



HAMILTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADVANCING SOIL AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

October 2021

Conservation Spotlight

Fall Greetings!

On September 16th, the District celebrated its 76th Anniversary at Gorman Heritage Farm. We would like to thank all those who were able to come to celebrate with us. We hope you enjoyed the food, music, and farm atmosphere. During our Annual Meeting, we highlighted several partners that have been instrumental in helping us meet our mission. Here are our 2021 award winners.



Cooperator of the Year

The Cooperator of the Year award went to the University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies (UC Field Station). The UC Field Station has been a strategic partner providing a venue for public involvement opportunities, events, and workshops. The Field Station has also been instrumental in developing a relationship between district programs and the University of Cincinnati students. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.



Conservation Education Partners of the Year

The Conservation Education Partner of the Year Award went to Melissa Proffitt (Warren SWCD), Lynn White (Butler SWCD), and Kat Zelak (Clermont SWCD) for their support and partnership in developing a regional website for educators. In 2020, as the pandemic continued to move schools to remote learning and cancel all in-person programs, Melissa, Lynn, and Kat, along with Hamilton County staff, Gwen and Sara, developed a plan to pull resources and help as many teachers as possible during these very unusual times. The group worked together to build a website chock full of resources from K-12th grade teachers on many different topics. The lessons could be easily integrated into a teacher's existing Google Classroom and included online quizzes, videos, worksheets, activities, and nature breaks. Without the partnership of these amazing educators, the District may not have been able to help as many educators as they did. It is wonderful to have such great colleagues and friends in surrounding counties!!



Outstanding Urban Cooperators

The Outstanding Urban Cooperator of the Year Award goes to Rumpke Sanitary Landfill and Turner Contracting. The two companies worked together in 2021 to ensure compliance with the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations through the installation and maintenance of Earthwork Best Management Practices

Conservation Communication Award

The Conservation Communication Award goes to Lori Kay Farr. Lori has played an instrumental role in the success of the Rain Barrel Art Project. Lori has participated in the Rain Barrel Art Project as an artist for over six years and as a mentor/instructor to fellow artists for the past several years. We feel very fortunate to have Lori assist and participate in the Rain Barrel Art Project. We are happy to announce that Lori has agreed to help with the 2022 Rain Barrel Art Project.



Conservation Partner of the Year

The Conservation Partner of the Year Award goes to Rhinegeist. Rhinegeist has been a critical partner enabling the District to get thousands of "live stakes" (dormant tree cuttings) into eroding streambanks over the past two years. Live stakes must be planted while they are still dormant, so access to enough cooler space to hold thousands of cuttings each year is an essential part of the program. Over the past several years Rhinegeist has stored "live stakes" in their coolers until the weather is warm enough to plant them. The District looks forward to continuing to work with Rhinegeist in the future to provide lives stakes to Hamilton County landowners experiencing streambank erosion and to help local volunteers improve stream habitat, reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in our waterways.

at the Valley Fill Stockpile Project in Colerain Township.

Caring For Our Watersheds

CFW asks students to submit a proposal that answers the question:

"What can you do to improve your watershed?"

Students can work independently, or as a team of no more than four to research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern, and develop a realistic solution.

- Proposals should be approximately 1,000 words and include visuals and a budget: Due January 14, 2022.
- Entries are scored by a panel of judges in the following areas: realistic idea, environmental impact, clear communication, innovation, scope, budget, and visuals.
- Ten finalists/teams will get up to \$1,000 to implement their projects and then make 5-minute verbal presentations at a final competition on Saturday, April 30, 2022 (this event may move to a virtual event depending on health regulations at the time).
- 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, visit the Caring For Our Watersheds **website**.

To volunteer, please contact **Gwen**. We always need help mentoring students, reviewing proposals, inputting scores, etc. If you can help, we can find a task that fits your schedule and preferences.



Milkweed Seed Pod Collection

Pollinator species, such as the Monarch Butterflies, are experiencing population declines across the United States. To help foster the creation of Monarch Butterflies and other pollinator habitats, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat



Initiative (OPHI) is partnering with the State of Ohio's Soil & Water Conservation Districts in a Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection.

Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies in our state due to its location along the migration pattern. The Monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico

for the winter, where they will restart their life cycle and return in the spring. During September and October, everyone is encouraged to collect common Milkweed pods from established plants. It is best to pick the seed pods when they appear dry, gray, or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, this indicates that they are ready to be picked. Seed pods can be stored in paper bags. Bags must be labeled with the county of origin, the date and time along with species collected, if not common milkweed. Pods can be dropped off at the Hamilton County Conservation District by October 29th.

Spring Master Rain Gardener Course

This coming spring, the District, in partnership with several other local organizations, will be offering a Master Rain Gardener Course. During this 6-week course, participants will learn how to design and install their very own rain garden. The Master Rain Gardener certification encourages participants to become their neighborhood rain garden experts. Keep an eye on our **website** for additional course information and dates.



Video Editing Workshop

Hamilton County Conservation District is offering a two-day Video Production 101 workshop. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 27th from 9 am-noon. Participants will need to bring a laptop, camera, or phone with video recording capabilities, and will need to

download a free video editing application on their laptop called kdenlive.org. **Click here** for additional information and to register. The registration fee is \$10.

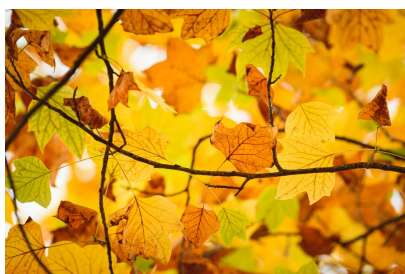
Cincinnati High Tunnel Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers the Cincinnati High Tunnel Initiative (CHTI) to those interested in growing produce in the greater Cincinnati area. The CHTI allows growers to apply for financial and technical assistance for high tunnel systems, commonly referred to as hoop houses. To learn more about high tunnels or to apply for a high tunnel, contact Michaela Werling by phone (513-



2022 Rain Barrel Art Project

Save Local Waters is excited to launch the 9th year of the Rain Barrel Art Project. The entry period for the Rain Barrel Art Project opens on November 9th and closes on January 21st. For additional information on the Rain Barrel Project and the tentative timeline, visit the Save Local Waters **Website**. If you have any questions regarding the Rain Barrel Art Project, **email** Sara Fehring.



Spectacular Fall Color Predicted in Ohio This Year

Are you a “leaf peeper?” This is a person who travels in the fall to see nature’s show that is the leaves turning a kaleidoscope of colors. Good news for leaf peepers in Ohio, you can stay home this year! ODNR Fall Color Foresters have predicted an

especially good year for enjoying the bright array of colors here in our home state, expected to peak mid-to-late October. Read the rest of the article **here** to learn more about leaf color change

Household Hazardous Products Drop-Off

The Hamilton County R3SOURCE is once again hosting a household hazardous products drop-off event on Saturday, October 23rd, from 8 am to 1 pm in Madisonville. **Registration for this event is required**, and space is limited. The specific drop-off location will be provided after registration. Some acceptable items include batteries, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, lead paint cleaners, used motor oil, and pool chemicals. For the entire list of accepted materials, visit their **website**.



Blessed with the Best By: Susan Juriga

Hamilton County Soil and Water has been blessed with two of the best conservation members with the name of Sara or Sarah and both have great zest.

It can be difficult when staff members have the same name.

To delineate these staff members, we use Sara without an "h" or with an "h" to end the guessing game.

Both have a part in reaching the public to explain the importance of the District's mission.

It does come easy for both of these individuals as they hold conservation in a strong position.

The tools they use to convey their conservation message can be of any kind. They have used, videos, websites, flyers, events, workshops, and programs are some that come to mind.

For each Sara(h) will wear a smile every day,
and share their knowledge of the best conservation way.

Sara without an "h" has plenty of poultry knowledge and is ready to give her great chicken shows.

Sara with an "h" is learning all about Ohio fishes and will share what she knows. Their message can be informative and entertaining,
They do their best to present in a way that does not need much explaining.

As conservation is important to them in saving all life,
which includes human, plant, and wildlife.

The District is lucky to have Sara without an "h" and with "h" on staff
Because they keep honing their skills and knowledge to share their craft.

Upcoming Events

Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week

October 17th - 23rd

Video Editing Workshop

October 20th and 27th, 9 am-noon

Anderson Center

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

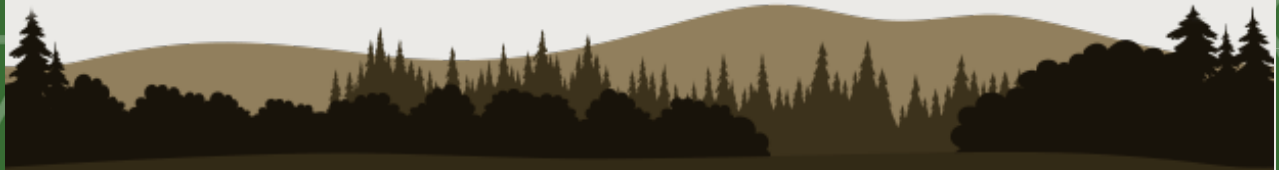
NRCS

John Williams, District
Conservationist
Michaela Werling, Soil
Conservationist

Board of Supervisors

Jane Wittke, Chairperson

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



Conservation Spotlight
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