

Clean Water Starts At Home: Rivers, Rain Barrels and Gardens



Saturday, May 20, 2017
10am-noon
Crown Point Ecology Center
3220 Ira Road, Bath 44210



A collaboration with the
Crown Point Ecology Center, Catholic Commission of Summit County,
and the Diocese of Cleveland Care for Creation Working Group

10:00-11:00am Healthy Watershed Practices:
Keeping Your Yard Green and Our water Clean in Lake Erie and Beyond

Nutrient loading and the resultant Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) are posing a major threat to the water quality in Ohio's streams and lakes, especially Lake Erie. Much of this nutrient loading occurs in suburban and urban areas due to the unrestrained use of fertilizers, other unhealthy landscaping practices, and increased runoff over impervious surfaces. One approach geared toward solving this problem is to give our Northeastern Ohio residents access to practical "down to earth" educational materials that will increase environmental awareness, while providing them with the tools and skills they need to practice healthy landscaping habits. What we do in our own yards has a huge impact on our rivers and lakes, and every conservation practice is multiplied many times over in results to save our environment.

Sandy Barbic has a B.S. in Conservation Biology from Kent State University and has worked for Summit Soil and Water Conservation District since 2007. Summit SWCD's mission is to "Provide local leadership and technical assistance for innovative programs to conserve soil, improve water quality and enhance the natural resources of Summit County." Sandy assists the "Summit County Communities for Clean Storm Water" with Public Involvement and Educational Outreach requirements for the Phase I and Phase II NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) storm water management permits held by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA.) The 30 communities participate in monthly PIPE (Public Involvement Public Education) meetings where they share ideas and attend presentations and workshops given by storm water professionals. The Education Specialist also gives school and community presentations on rain barrels, soils, rain gardens and native plants, watershed issues, composting and healthy landscaping, storm drain marking, and stream monitoring.

11:00 am – Noon Rain Barrels: Making Every Drop Count

One healthy watershed practice is to prevent water runoff. Rain Barrels provide a way to collect rain water that can be used in gardens. The barrels are large containers that connected to downspouts to collect water from rooftops. This workshop, geared to homeowners, will share the many benefits of rain harvesting as well as demonstration on how to install a rain barrel.

Kyle Lukes, is a landscape architect at Environmental Design Group. He earned his Bachelor's of landscape architecture from Ball State University. Kyle resides in Green with his wife Tamara and their daughter Audrianna, who was born in October of 2013. Kyle is also a member of member of the Living Green Task Force in the City of Green. He enjoys gardening, farming, railroading, hiking/biking and anything else that involves being in the great outdoors.