2013 District’s Contests and Grants

Rain Barrel Art Project

This project was created to promote the use of rain barrels throughout the Ohio River Valley area via an entertaining and high profile initiative – RAIN BARREL ART!

The painted rain barrels will be on display throughout the Go Green Garden located at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens from approximately the end of March 2013 until the gala date scheduled for April 18, 2013 at the Zoo’s Party for the Planet event. During those weeks, people who visit the Zoo with paid admission or their Zoo membership can visit the Go Green Garden to place their vote on the best painted barrel. A “People’s Choice Award” will be given to the artist with the most votes. A silent auction event of the barrels will occur during the Fundraising Gala & Expo at the Cincinnati Zoo on April 18, 2013.

This project is sponsored by The Regional Stormwater Collaborative of which Hamilton County Storm Water District is a member.

To sponsor or paint a rain barrel, contact:
Ken Perica at 513-659-5902 - kenperica99@gmail.com

Artist applications due: 12-14-12
Rain barrels to be painted by: 3-22-13
For more information, visit: http://www.hcswcd.org/ArtistApplication2012.pdf

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 and click on Ohio.
**Steve Sandfort Memorial Arbor Day 2013 Recycled Sculpture Contest**

Create a sculpture of a tree or anything tree-related (animals, bugs, leaves) in honor of Arbor Day on April 26, 2013. Win a beautiful tree to be planted at your school on or near Arbor Day to honor your victory!

**Contest Rules**
- Sculpture no larger than 3’x3’
- Must be tree or tree-related
- Must be made from recycled materials
- Must have a place to plant your winning tree and principal’s permission to dig
- All Hamilton County Schools are eligible
- Only one entry per school

All entries due by March 11, 2013

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**2013 Poster and Essay Contest**

The District is sponsoring an essay contest and a poster contest. The theme this year is:

"Where Does Your Water Shed?"

It doesn’t just go “away”! Fresh water is the water we use everyday, and because there is no new water, we need to take care of it! Watersheds are areas of land that drain into a body of water, such as a lake or river. Tell us all about your watershed and how your community uses, protects or affects the water. To find your watershed visit: [http://savlocalwaters.org/find-your-local-watershed](http://savlocalwaters.org/find-your-local-watershed)

Contest entries are due by Friday, March 1, 2013, in our office at 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, Attention: Gwen Z. Roth.

Winners from each grade level category will receive a $25 gift certificate and sponsoring teachers will also receive a $25 gift certificate. All essays and posters become the property of Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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**Teachers! Do you need funds to teach your students about conservation?**

HCSWCD has several $250 grants to award to Hamilton County teachers who want to enhance their student’s environmental education experience in the classroom. The Odegard-Diebel Grant is money raised from our annual meeting each year from a silent auction, and is dedicated for the educators of Hamilton County. Grant money could be used for anything conservation related from teacher training for you and your colleagues to land labs, field trips or equipment for hands-on science! Be creative!

All you have to do is answer three questions regarding the needs, objectives and budgets of your classroom and information about you and your school. Send your application to HCSWCD, attention Gwen Roth, by January 11, 2013 to be considered.

For detailed information on the contests or grant, please see our website at [www.hcswcd.org/educate](http://www.hcswcd.org/educate) or call Gwen or Niki at 513-772-7645.

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**Bookworm Burrow**

**Time to Sleep**

by Denise Fleming

Shorter Days and falling leaves tell Bear that the time for hibernation is near. Before going down for his big nap, he must tell all of his friends that winter is approaching. This is a charming book for younger audiences that addresses seasonal change, wildlife habits and friendship. Includes Caldecott winning illustrations. Ages 4-8.

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**Storm Drain Labeled in Springfield Township**

Thank you Darlene Fahey and Girl Scout Troop 48729 for partnering with us to take action in your community! The girls, along with several of their mothers and enthusiastic siblings, did a terrific job labeling the storm drains of their community in Springfield Township. Not only that, they literally sprinted from house to house in their excitement to educate their community about the importance of the Mill Creek Watershed. Awesome job everyone! Keep up the good work. Contact PR Specialist, John Nelson, if your organization wants information at 513-772-7645.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:
• At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
• A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact the Butler Hamilton County FSA office at 513-887-3727 or visit the website at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. The Butler/Hamilton Co. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office is accepting applications for the 2013 EQIP program. The purpose for this program is to help landowners or producers with improving their farming operation through the use of conservation planning and practices. The EQIP program can also help landowners who have livestock operations, pasture related operations, woodlands (bush honeysuckle problems), and specialty crop farms (Seasonal High Tunnels). Through the use of this program, NRCS can not only help with the technical aspect of the farming operation and provide a financial incentive for installing best management practices. In order to apply for the EQIP program you must meet a few eligibility requirements.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact John Williams, District Conservationist at 513-887-3720.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary federal program that provides cost-share assistance for landowners looking to improve, or enhance the habitat available to wildlife on their land. NRCS could provide a financial incentive for implementation of practices such as Tree Planting or Warm Season Grass Planting if the individual or entity is eligible for the program. If you are interested and would like more information concerning this program, please contact John Williams, District Conservationist at 513-887-3720.

Free Conservation Workshops

The Butler/Hamilton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), along with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be holding conservation workshops to better help landowners apply conservation to your land. These workshops will be full of information regarding the programs that are available to you.

These free workshops will be held in either late January or early February at the Princeton Rd. Campus, 1802 Princeton Rd. in Hamilton, Ohio 45011. Some of the programs that will be discussed are the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Reserve Program, the Water Quality Credit Trading Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. Please contact John Williams, District Conservationist at 513-887-3720 for more details.
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.

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

For Green Holiday Tips visit: hcswwcd.org

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

Upcoming Events

December 12 - Project WILD - Free Educator’s Workshop at Caldwell Nature Center - 9 am - 3:30 pm

January 19 - Project WET - Educator Workshop at Greenarces Foundation - 9 am - 3:30 pm

March 2 - Caring for Our Watersheds Final Competition
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden

For Green Holiday Tips visit: hcswwcd.org

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HSCWCD) hosted its 67th Annual Meeting at the Paul Brown Stadium. Each year the district honors local professionals that go above and beyond to implement conservation. The Outstanding Conservationist Awards recognize that the only way to achieve true conservation is through collaboration with other organizations, business and citizens.

The following individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions:

**Urban Conservation Award** – This award is given to builders, and development projects exemplifying the best effort in erosion and sediment control; protecting our waterways and conserving our soil resources. The following are this year’s recipients:
- Fischer Homes - Accepted by Marc Avery
- Mercy Health - West Hospital Accepted by Larry Bagby
- Tuner Construction - Accepted by Phil Yama

**Agriculture Conservation Partner** - This award is given to partners and landowners that provide guidance or implement practices to conserve our agriculture land and water resources.

Recipient - John Williams, NRCS District Conservationist

**Outstanding Media Collaborator** - This new award was given to WLWT–TV for launching “Project Earth” segment as part of their weekly news and their associated website. WLWT - Channel 5 has also donated 296 ads to the Regional Storm Water Collaborative promoting conservation practices and environmental quality issues in our region.

Recipient - WLWT Channel 5 News - Accepted by Stacy Owen, News Director

**Environmental Awareness Collaborator** - The recipient participated in District public education programs, used resources to promote environmental quality, and provided opportunities to engage local volunteers in community involvement projects that improve soil and water quality.

Recipient - Kimberlee Flamm - Springfield Township, Project, Event & Communications Coordinator

**Conservation Teacher of the Year** – The recipient of this award has demonstrated a committed effort in creatively incorporating conservation education in their curriculum.

Recipient - Daphne Horstmeier, Covedale School

To everyone who donated to the silent auction at our District’s annual meeting. Thank you also to the bidders who got some great deals and helped to raise almost $2,000 for conservation education in Hamilton County!!
Service Statistics

Units of Govt. - 414
Administrative - 7,510
Landowner - 2,636
Education/Outreach - 7,938
Landowner Site Visits - 632
Miscellaneous - 144
Office Visitors - 197
Stream - 5,958
Earthwork - 4,786

District Resources & Products

Soil surveys - 1
Soil test results - 225
Cover crop seed sold - 74 lbs.
Soil fertility test kits sold - 306
Aerial photo CD sold - 1

Earthwork Program

The Earthwork Staff continues to meet with and educate member jurisdictions of the Hamilton County Storm Water District. From elected officials, municipal staff members and their citizens, we strive to educate everyone on the requirements under the Earthwork Regulations and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.

Education and training of the regulations for the development community is also a major focus. The District’s objective is to help the development community move through the regulatory process as quickly as possible while ensuring compliance with all of the regulations.

188 New Permits Issued

Anderson - 39
Crosby - 2
Glendale - 1
Miami - 18
Symmes - 19
Silverton - 1
Colerain - 47
Delhi - 6
Green - 27
Springfield - 3
Whitewater - 11
Columbia - 2
Fairfax - 1
Harrison - 2
Sycamore - 6
Mt. Healthy - 3

Site Statistics

Plans reviewed - 1,195
Zoning reviews - 44
Clean hard fill sites - 10
Inspections performed - 2,053

Total Earthwork Sites
Total Sites = 203
Inspections = 1,083

Impacted Acres
Total acres monitored - 3,036
New acres disturbed - 72

Active Individual Lot Permits
Total ILPS = 252
Inspections = 970

To view the full 2012 Annual Report, please visit:
Agriculture

2012 was a good year in recruiting new applicants for USDA's Farm Bill Program financial assistance. The Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative was a popular program this year. It is one of several programs under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The District initiated the first Urban Cover Crop Seed program in the state this year. The interest has been very positive from our urban gardeners. The District will continue to sell cover crop seed in spring 2013.

Farm Bill Programs
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Fencing - 2,100 sq ft.
- Brusch management - 10 ac.
- Pasture seeding - 13.2 ac.
- Heavy use area protection - 3,725 sq.ft.
- Access road - 2,100 sq. ft.
- Seasonal high tunnels - 6,534 sq. ft. 3 no.
- Guttering - 240 ft.
- Spring development - 1 no.
- Underground outlet - 1,085 ft.
- Watering facility (trough) - 2 no.
- Cover crop seed sold - 74 lbs.

USDA Cost-Share Funds
Distributed - $43,633
Number of EQIP visits - 19
Number of CRP visits - 24

Stream - Storm Water Quality & Public Involvement

Technical Support: The Urban Streams Program provided technical support to land owners, businesses, consultants, local jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations on 365 different projects/sites.

Water Quality - Events 28 - Reaching 585 people

Stream Community Involvement Totals
- 2 - Stream walks - 25 attendees
- 3 - River cleanup events - 107 participants
- 21 - Community presentations, events & displays - 622 attendees

Storm Drain Labeling
- 6 - Communities (throughout City of Arlington Hts, Cleves, Delhi Twp, City of Golf Manor, Sycamore Twp, and Symmes Twp.)
- 428 - Labels
- 295 - Storm water pollution prevention flyers

Public Education Programs, Events and Displays

Over 78 public events reaching 144,824 people that played games, planted sunflower seeds and were able to spread the word about soil fertility testing, conservation issues and storm water practices.

Education
Aug 2011 - July 2012

395 School programs for 10,689 Students
14 Scout programs for 459 Scouts
47 Library programs for 1,143 Participants
14 Teacher workshops for 306 Teachers
35 Summer camp programs for 1,105 Participants
MEDIA & MARKETING!

The District Public Relations program is a strategic marketing process that strives to build mutually beneficial relationships between organizations, government entities and citizens.

The District would like to thank all the citizens that volunteered in community involvement projects this year and would also like to thank WLWT - Channel 5TV and Lamar Advertising for their support and donations.

Radio
WVXU/WGUC - 28 fifteen second spots over 4 weeks promoting website - 65,400 listeners
WKRC - 550 AM - 8 thirty second ads over 4 weeks - 53,200 listeners

Bonus Donations
Guest on Ron Wilson “In The Garden Show” - 2 hour show on soil fertility, cover crops and general gardening questions - 6,650 listeners
Guest on Brian Thomas Morning show “Ask the Expert” - spoke on Regional Storm Water Collaborative and water quality

Billboards
2 billboards 14’ x 48’ = 138,051 car pass/day or 4,279,581 cars pass/month
10 Posters 10.6’ x 22.9’ = 144,011 cars pass/day or 4,464,341 cars pass/month
5 posters donated by Lamar Advertising at a total value of $2,500.00

District YouTube Videos
- Earth Day
- Caring for Our Watersheds
- Ault Park Stream Relocation Project

District Facebook Stats
Page likes - 191
Daily annual impressions - 86,915

Television
WLWT: Channel 5 - 26 Ads - 456,900 total viewers
WLWT Website Billboard Ads – 7 over 2 months – 462,000 Views

Bonus Donations
WLWT - Channel 5 Earth Day Telethon: 1 hour of environmental questions - 59,400 viewers
WLWT - Channel 5 donated 296 thirty second ads at a value of $26,400 reaching 5.2 million viewers
WLWT “Project Earth” Website linked to Savelocalwaters.org Calendar of Events

PSA’s
PSA - 23 articles/events
Media videos - 3
Quarterly newsletter - 14,205
Newspaper Ads - 455,400 in circulation

Save Local Waters Facebook Stats
Page likes - 194
Daily annual impressions - 41,921
Twitter - 144 tweets and followers - 73

2012 AWARDS!

The Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment recognized our SWCD as their “2011 Partner of the Year”.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognized the District at the Area IV Winter Meeting as the “Area 4 Team Award”.

The Ohio Storm Water Association recognized Government Program Excellence

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati recognized our SWCD for their participation in Project Groundwork.

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments recognized Brian Bohl for the Public Service Awareness Award.

Commissioner Todd Portune presents Brian Bohl’s award

Brian Blake, Holly Utrata-Halcomb and Chey Alberto receives the Ohio Stormwater Association 2012 Government Project Excellence Award.