Our Mission:

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

Rain Barrels, Compost Bins Highlight 2009 Conservation Sale

Due to the great demand for quality rain barrels in Southwestern Ohio, Clermont SWCD is pleased to announce that we will be selling rain barrels at our 2009 Tree & Groundcover Sale. The high-quality 60 gal. plastic rain barrel kits are available for the incredible discount price of $80 each (actual retail price is $120)! See the plant sale section on pgs. 3-6 for more details and order information.

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce the storm water runoff that home rooftops contribute to local rivers, streams, and lakes. They also conserve water and provide an inexpensive means to irrigate home gardens and landscaping. Rain barrels can fit beautifully into the landscape, and can be painted to match your home (using Krylon Fusion paint). The rain barrels offered by the district will be terra cotta color (note: black will be substituted if terra cotta supplies are exhausted - we cannot guarantee color). Reasonably priced rain barrels are very difficult to come by.

Please get your orders in early; the district is anticipating a sell-out!!!

The District will also offer compost bins in this year’s conservation plant sale at the discount price of just $45! The Earth Machine is one of the most popular brands of compost bins on the market today and they retail for over $100 with shipping. The durable 80 gal. bin holds approximately 10 cu. ft. of recycled kitchen waste and comes with a 10-yr. warranty.

Help reduce the waste stream going to landfills and produce your own rich soil conditioner right in your back yard. This composted material is an excellent soil amendment for vegetable and flower gardens. See pg. 3-6 for details and order information.

2009 EAST FORK RIVER SWEEP - APRIL 25TH!

Mark your calendars now! Volunteers are needed for the 17th Annual East Fork River Sweep. This annual event will be held on Saturday, April 25th. Clean up efforts will focus on selected segments of the East Fork Little Miami River that will be determined within the next month. We will also “sweep” shoreline areas at East Fork Lake and Stonelick Lake.

(Continued on page 8)
Pond Clinic to be Held April 14th

If you own a pond or are planning on building a pond, plan on attending Clermont SWCD’s annual pond clinic on Tues, April 14th at 6pm. The clinic is free and there will be some nice door prizes!

The clinic will be held in the 4-H Building in the Clermont County Fairgrounds. The meeting will begin with some light refreshments at 6 pm. Several experts will be giving presentations on various pond topics. The evening should wrap up around 8:30 with a question and answer session. Call the office at 732-7075 to register.

Subjects to be discussed are:
- pond construction
- aquatic weed control
- fish stocking
- aeration
- goose control
- Anything else you would like to know about ponds!

MINI-GRANTS FOR RAIN GARDENS

The District is continuing to offer $100 mini-grants for homeowners interested in constructing a rain garden. The grants can be used to help with the cost of purchasing plants or installing a garden. Rain gardens are beautiful landscape features filled with deep rooting native plants. They often attract various birds and butterflies as well. Rain gardens collect storm water from rooftops and driveways and help filter and slow down storm water, thus helping keep our streams and lakes clean. If you are interested in constructing a rain garden or applying for a grant, contact the district office at 732-7075. Ask about how you can attend a workshop on rain garden construction!

New Technician joins District

Jacob Hahn has joined the SWCD staff as a District Technician. He has a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management with a major in Forestry from The Ohio State University. He spent the last 3 years working for Price Wood Products in Goshen Township in a variety of positions including mill manager.

Mr. Hahn also worked for the ODNR Division of Forestry for 2 yrs. as a temporary forester at Shawnee State Forest in Scioto County. He also worked for Mead Westvaco Corporation as a summer forester. Mr. Hahn is certified as a Master Logger in BMPs.

2009 Featured Conservation Shrub - Winterberry Holly

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*), is our native, wetland holly that loses its leaves each autumn. After the leaves of this beautiful plant have turned yellow and fallen off, you are left with a breathtaking view of thousands of brightly colored berries clinging to every stem. What a joy to have such color in the middle of winter. To facilitate a good berry set it is advisable to purchase at least one male for every three to five female plants and to plant the male in close proximity.

Even though it is most commonly found in low swampy soils, it can also be grown quite successfully in your average garden soils. It is an easy to grow plant that has few serious insect or disease problems. In wet sites it normally suckers to form a dense spreading thicket. In drier garden soils, it tends to form a tighter clump.

It is noted that its fruits "are consumed by small mammals, songbirds and game birds, including eastern bluebirds, wild turkeys, and quail. They are also eaten by white-tailed deer." The same source provides the explanation as to why one of the other common names of *Ilex verticillata* is "fever bush." For the native peoples of eastern North America did, in fact, use winterberry to reduce fever, among other medicinal uses that they had for the plant.

If your passion is arts and crafts, cut winterberry holly stems in November, before the songbirds get any ideas about purloining them from you. The berry-laden branches of winterberry shrubs are prized by arts and crafts enthusiasts for use in such items as floral arrangements, wreathes, kissing balls and winter window boxes.

MINI-GRANTS FOR RAIN GARDENS

The District is continuing to offer $100 mini-grants for homeowners interested in constructing a rain garden. The grants can be used to help with the cost of purchasing plants or installing a garden. Rain gardens are beautiful landscape features filled with deep rooting native plants. They often attract various birds and butterflies as well. Rain gardens collect storm water from rooftops and driveways and help filter and slow down storm water, thus helping keep our streams and lakes clean. If you are interested in constructing a rain garden or applying for a grant, contact the district office at 732-7075. Ask about how you can attend a workshop on rain garden construction!
The Clermont SWCD will again offer tree seedlings and groundcovers at discount prices. This program provides the opportunity for individuals to develop small areas of reforestation, wildlife enhancement, or enhance home landscaping.

Most of the plants described in this newsletter are 2-3 yr. old seedlings. Size varies from 8 inches to 4 feet; see order form for details. Plants will be bare rooted; we dip the plants in a root preservative to help keep the roots from drying out and wrap them in a plastic bag. Most packets will be in a bag about the size of a grocery bag and can easily be placed in your car for pick up. All of our groundcovers will be in trays or pots.

In addition to trees and groundcovers, we will have bird houses, rain barrels and compost bins at discount prices.

There are descriptions of all these items and an order form in this newsletter. The deadline to place orders is April 10, 2009. Please send your check or money order with your completed order form to Clermont SWCD at the address on the order sheet.

You may notice an increase in prices this year, and for this we apologize. We are at the mercy of the suppliers and must pass a little of the increased expense along. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Pick up will be Saturday, April 18th, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville, Ohio. We will send you a receipt and directions once we receive your order. You must make arrangements to pick up your order, as we cannot ship or hold orders.

We are offering 60 gallon rain barrels made from food grade barrels to our conservation minded customers. The rain barrel has a screw-on, perforated top with screen mesh to keep out children, debris, and dirt. The barrel also includes 2 top overflow male hose connections, a brass spigot and a bottom drain plug. The overflow fittings allow excess water to be diverted into a second (or third, or fourth) barrel or by attaching a hose, excess water can be diverted to a remote garden or flower bed. The brass spigot is shipped inside the barrel and will need to be screwed on.

All you need to buy is a downspout diverter from any building supply store, and hose sections and fittings to link barrels, if you choose to do so. Easy to follow instructions will be provided! Barrels are terra cotta in color, but black may be substituted if terra cotta supplies are exhausted. Barrels can easily be spray painted to match home exterior!

Top 10 Planting Tips...

1. Never let roots dry completely OR leave seedlings immersed in water for long periods as they will drown. These are the most common causes of seedling death!
2. Eliminate existing greenery using a product like Ortho "Kleenup".
3. Rototill or spade the soil to a depth of 6 to 10 inches and add organic peat and till once more.
4. Rake and finish grading the bed.
5. Plant so that the roots are free, not cramped. Ground level should be where the roots stop and the stem begins.
6. Make your planting hole deep enough to accommodate the roots.
7. It is better to prune the roots with scissors than to wad or curl the roots to make them fit in your planting hole.
8. Plant the seedling at the same depth as it was in the nursery using the line where the base of the trunk meets the ground as your guide.
9. Water thoroughly. Use only water soluble fertilizer with root stimulating ingredients.
10. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide and mulch.

For more information see page 3...

Doing the right thing couldn’t be easier...

The Earth Machine produces an all-natural soil conditioner that provides gardens with much needed nutrients, while helping to retain moisture in the soil. The result is significantly higher yields, with a substantial reduction in soil erosion.

WATER SEEDLINGS FAITHFULLY THE FIRST 2 YEARS
Packet B  Scotch Pine

WE WILL NOT BE CARRYING SCOTCH PINES THIS YEAR DUE TO AVAILIBILITY AND PRICE.
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE!

Packet C  Eastern White Pine $12.00
Prefers sun, partial shade OK.  PINUS STROBUS 10 /pkt.
3 year / 12 to 18 inch seedlings
Beautiful hardy evergreen.  Color is bluish green.  Long soft needles.  The fastest growing evergreen we offer.  Will tolerate slightly wet areas but does best on dryer slopes.  Grows to 100 ft. at maturity.  Excellent for windbreaks and ornamental use.

Packet D  Norway Spruce $12.00
Prefers sun, partial shade OK.  PICEA ABIES 10 /pkt.
4 year / 14 to 28 inch seedlings
Fast growing 8 to 10 inches a year.  Dark green, short needles with drooping branches and upswept tips.  Requires good drainage for best growth.  Reacts well to shearing.  Grows to 90 ft. at maturity.  Excellent for windbreaks and Christmas trees.

Packet E  American Plum $10.00
Prefers sun  PRUNUS AMERICANA 2/pkt.
3-4 ft. bare root
Also known as Wild Plum.  Height and spread is 20 to 25 feet.  It's white, pungently sweet blossoms emerge in early spring and fruit is sweet when fully ripe, making excellent jelly and jam.  Will grow just about anywhere.

Packet F  Kousa Dogwood $10.00
Prefers sun  CORNUS KOUS A 3/pkt.
18 to 24 inch seedlings
An attractive small growing ornamental deciduous tree with long, dark green leaves producing showy white flowers in June, 3 weeks after Flowering Dogwood.  The flowers, red fall color, and exfoliating bark gives year-round interest.

Packet G  Tulip Poplar $12.00
Prefers sun  LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA 3/pkt.
2-3 ft. bare root
Also know as Yellow-Poplar because of the color of the heartwood.  A great shade tree with a tall straight trunk and large crown.  Leaves have a distinct tulip shape.  Will grow to heights of 50 to 100 ft with trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet.

Packet H  Redbud $12.00
Prefers partial shade  CERCIS CANADENSIS 3/pkt.
Brilliant purple flowers in early spring.  Very effective in mass plantings/ naturalized settings.  Large, dark green heart-shaped leaves turning bright yellow in fall.  Grows to 25 feet.

Packet I  River Birch $8.00
Full to partial sun  BETULA NIGRA 1/pkt.
36-48 inch bare root
Striking deciduous tree with grey brown to rusty brown scaly bark.  Leaves turn yellow in autumn.  Performs well in either wet or dry soils that are acidic to neutral in pH.  Height 50-70 ft. and 25 to 45 ft. wide.

Packet J  Flame Maple $12.00
Prefers sun  ACER GINNALA 'FLAME' 3/pkt.
24-36 inch bare root
Outstanding Fall color - Can be grown as single or multi-trunked specimen.  Height to 30’, width to 25’.  Dense growth when grown as multi-trunked, serves as excellent screen.

Packet K  Butterfly Bush $10.00
Prefers full sun  BUDDLEIA DAVIDII 3/pkt.
18 to 24 inch seedlings
A vigorous growing deciduous shrub reaching a mature height of 6 to 8 feet.  It produces long spikes of flowers on new growth from July to September that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Packet L  Common Lilac $10.00
Prefers sun  SYRINGA VULGARIS 3/pkt.
18 to 24 inch seedlings
Dense vigorous growth, to 15’ tall by 6-10’ spread.  Fragrant flowers in mid-May- prune flowers as they fade.  Makes a wonderful flowering screen when planted 6’ apart.

Packet M  Euonymus Burning Bush $12.00
Sun or shade  EUONYMUS ALATUS ‘COMPACTUS’ 3/pkt.
6 to 12 inch seedlings
This shrub has brilliant flame red Fall color that shows best when grown in full sun.  Height 6-8’, width 3-4’.  Tolerates poor soils, drought.  Makes beautiful screen when planted 4 feet apart.  Unusual branches gives burning bush winter interest.

Packet N  Snowmound Spirea $12.00
Prefers sun  SPIREA NIPPONICA ‘SNOWMOUND’ 3/pkt.
3 to 6 inch in pots
Dark blue-green leaves & masses of white flowers in late May.  Height and spread of 3-5’ upon maturity.  Ideal for group plantings.  Tolerant of poor soils, heat, and drought.

Packet O  Winterberry Holly $10.00
Prefers sun  ILEX VERTICILLATA 3/pkt.
6-12 inch seedlings
One of the best plants for fall and winter color.  Female plants produce bright red berries while the leaves are dark green.  The leaves will turn yellow in late fall.  Height and spread 6-12 feet.  Likes acid soil and can be used as a wetland plant.  A good shrub as a screen or background.  Attracts winter song birds.
Packet G1
Blue Rug Juniper  $12.00
Prefers sun  JUNIPERUS HORIZONTALIS  3/Pkt
3-6 inches in pots
Hugs the ground in a low trailing fashion. Beautiful, silver-blue foliage. Center of plant remains full. Average mature height is 6 inches and spread is 3 feet. This ground cover likes lots of sun and well drained soil. Used in areas with a hard-to-mow slope.

Packet G2
Pachysandra  $16.00
Shade  PACHYSANDRA TERMINALIS  Tray of 32 plants
Attractive rapid growing evergreen ground cover plant with bright green leaves. Small white flowers in early May. Clipping in early spring stimulates new growth. Plant 1 ft. apart in good loose soil and no competition from other plants for rapid growth and dense cover.

Packet G3
Periwinkle  $16.00
Prefers partial shade.  VINCA MINOR  Tray of 48 plants
Nonaggressive evergreen that grows to a height of 4 to 5 inches. It spreads by stolons and grows quickly. Violet blue flowers in spring. Prepare loose soil with no competing roots. Can be slow to establish, but be patient. It's worth the wait.

Packet G4
English Ivy  $16.00
Prefers shade  HEDERA HELIX  Tray of 48 plants
English Ivy grows to a height of 6 to 10 inches. Has a dark green Maple-like leaf on trailing branches. Will survive in the harshest winters.

Packet G5
Crown Vetch  $16.00
Prefers sun  CORONILLA VARIA  Tray of 48 plants
A fast growing perennial ground cover for banks, slopes, and large problem areas. Produces pinkish white flowers from June until frost. Grows 12 to 18 in. tall. Very Hardy. Planted on 24 inch centers, this tray will plant 200 square feet.

Ground Cover Spacing
How many plants will it take to cover the area you need to protect? The following chart will give you an idea of how many square feet will be covered by various amounts of plants and spacings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant spacing in inches</th>
<th>50 plants</th>
<th>100 plants</th>
<th>150 plants</th>
<th>200 plants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>200sq ft</td>
<td>400sq ft</td>
<td>600sq ft</td>
<td>800sq ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>112.5sq ft</td>
<td>225sq ft</td>
<td>337.5sq ft</td>
<td>450sq ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.5sq ft</td>
<td>25sq ft</td>
<td>37.5sq ft</td>
<td>50sq ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GROUNDCOVERS

BH1
Wild Bird House  $15.00
This red cedar birdhouse is ideal for cavity nesting birds. Includes durable rope for hanging and bottom slides out for easy cleaning.

BH2
Bluebird House  $20.00
Made from red cedar, this nesting box is naturally weather resistant and ideal for Bluebirds. Includes mounting hardware and hinged door for easy clean out.

RB
Rain Barrel  $80.00
Please see front page for rain barrel description. This same barrel retails for $120 and is used in a demonstration project at Cler. Co. Fairgrounds. LIMITED QUANTITIES...ORDER EARLY!

Crescent  $45.00
Compost Bin
Earth Machine has become a sleek high performance compost bin used by more than 2 million environmentally concerned people worldwide. Normally retails for $100 with shipping!

- Large capacity (80 gallon or 10 cubic feet)
- Measures 33”x33”x34 assembled, weighs under 20 lbs.
- Easy snap together assembly
- Durable and lightweight design
- Convenient 13” x 16.5” Harvest Door
- Twist Locking Lid
- Vertical and horizontal columnar ventilation
- 10 year manufacturer warranty

The following booklets will be available in limited quantities for purchase the day of the sale. We will not be taking orders for booklets this year.

Enjoying Hummingbirds More
Enjoying Butterflies More
Enjoying Bluebirds More
Enjoying Bird Feeding More
Identification Guide to Backyard Birds
# 2009 ORDER FORM - CLERMONT SWCD

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<td>A</td>
<td>Colorado Blue Spruce</td>
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<td>10-18&quot;</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Norway Spruce</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>American Plum</td>
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<td>36-48&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Kousa Dogwood</td>
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<td>18-24&quot;</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>Tulip Poplar</td>
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<td>Redbud</td>
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<td>River Birch</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Flame Maple</td>
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<td>24-36&quot;</td>
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<td>Butterfly Bush</td>
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<td>Common Lilac</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>Burning Bush</td>
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<td>6-12&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Snowmound Spirea</td>
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<td>3-6&quot; in pots</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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<td>O</td>
<td>Featured Planting! Winterberry Holly</td>
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<td>6-12&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## GROUNDCOVERS

| G-1   | Blue Rug Juniper             | 3           | 3-6" in pots | $12.00     | G-1        |
| G-2   | Pachysandra                  | 32/tray     | 1 year       | $16.00     | G-2        |
| G-3   | Periwinkle                   | 48/tray     | 1 year       | $16.00     | G-3        |
| G-4   | English Ivy                  | 48/tray     | 1 year       | $16.00     | G-4        |
| G-5   | Crown Vetch                  | 48/tray     | 1 year       | $16.00     | G-5        |

## BIRD HOUSES

| BH1   | Wild Bird House              | 1           |            | $15.00     | BH1        |
| BH2   | Bluebird House               | 1           |            | $20.00     | BH2        |

## RAIN BARRELS & COMPOSTERS

| RB    | Rain Barrel                  | 1           | 60 gallon   | $80.00     | RB         |
| CB    | Compost Bin                  | 1           | 80 gallon   | $45.00     | CB         |

A check must accompany your order. Please make check payable and send to: Clermont SWCD, PO Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160

Name: __________________________ Telephone: __________________________

Address: __________________________ Street: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________

Cut Here

Donation to Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District.....
All proceeds and donations go towards conservation education and outreach programs.

Total Order: __________________________

Check #: __________________________
Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is once again offering cost share to Clermont County landowners through EQIP. This program offers an incentive to install conservation practices that protect water quality and reduce erosion on agricultural land. Funding for 2009 is expected in April. Interested landowners or operators can contact Lori Hillman of NRCS (732-2181 or 732-7075) to determine their eligibility and get application details.

Ohio Rain Fall—2008 at A Glance!

Precipitation for the 2009 water year is above normal for most of the state, but below normal in the Southwest Region. The average for the state is 8.98 inches, 0.77 inch above normal. Regional averages range from 11.34 inches, 2.11 inches above normal, for the Northeast Region to 8.02 inches, 0.14 inch above normal, for the Central Region.

Precipitation for the 2008 calendar year was above normal statewide. The average for the state was 44.44 inches, 6.42 inches above normal. For the state as a whole, this was the 13th wettest year during the past 126 years. Regional averages ranged from 49.25 inches, 10.74 inches above normal, for the Northeast Region to 41.94 inches, 7.66 inches above normal, for the Northwest Region. This was the 4th wettest calendar year for both the Northwest and North Central regions, the 5th wettest for the Northeast Region and the 8th wettest for the West Central Region.

Painesville (Lake County) reported the greatest amount of precipitation for the year, 63.16 inches. Portsmouth (Scioto County) reported the least amount, 31.08 inches. Source—Ohio Division of Water Monthly Water Inventory Report for December.
Please Donate Items to Support Conservation!
The Conservation District will be holding a silent auction at its Annual Meeting on October 29th, 2009. Quality items can be donated to the District and are tax deductible. All proceeds from the auction will be used to help support the District and its conservation programs and projects in Clermont County. If you have an item you would like to donate please call Paul or Susie at the District office (732-7075). Thanks for your support!

Calendar of Events

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<td>Apr. 7 - 6pm</td>
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<td>Tree Sale Pickup</td>
<td>Apr. 18 — 8:30-2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork River Sweep</td>
<td>Apr. 25 - 9-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>May 13 - 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWCD Office Closed</td>
<td>May 25—Holiday</td>
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Inside this Issue:

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• New Technician
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• Discount Rain Barrels, Compost Bins
  p. 1

Believe it or not, Spring is coming!

Volunteers can either walk the riverbanks or use a provided canoe to collect litter. Gloves and trash bags are provided as well. Free T-shirts and a picnic lunch will be given to all volunteers at the conclusion of the clean-up.

Got a group? We encourage you to organize a group at work, at church, or in your club or civic organization for the River Sweep. Your “Team” can have fun while helping to protect the river. This is an excellent public service opportunity for scout troops, 4-H clubs, fraternities/sororities, etc.

If you would like to participate in the East Fork River Sweep, call the SWCD office at 732-7075 and ask for watershed coordinator Becky McClatchey. **NOTE:** Children under 18 will need to have a waiver signed by their parents to participate.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork River Sweep</td>
<td>Apr. 25 - 9-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>May 13 - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Office Closed</td>
<td>May 25—Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>