



HAMILTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADVANCING SOIL AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Conservation Spotlight

October 2022

Board of Supervisors Election Results



We would like to congratulate Lisa Soper and Steven R. Korte on their election to the Board of Supervisors. Their three-year terms will begin in January 2023.

2022 Award Winners

On Monday, September 27th the District hosted its Annual Meeting and Open House. We welcomed over 70 guests to the office, it was a record year! We would like to thank everyone who stopped by to say hi, network with staff and partners, and vote in the Board of Supervisors election. During the Annual Meeting and Open House, we highlighted six partners who have been instrumental in 2022 District operations. Photos of each of the 2022 award winners can be found below.



Conservation Communication Award
Todd Coriell and Jason McClure
Hamilton County Telecommunications



Conservation Partner of the Year
Dave Gamsetter
Davey Resource Group



Educator of the Year
Tonya Nkhata
Loveland High School



Cooperator of the Year
Jason Petty
Sycamore Twp., Public Works Dept.



Urban Cooperator of the Year
4 Horizons Group



Conservation Partner of the Year
OKI Regional Council of Governments

Artists Needed For the 2023 Rain Barrel Art Project

All artists, including students and seasoned professionals, are invited to apply to be a part of the 11th annual Rain Barrel Art Project, an initiative designed to educate the community about water conservation and pollution caused by stormwater runoff. The Rain Barrel Art Project is a joint effort of SaveLocalWaters and

the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

As part of this initiative, students and other community members throughout the Ohio River Valley are asked to submit artistic designs to beautify otherwise dull rain barrels that are then displayed at the Cincinnati Zoo during the month of April and auctioned off to raise funds for conservation education.

Artists who wish to learn more about the Rain Barrel Art Project and wish to submit a design for consideration can visit **SaveLocalWaters.org**. All entries and artwork must be submitted by Dec. 16, 2022.



You can also be involved in the Rain Barrel Art Project by helping prepare the barrels for paint. Prior to the artists receiving the barrels, they are sanded and primed. There are forty barrels that need to be prepped and we could use some help! On Saturday, October 15th from 9 am - 4 pm SaveLocalWaters is hosting a barrel prep workshop. **Click here**, for additional information.

Soil Fertility Test Kits

Many think that spring is the best time to test the fertility of your soil. However, there are several benefits to testing in the fall.

- Quicker turnaround time.
- More time to plan for spring.
- When spring rolls around you are ready to apply the recommended nutrients.

The District partners with PennState Extension to offer low-cost soil fertility testing to Hamilton County residents.

Soil fertility testing is the only way to know how much and what types of nutrients your soil needs. By testing your soil and only applying the nutrients your soil needs, you are preventing excess fertilizer from running off and ending up in our streams. Visit our **website** to learn more about soil fertility testing and how to receive a test kit.



Caring For Our Watersheds

It's once again time for high school students all over the state of Ohio to start thinking about what they could do to help their local environment.

Caring For Our Watersheds asks students all over

Ohio 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 20, 2023.
- Entries are scored by a panel of judges in the following areas: realistic idea, impact potential, clear communication, innovation, budget, visuals, and connection to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ten finalists/teams will receive up to \$1,000 to implement their projects and then make a 5-minute verbal presentation at a final competition on Saturday, May 6, 2023.
- All finalists win cash rewards (up to \$1,000) 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.

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 butterfly, are experiencing population declines across the United States. To help foster the creation of Monarch habitats, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is partnering with Ohio's Soil & Water Conservation Districts in a Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection starting September 1st – November 15th.

Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies as it serves as a host plant for caterpillars. In Ohio, because of our location along the monarch's migration route, it's critical to have milkweed planted throughout the state. The Monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter, where they will continue their life cycle and return in the spring.



From September 1st through November 15th 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 before they pop open. 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, labeled with the county from which they came, the date and species collected, if not common milkweed. Pods can be dropped off at the Hamilton Conservation District at 1325 E Kemper Road, #115, Monday - Friday 8:00a - 4:00p. Check out our **website** for more information.

Stormwater Awareness Week - October 16 - 22

Stormwater Awareness Week is a regional effort that encourages communities (and the groups that care about them) to raise stormwater awareness via newsletters and social media posts or with fun and educational events. To find out what you can do at home or work to help keep our water clean, visit the Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week **website**.



We are Hiring!

The District is looking for two highly motivated and talented individuals to join the team!

Design Technician 1 - Part Time

\$22.55/hr.

20 hrs. max per week.

The Design Technician is primarily responsible for conducting site inspections, documentation, and on-site meetings to determine compliance with the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations.

Seasonal Intern/Coop Position

\$16.00/hr.

15-20 hrs. per week.

The Seasonal Intern will assist with the planning and coordination of the 2023 Caring For Our Watersheds competition as well as assist in the staffing of occasional public event displays on weekends and evenings.

For additional information on the positions and to apply to visit our **website**.

Upcoming Events

October 27th - Madeira Farmers Market

November 11th - Office Closed

November 24th - 25th - Office Closed

December 26th - Office Closed

January 2nd - Office Closed

District Staff

John Nelson, Executive Director

Melinda Hartley, Business Service Officer

Chey Alberto, Urban Conservationist

James Gleason, Earthwork Technician II

Haley Golsch, Earthwork Technician I

Aaron Habig, Conservation Program Specialist

NRCS

John Williams, District Conservationist

Michaela Werling, Soil Conservationist

Edwin Sanchez, Soil Conservationist

Gwen Z Roth, Education Specialist
Sara Fehring, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
Adam Lehmann, Stream Specialist
Sarah Meadows, Public Involvement Coordinator

Board of Supervisors

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



Conservation Spotlight
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www.hcswcd.org

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