



January 2021

## Conservation Spotlight

We are excited to welcome you to a new year. With the trials and tribulations of 2020 behind us, we are hoping for a brighter 2021. Here at the District, we are all a bit 'Zoomed' out. Meeting through a computer screen isn't quite the same as meeting in person. We would love more than anything to see your smiling faces in the classroom, at public events, volunteering with public



involvement opportunities, or on a construction site. Make sure to keep an eye on our **website** and **Facebook** page as we begin to plan this year's activities.

## Award Winners

This past year has been 'different,' to say the least. We wouldn't have been able to do half of what we do without our amazing partners. We would like to recognize our 2020 Partners of the Year.

### Cooperator of the Year



Nicole Gunderman - Director of Education & Tricia Watts - Executive Director, Gorman

Gorman Heritage Farm is a 122-acre nonprofit working farm that is dedicated to furthering sustainable agriculture and agriculture education in Hamilton County. Over the years, Gorman Heritage Farm has hosted the District during many of its festivals, partnered in various educational opportunities. It has provided an outlet to further the District's mission of Conservation. It is with much delight that we name Gorman Heritage Farm as the

Southwestern Ohio Water Company has been a reliable partner on conservation events taking place on the Great Miami River. They have supplied food and beverages for our volunteers, as well as labor and equipment in support of river cleanups and live stake harvesting events. We consider ourselves fortunate to have the Southwestern Ohio Water Company as a partner and look forward to continuing our work together to protect and improve water quality and stream health. It is with much delight that we name Southwestern Ohio Water Company as the Conservation Partner of the Year for their Support and Partnership in Stream Conservation Programs during 2020.

### Conservation Partner of the Year



Terry Seuberling - Field Superintendent,  
Southwestern Ohio Water Company

### Teacher of the Year



Lauren Angelone - Professor, Xavier  
University

Dr. Angelone teaches Instructional Technology and Science Methods to early and middle childhood education majors at Xavier University. Previously, she taught middle school science, was an eLearning Coach and consultant on blended learning in schools across the Cincinnati area.

Lauren has supported the HCSWCD's education programs for the past several years. She has hosted several workshops each year for her pre-service teachers and has helped spread the conservation message to hundreds of local school children.

It is with much delight that we name Lauren Angelone as our 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Ross Quality Homes is a family-owned custom home builder that was founded in 1959. Owners Mike and Joe Ross have taken care not only to follow the Hamilton County Earthwork

### Outstanding Urban Cooperator of the Year

Regulations but ask for guidance to improve the erosion and sediment controls they use on their projects. The Ross brothers tailor the erosion and sediment controls to the specific building sites they are working on. The Earthwork team wanted to recognize Ross Quality Homes' efforts to help protect the environment with their building practices.

It is with much delight that we name Ross Quality Homes as the Outstanding Urban Cooperator for 2020.



Mike and Joe Ross - Owners, Ross Quality Homes

## We want to hear from YOU!

Hi there! I'm Sarah, the new Public Involvement Coordinator at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District. I've spent my first few weeks learning about all the great ongoing conservation projects across the county. While I may have my ideas for new projects, I would love to hear from you! Click [here](#) to see how you can get involved in conservation work in Hamilton County and how you can get your voice heard.



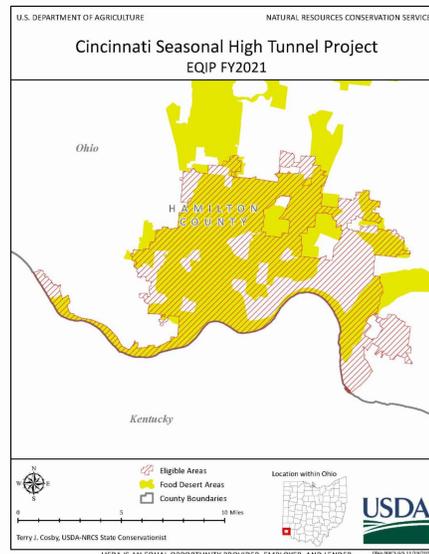
## Road Salt: Safety vs. the Environment

Around this time of year, many questions come up about using salt to melt the ice on our roads and bridges. Road salt (sometimes called rock salt) is mostly sodium chloride, the same as our table salt, but in a much coarser form. Sodium chloride, in small amounts, is actually important for people to consume, but in larger amounts can be harmful to people, wildlife, and aquatic ecosystems. Click [here](#) to learn more about the impacts of road salt.

## High tunnel assistance available in Cincinnati

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has an opportunity available for those interested in growing urban and rural produce within the Cincinnati city limits to apply for financial and technical assistance

for high tunnel systems, commonly referred to as hoop houses. The application deadline is January 15, 2021. **Click here** for additional information.



## Rain Barrel Art Project

Save Local Waters sponsors the Rain Barrel Art Project to educate the public on environmental issues like storm water runoff, watersheds and water conservation. The Rain Barrel Art Project invites local artists to design and paint rain barrels that are auctioned off at the Cincinnati Zoo. To get involved or for more information, **click here**. The entry period deadline is January 14th.



## 2021 Citizens Water Quality Monitoring – You can be a citizen scientist!

As we all breathe a sigh of relief and welcome the new year, it's time to start gearing up for the 2021 water sampling season! Clean water is important for everyone, and citizen water quality monitoring plays a big role in extending the range that the Hamilton County SWCD and their partner environmental organizations are able to track. If any 'red flags' pop up, as a result, we can use that information to identify the cause and implement a solution. Additionally, we can better understand where to focus our conservation efforts on a big picture

level by gaining an understanding of the general health of entire rivers and streams, all thanks to our incredible volunteers! **Click here** to learn about how you can become a citizen scientist.



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## Gwen's Conservation Quest By: Sue Juriga

Gwen's Conservation quest.  
With her quest she is one of the best.

Her quest is to reach out to the young and old.  
In the summer's heat and the winter's cold.

There is much she shares about conservation.  
She presents the programs with great elation.

The classroom presentations can be in person and NOW virtually.  
Make sure you sign up early.

Ecosystems are one of her specialties.  
Talking about a frog life cycle or Bob and Otto are possibilities.

She reminds us that creatures need their place.  
We need to help save their space.

Keeping the habitat for Monarchs is one of her missions.  
Adding Milkweed could lead Monarchs to your garden composition.

Recycling, reuse, and reduce is one item she does discuss.  
It can take some time, but really is not much of a fuss.

All she wants is to help people save the world.  
Why not give it a twirl?

If you should see Gwen when you are out and about,  
Be sure to give her one big "CONSERVATION" shout.

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## Upcoming Events

- **February 13th**, 10am - 11:30am - Virtual State of the Streams Talk
  - Registration is required, click **here** to register.
- **March 13th**, 10am - 2pm - GMR Water Quality Monitoring Program

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### District Staff

John Nelson, Executive Director  
Susan Juriga, Administrative Assistant  
Chey Alberto, Urban Conservationist  
James Gleason, Earthwork Technician  
Olivia Maltry, Earthwork Technician  
Aaron Habig, Conservation Program Specialist  
Gwen Z Roth, Education Specialist  
Sara Fehring, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator  
Adam Lehmann, Stream Specialist  
Sarah Meadows, Public Involvement Coordinator

### NRCS

John Williams, District  
Conservationist  
Michaela Werling, Soil  
Conservationist

### Board of Supervisors

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Laura Boyd, Program Chairperson



Conservation Spotlight  
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