



**Winter Edition  
2009**

# Conservation Spotlight

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District  
29 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 2901  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-3411

**Phone:** 513-772-7645

**Editor:** Holly Utrata-Halcomb

**Fax:** 513-772-7656

**Layout:** Susan Juriga

**Website:** [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org)

## 64th Annual Meeting

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District held its 64th Annual Meeting on September 17, 2009, at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Guided tours of the green storm water practices at the zoo were provided prior to the meeting. Mark Fisher, Senior Facility Director, gave a wonderful presentation on the plan to take the entire zoo property off of the storm water grid through creative green methods.

### Annual Meeting 2009 Conservation Award Winners

#### 2009 Education Partner of the Year

This year the District recognized the Children's Librarians of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County as the Education Partner of the Year. Over the past year, we have worked with many libraries in Hamilton County. We have designed programs specifically to meet the needs of the library's diverse audience. Debbie Hull (Madeira Children's Librarian) and Megan Brandmeier (Norwood Children's Librarian) attended our annual meeting to accept the award on behalf of all the Children's Librarians



Megan Brandmeier, Gwen Roth  
and Debbie Hull



Don Misrach and Dan Taphorn

#### 2009 Conservation Developer of the Year

Don Misrach and Tom Miller, owners of Glendower Place LLC, are the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District's 2009 Conservation Developers of the Year. The District recognizes their efforts at the Glendower Place Subdivision in Whitewater Township. Glendower Place is a densely wooded single-family subdivision that contains several streams and an existing lake. Don and Tom worked closely with their engineer to protect the streams and lake and ensured compliance with county, state and federal laws. The disturbance of the wooded areas was minimized thereby reducing the amount of earthwork and fitting the development into the surrounding topography. They have laid the foundation for conservation development in Hamilton County. The District encourages you to see the conservation in action at Glendower Place Subdivision on Harrison Road west of Miamitown in Whitewater Township.

#### 2009 Water Quality Partner of the Year

Bruce Koehler, Senior Environmental Planner with Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) is this year's 2009 Water Quality Partner winner. Bruce has worked for OKI protecting water resources for the last 20 years. Many of the stream and wetland restoration, drinking water protection, and storm water management projects in Hamilton and Lower Butler County have been facilitated by Bruce. One of the projects Bruce coordinated, a source water inventory and protection plan in the Lower Great Miami watershed, received a national award from the American Planning Association as the 2009 National Planning Achievement Award. We appreciate Bruce's ability to go the extra mile to help individuals come together during the project implementation.



Brian Bohl and Bruce Koehler



# 64th Annual Meeting Continued



Denny Benson

A county-wide public election was held at the Annual Meeting to select one supervisor for a three-year term. Nominees were incumbent Dennis Benson and Nigel Chalkley. The election was won by Dennis Benson. Our congratulations to Dennis and our thanks to Nigel Chalkley for his interest in the District.

A silent auction was also held during the Annual Meeting. Staff and Supervisors secured fantastic items that ultimately raised over \$550.00 to support the Odegard/Diebel Scholarship fund to help Hamilton County teachers with conservation education expenses.

A copy of our annual report may be picked up at our District office or viewed on our website at [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org), click on newsletter/publications.

## District Staff Honored by County Commissioners

During the Annual Meeting, the Hamilton County Commissioners presented Gwen Roth, District Education Specialist and Brian Bohl, District Stream Specialist, with proclamations honoring them for their contributions to the environmental quality in our county.



Brian Bohl & Gwen Roth

Gwen Roth has been employed by the District for 12 years and has introduced many new and innovative school programs over the years. Her partnerships with dozens of organizations such as the Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Horticulture Society, University of Cincinnati and Farm Bureau have led to quality programs and venues to educate children and the public. This past year, Gwen initiated a new partnership with the Cincinnati Public Libraries. Gwen also serves as a Coordinating Committee Member for the State of Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation for Proficiency Certification for Educators, and she is a member of the Coordinating Committee for Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators.

Brian Bohl has been with the District for 8 years. He is instrumental in several green landscaping demonstration projects as well as stream restoration projects. He provides technical expertise as a member of four watershed organizations. Brian is currently President of the Friends of the Great Miami, member of the Ohio EPA Stream Mitigation Rule Working Group, serves on the Technical Advisory Committees for the Hamilton County Stormwater District, the USEPA Shepherds Creek Project and the Chevron Site Remediation Advisory Panel. This past year, Brian co-authored the "Rain Garden Guidelines for Southwest Ohio". He also received the Ohio EPA Level 2 Chemical Method Training and Level 3 Qualified Data Collector status for stream habitat assessments (QHEI analysis). He is one of the few in the State of Ohio to achieve the Level 3 Qualified Data Collector certification.

The District is proud of these employees and congratulates both of them on their recognition by the County Commissioners for a job well done!

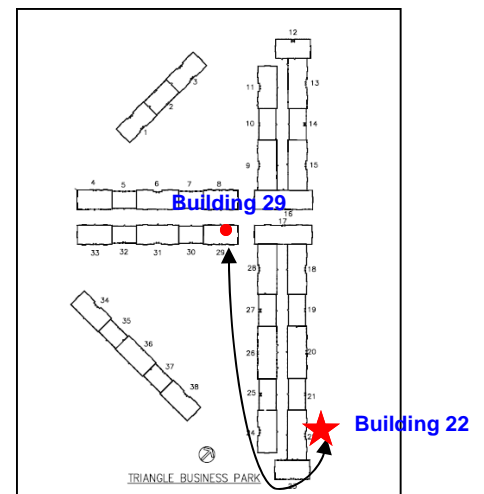
## WE ARE MOVING!!!

The Hamilton County SWCD will be moving its office in January. We will be in the same office park, just a different Building.

Currently, we are located in Building 29, and will be relocating to Building 22. At this time, we are not certain of the exact move date. If you plan to visit our office in January, please call us to get an update. As soon as we know the move date, we will post it on our website at [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org)



Source: Duke Realty



Triangle Office Park  
Source: Duke Realty

## Education Corner

Gwen Roth, Education Specialist and Cheryl Reinke Peck, Education Assistant



### Envirothon 2010

Calling all High School Teachers!!! The Envirothon is a competitive, outdoor, academic event for high school students. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and a current environmental issue (Protection of Groundwater Through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning).

Interested schools may enter up to two teams (3 - 5 members per team with alternates). The deadline for entering the number of teams is Friday, February 5, 2010. Please call Gwen at 513-772-7645 x14 to register the teams for your school.

This year's competition will be held in our own backyard on Tuesday May 4, 2010, at the Voice of America Park (Butler County). Last year over 70 teams competed from 16 counties. The top four of the five-member teams continue on to the State Envirothon held in June. The top State team will compete in the Canon Envirothon in August held in California.

Study materials are being posted on the Internet. Please visit the website at [www.areaenvirothon.org](http://www.areaenvirothon.org).

**I hope you will join us for the 2010 Envirothon!!**

### Upcoming Teacher Workshop Soils Workshop

Date: Saturday, January 30, 2010  
Location: Butler County SWCD  
1802 Princeton Road  
Hamilton, OH 45011

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$10  
Who: Educators grades 2-4

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** by Friday, January 15

To register or for more questions, contact: Gwen Roth (513-772-7645 or [gwen.roth@hamilton-co.org](mailto:gwen.roth@hamilton-co.org)) or Lynn White (513-785-6666 or [whitelr@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:whitelr@butlercountyohio.org))

**Graduate Credit: UC credit available for a reduced rate from the Economics Center**



Join us to learn *What is soil? Where does it come from? What is erosion and how can we reduce it? And much more...* Find out about life underground in the Hamilton County SWCD's *Soil Tunnel* and the Butler County SWCD's *Education Soil Trailer*. Try many wonderful hands-on activities and get some great background information to boost your knowledge and level of comfort in teaching soils to your students.

Participants will receive teacher resources to use in the classroom, light breakfast and snacks.

Sponsored by: Butler County and Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the Ohio Farm Bureau

### Poster and Essay Contests

The District is sponsoring an essay contest and a poster contest for Hamilton County students. The theme is "**Conservation Habits - Healthy Habitats**", which corresponds with the National Association of Conservation District's Stewardship Week *April 25 – May 2, 2010*. (For more information go to [www.nacdn.org](http://www.nacdn.org)).



#### Grade Divisions

Essay contest: 3 - 5, 6 - 8, and 9 -12

Poster contest: K - 2, 3 - 5, 6 - 8, and 9 -12

For detailed information on each contest, please see our website at [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org).

Both posters and essays are due by **Friday, March 12, 2010**, in the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 29 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 2901, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, Attention: Cheryl Reinke Peck.

Winners from each grade level category will receive a \$25 gift certificate and sponsoring teachers receive a \$25 gift certificate. All essays and posters become the property of Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

# Ag News

John Williams, District Conservationist-NRCS

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

The Farm Services Agency is continually accepting applications to enroll environmentally sensitive areas such as grassed waterways, filter strips, quail buffers and some wetland practices into the CRP program. The purpose of the program is to reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in this program, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please feel free to contact **Butler-Hamilton FSA, 1802 Princeton Rd, Suite 200, Hamilton, Ohio 45011-4742, phone 513-887-3727.**



### Interested In Conservation and Wildlife Habitat? Now Is The Time To Act!

Time still remains to sign up for CP33 “**Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds**”, a conservation practice that allows you to maximize cropland production, control soil erosion, improve water quality and help bring back upland birds.



Bobwhite Quail  
Source: iris.nyit.edu

Wildlife habitat (30-120 feet in average width) can be established as field borders around the perimeter of eligible agricultural fields. This conservation practice is a Continuous Sign-up Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice targeted at providing early successional nesting and brooding habitat for Northern Bobwhite Quail. This habitat is provided by establishing native grasses and wildflowers in buffer areas. CP33 is also beneficial to many grassland songbirds and many other species of wildlife.

Practice benefits and incentives:

- Annual rental payments for 10 years at 100% of government soil rental rates (Competitive payments)
- \$100.00/acre signing incentive payment
- Approximately 90% cost share reimbursement for habitat establishment

There have been 20,000 acres allotted to Ohio, and so far 14,500 acres have been signed up in buffers. We need to use these acres here in Southwest Ohio to benefit declining populations of bobwhite quail where nesting and brood rearing habitat are the most lacking feature.

If you have been considering such options or would like to learn more, please contact Erik Lewis, Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever at 937-654-3884.

## Stream and Storm Water Management News

Stream Specialist Brian Bohl

### Come Join the Friends of the Great Miami

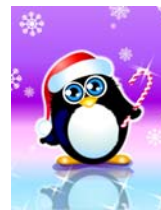
**Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Native tree plantings with Friends of the Great Miami. Volunteers needed to revegetate the Great Miami River floodplain at Heritage Park in Colerain Township on 11/21 and at the Oxbow wetland in southwest Hamilton County on 12/19 (10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. each day) - if interested in helping with restoration efforts, please contact Brian Bohl by phone at (513) 772-7645 ext. 15 or by e-mail at [brian.bohl@hamilton-co.org](mailto:brian.bohl@hamilton-co.org).



Miller Coors Tree and Fprb native grass  
Planting 2009



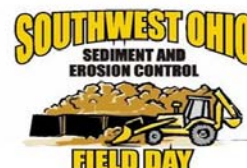


# Earthwork News.....

Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist, Chey Alberto, Nate Sturm, Urban Technicians and Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer

## The 7th Annual Sediment and Erosion Control Field Day

Date: Wednesday, February 24th, 2010  
Time: 3:00pm to 7:00pm  
Cost: \$30.00 (early registration) includes steak dinner/show  
Location: Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville, OH



The Planning Committee for the Field Day has switched gears. It has been decided to focus the event on attracting those persons who install the practices in the field. These are the contractors, builders and even developers who are responsible for installation and maintenance of required BMPs. The event will be held in the "off" season and in the evening. It will feature a nationally recognized comedian as the keynote speaker. Dinner will include sirloin steak with a cash bar.

### TOP FIVE REASONS TO ATTEND THIS EVENT:

1. Sessions include outside field demonstrations IN FEBRUARY!!!
2. Representative from the **National Association of Home Builders**
3. Vendor booths with product demonstrations
4. STEAK DINNER included, cash bar
5. FREE SHOW with **DREW HASTINGS** (with paid registration, of course!)

*Sponsorships available - Limited display space*

If interested, call Warren SWCD

Marsha Rolph

513-695-1861 or mrolph2000@yahoo.com



Drew Hastings

Brought to you by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Butler, Clermont, Hamilton & Warren Counties in partnership with the Clermont County Fair Board.

## At a Glance Service Statistics for 2009

### Telephone and E-mail Contacts

Landowner - 3,347 Education/Outreach - 8,474 Earthwork - 4,518 Stream - 2,246 Units of Govt.- 1,371  
Administrative - 1,925 Miscellaneous - 131 Office Visitors - 728

### Web Site Statistics - www.hcswcd.org

Visitor Sessions - 71,964 Avg. per day - 525 Total Hits - 316,713/year Pages Viewed - 95,118  
On-line complaints and inquires - 128

### Education Media Outreach

Public Relations and Media - Secured \$43,000 worth of media donations—billboards and television

### Landowner Sites Visits - 339 Total

Amount of USDA Cost-Share Funds Distributed \$45,441 - Related site visits - 66

### Earthwork Program

Plans Reviewed - 1,362 Total# of active sites - 180 Acres disturbed - 293.31  
Development Sites inspected on a semi-monthly or monthly basis - 180 avg. Zoning reviews - 33 New fill sites - 14

### Permits issued in Townships August 1, 2008 - July 31, 2009 - 90

### Public Education - Programs, Events and Displays - 48 Total

#### Youth Education

School or Youth Presentations - 402 programs for 10,548 students  
Teacher workshops - 10 for 176 participants impacting at least 4,576 children

#### Storm Water Quality Community Involvement

Community Presentations/Displays: 18 presentations, activities and/or display opportunities with an audience of 1,193 total individuals. Watershed Signs: 20 new signs installed.  
Storm Drain Labeling Events: 4 events, 107 participants, 347 storm drains labeled, 1,034 flyers distributed.

#### District Resources & Products—Items Provided or Sold

Soil Surveys - 51 Soil Fertility Test Kits - 1,032 Arial photo CD - 1 Soils CD - 1 Rain Garden Manual - 1,979  
Rain Barrels - 135

To view the entire Annual Report go to [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org) and click on Newsletters and Publications. A hard copy may also be requested from the District Office.

**Board of Supervisors**

Denny Benson, Chairman  
Nate Holscher, Vice-Chairman  
Craig Abercrombie, Secretary  
Sam McKinley, Treasurer  
Steve Johns, Program Chairman

**District Staff**

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator  
Susan Juriga, Adm. Assistant  
Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist  
Chey Alberto, Urban Technician  
Nate Sturm, Urban Technician  
Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer  
Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist  
Cheryl Reinke Peck, Education Ass't.  
Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist  
Annette Meagher, Public Relations Specialist

**NRCS**

John Williams, D.C.-NRCS

**Dates to Remember**

**December 19** – Friends of the Great Miami’s native tree plantings (please see page 4 for details)

**November 26 & 27** – Offices closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday

**December 24 & 25** – Offices closed for Christmas Holiday

**January 1** – Offices closed for New Year’s Day Holiday

**January 18** – Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

**January 30** – Soils Workshop (please see page 3)

**February 24** – Sediment and Erosion Control Field Day (please see page 5 for details)

The entire Board of Supervisors and Staff of Hamilton County SWCD wish you a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season and a peaceful New Year!



**Mission Statement:** A public organization committed to assisting the citizens of Hamilton County through education, technical assistance and leadership to be stewards of our soil and water resources.

*All District programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 3556  
Cincinnati, OH

Hamilton County Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
29 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 2901  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-3411