

Educator Newsletter

Meet Our New Conservation Educator!



Meet the newest addition to the Soil & Water team, Deirdre Wetmore! Deirdre is originally from Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She earned her first BS degree from Ohio University in Early Childhood Education. After that, she worked as a second and third-grade teacher for two years in the Licking Heights Local school district and then for one year as a long-term substitute in the Pickerington Local school district.

After choosing to return to school, Deirdre earned a BS degree in Environmental Science and began working for the City of Columbus' Recreation and Parks Department as a Natural Resource Education Specialist. There, she taught natural resource topics to students grades K-6 and facilitated outdoor recreation experiences for guests ages 6 to adult. In this position, Deirdre found a passion for teaching others about natural resource topics, especially those concerning conservation, and is so excited to join the Soil & Water as the Conservation Educator.



Our Education Programs

A large part of the Conservation Educator's job is visiting classrooms and other educational settings to teach lessons centered around conservation topics. A couple of these lessons include the *EnviroScape* and *Soil Soup*. The *EnviroScape* is a hands-on watershed model (pictured) that teaches students about runoff, point, and nonpoint source pollution and different ways to prevent water pollution. *Soil Soup* introduces students to soil vocabulary and uses props to help teach students the different components of soil.

We also have education loaner kits. Each of these kits is based on a conservation or natural resource topic and includes supplies, background notes, activities, resources, and more. Loaner kits can be checked out at our office for two weeks at a time to fit into your lesson plans and schedules. All programs and loaner kits can be tailored to fit your age, grade, and standards. A full list of our Education Programs and Loaner Kits can be found on the [Education](#) page of our website.

If you are interested in scheduling a program with our Conservation Educator or checking out one of our Loaner Kits, please reach out to our Conservation Educator, Deirdre Wetmore at DeirdreWetmore@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5333.

Free Trees for Students

Trees are a vital part of our ecosystems. They provide shelter and food to animals, provide shade during the summer months, help to control erosion, and help to prevent flooding.

Each year, Soil & Water offers free trees to students and schools to be planted in our community. The free seedling tree program is a great opportunity to show students how important trees are to their health, the community, and their environment.

Each option includes the trees and all items needed to prep the trees to send with the students. This includes planting guides and teacher resource guides that meet state educational standards.

There are two options available for this program. Option 1 is that each student at a participating school receives a seedling tree to take to plant at home. This option is ideal for schools where students have a place at home to plant a tree.

If a large portion of the student body lives in a more urbanized area such as in an apartment or rental property, please consider option 2. For option 2, you can request a certain number of trees to be planted on your school grounds. This option is perfect for enhancing an outdoor classroom and allows all students to have ownership and responsibility for the trees planted at their school.

If you are interested in reserving free trees for your students or school, please fill out this [Google Form](#).

The free trees will be available for pick up at our office on Friday, April 21st and during Backyard Conservation Day on Saturday, April 22nd! Join us for our Backyard Conservation Day! This is a day of hands-on activities at our land lab behind the Soil & Water office, where you can explore our wetland and woodlot, learn about rain gardens and rain barrels, purchase tree seedlings and conservation supplies, and more!



River Round Up Poster Contest

It's that time of year to start talking about the River Round Up poster contest! Every September, the River Round Up brings out hundreds of volunteers to help clean up

the Licking River and its tributaries. To help advertise this event, we ask students throughout Licking County to submit their posters reflecting on water pollution awareness, the importance of clean water, and encouraging volunteer participation in the River Round Up.

Entries are split into three categories: Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12). One winner in each category is chosen. The students with the winning posters receive a \$100 award and a \$500 award for their school's science or art program.

For more information on the River Round Up poster contest, or to submit a River Round Up poster, please visit the [River Round Up Poster Contest 2023](#) page on our website. If you would like the Conservation Educator to come to your classroom or school to introduce the poster contest, please contact Deirdre Wetmore at DeirdreWetmore@LickingSWCD.com or by phone at 740-670-5333.

2023 Tri-County and Area 3

Envirothon



Have you heard of Envirothon? The Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving competition for high school teams across the United States, Canada, and China. The Envirothon helps to educate students about the environment and conservation of our natural resources with hands-on, outdoor experiences and collaborative competitions.

This competition helps prepare our future generation to tackle complex environmental issues and promote stewardship of natural resources with consideration for both the human quality of life and the quality of the environment. The students become environmentally aware and action-oriented citizens.

During the Envirothon competition, students are tested in the areas of: aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Students start at the local level and have the opportunity to advance to the state and international levels.

This year, the **Tri-County Envirothon will be held at Meadow Springs Farm in Muskingum County on April 18th**. This is a practice competition for high school students and middle school students are welcome to join as well. Registration for the Tri-County Envirothon will happen the day of the event, but please let us know your intentions beforehand so that we can plan accordingly.

This year's **Area 3 Envirothon will be held in Carroll County on April 26th**. We are looking for Licking County teams interested in participating! Up to four teams per school are welcome to join. Registration for the Area 3 Envirothon is due on March 16th. We will be in touch when registration forms for the Area 3 Envirothon become available.

Study materials for the Envirothon competition are available from Soil & Water upon request.

If you have any questions about the Area 3 or Tri-County Envirothon, registration for either event, or would like to be sent study materials, please contact Deirdre Wetmore at DeirdreWetmore@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5333.

Important Dates

Feb 2: World Wetlands Day

Mar 3: World Wildlife Day

Mar 16: Area 3 Envirothon Registration Due to Deirdre Soil & Water

Mar 18: Global Recycling Day

Mar 21: World Water Day

Mar 24: Free Trees for Students requests through google form due

Apr 7: Deadline for River Round Up poster entries

Apr 18: Tri-County Envirothon @ Meadow Springs Farm in Muskingum County

Apr 21 and 22: Free Trees for Students pick-up days

Apr 22: Backyard Conservation Day @ Soil & Water Land Lab

Apr 22: Earth Day

Apr 26: Area 3 Envirothon in Carroll County (site TBD)

Apr 28: Arbor Day

[Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!](#)

www.LickingSWCD.com

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | **Opt out** using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? **Sign up** to receive our future emails.

View this email **online**.

771 East Main Street, Suite 100
Newark, OH | 43055 United States

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.