



ON THE LAND

SUMMER 2017

Proper Disposal of Yard Waste - Lake Erie: Don't Waste It!

Are grass clippings really considered waste if they are dumped in a stream? What about excess leaves and other yard waste? As summer winds down, yard waste is a great concern for the health of our streams and Lake Erie.

Grass clippings. Leaves. Sticks. Wood chips.

These and other yard waste may not sound like they would be harmful to creeks or the animals that live in them. Homeowners and landscapers may even think that dumping these natural, organic materials on streambanks helps to slow erosion. But in reality, they can cause major problems, especially when they are dumped in smaller backyard streams and roadside ditches.



*Yard waste
dumped next
to a creek*

As these materials decompose, they consume oxygen, depleting the oxygen supply for fish, frogs and salamanders. Additionally, streams with low levels of oxygen often have a foul odor. Wood chips and pine needles can increase the acidity of the

water. As these materials pile up on the streambank, they smother and kill vital streamside vegetation, making streambanks more susceptible to erosion.

And while logs and branches in the stream can provide beneficial habitat and channel stability, smaller sticks, leaves and grass clippings often float downstream and clog culverts or bridges, leading to localized flooding or new erosion. For this same reason, yard waste should never be dumped or blown into a storm drain or roadside ditch.

So, how should you dispose of yard waste?

REDUCE the amount of yard waste you generate: Consider using a mulching mower so that grass clippings are chopped up small, making bagging or otherwise disposing of them unnecessary. This has the added benefit of adding organic material back into your lawn soil. Leaves can often be mulched and incorporated into your lawn using this technique as well.

COMPOST: Grass clippings, weeds, leaves and many other yard and garden wastes can be composted right in your own back yard, along with plant-based kitchen scraps. Techniques range from a simple backyard compost pile to bins or



Backyard composting

even digesters that can also handle pet wastes. Finished compost can then be used to add fertility to lawn, garden and landscaped areas. Visit cuyahogarecycles.org for more information about backyard composting.

CONTACT your community. Most communities accept yard waste for composting either at a service yard or in association with curbside garbage collection. If your community does not offer this service, contact an Ohio EPA-certified compost facility.

*Written by: Amy Roskilly,
Conservation Education Specialist
216/524-6580, ext. 1005
aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org*



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

An equal opportunity employer and provider.

www.cuyahogaswcd.org

A Blueprint for Urban Agriculture

Summer is wrapping up with some autumnal weather already. Personally, I'm about to celebrate both my one year anniversary at CSWCD and the unveiling of our Blueprint for Urban Agriculture, which just so happens to be the reason why I was hired and is ultimately my grant deliverable.

The Blueprint was originally conceived as a pamphlet or booklet. However, mid-summer I realized how many little details changed from the fall of 2016 to the summer of 2017. Almost as soon as we would print a pamphlet, that pamphlet would become outdated. People move on to different organizations; forms, farms, phone numbers, and prices change.

So upon this realization, I switched gears to reflect our more modern era and decided the Blueprint should be

a website instead. This will allow me to update the Blueprint as needed and will make it more of a "living" document.

That being said, I've never built a website before. Subsequently, the bulk of my summer has been teaching myself how to build one through the Wix website development platform. Even though it's relatively easy because of the drag and drop process, it is extremely time-consuming and detail-oriented.

But what about the actual Blueprint? To clarify, the Blueprint will not be a how to grow guide. OSU Extension does a great job of that already. Rather, it's a hyper local document that helps urban agriculturists maneuver and understand what they're getting into

when they farm Cleveland, as well as providing resources that are unique to Northeast Ohio. For instance, most cities do not have Amish communities within an hour's drive. However, Cleveland does, and this is an asset to our urban farmers.

So come the end of September, be on the lookout for our Blueprint for Urban Agriculture. I hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am looking forward to getting it completed.

Written by:

Justin Husher, Horticulture Specialist

216/524-6580, ext. 1006

jhusher@cuyahogaswcd.org

Congratulations to our 2017 "Healthy Soils are Full of Life" poster contest winners!!

FIRST PLACE



Giovanni F.
(K-1st grade)



Zachery S.
(2nd-3rd grade)



Lorah B.
(4th-6th grade)



Samantha A.
(7th-9th grade)

SECOND PLACE

- Ravon Frisco (K-1st grade)
- Charity Lehman (2nd-3rd grade)
- Bryanna Huff (4th-6th grade)
- Julie Le-Quay (7th-9th grade)

The students celebrated with a pizza party and the 1st prize posters will move on to the state competition.

The 2018 topic will be "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". All Cuyahoga County students are eligible to participate. Details and deadlines for the 2018 contest will be announced soon.

For more information, contact:

Jacki Zevenbergen

216/524-6580, ext. 1006

jzevenbergen@cuyahogaswcd.org



cuyahoga
SOIL & WATER
conservation district

68TH ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017

DUNHAM TAVERN MUSEUM

6709 EUCLID AVE. - CLEVELAND, OH 44103

4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

There is no charge for this program, however we request a
confirmation of your attendance.

Please contact Ellen Brown-Armstrong at 216/524-6580, ext. 1000 or
ebrown@cuyahogaswcd.org.

Please use this contact for election information.

Schedule of Events

4:30 p.m. - Supervisor election (until 5:30pm - Meet the Candidates on pages 4 and 5),
network with staff, view displays, enjoy refreshments

5:30 p.m. - Featured Speaker:
Justin Husher, Horticulture Specialist
A Blueprint for Urban Agriculture

2017 Conservation Hero Awards - Educator of the Year - Cooperator of the Year -
Conservationist of the Year

6:00 p.m. - Cuyahoga SWCD Supervisor Election results

MEET THE CANDIDATES



CHRISTINE BALK

Christine Balk is a Technical Advisor for the Davey Tree Expert Company in Kent, Ohio. She specializes in Plant Pathology. Christine's love for the environment started at a young age, which led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in biology at St. Lawrence University. After graduating from St. Lawrence Christine moved to Alaska for a 6 month internship with The Chicago Botanical Gardens and BLM. This internship involved collecting native plant seeds around Alaska for restoration projects. This project was crucial due to all of the mining and drilling done there. After Alaska, Christine went to graduate school at The Ohio State University for plant pathology. She would help in the community by teaching elementary students about plants and their importance in the world. After starting with Davey out of graduate school Christine has given many talks at conferences around the US and continues to spread awareness on the importance of trees, soil, water, and our environment. We must be informed about all factors affecting our environment in order to save it. Christine is running for this position because she not only has the knowledge about what needs to be done, but also the drive and moral compass to do what is right.



PETER BODE

Peter Bode has dedicated his professional life to natural resource protection in Northeast Ohio. His energies led him to earn his degree in Environmental Science from Cleveland State University. While at CSU, he served as President of the Student Environmental Movement, officer for Student Government, Energy Policy Council, and American Planning Association. He was also an ULTRA-Ex lead researcher and a toxicology analyst. For over 5 years, Peter was the Cuyahoga River Area-Of-Concern (AOC) Watershed Coordinator. He drafted the Stage 2 Remedial Action Plan which is utilized by the AOC Advisory Council to develop strategies and track progress. He is currently the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative Project Manager with West Creek Conservancy. In this position, he is technical support for more than 17 organizations/agencies ranging from GIS analysis, project prioritization, biostatistics, and conceptual design development. Peter is a certified OhioEPA level3 QHEI QDC, an Ohio Academy of Science STEM EXEMPLAR, and was honored as a CSU Fascinating Alumni.



SHERRI LIPPUS

Sherri Lippus, a former Olmsted Township trustee, is an IT Security Specialist at NASA Glenn Research Center. A licensed teacher, she has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in Instructional Technology from Kent State University. Sherri taught for a decade before moving into the corporate arena as a computer forensic investigator and small business owner. She was elected as an Olmsted Township trustee from 2010-2016 and served as chair of the board for four years. She also has served on several boards including the Cuyahoga County 9-1-1 Board, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission Board, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Suburban Council of Governments Advisory Committee. Sherri has received numerous achievement awards, including the 2002 Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District Educator of the Year. Her background in education, small business, and local and federal government and government experience have provided her with a thorough understanding of the importance of stormwater management, conservation, and proper management of various forms of infrastructure in a developed environment. Sherri resides in Olmsted Township with her husband, Jeff, and their two children.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



CHAD STEPHENS

Chad Stephens is a Conservation Program Coordinator at the Sierra Club Ohio Chapter. He works with underrepresented communities in the Climate/Environmental Justice movement. This work is done by educating and pushing the underrepresented communities to help themselves by resisting the effects of climate change by learning how to live a more sustainable life, by utilizing tools found in energy efficiency advocacy and direct action to federal and state legislators.

Chad's organizing principles are rooted in the belief that anything is possible when it comes to our future. If each person does his or her fair share we will make our planet a better place. He has seen this happen in his past work in various capacities as a community, political and union organizer.

Chad continues to hold the belief that within our communities we hold the power to discover the solutions to the forced and malicious problems we face due to climate change. Knowing the problems our communities are confronted with, we can now face them head on and transform them into opportunities that could lead to the longevity of the human race.



JEREMIAH SWETEL

Jeremiah Swetel is a lifelong county resident who lives in Euclid with his wife and four children. A graduate of Hiram College, he currently serves as the Director of Facilities for the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Prior to taking a position with the Library, Mr. Swetel worked nine years as the Director for the City of Euclid's Engineering/Public Service department. He also served as the research and compliance manager for the City of Euclid's waste water treatment plant. Jeremiah is a certified erosion and sediment and storm water inspector as well as certified professional in erosion & sediment control. He is very knowledgeable about the stormwater requirements and program implementation. In his role at the Cuyahoga County Public Library, he has encouraged the library to implement best practices and proper long term operations and maintenance of the Library's stormwater control measures. Mr. Swetel has served as the SWCD's Fiscal Agent since he was elected in 2015. If re-elected, Jeremiah will continue working to improve the region's environmental issues, expanding the services of the Soil and Water district to meet the continued demands of local governments and will strive to ensure a healthy and clean Lake Erie.

Jeremiah enjoys kayaking, cycling, and vacationing in St. Albans, Vermont with his family.



SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING

In accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code, an election of two supervisors 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:

- At the annual meeting, which will take place on October 18, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. at the Dunham Tavern Museum, 6709 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland;
- At the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District office on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. until October 18 at 2:00 p.m. or,
- Vote absentee by downloading the absentee request form from our website at www.cuyahogawcd.org or visiting the Cuyahoga SWCD office at 3311 Perkins Avenue, Suite 100 - Cleveland, OH 44114.

EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED SUMMIT

Thursday, November 9, 2017
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Lyndhurst Community Center
Lyndhurst, OH 44124

Euclid Creek Watershed Partnership

EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL

BEACHWOOD • CLEVELAND • EUCLID • HIGHLAND HEIGHTS • LYNTHURST • MAYFIELD
MAYFIELD HEIGHTS • RICHMOND HEIGHTS • SOUTH EUCLID



Please join Euclid Creek Watershed Program partners for our 3rd Annual Watershed Summit! This annual meeting will feature watershed partner updates, volunteer appreciation and snacks.

Keynote speaker, Bryan Stubbs of Cleveland Water Alliance, will present *Abundant Water, Innovation and Economic Development: Building the Blue Economy for NEO through Collaboration*

RSVP by November 7 by contacting Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, Claire Posius, at 216/524-6580, ext. 1004 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

ROCKY RIVER VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

We're looking for volunteers willing to conduct water quality monitoring once per month at one or more sites throughout the Rocky River Watershed.



All materials and training will be provided. Time commitment is 15-20 minutes per site, plus travel time. Parameters to be tested include turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, phosphates, salinity, pH and conductivity. The monitoring results will be used to plan watershed improvement projects and as a screening tool for potential problems. If you are interested in volunteering, please attend the training on October 7 which is being offered by Cuyahoga SWCD in partnership with Rocky River Watershed Council and the Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Volunteer Program.

Questions and Registration:

Contact Rocky River Watershed Coordinator Jared Bartley at jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org or 216-524-6580 x1003



Volunteer Training
October 7, 2017
10:00am - 12:00pm

Big Cedar Point Picnic Area
Valley Parkway just North
of Cedar Point Rd.
Rocky River Reservation

What is Stormwater Management?

Stormwater concerns took center stage in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Stormwater management is especially important in light of the more frequent and more intense storm that the U.S. has been experiencing. This article will define and discuss a few terms that have recently been in the news.

- **Pervious** - A porous surface that allows rainfall to soak into the underlying soils
- **Impervious** - A non-porous surface that forces rainfall to flow across the surface in different directions
- **Grey Infrastructure** - Underground pipes and reservoirs to detain and direct runoff
- **Green Infrastructure** - Practices that protect, restore, or mimic the natural water cycle
- **Blue Infrastructure** - Incorporating stormwater control measures into the fabric of a community as an amenity
- **Low Impact Design (LID)** - Stormwater management design modeled manage rainfall at the source

using small scale controls

- **Quantity Management** - Detaining a volume of stormwater to prevent or minimize downstream flooding

- **Quality Management** - detaining a volume of stormwater to allow for the removal of pollutants through settling and/or biological processes.

In urban areas pervious land is developed creating impervious surfaces. When rainfall impacts the impervious surface it runs off at an increased rate than if it were to soak naturally. The increased time of concentration and quantity of stormwater needs to be controlled to minimize flooding and pollution. Quantity management typically requires a developer to match the post-construction flow rate to the pre-construction flow rate by using a detention basin with a controlled release orifice. Pollution abatement can be achieved by adding an additional orifice to the outlet structure further restricting the outflow in order to allow sediment and pollutants to

settle out of the detained water. Green Infrastructure and Low-Impact Design seeks to achieve stormwater quantity and quality management by controlling the rainfall where it lands in a naturalistic manor as opposed to piping the stormwater to a centralized basin.

Design of grey, green, and blue infrastructure is a vital aspect of land development with defined parameters. Regardless of how well infrastructure is designed, if the intensity of a storm exceeds the designed parameters flooding or other damaged will occur. Given the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather municipalities should consider requiring higher design parameters to help build resiliency into the fabric of their communities.

*Written by: Brent Eysenbach,
Stormwater Program Coordinator,
216/524-6580 x1011
beysenbach@cuyahogawcd.org*



Megan Smith
Urban Technician

Megan Smith is the newest member of our Stormwater Department. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology from Kent State University. In her free time, Megan enjoys hiking in the local Metro Parks, camping, running, and reading. **Welcome, Megan!**

Our new location and its interesting past

In our last newsletter we announced our move to 3311 Perkins Avenue and asked if anyone had any historical information about our building. Craig Bobby, an architectural historian, contacted us to let us know that the building was constructed in 1913 as a factory for the Scott-Ullman Company which was a manufacturer of electrical and lighting fixtures. This is according to designs executed by Cleveland architectural firm Lehman & Schmitt.

From an article he sent us, it looks like in December 1986, the Original Copy Centers moved into the building. The woman who owned the company bears quite a resemblance to the woman's face on the tiles that are on the sidewalk in front of the building. The glasses especially. Is it her? You be the judge!



*Nancy Vetrone, owner
of the Original Copy
Centers. Photo from
Cleveland Plain Dealer
October 14, 1986*

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3311 Perkins Avenue, Suite 100
Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone 216.524.6580

Fax 216.524.6584

www.cuyahogaswcd.org

Printed on



Recycled Paper

Nonprofit Org.

US Postage

PAID

Cleveland, OH

Permit No. 3666



ENVIROTHON COMPETITION AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!!

The Envirothon is an academic, outdoor environmental competition for students in grades 9-12. Teams are tested on their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. Many students who participate in this event go on to find environmental careers! The 2018 Envirothon event is co-hosted by Cuyahoga and Portage Soil & Water Conservation Districts and will be held at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in April 2018. More information will be posted soon at: <http://www.cuyahogaswcd.org/programs/envirothon>

This event is financed SOLELY by donations from area businesses or individuals. Many local businesses provide services and products in support. There are various sponsor levels available. Some of the items purchased with monetary donations are: awards for participating teams, testing materials, food and state competition expenses.



Interested in forming an Envirothon team or becoming an Envirothon sponsor, contact Jacki Zevenbergen at 216/524-6580, ext. 1006 or jzevenbergen@cuyahogaswcd.org