



ON THE LAND

SPRING 2023

Fifteen Years of Harvesting Rain Water!

When we started the rain barrel program back in 2008, we had no idea it would take off like it did. Here we are, 15 years later, and we have sold 6,028 barrels to the public.

If all those barrels are hooked up and being used correctly, it gives us some fun facts per rain event:

- 361,680 gallons of rain water gathered.
- Over 50 school buses filled with water.
- Over a typical growing season, over 27 Olympic-size swimming pools (18,000,000+ gallons) of roof runoff harvested.

All of that water being diverted from the storm drain system. All of that water ready to use on home gardens/lawns everywhere. All if they are hooked up correctly. We'd love to reach 7,000 barrels by our 75th anniversary next year, however, we'd rather have less numbers and more hooked up and functioning correctly. Let us know how we can



Rain barrel hooked up to downspout

help you!

Now is a great time to check on your rain barrel.

- Does it need any additional pieces or parts?
- Has it been awhile since you put it out?
- Is the ground stable where you are putting it?
- Do you have it elevated so you can get good pressure out of it?



**Save the
Rain for a
Sunny Day!**



Awarding Container Compliance Vendor of the Year

Last October we had the pleasure of awarding Container Compliance as our Vendor of the Year. Container Compliance is where we purchase our barrels for the rain barrel program. They have provided professional and consistent service, fulfilling each order (and changes) with ease, all with diligent and respectful customer service.

They continue to work for clean water by promoting the use of food-grade barrels to be made into rain barrels and sponsoring District events such as Envirothon. We are thankful for this partnership!

Go Native with our Native Plant Kits and Seeds



NATIVE SEED PACKETS

Mesic Woodland Edge
Rain Garden
Ohio Pollinator Oasis
Butterfly/Hummingbird
Midwest Wildflower Mix
Annual Seed Mix

Sold year round. All packets \$16 plus tax, except Annual \$13 plus tax.
Mailed within a week of order.

NATIVE PLANT KITS

Prairie Wildflower
Shade
Rain Garden
Prairie Grass

\$160/kit

Fall kit sale to start soon!

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Urban Technician

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Cuyahoga SWCD staff and Supervisors thank and recognize Kathleen Bradley as she steps down as an Associate Supervisor after more than a decade of service in that role.

Anyone who knows Kathleen also knows that her commitment to conservation doesn't start or end with Cuyahoga SWCD, but that she shares her knowledge and dedication through multiple volunteer and leadership roles in the local environmental community.

Cuyahoga SWCD staff have especially appreciated her contributions to the Rocky River Watershed Program and her assistance with our school and youth outreach programs.

Thank you, Kathleen.

**Love the newsletter
but hate the paper?**

Contact Amy Roskilly, 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!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook,
Twitter and LinkedIn at Cuyahoga Soil &
Water Conservation District, and on
Instagram at [cuyahogawcd](#)





Welcome New Staff Members!



Fred is our newest Urban Technician. A lifetime east-sider and a John Carroll University graduate with a degree in environmental science, Fred has a special interest in the conservation of natural resources.

After graduating, Fred worked for 2 different environmental Firms: AQUA DOC Lake & Pond Management and Emerald Environmental; both showed him the further importance of proper maintenance of stormwater features and the impact that mismanagement has on the surrounding community.

Fred's biggest goal at CSWCD is to become a well-rounded stormwater professional, and already SWCD has exposed him to many new aspects that he never thought he would be interacting with.

In his free time, Fred plays in volleyball leagues around Cleveland, cooks at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant in Highland Heights, and enjoys concerts and new restaurants around Cleveland.

Julie is the latest NOWCorps member to serve at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. They grew up in Rocky River and feel incredibly lucky to have had access to the magical waterways of Northeast Ohio.

After graduating from Ohio University with a film degree, Julie worked on some movie sets and tried their hand at interior painting. Working in the art world was fun, but Julie often felt a strong desire to give back to the water.

Julie is looking forward to learning how to improve Lake Erie and the rivers and streams of Cuyahoga County for humans and all other creatures. They hope to use their experience in design and storytelling to share lessons on watershed management and to bring community members together.

Outside of NOWCorps, Julie loves to embroider, upcycle clothes, and support all the unique Cleveland artists.

Rain Barrel Workshops

March 30 - Independence
April 5 - Valley View
May 3 - Euclid
May 4 - Walton Hills
May 6 - Gates Mills
May 22 - Middleburg Heights
June 14 - Cleveland

Registration and pre-payment
is required
More workshops posted soon!

Stream Cleanups

April 29 - Big Creek Annual Cleanup

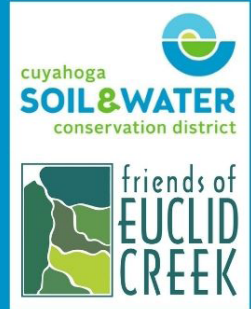
May 6 - River Sweep - Garfield Heights

June 3 - Rocky River Annual Cleanup



Free Plants!

Native trees and shrubs will be available this spring to Euclid Creek Watershed residents who remove an invasive from their property.



To Be Eligible:

- Live or own property in the Euclid Creek Watershed
- Have one of our target invasive species on site
- Be willing to remove the invasive yourself
- Do NOT remove anything from your tree lawn

Registration will be open starting mid-March. Native plants will be available for pick-up in late-April or May. More information about target species on website.

<https://tinyurl.com/59sdyrt3>



Interested?

Fill out the form on our website ASAP

More information :

Contact Kate Chapel
kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org
216-503-1257

Goodbye, Callery Pear! Don't Let the Door Hit Ya Where the Wind Probably Split Ya!

We've been celebrating the ban of Callery Pear (or Bradford Pear) trees since January 7, 2023 across the state of Ohio. This species of tree (and all its varieties) is an ornamental pear tree native to Asia commonly found in our landscape. It's now illegal to sell, grow, or plant in Ohio due to its invasiveness.

Introduced in the early 1900's, the Bradford Pear was believed to be unable to reproduce by seed and bred to be sterile; however, numerous cultivated varieties (cultivars) have been shown to cross-pollinate with each other and produce viable fruit.

These trees are both economically and environmentally harmful. Their narrow branch angles mean they're likely to crack and break in strong winds and icy winters, damaging any structure nearby and creating clean-up cost. Since they escape



Callery Pear flowers - pretty, but stinky!
Source: MichiganFlora.net

so readily, our local parks and greenspaces have costs associated with fighting the invasion. They create thickets on the woodland edge, crowding out what would otherwise be a biodiverse ecosystem supporting more wildlife.

Native plant species are better suited to the local environment – they can handle our silty soils and fluctuations in soil moisture, all while providing habitat to native animals and pollinators. They require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides, and can help to control



Callery Pear tree split down the middle
Source: Deborah Shade

stormwater and erosion with their root systems. That means less maintenance than traditional lawns once they're established.

We've partnered with Friends of Euclid Creek to create an invasive trade-up program for the Euclid Creek Watershed that will hopefully convince you to make the leap and cut down that Bradford Pear (or any other woody invasive species!) and then come get a free native tree or shrub from us to replace it.

See the flyer on the opposite page for more information.



CUYAHOGA SWCD SPEAKS

April 25

Rocky River Watershed Council Quarterly event
Mel Hauser, Good Nature Organic Lawn Care
"Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care" - Location TBD

April 26

Meg Hennessey, Rocky River Watershed Coordinator
"Slow the Flow with Rain Barrels"
Cuyahoga County Library - Middleburg Heights branch

April 26

Amy Roskilly, Conservation Education & Communications Manager
"Rain Gardens - Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Soak it In"
Cleveland Heights/University Heights Library - Coventry Branch

Visit www.cuyahogaswcd.org/events for more information

Best Management Practice Corner: Construction Exits!

Construction Entrances are an integral part of any construction site. They provide the function of knocking sediment off of the tires of vehicles leaving the site, thus preventing sediment from being tracked on to the roadways and ultimately running into the storm sewers. Sediment running into

storm sewers can cause clogging and backups, as well as pollution of streams and lakes.

Ask yourself a question though, why are they called entrances? Aren't we more concerned with sediment LEAVING the site than ARRIVING? Whether you want to call it an entrance or an exit, this

is a vitally important erosion and sediment control that protects our waters and improves the quality of life for people traveling on roadways.



Embedded sediment; construction exit not working properly



Clean and loose stone; construction exits working properly

GET INVOLVED

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

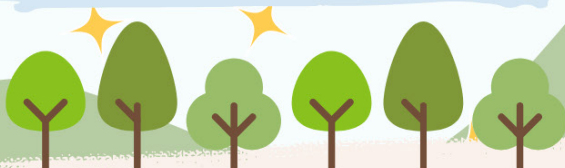
SIX THINGS YOU CAN DO TODAY!

1. PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG
2. INSTALL A RAIN BARREL
3. SHRINK YOUR LAWN
4. PLANT A TREE
5. STENCIL YOUR STORM DRAIN
6. TAKE A CONSERVATION PLEDGE



CAMP CANOPY SPONSORSHIP

PRIORITY DEADLINE APRIL 28
FINAL DEADLINE MAY 4



At Camp Canopy, you'll explore forestry and wildlife education in addition to traditional camp activities - campfires, watersports, ropes courses and more!



SUMMER CAMP



CAMP DATES:
June 11-16, 2023

LOCATION:
FFA Camp Muskingum



- Application is open to Cuyahoga County students - incoming freshmen through graduating seniors (up to 19 yrs of age).
- Sponsorship covers the cost of camp, including meals and program.



FOR MORE INFO ON HOW TO APPLY FOR A SPONSORSHIP, VISIT
WWW.CUYAHOGASWCD.ORG/PROGRAMS/CAMP-CANOPY
FOR MORE INFO ON THE CAMP, VISIT [HTTPS://CAMPCANOPY.COM](https://CAMPCANOPY.COM)

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Poster Contest

Have you ever watched it rain? The raindrops fall on the ground and flow through the soil. Water soaks through the soil until it reaches groundwater, which is water that moves through spaces in soil and rock underground.

A lot of the water we use and drink every day comes from water in the ground. As it rains and the water runs off, it collects in rivers, lakes, and oceans and then returns to the atmosphere to fall as rain somewhere else.

All land across the entire earth is made up of watersheds. We all live in a watershed. We share the water in our watershed with other people, with animals, and with plants because... it is all one water.

For further information and to register your class or group online:
<https://tinyurl.com/mw5h43we>

Cuyahoga SWCD invites all Cuyahoga County students to participate in our annual poster contest. The theme is One Water and we are excited to see what the students create.

- Students may begin posters on or after March 22nd.
- Classes must be registered by May 7th.
- Submission deadline is May 31st
- Each teacher will select two posters from their class or group to represent in the competition.
- Winning students will receive a certificate of recognition at an awards ceremony. Their posters may be displayed at county-wide events.
- First place in each grade band will advance to the state competition.



The National Association of Conservation Districts has FREE educational materials related to this year's and previous poster themes.
www.nacdnet.org/store/