

2026 Water Quality Steward Program Registration

Information:

- **COST: \$25** for all five (5) classes listed below. Fee includes light refreshments and all workshop materials! Payment must be included with your registration.
- **EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION:** Register by **April 10, 2026** and save *\$10—pay just \$15!*
- **LPDC (if applicable):** Local credits may be available through your school’s Local Professional Development Committee. You will be presented with a certificate verifying your attendance and the number of contact hours.
- All five (5) classes **must** be attended to receive certification. A final project that will be presented in small groups at the last class “Putting It All Together”. This project will consist of presenting what you learned from each class and developing an action plan to address a water quality concern on your property or in your community.
- Please fill out the following form and **submit it along with your payment method**. This is a fillable PDF.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____ City/State/Zip Code _____

Cell Number _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Dietary Restrictions: (if applicable) _____

Class Schedule

See next page for course descriptions.

Class	Date	Time	Location
Intro to Watersheds	June 4	5:30pm-7:30pm	<u>Maumee Bay State Park Nature Center</u> 1400 State Park Rd, Oregon, OH 43616
Paddle & Learn <i>*final meeting location may be subject to change depending on water levels*</i>	June 11	5:30pm-8:00pm	<u>Farnsworth Metropark (Roche de Bout Shelter)</u> 741 S. River Road, Waterville, OH 43566
Marine Debris	June 18	5:30pm-7:30pm	<u>Great Lakes Museum</u> 1701 Front St, Toledo, OH 43605
Something’s Fishy	June 25	5:30pm-7:30pm	<u>Oak Openings Metropark Buehner Center</u> 5240 Wilkins Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571
Putting it all Together	July 9	5:30pm-7:30pm	<u>Oak Openings Metropark Buehner Center</u> 5240 Wilkins Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571

NOTE: *Paddle & Learn on June 11 is weather dependent so should the weather not cooperate, Paddle & Learn will swap order with Marine Debris. Therefore, Marine Debris would be held on June 11 and Paddle & Learn would be held on June 18. Participants will be notified in advance should this scenario occur. Please note that locations are different for each class.*

Registration Deadline: **May 10, 2025** **NO REFUNDS** WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THIS DATE.

Class Fees:

Register **BY April 10, 2025:** \$15

Register **AFTER April 10:** \$25

Credit Card: Use the following link to pay: <https://bit.ly/WQStewardshipProgram26>

Check

Payable to Lucas SWCD

Put Water Quality Steward Classes in “Memo Line”

Registration Submission

Mail: 3350 Hill Ave. Suite K. Toledo, OH 43607

Email: ptroyer@co.lucas.oh.us

Signature of Participant _____

Date _____

Course Descriptions

Introduction to Watersheds

Thursday, June 4, 2025, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Maumee Bay State Park Nature Center, Oregon

Introduction to Watersheds will introduce participants to watershed delineation, human impacts on the water cycle, and the differences between point and nonpoint source pollution. Participants will observe a demonstration using the Enviroscope Watershed Model to see how stormwater runoff transports pollutants throughout a watershed, as well as how best management practices can reduce erosion and pollution. The program will conclude with a guided tour of the Maumee Bay wetlands, where participants will learn how wetlands help protect the water quality of Lake Erie. The tour will also include an introduction to macroinvertebrates and their role as key indicators of water quality.

Paddle & Learn

Thursday, June 11, 2025, 5:30pm-8:00pm

Farnsworth Metropark, Waterville

Paddle & Learn will engage participants from the shore with an introduction to water quality sampling for both chemical (e.g., pH, dissolved oxygen) and biological (collection and identification of aquatic macroinvertebrates) parameters. After safety and gear review, we will take to the Maumee river to learn how to safely navigate in canoes while guided by certified staff. After this session, participants will be able to connect field sampling data with water quality conditions and will feel more confident on the water.

Marine Debris

June 18, 2025, 5:30pm-7:30pm

National Museum of the Great Lakes, Toledo

Marine debris is any solid material produced by humans that ends up in the planet's waterways and ultimately into our oceans. In this class, we will explore the definitions, sources, paths of travel, and impacts of marine debris on our Great Lakes; discuss the human dimension; and share stories of hope and meaningful actions for the future.

Something's Fishy

Thursday, June 25, 2025, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Buehner Center, Oak Openings Metropark, Swanton

First Cast is an entry level class taught by specialists from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) that focuses on 4 main categories: Knots and Rigging, Habitat and Handling, Local Information, and Casting. This is based on Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's Passport to Fishing curriculum, which is a hands-on, station-based program teaching novice youth and families fundamental angling skills (knots, rigging, casting, handling), conservation, and fish/habitat knowledge. The goal of this course is to create a new generation of ethical anglers and conservationists by making fishing accessible, fun, and educational for beginners, building lifelong relationships with the outdoors.

Putting It All Together

Thursday, July 9, 2025, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Buehner Center, Oak Openings Metropark, Swanton

Putting It All Together will synthesize the information from the previous courses and apply it to real-world scenarios. Participants will work in small groups to develop and deliver a brief presentation consisting of two parts. This activity encourages participants to connect knowledge with action and develop practical solutions for improving water quality.

Part 1: *Identify two key takeaways from each class that participants feel are most important for understanding water quality.*

Part 2: *Develop a Watershed Action Plan where you will:*

- *Identify a water quality concern in the participant's community or on their property*
- *Examine the factors contributing to the issue*
- *Research best management practices (BMPs) to address or reduce the problem*
- *Outline how the selected BMPs would be implemented, including needed resources, potential funding sources, and organizations or partners that could provide assistance*