On Saturday, March 2, ten teams of high school students from Hamilton County competed for over $6,000 in cash for their team and $6,000 for their school in the “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.

Judges from the community read over 40 proposals and selected the top 10 entries to compete in the final verbal presentations at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Each of the community judges became watershed mentors to the students helping them to develop their ideas further.

Each finalist had 5 minutes to explain their idea to a panel of judges and a public audience. Judges included Scott Huber (Hamilton SWCD’s District Board Member), Ted Hubbard (Hamilton County Engineer), Shana Connolly (Westway Terminals), Gill Craig (Agrium, Inc), Laura Fay (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) and Dr. Virginia Rhodes (Renegade Learning).

Using the judges’ written proposal and verbal presentation scores, student’s ideas were ranked. The top 10 teams received a cash prize. Their schools also received a matching cash prize. In addition, all students are being encouraged to implement their ideas with up to $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, Virginia and Washington, DC; in Argentina within San Antonio de Areco; and in Australia within the Glenelg Hopkins Region in Victoria. the Hamilton County competition is the first in Ohio.

Emily Winchell from Sycamore High School won first place and $1,000 with her presentation, “Pioneer & Dulle Park Creek Protection.” We could not be more proud of her and all our teams that participated.

For more information, please visit www.hcswcd.org/educate or contact local program coordinator, Gwen Z. Roth.
Official Results of the 2013 Caring For Our Watersheds: Ohio
Final Presentations at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden on Saturday, March 2, 2013

Thank you to all of the students who participated in this contest. Over 40 entries were received.

The $1,000 first place prize was awarded to Emily Winchell from Sycamore High School for her proposal called, “Pioneer and Dulle Park Creek Protection”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Place</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Team Name(s)</th>
<th>Proposal Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Emily Winchell</td>
<td>Pioneer &amp; Dulle Park Creek Protection</td>
<td>Sycamore HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>Willie Lutz &amp; Casey Smith</td>
<td>Loveland Composting Program</td>
<td>Loveland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd tie</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>Rian Boland &amp; Bailey Venner</td>
<td>Grease Runoff Prevention within Restaurants</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd tie</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>Elisabeth Schnicke &amp; Kelsey Green</td>
<td>Washing at the Carwash</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>Michelle Strizak, Courtney Kinman &amp; Lindsay Darkins</td>
<td>Utilizing Rain Barrels for Landscaping</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Elizabeth Guye, Maria Rojas &amp; Clare Lees</td>
<td>Keep Your Pills from Polluting</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>Julia Love, Thomas Fagin, Janae McClair &amp; John Brewer</td>
<td>Changing the Community Behaviors and Attitudes by Raising Awareness and Education.</td>
<td>Arlington Heights Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>Alexander Nocks</td>
<td>Halt the Aquatic Invasion: Slow Zebra Mussel Infiltration!</td>
<td>Wyoming HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>Malorie Mullinger, Katie Hendy, Stephanie Hanson &amp; Colleen Eck</td>
<td>Rain Garden Runoff Prevention Program</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>Maddie Peters &amp; Caitlin Williams</td>
<td>One Rain Garden at a Time</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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 these programs, please contact Gwen or the children's librarian at the particular library.

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**Day** | **Date** | **Time** | **Library** | **Program**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Monday | June 10 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Madeira Library | Edible Aquifer
Tuesday | June 11 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Madeira Library | Cookie Mining
Thursday | June 13 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Loveland Library | Curious Garden
Wednesday | June 26 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Walnut Hills Library | Ohio Fossils Rock
Thursday | June 27 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Deer Park Library | Floating House
Tuesday | July 2 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Miami Twp Library | Edible Soil
Thursday | July 11 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Deer Park Library | Cookie Mining
Tuesday | July 16 | 10:30 am - 11:30 am | Main Library | Curious Garden
Tuesday | July 16 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Madeira Library | Floating House
Tuesday | July 16 | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Reading Library | Edible Quifer
Wednesday | July 17 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Madeira Library | Lorax
Wednesday | July 24 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Walnut Hills Library | Curious Garden
Thursday | July 25 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | North College Hill Library | Ohio Fossils Rock
Thursday | July 25 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Symmes Twp Library | No Water Off a Duck’s Back
Tuesday | July 30 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Corryville Library | Edible Aquifer
Thursday | August 8 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Delhi Twp Library | TBA

**Bookworm Burrow**

Our favorite book suggestions for curious kids!

**The Earth Book**

by Todd Parr

Sometimes protecting the world can be a little overwhelming. Todd Parr shows children that they can make a big difference by doing little things and creating positive chain reactions in his book “The Earth Book”. Bright colors and humor ensure that this will be a hit for all kids – even the big kids that need a reminder that every action adds up, like simply using both sides of the paper. A bonus is the included poster that lists 10 easy things anyone can do to make changes. Celebrate Earth Day this spring by grabbing a book that has a fun and positive message for your budding eco-heroes!

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**What’s your Earth Day Resolution?**

1. Use the power of worms. Start your own Vermicomposting bin.
2. Put your back into it! Attend a community Clean Up in your area and beautify your community.
3. Contribute to clean air: Plant a tree.
4. Make a list of outside activities and attempt to do something different each month.
5. Dig out those re-usable bags from your trunk, blow the dust off and actually start to use them!
6. Grab a group and have a good ol’ time while soaking up some knowledge at an Earth Day event. Visit our booth at Sawyer Point when Cincinnati celebrates Earth Day on April 20th!
8. Super-charge your recycling effort. Whole Foods collects plastics that can’t go in the bin, and Terracycle (www.terracycle.com) gathers hard to recycle items.
9. Grow your own produce section – start a backyard garden!
10. Don’t flush! Dispose of expired or unused medicines at the DEA take back event on April 27th, 2013. For more information and drop-off locations, call our office at (513)772-7645.
Citizens and students are invited to participate in the monthly sample collection and analysis efforts of this project. It is a great way to learn more about your local rivers and the procedures used to assess the quality of our waterways.

The third Saturday of each month (March - November) volunteers collect water quality samples throughout the Lower Great Miami Watershed. These samples are transported to the University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies located at 11053 Oxford Road, 45030 in Miami Whitewater Forest. Samples must be dropped off by volunteers by 11:00 am. Analysts can assist anytime between 10:30 am and 4:30 pm. Seasonal, diurnal, flow related and location specific trends are captured and presented to volunteers at the end of the sampling season. Additional discussions on engaging water quality issues take place each month at the lab! Chemical parameters analyzed include nitrates, phosphorus, e.coli bacteria, conductivity, turbidity and pH.

Come join us! For more information or to participate in the water quality monitoring, please contact Brian Bohl at (513) 772-7645 ext. 15 or Lisa Link at (513) 324-2567.

The Water Quality Monitoring is conducted by the Great Miami River Citizens’ Water Quality Project and was formed through a partnership between the Friends of the Great Miami, Rivers Unlimited, University of Cincinnati, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Hamilton County Storm Water District.

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a Pond Clinic on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at the Sharon Centre in Sharon Woods located at 11450 Lebanon Road in Sharonville 45241. The clinic will be from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information, contact the Hamilton County SWCD at (513) 772-7645.

The Butler Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a pond clinic on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, presented at the Izaak Walton League, located at 450 Beissinger Road in Hamilton 45013. The clinic will be from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information, contact the Butler County SWCD at (513) 887-3720.

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, the Hamilton County SWCD clinic at Sharon Centre on June 5th will feature a class on water gardens.

Door prizes will be given. Informational handouts will be available for the attendees to take home. Both clinics are open to the public and are free of charge. For additional information or directions to these events, call the Hamilton County SWCD office at (513) 772-7645 or the Butler SWCD office at (513) 887-3720. Registration is advance is encouraged.

Hope to see you there!
Soil and Cover Crop Class

Do you want to learn more about cover crops and adjusting and prepping your soil for spring planting?

Join District Administrator, Holly Utrata-Halcomb for a session on April 23, 2013, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the District’s office at 22 Triangle Park Drive. Topics to be covered: soil fertility, benefits of cover crops and specific instructions on planning and planting cover crop seed. All attendees will receive one free soil testing kit. The cost for the class is priced at $8.00.

Please make payment and send to:
Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
22 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246

or call 513-772-7645 for registration - Deadline is April 1, 2013.
If ordering soil kits and cover crop seed, all orders must be prepaid and picked up at our office on the following dates:
April 22, 25, 26 - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and April 23, 24 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Registration Form for Class and Order Form Information

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________________________________________________
State:_____, Zip Code:_______________ Phone Number: ____________________________

Class Registration:
____no of attendees x $8.00 per attendee - $_______ total

HC Resident Non-Resident Total
x $5.00 x $12.00

Garden Cover Crop and Soil Kit Order Form

Crimson Clover (Plant in the Spring)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1lb</th>
<th>5lb</th>
<th>10lb</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>x $5.00</td>
<td>x $10.00</td>
<td>x $15.00</td>
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</table>

Beneficial Mix (Plant in the Spring)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1/4lb</th>
<th>1/2lb</th>
<th>1lb</th>
<th>5lb</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>x $4.00</td>
<td>x $6.00</td>
<td>x $12.00</td>
<td>x $42.00</td>
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</table>

Fall Cover (Plant between Aug. & Oct. 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1/2lb</th>
<th>1lb</th>
<th>5lb</th>
<th>10lb</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>x $5.00</td>
<td>x $8.00</td>
<td>x $25.00</td>
<td>x $40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Soil Kits
$5.00 Hamilton County Resident (limit 2) $12.00 Non-Resident

HC Resident Non-Resident Total
x $5.00 x $12.00

Total payment enclosed $ _______________________

You can order on line with a credit card. Please visit www.hcswcd.org

“Saving Rain for a Sunny Day”

The Regional Storm Water Collaborative is sponsoring a first ever rain barrel painting contest called “Saving Rain for a Sunny Day”. The program is designed to raise awareness about storm water through the use of rain barrels. Artists are now in the process of creating their unique works of art with 42 rain barrels slated for completion. There are four categories ranging from youth to professional artist. All painted rain barrels will be on display at the Cincinnati Zoo’s ‘Go Green Garden’ by early April.

Visitors to the Zoo will have a chance to cast a vote for their favorite design via the people’s choice award.

Save the date - Thursday April 18th at the Zoo! Admission is free after 5 pm. Enjoy the Tunes n’ Blooms music and take part in the rain barrel auction. Can you think of a more fun way to spend time on a spring day in Cincinnati?

Special thanks to our Rain Barrel business sponsors:

Home Depot
Bayer Becker Engineering
Iori Insurance Company
Terry Monnie Title Company
Brodbeck Porter Insurance Company

For more information contact, Ken Perica at: kenperica99@gmail.com or call at 513-659-5902
Board of Supervisors
Pete Mallow, Chairman
Sam McKinley, Vice-Chairman
Denny Benson, Secretary
Scott P. Huber, Treasurer
Steve Johns, Program Chairman

District Staff
Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator
Susan Juriga, Administrative Assistant
John Nelson, 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
Carrie Gibbons, Education Assistant

NRCS
John Williams, D.C./NRCS
William Cook, Soil Conservationist

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

Soil and Cover Crop Class by April 23, 2013
(see page 5)

April 18 - Party for the Planet at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden - 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm
be sure to see the Regional Storm Water Collaborative Rain Barrel Art Contest

April 20 - Earth Day at Sawyer Point - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

April 23 - Soil and Cover Crop Class at the District office (see page 5)

May 3, 4 & 5 - Civic Garden Center Plant Sale
May 3 - 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm
May 6 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
May 5 - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

May 8 - Butler SWCD Pond Clinic (see page 4)

June 1 - Bugfest at the Cincinnati Museum Center - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

June 5 - Pond Clinic at Sharon Centre (see page 4)

June 20 - Paddlefest Kids’ Expo at Coney Island - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

June 21 - Paddlefest at Coney Island - 12:00 pm - 11:30 pm

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