



ON THE LAND

WINTER 2014

TURNING THE PAGE



The past thirteen years has resulted in significant growth for the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. Our historical assistance in providing conservation education and technical assistance related to erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention has become more important than ever. Since 2003, our agency has collaborated with twenty-five communities within the county to deliver conservation programs that help those communities meet

the requirements of their Clean Water Act permits. Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District staff provides technical assistance to community staff, private landowners and other professionals, education programs to residents, homeowners, teachers, and students throughout Cuyahoga County, and our watershed staff works to improve conditions and raise awareness in both the Rocky River and Euclid Creek watersheds. This year we created a new look including a new website, logo, and more unified outreach materials to offer to the public. Check out our new website and keep an eye out around town for our new look.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JAN 23
11:00 AM

Year of Clean Water Kickoff
Cleveland, OH

JAN 29
7:00 PM

Rocky River Watershed Council Annual Meeting
Brunswick, OH

MAR 26
6:30 PM

Green Cleaning for Inside & Out
Parma, OH

MAR 31
6:30 PM

New Year, New Yard: Alternatives to the 'Perfect' Green Lawn
Beachwood, OH

APR 19
ALL DAY

Earth Day at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
Berea, OH

For more information, or to register, visit our website at www.cuyahogawcd.org or call 216.524.6580

ADOPT A LOW (ROAD) SALT HABIT!



Salt, as harmless as it sounds, is a chemical that can harm both our personal health and that of our local creeks and streams.

Road salt (sodium chloride) is most commonly used to remove ice from roads, parking lots and sidewalks.

As snow and ice melts, road salt is carried into our lakes, streams and wetlands, where just one teaspoon can permanently pollute five gallons of water.

Here are other impacts road salt can have on our environment:

- At high concentrations, chloride is toxic to fish and insects.
- At lower levels, chloride can negatively affect the fish and insect populations by reducing reproduction and survival rates of young.
- Direct road salt splash can kill plants and grass.
- Sodium in road salt can destroy soil stability, decreasing the ability of the soil to filter water, and increasing soil erosion.

Here are some tips for using road salt wisely:

- Shovel (and use the right tool for the job). The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be when you do use it.
- 15°F is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.
- For best results, apply salt to cleared surfaces. The salt crystals should not overlap but be spread out a few inches apart.
- More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than 4 pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet (and average parking spot is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug.
- Sweep up extra. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away into your local streams thru a storm drain or ditch system.
- Even if the de-icer says it's safe for pets - look at the ingredients! Calcium and magnesium chloride can burn their paws. Use a product with glycol or just use sand. And when you take your animals on a walk, cover their feet and/or wash them off after a walk.

For more information, go to www.youtube.com and search for 'Improved Water Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water.'

Annual Meeting And Board Supervisor Election



This year's annual meeting was a 'farm to table' reception with food prepared by the students at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center.

This year's annual meeting was a 'farm to table' reception with food prepared and served by the students at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. The event was co-sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, NEO Restoration Alliance and local farmers. In addition to the amazing food the students prepared, attendees enjoyed a slide show of the district's projects and listened to Janelle Mead, Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture speak on Ohio's century farms.



Two new board supervisors, Ted Esborn and Jeremiah Swetel, who will start their terms in January 2015.

Our supervisor election was held and we'd like to welcome two new board supervisors, Ted Esborn and Jeremiah Swetel, who will start their terms in January 2015. Ted Esborn is the Mayfield Village Economic Development Director, a role which requires him to build municipal revenue through attraction and retention of businesses, and to seek outside funding through grants and loans. Jeremiah Swetel has been working for the City of Euclid in their Engineering/Public Service Department. He was recently named the research and compliance manager for the City of Euclid's waste water treatment plant.

Thank you to Patricia Carey, Joyce Hairston and Ken Messinger-Rapport who also ran for the two open positions on our board of supervisors.

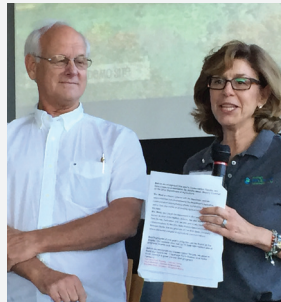
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONSERVATION HEROES



Janine Rybka, District Administrator, (left) awarding Conservationist of the Year to Elva Edger.



Janine Rybka, District Administrator, (left) awarding Cooperator of the Year to Carl Skalak, Jr.



Janine Rybka, District Administrator, (right) awarding Volunteer of the Year to Robert Kestranek.

Thank you for all you do for our district and our community.

Lastly, we recognized two of Ohio's Century Farms—Foote Valley Farms and Maple Crest Farm. Thank you to everyone who attended our event and particularly the staff and students at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center.



Janine Rybka (far right) and Janelle Mead (far left) recognizing two of Ohio's Century Farms for their contributions to conservation.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ruth Skuly, Chair
Howard Maier
Patricia Carey
Tom Marsalis
Keith Linn

DISTRICT STAFF

Janine Rybka,
District Administrator
Jared Bartley,
Rocky River Watershed Coordinator
Brent Eysenbach,
Storm Water Program Coordinator
Gloria Kestranek,
Administrative Assistant
Eric Lance,
Storm Water Specialist
Claire Posius,
Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Carla Regener,
Storm Water Specialist
Amy Roskilly,
Conservation Education Specialist
Brian White,
Urban Conservationist
Lynette Harmon,
District Conservationist, NRCS
Alfonso Norwood,
Urban Conservationist, NRCS

SAVE THE DATE

**New Year, New Yard:
Alternatives to the
'perfect' green lawn**

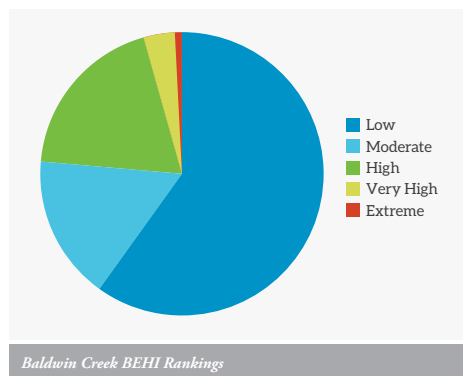
March 31, 2015

Beachwood Community Center
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Author Anita Sanchez will talk about her book "Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion."

Event sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education Committee.

Rocky River Watershed



This summer Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD) performed streambank erosion assessments in the Baldwin Creek subwatershed to prioritize erosion prevention projects. The work was supported by a Great Lakes Commission

grant that will help prevent sedimentation in the Rocky River watershed.

Over ten stream miles were assessed with the help of a CSWCD intern and Cleveland Metroparks volunteers. We used the Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) protocol to assess the entire main stem of Baldwin Creek as well as targeted tributaries. BEHI is a rapid assessment protocol that Cleveland Metroparks staff adapted for our local streams. By looking at streambank protection (roots, vegetation, natural armoring like embedded boulders or bedrock), streambank angle, stratification, and streambank materials you can quickly score a bank and rank it as having low to extreme potential for erosion. Notably, 24% of banks assessed were ranked high to extreme. Total streambank erosion for Baldwin Creek was estimated to be over 5400 tons of sediment per year.

Using mapping tools and the BEHI results from this summer we are in the process of prioritizing areas for streambank stabilization projects. Property owners in prioritized parcels will be contacted and offered cost-share money to implement streambank stabilization projects targeting the restoration of 2,500 feet.

Euclid Creek Watershed



Euclid Creek Streamside Tree and Shrub Program—Get Free Trees!

The Euclid Creek Streamside Tree and Shrub Program is just around the corner, so sign up for your trees and shrubs today! If you live or own property on the Euclid Creek or one of its tributaries, we want to give you tree and shrub seedlings to

plant in the riparian buffer (streamside setback area). Seedlings will be distributed to program participants in April of 2015. All streamside property owners in the Euclid Creek watershed are encouraged to apply.

Planting trees and shrubs along our streams is one of the easiest and most important actions you can take to help improve water quality and aquatic habitat in the watershed. In addition to their beauty, streambanks vegetated with trees and shrubs stabilize stream banks, filter nutrients and sediment from storm water, decrease storm water runoff and increase property values.

If you have questions or wish to enroll in the program, please contact Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, at 216-524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org.

This project is funded through the Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is supported by the citizens of Ohio through the purchase of the Lake Erie License Plate.

Sign up for free trees and shrubs today for your Euclid Creek property!



OHIO FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAMP

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District provides annual scholarships to the Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp. Scholarships are awarded to high school students who are sincerely interested in conservation issues and enjoy a good walk in the woods. It is a unique experience that exposes students to the great outdoors and to possible careers in forestry, conservation and natural resource protection. The Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, is a week-long resident camp that is held in June at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County. Camp concentrates on forest ecology including silviculture, tree identification, and forestry products. It is primarily an academic program, but there are excellent

facilities for swimming, softball, and other recreational activities. Students must be 15 years of age by June and have completed 8th grade. The camp is about a 1.5 hour drive from Cleveland, east of Tuscarawas County.

For more information on the Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp visit www.ohioforest.org and for information and a scholarship application for our 2015 camp visit our website at www.cuyahogawcd.org or call Amy Roskilly at 216/524-6580, ext. 22.

It's not too early to plan for next summer's camp.



Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camper, Bradley Sprau

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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www.cuyahogawcd.org

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Cleveland, OH

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“Before I went to camp I couldn’t identify any trees. Through the classes and study sessions that I went to during free time, I was able to successfully identify all twenty leaves on the exam...Through this camp and talking to the instructors, I think I want to pursue some type of career in one of these fields.”

—Bradley Sprau, Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camper

Conserving land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education, and technical assistance.

An equal opportunity employer and provider.

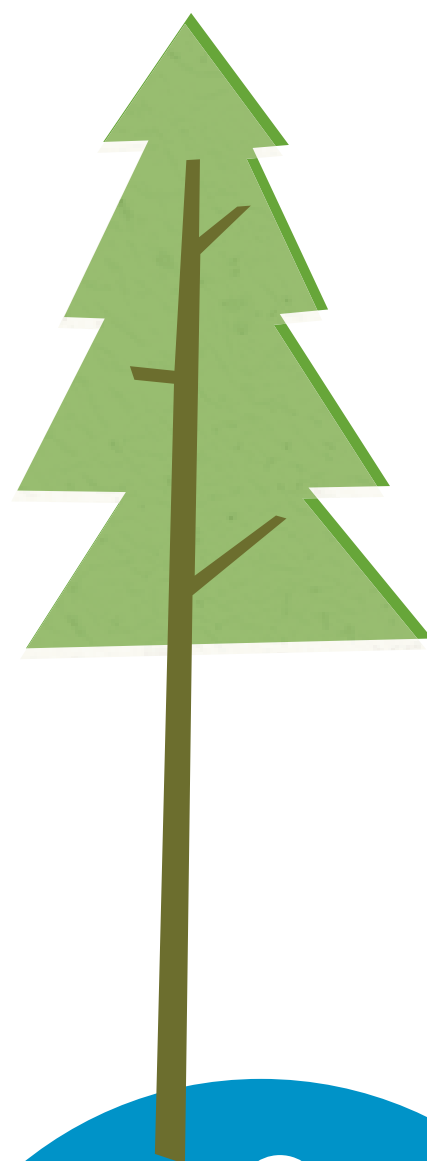
Like the newsletter, but hate the paper?

Read it online at:

www.cuyahogawcd.org

Or get on our email list by sending your email to:

gkestranek@cuyahogawcd.org



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conservation district