



# ON THE LAND

## FALL 2022

## Putting Your Garden to Bed in the Fall

For maximum wildlife, water quality and soil health benefits, leave your flower beds and other landscaping in place this Fall. The only thing you need to remove is any diseased material

and throw it away in a garbage can. Do not compost it.

Leaving the leaves and decaying material adds organic matter to your soil and feeds the beneficial microbes over the winter. Use a mulching mower to break up leaves that are on your lawn.

If you need to rake leaves to the curb for community pick-up, wait until just before collection day to avoid any leaves

going into the storm drain. Storm drains lead to our creeks, streams and rivers. Decaying leaves use up the water's oxygen, harming animals that live in the water.

*Only Rain  
Down the Drain*

**Contact: Amy Roskilly**  
**216/524-6580, ext. 1005**  
**[aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org)**



### STALKS AND STEMS

In addition to providing texture to the fall and winter garden, plants left standing are an excellent source of food and shelter for birds and other animals

### LEAVE THE LEAVES

Leaf litter, grass clippings, and other dead materials supply nutrients and organic matter to your soil. It is also habitat for burrowing critters and helps keep the soil moist and regulate soil temperature.

### ROOTS HELP YOUR SOIL

Leave your plants in the ground through the fall and winter. Keeping the root system in place builds healthy soil structure that better infiltrates stormwater while providing much needed organic matter.



## Envirothon: An Opportunity for Students to Explore Environmental Careers

Do you know a high school student excited about exploring natural resource issues and careers? Are the students in your environmental science or biology clubs looking for resume boosting, real world experience? Envirothon is a great place for your students to meet adults who are interested in sharing their passion for and knowledge of careers that are in high demand.

Now is a great time to form teams and start preparations for the 2023 regional Envirothon competition, coming in late spring. Cuyahoga SWCD is always looking to expand access to Envirothon for Cuyahoga County highschoolers. We can assist teams by providing preparation kits or in-person trainings. We will also work to connect your students with local natural resource professionals



*Students competing at the National Envirothon*

from other agencies.

Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource conservation competition for high school students sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The top four winners from the regional competition will advance to the state level and the winner at state will advance to the international National Conservation Foundation competition to be held at Mount

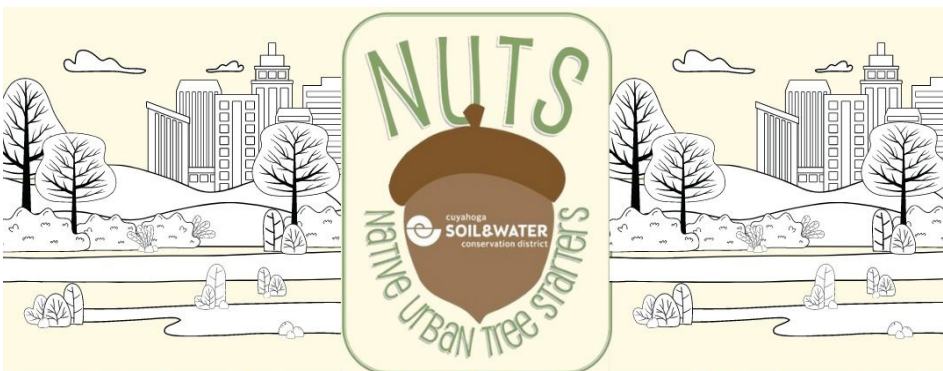
Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

The students will study aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife and one current environmental issue. “Adapting to a Changing Climate” is the 2023 Current Environmental Issue.

As they test their knowledge on these topics, students also learn problem-solving, teamwork and leadership skills, not to mention getting some fun hands-on experience outdoors!

**Contact: Jacki Zevenbergen**  
**216/524-6580, ext. 1006**

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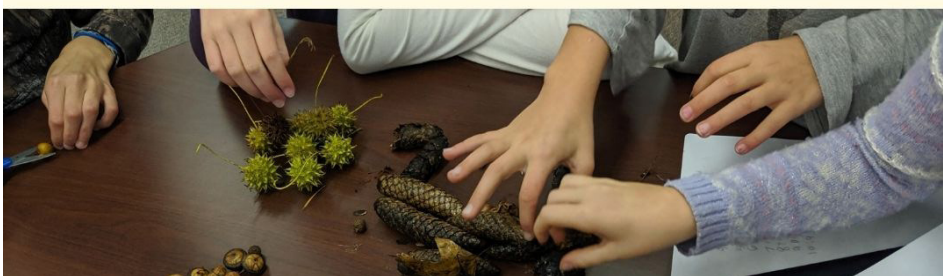


**Your students can help restore the urban tree canopy of Cuyahoga County!**

Your class or other organization can help by gathering seeds, preparing them for germination, sprouting the seeds **and/or** planting trees!

This program can be tailored to the needs of your group. There is no cost to participating schools.

For more information contact Tim Becker: [tbecker@cuyahogaswcd.org](mailto:tbecker@cuyahogaswcd.org)



## Green Yards and Healthy Homes



*Newburgh Heights Green Yards and Healthy Homes Workshop*

Our yards and homes have an enormous impact on the natural world and to our own health. At this workshop, you'll learn how to replace chemicals in your yards and home with a few inexpensive, all-natural, effective ingredients to create a healthy habitat for all. Contact us to schedule a workshop for your community or group.

**Contact: Amy Roskilly**  
**216/524-6580, ext. 1005**  
[aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org](mailto:aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org)





Please join us for the

**Cuyahoga Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

# **2022 Annual Meeting**

**Thursday,  
November 10th, 2022**

**5:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Broadview Heights Recreation Center**

9543 Broadview Road | Broadview Heights, 44147

Space is limited – RSVP by November 7th, 2022:  
<https://CSWCD2022AnnualMeeting.eventbrite.com>



# Meet the Candidates



**Mike Jirousek**

Mike Jirousek is a career environmental professional and has served on the Cuyahoga SWCD Board for the past year as the Fiscal Agent. In that time, Mike has been very impressed with the energy and dedication of the staff and is seeking re-election in the hope that he can continue to help nurture and enable Cuyahoga SWCD to continue to meet and grow its mission.

A life-long resident of NE Ohio, Mike received his undergrad degree from John Carroll University and a MS in Environmental Management from the University of Findlay. Most recently, he was Manager of Environmental for FirstEnergy, managing all the air and water compliance efforts for their fleet of 26 power plants.

Mike would appreciate your vote so he can continue to use his managerial and environmental experience for the benefit of the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District.



**Election and Annual Meeting information**  
[www.cuyahogaswcd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswcd.org)



**Ashley King**

Ashley King (she/her) is the Assistant Director of Lead Services at CHN Housing Partners. In her role she oversees the strategic planning and daily operations of the lead department and program initiatives. She has 10+ years of experience in program administration and management, economic development, operations and community development.

Ashley holds dual Masters Degrees in Urban Planning (MUPDD) and Community Health Promotion (M.Ed) and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). She is also the inaugural co-chair of CHN's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

Ashley is actively engaged in her community, serving as the Chairwoman for the South Euclid Planning Commission, volunteering her time at city events, previously serving as a board member for One South Euclid Community Development Corporation and is a graduate of Cleveland Bridge Builders class of 2020. In the Fall of 2021, Ashley was elected to serve as School Board Member for the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District.



**Mikheala LaShawn**

Mikhaela Lashawn is a Cleveland native, currently working as an artist, motivational speaker, and consultant. Mikheala is an author and a former TV personality for Channel 19/43 WOIO. She received her acting, dance and performance training at the renowned Karamu House Theatre and vocal training at the Koch Conservatory at Baldwin Wallace.

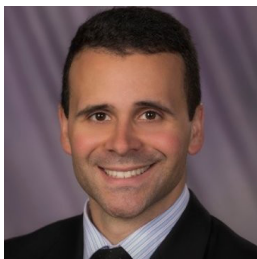
Mikhaela has served as the Executive Director of the Martha Vance Arts and Education Foundation, and has worked with organizations such as the Cleveland Municipal School District, YMCA of Greater Cleveland, and the Council of Economic Opportunity for Greater Cleveland. She is a licensed insurance agent and has completed the Neighborhood Leadership Institute program.

Her passion for clean water issues came from traveling the world and visiting third world countries to see the health issues and concerns that directly affected the mortality rate of infants and children. Recently after living in Las Vegas and dealing with the water crisis there the purity and lack caused a resurgence of her deep passion with water quality as a whole.





## Meet the Candidates



### Stephen Love

Stephen Love joined the Cleveland Foundation in 2014 as part of the community responsive grantmaking team. In this capacity, Stephen also managed the Foundation's Summer Internship Program and oversaw implementation of the Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellowship. In 2018, Stephen became the Foundation's Environment Program Officer, overseeing development of an Environmental Grantmaking strategy, including efforts to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the parks and greenspaces we enjoy by supporting policies and practices that link environmental protection, climate action, health, equity and economic prosperity.

Prior to joining the foundation in 2014, Stephen worked for the Cuyahoga Land Bank, researching and compiling property data for vacant property reuse opportunities as part of the President's Special Projects team. Additionally, he served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, focusing on neighborhood stabilization and urban agriculture projects. Stephen founded a volunteer beach cleanup and advocacy effort directed at improving Euclid Beach Park. Previously, he served on the board of directors of the Cleveland Lakefront Conservancy and the Northeast Shores Development Corporation.

## SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor Elections are special elections, independent of a general election, conducted annually by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) pursuant to rules adopted under Chapter 119 and 940 of Ohio Revised Code. Each SWCD is administered by a five-member board of supervisors serving a three-

year term. These Supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs which address management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources. The Ohio Department of Agriculture staff, as official designated agents, oversee local SWCD supervisor elections, on behalf of the OSWCC.

### HOW TO VOTE

**Cuyahoga SWCD office:** October 12 - November 10, 8:30a.m.-3p.m.  
3311 Perkins Avenue, Suite 100, Cleveland, OH 44114.  
(free parking across the street on Perkins & E. 36th.)

**Mail in voting:** October 12 - November 3. To request a ballot application and election ballot, call 216/503-0719, email [thaendiges@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:thaendiges@cuyahogawcd.org) or at [www.cuyahogawcd.org/contact](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/contact)

**Cuyahoga SWCD Annual Meeting:** November 10, 5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.  
Broadview Heights Recreation Center (Willow Room)  
9543 Broadview Road - Broadview Heights, OH - 44147



To cast a vote, eligible voters must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of the official election and be a resident or own land in Cuyahoga County. Voters shall register by placing their name, address, and additional information as deemed appropriate by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission on the election application and election ballot.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and on Instagram at [cuyahogawcd](https://www.instagram.com/cuyahogawcd)



### Love the newsletter but hate the paper?

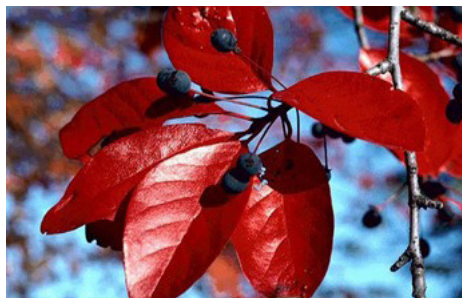
Contact Amy Roskilly, [aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org)  
We can put you on our broadcast email list that includes an electronic version of our newsletter and other pertinent conservation news!

# Fall is a Great Time to Plant Native Trees and Shrubs

Plants installed at this time of year have the chance to develop their root systems before the dormancy of winter, and then can start strong the following spring. Fall is also a time to enjoy the beauty of the changing colors, and some native species are superstars.

It is tempting to do a major clean up and tidying of our landscaping beds before the winter, but keep in mind that many of our native plants are feeding local wildlife and birds well into the winter months. Deheading during the summer months can encourage a second bloom, but consider leaving the “deadheads” for the birds as we go into the colder months. Many folks fill birdfeeders during the winter, not realizing that their perennials are already providing bird food!

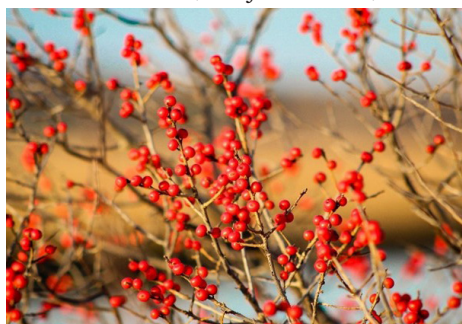
**Contact: Kate Chapel**  
216/524-6580, ext. 1002  
[kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org)



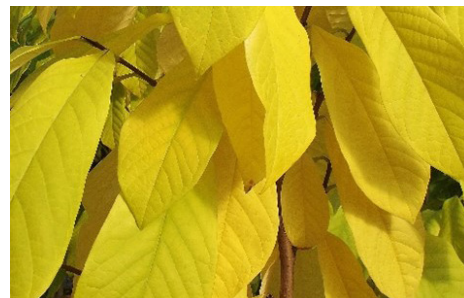
*Black Gum tree*

## GORGEOUS FALL COLOR

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)  
Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)  
Red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)  
Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)  
Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Black gum/Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*)  
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)



*Winterberry*



*Paw Paw tree*

## WINTER FOOD SOURCES

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)  
Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)  
Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillate*)  
Carolina rose (*Rosa caroliniana*)  
Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)  
Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)  
Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum Dentatum*)



*Nannyberry*

# Don't Guess, Soil Test



According to The Ohio State University, soil testing is an inexpensive way to maintain good plant health in lawns and landscapes, and to maximize productivity of vegetable gardens and fruit crops. Soil test results pinpoint plant nutrient needs and soil test lab recommendations guide fertilizer applications so just the right amount is used. Test results also provide

information for making plant selection decisions based on “right plant - right place.” If good plants go bad, a soil test can help diagnose what went wrong.

A soil test is used as a planning tool and the first step in learning what you need to do, or not do. Soil samples can be taken any time of the year, as long as the soil is workable. However, you should allow plenty of time to receive and evaluate your soil test results, and then take action to improve your soil fertility. Any recommended adjustments, such as a fertilizer application, should be made at the appropriate time of the year. For example, fall is the best time of the year to make a lime application to

raise the soil pH.

A soil test every two to three years is usually adequate for maintaining soil fertility. Sample more frequently if you desire a closer monitoring of the fertility levels, or if you grow plants that require more nutrients.

Thanks to a grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cuyahoga SWCD has a limited number of free soil test kits to give away. Fall and Spring are the best times to soil test. If you are interested in a soil test kit, send your name and address to the contact below.

**Contact: Amy Roskilly**  
[aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org)



# Maintaining Permanent Stormwater Control Measures

Permanent stormwater control measures (SCMs) capture stormwater from impervious surfaces and provide a treatment mechanism before allowing the water to discharge to the environment. Routine maintenance is crucial to keep the facility functioning properly.

Inspections of SCMs such as detention and retention basins, bioretention basins, underground detention systems, green roofs, and permeable pavers, to ensure they are being maintained and are properly functioning is required by Ohio EPA. While we come across those that are in excellent condition, most permanent SCMs require some type of routine maintenance, but if neglected there are ones that need major maintenance.

Each SCM has a unique maintenance regime. Removal of trash, excess accumulated sediment, and invasive plants, and repairing erosion, are typical across a variety of practices. Performing routine maintenance items is beneficial not only for the downstream areas of these SCMs, but also is necessary to prevent these facilities from failing.

When SCMs are not maintained, the ability to treat pollutants from runoff is diminished. A detention basin which is overrun with phragmites and cattails poses a flooding risk. A bioretention cell with clogged soils will retain water leading to bad odors and pathogens. Underground detention systems clogged with sediment, debris and litter could back-up and flood its contributing area. Plantings within a green roof that are not properly cared for could lead to unwanted invasive plants and could jeopardize roof infrastructure. Permeable pavers



*Before: Undercut silt fence where soil can escape*



*After: Silt fence is properly installed to catch soil*



*Before: Stockpile that can wash away*



*After: Temporary stabilization on stockpile*

could clog with leaf and landscaping debris, sediment or litter, leading to unwanted water ponding on the surface, which would damage the integrity of the pavers.

An example of a common maintenance issue is a property with a detention basin which has become overrun with invasive species. When the property owner is alerted about the issue, they might cleverly respond by saying, “if anything, I’m creating wetland habitat.” While people who say this mean well and have good intentions, a detention basin should not resemble a wetland. The invasive species take up stormwater volume capacity within the detention basin. The correct course of action is to mow the basin regularly.

An effective, but rarely used SCM is an extended detention constructed wetland. While this would make a great stormwater control measure, the fear is that no maintenance would be done because people would just think they are actual wetlands, but, like detention basins, they are first

and foremost SCM infrastructure.

SCMs need to be thought of more as “infrastructure” rather than a landscape feature. Thinking of these facilities as infrastructure will elevate their maintenance priority. With climate change we can expect to see more frequent and more intense rain events in Northeast Ohio. Additionally, temperature swings will result in more snowmelt events. All this added stormwater, coupled with fewer trees and less forested lands around headwater streams means one thing is for certain - it is better to protect remaining downstream environments with properly maintained stormwater infrastructure.

**Contact: Chris Vasco**  
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**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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## Cuyahoga SWCD is Collecting Common Milkweed Seed Pods



Cuyahoga SWCD will be collecting Common Milkweed pods from Sept. 15 - Nov. 15. Seeds will be used to establish monarch habitat across the state of Ohio.

Be sure the pods are dry and gray/brown in color. Put them in a paper bag (no plastic) and mark the bag with the county where they were picked.

Drop off seed pods on the west side of our building by the garage door (off E. 33rd St. - 3311 Perkins Ave. - Cleveland).

We thank you and the monarchs thank you.

## Are Monarch Butterflies on the Endangered Species List?



*Listen to "All About Monarchs with Marci and Amy" at [ecospeakscle.buzzsprout.com](http://ecospeakscle.buzzsprout.com) or wherever you listen to your podcasts.*

The monarch butterfly is not officially on the endangered species list managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, but may be as soon as next year.

In July 2022, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the monarch butterfly on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered, threatened by habitat destruction and climate change. This listing tells us things are not looking good for the monarch butterflies. The IUCN makes assessments to help the US Fish and Wildlife Service try to add protections for the species.

Listen to the latest EcoSpeaks CLE podcast for more information and ways you can help. Check out these websites for more information.  
[www.fws.gov/program/endangered-species](http://www.fws.gov/program/endangered-species) • [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)