



The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Autumn 2024

Our Mission

To provide resources to meet the conservation needs of Clermont County

Board of Supervisors

Todd Winemiller
Connie O'Connor
David Anspach
Joe Glassmeyer
Tim Rose

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Christina Gates
Brittany Feichtner
Mariah Denzik

District Staff

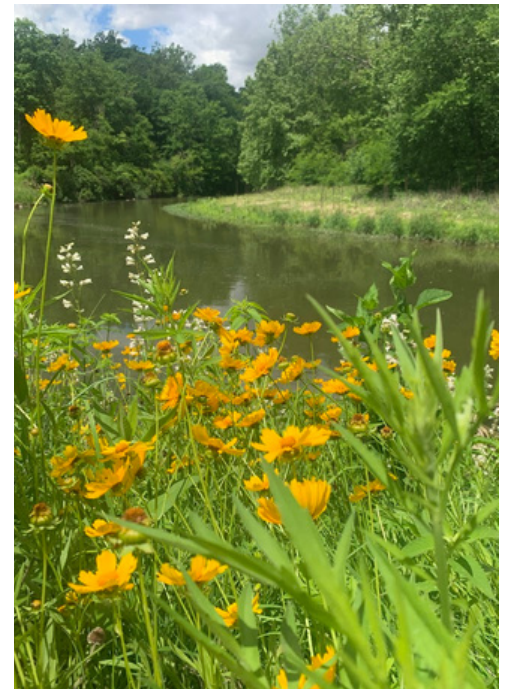
Amanda Best
Elea Cooper
Jacob Hahn
Jacob Lynch
Becky McClatchey
John McManus
Connie Miller
Abbie Frazer (Americorp Member)

Protect Your Stream with Native Plants!

Many homeowners have watched as a lovely little stream running through their yard grew into a raging torrent after a big rain. This is often the result of land use changes upstream. Rainwater that once soaked into the ground or was caught and used by trees now runs off roofs, sidewalks, parking lots and roadways. This rainwater is then directed through storm drains to the very brooks that once babbled and now roar.

As a consequence, landowners may lose streamside property, as streams eat away at their banks and carry the now eroded sediment downstream. The least expensive method of slowing streambank erosion before it becomes catastrophic also happens to be the healthiest for the stream – planting and maintaining native plants along the stream edges.

Turf grass roots are quite short compared to native grasses, shrubs and trees. You have probably pulled up a clump of turf grass growing in a flower bed; it wasn't that difficult was it? Turf grass roots don't hold streambank soils as well as longer-rooted native plants do.



Stream bank with native vegetation



If you plant with native plants, you will receive the added benefit of many hours of wildlife watching. Birds and butterflies will appear when you plant their favored food and nesting plants. Planting non-native landscaping plants can also help stabilize the streambank, but they may require more nutrient input and pruning to retain the desired appearance.

If much of the stream bank is already exposed, plant dormant live stakes such as willow or elderberry. Live stakes are two or three-foot long sticks that will root along the stem once planted. They tend to form thick mats of intertwined roots that hold soil in place.

 facebook.com/clermontswcd

 instagram.com/clermont_swcd

Supervisor Candidates

We have two board positions to be filled. Learn about our three candidates below!

Mike McGraw



Mike grew up an outdoorsman. He was often found hunting and fishing with his father where he gained a deep respect for the natural world. From a young age, he cultivated seasonal gardens and unearthed an interest in aquatic ecosystems. In 2015, he discovered the exciting practice of aquaponics which grows fine quality products year round. After completing an aquaponics course, he moved back home and purchased a small farm in Clermont County where he established his own aquaponic farm and business. Roothouse Aquaponics sold its first harvest in early 2020 and now serves over 30 retail and restaurant customers in the Greater Cincinnati area. Mike and the Roothouse Team grow delicious living head lettuce, herbs, power greens, edible flowers, and raise a sashimi grade Tilapia.

Mike McGraw was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduating from St. Xavier High School in 2008, he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music from The University of Michigan. He then spent 6 years in Nashville, producing music and videography in the entertainment industry.

Aquaponics is an extremely conservation-minded practice of agriculture, using less water and land resources for year round daily harvests. Taking conservation practices a step further, Roothouse only uses rainwater in its greenhouse and there is no use of any pesticide or herbicide. In addition, Roothouse employs all Non-GMO products, and creates zero-waste from its facility. The biosecure ecosystem is a proven successful practice for conservation of our natural resources.

Todd Winemiller grew up working on his family farm in Batavia and has been a resident of Clermont County for over 50 years. Todd and his wife Deborah live on Taylor Pike outside of Newtonsville with their three children, Lexie, Madison and son Ryan. Along with Todd's cousin, the family farms approximately 3,500 acres. The farm includes about 1,200 acres of corn with the remainder in soybeans. The farm has been 100% no-till for 21 years.

Todd is currently completing his fourth term as District Supervisor. He has also played an active role with the Farm Service Agency in Owensville, serving for 10 years on the FSA County Committee, six of those as chairman. Todd also serves on the OSU Extension Office's advisory committee. He has also helped establish policy and conduct interviews with potential applicants seeking staff positions with OSU. Prior to his term as Supervisor, Todd participated in a special project with NRCS, Clermont SWCD and Miami University's Institute for the Environment and Sustainability. Graduate students from the university visited the Winemiller farm to learn about agricultural practices.

Todd is a pilot and very active in local aviation chapters, where he has served as President, Vice President and board member. Through this experience, Todd has gained a good understanding of organizational management, including knowledge of "Roberts Rules." Todd wants to continue to use his experience to help SWCD better serve local landowners in the county.

Todd Winemiller



Mark Liming

Mark Liming was raised on a farm in Felicity, Ohio. Farming has become his life's work. Mark, his wife, Tricia and two sons, Clinton and Brett, bought their own farm in 2007 in Bethel, not far from the main Liming family farm, where his parents live. In addition to running these two farms, he also rents some land in the Felicity/Bethel area. Mark raises Limousin beef cattle, some sheep, and has acres of farmland for corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. Conservation practices installed on his land include cover crops, no-till, and a solar water pump for one of his pastures.



In 2007, Mark was elected to Farm Service Agency's Clermont County Committee to represent farmers in Monroe, Tate, Washington, and Franklin Townships, and served two farms. He and his family were also heavily involved in FFA while his sons were in high school, with Clinton achieving the highest degree possible – the American degree, while Brett graduated from UC with a degree in architectural engineering.

Annual Banquet Slated for Tuesday, September 24

Join the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District as it celebrates its 81st year of conservation activities in the county. This year, the District's Annual Banquet is being held at Emmett Ridge Farms (1805 Lindale Nicholasville Rd, Amelia, OH 45102), beginning at 5pm. Emmett Ridge Farms is a former golf course now transformed into a sustainable farm. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy Emmett Ridge Farms' 132 acres of natural beauty and homegrown, from-scratch catering. At the meeting, two members of the Board of Supervisors will be elected to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2025. The three candidates for Supervisor are Mark C. Liming, Mike McGraw, and Todd Winemiller. County residents and landowners can vote during our annual banquet, or in person at the District office in the County Fairgrounds beginning August 26th. An absentee ballot can be requested by contacting Connie Miller by email, phone or mail. There is no charge to attend this year's banquet if registration is received by September 20th. Otherwise, there will be a fee at the door. Registration is not required to vote in the supervisor election. Register at <https://www.clermontswcd.org/am-2024/>

Board of Supervisors Election Procedures

County residents and property owners attending our annual meeting this year will find the voting procedures for SWCD Supervisors to be very similar to voting in the general election. Upon arrival at the annual meeting, attendees will be directed to the election registration table where election officials will have them sign their name in the registry. Voters will then be given a ballot and directed to a voting booth where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box. Meeting attendance is not required to vote. If unable to attend the annual meeting & banquet, county residents and landowners may request an absentee ballot by sending an email to cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov, by calling (513) 732-7075 ext. 2., or by mailing a request to Clermont SWCD at P.O. Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160. There are special requirements for non-resident landowners and corporations. A notarized affidavit must be presented or on file prior to absentee ballot request. For more election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075. Absentee ballots must be received in the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on September 23rd.

Landowner Conservation Series

Free to All | Protect Your Land | Hands-On

Sessions are every first Wednesday 6:00-7:30 pm.

Below are the remaining workshops for the year. Registration is for each individual session.

Use this link to register, read session descriptions, and find location details!

<https://www.clermontparks.org/registration-forms/landowner-conservation-series>



Aug 7 – Gardening for Wildlife

4H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds

***New Location Alert: All remaining sessions are now at Clingman Park**

Sep 4 – Caring for your Trees

~~*Pattison Park Lodge*~~ *Clingman Park*

Oct 2 – SW Ohio Native Plantings

~~*Hartman Log Cabin*~~ *Clingman Park*

Nov 6 – Living with Wildlife

~~*Pattison Park Lodge*~~ *Clingman Park*

Dec 4 – Growing Fungi

~~*4-H Hall*~~ *Clingman Park*

Have you attended a previous series sessions? Please help us improve by filling out this survey:



<https://forms.gle/jhYvDwUxkJd6tjE67>



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming events with the District



District Calendar

- Monthly Board Meeting — Aug. 14, 8am
- Labor Day (Office Closed) — Sep. 2
- Pasture Walk, Phillips Farm — Sep. 10, 6-8pm
- Monthly Board Meeting — Sep. 11, 8am
- Little Miami River CREP Meeting — Sep. 12, 2-4pm
- Farm Science Review — Sep. 17-19
- Annual Meeting — Sep. 24, 5pm
- Farm Bureau Farm Tour — Sep. 28

Tire Disposal Event

The Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District is hosting a scrap tire collection event on Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14, 2024 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville from 8AM – 2PM during both days. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this service to rid their property of accumulated tires which are not only unsightly, but can pose an environmental and potential health risk.

The following disposal fees will be collected in cash at the time of unloading:

- \$1.00 for car/SUV/light truck/trailer/ATV tires
- \$10.00 for commercial-type vehicle tires (semi tractor-trailers, dump trucks, etc.)
- \$20.00 for tractor tires (cut in half if >60" in diameter)

Participants should separate on-rim tires and off-rim tires in advance for ease of disposal.

During the event, traffic can enter the fairgrounds and follow posted signs to the tire drop-off site. Residents may be responsible for unloading tires. Tires must originate from a Clermont County household. Tires accumulated by private companies (auto dealers or repair shops, trucking companies, etc.) during the course of business are not allowed. A max of 10 tires per resident will be accepted unless prior arrangements are made with the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District.

This event is being entirely funded by the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District. For additional information visit www.OEQ.net, email dsnyder@ClermontCountyOhio.gov or call (513)732-7744.

Fun at the Clermont County Fair!

We were so excited to bring our stream table out to Natural Resources Day at the Clermont County Fair this year. The stream table was a hit, demonstrating important processes like erosion and deposition, and helping visitors understand how water shapes the land over time.

Throughout the day, we talked with visitors about the significance of these natural processes and their impact on the environment. We discussed the benefits of planting vegetation, which helps to stabilize soil and prevent erosion, and how important keeping trash and pollutants out of our waterways is to maintaining healthy ecosystems.



Elea Cooper and Abbie Frazer demonstrating the stream table to fair visitors

Exciting School Program Changes for 2024-2025

Want to request a program?



Check out our School Program Guide to learn more and book programs!

We are so excited for schools to start up again! In the 2024-2025 school year, we will focus on making lasting impacts on students and their understanding of conservation and the environment. To accomplish this, we will offer loaner trunks for K-6 programs instead of traditional classroom visits. Each trunk will be filled with hands-on activities, detailed lesson plans, and engaging materials on specific topics. These trunks aim to reach more students, offer a wider range of activities, and make a larger impact.

Additionally, we be putting more focus on field experiences. Our field trips will include stream sampling, macroinvertebrate identification, soil testing, and more. These hands-on experiences will enhance learning and foster a stronger connection to the environment.

For upper-grade students, we will continue offering in-person classroom visits on topics such as sustainable agriculture, local environmental issues, and soil/water quality. These visits will feature interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on activities to encourage critical thinking about environmental problems and solutions. We will also support extracurricular clubs and competitions, such as Envirothon teams, which foster teamwork, problem-solving, and a deeper understanding of ecological principles.

Join us for a Pasture Walk!

Tuesday, Sept. 10th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Steve Phillips Farm.

2235 Bethel Maple Rd. Bethel OH

Call 513-260-9116 or email abest@clermontcountyohio.gov to RSVP no later than September 3rd

Please contact us by 9/3/2024 if you need any special accommodations to attend this event

Come take a walk with us through a warm season grass pasture as we discuss how to establish and manage this type of pasture and offer information on current pasture related programs.

Joining us on our walk are Dr. Marilia Chiavegato, an Assistant Professor of Agroecosystem Management for Food System Resilience at the Ohio State University and Jason Jones, Pheasants Forever's Farm Bill Biologist for Southern Ohio.

Dinner is provided! - you must RSVP before Tues. Sept. 3rd to ensure a meal.

Cohosted by Clermont SWCD, Pheasants Forever, NRCS, and Ohio State University Extension Clermont County
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Regional Watershed Network Tour

On July 12, Clermont SWCD staff were pleased to give a tour of recent restoration projects to the Greater Cincinnati Regional Watershed Network, an informal group that facilitates coordination and collaboration among watershed focused organizations in the Tristate Region. This tour – the first ever taken by Regional Watershed Network members – included stops at:

- The East Fork Riparian Reserve stream and floodplain restoration project, completed in 2023
- Our combination WASCOB basin and submerged vegetated bed installed within an old grassed waterway at Cornwell Farms in 2014
- The Williamsburg Off-Channel Nutrient Removal Wetland, completed in 2022, and
- The Shor Park Stream and Wetland Restoration project, constructed in 2022



Jake Hahn presenting to the Watershed Network Tour group at Cornwell Farms

www.clermontswcd.org

(513) 732-7075



Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District
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 1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160