On Saturday, May 5, ten teams of high school students from Hamilton County competed for over $12,000 in cash and prizes for their team and their school in the first ever “Caring for our Watersheds” Ohio competition sponsored by Agrium Inc.

Caring for our Watersheds is a global competition that asks students to submit a proposal that answered the question, “What can you do to improve your watershed?” Students researched their local watershed, identified an environmental concern and came up with a realistic solution.

Each finalist had 5 minutes to explain their idea to a panel of judges and a public audience. Judges included Scott Huber (District Board Member), Ted Hubbard (Acting Hamilton County Engineer), Shana Connolly (Westway Terminals), Chuck Jessell (Agrium, Inc), Laura Fay (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) and Amy Pursely (Cincinnati Stormwater Management Utility).

Using the judges’ scores, student presentations were ranked. All students that attended the final competition at the zoo received a cash prize. Their schools also received a matching cash prize. In addition, all students are encouraged to implement their ideas with the $10,000 grant monies from Agrium, Inc.

Lindsey Metheral, Agrium Program Coordinator said, “One of the most appealing benefits is that this is an opportunity for students to learn about their local watershed and be empowered to turn their ideas into realistic solutions.”

Caring for our Watersheds is currently offered in Canada within Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario; in the United States within Colorado, California, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, DC; and in Argentina within San Antonio de Areco.
Sanoma, Julia and Janae from Arlington Heights Academy won first place and $1,000 with their presentation, “A Rain Garden for I-75 Runoff.” We couldn’t be more proud of them and all our teams that participated.

For more information please visit www.caringforourwatersheds.com/ohio/1168.jsp or contact local program coordinator, Gwen Z. Roth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Student Name(s)</th>
<th>Proposal Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Sanoma Capps, Julia Love, and Janae McClair</td>
<td>A Rain Garden for I-75 Runoff</td>
<td>Arlington Heights Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>Daniel Kruzel and Luke Groene</td>
<td>Impervious Surface Runoff</td>
<td>Loveland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>Jasmyrn Fuson, Jon Simms, and Samantha Miracle</td>
<td>Pervious Pavers</td>
<td>Loveland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>Taryn Heidel and Noah Yasgur</td>
<td>The Sharon Woods Project</td>
<td>Sycamore HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>Libby Graham, Katie Jonas, and Emily Knue</td>
<td>Promoting Natural and Organic Lawn Care</td>
<td>Wm Henry Harrison HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Ben Iaciofano, Alex Anderson, Carley Wallace, and Maddy Jones</td>
<td>Rain Gardens</td>
<td>Loveland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>Megan Day and Katherine Randall</td>
<td>Be Pesticide and Fertilizer Smart</td>
<td>Loveland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>Elliott Higgins and Nathan Gorman</td>
<td>Project Clarify</td>
<td>McNicholas HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>Gabrielle Quesnell and Michelle Rowekamp</td>
<td>Stream Buffer Strip Planting</td>
<td>McNicholas HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator

A cover crop is one that is planted between main crops to prevent leaching and soil erosion or to provide green manure. Farmers have known about this strategy for years and have reaped the benefits. Usually planted in September, cover crop will provide the following benefits:

- Weed suppression
- Soil Improvement by breaking up compacted soil, which leads to increased water infiltration, deeper roots and more biotic life in the soil
- Less input of fertilizer due to the cover crops ability to fix Nitrogen and other micronutrients in the soil
- Higher yields
- Increased fall grazing for livestock
- Promotes synthesis of manure in field

A recent field day in Indiana examined soil pits from a field planted with cover crops for just two years. They found 20 earthworm channels and 5 earthworms in an area 8” by 8” square at 6 inches deep (in a mixture of annual ryegrass, crimson clover, and cover crop radishes). In another long term no till field, they found earthworm channels 48” deep that was planted only one year of cover crop annual ryegrass/radish mix (planted after soybeans). A great resource to learn more about this topic is http://plantcovercrops.com

Nitrogen and Phosphorus are the two primary chemical pollutants found in our Hamilton County waterways. Planting a cover crop can greatly imporove soil texture and reduce in half the amount of Nitrogen needed for your garden.

All newsletter recipients will receive more information on a cover crop class as well as an order form for seeds in July. You can also check our website www.hcswcd.org for updates.
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 library listed.

**JUNE & JULY 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Main (downtown) Library</td>
<td>Lorax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Blue Ash Library</td>
<td>Edible Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Hyde Park Library</td>
<td>Wash a Duck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Main (downtown) Library</td>
<td>Bob and Otto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Madeira Library</td>
<td>Mud Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Madeira Library</td>
<td>Ohio Fossils Rock!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Mt. Healthy Library</td>
<td>Mud Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>1:00 - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Springfield Twp. Community Center</td>
<td>Edible Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Deer Park Library</td>
<td>Edible Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td>Main (downtown) Library</td>
<td>Mud Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Miami Twp Library</td>
<td>Program TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>1:00 - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Loveland Library</td>
<td>Wiggly Worms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Bond Hill Library</td>
<td>Wiggly Worms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Oakley Library</td>
<td>Ohio Fossils Rock!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Greenhills Library</td>
<td>Ohio Fossils Rock!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Deer Park Library</td>
<td>Wiggly Worms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Corryville Library</td>
<td>Edible Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>1:00 - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Avondale Library</td>
<td>Lorax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Symmes Township Library</td>
<td>Rainsticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Madisonville Library</td>
<td>Ohio Fossils Rock!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Main (downtown) Library</td>
<td>Tasty Aquifers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Delhi Township Library</td>
<td>Program TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Teacher Workshops**

**Make A Splash Workshop**

**Tuesday, July 31 - Friday, August 3, 2012**

8:30am – 3:30pm ($45 / day, $150 / 4 days)

Designed for 7th - 12th grade educators. Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, and Warren SWCDs, along with Greenacres Water Quality Project LLC, are offering 4 single day workshops. These courses will be based out of Greenacres (Indian Hill), but we will be taking field trips around the area. We have updated this popular series and are now offering it for the first time since 2008. Each single day workshop will center on a specific theme, provide training on nationally recognized curricula, and will help to implement STEMs projects in the classroom. Discounted graduate credit through the UC Center for Economics Education is available. Registration is required. Limit 24 participants per day.

To register, contact:
Anne Lyon at alyon@green-acres.org or 891-4227

**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. Come and enjoy FREE Zoo admission and parking; break out sessions, refreshments, and door prizes just for you.

To register, visit:
https://tickets.cincinnatizoo.org/affiliate.asp?ID=CC3168DC-5FBB-447E-998B-CDB0620EE995

Registration Deadline: Friday, July 13!
Unstructured outdoor play has proven health benefits, mentally and physically, for everyone; yet today’s children are not connecting to nature and the outdoors as they have in the past. Would you like to take advantage of summer weather and get your child down and dirty in the great outdoors? We would like to offer suggestions for some summertime family fun to get you started.

**Paddlefest at Coney Island:** It’s not just for paddling enthusiasts – it is a do-not-miss event for anyone in the city! Go to the Kid’s Outdoor Adventure Expo on Thursday, June 21st for activities, displays, and towboat tours. Then hangout at the Music and Outdoor Festival on Friday. [www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest](http://www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest)

**Gorman Heritage Farm:** Visit a working farm, easily accessible from I-75 or I-71, located in Evendale. Gorman is great for a hands-on experience with the sights, sounds, smells, and animals of the farm! They offer plenty of special events and at $5 for adults and $3 for kid/senior citizens it’s a bargain! [www.gormanfarm.org](http://www.gormanfarm.org)

**Parks:** You cannot go wrong with the wide variety of Cincinnati and Hamilton County parks and nature preserves. There are always opportunities for summer camps, group activities, paddleboats, fishing, walking a trail, or just packing a picnic to enjoy nature. Calendars on their websites offer up summer options. Visit [www.greatparks.org](http://www.greatparks.org) and [www.cincyparks.com](http://www.cincyparks.com) for ideas and events.

**Greenacres Canoe and Kayak Rental:** Rent a canoe, kayak, tube, or raft and choose how long your trip will be depending on who is coming along. A great adventure for all, at a livery voted the Best in the City! An added bonus is the chance to see a variety of wildlife along the way. [www.greenacrescanoe.com](http://www.greenacrescanoe.com)

**Trammel Fossil Park:** Did you know that Cincinnati is one of the most fossil-rich areas of the world? Let your children become fossil explorers at this free, secluded hill of exposed rock in Sharonville. Informative signs located at the park will help guide your search, and the fact that it’s free is a bonus! [www.sharonville.org/fossilpark.aspx](http://www.sharonville.org/fossilpark.aspx)

If the weather is not cooperating there are plenty of rainy day options for exploration! Rockquest Climbing center, The Cincinnati Museum Center, Krohn Conservatory, Entertainmen Junction, and The Cincinnati Art Museum all offer opportunities for indoor family play. So get out there and enjoy the city!

---

**Bookworm Burrow**

*Our favorite book suggestions for curious kids!*

**It’s a Jungle Out There!** by Jennifer Ward

It is summer – let’s get outside! Jennifer Ward offers up 52 activities for helping city dwellers to realize that nature is everywhere and can be just as fun as the Playstation! This is a follow up book to *i love dirt* by Ward, which has 52 OTHER ways to mindfully appreciate what is going on outside. The ideas are broad and can easily be adjusted to your family’s neighborhood.
The Pond Clinic will be on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at the Sharon Centre in Sharon Woods at 11450 Lebanon Road in Sharonville.

Experts and speakers will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about pond construction, fish stocking, aquatic weed control, and pond aeration. In addition to ponds, the clinic will feature a class on water gardens which will cover fish stocking, aquatic weed control, and habitat.

Door prizes will be awarded and informational handouts will be available for attendees to take home. The Pond Clinic is open to the public and is free of charge. Reservations are strongly encouraged to ensure adequate seating.

Bring your aquatic weeds in a jar for identification.

For reservations, additional information or directions, you can call the Hamilton County SWCD at (513) 772-7645, or register online at: http://tinyurl.com/HCSWCDPondClinic2012

Hope to see you there!

---

The US Army Corps of Engineers has released new Nationwide Permits under Sections 10 and 404 for the State of Ohio with regional conditions, and the Ohio EPA has issued the water quality certification. Ohio has made changes to their certification so that impacts covered under a Nationwide Permit are up to 300’ on perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams. In the past, the impact to perennial and intermittent streams was 200’. These permits run for five years. The next round of significant changes will take place in 2017 or sooner if any court rulings modify how the 404 Regulations are interpreted.

The US Army Corps of Engineers issue 47 Nationwide Permits in the State of Ohio. Most of the work associated with commercial, residential, and institutional developments may be covered under Nationwide Permit 29 for Residential Development and Nationwide Permit 39 for Commercial and Institutional Developments. These Nationwide Permits require pre-construction notification to the US Army Corps of Engineers, as described in General Condition 31 of the Nationwide Permits.

The District encourages everyone to become familiar with all the changes to the Nationwide Permitting process. We will post a link on our website for these new permits as soon as we receive the information from the US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits for the State of Ohio.

As in the past, submittals and approval must be coordinated through the US Army Corps of Engineers. The District will continue to coordinate all plan reviews with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and require their approval prior to the issuance of an Earthwork Permit for projects that impact water resources.

---

With the unseasonably warm winter and spring, the aquatic weeds in ponds and storm water basins are becoming a problem. When dealing with any aquatic weeds common to local ponds, it is better to handle the problem sooner than later.

One of the benefits of treating early is the cold water has the capacity to hold more dissolved oxygen than warm water. Dissolved oxygen levels are critical to the overall health of the pond and help to reduce stress or fish kills.

When using most algaecides & herbicides:
- Follow the manufacturer’s directions
- Do not treat prior to significant rain fall
- Treat early on sunny days to increase effectiveness of algaecides
- Water temp should be 60° or warmer for most products

To manage weeds naturally, install a bottom based aeration system. These systems increase dissolved oxygen levels throughout the pond and help transfer nutrients back into the atmosphere. The aerobic environment increases the amount of beneficial bacteria which helps break down organic matter that builds up on the bottom of the pond. You may not see significant benefits with this system the first year, but over time you will spend less money on treatment and improve the overall health of your pond. Contact the District if you have any questions about treating your aquatic weeds, pond construction, or aeration systems.
**Board of Supervisors**
Steve Johns, Chairman
Peter Mallow, Vice-Chairman
Sam McKinley, Secretary
Denny Benson, Treasurer
Scott P. Huber, 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
Brian Blake, 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.

---

**Upcoming Events**

- **June 2** - Bugfest at the Cincinnati Museum Center
- **June 13** - Pond Clinic (see page 5)
- **June 21** - Paddlefest - Old Coney Island (see page 4)
- **June 22** - Ohio River Music & Outdoor Festival at Coney Island
- **July 13-14** - Festival in Sycamore
- **September 13** - Annual Meeting - at the Paul Brown Stadium
- **September 29** - Glendale Street Fair

Look for other events coming on our webpage!

www.hcswcd.org

---

For a comprehensive calendar of environmental activities - go to savelocalwaters.org

---

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Cincinnati, OH 45246

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 3556
22 Triangle Park Drive
Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411