By Gwen Roth
On Saturday, May 7, ten teams of students from Hamilton County Schools competed for over $12,000 in cash and prizes for their team and 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.

Community judges read 100 proposals and selected the top entries to compete in the finals at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. The community judges then 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.

Using the judges’ written proposal and verbal presentation scores, student’s ideas were ranked. Top 10 teams received a cash prize. Their schools also received a matching cash prize. In addition, all students are encouraged to implement their ideas with the $10,000 grant monies from Agrium, Inc.

Caring For Our Watersheds is currently offered in Canada within Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario; in the United States within Colorado, California, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, DC; in Argentina within San Antonio de Areco; and in Australia within the Glenelg Hopkins Region in Victoria.

We couldn’t be more proud of all our teams that participated.

For more information please visit http://caringforourwatersheds.com/usa/ohio/ or contact local program coordinator, Gwen Z. Roth.
2016 Ultimate Educator Expo

As teachers are wrapping up the end of the 2015-2016 school year, we’re already looking ahead to next school year with the GCEE Ultimate Educator’s Expo in September. Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, September 21.

Hosted by the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden in partnership with GCEE

Join us at the Zoo for the ultimate opportunity to learn about environmental education resources available in our community. Exhibitors from governmental, non-profit and educational organizations will provide you with grade level appropriate training opportunities, lesson plans, field trips and tons of free stuff. We offer FREE Zoo admission & parking; breakout sessions, refreshments and door prizes just for you.

To register early, go to http://cincinnatizoo.org/events/ultimate-educator-expo/
We look forward to seeing you in September!

Fall 2016 Tree Program

We have already received phone calls and emails from an excited few about the 2016 Tree Program. We are pleased to inform you that the Tree Program is back. This year we are planning a tree program in partnership with the Great Parks of Hamilton County; given both of our organization’s commitment to conserving our natural resources. We are hoping to have a larger selection of trees, over 20 different species. The trees will be priced at $25 each. We also plan on having native perennials that will add value to your gardens and help our wildlife and pollinators. There will be three pick up locations for the trees.

Like Spider Man’s Uncle said, “... great programs, comes with a great amount of planning...” We haven’t had the time to cross our T’s and dot our I’s. We hope to have more information about the sale on our website in the future. Orders will be taken in mid-July and we will have the pickup of the trees in September. In the meantime, stay tuned to our website, social media or give us a call.

PASSPORT to fishing

Saturday, June 18, 2016
8:00 - 10:00 am
Miami Whitewater Forest
9001 Mt Hope Rd, Harrison, OH 45030
Free event for ages 5 -17
(registration is required)
Register at:
www.hcswcd.org/P2F

This program provides the skills, techniques and information to allow any beginner angler to start fishing in their own community. The program consists of interactive, hands-on learning sessions. After the Passport to Fishing program, participants will be able to put their skills to the test and participate in a Kids Mystery Fish Challenge hosted by the Great Parks of Hamilton County. Refreshments and door prizes will be available.
A Great Parks annual motor vehicle pass ($10) or day motor vehicle pass ($3) will be required to access the activity site.

For more information contact:
Sara Fehring, Education Asst.
Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Sara.fehring@hamilton-co.org | 513-772-7645

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Your Partner in Conservation Since 1945
**Pond Clinic**

*Water Gardens*
*Fish Stocking*
*Pond Aeration*
*Aquatic Weed Management*
*Pond Construction & Liability*

Bring your questions and ‘wet’ weed samples

**When:**
Thursday, June 9th, 2016
6 – 8:30pm

**Where:**
Butler Soil & Water Conservation District
1802 Princeton Rd.
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

**Cost:**
Free

**Questions:**
Call 513-887-3720 or butlerswcd@butlercountyohio.org

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**Prairie and Pollinator Workshop**

SaveLocalWaters.Org and the Cincinnati Nature Center are hosting a Pollinator Workshop entitled, Pollinators: Our Friends in Need. There has been a startling reduction in the number of pollinators worldwide. These amazing creatures are integral to our eco-system and provide us with many benefits. All of us, be it backyard gardeners, homeowners or professionals can make small changes that have a consequential impact on the life cycles of our ever so giving friends - The Pollinators. Come join us for this one day workshop to see how you can make a difference at work, home and play.

**When:**
July 26, 2016
8:30am to 4:00pm

**Where:**
Cincinnati Nature Center - Krippendorf Lodge
4949 Tealtown Rd
Milford, OH 45150

**Cost:** $20 (includes lunch, refreshments and each participant will receive a free milkweed starter kit)

Visit www.SaveLocalWaters.org or call to register and more information.
Fall Cover Crop Seed
This mix includes six plant species that grow quickly, fix nitrogen, provide organic matter, suppress weeds and is winter killed. The plants include Flax, Phacelia, Tillage Radish, Oats, Austrian Winter Pea and Cow Pea. Best time to plant is late August or early September. Inter-planting between row crops works well.

Soil Testing
Soil test kits are available from the District office year round. If you want to test your soil before the seed pick up dates, come by the office. You may call or visit our website and have a test kit sent to you by mail for an additional $1.50/kit. Processing time to receive your test results is 1 – 2 weeks.

Hamilton County Landowners may purchase up to two kits/address for $5.00 ea. Additional soil test kits can be purchased for $12.00 ea. This is also the rate for out of County residents. Please place your mail orders using the below order form and make checks payable to HCSWCD. Orders may also be placed online by going to www.hcswcd.org.

**Deadline for orders: July 31, 2016.**
Orders must be picked up at our office on the following days:
August 15 & 16 – 8:00am – 5:00pm

### ORDER FORM

#### Fall Cover
(Plant between Aug. 15 & Oct. 1)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1/2lb</th>
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<th>5lb</th>
<th>10lb</th>
<th>total</th>
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<tr>
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<td>x$3</td>
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<td>x$20</td>
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#### Soil Test Kit

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<th>HC Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
<th>total</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>x$5</td>
<td>x$12</td>
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Grand Total $  

Application Rate:
1/2 lb. = 50 – 80 ft. sq. | 1 lb. = 150 – 200 ft. sq.  
5 lb. = 750 – 1,000 ft. sq.  
10 lb. = 1,500 ft. sq. – 4,000 ft. sq.

Hamilton County Resident?  
... Yes ... No

Mail completed forms and checks to:
HCSWCD  
22 Triangle Park Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45246

All orders must be prepaid.  
Order forms must reach us by July 31st.
GROW YOUR FERTILIZER WITH COVER CROPS

What are cover crops?
A cover crop is a crop that is not harvested but is grown to benefit the soil and/or other plants in a number of ways.

What are the benefits of using cover crops?
- Reduces soil erosion
- Holds minerals in the soil that may be lost during the winter
- Suppresses weed growth
- Improves air and water movement in the soil
- Supports microbial life in the soil which helps soil quality
- Cover crops contain inoculant, which is a peat moss carrier for rhizobia bacteria. The bacteria work in conjunction with the plant roots to collect atmospheric nitrogen and “fix” it to the roots.

The above schematic diagram was provided to us by our friends at the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District. As you can see there are multiple benefits of cover crops.

BOOK WORM BURROW
A BOOK REVIEW OF THE GREEN MOTHER GOOSE: SAVING THE WORLD ONE RHYME AT A TIME BY: JAN PECK AND DAVID DAVIS
Sara Fehring
For Grade Levels: K-5th

Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes go green! Jan Peck and David Davis have created a fun twist to the original Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes. They have taken favorites like This Little Piggy and Yankee Doodle and given them a ‘green’ makeover.

Thirty Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes have been revamped to cover important topics; such as, saving the earth, pollution, recycling, healthy living, solar energy and conserving natural resources. These recreated rhymes can be a fun way to introduce your students to environmental issues and solutions to the problems.

For more classroom ideas and activities please visit the Bookworm Burrow tab on our website, http://www.hcswcd.org/bookworm-burrow.html
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

Pond Clinic - June 9th @ 6pm, Butler Co. SWCD Office
   More info on Page 3

Board Meeting - June 14th, 2pm @ District Office

Office Closed - July 4th (Independence Day)

Board Meeting - July 12th, 2pm @ District Office

Kids Outdoor Expo - July 22nd, 9:30am to 3pm @ Winton Woods

Pollinator Workshop - July 26th @ Cinci Nature Center
   More info on Page 5

Board Meeting - August 9th, 2pm @ District Office

Check out our website for upcoming public events and library programs this summer.

Follow us on social media!

WEBSITE

NEWSLETTER

TWITTER

FACEBOOK

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