

Conservation Quarterly

Rain is your resource!

Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Earth is covered in water; however, not all of that water is accessible or suitable for use. Using rainwater as a resource provides numerous benefits to the environment and the individual. Rain barrels, rain gardens, healthy lawn alternatives, and planting native plants are impactful ways to save our creeks and streams from polluted runoff, and they save time and money, too.

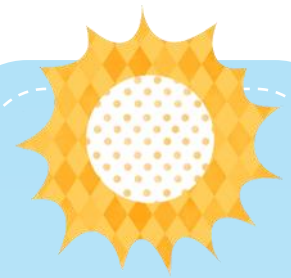


Rain barrels are not only useful in conserving water but can also be a beautiful addition to any backyard. Photo courtesy of loveyourlandscape.org.

Rain Barrels: Collect and protect! During storms, rain runoff flows off our houses into our gutters, yards, and sewage drains. With it comes pollutants and other waste materials that shouldn't be there. One way you can help is by investing in a rain barrel that can collect and protect rainwater. Plus, you'll save some money by being able to reuse the water on your beloved plants and garden.

Rain Gardens: Flowers for the Showers! Rain gardens soak up runoff water and may happen to catch any pollutants caught in it, keeping them out of waterways. When you replace turf grass with a rain garden, you are providing a home for wildlife and adding scenic views to your property.

Native Plants: Leaf Invasives Behind! Native plants can significantly decrease water runoff and flooding due to their deep root system. They require less supplemental nutrients, water, and maintenance than their invasive or non-native counterparts. Utilizing native plants is one simple way you can help soak in rain and use it as your resource. Next time you're planning to update your garden, think native!



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Important Dates

7.4	Independence Day (Office is closed)
7.9-7.16	County Fair
7.16	Jack McDowell's Prairie Appreciation Ride
7.18	Candidate Petition Deadline

Rain is your resource continued

Healthy Lawns: No Mow Problems! Lawns serve an important purpose to help soak in rain and protect our waterways. Make your lawn “Stormwater Friendly” with these healthy habits:

- Set mower height to 3 inches or higher
- Retain grass clippings and chopped leaves on-site
- Keep clippings and chopped leaves out of streams, off the street, and out of storm drains
- Immediately sweep any granulated chemicals off hard surfaces and back onto your lawn

If you are interested in rainwater harvesting or other conservation practices, check out our website at madisonsoilandwater.com or call the office at 740-852-4003, 831 US HWY 42 NE, London, Ohio 43140 and ask for Broc Sehen District Technician- Wildlife Specialist.



Rain gardens are low maintenance and provide excellent pollinator habitat, along with flooding and erosion control. Photo courtesy of William Wright.

Jack McDowell's Annual Prairie Appreciation Ride



Catch the highlights of the June Bloom Ride by visiting FMCPT.com. Please join the next bloom ride on July 16th! The last bloom ride of the summer will be August 20th.

Experience a progression of wildflowers in peak bloom at the historical prairies along the Prairie Grass Trail by taking part in Jack McDowell's Annual Prairie Appreciation Ride. The ride starts 8:00 a.m. on July 16th at the Prairie Grass Trailhead in London (262 W. High St.) and extends southwest approximately 6 miles to the Madison-Clark County border. After the official ride ends, head onto South Charleston or return to London at your leisure. No fee required!

The Madison Soil & Water Conservation District is leading the bicycle ride. There will be pit stops along the trail to discuss local flora and fauna, history, and conservation practices. The pace will be slow and appropriate for almost all ages.

The prairies have existed since before the time of the pioneer and was kept preserved by the railroad because the land could not be farmed. Now the prairies are maintained by volunteers who share Jack's vision of saving this heritage and providing educational opportunities through stewardship.

Jack McDowell was one of the early “discoverers” of the remnant prairies of Madison and Clark counties. He started the efforts to manage these prairie treasures in the midst of threats from invasive woody plant and agricultural weed species. Jack McDowell passed away in 2012, but his dream to inspire others to preserve the Ohio prairie is not forgotten. For more information, contact Broc Sehen at broc.sehen@oh.nacdnet.net or (740) 852-4003.



Madison County Top Ranked Envirothon Team

Sixty-two teams of high school students from 18 Southwest Ohio counties, including Madison County, traveled to Myeerah Nature Preserve, Bellefontaine, to compete in the Area IV Envirothon on April 26th. This



West Jefferson Team #1, represented (from left to right) by Riley Marshall, Tennessee Jennings, Graham Gardner, Jessica Fling, Olivia Foreman, was the top ranked team from Madison County.

competition is sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Soil & Water Resources.

West Jefferson Team #1, represented by Riley Marshall, Tennessee Jennings, Graham Gardner, Jessica Fling, Olivia Foreman, was the top ranked team from Madison County, placing 15th out of 62 teams overall. Their advisor was Mike Harkleroad. They will be recognized at the Madison SWCD Award Banquet on September 15th. The Envirothon is an environmental high school competition designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. Students compete in the areas of Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry, Soils and Current Environmental Issues. The questions are designed by experts in the fields from the Natural Resources Conservation Services, Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Students learn environmental concepts within the classroom, and by taking the classroom outside, the concepts become tangible and experiential.

To learn more about the Envirothon or to view photos from this year's event, visit the Area IV website at www.areaivenvirothon.org.

Camp Canopy scholarship winners

Madison SWCD was pleased to offer scholarships for two students to Camp Canopy this year:

- Levi Likens, 11th grade, from London High School/ Tolles Tech was sponsored by Heiner Gantenbrink, courtesy of Alliance Ag., LLC
- Kylie Puckett, 9th grade, from Madison Plains High School, was sponsored by Madison SWCD

Camp Canopy is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to learn about Ohio's forests, wildlife, conservation, tree identification, ecology and much more. We encourage Madison County students entering freshman year through senior year to apply for these scholarships (\$375 value) next year!

See you at the county fair!

Madison SWCD will have a booth at the Coughlin Building during the Madison County Fair, July 9-16, along with Madison County Farm Bureau, ODNR Division of Wildlife, OSU Extension, Pheasants Forever and USDA. Get local agricultural and natural resource information and updates in one location.

MADISON SWCD ELECTION INFO

Any resident 18 years of age or older who resides within the county of the election can seek election to the SWCD board of supervisors. Visit our [website](#) to learn how you can get your name on the ballot!
Deadline is July 18th.



Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting and Conservation Award Banquet - Thursday, September 15th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Procter Camp & Conference Center, 11235 SR 38, London, OH. Join us for food and fellowship at our Annual Meeting to review conservation activity, present conservation awards, and vote on candidates for the SWCD Board of Supervisors. A detailed program and ticket prices will be available one month prior to the event. Contact gail.wilson@oh.nacdnet.net for more information.

Annual Planning Meeting - Wednesday, October 26th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Madison County Engineer's Conference Room, 825 US HWY 42 NE, London, OH. The purpose of the meeting is to pull together local government officials, organization partners and individuals with a variety of knowledge and gather input to address natural resources issues and set priorities for the SWCD annual plan of operations.

Cover crop funding available to all Ohio producers

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a second round of funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) Cover Crop Initiative. Agricultural producers across the state of Ohio are eligible to apply for financial and technical assistance to plant cover crops. Interested participants must apply by the July 5, 2022 deadline.

The EQIP Cover Crop Initiative was first announced on January 10, 2022. The program provides an investment of \$38 million to 11 states, including Ohio, to help agricultural producers mitigate climate change through the adoption of cover crops. Though initially only available to producers in the Ohio Western Lake Erie Basin, this second round of funding expands program eligibility to all state producers.

Contact a local [Ohio USDA service center](#) or visit the [Ohio NRCS EQIP Funding Categories](#) webpage to get started. While applications for EQIP are accepted throughout the year, producers should submit applications by the deadline to be considered for the current funding period.

Contact us

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All NRCS/MSWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap. Please contact Gail Wilson at gail.wilson@oh.nacdnet.net if you wish to be put on or removed from our email list.

