

Trumbull SWCD ~ Dig Deeper: Soil Health Seminar series
ODNR Mini Grant 2014
Final Report

Trumbull SWCD and its partners held conservation education workshops on soil health topics including backyard conservation modules and agricultural modules. The backyard conservation seminar series focused on soil health and what landowners could do to help prevent erosion. *Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants, Healthy You* was held in a partnership with Earth Angel Farm. Earth Angel Farm is a non-profit organization which supports individuals with physical/ developmental disabilities and those underserved in the community through employment, education and socialization in an agricultural setting.

The agricultural module was the Cover Crop Field Day. Participants were provided with information regarding Trumbull SWCD's No Till Drill Rental Program, a partnership with Bortnick Tractor Sales, Cover Crop Resource List, Control of Marehail in No-Till Soybeans, USDA NRCS Soil Quality Information Sheets, USDA NRCS Farm Bill program factsheets and brochures, Secrets of Soil handouts and a Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide. Presenters included USDA NRCS, the agricultural producer, Doll Lumber (woodcock specific timbering highlighted) and OSU Extension professionals.

Soil test kits and kitchen compost bins with filters were provided to seminar participants. These tools helped implement recommended practices within the 4-R Tomorrow and the NRCS soil health programs.

The backyard conservation sessions also provided information to landowners on integrated pest management and storm water best management practices. Backyard Conservation Manuals were provided to participants and printed materials for soil and water stewardship were also included in the participants' packets. Rain barrel and rain garden information was also made available to interested attendees.

The overall goal of the *Dig Deeper: Soil Health Seminar Series* was to increase awareness of soil health concerns locally, regionally, and nationally and to increase participation in best management practices at home and in the field. The objectives of the grant were met and Trumbull SWCD plans to continue hosting workshops related to soil health.

Evaluation

Approximately 45 individuals participated in the Dig Deeper: Soil Health Seminar series (excluding the 2015 Composting Conference) with 20 individuals attending the Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants, Healthy You Conference, 11 individuals attending the Cover Crop Field Day and 14 individuals at the last seminar. The evaluations from all of the programs were positive overall. Some participants in the backyard conservation

programs did not have prior soil knowledge while others were agricultural producers and OSU Extension Master Gardeners and had a good base of knowledge. The varied audience members can make planning and achieving educational goals slightly difficult. Even those with soils experience felt that the seminar they attended was, at the very least, a good refresher for them. As Trumbull SWCD moves forward with partnerships to continue conservation education programs focused on soil, staff will try to incorporate a knowledge range (perhaps beginner and advanced) in future workshops to help ensure those participants with specific knowledge gain as much as those without prior knowledge. The Cover Crop Field Day, while not as well attended, provided new information to participants. Earth Angel Farm and Trumbull SWCD partnered on another soil based program, the Composting Conference in March 2015.

Photos from Trumbull SWCD's Soil Health Seminar Series



Presenters & Participants smiling after a great day of learning at the Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants, Healthy You Conference presented by Earth Angel Farm and Trumbull SWCD.



Rid-All, Cleveland, Ohio sharing their story of a green partnership. Urban Agriculture in Cleveland is definitely an example for other cities.



USDA NRCS District Conservationist, Jonathon Mauk, reviewing soils and cover crop information with an agricultural producer.

TRUMBULL SWCD

COVER CROP FIELD DAY

HOSTED BY THE HOUK/SHAREC FARMS, NEWTON FALLS, OH
SPONSORED BY W.I. MILLER & SONS, FARM CREDIT MID-AMERICA & WALNUT CREEK SEED



Learn about cover crop management, soil health and diversifying your property for wildlife at the 2014 Cover Crop Field Day.

Guest Speakers:

Steve Baker, USDA NRCS
Les Ober, OSU Extension
Jeff Howell, Doll Lumber
Richard Houk, Houk./Sharec Farms

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH TIME: 1:00—4:00 PM

Look for the parking signs across from 3720 S. Canal Street, Newton Falls, Ohio 44444. Light refreshments provided. Displays and informational materials available. . For more information or to RSVP, contact Amy Reeher, Trumbull SWCD at 330-637-2056, ext. 111 or reehera@embarqmail.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department

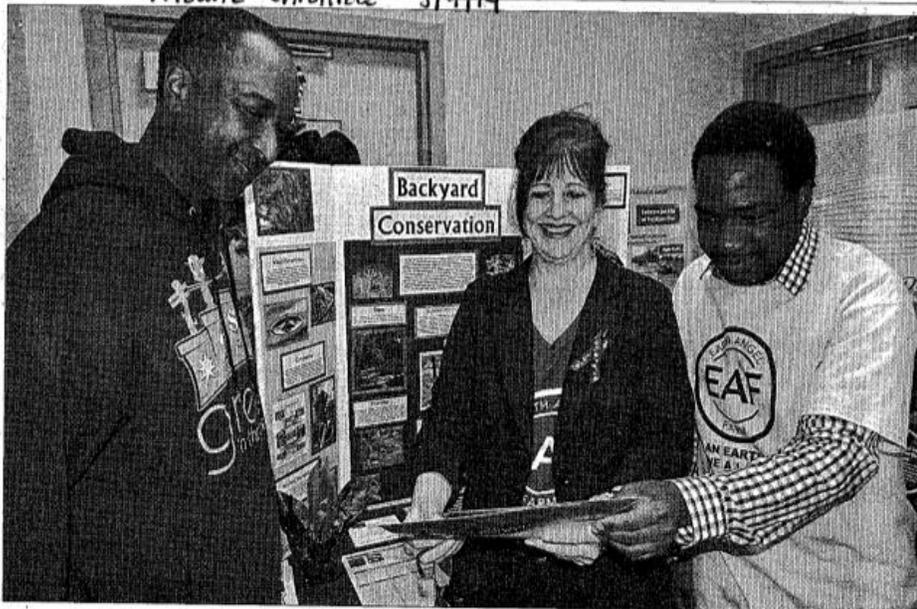
Tribune Chronicle

Sunday,
Feb. 23, 2014 3D

SEEING EYE

Conference on healthy soil set

HEALTHY YOU PROGRAM
SET: Earth Angel Farm and the Trumbull County Soil and Water Conservation District will present "Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants, Healthy You" education conference from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Service Center, 520 W. Main St., Cortland. The one-day conference will instruct on techniques and applications of restoring soil fertility and vermicomposting. Attendees will also learn about the certification of organic compost and attracting pollinators to your garden. Registration is 7:30 a.m. Contact 330-637-2056 ext. 3. Make payment to Earth Angel Farm, 983 Niles-Cortland Road S.E., Warren, 44484.



Tribune Chronicle / Bob Coupland

Earth Angel Farm and the Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District co-hosted a healthy soil education conference recently at the Trumbull County Agriculture Center in Cortland. Looking over material are Keymah Durden of Rid-All Green Partnership and Dr. Holly Maggiano and Jelani Lamplay, both of Earth Angel Farm.

Healthy soil, healthy eating

Earth Angel Farm educates about nutritious local produce

By **BOB COUPLAND**
Tribune Chronicle

CORTLAND — Local environmental experts shared ways to help make the local soil healthier to have healthier locally grown food.

Earth Angel Farm and Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District co-hosted a healthy soil education conference recently on ways to compost and improve the local soil.

Dr. Holly Maggiano of Earth Angel Farm said different groups including Grow Youngstown, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, Trumbull Master Gardeners, and local farmers and horticultural experts gathered to share their ideas for having healthier foods.

"We are trying to get the local soil healthier so we can grow locally grown and healthier and more nutritious produce. This will help our community by using compost instead of putting waste in landfills. If

He said he was impressed with the different groups locally and their grassroots efforts.

Durden said after the housing market crashed many vacant properties in cities were turned into gardens a major transformation of the lots.

Maggiano said there is a need to get down to basics and start from the ground up.

"We must be proactive in restoring our soil for ourselves and future generations," she said.

The Rid-All Green Partnership was started by

three childhood friends,

Damien Forsche, and Randy McShepherd and Durden. They have created an urban farm, in the Cleveland Kinsman Neighborhood where they grow healthy food for local residents of two greenhouses and four hoop houses. They have also started aquafarming with tilapia fish.

Speakers said intensive agricultural methods have led to ongoing soil degradation and decline in soil fertility. This has resulted in the depletion of the vitamins and minerals in the fruits and vegetables grown

today.

Earth Angel Farm is a non-profit organization creating unique social and work force training settings in agricultural environments to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Maggiano said from the seminar participants learned the importance of eating locally grown produce, attracting pollinators to the garden and composting techniques and applications for restoring soil fertility.

bcoupland@tribtoday.com

Tribune
11/16/14

SWCD HOLDS SEMINAR: The last in the Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District's "Dig Deeper: Soil Health Seminar" series will be held at 2 to 4 and 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Trumbull Agricultural Center in Cortland.

The workshop is for anyone interested in learning about healthy soil and would like more information about soil testing. The sessions will provide information to landown-

Tribune 3/4/15

Earth Angel Farm to get earth tub

BY BOB COUPLAND
Tribune Chronicle

CORTLAND — Earth Angel Farm will get Trumbull County's first earth recycling tub.

The plans for the tub were among the highlights of local efforts for improving recycling and composting efforts locally discussed at a recent seminar held at the Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center.

More than 25 people attended the daylong event, which featured various speakers discussing backyard composting, regulating composting and Vegware, which is packaging made from plants. The conference was co-sponsored by Earth Angel Farm and Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District.

Dr. Holly Maggiano, executive director of Earth Angel, said they will receive the tub the spring made possible by a grant from the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District.

She said the tub will be located at the Warren Greenhouse and be used for vegetable scraps, peels and waste.

Daniel Kuzma, manager of the Youngstown State University Materials Exchange and Recycling Program and an environmental science faculty

member, said the university started a composting program in 2006 and was the first university in the state to compost food waste.

He said YSU received grant funding from Mahoning Valley Green Team for their earth tub, which is a large top shaped bowl.

"This system was appropriate for us and was affordable," he said.

Kuzma said there are efforts for reducing food waste such as providing food to people for the mission, feeding animals, industrial use or composting.

Amy Reeher, administrator of the Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District discussed the "3 Rs" — reuse, reduce and recycle

She said toilet paper rolls are used for children's activities, Frisbees as bird feeders, and ice cube trays for storing invertebrate samples from the nature programs.

"You can recycle and reuse items around your home, such as lightbulbs and pop bottles to help with seed starting pots," Reeher said.

Reeher said the seminar was to raise awareness of composting both in backyards of residential homes and commercial businesses.

She said the earth tubs are used for

food waste and items that can be composted such as food from cafeterias and hospitals where there a large number of employees.

"We compost at the agriculture center on a smaller level than at Delphi or Packard might, where there are more people."

Bob Villers, director of the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, said composting bins and rain barrels will be made available for sale for the public at planned event June 13.

Clarissa Gereby, environmental specialist in Division of Materials and Waste Management at the Ohio EPA, told how she goes out to different facilities to see if they are in compliance with composting regulations and requirements.

Her duties include regulations of solid waste facilities, such as landfills, composting sites, scrap tire facilities and infectious waste facilities.

Julia Wetstein, who serves as compostable products advocate and consultant for Vegware U.S., spoke of the packaging products made from plants for the new brand in the Berk Enterprises Family.

bcoupland@tribtoday.com



Discussing the displays, handouts, and presentations at the Composting Conference.

Budget Report

<i>Item</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>Cash Match</i>	<i>In-Kind Match</i>
<u>HS,HP,HY Conference Speakers - EAF</u>		<u>\$425.00</u>	<u>\$475 hotel & flight donated</u>
<u>Soil Test Kits (purchased through PSU Extension)</u>		<u>\$360.00</u>	
<u>Kitchen Composting Pails and filters</u>		<u>\$530.30</u>	

Resource Materials (Let it Rot book, soil meters) <u>\$68.87</u>			
Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide			<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>NRCS Soil Health Materials (printed)</u>			<u>\$103.09</u>
<u>SWCD 4-R Materials (printed)</u>			<u>\$35.55</u>
<u>SWCD SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS</u>	<u>\$22.25</u>		
<u>NE Ohio Rain Garden Manual</u>			<u>\$101.25</u>
<u>Soil Survey Books w/ hydric soil sheet</u>			<u>\$101.25</u>
<u>Printing (EAF – HS, HP, HY Conference)</u>			<u>\$271.33</u>
<u>Mailing (EAF – HS, HP, HY Conference)</u>			<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>Meeting Room Rental (\$25 each for 3 seminars)</u>			<u>\$75.00</u>
<u>Planners' Salaries (SWCD staff/partners doesn't include volunteers)</u>			<u>\$4,320.00</u>
<u>Volunteer Time (EAF – HS,HP,HY Conference)</u>			<u>\$10,000.00</u>
<u>Refreshments – lunches for HS,HP, HY Conference</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>		
<u>Refreshments for last seminar – donated</u>			<u>\$20.00</u>
Totals	<u>\$959.17 GRANT</u>	<u>\$ 747.25 CASH MATCH</u>	<u>\$15,802.47 IN KIND MATCH</u>
	<u>\$17,508.89 TOTAL PROJECT</u>		