

ON THE LAND

CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LEADING CONSERVATION IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE



Summer 2009

Life Beneath My Lawn: How Burrowing Soil Critters Help

Soil critters, such as ants and earthworms, improve soil habitat and function by burrowing. Ants and earthworms create void spaces that allow for air and water movement. Ants can invert soil profiles by bringing subsoil material to the surface. Earthworms eat their way through soil, and can ingest 2 to 30 times their own weight in soil in a single day. Ingested soil is expelled as globular aggregates that are significantly higher in available plant nutrients.

In compacted soils, such as the ones we have in metropolitan areas, burrows from soil critters offer a path of



little resistance through otherwise dense soil layers. Roots growing down burrows are able to explore deeper depths for water and nutrients.

During periods of heavy

rainfall, burrows from soil critters may greatly increase the infiltration of water and play a role in maintaining water quality. Soil critters are a vital component to maintaining lawn and landscaping health, and in turn improving and maintaining soil quality.

More information about soil biology and the benefits of these soil ecosystem engineers can be viewed at http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/concepts/soil_biology/biology.html



Nature Preserve

"Migration Mania"

at the

Dike 14 Nature Preserve

Saturday, September 26

(rain or shine)

at Cleveland Lakefront State Park

7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Explore the one mile trail - self-guided hikes
An Opportunity To Get Onto The Site
(FREE!)*

Sponsored by

Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative

For more information contact

Chris Trepal at 216-281-6468 x227

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 22 - RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP (BROOKLYN HEIGHTS)
- SEPTEMBER 26 - DIKE 14 OPEN HOUSE
- OCTOBER 7 - QUAD COUNTY ENVIROTHON
- OCTOBER 22 - 60TH ANNUAL MEETING

WWW.CUYAHOGASWCD.ORG

SAVE THE RAIN FOR A SUNNY DAY!!!

Open enrollment for Rain Barrel Workshop

If you live in the Euclid Creek Watershed or surrounding communities and want to attend a rain barrel workshop, please contact Claire Posius at 216/524-6580, x16 or cposius@cuyahogaswcd.org with your contact information (name, email, phone number). Once 30 people have expressed interest in a workshop, the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator will schedule a workshop for the interested residents. Otherwise, see www.cuyahogaswcd.org for a list of scheduled workshops elsewhere in the County!



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fred Cash, Sr.
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Michael Emancipator
Ruth Skuly, *Chair*

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Rocky River Watershed Coordinator

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Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator

Amy Roskilly
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Lisa Vavro
Storm Water Specialist II

NRCS STAFF

Jim Storer
District Conservationist

Cuyahoga SWCD Awarded Grant to Conduct Storm Water Retrofit Opportunities Inventory



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has awarded Cuyahoga SWCD \$98,000 through its Sustain Our Great Lakes grant program. The funding, provided by USEPA and ArcelorMittal, will be utilized to conduct a storm water retrofit opportunities inventory in the Rocky River subwatersheds of Abram Creek and Baldwin Creek, and in the Euclid Creek watershed. The project will advance restoration in the targeted watersheds by identifying locations with non-existent or inadequate storm water treatment, determine what treatment practices could be installed at those sites, and develop

designs for the highest identified priorities. The ongoing implementation of the prescribed Best Management Practices (BMPs) will lead directly to water quality and stream habitat improvements. Additionally, a pilot residential storm water BMP incentive program will be deployed in a 750 acre catchment in the Upper Abram Creek watershed in Middleburg Heights. This program will provide financial incentives for homeowners to implement practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and soil fertility analysis.

Jared Bartley, Rocky River Watershed Coordinator, expresses his excitement for the rain barrels installed at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds!



Join us for
**ROCKY RIVER
WATERSHED WEEKS**
September 15 - October 15
Learn about the Rocky River at
events throughout the watershed
www.myrockyriver.org

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

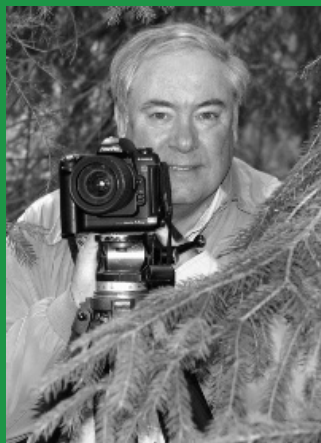
60th Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election

Celebrating 60 years of conservation!

October 22, 2009

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Don Umerley Civic Center
21018 Hilliard Drive
Rocky River, OH 44116



Welcome by Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst

Keynote Speaker

IAN ADAMS

*A Photo Tour of Ohio's
Natural Areas & Preserves*

Ian Adams is an environmental photographer, writer and teacher specializing in natural, rural, historical and garden areas in and around Ohio. Seventeen books of his photography have been published, and his recent books include *Backroads of Ohio* and *Cuyahoga Valley National Park*. Ian has produced more than 65 sole-photographer Ohio calendars for Browntrout Publishers, and conducted more than 150 seminars and workshops in nature and garden photography.



Tickets: \$20 - Dinner included
Reservations are required

For more information, call 216/524-6580, ext. 10

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tickets _____ Make checks payable to Cuyahoga SWCD
and return to 6100 W. Canal Rd. Valley View, OH 44125
Please RSVP by October 16, 2009

ON THE LAND

CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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*Conserving land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education and technical assistance.
An equal opportunity employer and provider*

ELECTION 2009

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, located in all 88 counties, are legal subdivisions of Ohio's government providing natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The district is partially funded by Cuyahoga County Commissioners with supplemental funding from Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Any resident 18 years of age or older who resides within the county can seek election to the SWCD board of supervisors.

The Nominating Committee presents **Kathleen Bradley**, **Fred Cash**, and **Ruth Skuly** as candidates for two open positions. Please take a moment to read their biographies so you can make an informed decision.

Ballots may be cast at the Annual Meeting and Election on October 22 or by absentee ballot. Contact the office at 216-524-6580, ext. 10 or visit www.cuyahogawcd.org for details and full biographies of the candidates.



Ms. Kathleen Bradley is an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, certified in 2008 through Holmes County Chapter of OSU-Extension. She currently serves on the board of the Rocky River Watershed Council. Ms. Bradley worked as a volunteer macroinvertebrate monitor for the Cleveland Metroparks, the Cuyahoga SWCD, and others for 20 years, and is now certified as a qualified data collector for lakes and streams through the Ohio EPA.



Mr. Frederick Cash is a partner with the engineering firm of CT Consultants, Inc. He has been with the firm for over 24 years and serves as Project Manager under the Municipal Engineering Division. Mr. Cash is currently the Cuyahoga SWCD's Vice Chairman; and was appointed by Governor Ted Strickland to the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) in 2007 for a 4 year term.



Dr. Ruth Skuly is completing her third term on the Board. Currently the chair, she has served as treasurer and vice chair. She headed the development of the Strategic Plan and has helped with community outreach. She is completing her sixth year as a director of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Dr. Skuly is a former science teacher and Cleveland schools administrator.