

ON THE LAND

CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LEADING CONSERVATION IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE



Summer 2011

Soil pH: Essential Test for Urban Gardens & Landscaping

A key consideration for establishing and maintaining urban gardens and landscaping is soil pH. Soil pH is an expression of the degree of soil acidity and alkalinity. Soils with lower pH (<7) are more acid, higher pH (>7) are more alkaline, and pH 7 are neutral. At lower pH, Aluminum (Al), Iron (Fe) and Manganese (Mn) are more soluble and can be concentrated enough to be toxic to plants. To neutralize soil acidity, **liming materials** (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/4000/4026.html>) can be applied. With higher pH, elements such as Al, Fe and Mn become less soluble and less toxic. However, as pH rises above neutral, Fe, Mn and other micronutrients can

become less plant available and can lead to micronutrient deficiencies.

Micronutrient deficiencies in alkaline soils can be a problem for some plants, but plant selection and **acid-forming amendments** (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/agf-fact/0507.html>), such as sulphur, can be easily applied to meet one's needs.

To ensure that your urban garden and landscaping meets your needs, be sure to check the soil pH with a soil test.

When thinking about plants, check with local nurseries. For specialty plants that are good for wet enhanced swales, wet extended detention, and

storm water wetlands, consider arrowhead and pickerel rush; both of which are available at William Tricker, Inc. (<http://www.tricker.com/>).

For plants that prefer drier conditions including bio-retention cells, dry enhanced swales and backyard rain gardens, check with local garden centers or Ohio Prairie Nursery (<http://www.ohioprairienursery.com/shoppingcart/>).

Contact Cathi Lehn at clehn@cmnh.org for information about the native plants being promoted for use in this area.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SEPT. 8 - STORM WATER SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN AREAS - *CALL FOR INFO!*
- SEPT. 8, 6:30 P.M. PUBLIC MEETING- WILDWOOD STATE PARK RESTORATION PROJECT AT EUCLID HOSPITAL WALTZ AUDITORIUM
- SEPT. 14 - RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP, N. OLMSTED - *CALL TO REGISTER*
- SEPT. 14 - RAIN WATER HARVESTING AS A STORM WATER PRACTICE (WEBCAST AT SWCD OFFICE)
- SEPT. 21 - CELEBRATE CONSERVATION, SWCD ANNUAL MEETING - *PAGE 3*
- SEPT. 24 - CLEVELAND LAKEFRONT NATURE PRESERVE-FALL OPEN HOUSE. 7:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. *FREE!*
- NOV. 16 - STREAM RESTORATION WEBCAST AT SWCD OFFICE

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (Dike 14)

It's official: the 88 acres adjacent to Gordon Lakefront State Park, that was a barren mudflat in 2000, has transformed into an Important Bird Area and Wildlife habitat and will soon be open to the public on a limited basis. As stated by Port Authority President, Will Friedman, "we are working to open the

nature preserve for people to enjoy."

The **Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve** provides sweeping views of Lake Erie and Cleveland's downtown skyline, along with opportunities to spot over 240 species of birds and amazing butterflies throughout the year. It will

provide a great space for environmental education and nature activities.

Come visit during the fall **Open House on Saturday, September 24th from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Meet at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park Office, 8701 Lakeshore Blvd. **No pets permitted on site.**



Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority President Will Friedman addresses members of the Cuyahoga County Council about the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

ELECTION 2011



Jim Storer,
District
Conservationist

**Retirement
Congratulations**

After serving as a USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist for 28 years, Jim Storer has retired. He started working in Ohio on April 1, 1983 and his workload was primarily urban. Since that time he has written over 1,000 reports covering 20,458 parcels of land with various urban conservation issues. He assisted communities to pass and utilize ordinances to control storm water and sediment from construction sites and served on the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and other area wide environmental planning committees for over 20 years. Best wishes to Jim and his family!

inducted into the association's Hall of Fame. Keith resides in Seven Hills.

Vote for your favorite candidates at the Conservation Day and Annual Meeting on Wed., September 21 or call 216-524-6580, ext. 10 for absentee ballot information.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, located in all 88 counties, are political subdivisions of the state that provide natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The Cuyahoga SWCD is currently funded through municipal appropriations and funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil and Water Resources. Each SWCD is administered by a board of five locally elected supervisors. Each year any resident 18 years of age or older who resides within the county may vote in the election of SWCD supervisors (board members).

The Nominating Committee presents **Patricia Carey of University Heights, Keith Linn of Seven Hills and Thomas Marsalis of Mayfield Village** as candidates for two open positions. Residents of Cuyahoga County may vote for their favorite candidates by absentee ballot or in person at the Conservation Day event on September 21, 2011 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Lakewood City Park Women's Pavilion. Contact the office at 216/524-6580, ext.10 to request an absentee ballot or visit cuyahogawcd.org for the required request form and instructions and the latest Conservation Day information.



Patricia Carey
Patricia Carey is completing her 2nd term on the Cuyahoga SWCD Board of Supervisors. She serves as president of the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council, which is comprised of Soil and Water representatives and citizens at-large who leverage national, local and private funding for natural resource projects, such as protecting river banks and teaching Hispanic immigrants to raise food for family and local markets. Her recent positions have included director of the Cuyahoga Valley Regional Council of Governments, N. E. Ohio Director of Greater Ohio, and executive director of NORA. Her priorities are good land-use for healthy and sustainable communities, abundant natural resources and clean water. Pat resides in University Heights.



Keith Linn
Keith Linn graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Heidelberg College. He was employed by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District as the agency's first Supervisor of Environmental Assessment and, later, as an Environmental Specialist in its Water Quality & Industrial Surveillance department. Mr. Linn often spent time raising public awareness of water quality issues and was an advocate for responsible environmentalism. Over the years, he served on and chaired numerous committees. His involvement included the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan, the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative, the Regional Environmental Priorities Project, and the Water Environment Research Foundation. Mr. Linn chaired the Water Quality Committee of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and, after his retirement in 2010, he was



Thomas Marsalis
Tom Marsalis received a Bachelor of Science from Cleveland State University. He retired from the City of Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control in 2009 where he served as Deputy Commissioner, and supervised all areas of sewer maintenance, including personnel,

budget, vehicle maintenance, engineering, construction, inspection, customer service, outreach, sewer repair, sewer cleaning, and the Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance program. He served as the City of Cleveland's representative on the Cuyahoga RAP Technical Committee since 1990 and was an active member of the Northeast Ohio Storm Water Task Force that proposed storm water activities for communities to comply with

the USEPA Storm Water mandated requirements. He also wrote the City of Cleveland Storm Water Compliance Permit application and the annual reports. He has lectured on storm water controls at conferences locally, nationally, and abroad. In addition, Tom has been involved in coordinating public events, including the Big Creek clean up and City of Cleveland Public Works Day. Tom resides in Mayfield Village.

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District
**62nd Annual Meeting & Celebrate
 Conservation Day**



Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion

14532 Lake Road (at Belle Avenue)

2:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.

Join us for one or all of these **fun, family-friendly educational events** featuring:

2:30pm - Presentation on "Birds, Bees & Butterflies"

3:30pm - Rain Gardens/Native Plants
 Watch or help install a rain garden in Lakewood Park

4:30pm - All About Soils - Make it to eat it environmental craft for kids!!
 Soil never tasted so good!!

5:00pm - Rain Barrel Workshop - Save the rain for a sunny day!!
 (Registration required)

Refreshments Served

**Cuyahoga SWCD
 Supervisor Election**

Five volunteer board members oversee the operations of the Cuyahoga SWCD. Each year candidates are solicited to run for the Board of Supervisors and the public is encouraged to participate in their election. Voting takes just a few minutes and will take place between 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the event. Check our website for candidate information.

Conservation Day 2011 is possible due to the support of our sponsors and conservation partner agencies:

**City of Lakewood ▪ Container Compliance Corporation,
 Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau ▪ LEAP for Biodiversity**

To register for one or all of the events, please call 216-524-6580, ext. 10

Visit www.cuyahogawcd.org for the latest information

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*Conserving land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education, and technical assistance.
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Wildwood State Park-Euclid Creek Restoration Project Public Meeting

- ◆ **Thursday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. in Euclid Hospital Main Building Waltz Auditorium.**

Listen to the project consultant's concept plan for stream and wetland restoration on lower Euclid Creek and provide your feedback about this project that is funded through the US EPA.

For more details see the project websites at www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm

All Euclid Creek events are posted on the website:

- ◆ **Saturday, September 10 – Third Annual Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup – Wildwood State Park from 9 a.m.-Noon.**

Join Friends of Euclid Creek and learn more about how to get involved with civic minded conservationists!

friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net

Contact: Claire Posius at 216-524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org for questions

School Scoops

October 4

Quad County Envirothon High School Students needed!!

Sharpen your skills at this practice Envirothon to prepare for the Spring 2012 competitive event.

October 14

Project WET and Rain Barrel Teachers Workshop

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center - Bay Village

Call Amy at 216/524-6580, ext. 22 to register or for more information on these events.

