

The Warren Report



Warren County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

STREAM ENCOUNTERS

Learn, explore, and improve your local streams

Ever wanted to explore your local stream, but didn't know exactly where and how? This summer we are hosting stream encounters where residents can enjoy their local streams through guided educational opportunities and cleanups. While participating in beautification efforts, you will also learn about how we monitor for stream health.

Did you know that much of the trash we find in the stream reaches the waterway when it rains? Streams are located at the lowest elevation in a particular area of land, and that area of land is known as a drainage area or a watershed. When it rains, any loose trash and litter within a watershed makes its way to our streams by traveling along with the stormwater runoff. The trash then collects in our streams, getting caught in trees and bushes, and spreading out along the bank. Stream cleanups provide an opportunity to help improve water quality and protect wildlife.

During the stream encounter, we will also be looking for macroinvertebrates, which are bugs that spend their beginning stages in water and their adult stage in the air and on land. These bugs let us know the health of the stream because certain types can only handle certain conditions. We will also be performing some simple water quality tests with testing strips in the stream. Be sure to join in on the fun!

Stream Encounter Dates:

Tuesday, July 10, 10:00am - 12:00pm
Harmon Park, Lebanon, Ohio

Wednesday, August 1, 10:00am - 12:00pm
St. Susanna Catholic Church, Mason, Ohio

RSVP Online: <https://www.warrenswcd.com/stream-encounters.html>

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Upcoming Events

Deerfield Township Rain Barrel Workshop

Wednesday, June 20
Fire Station 57
Loveland, Ohio

Hamilton Township Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, June 23
Fellowship Baptist Church
Maineville, Ohio

Rain Garden Workshop

Monday, June 25
Sanitation District No. 1
Fort Wright, KY
savelocalwaters.org

Warren County Fair

Monday-Saturday, July 16-21
Warren County Fairgrounds
Lebanon, Ohio

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 22
Valley Vineyards
Morrow, Ohio

For more information about upcoming events or important dates, please visit our website or sign up for our email newsletter on the homepage.

WarrenSWCD.com

OFSWCD 75th Anniversary Meeting, February 2018



Marival and Broadview Stream Restoration Project



A stream restoration project with the goal to improve water quality and stabilize eroding stream banks is now complete within the neighborhoods of Marival & Broadview Farms in Mason, Ohio.

The project area involves a tributary stream to Muddy Creek that eventually makes it way to the Little Miami River. Streams that run through this residential area, along with many others in Ohio, are

degrading due to increased hard surfaces related to development. Before this project, the path of the stream included aggressive and sharp meanders that directed flow into tall, unstable banks.

In response to resident’s concerns of erosion and sedimentation in the stream, the city applied for and received an EPA 319(h) non-point source stormwater grant. Other project funds and in-kind were provided by the Marival Condo Association and the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District and through the city’s stormwater fund.

The restored stream now has gentle and more stable meanders to prevent erosion problems. Native plants were also introduced to keep the banks stable and provide pollinator habitat for bees and butterflies. A conservation easement is now in place that permanently protects the area as a restored site.

Throughout the process of project design and construction a number of public meetings and tours occurred for public comment and education opportunities. A stream cleanup also occurred through the project area. Permanent educational signage was placed at the project site for future education and outreach purposes.

J.F. Burns Elementary School Rain Garden Project Ribbon Cutting



On a lovely spring day in May we celebrated the success of the J.F. Burns Elementary School Rain Garden Project with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Representatives from all project partners, along with students and teachers gathered around the rain garden to celebrate

this special project. The program included an award presentation, ribbon cutting, and a performance by the elementary school choir.

A rain garden is a planted area that collects rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces, like the parking lot, and allows the water to absorb back into the ground. The plants act as a sponge to soak up the water and work to remove the pollutants from the parking lot runoff. When it rains, storm drains along roads and parking lots carry rainwater to our streams and rivers. By redirecting water into a rain garden on the campus of J.F. Burns Elementary, we are preventing pollution from flowing downstream to Landen Lake. Rain gardens also provide habitat for wildlife, including our very important pollinators.

We are very fortunate to work with local partners to complete projects like the J.F. Burns Elementary School Rain Garden within our county. Partners on this project include Deerfield Township, Deerfield Regional Storm Water District, Kings Local Schools, MSP Design, United Way of Warren County, Evans Landscaping and Reading Rock.

Annual Tree Seedling Sale, April 2018



Environmental High School Competition for Area IV



area in the southwest corner of Ohio worked to answer questions on the topics of Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and the Current Environmental Issue (CEI) of Rangeland Grazing. Five teams from Warren County competed in the competition; 2 teams from Franklin High School and 3 teams from Kings High School

The 2018 Area IV Envirothon was hosted by Montgomery County. Each year, a different team of SWCDs plan and host the event. This year, the Montgomery and Miami SWCDs collaborated to host the event at the beautiful and diverse Possum Creek MetroPark. Possum Creek was a perfect fit, with its mix of high quality habitats all situated in close proximity to one another. The hosting Five Rivers MetroParks staff was very accommodating and worked with the committee closely to make sure the contest had what was needed and flowed smoothly.

The top scoring teams for 2018 were from Centerville (1st and 3rd), Beavercreek, and Russia High Schools. The top four teams from the event advance to the Ohio Envirothon, where they will compete with top teams from the other four areas in the state. The winning team from the Ohio Envirothon then advances to the North American Envirothon, which in 2018 will be held in Idaho.

This event is a true example of many groups working together to provide a wonderful opportunity for students to learn through experience! These contests are open to any Warren County schools. If you have a school that would like to participate or learn more, please contact Warren County SWCD Education Specialists Melissa Proffitt or Marta Farrell.

The excitement was contagious as the students gathered on the morning of April 24th for the opening of the 2018 Area IV Envirothon, cheering the professionals who had prepared the tests that students would be taking a short bit later at the testing sites. The Envirothon offers a unique opportunity for students to learn from professionals who work in different aspects of natural resources conservation.

Competition was intense. Each team consists of five students. An adult advisor must accompany the team, but is not permitted to assist the team during the competition. Students and their teachers had spent many hours preparing, pouring over study guides, participating in practice Envirothons in their home counties, securing busing and learning from natural resources professionals. Over the next few hours, 92 teams made up of over 450 students from an 18 county

SUMMER CONTESTS

Get in on the Summer Fun with Hottest Day, Coloring, and Biggest Tree Contests

Check out our summer contests and enter to win a prize! All contest winners will be announced at our upcoming Annual Meeting on August 22 at Valley Vineyards.

Coloring Contest

This year's contest will focus on a Ohio River fish known as the sturgeon. There are three age categories and two different coloring pages, depending on the age of the child. All coloring contest entries must be dropped off or postmarked by Friday, August 3. Winners will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Biggest Tree Contest: Eastern Redcedar

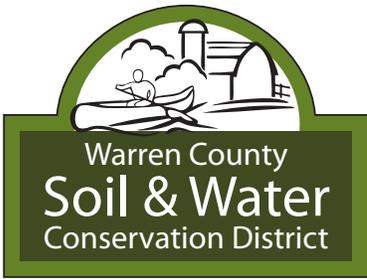
Do you have the largest Eastern Redcedar tree on your property? We are in search of this year's Warren County Biggest Tree Contest winner! To enter, measure the circumference of your tree at four feet up from the base and make a rough estimate of the tree's height. Call the District with your tree's measurements by August 3.

Hottest Day

Can you guess what will be the hottest day between July 23 and August 13? Come see us at the fair, stop by the office, or email your guess to wcsxcd@gmail.com

6th Annual Rain Barrel Art Auction, April 2018





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ANNUAL MEETING: AUG 22

The 74th Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 22nd at Valley Vineyards. For this year's program we will have the WAVE Foundation at Newport Aquarium and their new traveling sturgeon tank!

Voting will take place from 5:00-6:30pm and the program will start at 7:00pm. More details and registration information will be announced later this summer. Be sure you don't miss this!

Any Warren County resident wishing to run for the Board of Supervisors must submit a completed petition on form SEL-5 by close of business on July 18, 2018. Forms can be found on the Ohio Department of Agriculture website.

Our mission is to promote the wise stewardship of our natural resources through cooperative partnerships, educational programs and technical assistance in land and water management.