

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

FALL 2014



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Hamilton County Farm Bureau



6-9pm on Sept. 15th, 2014
The Farm
239 Anderson Ferry Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Come join us as we host our annual meeting with the Hamilton County Farm Bureau. Enjoy a nice dinner as you listen to the latest conservation efforts in Hamilton County.

The District has chosen the theme #CONSERVATION for this year's Annual Meeting. As part of the theme we would like to highlight the many ways our information and programs have become more accessible and user-friendly. We hope to see you and your family at the Annual Meeting.

September 15th, 2014
6:00p to 9:00p (Voting begins at 4:00p)
\$15 per adult
\$8 per child under 12, Free - Children under 5
The Farm
239 Anderson Ferry Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45238

Annual Meeting Registration

Please respond by
September 8, 2014

Pay with check or credit card
Prepayment required

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Additional Attendees Names:

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

____ No. of attendees x \$15 = \$____ Total

____ No. of Children x \$8 = \$____ Total

Please make checks
payable and mail to:
Hamilton County SWCD
22 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

For credit card payment and online
registration
visit www.hcswcd.org
and click on the registration link

HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE
AGRICULTURE & SOIL FERTILITY | EDUCATION | URBAN STREAMS
URBAN LAND MANAGEMENT & EARTHWORKS | PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMS
22 TRIANGLE PARK DR. CINCINNATI OH 45246
PHONE: 513-772-7645 | FAX 513-772-7656 | WWW.HCSWCD.ORG
EDITOR: HOLLY UTRATA-HALCOMB | DESIGN: JOHN NELSON

2014 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



Alison Gall Bristol has a bachelor's degree in History from Kenyon College and an MBA from the University of Cincinnati in finance and marketing. She is currently employed with HORAN & Associates, a local insurance and investment firm.

She is running for the Board because she would like to continue the educational programs and outreach efforts that have made the District one of the strongest conservation districts in the region. Water and soil conservation are very important for the health of all living things and Alison considers it an honor and privilege to help our county residents better understand how to enjoy and protect our precious resources. Alison resides in Indian Hill.



Scott Huber is a life-long resident of Colerain Township and for the past 20 years, he has been employed by a local civil engineering and land surveying firm providing residential and commercial land development services for a variety of projects, many of which are in Hamilton

County. While working on these types of projects, Scott has ongoing experience in dealing with the District's field staff and knows the situations they encounter on an almost daily basis. Scott looks forward to helping the District continue to solve problems and provide a balanced approach to soil and water conservation.

Scott is a Registered Professional Engineer, a Registered Professional Surveyor and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. During the summer, Scott teaches evening classes as an Adjunct Instructor at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College in the Civil Engineering Technologies Department. Scott was elected in 2012 and is seeking reelection.



Steve Johns was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2008. His work on the Board has included budget oversight and advocacy for outreach projects like the district tree sale.

Steve leads the Community

Planning Division of the Hamilton County Planning + Development Department. He was formerly the Sustainability Coordinator at the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environment & Sustainability. Prior to his work for the City, he was the Director of Citizens for Civic Renewal, a non-profit dedicated to encouraging more citizen involvement in the public affairs of Greater Cincinnati. Steve holds degrees in Community and Regional Planning; Civil Engineering; and Economics.

Steve loves to travel and explore. When exploring in Greater Cincinnati, he is amazed by the beauty of his adopted home. When traveling around the country, he is a proud booster of Cincinnati. Steve lives in the City of Cincinnati neighborhood of Hyde Park where you can find him outside gardening, exercising or just having fun with his family.



Donald Peck has worked with Duke Energy for 39 years in the Senior Control Systems Electrical Division. He currently serves on the Board of Turpin Hills Civic Association, who's mission is to maintain the security and beauty of the community. In addition, he serves on the Cincinnati Art Club Board.

He has a concern for the environment and water quality issues. He believes in educating people of all ages about the importance of water quality. Donald has recently retired and is willing to lend a hand for a better environment and looking for new opportunities to serve his community! Don currently resides in Anderson Township.



Dale Rack is a life-long resident of Hamilton County. In 1972 began in construction and excavation as a laborer & currently President of the "Rack companies"

Due to the needs of his business, he has become extremely interested in erosion control. He has received certification for Certified

Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control. Dale believes he can bring to the board of supervisors fresh ideas from the perspective of a person in the field and looks forward to the challenges and rewards it entails. He currently resides in Green Township.

OHIO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION ELECTION LEGAL NOTICE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will hold an election of Supervisors of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Hamilton County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot (available on the District's website - www.hcswcd.org). There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the annual meeting, which will take place at The Farm, 239 Anderson Ferry Road, Delhi Township, OH 45238, on September 15, 2014 from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm; (2) at the SWCD office by requesting an absentee ballot during business hours 8:00 am - 4:30 pm from August 25, 2014 to 8:00 am - 12:00 pm on September 15, 2014; (3) vote absentee by mail, requesting the proper absentee request forms from the HC-SWCD by September 11, 2014 at the following address: Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246 - phone number: 513-772-7645.

If mailing absentee ballots, the absentee ballots must be received at the District's office by Friday, September 12, 2014 at 4:30 pm.

Two (2) Supervisors will be elected. Nominees are: Alison Gall Bristol, Scott P. Huber, Steve Johns, Don Peck, and Dale Rack.

DON'T OVERLOOK SOIL TESTING AS A VALUABLE DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

After the recent heavy rains you may have noticed changes in your landscape or concern over the failing health or vigor of a tree, lawn or group of plants. This is a sign to evaluate your soil NOW. Soil testing results may help you save a tree that is suffering from nutrient deficiencies or at least rule this out as a possible cause.

Your Hamilton County SWCD offers low cost soil fertility testing through Michigan State University Soil Lab. Hamilton County residents can purchase soil test kits for only \$5.00/kit (limit two). According to Michigan State University's Smart Gardening Fact Sheet *Don't Guess - Soil Test!* there are five important reasons to test your soil.

- *Know your soil. Soil testing is an important diagnostic tool to evaluate nutrient imbalances and understand plant growth.
- *Understand. The most important reason to soil test is to have a basis for intelligent application of fertilizer and lime or sulfur.
- *pH. Testing allows homeowners to adjust soil pH to the optimum range (6.0-7.0), which makes nutrients more available for plant growth.
- *Protection of our environment. Avoid contaminants that can enter our surface and ground waters by over-application of phosphorous or nitrogen fertilizers.
- *Cost savings. Why purchase and apply what you don't need? Soil test results provide information

about the soil's ability to supply nutrients to plants for adequate growth and are the basis of deciding how much lime or sulfur and fertilizer are needed.

To find detailed information on how to purchase a soil test kit and how to take a good soil sample, go to our website. Test results should be carefully reviewed. Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator, would be happy to assist you in making cost effective and environmentally responsible fertilization and diagnostic decisions. An online resource such as www.msusoiltest.com allows you to enter soil test information from any lab, choose the crop type you want and they provide a custom fertilizer recommendation.

Soil testing is one tool in your diagnostic toolkit that should not be overlooked or underestimated to help manage plant health.



CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS IS BACK

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?”

Proposals should be approximately 1,000 words and include visuals and a budget (due March 6, 2015).

- Entries are scored by a panel of judges
- Ten finalists/teams will make a 5-minute verbal presentation at the final competition, April 25, 2015.
- 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 or contact local Program Coordinator, Gwen Z. Roth at (513) 772-7645.



FREE CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

Welcome back, we are currently scheduling programs for the 2014/15 school year. Programs are free to all schools/groups in Hamilton County with a maximum of 3 visits per school building. Check out our website for programs and scheduling options.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

WORMS, WORMS, WORMS!

October 16 at HC Recycling and Solid Waste (250 William Howard Taft Road)

4:30 - 7:30 for teachers, 6:00 - 7:30 for residents
\$20 hamilton county teachers and residents, \$35 others. Sponsored by Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste

Project Underground & Ohio Geology

October 28, 8:30 - 3:00 at Greenacres Foundation (Indian Hill) Targeted for 3rd - 5th grades. \$30.

WORMS, WORMS, WORMS!

November 15, 9:30 - 11:30 at the Soil and Water District office.

\$20 hamilton county teachers and residents, \$35 others.

Growing Up WILD!

November 8, 9:00 - 12:00p

at the Butler Soil and Water Conservation

District. Targeted for preK - 2nd grade teachers. \$20



2014 ULTIMATE EDUCATOR EXPO

Wednesday, September 10, 2:00 - 6:00

Hosted by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden in partnership with the Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE). Join us at the Zoo for the ultimate opportunity to learn about grade level appropriate training opportunities, lesson plans, field trips and tons of free stuff. FREE Zoo admission & parking; break out sessions, refreshments and door prizes just for you. To register, go to: <http://cincinnati-zoo.org/events/ultimate-educator-expo>

JOIN US AT THE GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND!

Go fossil hunting on September 28th with Niki! It's a free activity from 10a.m. until 2 p.m. at Trammel Fossil Park in Sharonville. Learn a bit about what scientists believe Ohio looked like 450 million years ago, and then set off to find your own piece of history. Options to make a play-doh and plaster mold are also available. Hope to see you there! Visit www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org for more info.

CONSTRUCTION SITE INSPECTION BASICS

By Chey Alberto

In a recent informal survey by the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) of its members about the top reasons why companies are fined under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Regulations, incomplete or no inspections ranked third on the list. Both the Ohio EPA Construction General Permit and the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations mandate that at a minimum, all sediment and non-sediment pollutant controls at a construction site must be inspected weekly and within 24 hours after any storm event greater than one half inch of rain per 24 hour period and a record be made of the inspection. At a minimum, the inspection report must include:

1. The inspection date
2. Names, titles and qualifications of personnel making the inspection
3. Weather information for the period since the last inspection
4. Weather information and a description of any discharges occurring at the time of inspection.
5. Location(s) of discharges of sediment or other pollutants from the site
6. Location(s) of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that need to be maintained
7. Location(s) of BMPs that failed to operate as designed or proved inadequate for a particular location
8. Location(s) where additional BMPs are needed that did not exist at the time of inspection
9. Corrective action required

These inspections will reveal if the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is working properly or if practices require repair or maintenance, if practices fail to provide their intended function or when practices indicated on the plans are not installed. The Earthwork and the Construction General Permits also prescribe timelines for addressing issues found during these inspections. It is the District's experience that developers and contractors that conduct the required self-inspections on their construction sites tend to have a good level of compliance. Inversely, most

violations occur on sites where nobody is conducting these inspections.

Records of these inspections must be kept at the site and must be provided to the District upon request. The permit holder must also maintain these records for three years following the filing of the Notice of Termination (NOT) for the General Construction Permit.

It is important to note that these inspections are different than the inspections conducted by the Earthwork Staff. Hamilton County as an owner and operator of storm sewers is a MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer) Community and required to comply with the 6 minimum control measures to improve water quality coming out of its storm sewers and infrastructure. One of these measures is the pre-construction component which makes sure that construction sites within its jurisdiction are implementing the erosion and sediment control practices or the stormwater pollution prevention plan. The District's inspections are being done to comply with this requirement.



Board of Supervisors
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Niki Marengo, Education Assistant
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Carrie Gibbons, Program Assistant

NRCS
John Williams, District Conservationist
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WEBSITE



NEWSLETTER



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Hamilton County
Soil & Water
Conservation District
22 Triangle Park Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45246
(513) 772-7645
www.hcswcd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Absentee Voting Begins (Details on Page 3) - Aug. 25th

Labor Day (Office Closed) - Sept. 1st

Board Meeting - Sept. 9th

Ultimate Educator Expo (Details on hcswcd.org/educate) - Sept. 10th

Annual Meeting and Election (Details on page 1) - Sept. 15th

Glendale Street Fair (Education Booth) - Sept. 27th

Fall Tree Program Pick-up (Details on hcswcd.org) - Oct. 3rd - 4th

Board Meeting - Oct. 14th

Veterans Day (Office Closed) - Nov. 11th

Thanksgiving Days (Office Closed) - Nov. 27th - 28th

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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Hamilton County Soil and Water
Conservation District
22 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411