



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



Volume 52



Number 2



June 2007

Raingardens: What are they?

A raingarden is a planted depression designed to take as much rainwater runoff from buildings, parking lots, streets, and other impervious surfaces. Ideally raingardens not only filter runoff, but also absorb all, or at least part of the runoff produced by an average rain storm. Water bodies downstream of raingardens typically have improved water quality and are not as prone to flash flooding.

Raingardens are planted with native, deep-rooting grasses, sedges, flowers, shrubs, and trees. The deep root structures of these plants allow raingardens to absorb much more runoff than a typical lawn. The plants, as well as the soil, also help filter out harmful pollutants such as oil or heavy metals.

When raingardens are constructed, the soil is tilled and loosened. Depending on conditions, peat and/or sand may be added to the soil. These amendments to the soil are crucial to allow the plants to root deeper into the soil. They also allow water to percolate more easily down through the soil. Conditions such as having heavy clay soils or having compacted soils usually warrant the additions of peat and/or sand.



Raingardens are wonderful stormwater management tools that blend beautifully into the landscape. In fact, many who pass raingardens do not realize that they are seeing any more than someone's ordinary flower garden. Nearly anyone can

have a raingarden; even if you own just a 1/4 acre in a subdivision, or live on a 400 acre farm.

The SWCD is currently in the process of constructing a demonstration raingarden on the Fairgrounds. The raingarden will be located at the gate on the southwest side of the SWCD building. It is hoped that the it will be finished before the start of the fair. Once completed, anyone may come and enjoy the raingarden any time. The SWCD office will soon have literature available to anyone who wishes to construct their own raingarden. If you have any questions about raingardens, give the SWCD office a call at 732-7075.

SWCD Seeking Candidates

Clermont SWCD is seeking candidates to run for one seat on the district board of supervisors. The election will be held in late October at the annual meeting. Board members are required to attend monthly meetings to conduct district business, and are encouraged to attend special meetings, field days, planning meetings, conservation tours, and more as time and district resources permit.



Current Board of Supervisors, Left to Right: Joe Glassmeyer, Jim Wilson, Meri Johnson, Dave Anspach, & Bill Skvarla

If you or someone you know would be interested in being considered as a candidate, or would like

(continued on page 4)

Clermont SWCD Welcomes New District Conservationist

Lori Hillman joined the SWCD staff on May 29 as our NRCS District Conservationist. She is the permanent replacement for George Cummings, who retired on January 3. Jeff Barnes, who has been filling in temporarily over the last five months, will be returning to his normal Soil Conservationist duties in Butler County.

Lori has moved to Clermont County from the Staunton area of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, where she served as a Soil Conservationist for the last two and a half years. She has also worked as a Soil Conservationist in the Wytheville area of Southwestern Virginia. In Virginia, Lori specialized in livestock management; assisting farmers in employing rotational grazing systems, stream exclusion, alternative watering systems, nutrient management systems, and other livestock-related conservation practices. She also has experience in assisting crop farmers improve their soil quality through the use of no-till planting and cover crops, among other practices. Before becoming a Soil Conservationist, she began her career in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as a Soil Scientist mapping soils in Southwestern Virginia.



Ms. Hillman was born and raised in Dickenson County, Virginia, located in the rural southwestern corner of the state. She graduated from Lincoln Memorial University in 1996 with a B.S. in Environmental Science. She earned a M.S. in Soil Science from Virginia Tech in 2001.

Lori is happy and excited to be in Southwestern Ohio where she hopes she can help landowners and farmers improve the land through conservation programs and practices.

Intern joining the SWCD Staff for Summer

Clermont SWCD is pleased to have Nancy Cochran join the staff as a part-time summer intern. From June through August, Nancy will be assisting East Fork Watershed Coordinator Jason Brown on a few different projects pertaining to the East Fork watershed. A couple of these projects include conducting habitat assessments along the East Fork River and a bathymetric survey of Harsha Lake.



The latter involves surveying several different transects of the lake bottom, something that has not been done since the lake's construction. A completed bathymetric survey will provide the district with good information regarding the lake's health, sedimentation rates, etc.

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Nancy is a resident of Clermont County and is attending Bowling Green State University where her major is Environmental Science. She is expected to graduate with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in the Fall. Nancy is excited to get out into the field this summer.

Another Successful East Fork River Sweep!

The clouds opened up and the rain stayed away on Saturday, April 28, for a spring cleaning in the East Fork watershed. Nearly 250 volunteers turned out for the 15th Annual East Fork River Sweep, including families, area students, scout troops, 4-H clubs, local businesses and the Batavia Rotary Club. Hard working crews cleaned up over 10 miles of stream-bank and shoreline at Sycamore Park in Batavia, Valley View in Milford, East Fork State Park and Stonelick State Park, collecting 240 bags of trash, 193 tires, 7 empty Haz Mat drums, a plastic pool, a camper trailer frame, 2 box spring mattresses, children's rocking horse, 3 metal drums, a kitchen sink, and other miscellaneous debris. To view photo highlights of this event, visit eastforkwatershed.org and click on "River Sweep."

For their efforts, volunteers were provided morning snacks and lunch, and received River Sweep wristbands. Volunteers also received the satisfaction of helping to make their watershed safer and more beautiful.

Special thanks go to the numerous organizations and businesses who provided donations and incredible support to the River Sweep! Please join us in expressing thanks to Amanda Hills Spring Water, Woods Country Store, Kahr's Carryout, Milford Tech Park, Kipp's Gravel, Loveland Canoe and Kayak, ODNR-Scenic Rivers Program, Little Miami, Inc., and FMSM Engineers Inc. for their donations of food, supplies, river access, and canoes for the Sweep. Special thanks to Mark Birkle for donating his time and skills to take wonderful photographs of the event.

This event would not have been possible without the support of Clermont 20/20 Clean and Green Collaborative, Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality, Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District, Clermont County Water and Sewer District, and Clermont SWCD. Thanks to Buckeye United Fly Fishers for providing lunch at Sycamore Park, Valley View Foundation for feeding the masses at our Milford site, and State Parks staff for providing lunch at East Fork and Stonelick Parks. The staffs of East Fork State Park, Stonelick State Park, the Clermont



County Park District, and the Harsha Lake Army Corps Office did much of the behind-the-scenes work that allowed this event to be so successful. Thank you all.

Jason K. Brown

East Fork Watershed Coordinator

Spring, Summer, & Early Fall is the SWCD's Busy Season

As the weather has warmed, each of us has found ourselves outside and in the field working as much as possible. All five SWCD employees have outdoor-oriented duties that need attention when the weather is favorable, whether it be water quality monitoring or perhaps surveying a waterway.

For this reason, you may have stopped in the office lately and nobody was available to assist you. We sincerely apologize if this has happened to you. We truly do try to put our customers first - you are the reason why we are here! **However, we ask that if you plan on stopping in the office, especially during times of fair weather or if you need to speak with a specific staff member, that you call (732-7075) us first to make sure somebody will be here to assist you.** We do try to have at least one staff member present as much as possible, but there are moments when all five of us have had to step out of the office.

Thank you!!!

The SWCD Office will be closed on the following days:

Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day

Monday, September 3 Labor Day

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

David Anspach Joe Glassmeyer Meri Johnson Bill Skvarla Jim Wilson

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Hillman, District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

Paul Berringer Judy Krebs Josh Will Susie Steffensen Jason Brown

Holscher Farm to be Permanently Preserved

For years, Marie Holscher has dreamed of preserving the 42 acre family farm on Lindale Nicholasville Road in Monroe Township. The Holscher's purchased the historic farm in 1950 and it has been home to the family ever since. To that end, Marie and her son Dirck recently donated an agricultural easement to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), insuring that the family land will remain in agriculture forever! It is the first easement held by ODA in Clermont County and perhaps one of the first agricultural easements to be enacted in Clermont County. Under the easement agreement, the Holscher's retain full ownership and can even sell their land, but it must always remain in agriculture.



Marie Holscher will continue to live in the historic farm homestead, which will be preserved as well. Known as the Aaron Fagin House and built in 1832, the structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. The house is recognized for its architectural significance as an example of early 19th century rural southern Ohio vernacular house with Federal and Greek Revival style influences. The Holscher's are currently looking for a local entity to provide for long term care and preservation of the structure itself.

About 17 acres of the farm are used for corn and soybean crop production, with an equal amount of acreage in mature growth woodlands. The property also includes a ¾ ac. pond, an old springhouse and several farm buildings built around 1940.

The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District will serve as the local monitoring agent for ODA,

visiting the property regularly. The District, NRCS, and FSA staff have worked with the Holscher's and ODA over the past several years to assess the property's land resources and assemble a "present condition report" that is a key piece of the easement agreement. Clermont landowners who have an interest in permanently preserving their land through agricultural or conservation easements can contact the District (732-7075) for more information.

(SWCD Seeks Candidates, continued from page 1)

more information on the duties and responsibilities of Clermont SWCD Board Members, please contact Paul Berringer at 732-7075.

A SWCD Supervisor.....

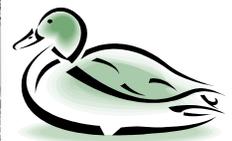
- Is a respected community leader, elected by county residents to represent them in charting the course for local soil and water conservation and natural resource management.
- Is someone who guides the district, staff and cooperating agencies in an effort to implement a conservation program in the county that addresses management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources.
- Should have a sincere interest in conservation, and the enthusiasm, dedication and time to serve expected of an elected official. District supervisors are elected to a 3 year term of office and serve without pay. Necessary expenses, e.g. travel to meetings, meals, etc. are paid by the SWCD.

Clermont County Farm Bureau



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

Call the Farm Bureau for information on upcoming events. 831-5870



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Artists Wanted: Create a Masterpiece of Clermont County!

If you have artistic talents and looking for a fun, challenging project for the summer, you may be interested in a new program unveiled by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources in partnership with local soil and water conservation districts. The program will sponsor a work of art from each of Ohio's 88 counties produced to a theme of "Soil and Water Conservation - Keeping Ohio's land productive and water clean!" All of the final artworks will be judged at the state level and "People's Choice Awards" will be given to the top selections. Final artworks will be exhibited in a number of venues at both the county and state levels.

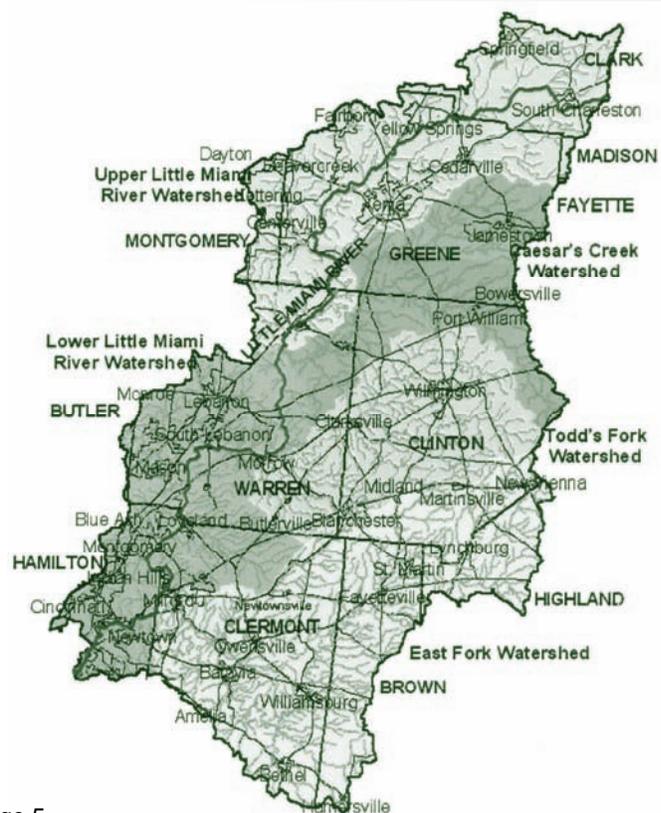
All residents of Clermont County are eligible to participate. Participants should submit an 11"X17" color draft of their work to Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District, 1000 Locust St., P.O. Box 549, Owensville, Ohio 45160 **by Aug. 1, 2007**. Based on draft art submissions, the District will select one person from all entrants to represent Clermont County. A blank canvas and acrylic paints will be provided to the person selected to create their final work of art.

All artworks should be created on a media within an outlined border of Clermont County. To obtain an outlined border of Clermont County, stop by the office or visit www.clermontswcd.org on or after July 1. People are not restricted to painting, and they may use fabric, paper, photos, seeds, or other natural materials to create their masterpiece. The artwork could reflect the unique history or products of Clermont County, keeping in mind the productive land and clean waters theme. Our county is also rich in natural, environmental, and agricultural features that may spark an artist's imagination. Good luck in creating your masterpiece!



Better with a Camera than a Paintbrush? Enter the Little Miami Watershed Photo Contest!

The Little Miami River Partnership (LMRP) in conjunction with a host of sponsors is holding a photo contest. There are three statuses, one of which you must choose to enter. The statuses are Professional, Amateur, and Youth (18 and under). The professional status is reserved for those who receive a significant portion of their income from photography. Amateurs will include everyone else over 18 years of age. There are four categories in which contestants may submit one photo each. The categories are Scenic (No sign of man), Recreational (includes man or signs of man), Effects of Man (includes man-made problems), and Black and White (any subject). All photos must include water in some form (liquid, ice, snow, clouds, rain, etc) and must be taken within the Little Miami River Watershed (see map below). There is a \$10 submittal fee per image. All images are due by October 31, 2007. **Please call (513) 695-2542 or visit www.littlemiamiriver.org for more rules and details.** There will be 12 First Place, \$100 winners and one Best of Show \$500 Grand Prize winner. Good luck to all!



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.

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

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!



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 Web: www.clermontswcd.org

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District
 P.O. Box 549
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Emerald Ash Borer Public Meeting to be held June 26

If you have not already heard, the emerald ash borer (EAB) is a pest that is bearing down on Clermont County's ash trees. It has been spotted in neighboring Warren and Hamilton Counties, and many suspect it may already be in Clermont County. The EAB will kill any and every ash tree with which it come in contact, and that will mean millions of dollars in tree removal and replacement costs. One in every 10 Ohio trees is an ash.

A public workshop is being held on **June 26 at Western Brown High School, Community Room** (476 W. Main St. Mt. Orab, OH 45154). Annemarie Smith, the EAB Service Forester from ODNR, will speak on the biology of the EAB, symptoms of infestation, management options, and possible insecticide options for controlling the EAB.

Tim Wilson, our local Forester, will also be in attendance to help answer questions pertaining to your stand of trees.

Anyone with questions about their ash trees are strongly encouraged to attend.



Calendar of Events

EAB Public Meeting	June 26	6pm
SWCD Board Meeting	July 12	6pm
Clermont County Fair	July 22-28	
Art Contest Draft Due	Aug. 1	4:30pm
SWCD Board Meeting	Aug. 9	6pm
SWCD Board Meeting	Sept. 13	6pm