**Conservation Crusade**

**Monday Sessions**

**Conservation Training Workshops, Session 1: 11am-12pm**

1. **Integrating mobile GIS products to make our jobs easier.** We have taken the bull by the horns working to eliminate paper forms and building spatial databases to create efficiencies and better communicate with our partners and stakeholders.  We would love to share how ArcOnline, Collector, and Survey123 can help make life easier when it comes to data collection and reporting. *Speaker: Erie SWCD*
2. **How do I make sense of all these numbers? Basic Interpretation of Soil Tests.** Do you know what all the numbers on a soil test mean?  With the increasing pressure on nutrient management across the state, reading and understanding a soil test is a must for all SWCD staff and Board members. This session will provide you with the basic interpretation and economics of soil tests.*Speaker: Kip Studer, DSWC*
3. **Conservation in the new Farm Bill. Conservation in the new Farm Bill.** Come hear about the changes in the Farm Bill which provides more opportunities towards soil health, water quality, and wildlife initiatives. *Speaker: Jim Inglis, Pheasants Forever*
4. **Converting your District Website into an Online Storefront: *An Introduction to Using E-Commerce in the Soil & Water World.***In the world of online shopping and on demand online trainings, SWCDs have an opportunity to keep up with technology. Slight modifications to our websites and policies could open and expand the reach of our services, programs and products. Come learn how your SWCD can be in the forefront of the e-commerce revolution. *Speakers: John Nelson & Susan Juriga, Hamilton SWCD*
5. **Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and more:** In this partnering session, Athens SWCD will present on success from their very strong partnership with the City of Athens on rain gardens, bio-retention boxes, stream restorations and rain barrel construction events. Franklin SWCD will present on rain garden programming in Franklin County including demonstration rain gardens, outreach through local nurseries and landowner rain garden assistance & cost-shares. *Speakers: Teresa Caldwell, Athens SWCD & Sara Ernst, Franklin SWCD*
6. **Diversity in People, Programs and Projects: One SWCD’s Challenges and Successes of Urban Conservation.**Learn how one SWCD’s has developed, adjusted and marketed programs to increase delivery to and participation of diverse audiences, which has provided greater visibility for the District. This session will focus on urban education and agriculture programs. *Speaker: Whitnye Long & Jan Rybka Cuyahoga SWCD*
7. **Water Quality and Harmful Algal Bloom Research at BGSU.** Did you know Bowling Green State University has two Centers focused on water quality? YES! They have the Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health that examine factors contributing to HABs and another Center for Great Lakes and Watershed Studies that establishes a research-based academic program that examines land-lake linkages in water quality. Come learn more about what they are doing! *Speaker: Dr. George Bullerjahn Bowling Green State University*

**Conservation Training Workshops, Session II: 1:15-2:15pm**

1. **Tom Spellmire Leadership Academy: Session Topic TBA**
2. **BeeHive Question and Answer Session***:* Beehive was launched in October 2018 as the SWCDs new reporting system. Come and learn what Beehive is about and what future improvements are planned. Learn more about what kind of information and reports are available and how SWCDs can use Beehive for planning and tracking progress. *Speakers: Martin Joyce and Chad Amos, DSWC*
3. **Working with local health departments on mapping and addressing Home Sewage Treatment Systems for Water Quality.**  Franklin SWCD and Franklin County Public Health will discuss a partnership related to the County's stormwater permit and household sewage treatment systems (HSTS). FCPH will discuss current state and local regulations related to HSTS, as well their successes and challenges.  FSWCD will discuss their GIS-based assistance provided to FCPH as well as other ways they've leveraged GIS to provide natural resources assistance in Franklin County. *Speakers:  Josh Garver, Franklin SWCD & Franklin County Public Health*
4. **Promoting Conservation Differently:  NTT and Pay for Performance Project.** The last few years we have been working on a GLRI project that allowed us to work directly with farmers to help identify where on the farm would be the best opportunities to reduce nutrients.  Using the Nutrient Tracking Tool and a Cost Analysis Tool, we also were able to “test” different conservation changes to find out what were the most economically viable options. *Speakers: Erie SWCD*
5. **Soil health and clean water: broadening support with participatory data entry and mapping:** When only a few people or a few organizations have a positive and practical interest in soil health and watershed function, it can be difficult to create positive motion. Peter Donovan of the Soil Carbon Coalition will show you how to get started with practical and participatory mapping, using open frameworks and the human assets in your community, of the most powerful geologic force: carbon and water cycling. *Speaker: Peter Donovan, Soil Carbon Coalition*
6. **Tailor Your Message: How to Improve Adoption of Conservation Practices, Part I.** To better reach farmers about adopting soil health and conservation practices, it is important to understand how landowners make decisions. A number of different factors are at play, resulting in significantly different responses between farmers to the same information. In this session, learn how to specifically communicate to address decision-making factors and better convince farmers to adopt conservation and soil health practices.  *Speakers:* *Dr. Ryan Stockwell, Director of Sustainable Agriculture, & Jess Espenshade, Cover Crop Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation; Beth Diesch, Seneca CD*
7. **Do Districts’ Sales Have a Negative Impact on Our Environment?** Many districts offer plants, trees and fish to the public, but these sales can have a negative impact on our resources and ecosystems. Learn how tree and plant sales can be designed to maximize the benefit to local ecology as well as supporting more traditional environmental conditions.*Speakers: Marty Hilovsky, Enviroscience Inc. and Rob Curtis, Summit Metroparks*

**Conservation Training Workshops, Session III: 2:35pm-3:35pm**

1. **EPA Grants / Project WET***,* Interested in environmental education grant opportunities? Come hear more about opportunities! *Speaker: Dennis Clement, OEPA*
2. **Gaging the Health of Your District and Planning for Success –** This session is designed for board and staff members to learn techniques to evaluate their district.  Determining and understanding a district’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and planning for the future is vital in ensuring their long-term success.  *Speakers Cody Hacker and Liz Cline, DSWC*
3. **Tailor Your Message: How to Improve Adoption of Conservation Practices, Part 2.** *Speakers:* *Dr. Ryan Stockwell, Director of Sustainable Agriculture, & Jess Espenshade, Cover Crop Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation; Beth Diesch, Seneca CD*
4. **Wildland and Prescribed Fire partnership our Fire MOU:** A partnership between the State Division of Forestry and the Vinton SWCD.  It allows for the district to lend technical services to the state for monetary compensation on prescribed and wildfire details.  Not only does the agreement benefit the district financially but it aides in training and knowledge on a very effective and up and coming land management tool.  *Speaker: David Runkle, Vinton SWCD*
5. **Muskingum SWCD / College Partnership.**Knowledge is powerful, from a stockroom meeting to addressing local issues with local resources.  Learn how Muskingum SWCD has partnered with Muskingum University to create a win-win-win partnership and leverage additional resources to address water quality concerns.*Speakers: Dr. Lois Zook, MU & Emily Hoffmann, MU Student and Van Slack, MSWCD*
6. **Contamination of Soil.** What causes soils to become contaminated?  What sorts of prior uses of a site should clue you in to potential issues?  (former parking lots, old manufacturing sites, school buildings, etc.) Comparing Ohio background levels to EPA acceptable levels. When looking at a soil test result, what should we be looking for? What problems do these contaminants cause plants? Since nearly all of our conversation will be around edible plants, I guess the question is – which contaminants get absorbed by plants?  What are our remediation options?  *Speaker: Kaitlyn Benson*
7. **Urban Networking.** During this session, committee members will discuss legislative proposals, initiatives and other urban programs designed to further conservation efforts throughout Ohio. *Moderator: Jennifer* *Fish, Franklin SWCD*

**Conservation Training Roundtables -3:45pm-4:45pm**

1. **Administrative Assistants, *Meeting Room 32***
2. **SWCD Supervisors, Hayes A**
3. **District Administrators, , *Meeting Room 20***   ***(Credit Card Policies will be discussed)***
4. **Ag Technicians, *Meeting Room 33***
5. **Education Specialists, *Meeting Room 34***
6. **Wildlife & Forestry Specialists, *Meeting Room 30***
7. **Urban & GIS Technicians, *Meeting Room 21***
8. **Watershed Coordinators, *Meeting Room 22***

**TUESDAY AGENDA**

**Conservation Training Workshops, Session IV: 10:45am-11:45am**

1. **Results of 4 Year Cover Crop Study- Lessons Learned:** Hear about Hamilton SWCD’s study using 4 farms throughout the county. Learn about the results impacting erosion, soil health and water quality! *Speaker: Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Hamilton SWCD*
2. **The Power of Positive Partnerships and Proactive Planning,** This session provides strategies to get creative with annual programming and encourages out-of-the-box thinking and collaboration. By working with partnering agencies, districts can open doors to new ideas, improve customer base satisfaction with and participation in educational workshops, and spread effective conservation planning, best management practices and other conservation programs. *Speaker: Kim Vance, Carroll SWCD*
3. **Sharing the Envirothon Experience.** Come hear and see the journey of this past year’s State Envirothon winner, Fort Jennings HS. They will discuss the Envirothon Program, how they prepared for both the State and National Competition, and how this program has impacted the students for the future**,***Speakers: State Winner Fort Jennings High School*
4. **Sediment Studies of Environmental Change in NE Ohio: Implications for Watershed Management.** Sediment influences environmental restoration efforts because sediment comprises half the stream’s dynamic equilibrium equation, affects benthic habitat, and influences the fate of contaminants. I will present examples of research into natural and anthropogenic controls on watershed/stream erosion and sediment transport in northeast Ohio. Furthermore, I will show how lake and dam pool sediment pollution profiles are used to assess the impact of changing land use and environmental regulations. The final examples illustrate northeast Ohio stream response to a pronounced increase in precipitation and flood frequency since 2003***,*** *Speaker: Dr. Peck, University of Akron*
5. **Understanding Nutrient Consumption of Common Crop Rotations.** Am I starving the crop or building the soil for future generations? A proper understanding of nutrient removal is integral to farm economics, protecting water quality and crop health.  A brief look at nutrient management and tools available to get a better idea where you may stand on your farm or helping assist farmers with nutrient planning. *Speaker: Kip Studer, DSWC*
6. **Field-Edge Prairie Strips Solutions to Ohio Harmful Algal Blooms Water Quality Challenges.** Come hear more how proper design, engineered placement, and statewide plantings of Ohio native tallgrasses and forbs prairie vegetation can help address water quality challenges. This session dives into how prairie strips, pollinators and more can make a positive impact. *Speakers: John Blakeman, Meadow Environment & Wil Hemker, University of Akron*

**Conservation Training Workshops, Session V: 1:45pm-2:45pm**

1. **Professional Development Opportunities for District Staff and Supervisors**Join Ohio Department of Agriculture Staff to learn about the various training programs offered by DSWC for SWCD staff and supervisors.Learn about what is being planned in 2019 and beyond. *Speakers: Jocelyn Henderson & Jarrod Hittle, DSWC*
2. **Understanding Food Security Act Compliance for USDA Programs**, Join NRCS staff to explain how Farm Bill Compliance for soil erosion and wetlands works. During the session hear a brief history of compliance standards, how to be sure you’re in compliance and an overview of what documentation is involved and how to interpret it. Plus a few minutes for Q&A! *Speakers: Steven Baker and Nick Schell, NRCS*
3. **9-Element Watershed Implementation Plan***,* Come learn more about Ohio’s 9-Element Plans and how these provide opportunities for funding, collaboration and more in the efforts to improve water quality. *Speaker Rick Wilson, Ohio EPA*
4. **Plant it and they will come.**  Creating educational and outreach opportunities from an unexpected invasion. Programming with Monarchs.  *Speakers: Rebecca Miller, Hocking SWCD & Jenna Balazs, Americorps*
5. **Reaching non-farming landowners to promote conservation practices.**  Lack of communication between a producer and their landowners can be a barrier to adoption of conservation practices over a large percentage of a watershed.  Learn how Ohio districts have partnered with American Farmland Trust to reach and educate women landowners and tenant farmers.*Guest Speakers: Jen, AFT, Wood and Hardin SWCDs*
6. **Manure Separation/Treatment Research:** What holds the most promise for Ohio? Mercer County’s Ag Solutions Coordinator will review her research and manure pilot project data collected over the last three years.  She will review all concepts explored and which technologies hold the most promise for successful and affordable manure nutrient removal.*Speaker: Theresa Dierksen, Mercer ASC*

**Conservation Training Workshops, Session VI: 3pm-4pm**

1. **Parliamentary Procedures/ Roberts Rules / Executive Session,** Want to learn how to effectively run a board meeting? Come and learn how parliamentary procedure can be used as a tool to run board meetings smoothly and save time. *Speaker: Clark Hutson, DSWC*
2. **Livestock and Typical Nutrient Production through Manure** – Learn how to estimate cropland needed to utilize nutrients produced from typical livestock production systems.  This presentation will be based on experiences from manure and nutrient management efforts in the Grand Lake St. Mary’s watershed. *Speaker: Terry Mescher, DSWC*
3. **Assisting Communities with Small MS4 Stormwater Permit Compliance.** Ohio EPA will present on Small MS4 Permit Compliance and how SWCD’s can play a role in assisting communities with compliance.  Cuyahoga SWCD will highlight work they have done to assist communities in managing stormwater runoff from development sites for the long-term through their post construction program. *Speakers: John Mathews, Ohio EPA & Carla Regener, Cuyahoga SWCD*
4. **Dam Safety and Floodplain Management,** Hear the latest information on dam safety requirements and floodplain management. *Speakers: Dena Barnhouse and Alicia Silverio, ODNR Division of Water Resources*
5. **H2Know and Digging Thru the Layers of Soil Science,** Healthy soil and clean water are essential to healthy living. This hands-on workshop will look at the relationship between healthy soil, clean water and sustainable practices in agriculture. This will include exploring it through a Digital Case study on the algae bloom in Lake Erie. *Speaker: Katie Nainiger, Geauga SWCD**&**Nutrients for Life Ambassador*
6. **Rural or Urban – Accurate Elevation Data Matters, This session will focus on** Remote Sensing Technology and the Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP). *Speakers: Sean Logan and Brian Stevens, Woolpert Project Manager*