



Ohio Wetlands Association

PO Box 3 ♦ Amherst, Ohio 44001 ♦ www.OHwetlands.org

For Immediate Release

Like clean water? Join us at the wetlands science summit!

Water is everyone's concern. All across Ohio water quality is a serious matter. This 6th Annual Ohio Wetlands Science Summit brings together wetland experts to share their research and practical application of wetland restoration for improving water quality. Communities across the state are recognizing that wetlands provide cost-effective natural services that improve our quality of life and OH yes, improve water quality by removing excess nutrients, sediments, toxins and other contaminants that keep us from fully enjoying our rich Ohio water resources. The Ohio Wetlands Association (OWA) is hosting a wetlands science summit: ***H2-OH! Ohio Wetlands Work for Water Quality*** at Everal Barn and Homestead in Westerville, Ohio on Saturday, October 14th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dr William Mitsch, our Keynote presenter, will talk about "Wetlands the Kidneys of our Planet".

Following Professor Mitsch's global perspective on wetlands and the health of the planet we will get very specific and local. Mark Dilley, Ohio Wetlands Association President and Co-owner of MAD Scientist Associates will address "Improving the Quality of Water and the Quality of Life in a Growing Suburb". He will detail the work in Westerville to assure long-term water quality supply and wetlands. John Watts, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Resource Manager will expand the topic with "Columbus Metro Parks Wetland Restorations: Establishing Beneficial Functions Including Water Quality Improvement".

Kristi Arend, Research Coordinator and Fisheries Biologist with ODNR at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve provides a regional perspective with "Wetland Restoration as a Tool for Lake Erie Water Quality Improvement: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go From Here?"

Adding a crosscutting dimension to the conference Dr. Kevin Egan, University of Toledo, Department of Economics will explain "Using Benefit-Cost Analysis to Estimate the Value of Wetlands to Society". We will see that the value of the natural services of wetlands must be considered in any policy or practice that will alter wetland functions in the landscape.

For years, OWA has promoted the idea that wetlands are essential parts of every watershed and are necessary to assure high water quality. We advocate for wetland restoration and insist that wetland restoration be a part of any comprehensive plan to reduce the nutrients that feed harmful algal blooms. Our tag line, "Wetlands for a Better Ohio" supports the notion that we are all better off, for many reasons, with healthy and abundant wetlands across the state. This conference focuses on the singular subject of water quality improvement that is critically needed. If you LIKE clean water, you will LOVE wetlands. Go to www.OHwetlands.org for summit details and registration information.

The Ohio Wetlands Association (OWA) is a state-wide, all volunteer, 501(C)3, nonprofit organization. OWA serves to protect, restore and enjoy Ohio's wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. OWA envisions the state of Ohio where wetlands are healthy, plentiful, and support ecological and societal needs and where citizens care for, appreciate, and interact with these natural treasures. At OWA we believe in achieving solutions through thoughtful collaborations with partners in government, business and other non-profits. We seek to inspire others to enjoy, appreciate, and respect wetlands throughout Ohio. We work to engage communities in activities that protect and preserve Ohio's wetlands. Informed by science and inspired by their natural beauty we firmly believe that healthy and abundant wetlands will make a better Ohio. Membership information and other ways you can help support healthy Ohio wetlands can be found at www.OHwetlands.org.

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For further inquiries, please contact Ohio Wetlands Association at info@OHwetlands.org.