



THE CLERMONT CONSERVATION QUARTERLY



OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO MEET THE CONSERVATION NEEDS OF CLERMONT COUNTY

TOO MUCH WATER? PLANT A SOLUTION

Rain gardens are shallow depressions filled with native plants that collect and absorb stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces (where water cannot infiltrate) like roofs and driveways. Instead of sending polluted water straight into storm drains, rain gardens slow the flow, filter out contaminants, and allow the water to soak into the ground. This reduces erosion, improves water quality, and helps protect local streams (and your backyard!).



Birdsfoot Trefoil in bloom at the Shor Park rain garden!

If you've struggled with water pooling in your yard or are just looking to add some natural beauty, a rain garden might be the solution. Clermont Soil & Water is offering a Master Rain Gardener course this fall that walks you through everything you need to know to plan, design, and build your own. Upon completion, you will be an official Master Rain Gardener and receive a shirt for you and a sign for your garden!

More information on page 4, or visit

CINCYRAINGARDENER.ORG



BETHEL TREE GIVEAWAY

This fall, Clermont Soil & Water is partnering with the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments and Taking Root to distribute free trees to landowners in certain areas of Bethel and Tate Township. The distribution is made possible by funding received through an Urban Forestry grant provided by the Ohio Division of Forestry. Registration will open in the near future.

Once registration is open, residents can check if they are eligible by going to OKI's Tree for Me site and clicking "Active Distributions".

Species distributed will be non-ALB host species including oaks, beech, basswood, and more. Pickup is on 9/19 from 10AM-6PM, and 9/20 from 9AM-12PM, at the Village of Bethel maintenance garage. Those receiving trees will be required to sign a non-binding maintenance pledge.

For more information, contact (513) 732-7075 ext. 4, or email jhahn@clermontcountyohio.gov.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- TODD WINEMILLER
- CONNIE O'CONNOR
- DAVID ANSPACH
- TIM ROSE
- MIKE MCGRAW

DISTRICT STAFF

- JOHN MCMANUS
- AMANDA BEST
- ELEA COOPER
- JACOB HAHN
- BECKY MCCLATCHEY
- CONNIE MILLER
- MATT SPERRY

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

- CHRISTINA GATES
- MARIAH DENZIK

@ClermontSoilAndWater

@ClermontSoilWater

CLERMONTSWCD.ORG

WWW.OKI.ORG/TREE-FOR-ME/

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES

This year, we have one supervisor position to be filled. Learn about our two candidates below!

CONNIE O'CONNOR



Connie O'Connor has been a Clermont Soil & Water Board Supervisor for six years. Connie is Director of Applied Learning for the Cincinnati Nature Center, where she has worked for the past 30 years. In her early days at the Nature Center, she wrote a business plan for its Nature Preschool, the first Land Management Plan, and helped design its Nature PlayScape. She has trained over 900 nature enthusiasts as a partner with Ohio State University's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program. Currently she is developing a new "conservation civics" program, with the goal of encouraging positive relationships to help ensure a healthy environment, economy, and society.

Connie has lived in Clermont County for 26 years and enjoys her home on three acres in Batavia, where she and her husband Tim "landscape for wildlife". Together, they enjoy flying, motorcycling, camping, lindy hop dancing, and spending time with their red Australian Cattle Dog, Ruby. Connie is seeking her third term on the Board.

Connie received her bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Macalester College in St Paul and her Masters in Natural Resources from University of Wisconsin. She is a Certified Interpretive Planner with the National Association for Interpretation. She also serves on the Batavia Township Parks and Events Advisory Committee.

Kara Luggen is a dynamic environmental professional with over a decade of experience in public engagement, program development, sustainable education, and nonprofit leadership. She most recently served as the Community Engagement Manager for the Clermont County Park District, where she led a team via transparency, accountability, and empathy. Her leadership drove major initiatives in branding, event coordination, volunteer programming, and interagency partnerships, increasing community participation and visibility.

Kara's career reflects a deep commitment to environmental education and sustainability. She spent 5 years at Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, where she progressed from Program Manager to Program Director. There, she designed and implemented environmental curricula for K-12 students, universities, and the community. Her efforts raised over \$100,000 annually and strengthened collaboration between government and nonprofits.

Kara holds a dual MA in International Affairs and Natural Resources & Sustainable Development from American University and the UN-Mandated University for Peace, as well as a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies from UC Berkeley. She is a certified LEED Green Associate and trained in Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree facilitation.

Her diverse skill set includes sustainability consulting and educational development work in Panama and Nicaragua. She has contributed to grassroots initiatives such as the Azuero Earth Project and Fundación Fénix. Whether through hands-on program execution or high-level strategy, Kara blends her passion for conservation with practical leadership to foster sustainable and inclusive communities.

KARA LUGGEN



See next page for election procedures and annual meeting details!

ELECTION PROCEDURES

VOTE

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 be given a ballot and directed to a voting booth where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box. If unable to attend the annual meeting, county residents and landowners may vote in person at the Soil & Water office (1000 Locust St, Owensville, OH, 45160) from August 13th-September 10th during business hours. They also may request an absentee ballot by emailing cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov, by calling (513) 732-7075 ext. 2., or by mailing a request to 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 office by 4:00 p.m. on September 10th.

ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, 5-8PM

6428 TAYLOR PIKE, BLANCHESTER, OH, 45707

Join Clermont Soil & Water as it celebrates its 82nd year of conservation activities in the county! This year, the District's Annual Banquet is being held at Winemiller Farms beginning at 5pm. Winemiller Farms has 500 acres and uses conservation practices such as no-till, nutrient management plans, and grassed waterways. The meeting will be held in the airplane hangar, where guests can look at a WWII military trainer and other antique private planes.

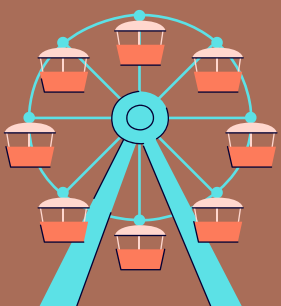
A barbeque dinner will be provided by 32Q. There will be live music performed by Willow Creek Band, a group of pickers that play bluegrass classics and a variety of Americana music.

At the meeting, one candidate will be elected to serve a three year term on the Board of Supervisors beginning January 1, 2026. See voting procedures above. There is no charge to attend if registration is received by September 5th. Otherwise, there will be a fee at the door.

Registration is not required to vote in the supervisor election. Register at

WWW.CLERMONTSWCD.ORG/AM-2024/

FAIR RECAP



Once again, we brought out our stream table for the Clermont County Fair! Kids and adults alike loved watching the stream work as it shaped the sand inside through erosion and deposition.

Want to bring a program like this to your school? We love bringing out demonstrations like these to your Ag days, STEM nights, or Earth Day celebrations! Check our website for more information, or reach out to Elea Cooper at ecooper@clermontcountyohio.gov

WWW.CLERMONTSWCD.ORG/SCHOOL-PROGRAMS/



LANDOWNER CONSERVATION CHATS

Free to All | Protect Your Land | Hands-On

Sessions are every second Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm

- Caring for your Trees**, Aug. 13th *Clingman Park*
- Composting**, Sep. 10th *Clingman Park*
- Invasive Plant Removal**, Oct. 8th *Clingman Park*
- Growing Fungi**, Nov. 12th *Clingman Park*
- Upcycling Holidays**, Dec. 10th *Clingman Park*



SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming events with the District



District Calendar

- Monthly Board Meeting — Aug. 13, 8am
- Pasture Walk @ Grassy Acres — Aug. 20, 6pm-8
- Regenerative Ag. Field Day — Aug. 26, 9am-3
- Labor Day - Office Closed — Sep. 1
- Monthly Board Meeting — Sep. 10, 8am
- Annual Meeting — Sep. 11, 6pm
- Tire Disposal Days — Sep. 12-13, 8am-2
- Bethel Tree Giveaway Pickup — Sep. 19-20
- Monthly Board Meeting — Oct. 8, 8am
- Columbus/Indigenous — Oct. 13
- Peoples Day - Office Closed
- Veterans Day - Office Closed — Nov. 11

TIRE DISPOSAL

The Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District will be hosting a scrap tire collection event on 9/12 and 9/13 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. Hours will be 8AM-2. Traffic can enter from SR 132 and follow the signs to the drop-off location. This years event is funded by the Ohio EPA and the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District. 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 (cash or check only) from residents at the time of unloading:

- \$1.00 for each car/SUV/light truck/trailer/ATV tire
- \$10.00 for each commercial-type vehicle tire (semi tractor-trailers, dump trucks, etc.)
- \$20.00 for each tractor tire (must be cut in half if larger than 60" outside diameter)

No additional fees will be imposed for tires that are mounted on rims, but residents should separate on-rim tires and off-rim tires in advance for ease of disposal at the drop-off site. Residents may be responsible for unloading any tires they bring to the location.

Tires can only be accepted if they are originating from Clermont County household, meaning tires accumulated by private companies during the course of their business are not allowed. A maximum of 10 tires per resident will be accepted unless prior arrangements are made.

For additional information, email DSNYDER@ClermontCountyOhio.gov or call (513)732-7744.

2025 GREATER CINCINNATI MASTER RAIN GARDENER FALL COURSE



The Master Rain Gardener (MRG) Course is a 6-day course that takes place over 7 weeks. During the course, students are guided through the rain garden design and installation process by experienced regional professionals. The fall course will be hosted by Clermont County Soil & Water, with guest speakers from Clermont County Park District and OSU extension.

Pattison Park Lodge **Thursdays from 1:00-4:00 pm**
 2228 US-50 **October 2nd - November 13th**
 Batavia, OH 45103 (no class November 6th)

\$50 Registration Fee
50% Student Discount Available - Call 513-946-8032

For additional information, registration, and to see a list of rotating host locations, visit:

www.cincyraingardener.org



AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

PASTURE WALK

WHERE: Grassy Acres Horse Retreat,
3991 Afton-Elklick Rd. Batavia, OH 45103

WHEN: August 20th, 6–8pm with light refreshments at 5:30pm

Join us for a unique, hands-on learning experience focused on equine pasture management. This interactive tour takes place on a working horse pasture—perfect for seeing best practices in action. Bring your questions and curiosity as we explore how to create healthier, more productive grazing environments for your horses!

- 🌿 Plant/root physiology
- 🌿 Mud management/dry lots
- 🌿 Grazing sticks and forage calculations
- 🌿 Weed ID and poisonous plants

No RSVP required. Free for all to attend. Questions? Contact Gigi Neal at neal.331@osu.edu or 513-732-7070



FREE TO ALL

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY

Tuesday, August 26 4445 Oxford–Middletown Rd, Trenton, OH
9:00am – 3:00pm

Join Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont County Conservation Districts for a day of learning at the beautiful Cox Farm in Butler County.

Keynote speaker, Kent Sonnenberg, will share his regenerative farming experience on 1700 acres of row crops and running Sun Mountain Dairy in Henry County, OH.

Hear from a panel of local producers on increasing their ROI through conservation practices, from a soil health specialist on potential glyphosate alternatives, and from Jack Irvin, Vice President Public Policy, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation on state and national policy impacts.

The day includes lunch and a visit from the FLUB'S Ice Cream Truck, sponsored by County Farm Bureaus.

Clermont Farmers' Markets

Name	Where	When	Website
Loveland Farmers' Market	174 Karl Brown Way, Loveland OH.	Tuesdays, 3:00pm to 6:30pm	http://www.lovelandfm.com
Batavia Farmers' Market	95 N Depot Ln, Batavia, OH.	Wednesdays, 3:00pm to 6:00pm & Saturdays, 9:00am to 1:00pm	Batavia Farmers Market Facebook page
Williamsburg Farmers' Market	100-144 E Main St, Williamsburg, OH.	Wednesday, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	Williamsburg OH Farmers Market Facebook Page
Goshen Community Market	Goshen Grind: 6744 Dick Flynn Blvd, Goshen, OH.	Thursdays, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	Goshen Grind's Facebook or Goshen Farmers Market Facebook page.
Bethel Market	675 W Plane St, Bethel OH.	Friday, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	Bethel Farmers Market Facebook page
Union Township Farmers' Market	Civic Center: 4350 Aicholtz Rd, Cincinnati, OH.	Friday, 4:00pm to 7:00pm	https://utclermont.gov/226/Farmers-Market
Anderson Farmers' Market	8101 Beechmont Ave, Cincinnati, OH.	Saturdays, 9:00am to 12:00pm	https://anderson-farmers-market.myfreestates.net/
Milford Farmers' Market	Five Points Landing Park: 527 Lila Ave, Milford, OH.	Saturdays, 9:00am to 12:00pm	https://www.milfordohio.org/residents/milford_farmers_market/index.php
Milford Farmers' Market at the Greenhouse	Milford Shopping Center, Next to Garden Center: 1025 Lila Ave, Milford, OH.	Saturdays, 10:00am to 2:00pm Wednesdays (Jul–Nov), 2:00pm to 5:00pm	https://www.facebook.com/milfordfarmersmarketohio
New Richmond Farmers' Market	River Village Shop: 310 Washington St, New Richmond, OH.	Sundays, 11:00am to 3:00pm	River Village Shoppe Website and New Richmond Farmers Market Facebook page

Don't miss your chance to shop local this fall! Check out our guide at WWW.CLERMONTSWCD.ORG/ CLERMONT-FARMERS-MARKET-GUIDE/ [Check out our Farmers' Market Map](#)




STAFFING UPDATES

We are so pleased to welcome a new Urban Specialist, Matt Sperry, to the team!

Hello, my name is Matthew Sperry, and I am the new Urban Specialist for Clermont Soil & Water. I grew up in Indiana and moved to Fairfield, Ohio in 2013. I graduated from Miami University with a B.S. in Applied Biology in Environmental Science and completed a certificate in Geographic Information Systems. At Miami University, I worked extensively in two different labs. In one lab, I studied sediments and soil pattern formations in Nevada. In the other lab, I studied spider ecology, and published a paper studying wolf spider thermal biology. In my free time, I enjoy spending time outside doing activities such kayaking. I am also a big fan of metal music, and you might find me at any local metal concert. I look forward to working with Clermont County communities and being a part of Clermont Soil & Water.

In August, we said goodbye to our Watershed Technician, Abbie Frazer. Abbie started with us as an intern in 2023. She then served as an AmeriCorps member for almost two terms, before joining the team as a watershed technician for the summer. Abbie has been crucial to our watershed planning and monitoring efforts. Abbie will be returning to UC this fall to get her Bachelors in Environmental Science. Thank you for all of your hard work Abbie! We will miss you and wish you the best at UC.



CLERMONT SOIL AND WATER
 P.O. BOX 549, 1000 LOCUST STREET
 OWENSVILLE, OHIO 45160

CLERMONT EST 1943
SOIL & WATER
Conservation from the Ground Up
 (513) 732-7075
clermontswcd.org