



# ON THE LAND

SUMMER 2016

## CUYAHOGA SWCD 67th ANNUAL MEETING

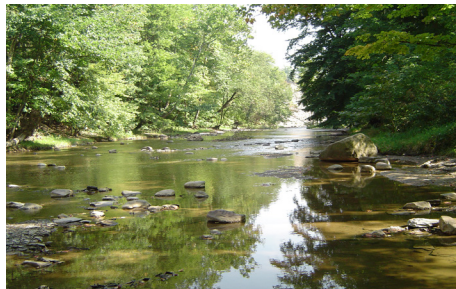
Join us Wednesday, October 19,  
2016 for our 67th Annual Meeting  
and Supervisor Election!

**Where:** Ohio Aerospace Institute  
22800 Cedar Point Road  
Brookpark, OH

**Time:** 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Light refreshments will be provided

No cost, but please RSVP to Megan  
David at 216/524-6580, ext. 10 or at  
[www.cuyahogawcd.org/events](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/events)



*East branch of the Rocky River*

**Two candidates are running  
for the 2017 - 2019 term.  
Read up on the candidates  
and find out how to vote  
on Page 3.**

### Schedule of Events

**4:30 - 5:30pm** Supervisor Election,  
network with staff, view displays, enjoy  
refreshments

**5:30pm** Rocky River Watershed  
presentation - Jared Bartley, Rocky  
River Watershed Coordinator and  
Colleen Sliwinski, Fairview Park High  
School teacher and student volunteers.

*2016 Conservation Hero Awards*  
Presentation of Educator of the Year,  
Cooperator of the Year, Conservationist  
of the Year

**6:00pm** Election Results

## THE VALUE OF CONTINUING STORMWATER EDUCATION

Through the course of providing services to our partner communities and tackling our county-wide mission, Cuyahoga SWCD staff members encounter a broad array of stormwater practices, techniques and products. By being on the leading edge of stormwater management within Cuyahoga County, the District is able to stay abreast of new tools, rules and techniques pertinent to construction and post-construction sites. As part of our "education always" philosophy, Cuyahoga SWCD provides Tool-Box talks and Tech Tips to disseminate that knowledge.

**Tool-Box talks** are quarterly "lunch-and-learn" programs targeted toward connecting manufacturers of new and innovative stormwater products with designers and practitioners in an effort to improve erosion and sediment control and long-term flood control and water quality treatment throughout the county. The talks are free and provide continuing education



*Tool-box Talk*

credits. Two Tool-Box talks have been held in 2016. The first focused on alternative catch basin inlet protection, underground detention systems, and stormwater control measure treatment trains. The second focused on manufactured pre-treatment devices to use in combination with underground detention systems. A key product was the Filterra Bioretention, which provides street trees room to grow while also providing beneficial water quality treatment of stormwater.

Another educational resource is the **Tech Tips**, a bi-weekly email that is designed to stay in constant contact with engineers, designers, contractors, and municipal staff to keep them up to date. The e-blast goes out to 750 people and an electronic archive of the PDFs can be found on the SWCD website at the Stormwater Education page, under Programs. This year's topics are focused on:

- being a good neighbor during construction
- appropriate streamside best management practices
- handling concrete properly
- storm water pollution prevention plan implementation in sub-divisions

**For more information about our  
Tool-Box talks or to be added to the  
Tech Tip email list contact Brent  
Eysenbach, Stormwater Program  
Coordinator at 216/524-6580, ext. 11.**

# EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED NEWS

## ILLEGAL DUMPING CONTINUOUS PROBLEM IN WATERSHED

A recurring problem in the Euclid Creek is illegal dumping, on land and in storm drains that lead to the creek. This year alone, I've received six calls from residents about black, oily substances coming out of pipe outfalls entering Euclid Creek or Lake Erie; apartment dwellers calling about trash dumping in streamside wooded areas behind their buildings; and the most egregious incident happened during our Day in the Life of Euclid Creek event on July 16 with a cooking oil incident.

At our first stop of the day at Acacia Reservation in Lyndhurst, we observed a small amount of a yellow substance entering Euclid Creek from a culvert under Cedar Road coming from an upstream location in

the City of Beachwood.

Finding the perpetrators of illegal dumping is a challenge. Most times when you see signs of dumping, the source is long gone as it was washed away in a rain event, which is why our discovery was so unbelievable.

As time passed, the amount of yellow substance increased and when we put our monitoring equipment in the water, an oily substance covered it and it smelled like cooking oil. We took photos of the substance and immediately called the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) to report the incident. Within two hours, NEORS had traced the discharge to a local restaurant's cooking oil trash receptacle that was leaking into a nearby storm drain, entering Euclid Creek. Within another hour,

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency installed booms in the creek to capture the oil from going farther downstream.

This story is truly rewarding - not only did we quickly identify, report and find the source of the problem, but agency partners were able to get it cleaned up quickly, so as to not cause more harm to our aquatic organisms living in the creek. The business has taken responsibility and will pay for the cleanup costs, so this story has a happy ending. But it is important to stress that if you see something concerning in or by the creek or storm drain, or dumping into wooded areas, call the community's Service Department and/or Ohio EPA (800/282-9378).

*Written by Claire Posius,  
Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator*



*Yellow substance accumulating just downstream from observation point, on Euclid Creek at Acacia reservation*

## Euclid Creek 2nd Annual Watershed Summit

Thursday, October 6 5pm - 7pm  
Mayfield Village Community Room  
6621 Wilson Mills Road - Mayfield Village

Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of the year and update you on the progress we've made in restoring the watershed in 2016. RSVP by October 4 to 216/524-6580, ext 16

## Friends of Euclid Creek 15 Year Anniversary Hikes

Join Friends of Euclid Creek as they finish up the year and reach the 15 mile goal of hiking the watershed.

Visit [www.euclidcreekwatershed.org](http://www.euclidcreekwatershed.org) for more information about the hikes coming up this Fall and Winter.

# ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

## TWO NEW GRANTS AWARDED FOR THE ROCKY RIVER

**Retrofitting the Rocky** - Cuyahoga SWCD has been awarded \$16,500 through the ODNr Office of Coastal Management's Coastal Management Assistance Grant program. Through this project Cuyahoga SWCD will identify and prioritize feasible stormwater retrofit options in the Rocky River's Abram Creek, Baldwin Creek, Coe Creek and Lower East Branch subwatershed.

In Abram Creek and Baldwin Creek, this project will revisit and expand upon an initial stormwater retrofit inventory undertaken in 2010.

In the Coe Creek and Lower East Branch subwatersheds, the inventory will be conducted from



scratch. Conceptual designs will be completed for four of the highest priority retrofit projects.

## For the Benefit of All: Restoring Lower Abram Creek at NASA-Glenn Research Center

The Rocky River Watershed Council has been awarded a Five Star/Urban Waters grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and USEPA. Through the grant, RRWC, NASA

and their partners - including local high school students - will install a bioswale and expand and enhance vernal pools and riparian wetlands at the NASA-Glenn Research Center.

*Written by Jared Bartley,  
Rocky River Watershed Coordinator*

## Rocky River Watershed Council Quarterly Public Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 7:00PM

*Featuring guest speaker:*

**Tom Allen - Chair of the Ohio Council of Trout Unlimited**

Cleveland Metroparks  
Rocky River Nature Center  
24000 Valley Parkway - North Olmsted



# MEET THE CANDIDATES



**WHITNYE LONG**

Ms. Long learned about the Cuyahoga SWCD through her connection to the Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council. She is employed as the Community Coordinator of the Let's Move! Outside initiative with the YMCA of Greater Cleveland and has experience in the education, youth engagement, community development and hospitality management fields.

Ms. Long's interests include volunteerism, visual arts, volleyball and outdoor recreation. She recently has been involved in community outreach and leadership to raise environmental awareness. She majored in biology at Case Western Reserve University and environmental studies at the University of Rhode Island.

Ms. Long believes the mission of the Cuyahoga SWCD aligns with her professional goals. Recently, her career has taken a direction that reflects her lifestyle in ways that promote consistency between her thoughts and actions. She stated, "Environmentalism and conservation are important aspects of our society and the opportunity to share my personal passion in these areas is one way in which I can make a contribution." She looks forward to participating in the continued development of the Cuyahoga SWCD as a board supervisor while creating the necessary pathways to expand on the shared objective of maintaining best community practices individually as well as collectively.



**HOWARD MAIER**

Wishing to continue serving as a Supervisor of the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), I respectfully ask for your vote. I believe my experience and energy will continue to benefit the SWCD, the citizens of Cuyahoga County, and the environment we all cherish.

I've been a Supervisor since 2013 and have had the honor of serving as Vice Chair since I first took office. During my tenure, the board and its excellent staff have provided environmental services for Cuyahoga County and its communities within our financial means and according to policies, laws, and plans.

Prior to my service on the board, I was Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) from 1991 until my retirement in 2012. Much of my work at NOACA and elsewhere focused on transportation, land use, advocacy, policy, administration, and the environment.

During my tenure, NOACA completed updates to its water quality plan based on Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. All planning was done with an engaged board, highly skilled technical staff, public involvement, multiple governmental and private sector partners, sound fiscal management, and in a transparent manner. This background has helped immeasurably in my work as a Supervisor.

As a Supervisor, I will continue active involvement, collaboration, and a commitment to policies and programs that address the existing and emerging challenges within our mission of conserving soil and water resources.

## Board of Supervisors Election

In accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code, an election of one supervisor of Cuyahoga SWCD will be held. Residents or landowners, firms and corporations that own land or occupy land in Cuyahoga County and are at least 18 years of age, may vote for a supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- Vote at the Annual Meeting from 4:30 - 5:30pm on Oct.19, at the Ohio Aerospace Institute, 22800 Cedar Point Road, Brookpark, OH.
- Vote at the Cuyahoga SWCD office from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. until October 19 at 3:00 p.m.
- Vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the Cuyahoga SWCD office, 6100 West Canal Rd, Valley View, Ohio 44125. Call 216-524-6580, ext.10.

If you are mailing your ballot, please allow enough time for the ballot to reach our office by October 19.

Cuyahoga SWCD staff has field work planned daily. We encourage you to call before visiting the office to ensure the appropriate staff person is available to provide assistance. Office hours are 8:00am - 5:00pm. Please call 216/524-6580, ext. 10.

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

6100 West Canal Road  
Valley View, OH 44125

**Phone** 216.524.6580

**Fax** 216.524.6584

[www.cuyahogaswcd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswcd.org)



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*Advocate and implement best management practices for conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through education, stewardship and technical assistance*

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Or get on our email list by sending your email to:  
[mdavid@cuyahogaswcd.org](mailto:mdavid@cuyahogaswcd.org)

## YOU CAN HELP MONARCHS!



*Left: Monarch fallout at  
Whiskey Island  
Middle: Common Milkweed  
Right: Common Milkweed  
pod, ready to harvest*

### Pod Collecting Instructions:

When collecting seed pods from a **Common Milkweed** plant it is best to pick when they are dry and gray or brown in color. If the seam pops with gentle pressure they can be picked. It is best to store your picked pods in a paper bag, avoid using plastic bags as they tend to collect and hold moisture. Store your seeds in a dry cool area until you are available to drop them off. **Please mark your bags with the county they were picked in, as well as the date and time.**

Once the pods have been collected, they will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seeds will be used to establish new milkweed plants and create additional habitats for the Monarch Butterfly here in Ohio.

*Written by Megan David  
Administrative Assistant*

Monarch butterflies are one of the most recognized butterflies throughout America. They make an amazing journey each year from Canada to Mexico. In the fall, Monarch's migrate from Canada to Mexico, and then in the spring they migrate from Mexico to Canada.

During these times the Monarch breeds and lays their eggs on milkweed plants. Milkweed is the **ONLY** plant that Monarch caterpillars will feed on, making milkweed an extremely important plant. Both milkweed and Monarch Butterflies populations are dwindling. With this decline, the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other

partners have formed the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI). OPHI has been educating the public and trying to gain more awareness of the milkweed decline.

OPHI and Ohio's Soil & Water Conservation Districts have partnered together in the **Annual Milkweed Pod Collection** going on from September 1, 2016 through October 30, 2016. Here at Cuyahoga SWCD, we will have a collection bin outside the office for Common Milkweed pod drop off. We are located at 6100 West Canal Rd, Valley View, OH 44125. We are in the office from 8:30am to 4:30 pm and the drop off bin is available after-hours.