

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Fall Edition
2011



Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411
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Hamilton County Conservation Soil and Water District's 66th Annual Meeting

A Little Bit of Italy!

HAMILTON COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



On September 15, 2011, we are proudly hosting our 66th Annual Meeting at the new LEED green-certified Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) building located at 1035 Woodrow Street, Cincinnati, OH 45204. Their new building has attracted nationwide attention and is the first within the City of Cincinnati designed and constructed to achieve LEED Gold certification. Guided tours of the MSD LEED building will be offered to our guests from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The tours will consist of their energy efficiency and water conservation practices. The meeting and dinner will start at 6:00 pm.

During this event, the District will elect two members of the Board of Supervisors (see page two for the candidates' information), honor community members that have made a positive conservation impact in our County, and host our annual silent auction to raise funds for the Odegard-Diebel Education Scholarship.

Please come and enjoy a scrumptious spaghetti and meatball dinner with us. The dinner will be served by Raffel's Catering at 6:00 pm. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 per person. Please complete the following registration form and return it to Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Come join us at "A Little Bit of Italy!"
and

Tour the LEED MSD building

Please respond by September 8, 2011

Please call 513-772-7645 or detach the following form and mail to:
Hamilton County SWCD, 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411.



Response Form

Name: _____
(Please print)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cost is \$5.00 per person

Number attending _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____

Tour Schedule

Time	Number of people
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	_____
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	_____
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	_____
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	_____

PROGRAMS & ASSISTANCE

AGRICULTURE & SOIL FERTILITY

CLASSROOM PRESENTATION

URBAN STREAMS

URBAN LAND, HOMEOWNER & EARTHWORK

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & PARTICIPATION PROGRAM



2011 Candidates

Karen Ball - On behalf of Hamilton County, Karen has worked in partnership with MSD, USEPA Research and Development, USGS and many other local players to develop the Demonstration Program of the Metropolitan Sewer District, (MSD) intended to collect the data necessary to validate the benefits of green infrastructure toward reduction of storm water flow entering sewers. This approach could someday lead to partnerships for innovative cost-effective storm water improvements for the purpose of Consent. In addition, Karen believes the message needs to be communicated to a larger audience so that utilization of the WRRSP funds can be more aggressive in order to improve water quality in our watersheds. SWCD is a great organization to help spread the message.



Karen respectfully requests your consideration of her as a Supervisor for the Soil and Water Conservation District and asks for your vote.

Scott P. Huber is a Registered Professional Engineer, a Registered Professional Surveyor and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. Scott is a life-long resident of Colerain Twp. and volunteers in several community-oriented groups. He is a member of the Northwest Local School District's Finance Committee, is President-Elect of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio, Cincinnati Chapter, and helped create a local Land Surveying Scholarship fund. Through Scott's work experience, he has developed a good working relationship with the District's Earthwork staff and knows the situations they encounter.



Scott looks forward to helping the District continue to solve problems and provide a balanced approach to soil and water conservation.

Steve Johns lives in the City of Cincinnati neighborhood of Hyde Park . He was formally the Director of Citizens for Civic Renewal, a non-profit dedicated to encouraging more citizen involvement in the public affairs of Greater Cincinnati.



Currently, Steve is the Sustainability Coordinator of the City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality. Steve holds degrees in Community and Regional Planning; Civil Engineering and Economics. He is currently on the Board for the Hamilton

County Soil and Water Conservation District and has served for the past 3 years.

Steve loves to travel and explore. When exploring in Greater Cincinnati, he is amazed by the beauty of his adopted home. When traveling around the country, he is a proud booster of Cincinnati. Steve loves to be outside gardening, exercising or just having fun with his family.

Dale J. Rack is a Green Township and lifelong resident of Hamilton County. He is president of the J&D Rack Company, an excavation and development company. Dale is a member of St. Bernard's Parish, BPO Elks #5, and McAuley High School Athletic Association.



He is interested in the position as a Board member because of his interactions with the staff of HCSWCD. The knowledge he has acquired in implementing erosion techniques and attending seminars in Ohio and Indiana, as well as, participation in ConExpo has allowed him to learn the many techniques available. As a board member, he could relate by his hands-on experience.

In Dale's opinion, the biggest hurdle facing HCSWCD is communicating and helping the private sector in better understanding the necessity of erosion implementation, and to assist in cost - effective solutions to their problems.

OHIO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION ELECTION LEGAL NOTICE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will have an election of Supervisors of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Hamilton County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot (available on the District's website - www.hcswcd.org).

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the annual meeting, which will take place at the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), 1035 Woodrow Street, Cincinnati, OH 45204 on September 15, 2011 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm; (2) at the SWCD office by requesting an absentee ballot during business hours 8:00 am - 4:30 pm from August 25, 2011 to September 14, 2011; and on September 15, 2011 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm or (3) vote absentee by mail, requesting the proper absentee request forms from the HCSWCD by September 12, 2011 at the following address: *Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246 - phone number: 513-772-7645.*

Absentee ballots must be received at the District's office by Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 12:00 pm.

Two (2) Supervisors will be elected. Nominees are: Karen Ball, Scott P. Huber, Steve Johns, and Dale Rack.



EARTHWORK

DAN TAPHORN, URBAN CONSERVATIONIST; CHEY ALBERTO, URBAN TECHNICIAN;
AND ROBERT SHEETS, GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER



WHY TWO?



Responsibilities under the Ohio EPA's

NPDES Construction Permit and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4)

With all the regulations, one can get a little confused. Here is a short explanation of the two regulations.

NPDES Construction Permit:

- Owner/Developer required to obtain permit coverage through Ohio EPA
- Permit responsibilities extend to contractors as co-permittee involved in implementation of plan
- Owner/Developer required to perform inspection of practices on a weekly basis and after each rain of ½ inch or greater in a 24 hour time frame and keep a written record of these inspections
- All projects larger than 1 acre or more or projects less than 1 acre but part of a larger common plan of development are required to obtain a permit from Ohio EPA
- Owner/Developer and contractors involved in implementing the plan are subject to enforcement actions and fines through Ohio EPA

MS4 Permit:

- Local MS4 Community is required to obtain permit coverage through Ohio EPA; permit coverage based on population density per square mile; all 49 jurisdictions in Hamilton County must comply
- Local MS4 obtains permit through Ohio EPA; either independently or through a storm water district
- Local MS4 required to enact regulations that mirror the NPDES Construction Permit; must have procedures for plan review, permit issuance and local enforcement actions
- Local MS4 required to conduct inspection on a monthly basis at a minimum and more frequently if compliance issues exist or if project will directly impact water resources
- Local MS4 is subject to enforcement actions and fines through Ohio EPA for non-compliance

The two permits are not a duplication but rather intended to augment each other. The NPDES Construction Permit is a self policing permit; the MS4 Permit is the local community ensuring compliance. Please contact the District should you have any questions.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ANNETTE MEAGHER, PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Non-Profits Can Earn Certification for Groundwater Protection Efforts & Project Funding!



Are you currently using practices that protect our groundwater resources or are you interested in implementing new practices that would keep our waters safe? If so, this FREE workshop is for you!

On Wednesday, August 31, 2011 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Miami Conservancy District are hosting a free "Groundwater Guardian Green Site" workshop at the Fernald Nature Preserve. This workshop will highlight the benefits of becoming a nationally recognized member of the Groundwater Guardian Green Site Program and offers potential project funding for non-profit agencies located in the Great Miami River Watershed.

In Hamilton County, we have an aquifer located under the Great Miami River that is one of the most productive sources of potable water in the Midwest! It provides drinking water for approximately 90,000 people. The abundant supply of high quality groundwater makes our aquifer the most important in Southwest Ohio.

Join the company of Miami Conservancy District (MCD), City of Vandalia, City of Tipp City, Wright State University, Concord Township in Miami County and MillerCoors (Trenton Brewery) in protecting our local aquifer and become a Groundwater Guardian Green Site!

Learn more about this opportunity or RSVP your attendance by contacting Theresa McGeedy, Program Coordinator for MCD, at 937-223-1271 or tmcgeedy@miamiconservancy.org.



Agriculture, Urban Land & Home Owners

John Williams, District Conservationist NRCS / Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator

THERE IS A NEW BAD BUG IN TOWN!

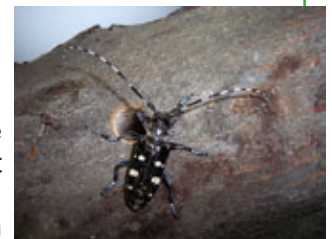
The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced that the first Ohio sighting of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) (ALB) infestation was found a few miles from the Village of Bethel in Tate Township, Clermont County, Ohio. The ALB has already caused tens of thousands of hardwood trees to be destroyed in Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. Consequently, the governor of Ohio signed an Executive Order restricting the movement of hardwood logs, firewood, stumps, roots and branches out of Tate Township. A map of the quarantine area can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following ODA website: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_quarantine_map.pdf Surveys are currently being conducted to determine the size and scope of the ALB infestation in Southwest Ohio. As of Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 85 trees have been found to be infested.



Larvae Longhorned Beetle

For information on this tree killing longhorned beetle from Asia, please see the following websites: USDA APHIS - www.beetlebuster.info and Beetle Detectives <http://beetledetectives.com>

Know the Signs of "ALB" Infestation: While it can fly, the beetle tends to lay eggs in the same tree from which it emerged as an adult. The eggs hatch and the larvae burrow and feed just under the bark. By the late summer and fall, the caterpillar-like larva tunnels deep into the tree. The following summer, the ALB drills its way out of the tree as a mature beetle. It bores through the tissues that carry water and nutrients throughout the tree, eventually starving and killing it. In addition to looking for the beetle, you can search for signs of infestation, including:



Adult Longhorned Beetle
Photos from USDA
www.beetlebusters.info

- Shallow divots in the bark where the eggs are laid
- Dime-sized (1/4" or larger), perfectly round exit holes in the tree
- Sap seeping from wounds in the tree
- Sawdust-like materials, called frass, on the ground and the branches

Disease and Pest Problems??

Got leaf spot, rust, blight and/or mildew on your outdoor plants? Do not despair; there are great resources available to answer all your questions. One website to visit each week is the OSU BUCKEYE YARD AND GARDEN LINE - <http://bygl.osu.edu/>. A group of expert OSU Extension Agents, which include our own Joe Boggs and Dave Dyke from Hamilton County, report on diseases, turf tips, insects, weather and upcoming events each week. This report is based on calls received, as well as their own observations. If they are reporting it, chances are you may have it on your property. The below OSU websites are also a wealth of information.

- Ohio State University Department of Horticulture and Crop Science Plantfacts - <http://plantfacts.osu.edu/web/>
- The C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (CWEPPDC) - <http://ppdc.osu.edu/>
- Buckeye Turf - <http://buckeyeturf.osu.edu/>
- Emerald Ash Borer Information - <http://ashalert.osu.edu/>
- Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/>

Earth Team Volunteer Program

Have you ever thought about what you could do to help conserve our lands' most valuable resource? What about working with 4th or 5th grade students on the importance of having clean water? How about teaching the public why trees are so important to the environment. If you ever thought that you wanted to do that type of work, then the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program wants you!

The Earth Team Volunteer Program enables people of all ages to provide assistance to the public in the area of soil & water conservation. As an Earth Team volunteer, you can join professional conservationists as they work directly with local farmers installing conservation practices on the land. The Earth Team needs a variety of people with a variety of skills and talents. If this program sounds good and you are interested, please contact John Williams, District Conservationist at 513-887-3720.

Sign up today!





EDUCATION CORNER

GWEN Z. ROTH, EDUCATION SPECIALIST
AND NIKI MARENGO, EDUCATION ASSISTANT



NEW WEBSITE AND PROGRAMS

We have been very busy this summer working on new programs for the 2011 and 2012 school year. We have also completely redesigned the education section of our website. You can connect directly to the education page by going to www.hcswcd.org/educate. The website is designed to be more user friendly, to highlight our many programs and offerings and to showcase all that the District has to offer schools, libraries and scout groups.

Check out our new website today. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Gwen or Niki at the District office at 772-7645.

2011 Envirothon

It may be hard to believe given the heat that we have had lately, but think back just a few months ago. Well, I am sure the Envirothon students from Southwest Ohio do remember. The Area IV Envirothon was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 3, but alas it was too wet! For the second time in the history of the Area IV Envirothon, the event was canceled.

Students were able to take a modified test at their schools so representatives could be sent to the state competition. CONGRATULATIONS to Sycamore High School teams who came in 27th and 34th. For more information on the Area IV Envirothon, please visit www.areaivenvirothon.org, or call Gwen at the District office 772-7645.

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD! THE 2011 GCEE ULTIMATE EDUCATOR EXPO

Tuesday, September 13, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden

This is a fun and free evening for teachers to learn about the resources provided by the Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE). The GCEE member organizations provide programming to both formal (K-12) and non-formal audiences (youth and adults).

Come learn about all the resources that GCEE members have to offer and check out the District's booth right inside the door. For more info & to register, visit <http://tiny.cc/acbvj>

Poster & Essay Contest Winners!

Last Spring the District honored several creative students and their teachers for participating in our Poster and Essay contests. Each winning student and sponsoring teacher received a \$25 gift card to Half Price Books. Here are our winners:

- Essay Contest**
- Grade 3-5: Andrew S from Symmes Elementary
Teacher - Carrie O'Conner
- Poster Contest**
- Grade K-2: Abby T from Our Lady of Victory
Teacher - Mary Ann Mecher
 - Grade 3-5: Anisa K from Symmes Elementary
Teacher - Amy Wuebbolt

Thanks to all the students and teachers who participated. Please visit www.hcswcd.org/educate for pictures and for information on the contest this fall for 2011/12!

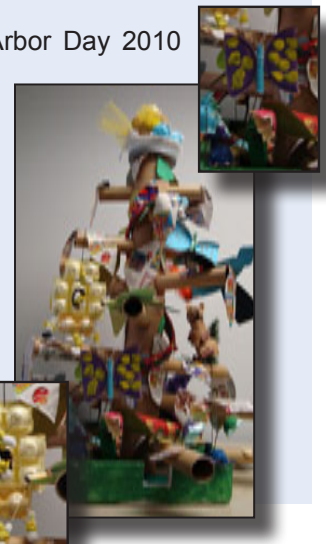
Oh, The Possibilities of Recycling!

Check out "The Tree of Recycling", our contest winner for The Steve Sandfort Memorial Arbor Day 2010 Recycled Sculpture contest! The sculpture was created by six inventive first-graders from Covedale Elementary.



Not only did the students create the tree habitat, they also brought in some things to live in the tree! The cool things? Everything was made from something that had a previous life as something else! A busy bee hive was created using an egg carton and packing peanuts, a toilet paper tube squirrel eats a wine cork 'nut'. We congratulate the students and their teachers for winning the contest and for their amazing creativity!!

The group will have a tree donated by Natorp's Garden Center planted at Covedale Elementary in honor of Arbor Day. If your school is interested in this contest or any other, please visit our website, www.hcswcd.org/educate



Board of Supervisors

Sam McKinley, Chairman
Steve Johns, Vice-Chairman
Denny Benson, Secretary
Craig Abercrombie, Treasurer
Peter Mallow, Program Chairman

District Staff

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator
Susan Juriga, Administrative Assistant
Annette Meagher, Public Relations Specialist
Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist
Chey Alberto, Urban Technician
Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer
Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist
Niki Marengo, Education Assistant
Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist

NRCS

John Williams, D.C./NRCS



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.



John Dowlin

1930 – 2011

Former County Commissioner John Dowlin is being remembered for his independence, civility, financial skills and work ethic. He was also a great supporter of Conservation in Hamilton County.

Thank you John!

Upcoming Events

Celebrate Mt Healthy Days - Saturday, September 9, 12 pm - 7 pm

Glendale Street Fair - Saturday, September 24, 12 pm - 9 pm

Mt Airy Forest Festival - Saturday, October 8, 11 am - 5 pm

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program

Starts July 30th and runs through December 3rd.

For details and locations, please visit:

<http://www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/index.php?page=hhw-drop-off-program>

Free to Hamilton County Residents Only. Proof of residency required.

"Groundwater Guardian Green Site"

FREE WORKSHOP for NON-PROFITS

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Time: 9:00 am - 12 :00 pm

Location: Fernald Nature Preserve, 7400 Willey Road, Harrison, OH 45013

visit - www.hcswcd.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Cincinnati, OH

Hamilton County Soil and Water
Conservation District
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