Per</u> <u>Packet</u>	<u>Packet Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Coniferous Trees</b>		10	American Arborvitae 8" - 14"	\$9.00	
		10	Bald Cypress 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10	Blue Spruce 9" - 15"	\$8.00	
		10	Norway Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
		10	White Pine 10" - 16"	\$8.00	
		10	White Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
<b>Deciduous Trees</b>		10	Bur Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10	Flowering Dogwood 12" - 18" *	\$9.00	
		10	Ohio Buckeye 12" - 18"	\$10.00	
		10	Prairie Crabapple 12" - 18" *	\$10.00	
		10	Red Bud 12" - 18" *	\$9.00	
		10	Red Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10	Sugar Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10	Swamp White Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
<b>Deciduous Shrubs</b>		10	Common Lilac 6" - 12" *	\$8.00	
		10	Highbush Cranberry 6" - 12"	\$8.00	
		10	Steeplebush 12" - 18" *	\$10.00	
<b>Misc.</b>		10	Flowering Tree Variety Pack 2 of each asterisked species above (*)	\$11.00	
		10	Marking Flags	\$1.00	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Deadline  
extended to  
March 17, 2017**

Tree Shelters Available for Purchase.  
Contact District for Pricing.

Please make checks payable to: **Defiance SWCD**, 06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512.  
All orders must be paid in full. You will be notified in early April via postcard or email when your order will be available for pickup.

For Office Use Only: Order Number \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number \_\_\_\_\_