

EECO

Environmental Education Council of Ohio



Spring 2020

Celebrating the Earth

Annual Conference Postponed

New Date • Sept 10 -13, 2020

Same Location • Hueston Woods State Park

In early March, State Agency Employees were placed under a travel ban. Soon after that the Governor announced in his press conference that large gatherings should be canceled or postponed. Though this has not been required, we believe that it is in the best interest of everyone's health and well being to not go forward with the previous dates. The EECO Board and Advisory Committee made the decision to postpone instead of cancel. We understand that not everyone will be able to make the new dates fit into their schedule. We are hopeful that many of you can.

Moving forward here is what you need to know:

1. The EECO Conference will be at Hueston Woods State Park Lodge and Conference Center, Sept 10-13, 2020.
2. Room reservations at the lodge can be canceled or moved to the dates in September. You can call to cancel your reservation (513-664-3500) or ask for them to move it to the new dates. If they have not heard from you by tomorrow one way or the other, someone from the lodge will be in contact with you

about your reservation.

3. Conference registrations can be canceled and a refund will be given, or the registration can stay in the system for the event in September.
4. For refunds to be administered an email will need to be sent to director@eeco-online.org stating to whom the check should be made out to and a mailing address.
5. Some sessions may change due to the presenter's schedule. We are pleased to announce our Keynote, Chris Myers will be able to fit the new dates into his schedule. Please make sure to check back to the website for an updated flyer. We hope to have all changes made by mid April.

More information will be posted as it becomes available at <https://eeco.wildapricot.org/>



Love Environmental Education?

Support EECO by purchasing our

FUNdraising tee!

Wear your support for EECO on your chest! We have a new storefront set up at

<https://eecoonline.qbstores.com>

where you can order shirts, caps, bags and more. We can hold an EECO fashion show at the EECO Annual Conference in September.



Fifty Years: Earth Day 1970-2020

By Ryan Bourgart, Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education



Cuyahoga River Fire Nov. 3, 1952. Courtesy of Cleveland Press Collection at Cleveland State University Library.

By 1970, Ohio's environment was visibly in trouble. The state had some of the worst air quality in the nation. Only about 21% of Ohio rivers and streams fully supported aquatic life. Most garbage was disposed in more than 1300 smelly, unlined dumpsites that were minimally regulated. The Cuyahoga River had caught fire several times, and Lake Erie was pronounced dead from suffocating algal blooms. Because environmental degradation was apparent, it was getting press coverage that helped galvanize public opinion in favor of change. The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 included gatherings and protests nationwide. By some estimates, more than 2,000 colleges and universities, 10,000 public schools, and 20 million people participated (NOAA, 2019). Cleveland hosted a "Crisis in the Environment Week" with K-12 and college students participating in teach-ins, litter cleanups, tree plantings and other special events (Case Western Reserve University, n.d.).

At Ohio State University, the first Earth Day included numerous exhibits and symposia, a river walk along the Olentangy, and presentations by (then) US Senate candidate and former astronaut John Glenn and (then) State Senate candidate and future governor Bob Taft. David Hanselman of OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources



Earth Day in Cleveland, 1970, Courtesy of Cleveland Press Collection

es recently researched the University's first Earth Day program and learned that many of the student organizers went on to environmental careers and volunteer work. Columbus Earth Day Coordinator George Coder was a grad student in history who later worked at US EPA in Cleveland for 22 years. Campus Earth Day coordinator Lizzy Gregory was a journalism major who organized the first OSU Food Co-op and the Community Festival, still going strong today as the Columbus ComFest. Law student Pete Precario was chairman of the Campus Earth Day Committee on Legal Aspects and Civil Rights. He went on to serve as Chief of Ohio EPA's Litigation Development Section and was appointed by Governor Celeste to chair the Environmental Board of Review (now called the Environmental Review Appeals Commission). Precario now serves as Executive Director of the Midwest Biodiversity Institute.

Because of raised public awareness and with strong bipartisan support during the decade that followed the first Earth Day, key environmental laws were enacted by Congress. In 1972, programs at the Ohio Department of Health and some other agencies were consolidated in a new Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. As the new laws were implemented and environmental conditions began to improve, American public opinion remained strongly supportive of environmental protection. However, Environmental Literacy in America, a report summarizing 10 years of Roper research found that environmental literacy in the U.S. lagged behind. In 2005, only 27% of Americans knew that most of our electricity was produced from fossil fuels, and most Americans thought that aerosol spray still had CFCs in it despite CFCs being banned in 1978. Ohio EPA commissioned a survey of adult environmental literacy in 1999 that found that Ohio adults had a good understanding of basic ecological concepts like carrying capacity, predator-prey relationships, and the importance of habitat. Ohio adults had lower understanding of ecological succession and the importance of biotic diversity, and very low understanding of materials cycling, such as the nitrogen cycle and bioaccumulation.

EECO has been addressing environmental literacy gaps for more than 30 years. In the 1990s, EECO educated kindergarteners through 12th grade social studies and literature students. Also in the 90s, EECO co-sponsored EnviroLink (a gathering of Ohio representatives in business and industry, education, government, agriculture,



community groups, and environmental organizations; Oxbow, 1993), collaborated on Habitats for Learning, implemented Integrating Environmental Education and Science, formed a partnership with the Ohio EPA, and received funding from the US EPA for implementing Ohio EE 2000 (ODNR, 2000). In 2012, EECO created the Environmental Literacy Plan for Ohio to increase youth's connection to the outdoors and environmental literacy (EECO, 2012). During the 25-year partnership, EECO and OEPA awarded over \$2,000,000, reached over 25,000 educators, and reached over 100,000 additional people. Thank you EECO members and OEPA staff for your concerted and dedicated efforts. As we approach the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, some EECO members and Ohio EPA staff shared fond Earth Day memories.

Earth Day 1970 Memories

Kristin Spindel, Seasonal Naturalist with Cleveland Metroparks, wrote Happy Earth Day postcards in first grade in 1977 with the school's return address on the back. The class tied their cards to balloons and released them into the air with the hope of return. She remembers wondering which tree her card would get hung up in. She also remembers getting her entire school outside two years ago. The older kids partnered with the younger kids to explore a stream, to look at a feather through a magnifying glass, to smell dandelions, to play with worms, and to lay in the grass to read a book. Preschoolers and eighth graders partnered to plant eight-foot trees. The preschoolers gave detailed instructions about where to grab the tree, how to move it, and how to straighten it. They all filled in the dirt and some groups named their tree.

Terri Brest, Education Specialist with The Wilderness Center, spent a few hours with her high school sons pulling garlic mustard behind their house. They piled the plants in a campfire ring and burned them, which produced a very smokey and satisfying fire.

Carolyn Watkins (OEPA) remembers singing "Air" from the Broadway Musical "Hair" in her junior high school chorus for an Earth Day assembly in the gym. The musical was controversial at the time because of some nude scenes, and the choir director had to reassure parents that students in the chorus would not be taking their clothes off. The lyrics included:

Welcome, sulfur dioxide, hello, carbon monoxide.
The air, the air is everywhere
Breathing like a sullen perfume, eating at the stone
of my tomb.
Breathe deep while you sleep, breathe deep.

Carolyn says there was also a line in there about cataclysmic ectoplasm, but in those days, there were a lot of

song lyrics nobody could figure out.

Jeffrey Skebba (OEPA) remembers the first Earth Day fell on his 10th birthday. His fourth-grade class at Wilson Elementary School in Sheboygan, Wisconsin planted a maple tree near a baseball diamond. He recently returned and was able to find the tree still standing and providing shade to people watching summer ball games.

Deborah Strayton's (OEPA) two favorite Earth Day memories involve DERR and Director Korleski. In Newark in 2007, Newark Processing was a secondary aluminum smelter waste site. The waste was eroding into the Licking River. The US Army Corps of Engineers built a rock retaining wall to prevent the erosion. Photos of a ceremony at the site in 2007 show the Colonel from the Corps and the Director holding a picture of the completed retaining wall. The site was stabilized, graded, and capped. Custody of the site was given to the city and it went through the Voluntary Action Program. Now, a solar panel array at the site generates power for Newark's wastewater treatment plant. Deborah's other Earth Day memory was at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park in Columbus in 2010. Whittier Street Peninsula was an old industrial site that was taken through the Voluntary Action Program by the City of Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks. Director Korleski and Director Meara (of the Metro Parks) rode bikes to the park for a ceremonial signing of the Program in front of the climbing wall. Director Meara climbed up and down twice, but despite being winded from the bike ride and giving it his best, Director Korleski could not get to the top of the wall. Adding insult to injury, face down in a horizontal position about a foot off the ground, his handlers dropped him. He rose quickly and declared he was fine.

Joe Brehm, Rural Action made note of the changes that have occurred. I think the 50th anniversary of the first earth day is most important because it gives perspective on our progress as stewards of the environment. The first Earth Day happened in response to environmental catastrophes like rivers catching on fire due to extreme pollution. Since then we have cleaned up a lot of waterways but now experience new threats like climate change. Earth Day reaches a lot of people as a reminder that the planet and human life depends on us being good stewards of the environment.

Often Earth Day reminds us how tirelessly we work to educate and improve environmental quality, but it can remind us of the joy and passion that results from creativity and shared experiences in nature.

Believe in Ohio: Providing an Environmental Focus to This Problem-Based STEM and Entrepreneurship Program

By Sheila Cubick, Believe in Ohio Advocate
Northeast/East & EECO Region 3 Director



Are you looking for an engaging, personal, problem-based learning project for your students that could propel them into a career? The Ohio Academy Science and Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio have again received state funding for the Believe in Ohio program (<https://believeinohio.org/teachers/>). This free STEM and Entrepreneurship program allows high school students to solve problems in which they are interested and about which they are passionate.

Students create a STEM Commercialization Plan by creating a product or a service to solve a problem or pain point. They prove their idea could work based on their research of the scientific processes, engineering design, or technological principles upon which the idea is based. They can create models, prototypes, computer or hand drawings, or experiments to help prove their idea is feasible, then they research their competitors, analyze their competitive advantage and target market as well as potential revenues and costs to see if their idea is commercially viable.

At any point they may have to pivot and revise or refine their idea based on new information. Finally, they create a technical research paper describing the idea, citing their research until they have created a STEM Commercialization Plan which is graded according to the provided rubric and entered in their school competition to win cash awards. These winning Plans may be able to proceed to regional and state competitions to win scholarships to Ohio Colleges and Universities.

Environmental science students, especially those who have already engaged in research for Science Fair projects or for ODNR Division of Wildlife Student Wildlife Symposium papers, are great candidates for this project. Have they worked with equipment that didn't quite meet the needs of the project? Did they have ideas about how the equipment could be altered to get more accurate readings or withstand water or extend battery life? Did they cobble together adapters for equipment or build wildlife blinds that were less expensive or more portable than those on the market now?

Combining creative problem-solving skills and an entrepreneurial mindset leads to innovation and to students with the awareness that environmental careers can include business innovation as well as traditional career paths. Believe in Ohio can be the key to that future.



Environmental Career Ambassadors

Environmental Career Ambassadors are environmental professionals willing to make classroom or school career fair presentations for middle and high school grades about their careers and/or provide shadowing, internship, field trip and scholarship opportunities.

Teachers• If you are interested in finding out about the Career Ambassadors available in your area, please contact us at director@eeco-online.org.

New Career Ambassadors Needed• If you would like to be more involved by volunteering to be a Career Ambassador you can fill out this form and email back to us at director@eeco-online.org.

Find out more at <https://eeco.wildapricot.org/eca>

PERRY COUNTY CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY!

By Penny Cox, Perry Soil & Water Conservation District

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans, 10% of the U.S. population at the time, took to the streets, college campuses and in hundreds of city parks and auditoriums to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet. Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis - oil spills, smog, litter, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire! Some may recall the burning of the Cuyahoga River, which inspired Randy Newman to write the song, "Burn On" "...Big River". Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring", coming out big in 1962, set the stage for concern of our tainted Earth; siting evidence between pollution and public health. Fifty years ago people joined together in spirit and in action. Coming together to express their concern for the state of our environment, to motivate others to change their daily habits by keeping the welfare of our Earth always at the forefront of their minds.

The first Earth Day founder, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin came up with this idea for a national day to focus on the environment. He recruited 25 year old Dennis Hayes of Harvard to be the national coordinator, launching a wave of action across the country. Earth Day 1970 helped bring about the passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Act were created in response, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 1990, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries. Many countries adopted similar laws. Now, each year more than a billion people participate and over 190 countries are engaged, making this a day (and many times an Earth Week) of action to provoke policy change.



Location of Perry County

met while teaching Outdoor Education in San Mateo County. They blend music, theater, puppetry, and audience participation to create a lively learning environment. The Banana Slug String Band has been playing music for kids for over 30 years. The Slugs' songs incorporate science lessons right in the music.

www.bananaslugstringband.com

The whole community is invited to this Family Night Event on April 21st at the Perry County District Library, to join in the Perry County 50th Anniversary Earth Day Celebration. One day to remind everyone to Make Earth Day Every Day and continue to raise awareness for the good of future generations to come! Getting together to "Help Keep Perry County (and our world beyond) Clean and Green"!

In light of our 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Perry County, Ohio wants to step it up a few notches to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Several agencies have joined forces to organize this county wide event in Perry County. Perry County Waste Reduction & Recycling, Perry Soil and Water Conservation District, and Perry County District Library will host a county-wide celebration on April 21st starting at 4 pm at the Perry County District Library, Main Branch. Other organizations have joined in this endeavor by donating funds to make this event successful. Starting at 4 pm, Interactive learning stations will open along with displays of Recycle Art. At 5:30 pm, Awards & Presentations will take place, recognizing the winner of The Green School Challenge and the "Defining REUSE" Scholarship recipients. At 6 pm, the Banana Slug String Band, all the way from California will take the stage!

The Slugs are a loveable group of musicians, songwriters, and educators who



Banana Slug String Band

Ohio Environmental Education Fund



The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) invites applications for mini grants (\$500 - \$5,000) and general grants (\$5,000 - \$50,000) for education projects targeting pre-school through university students and teachers, the general public, and the regulated community. Prospective applicants can start the application process by opening an account in Ohio EPA's eBusiness Center at <https://ebiz.epa.ohio.gov/>.

Ohio EPA encourages OEEF applicants to discuss their proposal ideas with OEEF staff members before completing their applications. OEEF staff members will be happy to provide a pre-review of draft applications as they are under development in the online grant service.

Grant Writing Workshops

The Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education offers grant writing workshops around the state throughout the year.

- **Grant Writing 101: Finding the Right Funder.** Prospecting tips to help you identify foundations, corporations, and government grant programs, and how to approach different kinds of grantmakers.
- **Grant Writing 102: Writing a Winning Proposal.** How to avoid common mistakes applicants make, and develop realistic objectives, activities and budgets. OEEF will be referred to during this session.

Contact Dennis.Clement@epa.ohio.gov to find out about upcoming workshops.

Upcoming Workshop

Tuesday, April 14, 9:30a - 3:30p., Frank B. Willis Building, 2079 U.S. Route 23 North, Delaware, OH 43015
Please check with the EPA as closures may be extended and impact this workshop

Ohio EPA Environmental Science & Engineering Scholarship Deadline

Applications will be accepted beginning January 15, 2020. The application deadline has **been extended to June 1, 2020**.

These merit based, nonrenewable, scholarships will be given to undergraduate students admitted to Ohio state or private colleges and universities who can demonstrate their knowledge and commitment to careers in environmental sciences or environmental engineering. Students must be entering the final year of the program. Awardees will be selected by the Academy appointed panel.

Find out more at: www.ohiosci.org/oef-scholarship

Get Ready to Teach About Climate

To celebrate 50 years of Earth Day, Project WET is teaming up with the National Wildlife Federation and Project WILD to provide a professional development opportunity you won't want to miss.

On March 23, they're launching a FREE online training for educators on climate topics. This self-paced course will prepare you to lead your students in a full week of climate education, community building and storytelling.

Educators who complete the course will also receive access to two activities from our highly anticipated Climate, Water and Resilience Educator Guide, as well as Project WILD climate activities and NWF resources. Did we mention it's all free? Sign up today to reserve your spot in the training!

Sign Up

A Child's Thoughts

On why taking care of the environment is important from Columbus area homeschool students

Griffin, age 9 - If it gets too hot, we will all shrivel.

Blake, age 10 - It is our home. If we don't protect it, we won't be able to live here anymore.

Balin, age 9 - If it gets too hot it will explode.

Asher, age 10 - We should protect it because it is the only Earth we have.

Bristol, age 9 - If the Earth was destroyed, the animals couldn't reproduce and we wouldn't have any food.

Hadlie, age 8 - Without water and animals we couldn't survive so we need to take care of our resources.

Lia, age 10 - Cleaning up litter helps protect the Earth and keeps it safe for us.

Devon, age 9 - So humans and other things can live.

Kate, age 11 - We need to protect the other species that are endangered.

Grace, age 9 - It could kill animals we need to survive and affect the food chain.

Cooper, age 11 - So kids can live on the Earth.

Carter, age 11 - We have to protect it so we have somewhere to live.



On why they are taking action from Riverside Elementary students in Hamilton.

Jhoel G. age 11 - The environment is where we live. We got to keep it clean. We love it, respect it. It is our home.

Jazmin T. age 10 - I cleaned the river because it helps save the world. It saves animals that live in the ocean. I felt happy to clean up trash and save the animals.

Steven V. age 10 - We need to keep it clean. Put trash in the garbage or recycling bins. We need to be responsible. Animals and plants are living in it.



Save the Date

Project WILD & Inquiry and Adventures Workshop

Wed, July 8, 9 am - 5 pm

Cox Arboretum Metropark

Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Graduate degree (0.5) and 6 hours of Ohio approved credit is available, with no homework or papers to write.

Registration and Information

Project WILD Facilitator Training

July 15-16

Punderson Manor State Park Lodge

11755 Kinsman Road, Newbury Township, OH 44065
Jen Dennison at jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us

Nature-Based Early Learning Conference

August 1, 2020

Cincinnati Zoo

3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45220

<https://naturalstart.org/nature-based-early-learning-conference>

101 Alternatives to the Chalkboard Educators Conference

October 2-3

YMCA Camp Kern

Oregonia, OH

Cost: \$30

Dave Moran at dmoran@daytonymca.org

Beyond Borders

By Joe Brehm, Rural Action and South Central & EECO Region 7 Director

As of May 2020, I will have been in my current position (Rural Action's EE Director) for 10 years, and I have been involved in EECO for 9 years. If there is one thing I have learned, it is that organizations and individuals in the field can and should go beyond goals like improving environmental literacy. Environmental Education must be not only about increasing participants' knowledge about the environment, but also about changing lives for the better.



A "Beyond Borders" field trip at the NAAEE conference in 2015 illustrated this quite clearly. The trip included a stop at Fundacion La Puerta, an environmental education center funded by the famous Rancho La Puerta near Tecate, Mexico.

The center is strikingly beautiful in an elegant but modest way--everything is made out of stone. Even the outdoor classroom is basically a hollowed-out boulder with a stone bench in the shape of a snake.



The importance of this center to the community touches so many different facets of the human experience. The staff and volunteers teach a variety of EE to the local school children, who come there for about 4 hours at a time.

They teach ecology of the chaparral country and las piedras (the big boulders that dot the ancient landscape), about the importance of recycling and compost, and they facilitate team-building activities not only for the children but for consistent youth volunteers.

All of the staff who work there started as volunteers and came there as students. Maybe their older brother or someone got them interested and they came to the center to volunteer over and over. There isn't much for kids to do after the 4.5 hour school day in Tecate (school effectively ends after lunch), which undoubtedly contributes to



many of the struggles that most impoverished communities share--drugs, violence, poor health, etc. But La Puerta has been an escape from those issues for the people who have come to volunteer and work there. One of the women who was explaining this to us immediately teared up because of how important the place has been to her and her family. She was probably thinking about what she would have done without it.

I believe I understand a little bit of how she felt because of the social context of our EE work at Rural Action in Southeast Ohio. While in a wildly different ecoregion, we share many of Tecate's challenges. The EE we do can and must have this type of impact; it isn't enough to just improve environmental literacy--we have to improve lives and empower families by giving opportuni-

ties. We can't do this for everyone, but we can for some. This is why Rural Action and partners started an internship program for high-school students in 2019; with outside financial support we are able to pay students a stipend to get hands-on experience with a local business or organization related in some way to sustainability or the environment. Some of the students have been hired by their host business or have gone on to college programs focused on sustainability. This idea of improving lives is also why we are working with local health care providers to pilot an Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare program for Southeast Ohio, and why our partners at Camp Oty'Okwa created a life skills program for the teenagers they serve.

Imagine the connection you feel to the environment when your livelihood or mental health depends on it--these types of programs create lasting bonds of belonging to the natural world.

Our last guest speaker at Fundacion La Puerta was a local Indigenous (Tipai-Ipai) woman who shared a small, potent slice of her tribe's vast knowledge of the land. She spoke to us briefly about some of the challenges and joys of this cultural intersection. It's hard for her people. The robust border fence now bisects the Tipai-Ipai's sacred mountain, which was in plain view while she spoke. She said they view the land as the same as themselves--"what-

ever happens to the lizards, plants, rocks, and birds happens to us,” she said. She is glad that so many people care about the land, but she questioned aloud if her culture would survive much longer. She shared that the Tipai-Ip-ai way of saying “thank you” roughly translates as “the Creator gives me more than I give back”.

The feeling that we are literally made of earth and connected to all of its creatures is the single most important feeling that we can convey to people through EE. The people who can say it best are dwindling in places like Tecate, but the door is still open.



Looking for something for your kids to do?

Pollinator Poster Contest

Each year, the National Association of Conservation Districts works with young artists to create posters with a conservation message. This year’s theme is “*Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators?*”

Designing a poster and researching the theme can give your children a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Good posters tell important stories to present and future generations. Posters capture people’s attention with a powerful graphic and inspire with a message for your community.

The contest is open to all public, private, and home-schooled students in grades K-12.

See contest rules at <https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>
Here are two of the most important rules:

- The title “Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?” must be on your poster!
- All entries must be submitted through your county’s Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Anything that is sent straight to the National Contest will be rejected. Local entries will be judged with winners advancing to the state contest in July/August. State winners advance to the national contest. To find your local SWCD to find out when their entry deadline is, please visit <https://ofswcd.org/who-we-are/find-your-swcd.html>



Help EECO Grow

Would you like to help further environmental education in Ohio? Consider contributing to EECO. All donations are tax-deductible and will help increase awareness of environmental issues in Ohio. Find out more at <https://eeco.wildapricot.org/support>

Other ways to support EECO:

- **Amazon Smile.** Select the “Environmental Education Council of Ohio” as your charity. Log into Amazon Smile every time you shop at Amazon.
- **Goodshop.** You can also shop hundreds of popular retailers at Goodshop, purchases will benefit EECO.
- **Direct Donation.** You can make a direct donation through your Google account. Your full donation goes directly to EECO.
- **Legacy Donation.** Consider making a legacy donation to EECO’s endowment fund at The Columbus Foundation.

Contact EECO

Partnerships strengthen EE in Ohio, leading to a more environmentally literate population and a healthier environment. You are welcome to become a partner and friend to EECO. Please contact any of our regional directors, officers, advisors, and board members to find out more about becoming a part of EECO.

Regional Directors

Region 1 - Central Ohio

Linda Pettit, Franklin SWCD
lpettit@franklinswcd.org

Region 2 - NW Ohio

Jennifer Elsworth, Metro Parks of the Toledo Area
jennifer.elsworth@metroparkstoledo.com

Region 3 - NW Central Ohio

Sheila Cubick
SheilaC@zoominternet.net

Region 4 - SW Central Ohio

Donna Lewis, Clark County Park District
donna.clarkcountyparks@gmail.com

Region 5 - SW Ohio

Errin Howard, Riverworks Discovery
errin@riverworksdiscovery.org

Region 5 - SW Ohio

Gia Giammarinaro, Cincinnati Parks
gia.giammarinaro@cincinnati-oh.gov

Region 6 - N Central Ohio

Joanne Mudra
jcmudra@gmail.com

Region 6 - N Central Ohio

Janet Ellsworth, retired, Mansfield City Schools
wellsworth@neo.rr.com

Region 7 - S Central Ohio

Joe Brehm, Rural Action
joe@ruralaction.org

Region 8 - NE Ohio

Dawn Wrench, Yavne High School
sunnywrench@att.net



Officers & Advisors

Executive Director

Brenda Metcalf
director@eeco-online.org

President 2019-20

Josh Dyer
jdyer@crowdordparkdistrict.org

Past President 2019-20

Allison Shaw
shaw@metroparks.net

Vice President 2019-20

Amanda Kriner
akriner@richlandcountyoh.us

Treasurer 2019-20

Matt Knittel
mjk@clevelandmetroparks.com

Secretary 2018-2020

Jenny Adkins
jennya@madscientistassociates.net

Advisor- OEE, OEPA

Carolyn Watkins
carolyn.watkins@epa.ohio.gov

Advisor- ODE

Lydia Hunter
Lydia.Hunter@education.ohio.gov

Advisor- ODNR

Jen Dennison
Jen.Dennison@dnr.state.oh.us

Board Members

Anne Drake
drake@brookvilleschools.org

Dave Moran
dmoran@daytonymca.org

Denise Natoli Brooks
denise.natoli.brooks@gmail.com

Lynn White
whitelr@butlercountyohio.org

Advisory Council

Chair

Paul Kaacherian
khachp@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Josh Flory
administrator@eeco-online.org

Newsletter

Lynn White
whitelr@butlercountyohio.org

E-Blast

Dave Moran
dmoran@daytonymca.org

Facebook

Jen Dennison
Jen.Dennison@dnr.state.oh.us