



# Conservation Spotlight

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

Summer Edition  
2010

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## Thank You Ohio Legislators for Supporting Ohio's SWCDs

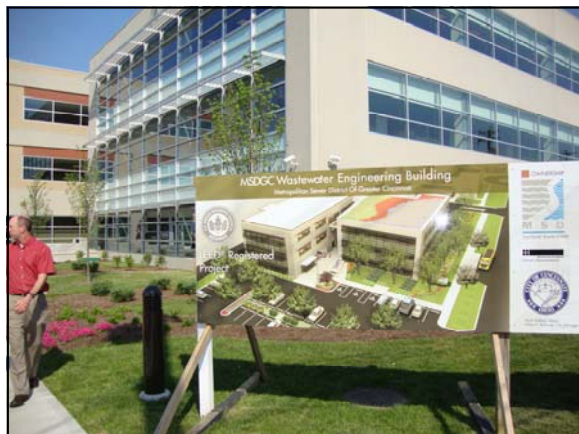
Recently the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill 155 unanimously to provide additional financial help to the 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across Ohio. The fees were required to be levied through June 30, 2011. A total fee of \$1.00 per new tire will be collected. The law now levies \$.50 per-tire fees on the sale of new tires to be credited to the SWCD Assistance Fund, which is used to provide funding to SWCDs. The second 50¢ per-tire fee is required to be credited to the Scrap Tire Management Fund and generally used to administer and enforce the EPA's scrap tire management and removal action program. These funds are also used to make grants to boards of health for the treatment of vectors at scrap tire facilities.

We would like to express a big **THANK YOU** to Senators Bill Seitz, Eric H. Kearney and Shannon Jones and Representatives Connie Pillich, Dale Mallory, Denise Driehaus, Louis Blessing, Peter Strautberg, Robert Mecklenborg, Alicia Reece and Ron Maag for their support of the 88 SWCDs across Ohio.

## MSD is Walking the Walk - Building a Greener Future

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati dedicated the new Wastewater Engineering and Education Center on April 15, 2010. This is the first building in Cincinnati designated and built to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification. This project was created as a partnership between MSD, The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to showcase green design concepts and technology and will serve as an education center for the community at large.

The building, located at 1035 Woodrow St. off Gest St. in Lower Price Hill, was built on a former Brownfield site. A solar panel roof, green roof, a biodiverse landscape that promotes natural storm water infiltration and use of recycled materials for interior structure and furnishing are but a few of the LEED elements incorporated into this state-of-the-art "green" building. For more information, please contact Ali M. Bahar, P.E. at 513-557-7165.



MSD's New Engineering and Education Center  
LEED Gold Certified



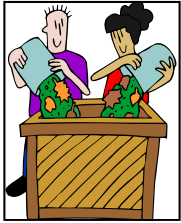
Karen Ball, Hamilton County - MSD Compliance Coordinator  
and Commissioner Todd Portune

## Soil Fertility Tips – By Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator

During several classes that I taught on soil fertility testing this past spring, participants inquired about the use of compost to increase the fertility of their soils.

Compost is always an excellent amendment to add to planting beds to help loosen our heavy clay soils and increase pore space for air and water retention. However, fertility of compost is a tricky question. One must consider the ingredients used and the carbon / nitrogen balance of the compost. Ideally, the ratio should be 30 parts carbon (dead, dry material such as leaves and straw) to 1 part nitrogen (fresh green material such as grass clippings or kitchen scraps). The type of vegetation used can have a large impact on the nutrient value of the compost. If there is too high a level of carbon to nitrogen, the compost will rob the soil and plants of nitrogen. The best solution is to add the compost to your gardening beds and then run a soil fertility test.

Another question that comes up frequently is if pet waste can be added to a compost pile. The answer is, if your pet eats animal products or bi-products – **NO!** Although dog and cat feces both contain organic nutrients useful to plants, neither is safe to use in soil containing food crops. Both contain parasitic pathogens that are harmful to human health. Dog and cat feces can contain the eggs of *Toxocara canis* (the common large roundworm), which can also infect humans. It is estimated that 90% of young puppies are infected with this worm and up to 50% of all adult dogs are infected. The eggs can be transferred to the human mouth by a person's fingers or from foods that have been in contact with the feces. *Toxocara* eggs can remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years depending on environmental conditions. Because no information is known on the effects hot composting has on *toxocara* eggs, it is also unsafe to add pet waste to compost heaps intended for food crops. If you have dog or cat feces in your garden, remove the feces and take care to use good hygiene practices (thoroughly washing hands and vegetables) to avoid possible contamination.



Anyone interested in learning more about soil fertility and the best way to amend your soils, can attend a free workshop at our new District office on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Please call the District office at 513-772-7645 to make a reservation. Seating is limited.

### Soil Fertility and Your Garden Workshop

**Date:** Tuesday, June 22, 2010

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Location:** Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, 22 Triangle Park Dr., Sharonville, Ohio 45246 [Call for reservations – 772-7645](tel:513-772-7645)

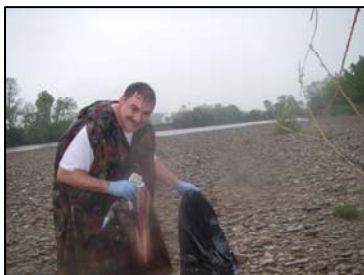


## Stream and Storm Water Management News

Stream Specialist Brian Bohl

### 2010 Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River took place on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at numerous locations in Hamilton and Butler County, OH and Dearborn County, IN. South of the Butler-Hamilton County line, clean-up volunteers met at Colerain Township's Heritage Park, Shawnee Lookout County Park in Miami Township and the Oxbow, near the confluence with the Ohio River. Between the 3 sites, 35 dedicated volunteers covered 3.1 miles of stream bank in the rain for a combined 112 hours to fill a large 40 yard dumpster. Volunteers removed 80 tires from the Great Miami River and surrounding floodplain! **Thank you dedicated volunteers.**



Clean Sweep of the Great Miami volunteer, Andy Butterfly, cleans the point bars at Heritage Park



Chris Glaser of Benchmark Outfitters points to willow stakes recently planted at Heritage Park by the Friends of the Great Miami and Hamilton County SWCD to prevent erosion.

**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats**  
**Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**2010 Amateur Photography Contest**



The definition of Conservation is to use our natural resources wisely. Or, as Aldo Leopold, author of the Sand County Almanac put it, "Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."

Habitat is generally considered to be a natural environment where animal and plant species live. This includes food, water, shelter and space. When we share our space with other living creatures and provide for their needs, we are creating a conservation habitat! Send in a picture of a good conservation habitat!

Visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship/2010> for examples of conservation habits that lead to great habitats.

**Rules and Guidelines**

1. All high quality, color, close-up, mid-range and landscape photographs of the installation process or results of a conservation practice located in Hamilton County will be considered.
2. Individuals may submit up to three (3) color photographs for consideration. Digital images will be accepted on disc and must be in a jpeg format.
3. There will be two age categories for submission. The Junior Category is for students between the ages of 12 to 19 years old. The Senior Category is age 19 or older. **First prize in each category is \$100.00 and the second prize is \$50.00.**
4. Images will be judged on composition, technical excellence, originality, color and overall impact. Each entry will be blind judged - the name and location of the entrant will be hidden. The decisions of the judges are final.
5. Winning photographs may be used in District publications. In order to ensure the highest quality images, the winning photographers will be asked to provide a high-resolution file of their photograph(s).
6. All winning photos become the property of Hamilton County SWCD.

**Deadline for submission is July 16, 2010.** Mail your photographs with your name, address, daytime phone number and location of photo to: **Hamilton County SWCD, 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246**

## Education Corner

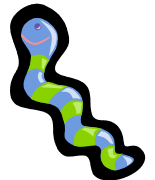
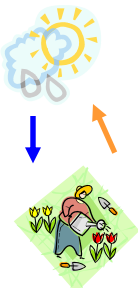
*Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist*



### Summer Library Educational programs

The Soil and Water Conservation District will be presenting education programs at several libraries around town this summer. If you have any questions about any of these programs, please contact Gwen or the children's librarian at the particular library. See our website for program descriptions and the July programs - [www.hcswcd.org/news/default.asp](http://www.hcswcd.org/news/default.asp)

**Thursday, June 6, 10:30am - 11:30am, Downtown Library, Bob and Otto**  
**Thursday, June 6, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Reading Branch Library, Edible Soil**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 10:30am - 11:30am, Cheviot Branch Library, Splish/Splash**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 3:00pm - 4:00pm, Mt. Healthy Branch Library, Soil Crayons**  
**Monday, June 21, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Downtown Library, Pur™ Water Treatment**  
**Monday, June 21, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Covedale Branch Library, Bob and Otto**  
**Tuesday, June 29, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Madisonville Branch Library, Edible Soil**  
**Tuesday, June 29, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Miami Township Branch Library, Bob and Otto**  
**Wednesday, June 30, 10:30am - 11:30am, Corryville Branch Library, Worms**  
**Wednesday, June 30, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Greenhills Branch Library, Worms**



## Education Corner - continued

### Upcoming District Collaborative Events REGISTER NOW!!!



### 2010 Ultimate Educator Expo Tuesday, September 14, 2:00pm - 6:00pm

The Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE), The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) present the 2010 Ultimate Educator Expo, join us at the Zoo for the ultimate opportunity to learn about environmental education resources available in our community. Exhibitors from governmental, non-profit and educational organizations will provide you with grade level appropriate training opportunities, lesson plans, field trips and tons of free stuff. We offer FREE Zoo admission & parking; break out sessions, refreshments and door prizes just for you. To register, go to <http://www.cetconnect.org/ultimateeducatorsexpo/>

### Rain Garden Lesson Guide Workshops

Are you interested in planting a rain garden on your school site? Then this single-day workshop is for you! A New Rain Garden Lesson Guide developed in 2009 contains six project-based science and math lessons that take you and your students through the process of designing, installing, maintaining and monitoring a Rain Garden on or near your school campus. The Lessons are divided into three grade bands (3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). All Lessons have been correlated with Ohio Academic Standards and use an inquiry-based approach to learning.

**Cost:** Free (There are thirty \$100 stipends for teachers who meet the stipend criteria)

**Contact:** Anne Lyon, (513) 891-4227 ext. 1110 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org)

#### Grades 3 - 8

**Date:** Tuesday, June 15

**Time:** 8:30am - 3:30pm

**Location:** Academy of World Languages  
2030 Fairfax Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45207

#### Grades 6 - 12

**Date:** Tuesday, June 22

**Time:** 8:30am - 3:30pm

**Location:** Hamilton County Education Service Center  
11083 Hamilton Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45231

### 2010 Area IV Envirothon

Congratulations to the Hamilton County teams for a wonderful showing at the Area IV Envirothon. The Envirothon was held on Tuesday, May 4th at Voice of America Park in West Chester co hosted by Butler and Hamilton County SWCDs. Sycamore HS team # 1 finished in 10th place, Providence Extension Program team finished in 33rd place and Sycamore HS team #2 finished in 35th place out of a possible 67 teams competing. The weather was wonderful and everyone enjoyed learning about our local natural resources from some true experts in the field. Check out the Area IV Envirothon website for some great pictures of the event [www.areaivenvirothon.org](http://www.areaivenvirothon.org)



### Volunteers Needed Throughout The Summer!!

We are always looking for volunteers to help staff booths at public events. All volunteers will be partnered with a soil and water employee or supervisor. Come help us play storm water cornhole or plinko. Most shifts are 4 hours in length. For more information about events and dates, please contact Gwen at [gwen.roth@hamilton-co.org](mailto:gwen.roth@hamilton-co.org)





# Earthwork News.....

Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist

## FINAL - EFFLUENT LIMITED GUIDELINES

The District would like to clarify some of the facts about the proposed new standards and timeframe for implementation of the Final Limited Effluent Guidelines. In the US EPA Fact Sheet "EPA 821-F-09-004 November 2009" under the summary section on page 1 the US EPA states "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is promulgating effluent limitations guidelines (ELG's) and new source performance standards (NSPS) to control the discharge of pollutants from construction sites. This rule requires construction site owners and operators to implement a range of erosion and sediment control measures and pollution prevention practices to control pollutants in discharges from construction sites. In addition, the rule requires certain construction site owners and operators to sample stormwater discharges and comply with a numeric standard for the pollutant turbidity in these discharges starting August of 2011."

Under these new rules it states "EPA is phasing in the numeric limitations over four years to allow permitting authorities adequate time to develop monitoring requirements and to allow the regulated community time to prepare for compliance with the numeric limitation. Construction sites that disturb 20 or more acres at one time will be required to conduct monitoring of discharges and comply with the numeric limitation beginning 18 months after the effective date of the final rule. Beginning four years after the effective date of the final rule, the monitoring requirements and numeric limitations will apply to all sites that disturb 10 or more acres at one time." The implementation section on page 2 states, "USEPA currently issues permits for construction activities in four states, the District of Columbia and in certain U.S. Territories and tribal areas. The U.S. EPA Construction General Permit (CGP), which is set to expire on June 30, 2011, will be updated to include the new requirements when reissued. The remaining states issue their own construction general permits, and the new requirements must be incorporated into any new general permits issued after the effective date of the regulation, which is 60 days after the publication in the Federal Register. The requirements also apply to individual permits issued by states or EPA. Therefore, the implementation date of the new requirements will vary depending on when states reissue their permits and whether projects are covered by individual or general permits."

To clarify, in the state of Ohio the Construction General Permit expires in April of 2013 and it is our understanding that the requirements will be phased in under the periods set forth by the U.S. EPA, which is 18 months after the new Construction General Permit is issued in April of 2013. After conversations with Ohio EPA we believe that the requirements for sites >20 acres will probably apply at the time Ohio's revised CGP is issued, and for >10 acre sites the requirements will take effect in 2014 per U.S. EPA's schedule.

The effluent limitation is a definitive limit based on science, and it is by no means free of soil or sediment as some of the home building industry representatives have been stating. By having a clear guideline not subject to arbitrary interpretation by a regulatory agency, everyone will be held to the same standard which is something the home building industry has been requesting for years.

We hope this clarifies the new ELG. The new rules are still in their infancy so there will be many challenges and much litigation before we have to implement these standards across Ohio. We will do our best to stay on top of these new requirements and as always work with the Greater Cincinnati Home Builders Association in meeting the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act.

## Pond Clinic



Thinking about building a pond, having problems with aquatic weeds, want to know how aeration can improve the overall health of your pond? Don't know where to begin installing a water garden? Do you live in a residential subdivision or condominium development and wonder what your responsibilities are or how to inspect and maintain your storm water basin?



Please join the knowledgeable staff from the Hamilton and Butler County SWCDs along with experts from Jones Fish Hatcheries to find answers to all of your questions. The 2010 Pond Clinic will be held at the Sharon Education in Sharon Woods, 11450 Lebanon Road, Sharonville, OH 45241 on Wednesday June 9, 2010, from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. **There is no fee, but an RSVP is required by June 5, 2009.** Call (513) 772-7645 to make your reservations.

### Board of Supervisors

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Denny Benson, Secretary  
Steve Johns, Treasurer  
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### District Staff

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Chey Alberto, Urban Technician  
Nate Sturm, Urban Technician  
Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer  
Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist  
Cheryl Reinke Peck, Office Assistant  
Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist  
Annette Meagher, Public Relations Specialist

### NRCS

John Williams, D.C.-NRCS

## Dates to Remember

**June 15 - 22:** Rain Garden Lesson Guide Workshops (details page 4)  
**June 22:** Soil Fertility and Your Garden (details page 2)  
**June 24 - 25:** Paddlefest (For more details, visit [www.ohioriverway.org](http://www.ohioriverway.org))  
**Sept 14:** 2010 Ultimate Educator Expo (details page 4)

### Library Programs (see page 4 for time):


**June 6** - Downtown Library, Bob and Otto  
**June 6** - Reading Branch Library, Edible Soil  
**June 16** - Cheviot Branch Library, Splish/Splash  
**June 16** - Mt. Healthy Branch Library, Soil Crayons  
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**June 29** - Miami Township Branch Library, Bob and Otto  
**June 30** - Corryville Branch Library, Worms  
**June 30** - Greenhills Branch Library, Worms

Visit [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org) for the July library programs.

**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



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Conservation District  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
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