



The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Summer 2024

Our Mission

To provide resources to meet the conservation needs of Clermont County

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Spring Litter Clean Up Success!

The Clermont Soil and Water's Spring Litter Cleanup was successfully held on Saturday April 20th.

This year we had 120 volunteers help collect over 150 bags of trash around Clermont County! Thank you to everyone who spent their time helping at this event. Each piece of trash removed from our streams make our shared rivers and streams that much cleaner!

The Litter Cleanup event is coordinated each year by the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and partially supported with a grant from Ohio EPA, Division of Recycling and Litter prevention. We truly appreciate your support and want to thank all of our partnering agencies and organizations.

We are already looking forward to next year's clean up. If you weren't able to make this event check out the Ohio River Sweep happening on June 22nd (pg. 4), for more information or questions contact Connie Miller at cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov



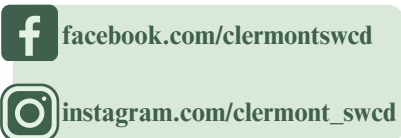
Photo of volunteers with trash collected at the event.



Before the Clean up event, we held our yearly logo design contest for local K-12 students, sponsored by the Southern Ohio Association of Realtors (SOAR).

We received 50 designs across 11 grade levels. The overall winner this year was a 7th grader from Milford Junior High, Melissa Masiliunaite! Melissa's logo was showcased on event garb and she won a \$100 cash award! Winners also receive an additional \$100 gift given to their school art department or local art program. Grade-level award winners received \$25 each.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated! To see all the winning designs you can visit www.springlittercleanup.com



East Fork Riparian Reserve Ribbon Cutting

On May 16th, Clermont SWCD and the Clinton County Park District, along with many watershed partners, celebrated the completion of a stream and wetland restoration project at the East Fork Riparian Reserve. The Reserve is a 70 acre nature preserve nestled along the banks of the East Fork Little Miami River located on the border of Clinton and Highland counties. Acquired by the park district in the early 2000s, the property had been intensively farmed for decades before efforts began to restore the land back to floodplain forest and upland prairie.




Photo of the East Fork Riparian Reserve ribbon cutting

A stream on the property that drains to the East Fork had become channelized after losing connection to its floodplain. The stream banks were eroding, with some sections over 7-8 feet high. Loads of sediment were sloughing off into the stream, degrading habitat and water quality. Approximately 850 feet of stream channel was realigned and restored with a natural meandering riffle-pool sequence and the stream banks were gently graded to reconnect the floodplain. Six pocket wetlands were constructed in the floodplain to absorb high flows and filter pollutants.

Pre-restoration, the Reserve’s upland areas were overgrown with invasive species, like bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose. This area was also restored by removing invasive species and constructing an ephemeral prairie wetland. Soil excavated for the stream restoration was used to create a berm for the wetland, and trees and brush excavated during construction were repurposed to provide habitat for native wetland and prairie species. Hiking trails were restored around the property, along with a boulder foot bridge across the stream for visitors to enjoy.

The project was funded through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources H2Ohio Program and the Ohio Public Works Clean Ohio Green Space Program. This project demonstrates how wetlands can be incorporated into stream restoration projects to provide habitat and water quality improvements. Clermont SWCD is committed to working with watershed partners to implement solutions to improve water quality in the East Fork and Harsha Lake.

Visit the Reserve!

 **864 Webertown Rd**
Lynchburg, OH 45142

The East Fork Riparian Reserve is located at the intersection of Clinton and Highland counties. From Clermont county travel East on U.S. 50 about 2 miles past Fayetteville. Turn Left on OH-251 N and follow for 3.5 miles before turning right onto Kernan Road and follow for 3.5 miles (Kernan Road turns into Webertown Road).



Aerial photo of the Reserve post-construction

Project Partners



Landowner Conservation Series

Free to All | Protect Your Land | Hands-On

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

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



Go to <https://www.clermontparks.org/registration-forms/landowner-conservation-series/> to register, read session descriptions, and find location details!

~~Jan 3~~ – **Livestock on a Small Farm**
4-H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds

~~Feb 7~~ – **Growing Backyard Vegetables**
4-H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds

~~Mar 6~~ – **Homeowners Guide to Non-Native Pests**
Pattison Park Lodge

~~Apr 3~~ – **Dealing with Heavy Rains**
4-H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds

~~May 1~~ – **Sustainable Yard Care**
4-H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds

~~June 5~~ – **Invasive Plants Removal**
Clingman Park

July 10 – Intro to Composting
Pattison Park Lodge

Aug 7 – Gardening for Wildlife
4-H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds

Sep 4 – Caring for your Trees
Pattison Park Lodge

Oct 2 – SW Ohio Native Plantings
Hartman Log Cabin

Nov 6 – Living with Wildlife
Pattison Park Lodge

Dec 4 – Growing Fungi
4-H Hall, Clermont County Fairgrounds



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



SAVE THE DATE



Upcoming events with the District

District Calendar

- Monthly Board Meeting — June 12, 8am
- Juneteenth (Office Closed) — June 19
- Ohio River Sweep — June 22
- 4th of July (Office Closed) — July 4
- Monthly Board Meeting — July 10, 8am
- County Fair Week — Starts July 21
- Monthly Board Meeting — Aug. 14, 8am
- Labor Day (Office Closed) — Sep. 2
- Monthly Board Meeting — Sep. 11, 8am
- Annual Meeting — Sep. 24, 5pm

Limited Time!



The Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District has a limited amount of 80 gallon Earth Machine compost bins available for purchase for only \$60, which is nearly 50% off of the retail price. Small 2 gallon kitchen collectors are also available for just \$5. We have 50 gallon rain barrels in stock as well!

Order yours today at <https://store.clermontswcd.org/> or by contacting Connie Miller at cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov or (513)732-7075 ext 2.



Kitchen Collector



Rain barrel

Upcoming events with the District

Ohio River Sweep June 22nd

Join us on Saturday, June 22nd to help clean up the Ohio River!

Clermont County will be hosting four locations for this event: Chilo Lock and Dam, Moscow, Neville, and New Richmond. Participants will receive a free T-shirt, and all sites are celebrating afterward with a complimentary picnic lunch!

Funding for these local cleanups come from the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), the Adams- Clermont Solid Waste District, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information or to sign up visit <https://www.springlittercleanup.com/>



County Fair! July 21st - 27th

The Clermont SWCD will be tabling at the Clermont County Fair this year. Come visit our table in the Commercial Building during one of the 5 weekdays to grab one of our spring litter clean-up hats or stadium cups!

During the fair's Natural Resource's Day (Tuesday, July 23rd) the SWCD will have an additional special interactive table in the Lykins Pavilion. We would love to see you there!



Annual Meeting September 24nd

Mark your calendars for September 24th! Please join us as we celebrate a year of achievements and wrap up our 2024 Board elections. Event begins at 5:00 p.m.; more details to come.

Keep an eye out for our fall newsletter to see this year's Board nominees and learn about the location and fun events we have in store!



Bethel Tree Give Away

This May, Clermont SWCD was honored to partner with the OKI Regional Council of Governments and Taking Root to distribute 275 free trees to landowners in the Bethel area. The distribution was made possible by funding received through an Urban Forestry grant provided by the Ohio Division of Forestry. As many know, Bethel and Tate Township have experienced significant tree loss due to the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), and our goal with this project was to begin to help the community re-establish the tree canopy. This fall, we will be distributing another 325 trees; all will be non-ALB host species and distributed in 5-7 gallon containers. Dates TBD - Landowners can watch our web site and Facebook page for details.



Trees lined up for the Bethel tree give away.

Box Tree Moth Quarantine - No moving Boxwoods!

On April 11th 2024, ODA began a quarantine in Southwest Ohio (Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Greene, Montgomery, and Warren counties) to help restrict the spread of the Box Tree Moth. The movement of boxwood shrubs is prohibited in the listed counties. Though these moths do not hurt native plants, they can decimate the boxwood, an important and common ornamental shrub in Ohio. ODA encourages residents to report any potential infestations. Evidence of damage includes chewed, cut, or missing leaves, yellowing or brown leaves, white webbing, and green-black excrement on or around the plant. For more information go to: <https://agri.ohio.gov/btm>



Photo of box tree moth damage to boxwoods

Photo credit: Bob Bricault, MSU Extension



Box Tree Moth

Planning to Cut Timber on Your Woodlot? - Call Before You Cut!

Did you know...when woodland owners sell timber, the landowners are legally responsible for preventing water pollution that might occur during and after a tree harvest? Under Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement law, which addresses impacts to the "waters of the State" resulting from timber harvests, responsibility rests with the landowner – not the logging company!

Sometimes, erosion or sedimentation problems aren't obvious to the landowner until after the timber harvest is finished. By then it can be difficult to get the logging company to correct problems, especially if the company has gone on to another job. That's why it is so important to choose a logger carefully, to insist on a written contract that requires the use of best management practices, **and to file an Operation and Management (O&M) plan with the local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) before starting the harvest.**

O&M plans are not mandatory, but they can help landowners and loggers head off problems. Filing a plan signals to the logger that the landowner takes erosion control seriously and lets the SWCD know a timber harvest is planned. If the SWCD sees a problem with the plan, the plan can be revised before the harvest starts and problems occur. A plan approved by the local SWCD can also help protect a landowner from nuisance lawsuits as long as the best management practices in the plan are being followed.

Landowners should first visit the website <http://callb4ucut.com/> or call 877-4B4-UCUT to learn more details about the program. If landowners decide to file a "Notice of Intent to Harvest" or an O&M Plan, they can then call the Clermont SWCD for further assistance.

Of course, just putting a plan on paper won't ensure that best management practices are followed during a timber harvest. Unless the landowner has expertise in managing a timber harvest, it's best to seek out professional help. Service Foresters from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry can advise landowners on woodland management, including best management practices for timber harvests and filing O&M plans.

Many landowners also rely on private consulting foresters, who can manage a timber sale and oversee harvests. Industry foresters employed by companies that use raw wood products might also be able to help landowners.



Cut trees.

School Supply Recycling Program


This spring, seven schools in Clermont County participated in our School Supply Recycling program. We provided schools with bins to collect items like writing supplies, notebooks, binders, folders, scissors, glue, and more. In total, we received almost 1000 pounds of school supplies!

Next, we will be sorting donations and get everything either donated to our community partners or recycled. In the past, we have worked with NEST Community Learning Center, Boys & Girls Club, and the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub. If you would like to get your school/organization involved with donating or receiving school supplies, contact Elea Cooper at ecooper@clermontcountyohio.gov



School supplies donations from this Spring.



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www.clermontswcd.org