Our Mission:

“To promote the wise use of our natural resources through service and education”

Join Us for our Annual Banquet!

Thursday, September 10, 2015
Pattison Park Lodge

Come find out what all the buzz is about at our 72nd Annual Meeting Banquet at Clermont County’s Pattison Park Lodge in Owensville on September 10th. The banquet will feature a catered dinner and a pollinator presentation by Pam Simmons of Turpin Farms and a supervisor at Hamilton SWCD.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Voting polls for the election of two SWCD Board Supervisor will remain open until 7:00 pm (see page 2 for candidate bios).

Dinner will be catered through CNE Schools, so your attendance will help support the local school district! In addition to the great food, Valley Vineyards will have wine and beer available for your enjoyment.

After dinner festivities include conservation awards and a brief district update. We will be hosting a silent auction once again this year—come bid on an afternoon sail on Rocky Fork Lake and other great prizes and as always, door prizes galore.

See enclosed reservation form for banquet tickets ($12 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under), which must be purchased in advance. With the wonderful program we have planned, we expect tickets to move fast. Don’t wait; order yours today! (See Registration Form on Page 6)

Important!!! Please contact us to keep receiving our newsletter

Conservation is a focus of all of our programs at Clermont SWCD, including our quarterly newsletter! To save paper, we will be switching to an electronic format in 2016.

You can sign-up to receive the electronic newsletter at www.clermontswcd.org, or simply call the office. If you wish to continue receiving the printed version, please call us at 513-732-7075 ext. 2, or email ssteffensen@clermontcountyohio.gov
Joe Glassmeyer

Joe and his wife Peachie own and operate Glassmeyer Family Farms in Franklin Township. Their farm encompasses 510 acres of corn, soybeans, hay and pasture for Polled Hereford cattle and Shetland ponies. The cropland has been 100 percent no till for the past three years. The Glassmeyers have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Joe became a Clermont SWCD board member in 1986 and has held all positions on the district board. He also has held various offices for the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (OF SWCD), including Area 4 Director from 2000 to 2008, Secretary-Treasurer from 2009-10, Vice President from 2011-12, and OFSWCD President from 2013-14. Joe is currently serving as Past President of the Federation.

Joe has served as Clermont SWCD’s delegate to the annual OFSWCD legislative session on sixteen separate occasions. He has served as the district’s representative to the Ohio Kentucky and Indiana Regional Council of Government’s Regional Conservation Council for many years and has served as Chair of the organization for three terms.

Joe regularly attends area and state OFSWCD Supervisor meetings as well as National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and North Central regional meetings. He has completed the Ohio Conservation Leadership Training Program. Joe has served as an OFSWCD delegate to the Washington D.C. Legislative Conference on eight separate occasions. He was also an alternate board member from Ohio on the NACD board of directors.

Todd Winemiller

Todd Winemiller grew up working on his family farm in Batavia and had 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 18 years.

Todd is currently completing his first three year term as a District Supervisor. He has 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 as a member of the Ohio State University 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 study and learn about agricultural practices.

Todd is a pilot and very active in local aviation chapters, where he has serve 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.

Russell (Rusty) Durbin

Rusty is a lifelong resident of Clermont County. He and his wife Mary, along with two farmhands, own and operate a 70-acre farm in Tate Township. The Durbins have four children and four grandchildren. The Durbin farm includes corn, soybeans, pasture and beef cattle. They have installed several conservation practices on their farm including fencing, heavy use pads and watering systems. Rusty has also assisted other producers with the installation of heavy use pads and watering systems on their farms.

In addition to running his farm, Rusty has been the owner and operator of Russell’s Tree Service for 40 years and counting. Along with full service tree care, Russell’s Tree Service helps residents with drainage and water damage problems. Rusty owns and operates A.C. Lockdown Security, where he has designed and now sells and installs protective cages for air conditioning units and heat pumps.

As a hands-on person, Rusty is always looking for ways to improve whatever he’s working on. He believes that this, along with his 40 years experience as a businessman and his interest in conservation, will help him be a successful supervisor.
Amelia’s Shank Park Project Nearly Underway

A n innovative project will soon be under construction at Spencer Shank Memorial Park in Amelia. Clermont SWCD is partnering with the Village of Amelia and Strand Associates to renovate an existing storm water detention basin into a fully functioning water quality and flood control structure. “We’re excited about this project because simple improvements to this basin will greatly reduce the problems with storm water runoff in this area and beautify the park at the same time,” states Todd Hart, Village Mayor.

The existing basin at Shank Park has a poor design that funnels high rates of storm water through a concrete channel into the nearby stream. These highly erosive flows are causing the stream banks to erode and dump sediment into the stream system. The basin retrofits include a handful of small changes like replacing the basin’s concrete lined channel with a small meandering stream surrounded by native vegetation. The retrofits also include modifications to the existing outlet structure and the installation of a sediment forebay and energy dissipating stone. These changes will help to slow down the flow of storm water through the basin and will allow sediment and other pollutants to settle out and be absorbed by surrounding vegetation.

Funding for the project is provided by the Ohio EPA’s Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF). Project tours will be held at the culmination of the project. For more information, contact the Village of Amelia or Clermont SWCD.

Mark your Calendars for the Great East Fork River Canoe Adventure

Come join us for a naturalist guided canoe adventure down the East Fork of the Little Miami River to search for beaver, wood ducks, turtles, and other aquatic wildlife. We’ll make a brief stop on the Wilson Nature Preserve inland before ending at Sycamore Park. After the trip, grab a kick net and help us collect aquatic insects to determine the quality of the water in the river. Participants will be given a brief safety demonstration before entering the water. If water levels are low, be prepared to pull your canoe through shallow rapids...you will get wet.

Saturday September 26, 2015
2 time slots for canoe trips:
9:30-11:30 am or 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Meet at Sycamore Park
*Pre-registration is required. Call 513-732-7075 x-102 to register before September 22nd.

Participants must sign a waiver prior to the program. (No children under the age of 4 in the canoes please). Canoe Adventure program is co-hosted by the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District, the Clermont County Park District and the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality. The program is part of the Great Outdoor Weekend. Visit this website to learn more about Great Outdoor Weekend 2015.
http://www.greatoutdoorweekend.org/
Board of Supervisors Election Procedures

County residents and property owners attending our annual meeting this year will find the voting procedures for SWCD board members to be very similar to voting in the general election. Upon arrival at the annual meeting, attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the voter registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify their eligibility, be given a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box. Meeting attendance is not required if voting only.

We will be electing two (2) board members to a 3 year term commencing January 1, 2016. County residents and landowners have an additional option for voting for SWCD board members if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting. Residents may mail enclosed request form, stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the District Office beginning August 20th through 4:00 pm September 10th, 2015. Absentee ballot requests by mail must be received by the District Office by 4:00 pm on September 3, 2015.

There are special requirements for non-resident landowners and corporation election procedures. A notarized affidavit must be on file prior to absentee ballot request at our office before the September 3rd deadline. For more election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075 ext. 2.

Natural Resources Day Success

Fair goers were given the opportunity to meet (and play) with officials from the Clermont SWCD along with Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Division of Watercraft, National Wild Turkey Federation, and USDA-APHIS-Asian Longhorn Beetle experts during the first Natural Resources Day held at the Clermont County Fair. Archery, BB-guns, reptiles, and other exhibits were on display along with our own stream table and animal footprint station for people to interact with. Also on display was the chance to view historic aerial photos from 1938 and 1950 that are currently available at the SWCD office on the fairgrounds. Thanks to everybody who stopped in.

Election Procedures

Monthly Board Meeting      Aug. 12 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)      Sept. 7
Monthly Board Meeting      Sept. 9 8am
Annual Meeting              Sept. 10
Great Outdoor Weekend      Sept. 26
Holiday (Office Closed)      Oct. 12
Monthly Board Meeting      Oct. 14 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)      Nov. 11 8am
Solomon Run Stream Restoration Project Complete

The Ursulines of Brown County and project partners are pleased to see the completion of the Solomon Run Low-head Dam Removal and Stream Restoration project, located in St. Martin, Ohio. The low-head dam was built in the 1930s along Solomon Run, a tributary to the East Fork Little Miami River, to provide a water source for the local community. The Solomon Run reservoir is no longer utilized for that purpose and the Ursulines were committed to returning the stream to its natural state. On Friday, April 24th, 2015, the Ursulines invited the local community to a dedication ceremony to showcase the site and the benefits of stream restoration. Sister Lucia Castellini and Norma Green commemorated the project and all the hard work and dedication from the Ursulines and their partners by planting a weeping willow along the restored stream bank.

Funding for the Solomon Run Project was provided by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Non-point Source Pollution Control Program, Section 319v grants. This special grant fund is allocated to help communities restore impaired rivers and streams. In addition to Ohio EPA’s support, technical assistance provided by the Ohio Valley RC&D, Brown and Clermont Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Burgess & Niple and a local construction company, helped the Ursulines design a plan to return Solomon Run to a free flowing stream. “Now that the dam is removed and the restoration work is complete, we expect to see this once impaired stream return to a healthy, fully functioning stream,” stated John Kellis, Project Manager with the Ohio Valley RC&D. “The Ursulines of Brown County exemplify what it means to be good stewards of our local watersheds,” Kellis added. For more information on the Solomon Run Project, visit: http://clermontswcd.org/Solomon.aspx.
Request for Absentee Ballot
Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District
Please send an absentee ballot for the Clermont SWCD Supervisor Election that will be held at Pattison Park on Thursday, September 10, 2015.
*Please note non-resident landowners and corporations must have a notarized affidavit on file before requesting absentee ballot.
Name (print) __________________________________________________________________________
Address/City/State/Zip (print)_______________________________________________________________
*By signing this request, I confirm I am over 18 years of age and a resident of the county.
____________________________________________________               ______________________
Signature         Date

***This form must arrive at our office by 4:00 pm September 3, 2015.

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets
September 10, 2015 Pattison Park, 2228 US 50, Owensville, OH
Name _____________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State______ Zip _________
No. Attending _______ Telephone No. ___________________________
Amount Enclosed $________________________

Tickets are $12.00 for adults, $4.00 for 12 and under. Please mail check and order form to:
Clermont SWCD
PO Box 549
Owensville, OH 45260