



Sampling begins March 11, 2023

Sampling Training

To remain an EPA Credible Data program, we are required to hold annual training for all sampling and lab volunteers.

Saturday, February 25, 2023

from 9 am until just before lunch time

At the Butler County Engineers Office

1921 Fairgrove Ave, Hamilton, OH 45011

We will start the day with breakfast, then transition into our annual training. After the training, we will hear from a speaker about this year's animal highlighted on the tshirt. Ashlee, from the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District, plans to provide a short update on our water quality findings, then we will wrap-up with Chris Rowlands, the tshirt artist and musician.

2023 Lab Volunteers

Sign Up for Volunteering in Lab

Lab work begins at 10 am and runs until we finish. Most testing stations are finished by about 1-1:30 pm, unless you are helping with phosphates which takes longer. We use doodle for the lab signup to make sure we don't have people needlessly traveling to lab. [Online sign up](#)

Lab Volunteer Training

You will be trained in a method when you attend lab. No separate training date is required.

Training Videos

Thanks to Zak, one of our awesome 2020 grad students, there are videos about the different tests we run in lab. These videos, along with many others, are available on [our water quality playlist](#).

Suggestions for 2023

In past years, we have had kayak floats, picnics, and classes. If you have any ideas for any events/happenings in 2023, [please contact Lynn](#).

Master Rain Gardener Training

March 3, 10, 17, 24 and April 7, 2023

9 am - 1 pm

At Butler Soil and Water Conservation District

1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011



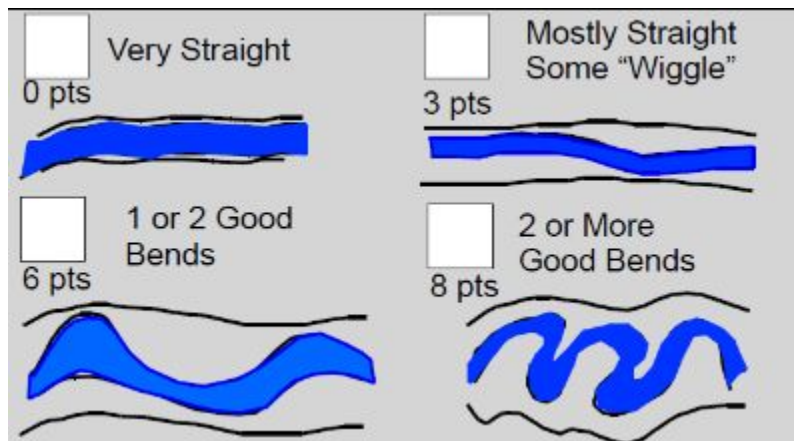
- The MRG program is a 5 day course that takes place on Friday's from 9 am until 1 pm. There is a week off between weeks 4 and 5 to provide time to work on rain garden plans.
- During the course, students are guided through rain garden design and the installation process by experienced regional professionals.
- Homework is assigned after each class. By the final day, students will have created their own custom ready-to-go rain garden plan, complete with location, size, and planting design.

Cost: \$50. Includes snacks each week, and a set of gardening gloves. Those who complete the course and build a rain garden will also receive a tshirt and yard sign.

Registration:

You can find out more and register at. www.cincyraingardener.org/mrg-program-information.html

If you are interested, but cannot attend the Spring classes, the program will be repeated in Lebanon in the Fall.



For Your Calendar

We have the habitat, fish, and stream biology classes scheduled

Thursday, June 22 - Learn how to be a Stream Ecology Volunteer at Dudley Woods, Liberty Twp

Thursday, June 29 - Learn how to be a Stream Habitat Volunteer and find out about local fish species. We will also cover fish ID and will hold an electrofishing demonstration. Location TBD

Find out more, or register by [emailing Lynn](mailto:emailing_Lynn).

Septic System Workshop

Saturday, March 25th, 9 AM - 12 PM

Milford Township Community Center

Join us to learn about septic system issues, signs of failure, and proper maintenance. Get a chance to speak with septic professionals following presentations from the Butler County Health Department and OKI Regional Council of Governments.

Milford Township Community Center
5113 Huston Road, Collinsville, OH 45004

Please RSVP by March 22nd by calling [513-887-3720](tel:513-887-3720)

Harvest Willow Stakes

*AKA cut willow
branches!*

March 4, from 10
am - 12 noon

Ellis Lake Wetlands,
Firebird Lane,
Fairfield

We will go out and cut
sections of willow trees.

These willow stakes are
then planted along streambanks to slow erosion and to create wildlife habitat. Then,
roots will develop along the stem and grow out into the surrounding earth. Ellis Lake
Wetlands has a healthy growth of willows, allowing us to thin them out without
causing harm to the wildlife habitat. By harvesting branches, this tree will quickly
regrow.



What to bring: Rubber boots and clothes that can get muddy are recommended. If
you have loppers and/or gloves, please bring them.

We will bring: Extra loppers, gloves, bottles water, snacks.

Sign Up: www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4eabab29a3fd0-2023#/



Canal and Bird Sanctuary Cleanup

Saturday, March 25

9 am—12 noon

Northend Recreation Building, Hamilton

700 Joe Nuxhall Blvd Hamilton OH
45011

We will clean the banks of the canal, along the edge of the road, and at the bird sanctuary near Morey Avenue. Last year, we found tvs, refrigerators, recliners, and a hideous amount of plastic bottles.

This year, we are excited that the North End community group RENEW (Renewing the North End from Within) is joining us in our efforts.

What to bring: Old clothes are recommended as it can get muddy. Rubber boots if you are willing to get down into the bird sanctuary.

We will bring: Gloves, bags, and grabbers will be supplied. We will also have water and granola bars.

Sign Up: www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4eabab29a3fd0-2023#/



Backyard Wildlife Workshop Series

7 - 9 pm

At the Butler SWCD/OSU office building at 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011.

[Register Online](#) to reserve your space at these free workshops.

February 22:

- Spring Ephemerals
- Bog Gardens
- Mulch Concerns

May 24

- Backyard Streams
- Ticks, Mosquitoes, and Chiggers

Aug 23

- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Climate Change & its Affect on Trees

Nov 15

- Life Beneath Your Feet
- Creating Healthy Soil

The workshops are brought to you by Butler SWCD, OSU Extension, and Hamilton Conservation Corps.

Native Tree & Shrub Sale

Butler SWCD is excited to announce the 2023 Native Tree & Shrub Sale is back in-house! Unlike the past few years, where we teamed up with Warren and Greene Counties, the District will be handling all online orders. Help us make 2023 the best tree sale yet!

How to Order: Order Online www.butlerswcd.org/treesale Please note that we are unable to refund tree sale orders or ship trees. Last day to order will be Friday, March 17, 2023. Tree and shrub species will be sold in packs of 5 bareroot seedlings or 8 live stakes, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$15 a pack.

Water News

Small isolated wetlands are pollution-catching powerhouses

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/02/230202112716.htm>

Dirty laundry: How much microfiber do we emit with our washing?

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/02/230206104127.htm>

Seven States, One River, and an Agonizing Choice

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/31/podcasts/the-daily/colorado-river-water-cuts.html>

**Stay in Touch:
Facebook**

Stay in touch and share your pics and comments on the Facebook site that Tera set up. <https://www.facebook.com/ExploreLocalStreams/>

Explore Local Streams



www.butlercountystreamteam.org



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