



Land of Legend's Learning Loop

"Shining a Light on Conservation for the Next Generation"

Welcome to Our New Educator Newsletter!

**Designed to keep educators in the learning loop on natural
resources for your classroom!**

If you are receiving this, you have participated in our programs in the past. Don't be shy to share this new resource with others!



Jackie Brun

Conservation Educator works with local educators to bring hands-on educational opportunities into the classroom, the natural environment, and community events.



Madison Wisniewski

District Urban Technician, works with communities on their compliance with Ohio EPA stormwater regulations through education programs and community outreach.



Hands-On Learning: Connections to Nature

Licking County Soil & Water is pleased to offer educational resources and programming to promote our natural resources' conservation and responsible use. From our in-class soils testing to the Envirothon Competition to providing Free Trees for Students, Licking County Soil & Water is committed to the next generation of land stewards.

Are you and your students in need of a mental break? We are here to help by fostering a connection to place, stewardship, self-efficacy, mental health, and inclusion while learning about nature!

School-aged Educational Programs and Teacher Resources

Education Programs are offered in the classroom, on your school grounds, or in a nearby park. All programs can be tailored to fit your age, grade, group, and standards.

Soil-based Programs:

The soil under our feet plays a significant role in where plants grow and animals live. Participate in soil testing and use scientific equipment to discover characteristics of Ohio soils. Compare soil from various places such as stream banks and grassy fields. Consider how soil is made and how we use the soil, rocks, and minerals under our feet.

Water-based Programs:

Learn about surface water, groundwater, and the quality of water. People depend on stormwater for drinking, watering plants and animals, bathing, cleaning, etc. Observe how water moves on the surface of the land and through the water cycle. Evaluate and test the health of our waterways.

Loaner Kit Programs:

Our programs can be borrowed for a week (or two) to fit into your lesson plans by request. We have tote-ready kits with supplies, background notes, activities, resources, and more! Choose from any of our classroom soil and water presentations.

We are happy to work with teachers in helping incorporate a natural resource theme into any lesson, such as social studies, English, and art classes.

[Click here to view all of the education programs currently offered by Licking County Soil & Water.](#)

If you are interested in learning more about how we can best serve you and your students, please contact **[Jackie Bruns, Conservation Educator.](#)**



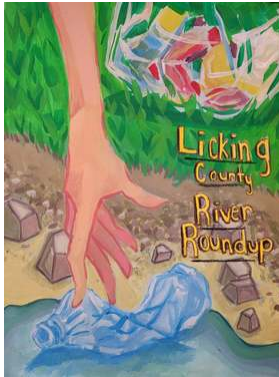
Pick a Topic
See what program topics align with your curriculum.



Schedule
Call our office at
740-670-5330 or email
Jackiebruns@lickingswcd.com



Presentation
Our staff members will bring everything needed for the program.



[Licking River Round Up Poster Contest 2022](#)

The Licking County River Round Up is an annual, county-wide river cleanup event in September on the Saturday after Labor Day. This community event brings out hundreds of volunteers who pull tires, shopping carts, and mountains of trash from the Licking River and its tributaries.

The graphic is 2021 Winner, Olivia Liberti Granville High School artwork

Contest Information:

The River Round Up Poster Contest is open to all school-aged youth in primary, secondary schools (public, private, and home school; K-12) or school-aged youth living in Licking County.

Posters submitted must reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the River Round Up.

Poster Awards: \$100 is awarded to the student artists of the winning posters (one from each of the three categories, below) and \$500 to the student's school for advancing science and art programming.

The winning poster artwork will be the primary electronic marketing images for the 2022 River Round Up event. Winning posters will be displayed at River Round Up Event sites on September 10, 2022, and in promotional displays around Licking County throughout the year.

Categories: Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12). One winner will be chosen from each grade category.

For a complete list of rules and prizes, [click here](#).

[Free Trees for Students just in time for Earth and Arbor Day](#)

Thanks to our generous sponsors, Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District offers free seedling trees to elementary and middle schools that serve Licking County students. The free seedling tree program is an opportunity to show students how important trees are to their health, community, and environment.

In addition to the seedling trees, your school will receive tree planting guides, tree education resources for the classroom, and the company name of a Licking Soil & Water Annual Giving Campaign contributor. Please keep an eye out for this program to start taking orders in the spring.

Option 1: Each student from participating schools receives a seedling tree to take home. This option is ideal for schools where students have a place at home to plant a tree. If large portions of the student body live in apartments or rental properties, consider Option 2.

Option 2: Request a certain number of trees to be planted on the school grounds. This option is perfect for enhancing an outdoor classroom. Additionally, this option allows all students to have ownership and responsibility for the trees planted at their school. If you choose this option, a variety of native tree species will be provided.

Educators can order trees by Friday, April 1 for pick-up on Monday, April 25th. For more information and to order seedling trees, complete the request form [here](#).



Envirothon Competitions

One of the most exciting educational-related programs the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Districts are involved in is the Envirothon Competition for teams of high school students. Teams consisting of five students compete at the area level and the three winning teams advance to the Ohio State Envirothon Competition and then on to the National competition. The best part is, the National Envirothon Competition will be held in Ohio on July 24-30, 2022 at Miami University in Oxford!

The contest is split into 5 testing categories:

Soils, Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issue- in 2022 the topic is **"Waste to Resource"**.

Below are links to websites with more information on the Envirothon, curriculum guidelines, and learning objectives:

[Curriculum Guidelines](#)

[Areas of Study with Learning Objectives](#)

Important Dates:

Tri-County Envirothon- April 12, 2022 at the Perry County Gun Club, New Lexington

Area 3 Envirothon- April 27, 2022 at Caldwell Lake in Noble County

Ohio State Envirothon- June 7-9 at Lake Erie College in Painesville

National Envirothon- June 24-30, 2022 at Miami University in Oxford



Licking County Soil & Water is happy to help prepare teams for the competition and have furs/pelts available to loan out for study purposes.

Please contact JackieBruns@LickingSWCD.com for sign-up information.

New Conservation Science Curriculum

The Ohio Division of Wildlife has teamed up with the Sportsman's Alliance Foundation and Pennsylvania Game Commission to develop a new curriculum offering in Conservation Science for 11th and 12th-grade levels. The course has been designed to meet the state science requirement that students take three or more credits of science to graduate.

The curriculum focuses on wildlife conservation and the outdoor recreational activities that fund the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting sports, and boating. The Conservation Science curriculum was designed to be a new standalone Science or Agricultural Science course; however, it can also be used as a supplement to existing courses. Through its focus on STEM principles, students will learn scientific principles and critical thinking skills while utilizing modern pedagogical approaches, such as inquiry, project-based learning, differentiation, flipped classroom, etc.

The Conservation Science curriculum allows students to complete a required science or elective credit needed for graduation while providing hands-on, active student participation in the practical application of scientific principles. To receive more information, including samples of the book, labs, projects, and more, teachers should fill out this [form](#).

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

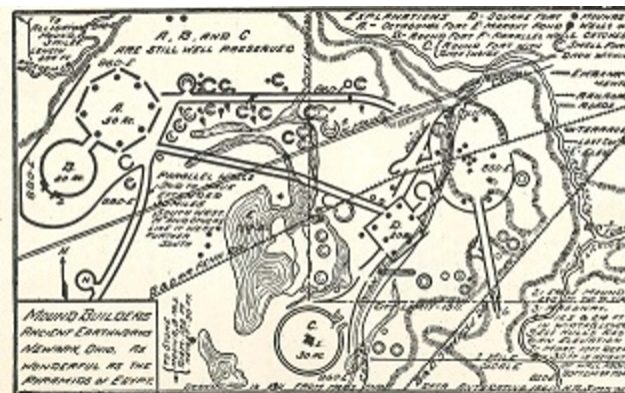
— Aldo Leopold



pennsylvania
GAME COMMISSION



SPORTSMEN'S
ALLIANCE



**The Mysteries and Histories
of the Land of Legend:**

Geology and Vegetation of the Newark Earthworks Area

Did you know there used to be ponds near the Newark Earthworks? The area around the Newark Earthworks has seen its fair share of use and development over the last 2,000 years. Many of the features encompassing what we know as the "Newark Earthworks" have been destroyed and looted during the construction of the Erie Canal and railroads. The area chosen by the builders of the Newark Earthworks is surrounded by waterways and in the center of the earthworks was a pond. Water seems to be very important to the builders and has a spiritual connection to the underworld. According to many Native American cultures, everything in nature has a spiritual connection, the earth, water, and the air are sacred and the earth is a living being, the same as you and I.

Licking County was primarily vegetated in mature oak, American chestnut, and hickory forests with pockets of prairies. There is evidence of deep prairie soils in the area and it has been hypothesized that these openings in the forest were maintained by the Native Americans through the use of fire. Prairie pockets are important for the wellbeing of many wildlife species, including bison, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, eastern cottontail rabbits, among others.

Learn more about the Newark Earthworks on the [Ancient Ohio Trail Website!](#)

Test Your Licking County Natural History Knowledge:

How many historically natural lakes are there in Licking County? Can you name them?

Answer: Buckeye Lake on the southern border of Licking County (extends into Fairfield and Perry Counties) and Smoots Lake in the northern portion of the county is the only naturally occurring lakes in the county. Buckeye Lake was "enhanced" by the construction of a dam to allow for larger quantities of water to be available for the Erie Canal and has a rich history. Smoots Lake is located off of Smoots Road on the west side of State Route 13, off of Smoots Road south of Utica, and currently undeveloped and held in private ownership.

Celebrate Natural Resources This Spring!

National Ag Day: March 22nd

Earth Day: April 22nd

Arbor Day: April 30th

Stewardship Week: April 24–May 1

Visit our Calendar for all upcoming events!

www.LickingSWCD.com

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