



The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Spring 2025

Our Mission

To provide resources to meet the conservation needs of Clermont County

Board of Supervisors

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Connie O'Connor
David Anspach
Tim Rose
Mike McGraw

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)

Catch the Rain, Save the Drain

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce the stormwater runoff that rooftops contribute to local waterways. They also help conserve water and provide an inexpensive way to irrigate gardens and landscaping. By capturing rainwater that would otherwise flow into storm drains, rain barrels help reduce erosion, prevent pollutants from entering waterways, and lower water bills. The collected water can be used to water plants, wash outdoor tools, and other non-potable uses. A rain barrel can quickly pay for itself in water savings, especially during dry months.

Rain barrels can fit beautifully into any landscape and can be painted to blend in with their surroundings or decorated with unique designs to add a personal touch. Some people also install multiple barrels to maximize water collection and ensure they have plenty of water for their gardens.

Pick up your rain barrel through our Rain Barrel Workshop (for just \$55!), through our plant sale, or stop by the Cincinnati Zoo this April to bid on gorgeous, painted barrels from local artists.

**MARCH 19TH, 6PM
PATTISON PARK LODGE,
2228 US-50, BATAVIA, OH 45103**

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Join our upcoming Rain Barrel Workshop, where you'll learn how to set up and maintain a rain barrel. Register for FREE to just learn about rain barrel installation, or take one home with you for only \$55.

Registration closes **March 5th!!**

Register at: <https://www.savelocalwaters.org/rain-barrel-workshop.html>

2025 RAIN BARREL ART PROJECT

Local artists have transformed rain barrels into beautiful, functional works of art to educate people on stormwater runoff, watersheds and water conservation.

Check out these beautifully painted barrels at the Cincinnati Zoo from March 29 - April 24!

Barrels will be auctioned from April 1 - 25, and 4 barrels will be raffled. All proceeds support environmental education.

For more information, visit: [savelocalwaters.org](https://www.savelocalwaters.org)



facebook.com/clermontswcd

instagram.com/clermont_swcd



Spring Litter Clean-up

The Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD) and the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District are joining together again this spring with local partners to support community volunteers throughout Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River Watershed for the Annual Spring Litter Clean-up on Saturday, April 26th.

In 2024, over 120 volunteers came together to help spruce up areas in their communities while enjoying the outdoors and ended up collecting a combined total of over 150 bags of trash. That's 150 bags of trash no longer plaguing our shared waterways!

To register as a volunteer, or to learn about the student logo design contest, visit www.springlittercleanup.com



SWCD Supervisors and Staff Attend National Conference

Nearly 1000 conservation leaders from across the nation gathered Feb. 8-12 in Salt Lake City for the National Association of Conservation Districts' 79th Annual Meeting. The conference focused on the theme "Bee The Change: Reaching New Summits in Conservation", and the future of districts and natural resource conservation took center stage. General sessions and breakouts featured an exciting line-up on how partnerships with SWCDs impact the locally-led conservation efforts regarding our nation's soil, water, air, and other precious natural resources, including a talk by Clermont SWCD.

John McManus presented during a breakout session on the Williamsburg Off-Channel Wetland Treatment System project. It was a great honor to showcase this unique nutrient removal system in Clermont County on the national stage. Clermont SWCD enjoyed showcasing the efforts that are occurring within the county to address environmental concerns, and our collaboration with other agencies, businesses, and landowners to address the needs of the county and its residents.



John McManus presenting at NACD

Bring Conservation Education to Your Community

Did you know Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District offers free adult education programs? Whether you're part of a garden club, senior center, community group, homeowner's association, library program, or local business, we're happy to bring engaging presentations to your group.

Our staff can present on a variety of topics, including composting, soil health, water quality, pollution prevention, recycling, native and invasive plants, and local conservation projects. These programs are a great opportunity to learn how you can engage with conservation efforts at home and in the community.

Presentations can be tailored to your group's interests and needs. Whether it's an interactive workshop, an informative talk, or a Q&A session, we're here to make conservation education accessible and engaging. Our programs are completely free and available throughout the year. If your group is interested, contact Elea Cooper at ecooper@clermontcountyohio.gov

Landowner Conservation Series

Free to All | Protect Your Land | Hands-On

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

Mar 12th – Dealing With Heavy Rains, *Clingman Park*
 Geared for landowners who know the struggles of dealing with water after rain. We will discuss what you can do if you have a wet yard, eroding streambanks, or want to improve drainage on your property. This workshop will showcase many water management practices to make your property more useable.

Apr 9th – SW Ohio Native Plantings, *Clingman Park*
 Curious about how to plant a native landscape in your backyard? Join us to learn about native plantings in SW Ohio from experienced naturalists. We will cover plant selection, when/where to plant, and maintenance through the seasons.

May 14th – Healthy Soil, Healthy Land, *Clingman Park*
 Digging deep to understand what makes plants grow on the landscape. Growing is so much more than compost and fertilizers. Find what soil parameters you should be using and the resources to help you make good management decisions for successful lawns and gardens.

Jun 11th – Pest Problems, *Clingman Park*

Jul 9th – Gardening for Wildlife, *4H Hall, Clermont Fairgrounds*

Aug 13th – Caring for your Trees, *Clingman Park*

Sep 10th – Composting, *Clingman Park*

Oct 8th – Invasive Plant Removal, *Clingman Park*

Nov 12th – Growing Fungi, *Clingman Park*

Dec 10th – Upcycling Holidays, *Clingman Park*

Have you attended a previous session? 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 — Mar. 12, 8am
- Rain Barrel Workshop — Mar. 19, 6pm
- Monthly Board Meeting — Apr. 9, 8am
- Pond Clinic — Apr. 15, 6pm
- Spring Litter Clean-up — Apr. 26
- Monthly Board Meeting — May 14, 8am
- Memorial Day (Office Closed) — May 26

Pond Clinic

WHEN Apr. 15th, 6 pm **Please register for this free event by calling our office.**
WHERE Pattison Park Lodge, 2228 U.S. 50, Owensville **513-732-7075**

If you own or are planning on building a pond, plan on attending Clermont SWCD's annual pond clinic with SWCD staff and Jones Fish Hatchery. The clinic will begin with some light refreshments provided by Clermont County Farm Bureau.

Subjects to be discussed include:

- Ponds 101
- Aquatic weed control
- Fish stocking
- Aeration
- Pond insects
- Anything else you would like to know about ponds!

Schedule Spring Field Trips!

K-12 teachers, schedule your FREE field trips with Clermont SWCD now! These hands-on experiences can focus on topics such as soil chemistry, water quality, fish, habitats, invasive species, macroinvertebrates, and more.

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

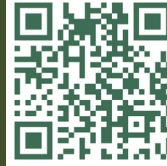
Email Elea Cooper at ecooper@clermontcountyohio.gov with questions or special requests.



2025 CONSERVATION PLANT SALE

ORDERS TAKEN UNTIL APRIL 29TH OR UNTIL STOCK RUNS OUT.

To place your order go to store.clermontswcd.org



Have questions or need help placing your order? Call Connie Miller at (513) 732-7075 ext.2

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Clermont SWCD is offering tree and shrub seedlings, as well as a few native perennials at discount prices. This program offers the opportunity for individuals to develop small areas of reforestation, wildlife enhancement, or additions to home landscaping. Tree and shrub seedlings will be bare rooted; we dip the plants in a root preservative to help keep the roots from drying out and wrap them in a plastic bag. Most packets will be in a bag about the size of a grocery bag and can easily be placed in your car for pick up. Perennials are sold as ‘plugs’.

PLANTING TIPS FOR BARE ROOT SEEDLINGS:

- Never let roots dry completely OR leave seedlings immersed in water for long periods as they will drown. These are the most common causes of seedling death!
- Putting seedlings in pots is a great alternative to planting in the ground. If you plant directly into the ground, make your planting hole deep enough to accommodate the roots. DO NOT TRIM TAP ROOT, but it is better to prune the auxillary roots with scissors than to wad or curl the roots to make them fit in your planting hole. Plant so that the roots are free, not cramped. Trim any broken roots.
- Plant the seedling at same depth as it was in the nursery pot. Ground level should be where the roots stop and the stem begins.
- Water thoroughly. Use only water soluble fertilizer with root stimulating ingredients.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch! Dried grass clippings, ground up leaves, compost, or commercially available organic mulches will suppress weeds and hold in moisture.
- WATER SEEDLINGS WHEN DRY FOR THE FIRST 2 YEARS!

PICK UP INFORMATION

Pickup Times

Thu. May 1st, 10 am- 6:30 pm

Fri. May 2nd, 10 am - 4:30 pm

1000 Locust St, Owensville
Clermont County Fairgrounds,
Commercial Building

GARDEN ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

RAIN BARREL \$90.00 (PLUS TAX)

The use of rain barrels lowers municipal water demands and saves energy at water treatment facilities by reducing water pollution and storm water runoff.

Features:

- 50 gallon capacity
- Large opening lid with locking feature
- Lid can be reversed to act as a planter
- FlexiFit™ diverter and all parts included for installation.
- FlexiFit™ diverter returns rainwater to downspout when barrel is full - no spillover
- 10 Year UV Resistance

COMPOSTER \$60*

We have partnered with the Adams/Clermont Solid Waste District again this year to sell Earth Machine composters. For a detailed description, check the online order form

FOOD COLLECTOR \$5*

2 gallon Kitchen Collector is designed for convenient kitchen food scrap collection. The kitchen collector is a mess-free, odor free and easy-to-use food scrap pail that is easily to transported from the counter to your outdoor organic collection or compost bin.

*** CASH OR CHECK ONLY**



2025 CONSERVATION PLANT SALE

TREES

White Pine 12" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Blueish green with long soft needles. Grows to 80-120 ft. at maturity. Used for windbreaks and ornamental applications.

Paw Paw 9-15" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Small tree with banana-like fruit. Grows 15-20 feet at maturity.



Eastern Redbud 12" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Large dark green heart-shaped leaves turning bright yellow in fall. Grows to 15-25 ft. at maturity.



White Dogwood 12" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Small tree with spectacular white flowers in early spring. Grows to 15-30 ft. at maturity.



American Elderberry 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Bushy plant with clusters of white flowers and purple berries in summer. Grows 5-12 ft. at maturity.



Black Gum 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Glossy green leaves with spectacular autumn color. Grows 30-50 ft. at maturity.



Persimmon, Common 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Fragrant white flowers and females produce orange edible fruit in fall. Grows 40-60 ft. at maturity.



American Hazelnut 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Large and fast growing. Leaves turn orange to red in the fall. Produces edible nuts. Grows 10-18 ft. at maturity.



River Birch 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Spectacular cinnamon colored, exfoliating bark. Leaves turn yellow in fall. Grows 50-70 ft. at maturity.



Norway Spruce 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Fast growing 8 to 10 inches a year. Dark green, short needles with drooping branches and upswept tips. Grows to 90 ft. at maturity.



SHRUBS

Buttonbush 12-18" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Clustered white flowers that leave ball-like fruits filled with seeds. Can grow up to 15 ft. but normally around 3-5 ft. at maturity.



Common Ninebark 12" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Reddish-purple foliage, and deep red fall color. Grows showy white flowers in early Summer. 5-10 ft. at maturity.



Sweet Shrub 6-12" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Dark red-purple flowers with sweet fragrance. Grows 3-9' tall.



Spice Bush 12" 3/pkt. \$11.00

Small yellow flowers in the spring and female has red fall berries with light green leaves in summer. Grows 10-20 ft. at maturity. Works well as a honeysuckle replacement.



Sensitive Fern 2/pkt. \$2.00

Used to provide areas with lush groundcover.



POLLINATOR PLUGS

Aromatic Aster *Aster oblongifolius* 5 plugs \$15.00

October Skies cultivar. Tall perennial with dainty purple flowers in late summer to fall. Foliage is aromatic when crushed. Grows 2-4 ft. at maturity.



Sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale* 5 plugs \$15.00

Beautiful fall wildflower with golden daisy-like flowers. Grows 3-5 feet. Blooms in fall.



Scarlet Beebalm *Monarda didyma* 5 plugs \$15.00

Sturdy wildflower with showy red-purple tubular flowers in summer. Grows 2-3 feet at maturity.



Phlox *Phlox Hybrid* 5 plugs \$15.00

Wanda cultivar. Compact perennial with vibrant pink flowers in mid to late summer. Grows 1-2 ft. at maturity.



Beardtongue *Penstemon digitalis* 5 plugs \$15.00

Husker red cultivar. Deep red foliage with tubular white flowers in late spring/early summer. Grows 2-3 ft. at maturity.



The Perennial Package 25 plugs \$65.00

Mix of our pollinator plugs to give you a head start on planting your garden. Includes 5 plugs of each of the following: Aromatic Aster, Sneezeweed, Scarlet Beebalm, Phlox, and Beardtongue.



FOR BEST SUCCESS, PLANT IMMEDIATELY
PLANTS MAY SELL OUT - ORDER EARLY!

- KEY:**
- Streambank Stabilizing
 - Wildlife Favorite
 - Pollinator Favorite
 - Full Sun
 - Good in Rain Gardens
 - Part Sun/Shade
 - Native
 - Shade

Why Plant Native?

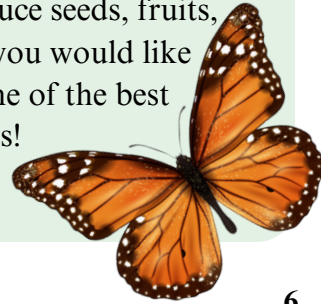


There are many great reasons to plant native plants. Native plants are the backbone of our local ecosystems and provide an array of services for the wildlife and humans that share the same space.

Native plants require less maintenance than exotic landscaping species and turf lawn as they are adapted to survive to the seasonal changes of Ohio. This means that you will spend less time watering during the summer drought and you won't have to protect them through the winter. Native plants also help with storm water management as they have deeper root systems to help storm water get into the ground faster. This will help to prevent puddling and flooding around your yard.



Native plants also provide vital habitat for wildlife. Many species of butterflies and birds are dependent on very specific native plant species to survive. Other pollinators like hummingbirds, moths, and bats also rely on native plants for food. Native plants also produce seeds, fruits, and nuts that many species rely on to get through the cold winter months. If you would like to attract more birds and wildlife to your yard, planting native plants is one of the best actions you can take. Check out our plant sale for some great native options!



Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 549
1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160

