

2008 Outstanding Educator Award:



Helen Palochko

**Environmental Program
Developer/Facilitator**

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Lucas SWCD Volunteer

As a veteran Girl Scout Leader, I developed and led 5 weeks of Day Camp for Brownies and Junior Scouts from 1996 to 2008. At that time those levels of Scouts were 3 grade levels each, 1st through 6th grades. Three of these camps had a strong environmental component. I relied heavily on LSWCD resources and Jamie Kochensparger's fabulous programs. In particular she joined with me in running themed camps at Blue Creek Conservation Area for several years. I also referred many of my fellow troop leaders to LSWCD's free programs for their troops.

With Partners for Clean Streams I developed a water conservation patch program for Girl Scouts which highlighted many local environmental stewards. That program is still offered annually to an even wider audience including youths in grades 1st-6th.

With the merger of several western Ohio Girl Scout Councils to form the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Council in 2005, the focus of the Council changed to nearly all residential camps. I began working with the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and brought the same environmental programming to them, again with Jamie's guidance. In particular I helped develop the Manos Community Garden in downtown Toledo with Toledo Grows and developed raised bed gardening at Lott Industries - Hill Avenue facility.

~ Congratulations on a job well done! ~