

# CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT



Fall Edition  
2012

## Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411

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PROGRAMS  
&  
ASSISTANCE

AGRICULTURE  
&  
SOIL FERTILITY



CLASSROOM  
PRESENTATION



URBAN STREAMS



URBAN LAND, HOMEOWNER  
& EARTHWORK



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT  
&  
PARTICIPATION PROGRAM



## Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Celebration!

67 ANNUAL MEETING

at the

### Paul Brown Stadium



Join us for this year's meeting for a smorgasbord of delectables including roast pork sirloin and vegetarian options, a tour of the stadium, and conservation highlights. Bring your family and take a picture of everyone on the field.

Voting will be from 3 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.

**Reservations are limited for the dinner and tours!  
Seating is limited! Please register early!!**

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Start Time: 3:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Place: Paul Brown Stadium  
3 Paul Brown Stadium  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 6:45 pm

Tour Schedule

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

5:00 pm - 5:45 pm

Please respond by September 5, 2012

**Pre-registration & Pre-payment required.**

Make checks payable & mail to:

Hamilton County SWCD  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411

**Parking passes are included and accepted at Lot U until 6:30 pm.  
After 6:30 pm, parking will be elsewhere at your expense.**



Number of people attending x \$15.00 = Total

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

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate name(s) of people attending and preferred tour time.**

Parking Pass Required

Stadium Tour

Indicate what type of parking pass and how many.

\_\_\_\_ Regular pass

3:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending

\_\_\_\_ Handicap pass

4:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending

\_\_\_\_ Handicap pass

5:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending

Parking passes only accepted at Lot U until 6:30 pm. Otherwise, you will need to park elsewhere at your own expense.

There is a limit of 45 people per tour.

# 2012 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES Please Vote!



Denny Benson

Denny Benson has retired from Broshear Contractors, Inc. after 32 years of service. Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District named Broshear Contractors, Inc. "Contractor of the Year" in 2001 for their accomplishments in soil and water conservation erosion and sediment control practices. In 2006, Broshear Contractors, Inc. was presented the "Move Ohio" award for their conservation efforts in constructing the Green Heron Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland Habitat Park in Ross, Ohio. Denny is the President of the Ohio Valley Development Council for the Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Ohio Contractors Association and was Chairman of the Executive Committee in 2002. Denny is the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the One Way Farm, a homeless shelter for teenage children located in Fairfield, Ohio. Denny resides in White Oak with his wife who works for the Cincinnati Public Schools, daughter who attends the University of Cincinnati, and son who attends Loyola University Chicago. Denny was elected to the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Board in 2006, he presently serves as Treasurer of the Board of Supervisors.



Craig Abercrombie

Craig Abercrombie currently serves as Assistant Vice President and Project Manager at Abercrombie & Associates, Inc. Civil Engineering + Surveying. He is a Licensed Professional Surveyor in Ohio and a LEED Accredited Professional along with being a member of The United States Green Building Council. Craig graduated from The University of Cincinnati in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management, and in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Sciences/Surveying. Craig is a lifelong resident of Hamilton County.

He is an active member of St. Ignatius Parish, Exchange Club of Northwest Cincinnati & Western Economic Council. Craig has extensive experience working cooperatively with the Hamilton County SWCD on both commercial & residential projects. He has successfully designed sites that both serve the needs of the users while also protecting & conserving the surrounding areas. Craig is currently involved in LEED certification of several projects in the Cincinnati area & has extensive knowledge of erosion control in the challenging terrain of Hamilton County.

## 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 Paul Brown Stadium, 3 Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati, OH 45202 on September 13, 2012 from 3:00 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 23, 2012 to 8:00 am - 12:00 pm on September 13, 2012; (3) vote absentee by mail, requesting the proper absentee request forms from the HCSWCD by September 10, 2012 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, they must be received at the District's office by Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 4:30 pm.

One (1) Supervisor will be elected. Nominees are: Denny Benson and Craig Abercrombie.

## BRIAN BOHL, CPESC, STREAM SPECIALIST

### SELECTED FOR GREATER CINCINNATI REGIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

In his low-key, unassuming manner, Brian Bohl has distinguished himself as a hardworking, well-informed champion of local water quality. According to Bruce Koehler, Environmental Planner, OKI Regional Council of Governments, "Brian's job is Stream Specialist for the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, but his influence reaches beyond the county lines. Brian has become a regional resource through his extra work for Friends of the Great Miami, Mill Creek Yacht Club, OKI Regional Council of Governments, Great Miami River Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Project, Saturday Stream Snapshot, OKI Regional Conservation Council and more. Brian's supervisor says he is humble and reluctant to toot his own horn, so it is only fitting that we recognize him as an honoree for Public Service Recognition Week."

*Congratulations Brian!*



Commissioner Todd Portune  
presents  
Brian Bohls' award.



# Urban Streams

Brain Bohl, Stream Specialist

## Are Antibacterial Soaps, Cleaning Agents and Personal Care Products Worth the Risk?

### Tips for Selecting Hand Soaps and Personal Care Products That Do Not Include Triclosan

In recent years, scientists have discovered increasing evidence of pharmaceuticals, detergents and personal care products in our waterways and drinking water sources. A March 2008 investigation from the Associated Press revealed that "a vast array of pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans." Furthermore, a 2004 study from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) reported finding a number of the previously mentioned chemicals and pharmaceuticals in the Great and Little Miami River basins.

With respect to the USGS-NAWQA study, at the top of the detection list for personal care products is a chemical known as triclosan. Triclosan is an antibacterial agent that has been detected frequently in small streams (over



50 percent of samples) and also in larger rivers. According to a report in *Environmental Science and Technology* and *The Daily Green*, triclosan is an ingredient used widely as an antibiotic and preservative in personal care and cleaning products for the last 45 years. Recent studies have generated concerns that the chemical is an endocrine disruptor, causing reproductive or developmental problems, and that it can alter the thyroid hormone-associated gene expression.

Triclosan, personal care products and detergents wash down our drains and end up in our waterways and water sources through septic systems, sewer overflows, treatment plant discharge and storm water. Sewage sludge spread over the landscape can also be a source of triclosan. It leaches down through the soil and runs off into surface water from the fields and degrades slowly in the sediments. Triclosan bioaccumulates in the environment and has been shown to be toxic to algae, phytoplankton and other aquatic life (Source: "Food and Water Watch" and "Beyond Pesticides").

To protect our waterways and avoid potentially adverse health issues, consider using hand soaps, dishwashing and car washing detergents and toothpastes that do not contain triclosan. Avoid triclosan by reading labels and don't assume a product is triclosan-free based on "Green Advertising". Triclosan also appears in products as Microban®, Irgasan® (DP 300 or PG 60), Biofresh®, Lexol-300, Ster-Zac and Cloxifenolum. You will find a list of hand soap brands that do not contain triclosan at <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/anti-bacterial-soap-triclosan-47083106>. The site also provides a few retailers that sell triclosan-free products.

### Got Drugs?



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled their 5<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to safely dispose of your unwanted medications!

Since their first event in September of 2010, the DEA has prevented approximately 1.5 million pounds (774 tons) of pharmaceuticals from entering our waterways. Michele M. Leonhart, DEA Administrator, has vowed the DEA will continue to sponsor national take-back events as a service to U.S. communities while a uniform system of disposal is being finalized.

Please check the DEA website in late August to locate a collection site near you.

[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

### Soil Test Kits

Soil test kit pricing is staying down for Hamilton County residents thanks to cost-sharing from your Hamilton County Storm Water District. The price is \$7.00 per kit with \$1.50 shipping and handling charge (limit two per address). This low rate is only available until December 31, 2012.

The cost to non-residents is \$14.00 per kit with \$1.50 shipping and handling charge.

If mailing soil test kit(s), pre-payment is required.

Make your check payable and mail to:

Hamilton County SWCD  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45246





## EDUCATION CORNER

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



## SUMMER FUN



Our summer was packed with loads of library, camp, home school and summer school learners! We presented 55 programs to over 1,600 inquisitive children who, among other things, learned about worms, ate some "soil" (cookies and pudding!), identified fossils, "mined" cookies while learning about natural resources and planted sunflower seeds.

Thanks to all for inviting us to be a part of your summer fun!

### Nature Recycles: Make and Take Classroom Worm Bin

Wednesday, October 24, 2012      Civic Garden Center  
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm      2715 Reading Road,  
Cincinnati, OH 45206

Designed for all level educators. Learn the essentials about vermicomposting. Using red worms and microorganisms to break down organic matter, students can bury their lunch scraps and harvest vermicompost in 3-4 months. Participants will receive instruction book, worm bin and activities. Contact Gwen at the district office for more information at 772-7645 x13.

\$10 - Hamilton County teachers  
(will be refunded after participation in the workshop)  
\$30 - all other teachers.

**Make check payable and mail to:**

Hamilton County SWCD  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45246

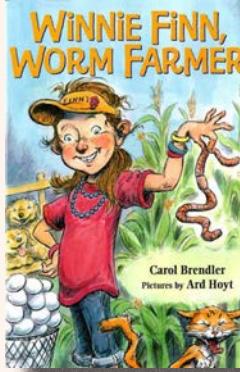


### Bookworm Burrow

*Our favorite book suggestions for curious kids!*

#### Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer

by Carol Brendler



We love worms in our office, so this book is one of our favorites! Winnie is "earthworm crazy" and is always playing with worms or saving them from the sidewalk. Through her quest to win a blue ribbon for her wiggly friends at the county fair, she ends up showing her neighbors how beneficial worms can be. Adorable illustrations accompany this book teaching kids how everything and everyone are connected.

### Call Now to Schedule a **FREE Classroom Program**

We are currently scheduling programs for the 2012/13 school year. As always, programs are based on the Ohio Academic Content Standards and are free to all schools/groups in Hamilton County. We ask that you be respectful of our time as well as other teachers requesting programs. We can only come to a school building 3 times per year, so please coordinate with other teachers in your building before scheduling.

Please check our website for all our program offerings as well as teacher workshops. [www.hcsacd.org/educate](http://www.hcsacd.org/educate). Call Niki or Gwen today to schedule your class program.



### Teacher Workshops

#### 2012 Ultimate Educator Expo

Wednesday, September 12, 2012  
2:00pm - 6:00pm

The Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) and The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden present the **2012 Ultimate Educator Expo!** Join us at the Zoo for the ultimate opportunity to learn about the environmental education resources available in your community. Exhibitors from government, 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 and parking; break out sessions, refreshments, and door prizes just for you.

To register, visit:  
<http://tiny.cc/acbjv> **REGISTER NOW!**



CARING FOR OUR

# Watersheds™

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.
- 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 5-minute verbal presentations at a final competition in May 2013.
- 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.



## Come Join us at the 2012 Great Outdoor Weekend

The Great Outdoor Weekend will take place on September 22 and 23. Come join District Administrator, Holly Utrata-Halcomb at our office to learn how to naturally restore balance to your soil by using cover crops in your garden. You can also learn about our new volunteer water quality monitoring program with stream specialist Brian Bohl at the UC Center for Field Studies in Miami Whitewater Forest. All programs are **FREE** and open to the public.

Check out the GOW website for more details.

[www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org](http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org)

## Hey Educators!

**Need help funding that awesome project that spreads the conservation message to your students?**

The District gives away **TWO \$250.00 grants** each year to honor some of our favorite conservationists, Julius A. Odegard and H. David Diebel. All we need from you is a creative idea and the ability to answer three questions about it. Past entries have included land labs, teacher workshop courses and classroom projects. For more information and to print your application form, please visit [www.hcsbcd.org/educate](http://www.hcsbcd.org/educate) or call 772-7645 and ask for Gwen or Niki.

Deadline for applications is January 11, 2013.



## Cover crops

are used to deeply penetrate compacted soil, capture Nitrogen and other minerals and return organic matter to the soil for your next vegetable crop.

Cover crop seed is planted in the fall (Green Manure Crops - grains, grasses and legumes). The cover crop seed sale will end September 28, 2012. All seed must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Orders must be picked up at the SWCD office by October 5, 2012. Please call the office to assure your order is ready.

### ORDER FORM

**Fall Packet:** Cow Pea, Austrian Winter Pea, Oats, Phacelia, Flax, Tillage Radish, Pearl Millet and appropriate inoculant in enclosed packet. Plant between August 15, 2012 - October 1, 2012. Will be winter-killed.

**Spring Color:** Flax, Austrian Winter Pea, Oats, Phacelia, Canola, Crimson Clover, Hairy Vetch and Tillage Radish and appropriate inoculant in enclosed packet. Plant between August 15 - October 1, 2012. Some plants will re-sprout in the spring.

**Crimson Clover:** Great for garden pathways. Plant in the spring.

Pkg Size	#Pkgs	Type of Seed	Total
1 - lb. \$10 - covers 200 sq. ft..			
5 - lb. - \$30 - covers 1,000 sq. ft.			
10 - lb. - \$50 - covers 2, 000 sq. ft.			
1 - lb. - \$3 - Crimson Clover			
Grand Total			



Pre-payment is required.  
Please make check payable and mail to:  
HCSWCD  
22 Triangle Park Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45246

**Orders need to  
be picked up at  
the office!**

For questions, call 513-772-7645.

# Upcoming Events

Order Covert Crop Seed by September 28, 2012

(see page 5)

August 25 - Green Twp. Kids Fun Day

September 3 - Labor Day - District office closed

September 12 - 2012 Ultimate Educator Expo (page 4)

September 13 - Annual Meeting - Paul Brown Stadium

September 13 - Ohio No-Till Field Day (see the following)

September 11 - Board Meeting

September 14 - October 26 - Ohio Certified Volunteer

Naturalist program in Greene County

Email: mills.35@cfaes.osu.edu

September 22 & 23 - Great Outdoor Weekend (page 5)

September 28 - Cover Crop Sale ends (page 5)

September 29 - Glendale Street Fair

September 29 - Drug Take-Back Day (page 3)

October 24 - Nature Recycles program (page 4)



## OHIO NO-TILL FIELD DAY

September 13, 2012 - (9:30 am to 3:30 pm)

6100 Basil Western Road, Carroll, OH 43112

Topics include Cover Crops - choices, benefits, and seeding methods, insect, issues, and soil compactoin. Registration required. cost is \$35.00 per person mailed by September 4.

Call Holly Ultrata-Halcomb at 772-7645 for more information and carpooling.

For a comprehensive calendar of enviromental activities - go to <http://savelocalwaters.org>

## NRCS

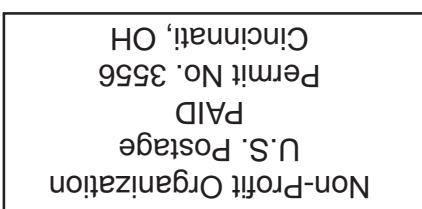
John Williams, D.C./NRCS



**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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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