Our Mission:

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

Join Us for our Annual Banquet!

Oct. 27th—Fairgrounds Multipurpose Bldg.

Please help us celebrate another great year of conservation at our 68th Annual Meeting Banquet. The banquet will feature a catered dinner of chicken/dressing, and roast pork with gravy, provided by Good Seasonings Caterers. The Four Leads barbershop quartet will entertain us with some of their favorite tunes and humor!

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Election polls will remain open until 6:45—two 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!

Attention Contractors

Clermont SWCD is looking to update/expand our contractors list that is distributed throughout the county to assist landowners and farmers with their conservation projects. This list can be found on our website and is available to landowners upon request. There is no fee to be added to this list.

(Attention Contractors Continued on page 4)
Dave Anspach grew up on the family farm in Owensville, where he and his wife Pam reside today. They have two sons, Zach and Matt. Dave's family has always practiced conservation on the farm, and his father Ray was the District's Outstanding Cooperator of the Year in 1977. Installed practices include a WASCOB, several drainage/ditching projects and utilizing no-till in their operation. About 100 ac. are rotated in soybeans and corn on the 125 ac. farm.

Dave has a B.S. degree in Business from Miami University, and worked for the Farm Credit Services Agency for 15 yrs., before serving as the administrator of the conservation district from 1990-97. During his tenure with the SWCD, Dave helped oversee the development of a full-time education program and helped coordinate the development of the Agricultural Center complex and movement of the district offices to the fairgrounds facility in 1995.

Dave has served on the Clermont County Park Board for 9 yrs., during which time he helped plan and direct the development of the new Chilo Lock #34 Museum and Visitor Center. Dave has been self-employed for the last 11 yrs. as owner and operator of Milford Stamp and Engraving. Dave is a member of both the Milford and Clermont Chamber of Commerce.

Dave is completing his second 3 yr. term on the SWCD Board and states that he would like to continue to use his conservation background and experience to serve the community.

Dave Uible has served on many organizational boards and committees including: the Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Fund, Clermont Co. Planning Commission, New Richmond National Bank, University Club of Cincinnati, Young Entrepreneurs Organization, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Clermont County's Republican Central & Executive Committees, and the NKU School of Entrepreneurship. As a business owner and entrepreneur for over 21 yrs., David has created or saved over 100 jobs in the tri-state. He specializes in rescuing distressed companies, employing sound financial, technological and people management strategies that foster business success.

David and his wife Cindy have been married for 25 yrs. and have a 15 yr. old daughter, Emma. They've lived on their farm in New Richmond since 1994, where they raise American buffalo and numerous other animals for 4H projects. David has installed numerous conservation practices on the 130 ac. farm known as Vista Grand Ranch, and regularly hosts public educational tours of the facilities and practices. David received the District's Cooperator of the Year Award in 2004. David & Cindy believe that there's no place better than Clermont County to live and raise a family.

Steve Phillips was the District's Cooperator of the Year in 2008 and has served as a District Board Supervisor since 2009. He is a lifetime resident of Clermont County. He lives with his wife Deborah, two sons; George and Jake and daughter Jackie, on their farm in Tate Township just south of Bethel.

Steve attended the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster where he earned an associates degree in Agronomy. He has worked locally for Cargill for over 20 years.

Steve and his family farm 130 acres raising cattle, and growing berries and tobacco. Steve has worked closely with the soil and water conservation district and NRCS staff to install numerous conservation practices on his land, including a spring development and solar watering device.
Stream Series: Article #2 (of 4)
Stream Function and Land Use

Article #1 of this series described the general functions and types of streams (e.g. ephemeral and intermittent streams). This article provides additional information on stream function and how land use changes can affect natural stream processes.

Streams systems drain the land as a key part of nature’s water cycle. In their natural state, streams are dynamic ecosystems that perform many beneficial functions. The stream corridor (a.k.a. riparian zone/buffer), is the stream-side land area where many of these natural processes take place. Stream corridors provide a transition between aquatic habitat and upland habitat. Forested (or vegetated) stream corridors provide resistance to erosion, filtering of sediment and pollutants, shade to moderate stream water temperature, and habitat and food for animals and plants. The relative health of the stream corridor directly affects the water quality and health of a stream.

Natural events and human disturbances/activities can bring changes to stream corridor structure and function; the latter having the greatest impact. Land-use activities can disrupt the chemical, biological, or physical processes in a watershed and stream corridor. Chemical pollution can be introduced through agriculture (pesticides and nutrients), urban development (municipal/household waste contaminants) and industrial development (heavy metals/other toxics). It can originate from point and non-point sources of pollution. Point source stems from one location, such as the end of a pipe, and is relatively easy to control. Non-point source pollution comes from various places across the surface of the land, and is much more difficult to control.

Biological disturbances, such as improper grazing management or recreational activities, can result in the establishment of exotic species – species that are non-native to the ecosystem. Exotic species can introduce disease and compete with native species. Exotic species that create economic or environmental harm are referred to as invasive species. Physical disturbances of the stream corridor and its watershed are caused by various activities which result in the loss of floodplains, wetlands, and stream buffers. Common disturbances to stream corridors include removing stream side vegetation, soil exposure, soil compaction and construction of impervious surfaces (i.e. roads, buildings, etc.). Either individually or in combination, human disturbances place stress on the stream corridor that alters its structure and impairs its ability to perform key ecological functions.

One of the best uses of stream side land is as a forested buffer between the stream and other land uses. Retaining or restoring riparian land to forest provides many water quality and floodplain benefits. Other actions needed to enhance stream corridors are best determined by understanding the natural evolution of streams, which disturbances are stressing the system, and how the system responds to those stresses. Each stream has unique characteristics and requires a unique enhancement strategy. By understanding and applying natural stream processes to stream and watershed management, land uses within the watershed can be accommodated while maximizing protection of the beneficial functions streams provide.

Sources:
Ohio Department of Natural Resources: Ohio Stream Management Guide

2012 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. It is anticipated that funding will be available for EQIP this fall, and the cutoff date for taking applications for fiscal 2012 will be the end of October.

Several new opportunities exist for addressing priority natural resource issues using EQIP. Some of the most popular practices include:

- **Cropland**: Soil quality improvement practices such as winter cover crops (up to $67.00 per acre) and conversion to no-till; grassed waterways, high tunnels for extending the growing season on produce and specialty crop farms.
- **Pasture**: Fencing for stream exclusion and watering systems for a fresh source of water for the livestock, manure storage facilities, winter feeding pads for pasture protection.
- **Woodland**: Bush honeysuckle and grapevine control, timber stand improvement. Limited resource producers, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers may be eligible for up to 90 percent cost share. Organic farms or those interested in transitioning to organic have a special funding pool and most of the above practices on cropland and pastureland also apply.

Wetlands Reserve Program is available for landowners interested in creating, enhancing, or restoring wetlands on agricultural land and woodland in perpetuity. Payments range from $2800 to $4000 per acre 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 has 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 2011 were $16.50/acre/year for the life of the rental contract. A permanent easement paid $3050/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 or to request an application, contact Lori Hillman, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service at 513-732-2181 ext 3. You can visit us on the web at www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov

Conservation work that we are currently seeking contractors include:
- Pond building/rehab
- Drainage installers
- General excavation
- Woodlot management/TSI
- Agriculture buildings
- Erosion control
- Fence builders
- Agricultural drainage
- Concrete/Aggregate installation
- Other conservation/agriculture related work such as watering systems, trench work, etc.

Clermont SWCD assists residents with drainage complaints, pond building requests, and USDA farm bill cost-share programs. Projects can range in size from landowners with small drainage problems to large agricultural drainage projects. Contractors are needed for all types of work.
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 24, 2011
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 16th.

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 2011. http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org/

Ohio Water Report

Precipitation during July varied greatly across the state. Generally, precipitation was below normal throughout much of the state, but above normal in areas of north-central, northeastern, central and other scattered locations across Ohio. The state average was 3.86 inches, 0.22 inch below normal. Regional averages ranged from 5.38 inches, 1.64 inches above normal, for the North Central Region to 2.66 inches, 1.44 inches below normal, for the Southwest Region.

Precipitation for the 2011 water year is above normal statewide. The average for the state is 40.82 inches, 9.19 inches above normal. Regional averages range from 45.51 inches, 11.62 inches above normal, for the South Central Region to 33.97 inches, 5.64 inches above normal, for the Northwest Region. Southwest Ohio was 1.44” from normal for July, but with a drought severity index near normal. SW Ohio is 5.75 inches above normal for rainfall the last 12 months.

Source—Ohio Division of Water Monthly Water Inventory Report for July 2011.

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

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>Sept. 14 – 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Outdoor Weekend</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)</td>
<td>Oct 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>Oct. 12 - 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCD Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Oct. 27 - 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 9 - 6 pm</td>
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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 27, 2011.

*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 district.

_________________________________________________________  ____________________________
Signature                                                      Date

***This form must arrive at our office by 4:00 pm on October 20, 2011

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets

October 27, 2011  Multipurpose Building at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, Owensville, OH

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip __________
No. Attending ________ Telephone No. _______________________________________

Tickets are $12.00 for adults, $4.00 for 12 and under. Please mail check and order form to
Clermont SWCD
P.O. Box 549
Owensville, OH  45160

Amount Enclosed $_____________