

## Envirothon:

The Envirothon is a national outdoor competition, for high school students, to demonstrate their ability to problem solve, through their knowledge in natural resource management and ecology. Teams of five students will first participate in one of five area competitions throughout Ohio. The winning team advancing to the state competition, in June. The top, winning, ecological experts in representing each state, will participate in the national competition.



The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of natural resources in the categories of: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and current environmental issues. Students compete through team problem solving activities, in each of the five categories. While each student on an Envirothon team is challenged to contribute his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of an Envirothon is the team score.

The 2017 Area 2 Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd at the Buffalo Creek Retreat, 8708 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville, Ohio, 44273. The Medina and Summit Soil and Water Conservation Districts are the dual hosts for this year's Envirothon.

If you are interested in your students participating, or sponsoring youth education, please contact Stark Soil and Water, or visit [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org).

### Stark SWCD Staff

Richard Rohn, Interim District Administrator/ Urban Program Specialist

Matthew Ferrel, Urban District Technician

Rebecca O'Neill, Education District Specialist

Deanna Kail, Administrative Assistant

Brenden Lipely, Intern



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## Welcome New Board Member



We would like to welcome Natalie Hammer as our new Equipment Manager. Natalie started her three-year term on January 1, 2017. She grew up in Greenhills, Ohio and is accompanied by her husband and three children

on their 39 acre farm. Some of her affiliations include the local farmers market, American Beefalo Association, and the Stark County Farm Bureau. She also oversees all of the marketing at Nickajack farms.

## 2017 Board Members



We would like to recognize (Left to right) Scott Briggs- Treasurer, Jim Halter- Secretary, Randy Pero- Chairman, Natalie Hammer- Equipment Manager, and Chuck Midcap- Vice Chairman as our 2017 Board Members. The board of supervisors hold regularly scheduled meetings the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8:45AM.

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## *Is the season for snow and ice...*

Regardless if you think a winter tempest is frightful or delightful, one thing is certain we all appreciate a safe and sound commute, whether traveling on two feet or four wheels. When Ole' Man Winter blows into town, many folks work industriously to shovel their way out of several frosty inches of a "Partly Cloudy" forecast. After digging out, we often rush to coat our walkways and parkways as well as highways and byways with ice melting Salt. Depending upon what variety of Salt we are utilizing, we may cause an environmental impact at the expense of a solid and slip free voyage.

As with anything and everything one does in life, there is some degree of environmental impact. Salt essentially acts to lower the freezing point of water, known as depression. This can melt snow and ice that is frozen to the surface or prohibit newly fallen precipitation from freezing and accumulating upon contact. While we traverse the winter wonderland, we shall also consider the cost to downstream features such as waterways or wetlands and even sensitive plants or animals. Salt that washes off onto our soils and into our waters can alter the chemistry of both, causing repercussions to living organisms. Even our stately civil works, such as bridges and buildings, are susceptible to corrosion and oxidation, often requiring repair and or replacement early in their designed life span. Road salt is merciless to our vehicles, especially the undercarriages subject to rust and paint damage. Don't forget the pains our four legged friends may endure if exposed to too much salt, such as illness and inflammation.

You can plan your salt usage by considering precisely what kind of ice melt you wish to use. There are essentially three main varieties of ice melting Salts; Sodium Chloride, Magnesium Chloride and Calcium Chloride. Magnesium Chloride is an effective ice melt that balances affordable economic investment with limited environmental impact. While cheap, Sodium Chloride has a greater toxicity to the environment than the more costly yet sensitive Calcium Chloride. Often the best option is a blend of any of the three ingredients. Below we offer resourceful recommendations for the application of ice melting salts, that are both *Smart* and *Safe*...

-Adopting the 4 "R's" as used in application of fertilizers, such as the Right Source of Salt, the Right Rate (don't use excessively or exclusively), the Right Time (use when temperatures and sunlight will allow a little bit of salt to melt a lot of snow and ice) and finally the Right Place (use only in critical areas such as slopes, steps or high traffic areas as well as areas shadowed by the sunlight).

After the storm, work to assure any residual salt deposits are swept up and disposed of properly.

*Written by Matt Ferrel, Urban District Technician*

## **2017 Crop Producers Breakfast:**

March 2, 2017 – 9:00 am - Farming with Technology

April 6, 2017– 8:00 am - Planter Set Up

May 4, 2017– 8:00 am - Mold Inhibitors

June 1, 2017 – 8:00 am - Seasonal Issues

July 6, 2017– 8:00 am - Cover Crops, Weed Control follow up

August 3, 2017– 8:00 am - Farm Employees

**Meetings are held at Thompson's Dairyland & Meals are optional and at your own expense.**



## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):

Leftover household products that can catch fire, react, or explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic.

### Examples of HHW:

- Paints
- Cleaners
- Oils
- Batteries
- Pesticides
- Antifreeze
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Electronic waste (e-waste)
- Gasoline

Hazardous Waste Material	Ways to Dispose
Paint and Household Chemicals	Add cat litter or sawdust until the material solidifies and dispose with your weekly trash
Antifreeze	Take to Akron Canton Waste Oil Company, or Canton Advanced Auto Parts
Used Motor Oil	Take to Advanced Auto Parts, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, or AutoZone.
Household Batteries	Take to Waste Management or Radio Shack
Fluorescent Light Bulbs	Take to eCycle Solutions of Ohio
E-waste	Jackson Township Recycling Station, Midwest Com-Tel Inc, eCycle Solutions of Ohio

For more information contact Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Recycling District at [www.timetorecycle.org](http://www.timetorecycle.org)

## Homeowner's Series:

The Homeowner's Workshop Series presents information to adults on how to implement best management practices around the home. Through the generosity of Stark County communities, the 2017 workshops will be held at multiple locations throughout the county.

### Testing Garden Soil

Bring in a sample of your yard or garden soil to test for essential nutrients, while learning how to establish the best environment for plants to grow around your home.

- **When:** Wednesday March 8, 2017, 6-8 pm
- **Where:** USDA Service Center Conference Room  
2650 Richville Drive SE  
Massillon, OH 44646

### Rain Gardens

Learn the basics of rain gardens, native plant species that increase infiltration, and how rain gardens improve ecosystems. Pre-register in order to construct a rain garden plan for your personal residence, using a GIS map of your property.

- **When:** Wednesday April 19, 2017, 6-8 pm
- **Where:** Navarre Civic Center or Park  
99 Canal St. W  
Navarre, OH 44662

### Rain Barrels

Identify the Best Management Practices in water conservation and how to utilize rain barrels at your residence. Rain barrels will be available to purchase as part of the annual Stark Soil and Water rain barrel sale, and able to be picked up and assembled (with assistance) during the rain barrel workshop.

- **When:** Wednesday May 24, 2017, 6-8 pm
- **Where:** Jackson Township Administrative Offices  
5735 Wales Ave NW  
Massillon, OH 44646

### Lawn care and Fertilizer Reduction

Understand the Best Management Practices for managing yard clippings and yard waste using non-chemical substitutes. Acquire information on fertilizers, pesticides, alternate growth methods, and runoff reduction techniques. Learn to be the neighborhood conservation steward for water infiltration, soil erosion, impervious surface reduction, and appropriate use of storm drains!

- **When:** Wednesday June 21, 2017, 6-8 pm
- **Where:** Canton Township Administrative Offices  
4711 Central Ave. SE  
Canton, OH 44707



Rain Barrel Workshops



## **Stark Soil and Water Conservation District**

2650 Richville Drive SE, Suite 100  
Massillon, OH 44646  
330-451-SOIL (7645)

### **Education Programs:**

*Are you a Parent, Teacher, group leader, or an organization dedicated to Environmental Science or Conservation?*

Stark Soil and Water can provide educational resources to schools and residents of Stark County. The programs listed below are popular school presentations, but we are able to create individualized programming to fit your needs. Check out our website [www.starkswcd.org](http://www.starkswcd.org) to find the Ohio Content Standards that we are able to assist with.

The following FREE Presentations can be scheduled by calling the Stark SWCD office.

**ENVIROSCAPE MODEL** (Grades 4-12, 45mins–1hr.) Visually explains point & non-point source pollution on a watershed. Students get a hands-on demonstration of the effects of water run-off, & then learn how they can improve the watershed with conservation practices. Excellent for any environmental lesson.

**FREDDIE THE FISH** (Grades K-4, 30-45mins.) Students get a visual understanding of the effects of pollution on “Freddie” (a sponge in a jar) as they are told about his journey downstream. Human impact on water and the importance of clean, healthy water is taught.

**LIVING SOIL PROFILE** (Grades K-5, 45mins–1hr.) Students learn how soil is formed and discover the properties of soil. Intro & 3 different learning stations with hands-on soil smudge, rock rubbing, & coloring a soil profile are all covered.

**INCREDIBLE JOURNEY** (Grades K-6, 30-45mins.) Students learn about water on earth, it's value & the water cycle. They act out the cycle of a water droplet as they travel to different locations. Best if done outdoors, or in a large area.

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION** Call & schedule us to do a program or help out at your outdoor event. From fishing & stream studies to outdoor educational lessons, we can assist you & your school, or simply provide you with information or materials to borrow. Don't forget to check out the loaner educational kits. ANY program can be modified to fit!

Feel free to contact our Education Specialist, Rebecca O'Neill at [rebecca.oneill@starkswcd.org](mailto:rebecca.oneill@starkswcd.org) or by calling **330-451-7649** to see how we can assist your group or school!