

Conservation Spotlight

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Spring Edition 2011

Farewell to Stanley Strimple

The Hamilton County SWCD lost a dear friend with the passing of former Supervisor, Stanley Strimple on January 14, 2011. Stanley served on the Board of Supervisors from 1958 – 1997. He is the longest running Supervisor in District history. Stanley had almost perfect attendance at Board meetings during his 40 years of service. His steady, thoughtful presence focused on maintaining the quality of our natural resources in Hamilton County. He often held District picnics for the Board members and staff on his rolling property in Crosby Twp. along Dry Fork Creek. Even after Stanley left the Board of Supervisors, he remained an Associate Supervisor and attended most Annual Meetings.

During his tenure with the District, Stanley served in all board positions. He was fond of telling the staff that he helped launch the first tree packet sale in the State of Ohio. In the beginning, Stanley

would store trees in his barn and deliver them to various distribution sites around the county. In the 1990s, Diamond Oaks Career Center students assisted in counting and packing the trees for sale. Stanley was wonderful at working with the students and having fun.

In addition to the service Stanley so freely gave to the District, he also served on the Boards of Southwest Local Schools, Harrison Senior Citizen Center, Crosby Twp. Senior Citizen Center, Crosby Twp. Historical Society and he was a 4-H Club Advisor.

Professionally, Stanley worked for the United States Post Office as a letter carrier. He also farmed in Crosby Township.

Stanley and his late wife, Faye, were an important part of our SWCD history. Stanley was the father of John (Jan) Strimple, Sara (Alan) Waugh, the late Susan Strimple and had several grandchildren.



Stanley Strimple
1921-2011

\$5.00

Soil Fertility Test Kits are Back!!

Thanks to cost sharing from the Hamilton County Storm Water District, Hamilton County residents can purchase up to 2 soil fertility test kits for only \$5.00 each. The cost of the third and each additional kit would be \$12.00 each. This special offer will run **until June 15, 2011**. Kits may be purchased at the District office or mailed for an additional \$2.00 postage and handling fee each. Proof of residency will be required. Non-Hamilton County residents may purchase kits for \$12.00 each and mailed for additional \$2.00 postage and handling fee.



Soil Fertility and Planning for Your 2011 Garden

Come and join our District Administrator, Holly Utrata-Halcomb, and learn all the tricks for the healthiest and most productive lawn and garden. Topics will include: soil fertility, companion plantings, natural recipes for disease and pest control with tips on plant culture.

The program will be held at the District's office - 22 Triangle Park Drive, Sharonville, OH 45246. Please call the office for more information, 513-772-7645

Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$6.00. Upon completion of the class, you will receive 1 soil fertility test kit.

(See page 2 for registration form)



Soil Fertility and Planning for Your 2011 Garden Registration Form



Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

*Cost: \$6.00. Upon completion of the class, you will receive 1 soil fertility test kit.
(see page 1 for details)*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed: _____ (Cost: \$6.00 per person)

Please mail in your reservation form with your check made payable to:



Hamilton County SWCD
22 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246



Community Involvement

Annette Meagher

How Safe Is Your Medicine Cabinet?

Recent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studies have found traces of painkillers, estrogen, antidepressants and blood-pressure medicines in water samples from 30 states. Studies have linked hormone exposure to reproductive defects in fish, and have linked environmental exposure of antibiotics to the development of drug-resistant germs. Please, see their website for research <http://toxics.usgs.gov>.



Also, The Partnership for a Drug Free America reports that the vast majority of teens abusing prescription drugs are getting them from the medicine cabinets of friends, family and acquaintances. The agency reports that some teens traffic drugs among themselves – handing out or selling extra pills of their own, or pills they've acquired or stolen. A very small minority of teens say they get their prescription drugs illicitly from doctors, pharmacists or over the internet. Reports, educational materials and many resources are posted at <http://www.drugfree.org/>

DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Sunday, April 30, 2011

This National Take Back Day initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. According to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than seven million Americans are currently abusing prescription drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is working with local law enforcement agencies to administer the collection event. For site location information, please inquire with your local police department or visit the DEA website: <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov>
For updates, please check our website: www.hcswcd.org



E-mail list

Teachers, would you like to receive e-mail notification of upcoming events and workshops for educators? If so, please e-mail your name, e-mail address, school name and grade level you teach to gwen.roth@hamilton-co.org.

EDUCATION CORNER

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

Why we need Environmental Education

Have you ever been in a conversation and brought up the importance of recycling, conservation or any other ecological issue, only to receive an eye-roll in return? The 'green' movement is everywhere, sometimes creating the sense of a trend. Many people equate the environmental movement to the 'hippies generation' and dismiss the urgency of conserving our natural resources today. Adverse health affects from pollution in our air and water, climate change and increasing species extinctions prove, however, that we have to make lifestyle changes for the long term. Educating the public about the importance of nature is critical to the future of the planet and can also improve the well-being of future generations. Here are three major reasons why.

Physical benefits The average child spends about six hours a day (that's almost a full workday for most of us!) in front of some sort of electronic device. This equates to less time playing, exploring and learning about the outside world. The detrimental health effects are frightening, including higher rates of obesity, increased chances for diabetes and lack of Vitamin D. To increase social, mental and physical health the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 60 minutes of unstructured free play a day. Getting kids to be active outside will not only improve their health, it will also increase active family time together, benefiting everyone!

Mental health Has there ever been a time when your stress has been relieved by a walk outside or a weekend 'away from it all'? Studies show that patients recover more quickly after surgery when their rooms overlook a natural scene rather than when facing a brick wall. This calming effect of nature has been shown to reduce attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and stress levels in children. When integrated into the classroom, environmental education improved children's skills in math, reading, problem-solving and creativity. It connects students to the real world, empowering them to make small changes and to feel that they can make a difference, regardless of their age. Environmental education is usually hands-on, which can improve confidence and the ability to work well with others.



Our future Companies now realize that consumers are increasingly concerned with environmentally-friendly products and businesses. An added bonus for companies is that they can save money by switching to "green" business practices. P&G recently unveiled a new initiative called *Future Friendly*, in which products are manufactured sustainably by using less water, less energy and producing less waste. Charles O. Holliday, Jr., president of Dupont, has said "A key component of an environmentally sustainable business is a highly educated work force, particularly involving environmental principles." Becoming knowledgeable about environmental issues will become as important to the next generation as a shift in the grasp of technology was to this one.

Many adults have fond memories of time outdoors as children and therefore feel a personal connection to the outside world. By fostering children's inherent curiosity for the awe-inspiring world of nature we will preserve a fondness and sense of stewardship for an environment that needs us as much as we need it.

For more information, visit the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/Get-Outside or <http://wlvw.squarespace.com/> and Click on Learning Center

Great books:

I Love Dirt: 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonder of Nature - Jennifer Ward

The Green Hour - Todd Christopher

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder - Richard Louv

Growing Up WILD Workshop

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2011
Who: Educators who work with children ages 3-7
Location: Butler SWCD office
1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Cost: \$10

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



PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by Tuesday, April 22

The new **Growing Up WILD** curriculum has 27 hands-on activities designed for preschoolers, featuring arts and crafts, music, conservation, reading, math and take home connections. It is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and to the Head Start Domains. It is also correlated to the Ohio Academic Content Standards for Early Childhood on Science and Social Studies.

Participants will receive Project WILD's **NEW** Growing Up WILD curriculum book, teacher resources to use in the classroom, and light breakfast.

Sponsored by: Hamilton County and Butler Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Streams

Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist

**Come Join Us
for a Salamander Survey!**



Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District has been working with the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and the Cincinnati Park Board to evaluate the impacts and benefits of removing storm water from a combined sewer that runs through Ault Park. The removal of storm water and associated restoration of a stream channel should eliminate 15 million gallons a year of sewage overflow into the Duck Creek, a tributary to the Little Miami River. The combined sewer has diverted storm water that flows from above Observatory Avenue. Prior to the installation of the sewer, the storm water flowed above ground directly to the Duck Creek. The stream restoration project will contain the new storm water flow that is being eliminated from the combined sewer. As part of the project evaluation, partner agencies and the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society will be conducting a preliminary salamander survey. Salamanders will be relocated to upstream reaches prior to



Southern Two-lined Salamander

project construction and **we need your help!**

We have currently found southern two-lined and northern dusky salamanders in the project area. The southern two-lined salamander is unique in that it is an indicator of the highest quality stream habitat or a Class III primary headwater stream. Since the larval stage of this organism is 2-3 years and requires continuous cool stream flow or ground water infiltration to the stream bed, it is much more sensitive to alterations in stream quality, flow and habitat than other salamander species.

If you are interested in assisting the District in the salamander relocation effort, please contact Brian Bohl at (513) 772-7645.

Event will be coordinated in March 2011.

Earthworks

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

ATTENTION!!

DEVELOPERS, CONTRACTORS, ENGINEERS AND HOMEBUILDERS

The District is still finding impacts to streams on developments and building lots during our routine inspections. Coordination for all stream impacts is required under the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations. Approval is required from the Army Corps of Engineers prior to performing any stream-related work. An impact to a stream is the installation of a culvert either temporary or permanent, placing of fill or dredging of material, or crossing a stream for utilities or access for construction. Please note that this is not an all inclusive list but meant to provide some guidance. Simply put, if you are working in a stream you must obtain approval. When in doubt, call before performing the work.

There are a variety of impacts that can be covered under Nationwide Permits. Most projects fall under either the Nationwide Permit 29-which applies to residential developments or Nationwide Permit 39-which applies to commercial, industrial and institutional developments. There are no fees for Nationwide Permits. Most permits can be obtained in 45 days or less.

While the District would prefer not to see disturbances to streams we understand that sometimes this work is unavoidable. The District has been made aware of several projects which have caused damage to streams that were not addressed in the development improvement plan or the building permit plans. Some projects have obtained approval under a Nationwide Permit and made additional effect outside of the approved plans. Please be advised that all Nationwide Permits have conditions that apply to the work being performed and some projects have special conditions. We are seeing violations of these requirements. It is imperative that everyone is aware of these conditions including the Developer, Builders and Contractors. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Earthwork Regulations may cause the withholding of Building Permits, delays in receiving your Certificate of Occupancy or additional burdens in the form of onsite or offsite mitigation. We want to keep your project moving!

It is much easier to move through the required approval process ahead of time than face potential delays and costs dealing with compliance issues after the fact. Any impacts not coordinated with the District and the Army Corps of Engineers will be forwarded for enforcement. Your cooperation and assistance is desired and much appreciated. If you have questions, please contact the local Army Corps of Engineers Office at (513) 825-2752 or you can visit the Huntington District website <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/permits/> You can also contact the Districts Earthwork staff at 772-7645 at ext 16.

New Resource

Are you looking for something fun to do next weekend? Does your child have a report due on some natural resource topic? Do you want tips on recycling, composting, disposing of medications, green ways to treat icy sidewalks and more? Just go to <http://www.wlwt.com/project-earth>

Your Hamilton County Storm Water District is part of a local collaborative working with WLWT, Channel 5. The goal is to provide information to our community about our natural environment and how we can all help to conserve it. In addition to this vibrant website, Channel 5 also broadcasts three "Project Earth" news segments each week.



If you have an upcoming event you want posted on the Project Earth calendar or you have a timely story idea for a news segment, contact District Administrator, Holly Utrata-Halcomb at 772-7645.

Board of Supervisors

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

District Staff

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator
Susan Juriga, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Reinke Peck, Office Assistant
Annette Meagher, Public Relations Specialist
Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist
Chey Alberto, Urban Technician
Nate Sturm, 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



Upcoming Events

March 6-12 - National Ground Water Awareness Week

March 22 - World Water Day



March 29 - Soil Fertility Workshop (see page 1 & 2)

April 6 - Pond Clinic - Izaak Walton League Lodge, Butler County
(Call 513-772-7645 for details)

April 16 - Earth Day - Sawyer Point - stop by our booth & win a prize!

April 16 - Winton Woods Clean Up Day - call 521-Park for information

April 22 - Earth Day



April 29 - Arbor Day

May 7 - Growing Up Wild Workshop (see page 4)

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.

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Conservation District
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