Join Us for our Annual Banquet!

Thursday, September 12, 2013—Pattison Park Lodge

Please help us celebrate another great year of conservation at our 70th Annual Meeting Banquet. The banquet will feature a catered dinner and entertainment provided by the Blue Chip Jazz Band. As you will notice the annual meeting is being conducted earlier this year and at a new location. The itinerary for the event is still ongoing, please check our website or find us on Facebook for updates.

Door’s open at 5:45 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Voting polls for SWCD Board Supervisor will remain open until 6:45 pm (see page 2 for candidate bios).

Dinner will be catered through CNE Schools, so your attendance will help support the local school district! Menu has yet to be decided. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine or beer at this year’s event.

After dinner festivities include conservation awards and a brief district update. And don’t even think about leaving early or you may miss out on one of the many awesome door prizes.

See enclosed reservation form for banquet tickets ($12 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under) and must be purchased in advance.

—Don’t wait order yours today!
(See Order Form on Page 6)
Candidates for SWCD Board of Supervisors

Melody Newman

Melody Newman recently retired from teaching after 35 years at Clermont Northeastern. Melody taught fifth grade Science and Language Arts and used the outdoors as a springboard for teaching her students writing, ecology and life science.

As a middle school teacher, she 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 addition of an outdoor classroom and bird blind. This past year she started the “green cafeteria” teaching students and staff how to recycle and compost items daily from the cafeteria. 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-three years, Ken Newman. They have two children John and Lauren Newman and a new grandson, Easton.

Melody is currently the board secretary-treasurer and is seeking her second term on the board.

David Schklar

David is a father of two and the science consultant/supervisor for the Clermont County Educational Service Center (CCESC) in Batavia, OH. He is a 28-year veteran of the US Army retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. David taught for 10-years at the private and public high school levels instructing AP and standard Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology (Honors), Ecology, AP Environmental Science, Foundational Physics and Physical Science.

David has developed various environmental programs that have won local and state awards as well as national recognition. He has participated in water quality studies as well as soil reclamation projects. His past experiences include farming, e.g., field preparation, harvesting, and haying. His skills include training development, science curriculum, and leadership development. He has authored and published training documents and conducted training in the US and overseas. He is the Science Challenge, Cincinnati Engineering Enhanced Mathematics and Science (CEEMS) Partnership, and STEM coordinator for the CCESC. He supports the nine Clermont County school districts in science curriculum alignment, teacher development and has extensive experience evaluating personnel and is OTES/OPES certified. He has held various leadership and teaching positions and worked with multiple echelons of leadership.

David holds a Certificate in Information Systems from University of Southern California, BS in Biology from Tennessee Technological University, and a MS in Systems Management from Florida Institute of Technology. He is also a graduate of several Army leadership courses, i.e., the Armor Officer Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College.

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 one (1) board member to a 3 year term commencing January 1, 2014. County residents and landowners have the 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 22nd through 4:00 PM September 12, 2013. Absentee ballot requests must be received by the District Office by 4pm on September 5, 2013.

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 5th deadline. For more election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075 ext. 2.
SUMMER PONDS – CONSERVING WATER

Most pond owners know that water loss in the summer months is almost a guarantee; the extent depending on the number of dry days following the almost common weekly 100-year rainfall events that seem to occur. Rain falling directly upon our ponds is not enough to supply it for the year, thus we situate ponds within a watershed to funnel water into them. Too much watershed and we have expensive spillways of concrete to pass rainfall events, not enough and we have long recharge times following the dry season.

The majority of ponds are located in watersheds that teeter on supplying enough water during the drier summer months. During this time ponds typically decrease pool levels by 1-2 feet. This decrease in water level exposes shoreline, increases algae and plant growth, and can cause biological and chemical problems. This can negate many of the management practices you use throughout the spring and early summer to combat weeds and manage healthy fish populations.

During dry periods, we want to conserve the water that we have available and not allow any to escape that isn’t necessary. Here are a few tips to increase the water storage efficiency of ponds:

1. Seal all known leaks. Sealing leaks when detected early will save an expensive repair and possible dam failure.
2. Sediment Control– control the amount of sediment entering the pond to maximize your storage capacity. Install a sediment retaining pond above the main pond and keep the watershed vegetated for best control.
3. Remove trees along bank edges and along dam of pond. Trees, especially willows, remove significant amounts of water from the pond through transpiration. Trees growing on or along the dam tend to weaken the dam with their roots and could cause leaks and failure.
4. Create windbreaks to block prevailing winds and reduce the rate of evaporation.
5. Increase watershed with the use of small berms and collecting gutter runoff where applicable.
6. Convert to a diffused aeration system (bubbler) vs. fountain aeration. Water evaporation and wind blown water results in significant water loss with fountain aeration, but this practice is recommended when other aeration is not available.

Moving Through the Social Waters

Did you notice the new icons on the front page of our newsletter? That’s right, we are expanding our marketing and outreach to better serve the citizens of Clermont County. You can visit us on Facebook and Twitter at /ClermontSWCD for both accounts.

Along with the social media outreach, we are also creating email newsletters and events mailings to better promote programs and events that are happening in the county.

Please visit the Clermont SWCD homepage to register for online newsletters and announcements. Currently there are no plans to eliminate paper printing of this newsletter. However, with budgets and ease of sending time sensitive material, it allows us to better connect with our cooperators.
Since June 14, 2013 the campground beach at East Fork Lake in Clermont County has been under a Recreational Public Health Advisory due to toxins produced by a harmful algae bloom (HAB) which can affect the liver, nervous system or skin of humans and animals. Although it’s not clearly understood what triggers these blooms and the release of toxins, the runoff of nutrients into streams leading to the lake is a major contributing factor. Nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, are chemicals that plants and animals need to grow and survive. Fertilizers, which contain nitrogen and phosphorus, are commonly used on farm fields and residential lawns to help plant growth. When too many nutrients make their way into local streams, rivers and lakes, they can create conditions that fuel the growth of harmful algae blooms.

The appearance of these blooms in East Fork Lake and lakes around Ohio seem to be occurring more frequently in recent years. There are steps all of us can take to reduce nutrient runoff and hopefully prevent these algae blooms from happening at all:

- If you choose to fertilize your lawn, test your soil first to determine how much is needed (if any at all) and the best time to apply it. To have your soil tested in Clermont County, contact the OSU Extension Office at 513-732-7070
- Soils in our area generally don’t need additional phosphorus. After you test your soil to determine its needs, check the first and second number on the fertilizer package for nitrogen and phosphate content. Formula, 26-0-3, for example, means no phosphate
- Do not apply fertilizer products if a heavy rain is predicted.
- Don’t over-apply fertilizer - use only the amount needed. Apply fertilizer at the spreader setting shown on the bag to avoid overuse. Twice the product won't make your lawn twice as green!
- Use a drop spreader or a rotary spreader with a side guard to keep fertilizer on the lawn and off driveways, roadways and walkways. Sweep up excess fertilizer from paved surfaces.
- Pick up after your pet. Pet waste contains nutrients (not to mention bacteria) that will wash into local streams if left on the ground.
- Maintain septic systems in good working order. Failing septic systems are major contributors of nutrient pollution in the East Fork watershed.

If you own or operate farm land, be sure to practice the “4 R’s” of nutrient management – apply the right fertilizer source at the right rate, right time and in the right place. Also, consider installing conservation practices such as winter cover crops, grassed waterways and manure storage barns. There are a wide array of federal cost share programs to help pay for these. For more information about conservation practices and the “4 R’s,” contact the local District Conservationist at 513-732-2181.

If we all do our part, we can keep East Fork Lake a safe place to swim and play for years to come.

Important Health Tips
If you do choose to swim, there are some important health tips you should know:
- After swimming or wading in lake water, even where no harmful algal bloom is visible, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Never swallow any lake or river water, whether you see a bloom or not.
- Do not let pets enter the water if there is a bloom. If they do, rinse them very well. Do not let them lick algal material from their fur.
- Do not drink or cook with lake water.
- See a doctor if you or your children might be ill from algal toxins. If your pet appears ill, contact your veterinarian. Know the signs:
  - Humans: numbness of lips, tingling in fingers and toes, dizziness, headache, rash or skin irritation, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting.
  - Pets: weakness, staggering, convulsions, difficulty in breathing, vomiting and may lead to possible death.
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 28, 2013
9:30-11:30 am or
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Sycamore Park
*Pre-registration is required. Call 513-732-7075 to register before September 23rd.

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 2013.

www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org/

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

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NRCS Certified- TSP #03-1112

Clermont County Farm Bureau
A membership organization which fights for fair property taxes, property rights, and the interest of agriculture.

325 West State Street- P.O. Box 288
Georgetown, OH 45121 (937)378-2212

If you are interested in participating in this event or need more information, 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.
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 12, 2013.

*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 September 5, 2013

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets

September 12, 2013 Pattison Park, 2228 US 50, Owensville, OH

Name ____________________________________________  Tickets are $12.00 for adults, $4.00 for 12 and under. Please mail check and order form to

Address ______________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _______ Zip __________

No. Attending _______ Telephone No. ____________________________

Amount Enclosed $____________________

Clermont SWCD
P.O. Box 549
Owensville, OH 45160