



Greene Soil and Water Conservation District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bellbrook Teachers honored with Ohio Teacher of the Year Award from the OFSWCD

At last Tuesday's Annual Meeting of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, President Bob Short announced that Bellbrook Middle School teachers: Crystal Current and Kayla Bruggeman were selected as Ohio Teachers of the Year. The award honors excellence in Soil and Water Education.

Crystal and Kayla in collaboration with the Greene Soil and Conservation District have for several years held in school programs focusing on the importance of soil health for their upwards of 200 sixth graders. The students write individual reflections on what they have learned, and all are mailed to the GSWCD office for their review.

A soil erosion demonstration is incorporated into the programs as well and the program is aptly named: "Soil We Can't Grow Without it!" They incorporate this program into their curriculum following sections on the rock cycle and then a unit on soil. The depth of the students' reflections is what is so striking from learning about the dust bowl, how soil is created, it's impact on virtually every facet of everyday life, the soil horizons an apple demonstration on how much soil is available there is to grow things and Dr. Laura Danly's video describing our planet's future. Congratulations to Crystal and Kayla!

Additionally, Bob Short presented the OFSWCD President's Award to the Ohio Envirothon Committee including Greene SWCD's very own Education Specialist, Lee Eltzroth. The committee members were recognized for their commitment to providing a virtual Envirothon competition for students during the early stages of the pandemic.

Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource problem solving competition that builds leadership experience for high school students in the areas of Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and Current Environmental Issues.

The committee is comprised of members across Ohio and include the following: Sarah Rieman, Amanda Podach, Kathy Vrable-Bryan, Katie Naininger, Karen Gotter, Wendee Dodds, Brigitte Hisey, Lee Eltzroth, Danielle Thompson, Erin Wolfe, Emily Heppner, Janelle Mead, Nikki Hawk, and Irene Moore. Congratulations to all the Committee Members for a job well done!

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