

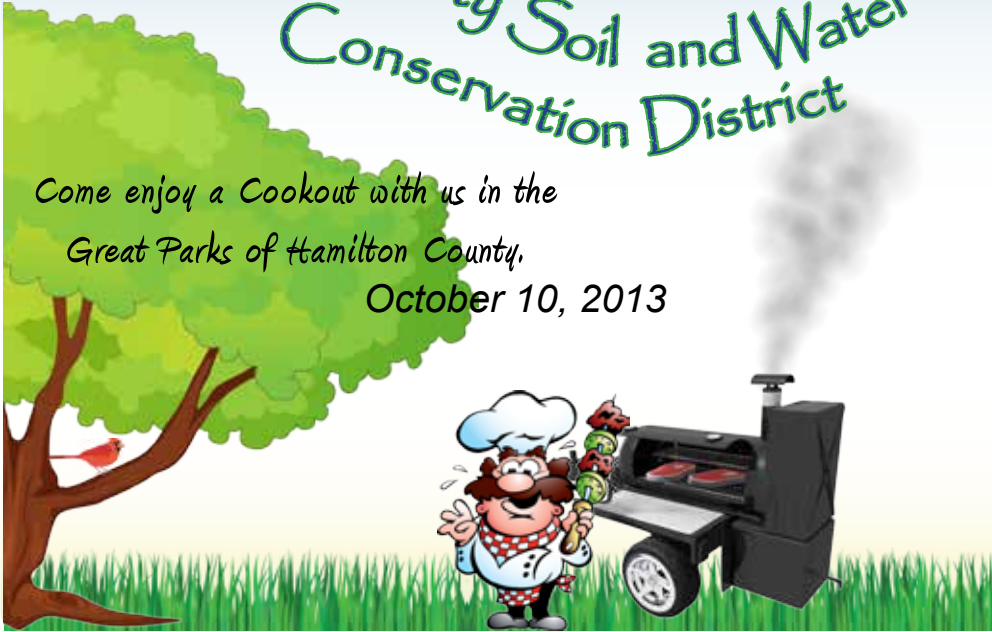
# CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

FALL 2013

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District 68th Annual Meeting

Come enjoy a Cookout with us in the Great Parks of Hamilton County, October 10, 2013



Enjoy a delicious steak and fish dinner from Jack's Catering, Inc. at the Great Parks of Hamilton County's Sharon Woods Centre. Voting for District Supervisors will be from 4 pm - 6 pm. Dinner will start at 6:00 pm with a business meeting honoring community members that have made a positive conservation impact in Hamilton County.



**Date:** Thursday, October 10, 2013  
**Time:** 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
**Cost:** \$10.00 per person  
**Place:** Sharon Woods Centre  
11450 Lebanon Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45241

### Annual Meeting Registration

Please respond by **October 3, 2013**  
Pay with check or credit card  
**Prepayment required**

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

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

Additional Attendees Names:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending x \$10.00

= \_\_\_\_\_ Total

**Please make checks payable and mail to:**  
Hamilton County SWCD  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

**For credit card payment and online registration visit [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org) and click on the registration link**

HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE  
AGRICULTURE & SOIL FERTILITY | EDUCATION | URBAN STREAMS  
URBANLAND MANAGEMENT & EARTHWORKS | PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMS  
22 TRIANGLE PARK DR. CINCINNATI OH 45246  
PHONE: 513-772-7645 | FAX 513-772-7656 | [WWW.HCSWCD.ORG](http://WWW.HCSWCD.ORG)  
EDITOR: HOLLY UTRATA-HALCOMB | DESIGN: JOHN NELSON

# 2013 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



## **Tonia F. Edwards**

Tonia F. Edwards is a licensed Real Estate Agent who has been with Star One Realtors since 2010. She is an Ohio Registered Architect having held a license since 1983 in New York.

Her work experience includes 21 years as

Chief Building Official for Hamilton County, Ohio, from which she retired as Building Commissioner in 2012. In that position, she interfaced with all the agencies and departments involved in building, infrastructure and land development. She obtained her LEED AP certification in 2009, an example of her interest in sustainability in natural resources and building.

Her leadership and service experience includes over 18 years with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at the local, state and national level. Professionally, she was the 2009 President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the 2001 President of the Southwest Ohio Building Officials Association. She is currently the Curator for the Christian Waldschmidt Homestead in Camp Dennison, OH. She is married to Edward Rach for over 30 years and has two daughters.

The Soil and Water Conservation District offers a valuable resource with education and advice along with valuable knowledge and tools for the property owners, developers, and residents in the care of the natural environment. I would like to serve as a Board member contributing my leadership, public relations and organizing skills, as well as my knowledge of local government and the development and building processes.



## **Sam McKinley**

Sam McKinley's interest in soil and water conservation began as a Boy Scout in Hillsboro, Ohio. He is now running for his third term on the Board of Supervisors.

Sam attended the University of Cincinnati and received both Bachelor's and Master's Degree

in Urban Planning. Sam has served on the Hamilton County

Soil and Water Conservation District for the past six years. He also serves as Chair of the Sierra Club Miami Group, covering 22 counties in Southwest Ohio. He is Founder and Principal Planner at Sustainable Places Studio, LLC, in the Northside neighborhood of Cincinnati, where he also lives with his wife and two children.

Sam has enjoyed being at the heart of conservation strategy for Hamilton County, as a member of the Board of Supervisors, and hopes the voters will give him the opportunity to continue this important work.



## **Pamela Simmons**

Pamela Simmons was born and raised on the family farm, Turpin Farms. Turpin Farms is the second oldest continually held family farm in Ohio having been established in 1785. Recently at the opening ceremonies for the Hamilton County

Fair, Turpin Farms was awarded a bicentennial certificate and recognition from the State of Ohio for being a bicentennial farm. She graduated from Purdue University with a double major of Turfgrass Science and Horticultural Production. After graduating from Purdue, she returned home to the family farm and started a wholesale/retail greenhouse operation producing perennials, annuals, herbs, water plants, ornamental grasses and mums. Along with raising greenhouse crops, she did landscape installations until her son was born.

In 2008, she was a founding partner of Green City Resources a landscaping company specializing in green infrastructure such as green roof, rain gardens and rain water harvesting. In 2013, she returned to the farm to continue with the family business. Pam is also the USGBC Cincinnati Chapter's Sustainable Sites Chair. Pam would like to run for the position because she is very passionate about the land and water, not only the Little Miami River that runs thru the farm but the huge aquifer that lies beneath it. She feels that she would be able to bring an agricultural land owner's point of view to the table.

## **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](http://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 Sharon Woods Centre, 11450 Lebanon Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241, on October 10, 2013 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 September 19, 2013 to 8:00 am - 12:00 pm on October 10, 2013; (3) vote absentee by mail, requesting the proper absentee request forms from the HCSWCD by October 7, 2013 at the following address: Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246 - phone number: 513-772-7645.

**If mailing absentee ballots, the absentee ballots must be received at the District's office by Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 4:30 pm.**

Two (2) Supervisors will be elected. Nominees are: Tonia F. Edwards, Sam McKinley, and Pamela Simmons.

# FREE CLASSROOM PROGRAMS AND INEXPENSIVE WORKSHOPS

*It's time to start scheduling those classroom programs and signing up for workshops*

**By Gwen Roth**

We are currently scheduling programs for the 2013/14 school year. We are working on modifying our old programs and developing new programs to correlate to the Common Core and Next Generation Standards. Our programs are free to all schools and groups in Hamilton County. In order to accommodate as many teachers as possible, we can only come to a school building 3 times per year. Please coordinate with other teachers in your building before scheduling.

We are trying something NEW this year: Online Scheduling. Please go to our website ([www.hcswcd.org/educate](http://www.hcswcd.org/educate)), click on classroom presentations. Decide which program you would like to schedule then click on the "BOOK NOW" button. You will have to set up an account (name, email and password), but you only have to do this once! You can then view our calendars and see when we are available and request a date and time right from the website! At first, there

may be some growing pains but it will eliminate the back and forth e-mails and phone calls to find a date that works with all our calendars. Contact Gwen or Niki with any questions.

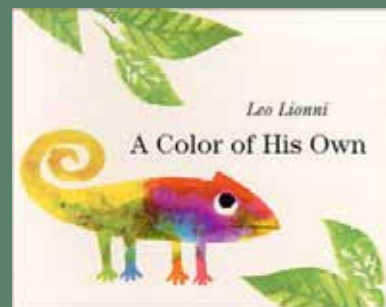
## Upcoming Workshops

We are currently planning several workshops for this fall and winter including **Growing Up WILD** (for PreK - 2 grade teachers), **Facing The Future: Real World Math** (for Middle School teachers) and **Dig Deeper into Soils** (for 6th grade teachers). Check our website or call (513) 772-7645 for more details!



## A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni

Ah, the classics. Leo Lionni was an award-winning children's author and illustrator and has many marvelous books that help to teach lessons about nature outside and human nature too! A chameleon, notices that every animal has its own color but chameleons change all the time! He attempts to stick to a pretty green leaf so he can have a color of his own. But what happens when the leaf changes? Vibrant illustrations accompany this book, and there are plenty of resources and activities available to extend the lessons of camouflage and friendship presented in the reading.



# BOOKWORM BURROW

by Niki Marengo

# CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS IS BACK

The Caring for our Watersheds (CFW) program empowers students to imagine, develop and create solutions in their local watersheds. CFW is both an environmental proposal contest and a project funding opportunity for high school students. The program promotes watershed awareness and stewardship, values student ideas and offers support when turning theoretical ideas into action.

CFW asks students to submit a proposal that answers the question:  
“What can you do to improve your watershed?”

Students can work independently, or as a team of no more than four to research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and come up with a realistic solution.

Students are encouraged to discuss ideas with parents, teachers, friends and local experts.

Proposals should be approximately 1,000 words and include visuals and a budget (due March 3rd, 2014).

Entries are scored by a panel of judges in the following areas:

realistic idea, environmental impact, clear communication, innovation, scope, budget and visuals.

- Ten finalists/teams will make a 5-minute verbal presentation at the final competition, May 3 2014.
- All finalists win cash rewards (up to \$1000) for themselves and matching rewards for their schools.
- Schools also receive \$100 for every ten complete proposals submitted, even if they do not send students to the finals.

For more information, go to:

[www.caringforourwatersheds.com](http://www.caringforourwatersheds.com) and click on Ohio or contact local Program Coordinator, Gwen Z. Roth at (513) 772-7645.



## NEW PROJECT ADDRESSES HIGH NUTRIENTS IN STREAM

**By Holly Utrata-Halcomb**

The SWCD has embarked on a new project this spring to decrease Nitrogen, Phosphorus and E. Coli in what is considered a “Hot Spot” in Hamilton County. Brian Bohl, District Stream Specialist and one of the lead Coordinators for the Great Miami River Water Quality Lab, noted that the Howard Creek Watershed, located in the northwestern part of the County, had the highest levels of these nutrients based on monthly sampling for the past five years. Volunteers along with our SWCD, Rivers Unlimited,

Great Parks of Hamilton County and the University of

Cincinnati collect samples from points along the Great Miami River and its tributaries once a month as both an educational

activity and to establish baseline water quality information.

In order to help to decrease these levels, the District has offered low cost soil fertility testing to all landowners in the watershed and low cost cover crop seed for fall planting to stabilize land along the stream and to naturally increase the fertility of the soil. An educational landowner watershed meeting was held on April 30, 2013, at the Crosby Twp. Senior and Community Center.

The District is now offering large agricultural landowners cover crop seed to plant fall buffers along the stream to protect from soil loss and improve soil fertility. Anyone interested in this program may contact the District for more information. The Great Miami River Water Quality Lab welcomes anyone who wants to learn more about stream monitoring to join them the third Saturday of each month. Visit our website or contact Brian Bohl at (513) 772-7645 for more information.



# WHY IS EROSION CONTROL IMPORTANT?

By Brian Blake

Erosion and sediment control is a part of nearly all construction and development projects in Hamilton County, and the rest of the United States. Projects that will disturb one or more acres of land are required by law to implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs).

Erosion occurs naturally but manmade activities such as construction that strip vegetation from the ground increase erosion substantially, in some cases by up to 1000 times greater. This eroded soil makes its way to our streams and rivers and can have drastic negative effects on water quality and aquatic habitat.

Erosion controls aim to reduce the amount of soil that is lost. When effective they reduce the need for sediment controls, which aim to prevent the soil particles from leaving the site. Erosion controls work by anchoring soil in place, such as how the roots of plants will slow the water down so it has less energy as it runs off the site. Erosion control products include rip rap (rock), geotextile or turf matting or straw mulch. However, the most effective erosion

control is natural vegetation.

There are a variety of sediment control BMP options to suit the specific needs of a project. For smaller projects, it may be sufficient to use products such as silt fence or compost filter logs filled with shredded material or a mulch berm. These BMPs are not designed to filter sediment, as most particles are too small, but they will cause water to pond behind them for an extended period of time allowing these soil particles to settle to the bottom while the water slowly drains out. Larger projects would also need a sediment trap or sediment basin, which collect the runoff water and allow the sediment to settle to the bottom.

Each project will have specific needs depending on the size, soil type, slope of the ground, nearby water resources (streams, ponds, etc.) and the scope of the work. For more information on erosion and sediment controls, you may refer to Ohio Department of Natural Resources Rainwater and Land Development Manual (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/9186/default.aspx>) or contact the District.

## OSWCC VISIT TO AREA IV

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission visited Hamilton County as part of their tour of Area IV, which consists of 18 counties in south western Ohio. One of the main tasks of the commission is to determine the allocation of state funds to soil and water conservation districts and recommend the level of state and federal funds needed by districts.

The commission visited some key conservation projects in the Hamilton County area. Including a site in Mt. Adams, a landslide site near Lux Avenue, a community garden on Compton Road and the confluence project on the Mill Creek located in Sharonville, OH. The commission was pleased to see the work performed by the soil and water districts in the area.



### Board of Supervisors

Pete Mallow, Chairman

Sam McKinley, Vice-Chairman

Denny Benson, Secretary

Scott P. Huber, Treasurer

Steve Johns, Program Chairman

### District Staff

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Susan Juriga, Administrative Assistant

John Nelson, Public Relations Specialist

Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist

Chey Alberto, Urban Technician

Brian Blake, Urban Technician

Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer

Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist

Niki Marengo, Education Assistant

Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist

Carrie Gibbons, Program Assistant

### NRCS

John Williams, District Conservationist

William Cook, Soil Conservationist

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Hamilton County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
22 Triangle Park Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45246  
(513) 772-7645  
www.hcswcd.org

# Event Calender

## September

10th - Board Meeting  
@ District Office

21st - Great Miami  
River Water Quality  
Monitoring

27th & 28th  
GREAT OUTDOOR  
WEEKEND  
www.greatoutdoorweekend.org  
Look for Niki's session  
on fossils

## October

8th - Board Meeting  
@ District Office

10th - Annual Meeting

19th - Great Miami  
River Water Quality  
Monitoring

26th - Woman's Expo  
@Sharonville  
Convention Center

## Novemeber

12th - Board Meeting  
@ District Office

16th - Great Miami  
River Water Quality  
Monitoring

Office will be closed:  
11th - Veterans' Day  
28th & 29th -  
Thanksgiving

For more events visit:  
[www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org)  
[www.SaveLocalWaters.org](http://www.SaveLocalWaters.org)

**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.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Hamilton County Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411

