

# 2014 Conservation Educator of the Year



## **Marilyn Dufour**

Marilyn DuFour is a Senior Environmental Specialist in the City of Toledo Department of Public Utilities and currently serves in the Industrial Pretreatment Section of the Division of Environmental Services. She has worked for the City for almost 21 years including 11 years as an Assistant Naturalist in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Marilyn's passion for education and water resources developed early and has been fed by a broad range of environmental education experiences: Girl Scouting, the Ohio Youth Conservation Corps, a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Heidelberg University (home of the National Center for Water Quality Research), the U.S. Peace Corps Marine Fisheries Extension Program in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and seasonal positions with the Cleveland Metroparks and six different outdoor centers in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. She joined the Maumee Remedial Action Plan (RAP) in 1998 as a member of the Ottawa River Action Group and, in 2000, initiated the Ottawa Park Kickoff and a youth battle of the bags for the RAP's annual river bank clean-up, Clean Your Streams, primarily as an outreach to local youth groups. She continues to serve Partners for Clean Streams as a Planning Team Member, Coordinator of the Ottawa Park Kickoff and Challenge Coordinator for Clean Your Streams, which has grown to involve more than 1000 volunteers. Marilyn is also a founding member of the Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo-Lucas County (RGI) and continues to serve on its Public Outreach and Education Committee. She is privileged to be among the RGI partners working on its current outreach project, the development of a day camp curriculum, the Junior Watershed Academy, funded by a GM Powertrain Plant City Grant.

Marilyn is a resident of West Toledo, an active member of Monroe Street United Methodist Church and the mother of a beautiful young adult daughter Sia, currently fledging!