

WINTER 2022



SUMMIT
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Summit SWCD's Quarterly Newsletter



Photo Credit: Bob Jones, News5 Cleveland

2021 Annual Election Results

RESULTS OF ANNUAL MEETING - SEPT. 16, 2021

The 75th Anniversary annual meeting celebration and election for the Board of Supervisors of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District was held on September 16, 2021, at Sarah's Vineyard in Cuyahoga Falls. The event featured a video presentation with interviews and reminiscences from past staff and stakeholders and highlights of progress and programs. Sarah's Vineyard stone fired pizza and appetizers were served.

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ELECTION RESULTS**

NEW STAFF

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ENVIROTHON

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SAFE SALTING PRACTICES

Elected to the Summit SWCD Board of Supervisors for a three-year term commencing on January 1, 2022 is Catherine Perrow. Her biography is below:

Catherine Perrow

Catherine Perrow was born and raised in Summit County. After graduating from Cuyahoga Falls High School in 2002, she went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University focusing on Communications & Social Sciences. Following college, she joined Teach for America and traveled to rural Mississippi where she spent four years teaching elementary school.

Work and life also took her to Kentucky and Tennessee where she earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership. In 2015, Catherine returned to Northeast Ohio to serve as the Principal of DeWitt Elementary School in Cuyahoga Falls for six years. She currently serves as Associate Principal for Academics at Archbishop Hoban High School.

Ms. Perrow's work in education has provided the opportunity to engage with many local agencies through outreach and growth for her students. This past year, the award of a GAR grant brought the connection of the Summit SWCD to DeWitt.

When Catherine is away from work, she can be found running the Towpath and enjoying local parks with her family. Akron is now home to her daughter, three stepchildren, and husband. Committing to the preservation, growth, and health of this area is incredibly important work to her. Catherine believes in creating partnerships with students, community agencies, and resources to empower citizens young and old to engage positively in their cities and towns.



We look forward to working with Catherine and wish to express our gratitude to our long-time Supervisor and supportive advocate since 2013, Martin Hilovsky. Marty is retiring from the Board and will pursue other interests.

Marty Hilovsky

Martin Hilovsky is an environmental scientist with more than 30 years' experience in wastewater treatment, regulatory affairs, water quality studies, and environmental mitigation projects.

Eight years of this experience was spent with Ohio EPA; permitting, inspecting, and approving plans in the Industrial Wastewater Section of the Division of Surface Water.



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For the past two decades he has served as President of EnviroScience, Inc, a Stow ecological consulting firm he founded.

Over the past nine years, Martin served as a Supervisor for Summit Soil & Water where he supported the mission of the SWCD by providing technical input on regulatory issues affecting the agency and its clients.

In a related capacity, he is currently serving as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Portage Lakes Advisory Council examining issues related to nutrient enrichment, aquatic plant management, and lake front best management practices.

He has been a Summit County resident for more than 35 years, and currently resides in Stow.

We wish Marty well with all his endeavors and wish to express our gratitude for his dedication and commitment to Summit SWCD's mission and goals.



New District Staff and AmeriCorps Member

Sasha Mikheidze - Stormwater Specialist

Sasha recently joined Summit SWCD, coming over after spending 8 years at Franklin SWCD. As a Stormwater Specialist, Sasha's duties will include Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan reviews and construction site inspections, municipal facility good housekeeping and pollution prevention inspections, and assisting the public with riparian setbacks. Sasha graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BA in biology with a minor in GIS. He also holds an associate's degree in ecology from Vanier College in Montreal, Canada. Previously, he has spent several years performing raptor research in remote locations.



Sasha's favorite BMPs are the ones that are installed and maintained properly. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with his wife and 4 cats and sculpting, drawing, or playing one of his 8 Ovation guitars.

Sophia Sorboro - Outreach Specialist/AmeriCorps Service Member

Sophia is an AmeriCorps Member serving as the Outreach Specialist for SSWCD. Throughout her service year, she will be working closely with Sandy Barbic (Education Specialist) and Stephanie Deibel (Watershed Coordinator) to organize workshops, assist with trainings and field sampling, oversee volunteers, and expand the office's outreach to younger generations. Sophia has a BS in Environmental & Conservation Biology and a BA in Environmental Studies from Kent State University. This is her second year with AmeriCorps!

Her favorite Best Management Practice (BMP) is riparian buffers. These buffers are planted along a river, stream, wetland, or lake and act to reduce runoff, stabilize eroding banks, capture water, and provide habitat to fish and other wildlife. Sophia enjoys hiking, gardening, and learning about new species of plants.



Photo Credit: Summit SWCD

2022 Master Rain Gardener Courses

COURSE UPCOMING IN MARCH!

Train to be a Master Rain Gardener! Learn to design and install your own raingarden and be the raingarden expert in your neighborhood. Master Rain Gardeners help friends and neighbors to learn about, design, and plant raingardens.

Raingardens work with nature to collect and filter rainwater that runs off impervious surfaces like rooftops and driveways. Impervious surfaces lead to increases in surface runoff and often result in increased flooding and stream bank erosion. As water travels over impervious surfaces, it also has the potential to pick up pollutants. Polluted stormwater runoff enters our rivers and lakes and is one of the leading threats to water quality in the United States.

The Master Rain Gardener Program will teach you how to manage rainwater in your own yard. Raingardens naturally manage stormwater by infiltrating precipitation and allowing it to soak into the ground rather than sending it directly to storm sewers and nearby streams untreated.

We will have a virtual orientation meeting for the class on March 15, 2022, when we will also provide links to the online classes. The series of online classes will have weekly zoom meetings where we discuss the lessons. The first lesson will be discussed on March 22, 2022, and the last and final session will be April 19, 2022. For more flexibility, you may watch the classes at your convenience within the course timeline. Summit SWCD will provide you with weekly feedback on your weekly homework assignments and quizzes.

Upon completion of the course you will receive your Master Raingardener certificate after you install your own raingarden or help to install or maintain a community raingarden as a volunteer.

Cost for the class is: \$25.00.

You may register for the class at:

<https://sswcd.summitoh.net/featured/master-rain-gardener-program>. Registration and payment should be in our office by March 08, 2022.

Please call 330-926-2452 for more information and any questions that you may have. We are grateful to Washtenaw County Michigan Water Resources Commissioner's Office, Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Chagrin River Watershed Partners for resources and assistance with this program.

2022 Area II Envirothon

HOSTED BY COLUMBIANA AND MAHONING SWCDS

The 2022 Area II Envirothon will be held April 28, 2022 at Kent State University-Salem Branch 2491 OH-45 Salem, OH 44460. This year's event will be hosted by Columbiana and Mahoning County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

What is the National Conservation Foundation – Area 2 Envirothon?

Envirothon is designed to stimulate and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. A competitive outdoor team event, Envirothon offers a unique and enjoyable learning experience. Teams consists of 5 students, all from the same school. An adult advisor (or advisors) must accompany the team but is not permitted to assist the team during the competition. Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues. The current environmental issue for 2022 is “Waste to Resources”. In addition, Envirothon encourages cooperative decision-making and team building. While each student on an Envirothon team is challenged to contribute their personal best, the score that counts at the end of an Envirothon is the team score.

Five Area Envirothons are conducted around Ohio each spring. The top four teams from each of the Area competitions progress to the Ohio Envirothon in June held in a different part of the state each year. The 2022 Ohio Envirothon will be held at Lake Erie College in Painesville on June 5, 6, and 7. The top-scoring team in the Ohio Envirothon is eligible to compete in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon, hosted by a different state or Canadian province every year. The 2022 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon will be held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio on July 24-30. For more information, go to www.envirothon.org.

In Ohio, Envirothon is sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Natural resource and environmental specialists from many agencies, organizations, colleges, universities, park districts, and businesses devise the Envirothon questions and staff the various testing ecostations.

The Ohio Envirothon is financed by grants, donations from businesses and through contributions to the Don Rehl Memorial Envirothon Fund. Many local businesses also provide services and products in support of Area and Ohio Envirothons.

Teachers—check out your local SWCD's website for more information: Go to: <https://sswcd.summitoh.net/> for more information.



Photo Credit: OFSWCD

2022 Native Plant Sale

ORDERS AND PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 27TH!

2022 Native Plant and Tree Offerings

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District is once more offering separate bundles of native plants for sale. These bundles each contain 3 plants of the chosen species and the minimum order is one bundle containing 3 plants of the same species. The herbaceous plants include some of our iconic woodland spring ephemerals and come in the form of bare roots and corms just out of dormancy and are less fragile, so the plants are easy to handle and plant right away when the ground is still soft in early April.

The trees and shrubs are bare-root seedlings and should also be planted promptly to assure successful growth. If adding mulch when planting your trees and shrubs be sure not to place mulch around them any closer than 6 inches from the stem or trunk. This will help to prevent disease, insect infestation, and smothering of the roots.

Remember that when you plant these natives you are helping thousands of species of pollinators and other wildlife, while restoring and sustaining your own ecosystem.

You may call 330-926-2452 for more information on the plants or any questions that you may have. You can view descriptions and characteristics of the native plants and some pollinator information which may help you decide how to plan your planting arrangements to attract certain pollinators and wildlife, by going to our website at:

<https://sswcd.summitoh.net/featured/2022-tree-shrub-perennial-sale>.

Pussywillow

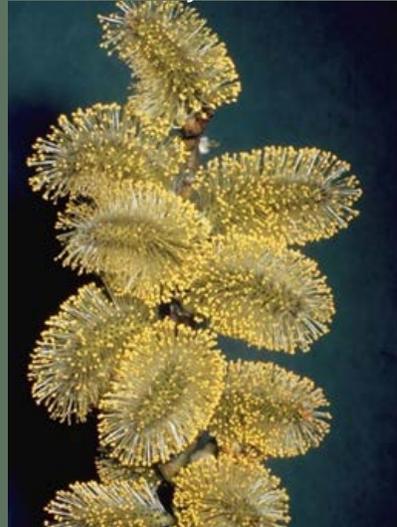


Photo Credit: Albert Vick

Trillium



Photo Credit: Hilltop Hollow.

Nannyberry



Photo Credit: Smith, R.W.

Native Plant Kits

You can help restore Ohio's native vegetation and improve the water quality and health of our lakes and streams by including a Native Plant Garden as part of your landscaping plan. The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District is offering native plant kits for sale again this spring, in 2022.

Each kit contains 50 native plant plugs and costs \$150.00. There are 4 types of kits available, with 10 varieties of native plants in each kit. Substitutions of alternate species may be made without notice if necessary.

To find out more about the Native Plant Kits and how to order, go to our website at:
<https://sswcd.summitoh.net/featured/2022-native-plant-kit-sale>.



Cardinal Flower
Photo Credit: Peter Gorman



Coneflower
Photo Credit: Summit SWCD



Northern Sea Oats
Photo Credit: Aaron Carlson.



Culver's Root
Photo Credit: Tom Potterfield



Photo by: Mike Vielhaber

Safe and Sensible Salting Practices at Home

HOW DOES SALT AFFECT OUR WATERSHEDS?

Simple changes in the amount and the ways in which we use salt in the winter can make a big difference in watershed health without jeopardizing our safety and can also save communities and households money. Because road salt (Sodium Chloride) can't be collected and kept out of runoff, it causes environmental problems in our watersheds. Salt dissolves into the water and ends up in surface and ground waters, impacting aquatic ecosystems and drinking water supplies.

Summit SWCD's winter focus is on [Sensible Salting Practices](#). Road salt (sodium chloride) can cause problems and harm our ecosystems. How you can adopt sensible salting practices at home?

Major Impacts of Road Salt (NaCl):

Water Quality Impacts: Water contaminated with NaCl creates higher density runoff water and will settle at the deepest part of the lake, leading to chemical stratification. This can impede natural turnover of bodies of water like lakes, and this prevents the dissolved oxygen within the upper layers from reaching the bottom layers and the nutrients in the bottom layers from reaching the upper layers, which can lead to fish kills from oxygen deprivation.

Elevated chloride levels can threaten the health of food sources for aquatic life and pose a risk to species survival, growth, reproduction, and survival rates. Excess salt also inputs high levels of chlorine into streams during dry periods, especially in the autumn. Elevated chlorine concentrations in the fall are easily increased to toxic levels during the winter months. It is estimated that sites with over 50% urban land cover exceed the US EPA water quality criteria for chlorine from 100-200 days per year.

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Major Impacts of Road Salt (NaCl):

Other Environmental Impacts:

Soil: Road salt destroys soil stability and decreases soil's ability to hold water. This increases soil erosion and the release of nutrients from the soil back into the water.

Chlorine also gets transferred to the groundwater tables through the soil. When salt contaminates groundwater, it can pose a serious health threat to individuals who require a low sodium diet.

Wildlife Impacts: Birds often mistake road salt for seeds or grit, and ingestion can result in sickness and death. High concentrations of salt can be found in snow melt, which animals drink throughout the winter and can potentially lead to dehydration, salt toxicity, confusion, and weakness.

Vegetation Impacts: When salt leaves the road from splashing or spraying up, transportation by wind, or through snow melt in surface waters, it can cause dehydration and disrupt osmosis in plants. This can affect nutrient uptake and cause injury to the plants flowering, seed germination, and growth abilities.

Pet Impacts: When animals get road salt in their system it can cause serious negative health effects like depression, vomiting, seizures, cardiac abnormalities, and many more. In terms of paw health, direct contact can produce painful irritations, inflammation and cracking that leads to infections.

Economic Impacts: Road salt can become very expensive over the season. In 2007, 18.3 million metric tons of salt were sold, and the annual deicing costs for the United States are estimated to be around \$2.3 billion.

However, road salt costs communities far more than just the purchasing cost. Corrosive to bridges, buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure, road salt increases the maintenance costs of these structures by billions of dollars. Road salt also threatens drinking water supplies, especially in well-water areas. The disposal cost of road salt poses yet another burden on communities throughout the winter.

Here are some “Sensible Salting Practices” that we as residents and homeowners can all employ which will help to reduce the negative effects of sodium chloride on the ecosystems in our watershed!

Shovel Snow: Removing snow and ice during a snowstorm, if possible, reduces the amount of salt required for deicing and increases the efficiency of deicing operations.

Follow Application Instructions: People often equate using more salt with rapid melting time, but it doesn't work that way. Excess salt does not help melt ice but is only carried away to our waterways when the ice does melt. Following the application instructions reduces over-application of deicers.

Reduce Chemical Application: Only apply road salt where you really need it. For example, you may not require access to every door into your house, but mainly use the front door. Create a path by shoveling snow to your front door and then apply the correct amount of road salt.

More "Sensible Salting Practices"

Consider Temperature: Most road salts are ineffective below 15°, so if you do not waste your time applying salt when it will not help melt the ice! Sand can be coupled with salt for better traction but must be swept up after use because sediment is another major pollutant of our stormwater!

Sweep Up Extra Road Salt: Excess salt does not help melt ice. If the ice is gone but there is still salt on your driveway, sweep it up because it is not doing anything beneficial.

Pet Safety: Sodium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride can burn your pets' paws. Potassium acetate is a safer alternative to use but can be difficult to find. Reduce your salt usage for your pets' sake and wash paws after walking your pets.

Landscaping Plant Materials: Landscaping plants and trees around your home may be injured by excess road salt. There are some species that are more salt-tolerant than others, but as a rule you should avoid excess salt altogether to minimize the harmful and costly impacts on your landscaping plants.

For more information on sensible salting practices, you may contact Summit SWCD at 330-932-2456, or go to our website at: <http://sswcd.summitoh.net>.

References used for this article are: Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District in Berlin, Vermont, Izaak Walton League, Lake George Association, and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

Summit SWCD has a watershed program focused stream monitoring; this includes sampling for chloride in selected streams in our Summit County watersheds. We are recruiting volunteers for our 2022-2023 stream monitoring program. If you would like to find out more and sign up to volunteer, visit our website at: <https://sswcd.summitoh.net/wqvolunteers>



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Mission Statement:

Summit SWCD provides leadership and advocates for the stewardship of our natural resources and responsible land use through the provision of education, technical assistance, and partnerships in Summit County.

The Summit SWCD is an independent division of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and is funded by the State of Ohio, the Summit County Council, and the Summit County Communities for Clean Stormwater.

In order to provide equal employment opportunities to all individuals, employment decisions in the District will be based on merit, qualifications, and abilities. The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic to the extent protected by law.

Summit SWCD does not discriminate in services with regards to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic to the extent protected by law.

