



January 2022

# Forestry and Landscape MANAGEMENT

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact



## City of Kent chimney swift project

Students in the Forestry and Landscape Management program recently took part in a project with the City of Kent to beautify the area around a freestanding chimney that was constructed to restore the local chimney swift birds' habitat. Under the direction of **Tom Franek**, program instructor, **Rhonda Boyd**, senior engineer for the City of Kent and **Lynn Vogel**, Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District, students prepared, graded and landscaped the land surrounding the chimney.

The students helped to plan and install sustainable, native pollinating plants around the chimney swift structure. The plants were selected to enhance the look of the chimney sculpture, as well as to encourage pollinator insects and birds. Students gained knowledge of the plants selected. Additionally, they learned how to handle potted plant material, how to layout a plant bed, plant material installation, mulching, and lawn installation.

**Rodney Taylor**, 2014 Roosevelt graduate and Forestry completer, recently started working in Central Maintenance for the City of Kent after working for Davey Tree for six years. He stopped by the work site and shared with students how the program taught him mechanical skills and plant health care related to the field, as well as valuable life skills such as communication, self-discipline and self-confidence.

The Chimney Swift structure is located in downtown Kent on Haymaker Parkway next to the Kent Police Station.



Creighton Allen, working at his internship

## Senior interns at Raccoon Hill Golf Club

Level II students have the opportunity to participate in an internship or other work-based learning experiences. **Creighton Allen**, Level II senior from Roosevelt, is currently interning at Raccoon Hill Golf Club in Kent. His work includes various duties to help maintain the working golf course. He is learning about all aspects of turf management, including mowing, herbicide and fertilizer application, irrigation, machinery operation and maintenance, tree and shrub compatibility and management, and golfer experience and playability. Creighton enjoys the wide variety of different work that the job entails, as it keeps the work interesting. Common to jobs in the "Green Industry," much of his work is dictated by the weather and the season.



**Six District Educational Compact**

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# Success Story

**Pete Grantham**, '14 Hudson graduate and Forestry completer, recently made a visit to Roosevelt to talk to current Level I students. Pete attended Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) for two years after high school graduation and then went on to The Ohio State University where he received his BS in Horticulture. Pete shared that he completed an internship in Bonn, Germany, at the Arboretum Park Hale as part of his OSU education. Upon graduation from OSU, Pete secured a management position with a Columbus-based landscape company. Currently, Pete works for Ag Pro Equipment Sales, where he sells both large and small power equipment used throughout the "Green" industry.

It was valuable for current students to hear of Pete's educational pathway, including his journey to overcome uncertainty regarding his career goals. Pete encouraged students to learn how to communicate effectively, as he feels that those skills play a huge role in securing the best jobs.



**Mathew Kelley (Tallmadge) & Kylee Cooper (Stow)**  
planting trees in the Portage Park District

## Portage Park District plants 30 acres of trees in honor of 30th anniversary

Last Spring, Forestry students assisted the Portage Park District's mission to plant 30 acres of trees in honor of the park's 30th anniversary. This effort was aimed to address ongoing challenges to forest health, including invasive species, disease and fragmentation. Forestry students were led by Portage Park District employees and volunteers, along with students from Kent State University and Hiram College.



**Tom Franek (Instructor), Joe Teson (Hudson), Evan Longwell (Kent), Matthew Kelley (Tallmadge) & Anthony Wyatt (Kent)**  
planting on Tonkin Street in Kent

## Students work at Kent's new pollinator garden

Forestry students help make the city of Kent a beautiful place in many ways! Recently, students braved the cold to install plants at Kent's new Pollinator Garden on Tonkin Street. Students planted bare root Winterberry bushes to create a living screen between the park and a church parking lot.



**Students planting native trees**

## Students collaborate with area professionals

Level I Forestry students worked with the Portage Soil and Water Conservation District, ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Davey Tree, and the Village of Garrettsville to replace eight Callery Pear trees with native Hawthorne and Hornbeam trees. The replacement trees were selected because of their beautiful spring flowers and resilient growth habit. Students were introduced to how to work with, move and plant large balled and burlapped trees. Students had opportunities to work alongside professionals in the field and to inquire about volunteer and internship opportunities for the future.