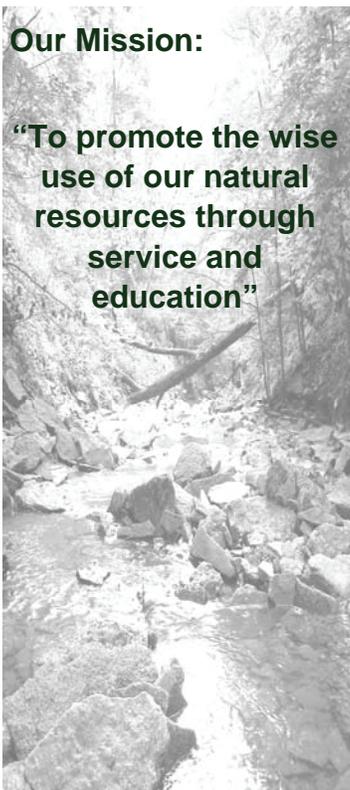


Autumn 2012

**Our Mission:**

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



## Join Us for our Annual Banquet!

November 1, 2012—Fairgrounds Multipurpose Bldg.

Please help us celebrate another great year of conservation at our **69th Annual Meeting Banquet**. The banquet will feature a catered dinner of BBQ pulled pork or chicken, mac and cheese, roasted veggies, salad and assorted desserts provided by My Personal Gourmet Caterers.

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



This year we are celebrating ‘Soil to Spoon... Where Our Food Comes From’. Join us for demonstrations, a rousing game of Agriculture Jeopardy and more to emphasize the importance of soil health on our food supply. The evening will also feature a brief update on District activities and projects, and important conservation awards. And of course we will have 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 yours today!—  
(See Order Form on Page 6)

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- David Anspach
- Joe Glassmeyer
- Melody Newman
- Steve Phillips
- David Smith

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Hillman - District Conservationist

### DISTRICT STAFF

- Paul Berringer
- Judy Krebs
- Susie Steffensen
- Rebecca McClatchey
- Jacob Hahn

## Have you eaten any soil today?

When you picked up your spoon to eat some food today, did you think about where the food came from? Did you make a connection as you ate a bowl of cereal to the dairy and grain farmer? Or the hay or grain the dairy cow ate? Or the fact that the grain and hay grew in the soil?



*(Soil to Spoon Continued on page 5)*

# Candidates for SWCD Board of Supervisors



## 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. Minimum tillage and no till predominate on the cropland acres. The Glassmeyers have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Joe became a board member with the Clermont SWCD in 1986 and has held all positions on the district board. An Area 4 Director of Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts since 2000, Joe is currently serving as an officer (Vice President) of the state organization. He is on track to serve as President of the Organization in the coming year.

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 Governments-Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC) for many years, and served as Chair of the organization for 3 terms.

Joe regularly attends area and state OFSWCD Supervisor Meetings as well as NACD 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 is also an alternate board member from Ohio on the NACD board of directors.



## Jason Morman

Jason Morman grew up near the city of Ottawa, Ohio and moved to Cincinnati in 2006. He currently owns a home in Amelia, where he has lived since the summer of '09. Jason has a strong background in energy conservation and efficiency and works hard to promote these practices throughout his community.

Jason has a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Toledo, and was employed by Melink Corporation soon after graduating in 2005. Jason has held several positions within Melink specializing in Account Management, Project Management and Business Development Management in the 6 ½ years he was employed there. Jason has recently accepted a new career with Siemens Building Technologies (Cincinnati Branch) as Sr. Sales Account Executive for their Building Technologies Solutions team.

This will be Jason's first year running for District Supervisor. He has worked closely with current and previous board members and is excited to serve the communities throughout Clermont County.



## Todd Winemiller

Todd Winemiller grew up working on the family farm in Batavia and has been a resident of Clermont County for 50 years. Todd and his wife Deborah live on Taylor Pike outside of Newtonsville Ohio, 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 operation has been 100% no-till for 15 years.

Todd has played a very active roll with the Farm Service Center (FSA) in Owensville, serving for 10 years on the Clermont County FSA County Committee, 6 of those as Chairman. Todd was an active participant in the Middle East Fork Balanced Growth Project as a Watershed Planning Partnership Member with the Clermont SWCD. Todd also serves as a member of the Ohio State University Extension Clermont County / Extension Advisory Committee. He has helped establish policy and conduct interviews with potential applicants seeking staff positions with OSU. Todd also recently participated in a special project with NRCS, Clermont SWCD, and the Miami University program for Environment and Sustainability. Graduate Students from the school visited the Winemiller farm to study and learn about current agricultural practices.

Todd is a pilot and very active in local aviation chapters, where he has served 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 would like to use his experience to help the SWCD better serve local landowners throughout Clermont County.

## Conservation Reserve Program Offers Assistance to Producers for Planting Filter Strips along Waterways

The purpose of a grass filter strip is to provide a buffer between possible contamination sources and water bodies. Permanent grasses and legumes filter runoff water by intercepting or trapping field sediment, organics, nutrients, pesticides and/or other potential pollutants before they are able to reach a body of water.

A few benefits of grass filter strips include uptake and transformation of soluble contaminants by soil microbes and

grass. Filter strips can provide access to crop fields to perform agricultural operations such as spraying or harvesting. In addition, filter strips can eliminate end rows and serve as turn areas. The vegetation can also provide habitat for small birds and animals.

**Requirements/Maintenance:** Filter strip width is based on soil type, slope, erosion rates and other site conditions. Guidelines include a minimum width of 20 feet with a maximum width of 120 feet. Prescribed burning or mowing can be used to manage and maintain the strip. Landowners must inspect and repair filter strips after large runoff events. In addition, landowners must control weeds and brush in grass strips, and keep vegetation tall in spring to slow runoff.

Filter strips are cost shared at approximately 90% (50% cost share and 40% incentive payment) based on the state average cost list. Besides the cost share that is reimbursed, there is also a one time incentive payment when you sign your contract, and an annual rental payment on the area that is being addressed for



10 or 15 years, depending on the length of your contract. The rental payment depends on soil type and pays up to \$101.00 per acre per year. Many field edges have low productivity due to water and sunlight competition from trees, compaction, and other factors. One should consider the cost to plant these lower producing areas compared to yields and if revenue is generated from a field edge. It could be more cost effective to plant these areas in grass.

To learn more about grass filter strips, read "[The Economics of Vegetative Filter Strips](#)" by the Ohio State University Extension.

Contact Lori Hillman with the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 513-732-2181 x3 if you are interested in receiving information on financial assistance for filter strips.

## 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 2 board members to 3 year terms commencing January 1, 2013. County residents and landowners have an additional option for voting for SWCD board members if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting. They may mail enclosed request form, stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the District Office October 11th through November 1st (4 pm). Absentee ballot requests must be received by the District Office by 4pm on October 26, 2012.

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 October 26 deadline. For more election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075.

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## Summer heat leads to pond problems

Every summer pond owners struggle with maintaining an attractive looking pond. The onset of algae, duckweeds, lower water levels, and muskrats are common problems we combat to a bitter end or throw in the towel by June. In many cases we procrastinate, waiting until the problem becomes unbearable and more costly or applying poorly timed management practices that fail to work or cause additional problems. During droughts, ponds are put under abnormal summertime stress which cause management problems to arise that owners may not have observed in the past.

When landowners are building or maintaining an existing pond, the district often receives questions on how deep ponds should be. Ponds should be deep enough to not dry out during droughts. In Ohio it is recommended that ponds have a minimum of 8-10 feet of depth.

When the district receive those "I have never seen this in my pond..." calls, we have to reassure people that their neighbors probably didn't dump something illegally or that new farming practices are causing fish kills in their pond. Most of these problems occur due to water chemistry caused by lower water levels and higher temperatures.

Water chemistry comes down to concentration. When water evaporates, it leaves as pure water, leaving behind all the dissolved material. If a pond lowers 3-4 feet during the summer months (approx. 1/2 of the water volume in a typical pond), concentrations of dissolved materials are nearly doubled. The opposite occurs to dissolved oxygen that fish breathe because hotter water holds less oxygen than cooler water. Calm water with little wave action also prevents enough water contact with the atmosphere to fill the ponds' need for oxygen. The control of aquatic vegetation is not recommended during times of low dissolved oxygen to prevent fish kills. Dying vegetation uses oxygen and may deplete a ponds "air" supply during a large die off.

This new water chemistry can cause negative effects to water quality. A build-up of ammonia and other pond gasses can cause stress to fish if present levels are occurring and there is less volume for dilution. High concentrations of nutrients and warm water temperatures are perfect conditions for plankton or algae blooms. These



Stringy Filamentous Algae

blooms may have never been seen on your pond because the conditions have never been favorable in the past and may not have occurred if nutrients were diluted. This algae is rarely toxic or harmful to humans or the pond.

Fish populations can change during drought conditions. When your pond has less water, the carrying capacity, or maximum number of individuals a pond can sustain, is lowered. There is less edge habitat for your bait fish to hide, leading to increased predation. The stress can cause poor weight gain and even fish kills. Fish populations should be reevaluated following long drought conditions to note changes and management requirements of the population.



Aeration is key to maintaining a pond through low rainfall years. This allows water to circulate and increases dissolved oxygen concentrations. Aeration also allows the pond to "breathe" allowing harmful gasses to escape. Talk with a pond expert or dealer to determine the proper type of aeration needed for your pond.

A drought is not always negative for a pond. This is a great opportunity to check banks for muskrat/beaver damage, manage nuisance aquatic bank plants, make needed repairs, or add a primary spillway pipe if one does not exist. Habitat structures and fish nesting sites can be improved at this time. Low water level exposes bare ground, causing the decomposition of organic matter and nutrients, removing them from the pond.

Droughts will occur and the rains will come again. However, our ponds may be altered in the process. Change is something to be expected and is not always a negative. Drought allows landowners to assess the health and sustainability of the pond. Do additional water sources need to be directed to the pond such as downspout drainage? Is aeration needed? Do I need more depth? Have a management plan ready for those summers of low rainfall.

Contact our office for questions or additional assistance regarding ponds at 513-732-7075.

## SWCD Assists Army Corp.

Clermont SWCD staff assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) at Harsha Lake (East Fork State Park) with routine inspection of the lake spillway on August 21, 2012. This is part of ACOE preventative dam safety program where they look at the basin below the dam. This was the first time in over 30 years that the water in the basin was drawn down for an in-depth inspection of the structure. Inspections are typically done by probing and divers but this was a more detailed inspection.

Staff assisted with fish and debris removal from the basin to allow ACOE staff unrestricted access to the bottom of the basin. Thousands of fish were relocated downstream until basin inspection was completed later in the day.



Crew working in stilling basin with lake outlet in background

(Soil to Spoon Continued from page 1)

Most of us take these things for granted because it's so easy to go to the grocery store to buy our food. But it's a long and complex process to get the food from the soil to the grocery store shelf.

**Have You  
EATEN**  
Any Soil Lately?  
Food Gets Its Start in the Soil.



The world population is on the rise, while agricultural land is shrinking, and topsoil is eroding at unsustainable rates. In fact, we will have to produce more food in the next 50 years than we produced in the last 10,000 yrs. combined! Join us in celebrating "Soil to Spoon" at our Annual Meeting and learn about the challenges we face. Come see what your conservation district and its partners are doing to insure healthy soils and a bountiful food supply for the future.

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

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.

*\* These are paid advertisements, and inclusion in this newsletter should not be construed as a recommendation of any advertiser or their products or services.*



### JOHN BRATH FARMS & EXCAVATING

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### Clermont County Farm Bureau



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Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 549  
1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160

Phone: 513-732-7075  
Fax: 513-732-7077  
Web: www.clermontswcd.org

### *Calendar of Events*

Great Outdoor Weekend	Sept. 22
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Oct 8
SWCD Board Meeting	Oct. 10 - 6pm
SWCD Annual Meeting	Nov. 1 - 5:30 pm
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Nov. 12
SWCD Board Meeting	Nov. 14 - 6pm
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Nov. 22

### **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, November 1, 2012.

\*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 October 25, 2012*

### **Request for Annual Meeting Tickets**

November 1, 2012 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

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