



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP

As we move through 2026, I've found myself reflecting on just how much has been accomplished over the last **20 years** at Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners. Reaching this **milestone anniversary** is something worth celebrating, not only because of the longevity of the organization, but because of the lasting impact this work continues to have across our region every single day.

What began as a shared commitment to protecting local waterways has grown into a network of partnerships, restoration projects, educational programs, and community-driven efforts that reach thousands of people each year. From stream and habitat restoration projects, to water quality monitoring, rain barrel workshops, invasive species management, municipal partnerships, and community education, this work is visible throughout the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds.

This anniversary is also a reminder that none of this happens alone. Our progress is possible because of the support of our members, volunteers, Board of Directors, municipal partners, businesses, funders, educators, and community members who continue to invest their time, expertise, and energy into protecting one of our region's most important resources: clean water.

Over the past year especially, our team has continued to adapt, grow, and find new ways to serve our communities while staying grounded in our mission. I'm incredibly proud of the work our staff and partners are doing

mission. I'm incredibly proud of the work our staff and partners are doing, and even more excited about where we are headed next.

Thank you for being part of this organization's story and for helping us build a stronger, healthier future for our watersheds and communities. We look forward to continuing this work together for many years to come.

Dr. Erica Matheny

Executive Director

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners

UPCOMING EVENTS

*For the latest up to date listing of events, visit:

<https://tinkerscreek.org/events/>.

MAY 18	Macedonia Rain Barrel Workshop (Registration Required)
MAY 21	TCWP Foraged Feast (Registration Required)
MAY 27	FREE Event Macroinvertebrate Mayhem with Portage Parks
JUN 11	FREE Event Pollinator Power - Mayfield Branch Cuyahoga Library
JUN 12	FREE Event Life in the Stream Electrofishing and Macroinvertebrate event
JUN 30	Reminderville Rain Barrel Workshop (Registration Required)
JUL 22	FREE Event Pollinator Power - Brecksville Branch Cuyahoga Library
JUL 24	FREE Event Bat Monitoring Program
AUG 3	Streetsboro Rain Barrel Workshop (Registration Required)
AUG 15	FREE Event Tinker's Creek Family Fun Day



May 21, 2020

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SPONSORS & PARTNERS

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW: <https://www.givebutter.com/events/...>

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Special Guest: **Don King**
"the Mushroom Hunter"

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners
20075 Ravenna Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087 USA
CLE urban winery
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH

DAVEY Resource Group

OHM Advancing Communities

R&R **REVOLUTION** NATIVE PLANTS

SPRING IS HERE - TIME TO PLANT



Native Foxglove Beardtongue

At TCWP, we often highlight the ecological benefits of native plants, but did you know they also deliver powerful stormwater benefits? Unlike non-native ornamentals, natives require far less maintenance, watering, and fertilizer, keeping excess nutrients out of storm drains and reducing harmful algae blooms.

Their deep root systems hold soil in place, prevent erosion, and absorb stormwater as it flows by, reducing runoff into our streams. Best of all, many native species spread over time, so a few plants can grow into a highly effective, low-maintenance stormwater workforce!

[Learn more about native planting and backyard conservation!](#)

POLICYMAKERS MEET WATERSHED LEADERS AT OSWC



State Senator Theresa Gavaronne and staff of Senator Jon Husted and U.S. Congressmembers Marcy Kaptur and Max Miller join local environmental leaders at the OSWC Policy Roundtable.



Dr. Erica Mathery welcomes State Senator Theresa Gavaronne

TCWP convened lawmakers and local water leaders for a focused policy roundtable at the Ohio

Stormwater Conference in Sandusky.

The discussion featured *Ohio State Senator Theresa Gavarone* alongside key representatives from the offices of *U.S. Senator Jon Husted*, *Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur*, and *Congressman Max Miller*.

Elected officials and their staff heard directly from local governments, watershed organizations, engineering and environmental firms, and conservation groups about real challenges they're facing, from rising project planning costs, development pressures, and the urgent need for sustained infrastructure investment.

Ray Paoletta, District Director for U.S. Representative Max Miller, shared a key takeaway: "Before projects even start there's a cost to just the planning and the preparation and there's not always funding for that. Helping folks get past those hurdles to get these projects done will ultimately benefit all our communities."

Lori Brodie, Northwest Regional Manager for *U.S. Senator Jon Husted's* office, emphasized the value of hearing directly from organizations working to protect Ohio's water resources and Great Lakes ecosystems.

By connecting local realities with policymakers, TCWP continues to strengthen the vital link between community needs and impactful state and federal action.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



More than 16 mayors and local leaders gathered at TCWP's annual Mayors' and Local Leaders' Breakfast to discuss watershed health, stormwater challenges, and community resilience. With insights from Congresswoman Emilia Sykes' office and a spotlight on the successful Darrow Road Park restoration, the event highlighted the power of cross-municipal collaboration.

[Read the full article →](#)

NEW FUNDING FOR WATERSHED PROJECTS

This spring, TCWP received the *Kimley-Horn Foundation Volunteer Grant*, *GroMoreGood Scott's Miracle-Gro Grant*, and *ServeOhio Global Youth*



Service Day Grant this spring. These awards will help expand volunteer planting efforts, restoration projects, and community engagement across our watersheds.



[Learn More →](#)

Interested in learning about *volunteer opportunities*? [Learn more here!](#)

TCWP HOSTS RECORD-BREAKING OHIO STORMWATER CONFERENCE

TCWP hosted the 2026 Ohio Stormwater Conference in Sandusky, welcoming nearly 1,100 attendees, more



Harry Stark, OSWC Executive Director and Erica Matheny, TCWP Executive Director, welcome attendees



Attendees interacted with over 130 sponsors and exhibitors

than 130 sponsors and exhibitors, and 86 presenters — making it the largest conference to date.

The event brought together stormwater professionals from across Ohio to share innovative solutions, technical expertise, and best practices focused on water quality, infrastructure, and stormwater management.

[Read the full article →](#)

WELCOME OUR NEW EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR TO THE TEAM!



KYLIE KOVATCH
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We're excited to welcome Kylie Kovatch to the Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners team as our new Education & Outreach Coordinator. Kylie will be leading hands-on programs, community workshops, and outreach efforts that help people connect with their local streams, wetlands, and natural spaces. From pollinator gardens to watershed education, she'll be helping grow the partnerships that

TCWP WELCOMES U.S. STATE DEPT IREX CEE FELLOW FROM TUNISIA

This spring, TCWP welcomed Refka Abroug, a U.S. State Department and IREX Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) fellow from Tunisia, a country in northern Africa. Refka is studying Computer Systems Engineering and is passionate about sustainability, storytelling, and community engagement.



In Tunisia, Refka participated in volunteer work, youth leadership programs, radio hosting, and environmental awareness initiatives, especially around water sustainability. Through the CEE Program, she is exploring how communities in the U.S. create local impact through collaboration and civic engagement.

During her fellowship with TCWP, Refka is participating in environmental activities, community events, and educational programs centered on watershed protection and sustainability. She also attended the Ohio Stormwater Conference, where she connected with environmental professionals and learned about innovative approaches to water management and community engagement.

"One of the most meaningful parts of this experience has been seeing how local organizations work closely with communities to protect natural resources and encourage environmental responsibility." – Refka Abroug

The fellowship has created opportunities for cultural exchange and shared learning between Tunisia and the U.S., while highlighting the importance of local partnerships in protecting natural resources and promoting environmental responsibility.

[Learn more about IREX and community exchange programs.](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBER COMMUNITIES - WE VALUE YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

Aurora, Beachwood, Bedford heights, Boston Heights, Franklin Township, Glenwillow, Hudson, Macedonia, Maple Heights, Northfield, Reminderville, Solon, Streetsboro, Twinsburg, Valley View, Walton Hills

Don't see your community listed here? Reach out to info@tinkerscreek.org or [click here](#) to find out how to connect or reconnect as a member community.

Thank you
to our 2026 business members!

TO OUR 2020 BUSINESS MEMBERS:



Our reason is water.™



*Aquatic Enhancement
& Survey, Inc.*

Want to see your business logo here? [Learn more about business memberships with TCWP!](#)

Support clean water, healthy habitats, and stronger communities throughout our region. Your donation helps Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners continue restoration projects, education programs, and hands-on stewardship efforts that make a lasting impact across our watersheds.

[SUPPORT CLEAN WATER TODAY](#)

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