



HAMILTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADVANCING SOIL AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

January 2022

Conservation Spotlight



Longtime Staff Member Cruising into Retirement

With mixed emotion, we bid adieu to our very own Susan Juriga. Sue has been an integral part of the district for the last 14 years. We will miss her ability to multitask, her financial prowess, and her ability to keep projects on task. But more importantly, we will miss her smile, her willingness to help others, her tongue-in-cheek humor, and her genuine concern for each and every one of us.



But we are excited for her as she trades in her spreadsheets for cookie sheets to transition into the role of being a “full-time grandmother.” We wish her the very best as she dedicates her time to her hobbies, travel, and anything else her heart desires. With a heart filled with thanks, we bid you a bon voyage on your next journey of retirement.

P.S. We will check the back door. We promise.

-John Nelson



Welcome Mendi

The District would like to extend a warm welcome to Mendi Hartley. Mendi will be taking over the Administrative Assistant role from Susan Juriga. Mendi has over 10 years of experience as an accountant and bookkeeper. We are excited to have Mendi join the team.

2022 Spring Intern

The district is in search of a Spring Intern. This is a 15-20 hours per week position. Duties include supporting the Caring For Our Watersheds competition, staffing of public events, and other duties as assigned. Visit our **website** for additional information.



Rain Barrel Art Project

The entry period for the 2022 Rain Barrel Art Project is now open! Artwork entries are being accepted until January 21st. The goal of the Rain Barrel Art Project is to raise awareness and promote the use of rain barrels, as well as raise money for environmental education in the tri-state area. The Rain Barrel Art Project Auction will take place from April 11th - April 21st. **Click here**, to learn more about the 2022 Rain Barrel Art Project.

Upcoming Public Involvement Opportunities

Community Water Quality

Monitoring – You can be a citizen scientist! It's time to prepare for the 2022 sampling season, which begins in March. Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month between March to November to

collect and process samples. Volunteers are needed in three labs around Hamilton County (Great Miami River, Little Miami River, and Mill Creek).



Live Stake Harvest and Installation

– For the last several years, Hamilton County Conservation District and its partners have harvested and installed ‘live stakes’ along eroding streambanks. Live stakes are cut dormant branches from water-loving trees or shrubs. Volunteers will be needed to help harvest and install live stakes in late February and early March, just before spring arrives.

Click here, to learn more about these opportunities and sign up to volunteer.



NRCS Funding Opportunities for 2022

The USDA'S Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced assistance opportunities for agriculture producers and private landowners for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and several other programs.

The deadline to apply for assistance is January 14th. **Click here**, to read the full press release. Reach out to **John Williams** if you have additional questions or are interested in applying for assistance.



Agriculture Education Day

Join us for Agriculture Education Day on Thursday, April 7. Ag Ed Day is a FREE educational field trip designed for 3rd and 4th grade students in Hamilton County. Come join us at Gorman Heritage Farm (in Evendale) to learn all about food production, farm animal production, water quality, soil science, and environmental issues like

recycling. All stations have interactive exhibits with expert instructors. Ag Ed Day is sponsored by Gorman Heritage Farm, The Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Hamilton County Conservation District, Southwest Ohio FFA chapters and Hamilton County R3Source. **Click here**, for more information on Agriculture Education Day.

Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop

Saturday, February 26th
9 am - 3:30 pm
Armco Park (Lebanon)
\$10



This workshop is tailored for anyone that works with students in grades 1-5. The Project Learning Tree curriculum includes 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children to nature and increase young people's awareness and knowledge about the environment.

Click here to register.



HAMILTON COUNTY
R3SOURCE
REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

Christmas Tree Composting

Christmas trees, greenery, and yard trimmings are being accepted on Saturday, January

8th and 15th from 12 pm to 3 pm at Oakdale Elementary School, Rumpke Landfill, and Bzak Landscaping. Materials dropped off at these sites will be composted or mulched. For additional information and restrictions [click here](#).

Who Knew? By: Susan Juriga

Who knew that a man would travel halfway around the world,
and give the Hamilton County Soil Conservation District a twirl.

He has the desire to learn to be all he can be
which is truly a great trait that all should see.

The love of learning is not all that drives this being.
His willingness to share his skills and knowledge is quite freeing.

His enthusiasm for conservation has grown
beyond what anyone could have known.

The devotion he has is not just for conservation.
It is for all life, and he wants to keep it for a long duration.

He works to make things better for all involved,
and it is wonderful to see how he has made it evolve.

He is not a person you would leave on the other side of the river.
You would want to invite him over as he is a giver.

The District is lucky to have such a person.
If you have not guessed by now, it is John Nelson.

Upcoming Events

Please check our April newsletter for upcoming events.

District Staff

John Nelson, Executive Director
Susan Juriga, Administrative Assistant
Melinda Hartley, Business Service Officer
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

Scott P. Huber, Chairperson
John Mangan, Vice-Chairperson
Laura Boyd, Secretary
Kara Shirmer, Treasurer
Jane Wittke, Program Chairperson



Conservation Spotlight
(513) 772-SOIL (7645)
www.hcswcd.org

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