

March 2006

A SWEET Resource for Educating Ohioans about Source Water Protection

Ohio Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs)

A new network of Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs) is providing Ohioans with source water education and guidance about protecting their sources of drinking water. In 2005, staff from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) partnered to establish this network, which currently includes 39 teams serving 45 Ohio counties. Each team was organized by county soil and water conservation district (SWCD) educator staff and consists of three to five local water resources partners such as local health departments, watershed coordinators, public water system operators, OSU Extension and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff. This state and local collaborative effort has been dubbed Project SWEET.

SWEETs are equipped with tools and training

Each SWEET received a



new user-friendly ground water simulator (see picture), drinking water source assessment reports, and protection area maps. Through training, SWEETs have learned to design ground water simulator demonstrations around any audience's local water resources. SWEETs have utilized venues such as municipal meetings, community festivals, and county fairs to educate Ohioans about the importance of source water protection.

SWEETs can provide public education for Source Water Protection Plans

SWEET presentations can be used to fulfill public education and outreach requirements outlined in Ohio EPA's Drinking Water Source Protection Planning Guidance. Additionally, SWEET members

have considerable expertise in environmental education as well as professional experience in natural resources protection. Public water systems should consider contacting their county SWEET members when organizing a community drinking water source protection team. If a SWEET is unable to participate on the protection team, they may still be able to offer guidance with environmental education outreach tools, techniques, and available resources.

Does a SWEET exist in your county?

Contact information for Ohio counties with an organized SWEET is provided on the reverse side of this fact sheet. Please use this contact information to schedule a SWEET presentation at your next outreach event.

To request the organization of a SWEET in your county, contact Jeanne Russell, ODNR - Division of Soil and Water Conservation (614) 265-6682, or Kristy Hunt, Ohio EPA - Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (614) 644-2752.

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SWEET Contacts:

Adams County

Tami Bihl Davis
937-544-5121

Athens County

Gail Doyle
740-797-9686

Belmont County

Beverly Riddle
740-425-1100

Brown County

Danielle Thompson
937-378-4424

Carroll & Jefferson & Harrison County

Linda Yeager
330-627-9852

Champaign County

Karen Richards
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Columbiana & Mahoning & Trumbull County

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330-337-3956

Coshocton County

Teresa Bradford
740-622-8087

Defiance County

Bill Grimes
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Delaware County

Roger Pinnicks
740-368-1921

Erie County

Celine Hemminger
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Franklin County

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Amanda Podach
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Henry & Williams County

Jeannie Detmer
419-592-2926

Highland County

Barb Graves
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Hocking County

Holly Borer
740-385-3016

Jackson County

Ruby Gilliland
740-286-5208

Knox County

Deb Bigelow
740-393-6724

Miami County

Linda Raterman
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Caroline McColloch
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Noble & Guernsey County

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Ottawa County

Carol Benner
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Pickaway County

Karen Halley
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Preble County

Paul Lauer
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Richland County

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Shelby County

Lynda Adams
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Summit County

Chicory Koren
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Tuscarawas County

Tracy Haney
330-339-7976

Union County

Christina Hitchcock
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Van Wert County

Dave Mathew
419-238-9591

Warren County

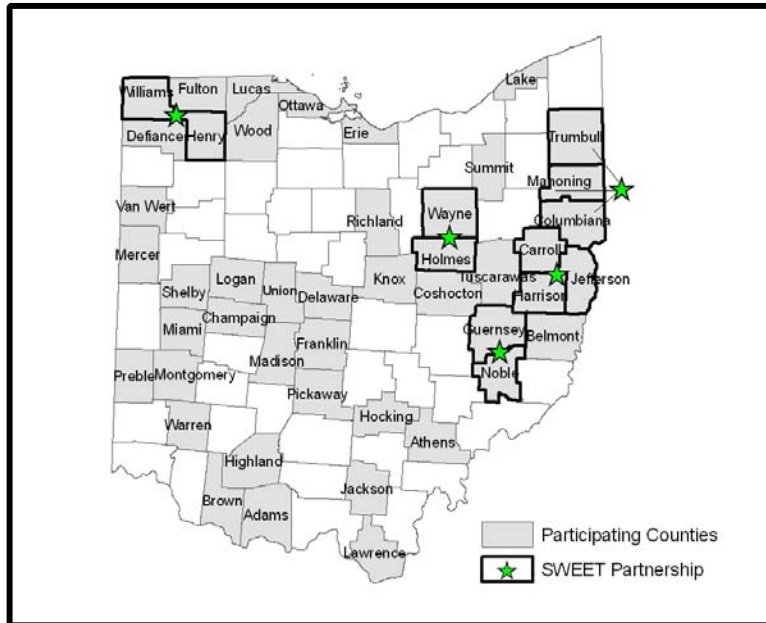
Sarah Colvin
513-695-1337

Wayne & Holmes County

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Wood County

Nicki Kale
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Lake County

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