



Conservation in the Classroom

A Newsletter for Lucas County Educators to learn the latest in Conservation Education

APRIL-MAY
2023



A Note from Patrick



Happy Spring Everyone!

Wow this school year sure has gone by! I just wanted to remind you of the Project WET Workshop hosted by Metroparks Toledo and Lucas SWCD on May 25th at Wildwood Preserve Metropark off of Central Ave. in Toledo. This workshop will feature both facilitator-led activities and peer-led activities that help to bring water quality education alive in your classroom. See page 2 for the registration page. My goal is to work on bringing this opportunity as part of an inservice at school districts.

Another item to remember is the Annual Conservation Poster Contest sponsored locally by Lucas SWCD. Winners from the county level will be awarded a prize with 1st place winners in each category advancing onto the state level. See inside on page 5 or visit our [website](#) for complete contest rules and submission instructions. Please be sure to let me know if you have any questions.

Over the summer, I will be hard at work on programs for the coming year both new and the return of some of your favorites! Stay tuned in August for the latest program offerings. I look forward to working with everyone for another great year!

Take Care! - Patrick



Save the Date! Blue Week May 13-21, 2023



Each May, partners of the Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI) assemble a wide array of programs to encourage people to get out into the amazing beauty we have in the Oak Openings Region. This globally unique area is home to a wide variety of plants and animals! Programming is in the works and will include opportunities for your students/groups to explore the beauty of the Oak Openings Region. Stay tuned! To learn more, visit the [Green Ribbon Initiative Website!](#)



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To Schedule an Education Program:

Patrick Troyer, Education Specialist
Phone: 419-893-1966 Ext. 2#
Email: ptroyer@co.lucas.oh.us

Upcoming Events / Contests

2023 Metroparks Toledo & Lucas SWCD Project WET Educator Workshop

May 25, 2023

Registration: 8:30am

9am to 3:00pm



Metropark Hall @

Wildwood Preserve Metropark

5100 Central Ave. Toledo, OH 43615

(SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS)

Are you in need of some innovative ideas to teach your students about pollution, wetlands, and water quality in general? Join the Metroparks Toledo & Lucas SWCD Project WET Educator Workshop where we will uncover unique ways you can bring water quality education alive to your classroom or group!

Open to all grade levels!

LPDC: Local credits may be available through your Local Professional Development Committee. You will be presented with a certificate verifying your attendance and contact hours.

Photo Credit: University of Michigan

MAKE-N-TAKE ACTIVITIES!

PEER TEACHING ACTIVITIES!

CUTTING EDGE CURRICULUM & CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES!

Questions?

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WORKSHOP COST: \$25

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 12TH

PACK A SACK LUNCH

Make Checks Payable & Return Forms To:

Lucas SWCD
c/o Project WET Workshop
3350 Hill Ave. Suite K
Toledo, OH 43607

Name: _____ Phone: _____

School or Organization: _____

Address: _____

Program Highlight of the Month: The Streamulator



Many different processes continually build up or tear down the surface of the Earth. Students learn about factors that affect the patterns and features associated with streams and floodplains such as discharge, velocity, erosion, and deposition, just to name a few. The students will learn how these factors can cause changes in landscapes and landforms via an interactive program with our Streamulator Table.



This program covers basic stream anatomy such as a run, delta, bank, riparian buffer, floodplain, riffle, etc. The use of sand and flowing water allows the students to visually see the effects of flowing water through sediment transport, delta formation, erosion, discharge, sedimentation, and velocity.



With the use of the Streamulator Model, students will also see demonstrations and experiment with velocity, discharge, meander formation, and understand how water is a powerful force that helps to develop the landscape.

Grant Corner: *Highlighting Grants of Interests for Local Educators*

Captain Planet Foundation

Deadlines: February 28 and September 30

Description: Captain Planet Foundation awards grants to schools and nonprofit organizations that develop innovative environmental projects for youth ages 6-18 that promote cooperation, planning, and problem-solving skills.

Fund Preference: Preference is given to requests that seek funding of \$500 or less and to applicants who have secured at least 50% matching or in-kind funding for their projects. Grants up to \$2,500 may be considered.

Learn more at www.captainplanetfoundation.org!

First Energy STEM Grants

Description: Grants are available to educators (Pre-K through grade 12) at schools, youth groups and educational program administrators in communities served by our electric operating companies, other areas where we have facilities, and where we do business.

Grant Award: Up to \$1,000

Fund Preference: Projects that support classroom projects or teacher professional development in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Preference is given to applications that are well-written in and submitted in a timely manner, clearly explain how items requested for funding are important to the successful implementation of your project, and the involve one-time, one-year implementation and evaluation.

Learn more by visiting the [First Energy Website!](#)

Fun Fact of the Month



Did You Know?
Arbor Day & Earth Day

- Arbor Day was started in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, Nebraska who had great admiration of trees and their beauty.
- According to the Arbor Day Foundation, Morton served as secretary of the Nebraska Territory where he proposed the tree planting holiday he termed "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture
- An estimated one million trees were said to be planted after the first Arbor Day in 1872 after prizes were offered to counties/individuals who planted the largest number of properly planted trees (Source: Arbor Day Foundation)
- Arbor Day was declared a state holiday in Nebraska in 1885 with April 22 being the date chosen for its permanent annual observance with 45 states by 1920 now celebrating Arbor Day (Source: Arbor Day Foundation)
- Earth Day came about on April 22, 1970 which was designed to appeal to college students who were between their Spring Break and final exams
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency was also started in 1970 followed by adoption of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act

Resource Connection of the Month Summer Learning Opportunity!

TEACHER FIELD DAYS

Stranger Things in the Woods

June 15-16, 2023 @ Hocking State Forest

The Forestry Teacher Field Day series is offered by the ODNR Division of Forestry and Project Learning Tree to provide teachers with timely concepts and activities to help meet state standards in STEM and other topics. This year's focus is on all of the strange things occurring in Ohio's forests, such as *freaky fungi*, *Oddi-TREES*, *nature hikes*, and more!

- Dress for woods, weather, & field work
- Food and water provided
- 1 hour of credit offered for those who attend both days and complete an assignment

Attend for just

\$25

Check or Money Order payable to PLT-Ohio

DIVISION OF FORESTRY
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROJECT LEARNING TREE
OHIO

Contact the Division of Forestry:
(740)-961-0314 ✉ plt@dnr.ohio.gov

General Education Updates: Conservation Poster Contest!

Calling all K-12 students! Send us your entries for the 2023 Conservation Poster Contest. Find complete contest rules, registration, and a link to our online store on our website

2023 Conservation Poster Contest

ENTRY DEADLINE:
May 26th @ 4:30 PM

Open to all Lucas County K-12 Students!

Rules

- The theme "One Water" must be included in the poster design
- Each teacher will select two (2) posters from their class to submit for the county-wide competition
- Each poster will need an entry form that **MUST** be signed by a parent/guardian
- Complete rules and entry forms may be found at <https://www.lucasswcd.org/education-poster-contest.html>

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Digital photos of the two (2) best posters per class emailed as attachments (with signed submission forms) to Patrick Troyer, Education Specialist, at ptroyer@co.lucas.oh.us

Prizes

- First Place Lucas County winners in each age group receive a \$25 Gift Certificate for an item from the Lucas SWCD Store, and advance to State Level
- Second Place Lucas County winners in each age group \$10 Gift Certificate for an item from the Lucas SWCD Store.



Follow or Like us! @LucasSWCD



Ask us about field trips to Blue Creek Conservation Area in Whitehouse, a 500+ acre working farm and land lab in partnership with Metroparks Toledo and Nature's Nursery!

LUCAS SWCD
[WEBSITE](http://www.lucasswcd.org)

Activity of the Month:

Every Tree For Itself

Objective: Allow students to see how trees are in a competition for their essential needs and how different amounts of light, water, and nutrients have an effect on the growth of the tree.

Materials:

- Construction Paper, cut into small squares (I also laminate them to reuse them over again)
 - Red
 - Yellow
 - Green
 - Yellow
- Tree Cards (cut & laminated)
 - Tree Cards can be found at: chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/education/plt/activity_sheets/every-tree-for-itself-lesson-extension.pdf



Procedure:

- Pass out a tree card to each student.
 - They will need to gather the amount of resources that is indicated on their card.
- Arrange students in a large circle around the room and have them stand about three feet apart.
- Inform students that their legs are no longer legs but the trunks of the trunks of their trees so they can no longer move their legs but use their "roots" or their arms to gather up their needs.
- Scatter the colored squares of paper on the floor near the students and make sure students review their cards to see how much food, sunlight, water, and space their tree requires.
 - Red = Food
 - Yellow = Sunlight
 - Green = Space
 - Blue = Water
- Allow students 30 seconds to grab as many of these requirements as they are able to get with their roots (arms)
- After 30 seconds, have students count up how many cards of each color they received. If anyone DID NOT meet all their requirements, those trees did not survive and have those students have a seat.
- Discussion:
 - Why did some trees not survive?
 - Do all trees require the same amount of resources?
- Variations to Try:
 - Drought- Place a limited amount of blue cards on the floor to simulate drought conditions
 - Overcrowding- split students up into smaller groups (3-5) to start then start to combine groups after a few rounds to see if the same amount of trees are able to survive now that more trees are competing for limited resources

