



# ON THE LAND

FALL 2018

## Don't Drip and Drive - #lakeeriestartshere

Your car contains fluids that allow it to function properly, however when a car isn't maintained, these fluids may leak, and are a problem for the environment. When it rains the fluids from your car wash into local rivers and streams that drain to Lake Erie.

Many of us get our drinking water from Lake Erie and local and migrating wildlife also rely on a healthy Lake Erie system for survival. Fixing a small leak now may prevent big car repair bills in the future and it will help keep our waterways clean.



*Fix car leaks to keep oil and gas from entering our storm drains and flowing into our streams, rivers, and Lake Erie!*

Did you ever wonder where the soapy water goes when you wash your car in the driveway?

- Water drains off impervious (hard) surfaces into the road, then into the storm drain and into streams without any treatment.
- Car washing facilities are required to dispose of their used, polluted water responsibly.
- If you must wash at home, washing your car in the lawn allows water to be absorbed and filtered before it goes to your local stream.

## Cleveland: Lights Out for Birds

Have you heard about Cleveland Lights Out? It is part of a national movement, grounded in science and tied into energy conservation with respect to nature. The idea is to engage building owners to turn off building lights out during spring and fall migration, but not in areas that would compromise safety.

Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Cleveland on their way to or from their breeding grounds. Many birds migrate at night, and lights on tall buildings or aimed at the sky can disorient them and draws them into the buildings. Many perish and others are severely hurt.

City of Cleveland leaders and stakeholders have met to discuss the movement in more detail. Currently, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, among others, are training volunteers to walk the downtown streets in the morning to find dead or damaged birds.

For more information or to consider assisting with the volunteer monitoring program, visit the website.

*[ohiolightsout.org/cities/lights-out-cleveland](http://ohiolightsout.org/cities/lights-out-cleveland)*



*photo of the Cleveland skyline by flickr/Erik Drost*



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

# EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED NEWS

## *Perils of Plastic*

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) welcomed Dr. Sherri Mason from State University of New York at Fredonia to present her recent research on plastic pollution in the Great Lakes and its tributaries as well as plastic in our tap water, bottled water, beer and sea salt on August 14th at Beachwood Community Center. The event also featured Dr. Cathi Lehn from Cleveland Office of Sustainability, Director Diane Bickett from Cuyahoga Solid Waste District, and Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Sunny Simon to talk about local plastic reduction

efforts and the latest on changes to our county recycling program. The night concluded with a question and answer session as well as ideas about how we can address this threat by making simple changes in our daily lives, like refusing a straw or bringing reusable bags to the grocery store.

You can listen, watch, or read about several other presentations Dr. Mason made throughout Cleveland on Aug. 14th on NPR (Sound of Ideas), City Club, and Cleveland.com. Look for a video of our program coming soon on our website: [www.euclidcreekwatershed.org](http://www.euclidcreekwatershed.org).



*Dr. Sherri Mason chats with attendees after her talk. (above) A packed house at the event. (below)*



We'd like to thank our sponsors and the people who made the event possible. Beachwood Community Center for the venue, Zagara's catering for the food and desserts, Green Paper Products in Highland Heights for the compostable utensils, and Rust Belt Riders for helping to make this a zero-waste event. Thanks to Dr. Cathi Lehn, Ken Messinger-Rapport, FOEC President, and Chris Vild, FOEC Vice President for their hard work on this event.



# ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

Cuyahoga County is the most highly urbanized county in the state of Ohio, with nearly 90% of the land area considered developed. The vast majority of this development occurred before any state or local regulations requiring stormwater management were in place, leading to widespread degraded water quality and stream habitat

conditions, especially in headwater stream systems.

To address these legacy impervious surfaces, Cuyahoga SWCD was awarded an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Assistance Grant to inventory and evaluate potential stormwater retrofit project sites. A stormwater retrofit is a stormwater

control measure that is installed to treat runoff from a previously constructed impervious surface, or a modification to an existing stormwater control measure to improve its effectiveness. The subwatersheds targeted by this project, Abram, Baldwin and Coe Creeks and the Lower East Branch

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# CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 69TH ANNUAL MEETING & EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED SUMMIT

Showcasing projects in Euclid that have helped to improve water quality and our Great Lake Erie waterfront.

- Come early to take a tour
- Stay for the camaraderie
- Get to know this year's Conservation Heroes
- Help elect two people to the Cuyahoga SWCD Board of Supervisors
- Light refreshments will be served



**Thursday,  
October 18, 2018**  
Euclid Lakefront  
Community Center  
1 Bliss Lane  
Euclid, OH 44123  
Free Tours at 3 pm & 4 pm  
Reception 5 pm  
Annual Meeting at 6 pm  
Voting Ends at 6:15 pm



## Euclid Creek Watershed Partnership

### EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL

BRACKWOOD • CLEVELAND • EUCLID • HIGHLAND HEIGHTS • INDEPENDENT • MAYFIELD  
MAYFIELD HEIGHTS • RICHMOND HEIGHTS • SOUTH EUCLID

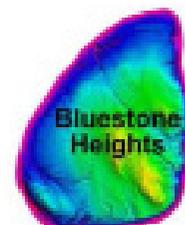


More Information and registration at <https://www.cuyahogaswcd.org/>

or by contacting

Ellen Brown at 216-524-6580 x1000 or [ebrown@cuyahogaswcd.org](mailto:ebrown@cuyahogaswcd.org)

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



# MEET THE CANDIDATES



**CHRISTINE BALK**

Christine 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. Christine has volunteered to provide community programs regarding trees and is interested in using her skills to assist in the implementation of the Cuyahoga SWCD's mission.



**JEFFREY DUKE**

Jeff is the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Services Manager for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District where he has worked since 1993. Jeff has a BS in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a MS in Civil Engineering-Water Resources from Cleveland State University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio and a certified GIS Professional. He also serves on the Berea City School District School Board. He has a passion for GIS and maps – as a visual gateway – to the information and tools needed to allow stakeholders better perform business functions. His experience in planning, project delivery and technical support has provided him the background to be able to be proactive in providing geospatial and data management tools to internal and external stakeholders. Key project successes include his organization's Enterprise GIS, revamping customer service delivery an inquiry tracking system and supporting the implementation of the District's regional stormwater management program. Jeff has collaborated with various agencies in developing illicit discharge tracking and elimination tools for the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit Program and has worked with various community and county agencies to enhance stormwater infrastructure datasets and tools to support many business activities.



**CAROLINE KELEMEN**

Growing up playing in Porter Creek gave me an early appreciation for water resources in Cuyahoga County. Distraught to discover the abuse of these resources, I embarked on 20 years of environmental advocacy. In 2015, I graduated from Purdue University with the nation's top rated Agricultural Engineering degree and a concentration in Environmental and Natural Resources Engineering. Returning to Cleveland, I began working at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Southerly plant. I relished the opportunity to investigate the largest facility protecting our Lake and map the area. Simultaneously, I began working with the Cleveland Metropark's Watershed Volunteer Program. Tracking erosion in the parks, maintaining and implementing storm water management features and planting native plants was so exciting for me that in 2016, I was recognized for being the most active volunteer. Hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2017, invigorated my passion for nature and desire to protect it. Since May 2018, as a Hydrologist Technician I have managed a joint project between NEORSD, the Cleveland Metroparks and Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District to assess erosion tracking protocols in the Cleveland area. I anticipate bringing my new ideas, local knowledge and passion to work for the Board of Directors.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES



### RUTH SKULY

Dr. Skuly is completing her sixth term on the Board. Currently the chair, she has served as treasurer and vice chair. She has helped with community outreach and spear-headed the development of the District's first Strategic Plan, which has evolved and been the guiding principle of the District since 2002. Completing her 15th year as a director of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, she helps direct the soil and water conservation efforts across the state. Ruth is retired from the Cleveland Municipal School District where she taught biology and environmental science before becoming an administrator. As such, she headed a school for court-committed juvenile delinquents, developed student and teacher training programs and worked with schools to write and achieve their school improvement plans. She wrote and was granted numerous proposals to bring state and federal dollars to the school district. Ruth earned biology degrees from St. Xavier College (Chicago) and Cleveland State University and has a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Kent State University. Ruth and her husband, Leo Deininger, reside in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. They own and manage a tree farm in Coshocton County where they have

*Skuly cont.* implemented many conservation practices. Her volunteer interests include the Cleveland Hiking Club, the Nature Conservancy, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and the Sustainable Heights Network. She is interested in the federal Farm Bill and bringing federal cost share dollars to Cuyahoga County, and has taken advantage of training offered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the EPA in storm water management, brownfield redevelopment and forestry, all of which are relevant to helping lead the District.

## 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 run 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.

**Official voting begins on September 27, 2018.**

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

- At the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District office weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and until 3:00 p.m. on October 18;
- By absentee ballot. Request an "Absentee Request Form" from the Cuyahoga SWCD office or on our website at [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org). Ballots will be mailed beginning September 27;
- At the annual meeting on October 18, from 4:30 – 6:15 p.m. at the Euclid Lakefront Community Center, 1 Bliss Lane, Euclid (north of Lakeshore Blvd at East 222 street).

For more information, call 216-524-6580, ext. 1000.



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# I pledge allegiance...to the environment

Now you can pledge allegiance to the environment by signing one or both of our pledges! And, you'll receive a free gift!

## STOW IT, DON'T THROW IT

I pledge to...

- keep all garbage in my vehicle or watercraft and not throw any items, however small, out my windows or into a waterway. My passengers will do the same.
- properly dispose of and/or recycle all collected garbage at a later time.
- keep items secured in and on my vehicle or watercraft including garbage and any transported materials.
- fix any vehicle or watercraft leaks in a timely manner as to not pollute the environment with leaking fluids.
- extinguish cigarettes/cigars in an ashtray of my car/boat and not throw them out my windows or into a waterway. My passengers will do the same. (if applicable)



Keep your car garbage in this handy litter bag to throw away later!

## USE THE RIGHT S.A.L.T.

### (Stuff, Amount Location, Time)

I pledge to...

- only use rock salt (sodium chloride) above 15 degrees F.
- spread only enough salt to do the job - one 12 ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to effectively de-ice about 10 sidewalk squares.
- spread salt only on the surfaces that need to be de-iced, and never on the lawn, at the base of a tree or right next to a stream or storm drain!
- only apply salt right before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from my driveway or sidewalk and never when rain is in the forecast.

*This gift doubles as a coffee mug and a unit of measurement. One heaping coffee mug of salt covers 250 sq. feet or 10 sidewalk squares!*



## Visit our website and take one or both of the pledges

[www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org) - click on programs - stormwater education

We will send you a follow up reminder and a free gift

(while supplies last - bag will be sent, mug will be available for pick up)

**Thank you for your commitment to our environment!**

*Rocky River cont.*

in the Rocky River watershed are archetypical Northeast Ohio urban subwatersheds.

Through the retrofit inventory process, characteristics of individual sites such as amount of impervious surface, area available for a retrofit, site ownership and the presence or absence of an existing stormwater control measure are evaluated.

As a result of this inventory, four sites were selected for concept plan development. These included two public park sites without existing stormwater control measures, and two existing detention basins that can be modified to improve stormwater treatment. These sites were selected based on feasibility, willingness of owners, and in some

cases demonstration potential. Also, one site was selected in each of the target subwatersheds. The concept plans will be utilized when working with the landowners and seeking funding to implement the projects, and each project will be included in the watershed management plan for its respective subwatershed.

# Technical Assistance Resources

Cuyahoga SWCD provides technical assistance to landowners within Cuyahoga County as part of our countywide mission. When a property owner contacts Cuyahoga SWCD staff listen to the concern and work with the property owner to fully understand the situation. Part of our research includes consulting a myriad of resources that provide valuable context. The following is a list of the various resources we often consult and a brief description of what those resources provide.

- **Web Soil Survey:** [websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov)  
This is a map based USDA website that allows users to zero in on their address. Once the address is entered the user can explore the databases to investigate various properties of soil such as building development suitability, soil health, vegetation productivity, and much more.
- **Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSDs):** [soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/osdname.aspx](http://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/osdname.aspx)  
Using information gained from the Web Soil Survey a user can type in the code for the various soil types and get an extensive description about that specific soil type. Descriptions often include soil composition (i.e. silt, sand, or clay), estimated depth to water table, estimated depth to a restrictive layer (i.e. bedrock), drainage characteristics, typical land use type.
- **Archived Soil Survey Manuscripts:** [www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MANUSCRIPTS/ohio/cuyahogaOH1980/cuyahogaOH1980.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/ohio/cuyahogaOH1980/cuyahogaOH1980.pdf)  
In Cuyahoga County much of the information related to official soil surveys is available online. It is useful though to consult the older paper copies of the county soil survey. Given that it has been nearly 40 years since a paper copy of the Cuyahoga Soil survey has been published the best options is to view a scanned copy online. The narrative sections related to sub-surface drainage and suitability for basements is always helpful.
- **Google Earth:** [www.google.com/earth/](http://www.google.com/earth/)  
Google Earth is free software which is best known for displaying current aerial photography. Other features on Google Earth include various measuring tools, select archival imagery dating back to 1994, and a multitude of map layers.
- **Historic Aerial Photography:** [cplorg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p4014coll24/search](http://cplorg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p4014coll24/search)  
If Google Earth does not provide sufficient archival aerial images the Cleveland Public Library has an extensive catalog of high resolution digital scans of historic aerial photographs. These photographs date back to 1951 and can provide insight into former buildings, changing water courses, and historic land uses.
- **Stream Stats:** [water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/](http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/)  
This United States Geological Survey map based website allows users to search a geographic area and identify nearby streams and rivers. The site includes a variety of measuring tools to help categorize streams. Additionally, it identifies where stream gages are installed and provides a link to the data collected on those streams.
- **Tree Planting Guides:** [www.urbantree.org/planting.shtml](http://www.urbantree.org/planting.shtml)  
The Urban Tree Foundation does not provide specific information about a geographic area. Instead it provides guidelines and best practices for planting trees in an urban environment. Trees offer a variety of benefits related to erosion control, stormwater detention, and water uptake (i.e. drainage issues). Planting them correctly the first time and taking care of them will ensure they thrive and provide all the benefits described.
- **Planting Guide:** [www.cuyahogawcd.org/files/assets/cmplandscapingforbiodiversity2017.pdf](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/files/assets/cmplandscapingforbiodiversity2017.pdf)  
The Cleveland Metroparks publication “Landscaping for Biodiversity with Ohio Native Plants is a compendium of native plants in Ohio. This resource is delineated by plant height, bloom color, sun/shade tolerance, soil moisture tolerance, plant type, etc. Similar to the tree planting guide, researching and choosing appropriate plants will ensure that selected plants perform as intended.

**By familiarizing yourself with these resources, property owners can gain a better understanding of their surrounding environment and how to best interact with it. Questions, contact Brent Eysenbach at 216/524-6580, ext. 1011 or [beysenbach@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:beysenbach@cuyahogawcd.org)**

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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## BACK TO SCHOOL

It's time again to think about all the great programs and resources we offer to Cuyahoga County students. We encourage teachers and home school parents to incorporate them in to their school schedule.

Our biggest program, by far, is the Envirothon, an environmental science competition for students in grades 9-12. Each school or homeschool group can register up to 2 teams of 5 students in the competition. We have 4 training kits that can be borrowed by Cuyahoga County schools. We also have a Division of Wildlife "skins and skulls kit" available for loan through our office. We would like to thank Stearn's Homestead, the Cuyahoga Farm Bureau, Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the National Youth and Environmental Outdoor Challenge for their support of Envirothon training for

under-represented students.

We are looking for sponsors for a Cuyahoga County Envirothon fund that will be used to reimburse Cuyahoga County schools for transportation and substitute teacher costs so their students can attend Envirothon related programs and Envirothon competitions. Please contact us if you would like to donate to this fund.

Our summer educator workshops were a great success and we'll have more to come in 2019. Educators practiced using hands on curriculum, completed service projects, toured school sites and field trip venues and learned about many different types of resources they could use for their students.

Our district sent 7 students to Camp Canopy this summer. The students' reviews for this opportunity were

great – fun and learning were had by all.

The theme for the 2019 Poster contest will be "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". The annual poster contest is a great way for teachers to take a multi disciplinary approach to teaching about natural resource topics. More information will be available soon.

Although school visits are limited, educators can borrow models and lesson plans. Home school groups can also make arrangements for student projects and programs.

*Contact Jacki Zevenbergen  
for more information  
on stormwater  
education programs at  
216/524-6580, ext. 1006 or  
jzevenbergen@cuyahogaswcd.org*