Our Mission:
"To promote the wise use of our natural resources through service and education"

Join Us for our Annual Meeting Banquet Featuring the Muleskinner Band

Oct. 28th—Fairgrounds Multipurpose Bldg.

Please help us celebrate another great year of conservation at our 67th Annual Meeting Banquet. The banquet will feature a scrumptious pasta dinner with all the trimmings. Plus The Muleskinner Band is back to entertain us with those great bluegrass favorites and their incomparable homespun wit!

The “Muleskinners” have played at venues across the U.S. including the Ohio State Fair and Nashville Network. They’ve “strummed it” with some of the best like Diamond Rio, Collin Raye, and The Isaacs, to name just a few.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Election polls will remain open until 6:45—one board supervisor will be elected (see election procedures and absentee ballot request information in this newsletter).

The evening will also feature a brief update on District activities and projects, and important conservation awards. And as always, the banquet will conclude with lots of awesome door prizes!

See enclosed reservation form for banquet tickets ($12 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under). Don’t wait—order your’s today!
Candidates for SWCD Board of Supervisors

Melody Newman has been a teacher at Clermont Northeastern for 32 years. Melody currently teaches fifth grade Science and Language Arts and enjoys using the outdoors as a springboard for teaching her students writing, ecology and life science. As a middle school teacher, she has sponsored an after school environmental club for grades 5 thru 8. She has spearheaded the use and improvements to the school nature center with the recent addition of an outdoor classroom and bird blind.

Melody received her bachelor’s degree from Morehead State University and her masters from Northern Kentucky University. She has continued her education through Green Teacher Institute at Miami University, traveling to Costa Rica to learn first-hand about biodiversity. Melody studied geology by traveling to North Carolina with Clermont College. For four summers she taught for Southwestern Ohio Science Institute (SOSI), a teacher workshop, through Miami University.

Melody has lived her entire life in Clermont County and currently lives near Stonelick Lake with her husband of thirty years, Ken Newman. They have two children John and Lauren Newman.

Tom Bellar lives on a 155 ac. farm in Stonelick Township, about 90 ac. of which is farmed in a soybean and corn rotation. Tom has cooperated on numerous conservation projects with the SWCD since 1965 and was recognized as the District’s Outstanding Cooperater in 1982.

Tom previously served as a board supervisor with the soil and water conservation district from 1997-2005, and served as Chair for several years. During his tenure with the District, he also served as Miami Valley RC&D Representative and District 10 Clean Ohio NRAC Committee Member.

Tom retired after 32 years of service with U.S. EPA in Cincinnati. He has served on the Land Use Planning Committee and Zoning Commission for Stonelick Township, and assisted with the development of a township Land Use Plan.

-Important Notice -

New Soils Information Available

There have been some recent modifications to the soils information in Clermont County that have not been incorporated into the 2002 version of the Clermont County Soil Survey. Many people are using this 2002 version, which was the last distributed release. It is still available in two CD formats (Digital Soil Survey or Digital Soils Information) from Clermont SWCD and via download from Clermont SWCD and ODNR websites.

There are a number of reasons for the recent or upcoming modifications detailed below. For instance, disturbed soils (building sites, etc.) no longer have the same profile or properties as original soil units mapped in the 1960s and shown in the current Soil Survey. Efforts are underway in the Tri-State and other developing areas to map these “urban land complex” soil types and their new properties. Other modifications include those

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.

We will be electing 1 board member to a 3 year term commencing January 1, 2011. County residents and landowners have an additional option for voting for SWCD board members if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting. They may call, mail enclosed request, or stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the District Office October 7th through October 28th (4 pm). Absentee ballot requests must be received by the District Office by 4pm on October 25, 2010.

There are new requirements this year for non-resident and corporation election procedures. A notarized affidavit must be on file, prior to absentee ballot request, at our office before the October 25 deadline. For more information on election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075.

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associated with naming or nomenclature, and those that result from changes in national or state soil mapping convention. One notable initiative involves changing of soil names so they are consistent across county lines.

Users should be aware that county soil surveys have limitations because they are time consuming and expensive to update and distribute on a frequent basis. The soils information field is quickly transitioning to web based tools, as they can be updated on a continuous basis as important changes occur. It is recommended that users utilize the USDA Web Soil Survey if they want the most up to date information regarding county soils. The soils information in the USDA Web Soil Survey and that contained in USDA Soils Data Mart are considered to be the official SSURGO Certified Soil Survey information for Clermont County.

For more information please visit the SWCD website for more information on these modifications and links to Web Soil Survey.

Opportunities for Financial Incentives through Farm Bill Programs

Program applications are being taken for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). While the application period for these conservation programs is continuous, funding selections are made once or twice a year, depending on the number of applications and availability of funds.

Several new opportunities exist for addressing priority natural resource issues using EQIP. Some of the most popular practices include: Cropland: Cover crops, and no-till incentive payments, grassed waterways; Pasture: fencing for stream exclusion, manure storage facilities, winter feeding pads for pasture protection; Woodland: bush honeysuckle and grapevine control. Limited resource producers, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers will be eligible for up to 90 percent cost share and an advance of 30 percent of the cost of implementing a practice.

Wetlands Reserve Program is available for landowners interested in creating, enhancing, or restoring wetlands on agricultural land and woodland. Payments range from $2700 to $3500 based on land use.

Over 20 conservation practices are available to agricultural producers interested in improving wildlife habitat using WHIP. Native grasses, wetland creation or restoration, and hardwood tree planting are just a few of the practices available through this program.

The Grassland Reserve Program had a large interest in Clermont County the last couple of years. If you have an interest in protecting your grassland for 10 to 20 years, or in perpetuity, you can receive a payment annually for rental contracts or a lump sum for a permanent easement. Payments in 2010 were $16.50/acre/year for the life of the rental contract. A permanent easement paid $1274/acre.

The listed programs are competitively ranked amongst applications received in the county or on a statewide basis, based on natural resource concerns and environmental benefit.

For more information on any of these programs, contact Lori Hillman, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service at 513-732-7075. You can visit us on the web at www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov.
Many times throughout the year I am asked by pond owners, Is my pond water brown because of erosion? Is my pond green because it is polluted? How do you know when water clarity is a problem and what are the “norms” for Southwest Ohio?

There are many different reasons why pond water has particular colors, and these colors can change throughout the year. For example, in spring time after a large snowmelt or following summer rains, a pond will have a chocolate brown or “murky” color. As we all know, water picks up sediments and other dissolved particles as it flows across land and into the pond. This is what most people consider to be an unpleasant “appearance”, and is dependent on the chemistry of the pond, as to when these suspended solids will fall out of the water column. If water is consistently brown, then other reasons may be to blame. This may include fish type, bank erosion, or water chemistry; resulting in alternative actions to correct water problems.

People often wonder why their pond isn’t blue or crystal clear. Most of this is due to wind, plants, and animal life within your pond. All of these can contribute to suspending solids within the water column and is healthy and natural in Ohio ponds. Blue water is normally associated with deep waters that hold very little suspended solids or those that are spring fed. Many owners add blue dye to prevent excessive vegetation from occurring. This dye reflects sunlight but does not do anything for water clarity unless you have green water.

Green water color is caused by algae and plankton that feed off of nutrients in the water and driven by sunlight to live and thrive. These single celled organisms produce oxygen for fish and other aquatic organisms and are a food source for filter feeders. In other words, it is a vital part of the food chain. When conditions are right, large algae blooms will occur and turn your water green. This planktonic algae is suspended in the water column and often has the appearance of an oil slick or film on the surface. A filamentous algae bloom, also known as a mat forming algae, is often a problem, but has little effect on water color and should not be confused with planktonic algae. Most algae blooms have little influence on swimming or fishing restrictions and are not always an indicator of polluted waters. The most common factors that increase the chance of algae blooms include ponds that are; shallow, nutrient rich, and high in temperature.

The most common color of Ohio ponds is a clear brown or reddish “tea” color. This color is caused by dissolved organic matter from animal and plant decomposition. Organisms in the pond are constantly recycling material that die or falls into your pond. Color changes throughout the year are common and are a vital process of pond health. Be sure to observe closely the true color of the pond before making any attempt at control methods or seek professional help. The management plan that you have set up for your pond will determine if any steps are necessary to keep your pond functioning to your desires. Remember that no two ponds are the same and each react differently, so don’t compare what’s happening in your pond with your neighbors on the other side of the fence.

Balanced Growth Updates

Clermont SWCD held four public meetings this spring and summer to provide opportunities for local stakeholders to participate in the Middle East Fork Balanced Growth Land Use Planning Project. Interested citizens and public representatives were provided information about the goals of the Balanced Growth program and given opportunities to contribute their ideas to the development of the plan. A complete list of individuals serving on the Watershed Planning Partnership (WPP)—the group overseeing the development of the plan—can be found on the Clermont SWCD website: http://www.clermontswcd.org

The Balanced Growth Plan will be developed over the next 16 months. By December of 2011, the WPP will create a final draft of the Balanced Growth plan that will identify priority areas for development and conservation in the watershed and provide a set of recommended implementation strategies and tools. The Balanced Growth Plan will serve as a land use planning guide for the Townships and Villages in the project area and will be considered a living document that can be updated or changed to meet the future needs of the watershed communities.

This summer, WPP sub-committees started the process for selecting factors (Continued on page 5)
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 new 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.

Saturday September 25, 2010
9:30-11:30 am and 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Sycamore Park

*Pre-registration is required. Call 513-732-7075 to register before September 17th.

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. Program is part of the Great Outdoor Weekend. Visit this website to learn more about Great Outdoor Weekend 2010.
http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org/
All NRCS / SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

For more information, please call (513) 732-7075.

433-732-7075

If your address is incorrect or you would like to be added / removed from our mailing list, please contact us at (513) 732-7075.

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets

October 28, 2010  Multipurpose Building at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, 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
Attn: Susie Steffensen
P.O. Box 549
Owensville, OH  45160

Request for Absentee Ballot

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District

Please send an absentee ballot for the Clermont SWCD Supervisor Election that will be held in the

Multipurpose Building at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, Thursday, October 28, 2010.

*Please note non-residents 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 Clermont County

___________________________________________ __________________________
Signature __________________________

***This form must arrive at our office by 4:00 pm on October 21, 2010

Our mailing address is: Clermont SWCD, P.O. Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160

Calendar of Events

- Great Outdoor Weekend  Sept. 25
- SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)         Oct 11
- SWCD Annual Meeting                     Oct. 28 - 5 pm
- SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)         Oct 14 - 6 pm
- SWCD Annual Meeting                     Oct. 16 - 6 pm
- SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)         Oct 17 - 6 pm
- SWCD Annual Meeting                     Oct. 29 - 5 pm
- SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)         Nov. 11
- SWCD Board Meeting Nov. 10 - 6 pm

Web: www.clermontswcd.org
Fax: 513-732-7075
Phone: 513-732-7075

1000 Locust Street, Owensville, OH 45160

P.O. Box 549

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District