



The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Winter 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)

2024 Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting! We had a great time sharing our recent projects, honoring our outstanding partners, and exploring the beautiful Emmett Ridge Farms.

At the meeting, we were proud to recognize some exceptional individuals:

Jason Grant received the Cooperator of the Year award for his use of conservation practices such as cover crops and grassed waterways on his farm.

The McCormick Outdoor Classroom Committee - Emily Ketchum, Alyson Mizer, Linda Baynes, and Amey Chalk - was awarded our Educator of the Year award for their hard work in revitalizing the McCormick Elementary Outdoor Classroom.

Our Volunteer of the Year award went to Genny Green for her continued commitment in helping with our Spring Litter Clean Up and Logo Design Contest.

Thank you to Commissioner David Painter, Representative Adam Bird, and Representative Jean Schmidt for joining us and helping us celebrate our awardees. We also want to thank Emmett Ridge Farms for hosting us, Full Moon Ranch for providing entertainment, Vista Grand Ranch for sponsoring this event, and the Wave Foundation for bringing along their special guest Jerry the penguin!

Cooperator of the Year



Jason Grant receiving his award from Todd Winemiller

Educator of the Year

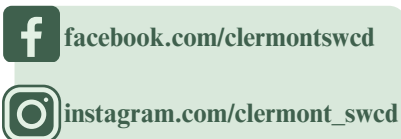


Rep. Jean Schmidt with awardees Emily Ketchum, Alyson Mizer, and Amey Chalk

Volunteer of the Year



Genny Green with Director John McManus and Dave Anspach



Board of Supervisors Election Results

In the election held August 26 – September 24, Mike McGraw was elected to a first term and Todd Winemiller was re-elected for a fifth term on the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors.



Todd Winemiller

Todd grew up working on his family farm in Batavia and has been a resident of Clermont County for over 50 years. Along with Todd's cousin and now his son, the family farms approximately 3,500 acres.

Mike is the owner of Roothouse Aquaponics in Williamsburg Township, which sold its first harvest in early 2020 and now serves over 30 retail and restaurant customers in the Greater Cincinnati area.



Mike McGraw

Congratulations Todd and Mike, and thank you for serving your conservation district!

Joe Glassmeyer Retires from Board of Supervisors

By Paul Berringer, District Administrator, 1997 – 2012

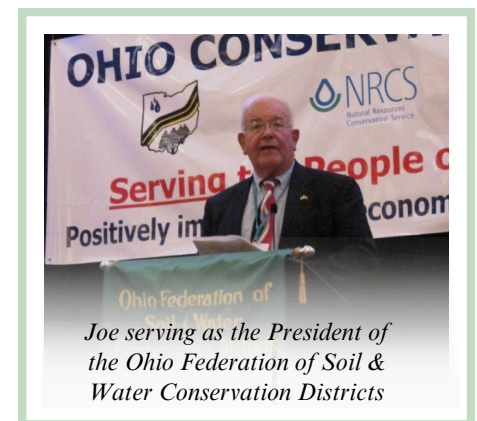
And John McManus, District Administrator 2013 - current

The end of this year represents the end of an era, as Joe Glassmeyer will be retiring from the Clermont SWCD Board of Supervisors. When Joe began his first supervisor term in 1986, the digital age was starting, critical local water quality issues were at the forefront, and the county was facing tremendous growth with efforts shifting quickly toward addressing urban and rural pollutants “running off the land.” As the District rededicated its efforts toward these challenges, the Conservation Team was fortunate to have Joe Glassmeyer's leadership.

Joe possesses a lot of qualities which have made him an important part of the District's conservation team. One of the foremost is his “dedication and perseverance,” witnessed by a remarkable 39 years of volunteer service on the SWCD Board. Joe is a life-long learner who possesses an innate level of curiosity. He always had his camera in hand to document his observations and was eager to share his detailed findings with others. His affable personality, extraordinary patience, and unwavering positive attitude made him a natural born ambassador for soil and water conservation at local, state, and national levels. He held various offices for the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD), including Area 4 Director from 2000 to 2008, Secretary-Treasurer from 2009-10, Vice President from 2011-12, and OFSWCD President from 2013-14. He also served as an OFSWCD delegate to the Washington D.C. Legislative Conference on eight separate occasions, and was an alternate board member from Ohio on the National Association of Conservation Districts' board of directors.

Joe's social skills and demeanor, his long-standing knowledge of agriculture, and his dedication to conservation and community service have helped pave the way for numerous District successes over the years. Many of these efforts led to the District and members of its Conservation Team being recognized for excellence, and also afforded some members with opportunities to serve the conservation field at higher levels.

The entire Clermont SWCD family would like to express our gratitude to Joe for his 39 years of dedicated service to the District and the field of conservation. Thank you Joe, and best wishes as you retire from the Board and continue to write your next chapter!



Joe serving as the President of the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Honoring Joe Glassmeyer



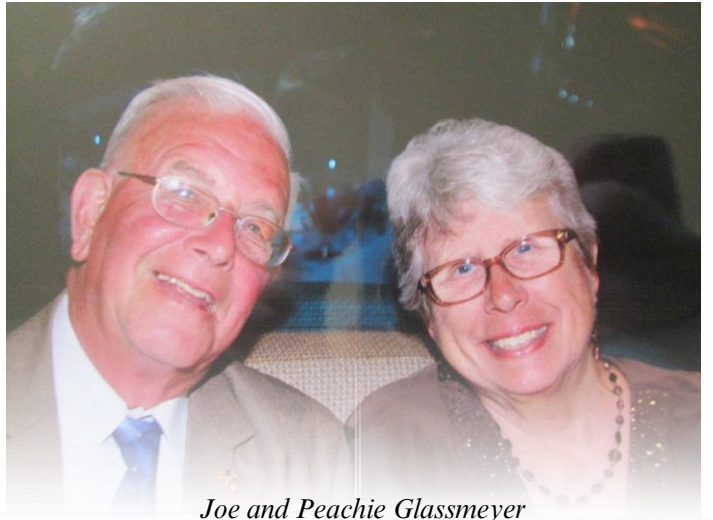
Joe's recognition at the 81st Annual Meeting



The 2003 Board of Supervisors



Joe receiving his Supervisor Hall of Fame award



Joe and Peachie Glassmeyer



The 1987 Board of Supervisors



Joe accepting an award on behalf of the district

Holiday Light Recycling

While decorating for the holiday season, you may encounter a few strings of lights that mysteriously decided to quit working, or the dreaded wad of lights that is impossible to untangle. Don't throw those strings of lights away – recycle them properly!

The Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District is once again providing convenient opportunities to recycle any unwanted or non-working decorative string lights. From November 28th until February 1st, residents can recycle their traditional or LED-style string lights by dropping them into a specially marked container at the following locations:



- Shor Park: 4659 Tealtown Road Milford, OH 45150 (container is by public restrooms)
- Sycamore Park: 4082 State Route 132, Batavia OH 45103 (container is by public restrooms)
- Chilo Lock 34 Park: 521 County Park Rd, Chilo, OH 45112 (Museum and Visitors Center)
- Clermont SWCD @ Clermont County Fairgrounds, 1000 Locust St. Owensville, OH 45160 (Open from 6:00am-4:30pm daily. Container is in front of agricultural service center, near gazebo.)
- Pierce Township Service Department: 950 Locust Corner Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45245 (next to public recycling dumpsters)
- Clermont County Water Resources: 4400 Haskell Lane Batavia, OH 45103
- Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC members only): 4949 Tealtown Road, Milford, OH 45150 (Rowe Woods Visitor Center)
- Long Branch Farm & Trails (CNC members only): 6926 Gaynor Road, Goshen, OH 45122

Holiday lights **cannot** be placed in your curbside recycling bin or in the public recycling drop-off container you typically use because they will tangle around the machinery and automated equipment at the recycling processing center. Holiday lights require special handling and processing that the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District is happy to provide! Please note this collection event is for traditional or LED string lights only – fluorescent bulbs, halogen bulbs, or any other holiday decorations cannot be accepted. Businesses or organizations that have a large quantity of holiday lights to recycle can email DSNYDER@clermontcountyohio.gov or call 513-732-7744 for special accommodations.

John McManus Receives Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to Director John McManus for receiving the Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) 2024 Distinguished Service Award! John was recognized for his dedication to improving stormwater quality by implementing cost-effective nutrient reduction strategies and watershed plans/projects throughout Clermont County. His integrity, cooperative demeanor, and innate leadership abilities have fostered a diverse range of conservation partners and facilitated many innovative, science-based and cost-effective strategies benefitting local communities and landowners. A well deserved award – John, thank you for your leadership!



Spring Litter Cleanup Logo Contest

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District and the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District are kicking off the 2025 Spring Litter Clean-Up (SLC) event with a Logo Design Contest for local K-12 students. Any K-12 student attending a school located in Clermont County or within the East Fork Little Miami River watershed (including home-schooled

students) are eligible to compete. Logo designs should emphasize litter clean-up and prevention.

Students can register for the contest through the event website: www.springlittercleanup.com.



The student with the winning design will receive a \$100 cash award and an additional \$100 gift given to their school art department or local art program. There will also be 13 grade-level awards of \$25 each. Entries are due to the Clermont SWCD office by Friday, February 28th, 2025 by 4:00 pm. For more information or questions contact Connie Miller at (513) 732-7075 ext. 2 or cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov.

2025 Landowner Conservation Series

Free to All | Protect Your Land | Hands-On

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

Jan 8th – Livestock on a Small Farm, *Clingman Park*

Join us to discuss the ins and outs of owning livestock on a small farm. This introductory discussion will cover the care, financial, legal, and environmental basics of owning your own livestock. We will cater this session to focus on the type of livestock participants are most interested in learning about.

Feb 12th – Growing Backyard Vegetables, *Clingman Park*

Learn best practices for successful vegetable gardening including planning a garden, testing soil chemistry and tips on how to grow the best produce.

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*

May 14th – Healthy Soil, Healthy Land, *Clingman Park*

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 — Dec. 11, 8am
- Christmas Day (Office Closed) — Dec. 25
- New Years Day (Office Closed) — Jan. 1
- Monthly Board Meeting — Jan. 7, 9am (Tuesday)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed) — Jan. 20
- Monthly Board Meeting — Feb. 12, 8am

Schedule School Programs for Spring!

Bring your class/group on a hands-on field trip! Topics you can request include soil chemistry, water quality, fish, habitats, invasive species, macroinvertebrates, and more.

Prefer something in the classroom? Borrow one of our loaner trunks filled with standards-based experiments, games, crafts, and activities focused on conservation.

All programs are completely **free** to any Clermont County based school/groups!

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

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



EQIP and CSP Applications Open

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting applications until January 31st, 2025 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

EQIP offers cost assistance for implementing conservation based agricultural practices, while CSP offers funding to help ease the transition to conservation management practices on farmland.

CSP has recently gotten a funding boost that more than doubles the minimum annual payments for contracts in the 2025 cycle.

For more information, contact the local Clermont NRCS office at 513.732.2181 or visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives/ohio/environmental-quality-incentives> or <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program>

USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Rain Barrel Art Project

It's time for another year of the Rain Barrel Art Project!

The Rain Barrel Art Project, hosted by Save Local Waters and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, selects local artists of all ages to paint 40 rain barrels. These barrels are displayed at the Zoo during April and then auctioned off to raise money for vital environmental education in the community.

Over the course of this winter, artists of all ages will transform 40 rain barrels into stunning pieces of art that will be displayed at the Zoo in April. If your design is selected, you will be contributing to raising awareness about local water issues.

Additionally, teachers can bring this project to their classroom! Visit the website for more information and to download the full teacher guide.

Entries are accepted until December 13th, 2024. Selected artists will attend a workshop and receive their barrels in early January.

See our website for details and to download a design template to get started: <https://www.savelocalwaters.org/participate.html>

