





Agenda

- Overview of The Nature Conservancy
- Restoration work at The Nature Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy/Cincinnati Nature Center collaboration
- Nut Collection
- Tree ID
- Questions



Our Mission:

Conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Our Vision:

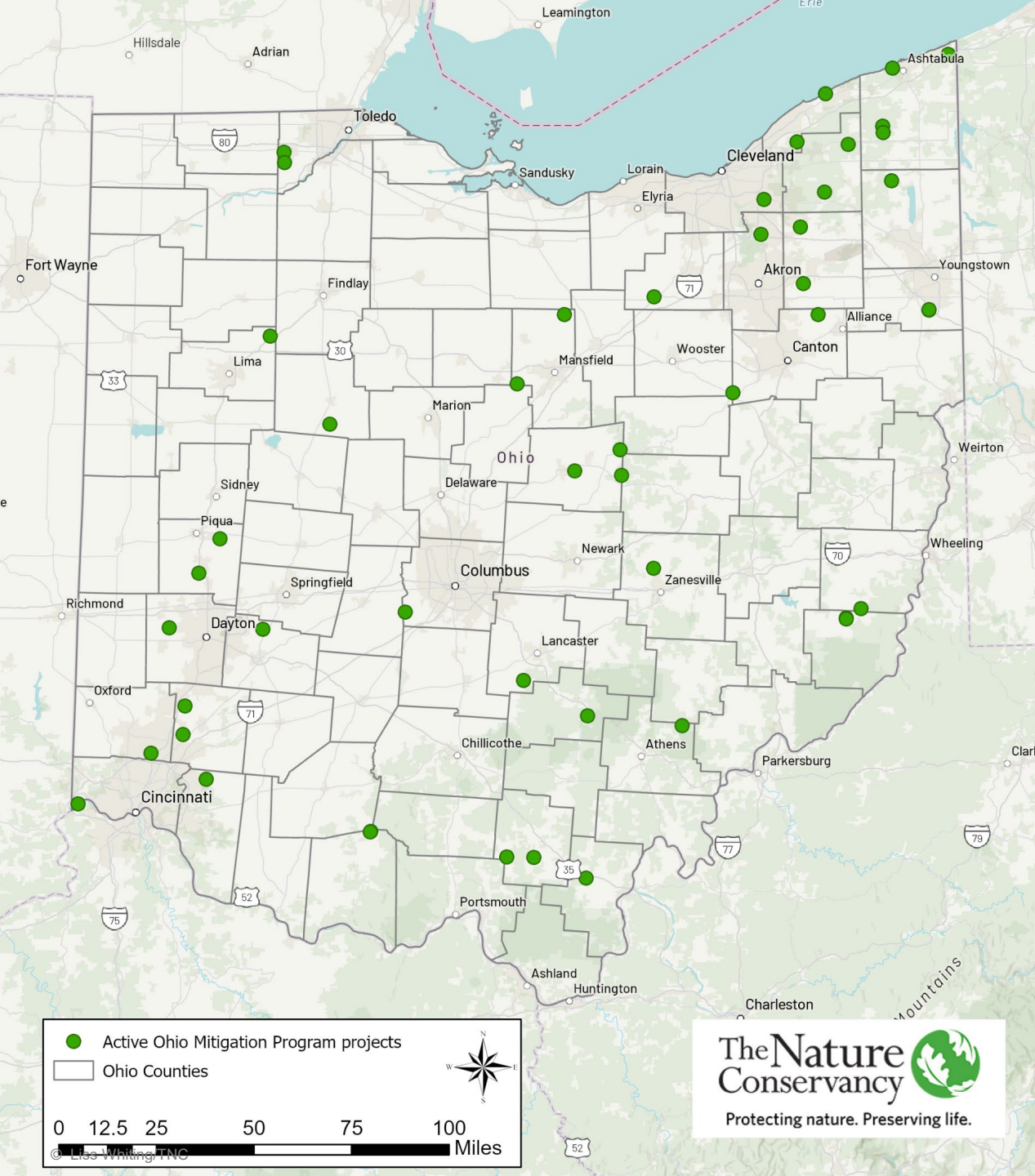
A world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.





Ohio Restoration Projects

- The Ohio Mitigation Program has 49 stream and wetland restoration sites across the state of Ohio, in varying degrees of completion.



We need trees!

- Shade streams
- Forested wetlands
- Connect fragmented forests
- Create migration corridors
- Sequester carbon
- Provide habitat





Cincinnati Nature Center restoration site

- 95 acres
- Agricultural land being restored to wetlands, streams, and riparian habitat
- 24 acres of wetland restoration
- ~0.5 miles of stream restoration
- Reforestation



2025 Recap

- 85 participants
- Thousands of nuts collected
- Distributed by volunteers to 2 restoration sites
- Distributed by staff to several additional restoration sites



Sapling update!





How can you participate this year?

1. Collect nuts throughout the Fall
2. Store nuts using recommended methods
3. Bring nuts to a drop off site



Central Ohio Drop Off

- Wednesday, Oct. 28th, 8:30am-5:30pm
- Dublin Office - 6375 Riverside Dr #100, Dublin, OH 43017

Southwest Ohio Drop Off

- Thursday, Oct. 29th, 9am-5pm (or Friday)
- CNC Center for Conservation - 6876 Gaynor Rd. Goshen, OH 45122

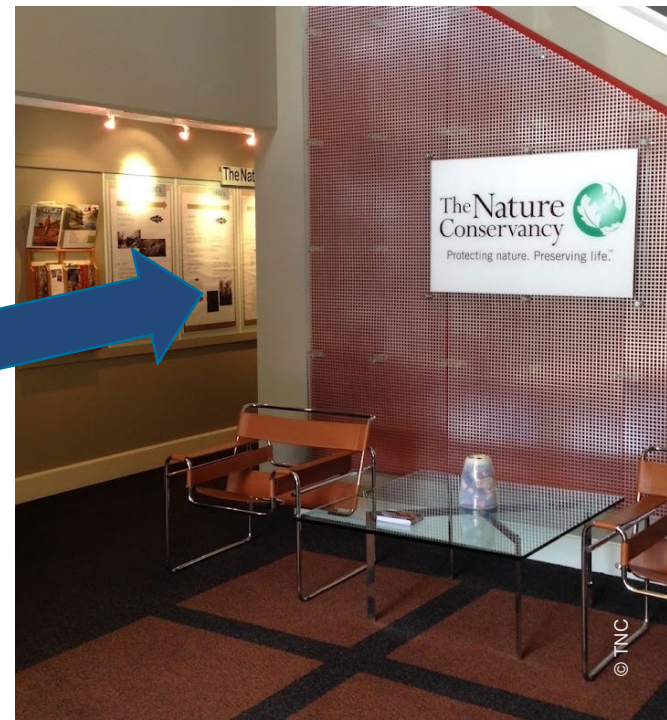
Reminders will be sent through:

- Direct email to individuals who attended this webinar
- TNC volunteer email list
- <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/volunteer/ohio-tree-nut-collection/>



Central Ohio Nut Drop Off

- The Nature Conservancy office in Dublin: 6375 Riverside Dr #100, Dublin, OH 43017
- Wednesday Oct 28th 8:30am-5:30pm



Where to collect

- Backyard
- Parks
- Parking lots
- Do not collect from protected natural areas and preserves
- Be sure you have permission to collect!





Nut Collection

- Do not collect nuts that are hollow, discolored, have holes, or are chewed on
- Perform float test for acorns
- Record species, county, location, date, contact information. Write on bag or slip of paper stapled to bag



Storage and Handling

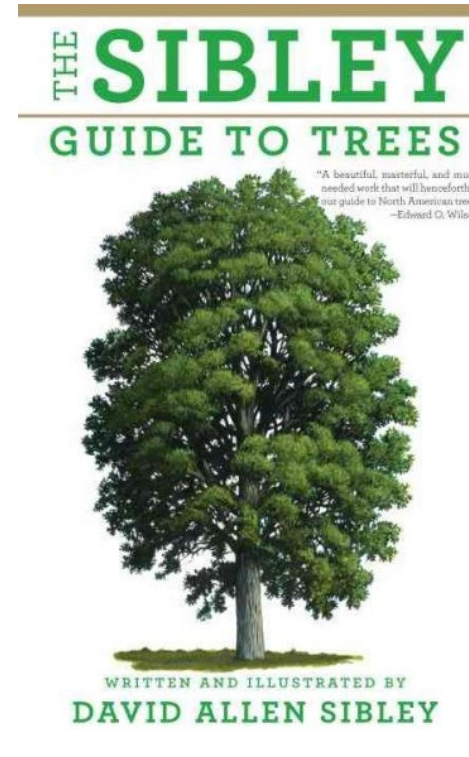
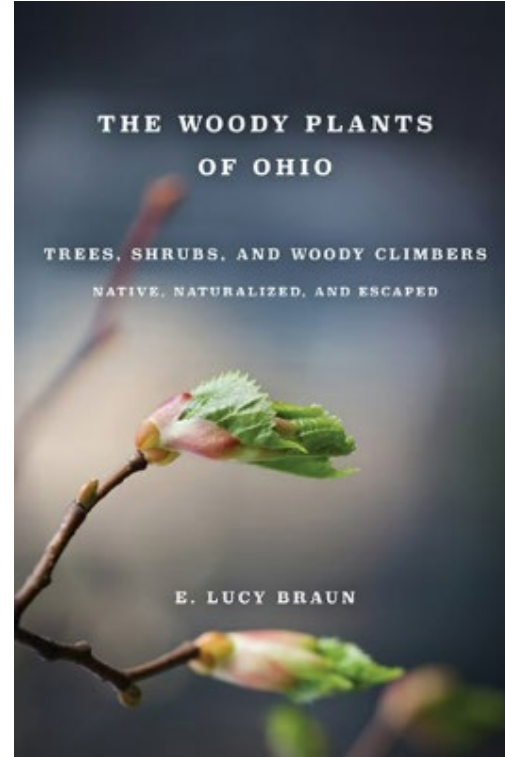
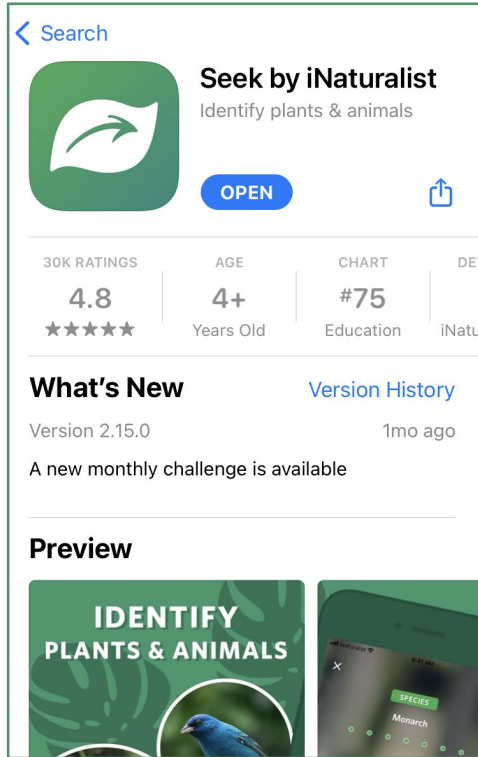
Species	Prep	Store	Where	Notes
Black walnut	N/A	Store in paper bag, yard waste bag, or 5 gallon bucket	Outside (in shade and out of rain) or in fridge	Include a few leaves in bag
Hackberry				
Ohio buckeye	Remove husk	Store in plastic sealable bag. Include a moist paper towel to prevent the nuts from drying. Add moisture if no condensation.	Fridge	Include a husk as well as leaf sample inside the bag to help confirm ID
Pin oak	Soak in water for 1-24 hours; remove cap if possible	Store in plastic bag. Include a moist paper towel to prevent the nuts from drying. Add moisture if no condensation. Open bag occasionally to give them fresh air.	Fridge	Include a cap and few leaves in bag to help confirm ID. <i>Optional: after 4 hours of soaking, discard nuts that float</i>
Red oak				
Shingle oak				
Bur oak				
Chinkapin oak				
Swamp white oak				
White oak				
Boxelder	N/A	Store in plastic or paper bag.	Fridge	Include a few leaves in bag to help confirm ID
Bitternut hickory	N/A			Include a husk and few leaves in bag to help confirm ID
Shagbark hickory	Remove husk if possible			
Shellbark hickory	Remove husk if possible			

On all bags write species, county where collected, date, and your contact information

Questions before we dive into tree ID?



Tree ID



There are lots of helpful identification apps and books out there. Check your local library!

Black walnut

Juglans nigra

- Large compound leaves, 13-23 leaflets
- Leaves and nuts strongly aromatic when crushed
- Stout twigs with white, pubescent buds



Pin oak

Quercus palustris

- Simple, lobed leaves with deep U-shaped sinuses
- Open-grown trees have strongly excurrent growth form and persistent dead branches on lower trunk
- Very small acorns <1.5 cm diameter



Red oak *Quercus rubra*

- Simple, lobed leaves with rounded sinuses, not as deep as pin oak
- Large tree with broad, round crown
- Large acorns up to 2 cm wide and 3 cm long, cup usually enclosing only the base of the nut



Shingle oak *Quercus imbricaria*

- Simple leaves without lobes; crinkled appearance
- Small acorns up to ~1.5 cm long, deep cup enclosing a third to half of the nut
- Bark resembles that of red oak



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Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

- Simple, deeply-lobed leaves, often with a wider lobe toward the middle of the leaf
- Large, "mossy cup" acorns
- Twigs/branches often exhibit corky bark



Chinkapin oak *Quercus muehlenbergii*

- Simple leaves with shallow lobes; dark green above and pale grayish green below
- Mature acorns are ovoid in shape and brown to black in color
- Bark is light gray, faintly yellow



Swamp white oak

Quercus bicolor

- Simple leaves widest just above the middle; upper surface dark green, lower surface grayish and densely hairy
- Large acorns with caps covered with coarsely fringed scales, 1/3 of the length of the fruit
- Bark is deeply furrowed on mature trees



White oak

Quercus alba

- Simple leaves with rounded lobes
- Acorns typically longer than wide, the cap about 1/3 the length of the nut
- Susceptible to "smooth patch disease", leaving characteristic patches of smoother bark on mature trees



Bitternut hickory *Carya cordiformis*

- Compound leaves with 7-9 narrow leaflets
- Sulfur yellow buds



Shagbark hickory

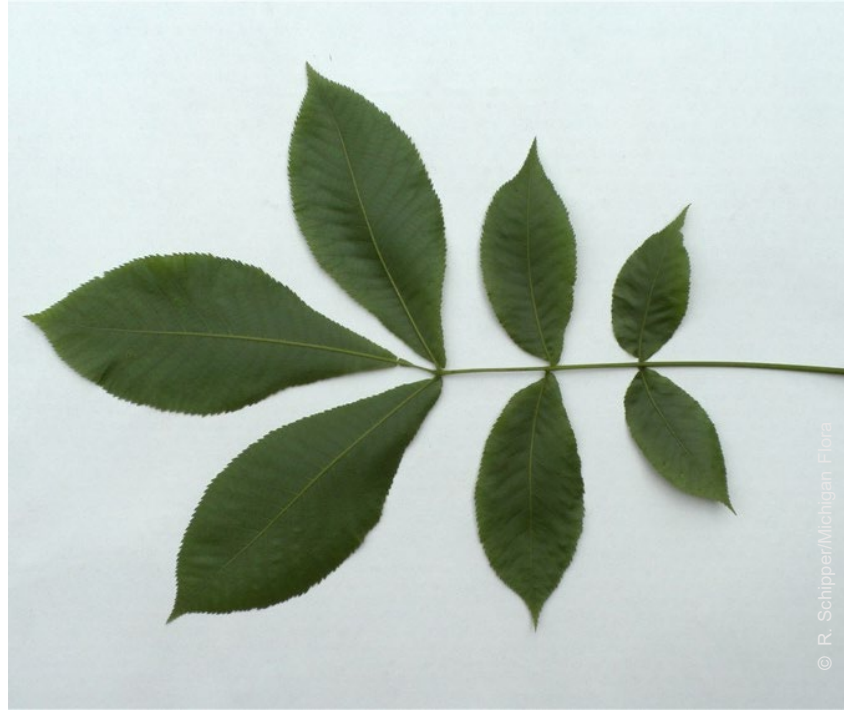
Carya ovata

- Distinct "shaggy" bark
- Leaves compound, usually 5 leaflets (sometimes 7)
- Terminal buds up to 2 cm long
- Nuts 2-4 cm long; wider than long



Shellbark hickory *Carya laciniosa*

- Bark similar to shagbark hickory
- Leaves compound, usually 7 leaflets (sometimes 9)
- Terminal buds 2-3 cm long
- Nuts 4.5-7 cm long; longer than wide
- Typically found on wetter sites



Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

- Bark appears corky/warty/like candlewax



Ohio buckeye

Aesculus glabra

- Compound, opposite leaves with 5 leaflets
- Stout twigs with large, scaly terminal buds
- Avoid nonnative lookalikes: horsechestnut & red buckeye
- Nuts easily separate from capsule; include at least part of capsule to aid with ID.
- Nuts cannot be allowed to dry



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Boxelder

Acer negundo

- Compound, opposite leaves with 3 (sometimes 5) leaflets; leaves sometimes confused with poison ivy
- Young twigs often green to glaucous
- Fruit is a samara, or a pair of winged seeds

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Please reach out with any
questions!

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Thank you

The Nature
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

