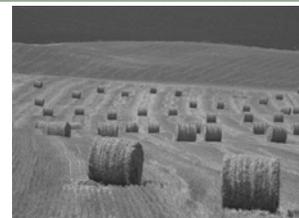




Volume 52



Number 3



September 2007

Annual Meeting Promises Great Food and Spooky Fun!

Make plans to attend Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District's 64th annual meeting on Thursday evening, October 25. This year's meeting will be held in the Multipurpose building on the Fairgrounds. Doors will open at 5:45 pm, with a delicious catered dinner being served at 6:30. Polls for the Supervisor election will be open from 5:45 until 6:45 pm. Dinner will consist of grilled chicken, pork chops, baked potatoes, country green beans, a tossed salad, and two varieties of cobbler for dessert. Dinner and a brief business meeting capping Clermont SWCD's achievements, activities, and conservation awards will conclude dinner. Be prepared for a real scare after dinner. It will be Halloween week and Clermont County Historian Rick Crawford will regale us with some frightening tales of ghosts, ghouls, and haunted



places in Clermont County. Crawford is a noted speaker and has authored several books and produced a video highlighting the spookier side of Clermont County. His quest has led him all over the county, and caused him to witness numerous unexplainable, frightening events. He has spent many a night in local "haunted houses" looking for signs of the supernatural.

Find out which Clermont highway is marred by tragedy and ghostly apparitions - not even Crawford himself will venture out to this intersection during certain hours of the

night! If the hairs on your neck aren't rising yet, they will be on the evening of October 25. Join us for the evening and don't forget that numerous door prizes will be given out at the end of night!



SWCD To Provide Dry Hydrant Grants

At the district board meeting on August 14, the SWCD board of supervisors unanimously approved a dry hydrant grant program for Clermont County effective immediately. Funds from other grants for dry hydrants have run out, and the district has decided to provide local funds aid pond owners wishing to have a dry hydrant.

The grant will provide landowners with a dry hydrant kit. The kit consists of the dry hydrant head assembly and intake strainer, currently about a \$280 value. The SWCD will issue up to three of these grants per year, and they are available on a first come, first served basis. To be eligible, the SWCD must evaluate and approve the dry hydrant site, making sure it will meet all appropriate specifications. The SWCD will also design and supervise the installation of the dry hydrant. Dry hydrants must be located along an all-weather road (a well-maintained, gravel driveway is acceptable) which must remain accessible to emergency vehicles at all times. Dry hydrants are designed to pump 1000 gallons/minute or more.

Dry hydrants are a wonderful safety feature, especially if you live a considerable distance from a pressurized hydrant. In some cases, they can lower homeowner's insurance costs. They are a good idea if you have additional buildings other than your house that could use some added fire protection (e.g. barns, out-buildings, garages, etc.).

If you would like more information on dry hydrants, give Josh or Paul a call at 732-7075.



District Administrator Paul Berringer attaching the intake strainer to a dock post for Elaine Miller's dry hydrant.

Candidates for Board of Supervisors

Meri Johnson

Meri Johnson and her husband, Wayne, have a small apple orchard and apiary in Batavia Township. Meri is currently the science curriculum supervisor for the Clermont County Educational Service Center and has been in the education field for the past twenty three years. She recognizes the need for all citizens to be educated on the importance of their surroundings and what effect they have on the environment. As an educator, Meri emphasizes conservation techniques and environmental awareness. She is the director of the annual Clermont County Water Quality Symposium for high school students, Science Challenge, and other unique outdoor programs such as stream monitoring and soil testing.



Meri serves as a leader for numerous state wide science education organizations, but her passion is with the Clermont County Soil and Water District because of the invaluable service it provides the residence of the county. She and her students have directly benefited from SWCD's services for many years. It is her pleasure to give back some of the time and effort to the organization that has given so much to her. Meri has served nine years (3 terms) as a Supervisor with the district.

Scott Wells

Scott Wells was born and raised in Batavia, Ohio. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University. Scott has been a science teacher at Clermont Northeastern High School for past three years. He has taught Advanced Placement Biology, 10th Grade Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Environmental Science. He has also served as a wrestling, golf, and track coach.



Scott recently married Kristin Colella, a Spanish teacher at Bethel High School. The couple currently resides in Owensville.

The SWCD Office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, October 8	Columbus Day
Monday, November 12	Veterans' Day
Thursday, November 22	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 23	Staff Vacation Day

The above are the two candidates put forth by the nominating committee to run for election to the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors for the term 2008-2011, with the election to occur on October 25, 2007. It is possible that additional candidates could request to be placed on the ballot as a result of the petition process. A final list of all candidates will be available at the district web site www.clermontswcd.org after October 1, 2007.

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 election 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 1 board member to a 3 year term commencing January 1, 2008. County residents and landowners have an additional option for voting for SWCD board members if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting. They may call or stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the District Office October 1 through October 25 (4 pm). Absentee ballots must be received by the District Office by 4pm on October 25, 2007.

For more information, contact the SWCD at 732-7075.

Calendar of Events

Wed. Sept. 12	Board Meeting	6pm
Sat. Sept. 29	Farm Tour	12-5pm
Wed. Oct. 10	Board Meeting	6pm
Thur. Oct. 25	Annual Meeting	5:45pm
Thur. Nov. 8	Board Meeting	6pm
Tue. Nov. 27	Renew Ohio! Meeting	7pm

Emerald Ash Borer Update

As of press time, there has yet to be any confirmed cases of EAB in Clermont County. Bear in mind that Warren and Hamilton counties are quarantined, and that transporting wood from these counties into Clermont County is against the law. If you have any questions regarding the EAB, contact the SWCD at 732-7075 or OSU Extension at 732-7070.



Stream Restoration Begins in Lower East Fork

Clermont SWCD and the East Fork Watershed Collaborative are excited to announce that construction has begun on the Avey's Run Stream Restoration Project. Ground was broken Aug. 15th, leading the way toward enhancement and restoration of the East Branch of Avey's Run located at the Cincinnati Nature Center Rowe Woods property in Union Township.

This section of Avey's Run was relocated in the late 1800's, presumably for agricultural purposes. Over time, the stream has become very unstable, resulting in severe erosion of both the stream bed and its banks. As a result, the stream has lost contact with its floodplain and provides minimal value for habitat, storm water management and flood control.

To improve water quality, "natural channel design" techniques are being used to return the channel to a stable, self-maintaining form. The stream will then be able to transport its flow and sediment discharge without eroding or aggrading.

1,750 ft. of stream is being enhanced by a team of stream experts, who have designed and constructed new stream meanders (bends), and a series of pools and riffles, utilizing log and rock cross vanes (see photo). The channel improvements will prevent future down-cutting of the stream bed and allow floodwaters to access the stream's old, adjacent floodplain. Floodwaters can then settle out their excess sediments and nutrients. The structures will also create more and better habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates.



Installed rock/log cross vane within Avey's Run

Since the beginning of construction nearly 2 acres of invasive plants (bush honeysuckle, etc.) have also been removed from the site. Once the stream construction phase is complete, all disturbed areas will be replanted with native plant species.

Funding for this project is provided by a Non-point Source Pollution 319 Grant from Ohio EPA for improving water quality and stream function in the Lower East Fork watershed (Stonelick Creek to the confluence with Little Miami River). For more information regarding this project or the East Fork Little Miami River Watershed, contact Jason K. Brown, East Fork Watershed Coordinator, at 513-732-7075 or jason.brown@oh.nacdnet.net.

Would You Like to Tour a Local, Award Winning Winery?

Clermont SWCD and Supervisor Bill Skvarla are sponsoring a tour and wine tasting at Harmony Hill Vineyards just south of Bethel. Harmony Hill Vineyards is owned and operated by Mr. Skvarla and his wife Patti.



Bill will be giving an informational tour of his operation which will conclude with a wine tasting with appetizers on **Oct. 30, 6 - 8 pm**. The cost is \$10/person, and the tour will be limited to 35 individuals. Sign-up for the tour is on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the SWCD for a reservation at 732-7075.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn about the art of making wine. Bill and some SWCD staff will be on hand to answer your questions on grapes, soil types, fertility, producing your own wine, etc.



Harmony Hill Vineyards is located at 2534 Swings Corner - Pt. Isabel Rd, Bethel, Ohio 45106. The winery can be reached by phone at (513) 734-3548 or email at wine@HHWines.com. Visit Harmony Hill Vineyards on the web at www.hhwines.com.

Drought Damages Ohio's Forage Crop

Due to the drought conditions striking much of southern Ohio this summer, alfalfa hay yield is forecast at 2.5 tons/acre, compared to an average of 3.5 tons/acre harvested last year. All other hay is forecast at 2.0 tons/acre, whereas last year's average was 2.4 tons/acre. This results in an estimated \$20.7 - \$38.7 million loss in production for grass hay and \$71.8 - \$91.2 million loss in production for alfalfa hay. If the loss in production from pastured land is considered as well, the total estimated forage loss for Ohio will exceed \$210 million.



JOHN BRATH FARMS & EXCAVATING

6144 Belfast Road 625-9026
Goshen, Ohio 45122

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Glassmeyer Meri Johnson Bill Skvarla
David Anspach Jim Wilson

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Hillman, District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

Paul Berringer Jason Brown Judy Krebs Susie Steffensen Josh Will

Don't Miss Out on the Clermont County Farm Tour!

The Clermont County Farm Tour is a free, self-guided excursion where individuals are invited to tour three working farms in Clermont County. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about three distinctive types of farms (descriptions below). The tour will take place from Noon until 5pm on Saturday, September 29. It is part of the larger Great Outdoor Weekend.

If you have any more questions, please visit the website, <http://clermont.osu.edu/farmtour>, or call either the SWCD (732-7075) or OSU Extension (732-7070).

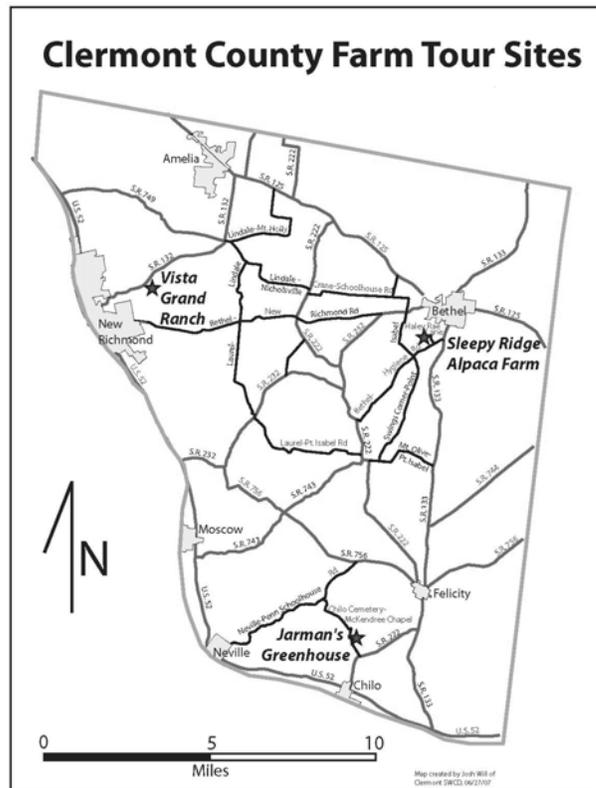
Cincinnati Alpaca Cooperative

Sleepy Ridge Alpaca Farm

20501 Haley Rae Lane

Bethel, Ohio 45106

The Cincinnati Alpaca Cooperative is excited to showcase alpacas of Clermont County farms including Sleepy Ridge, The Farm at Brushy Fork, and Tanglewood Alpacas. Come see alpacas of all ages, a yarn spinning demonstration and products made from home grown alpaca yarns. Homegrown fiber products will also be available for sale.



Jarman's Greenhouse

2858 Chilo Cemetery McKendree

Chapel Rd.

Felicity, Ohio 45120



Experience life on a working farm and much more!

Climb aboard for a hay ride offered every half hour. Tour the pumpkin patch and see pumpkins ripening on the vine. Browse the greenhouses and gift shop to discover a variety of plants and unique country crafts. The petting area has farm animals for you to meet. Learn about alternative energy and how the greenhouses are heated with a corn-fired furnace using corn grown on the property.

Vista Grand Ranch

2652 State Route 132

New Richmond, Ohio 45157

Come see where the buffalo roam at Vista Grand Ranch in New Richmond! Owners Cindy Cassell and David Uible will be presenting an educational seminar every 30 minutes on raising bison and the health benefits of bison meat. Come enjoy the grand vistas at this ranch and learn about one of the most nutritious meats now available in a supermarket near you.





Charles W. Rodenberg
Registered Representative
Eagle's Circle™ member

Rodenberg Insurance & Investments

Batavia, OH 45103
Telephone: (513) 732-1461
FAX: (513) 732-1468

Woodbury Financial Services, Inc.
Member NASD, SIPC, and Registered Investment Advisor
P.O. Box 64284
St. Paul, MN 55164

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

Jones Fish and Lake Management



Free Catalog

- Fish for Stocking - all types available
- Aeration Systems and Fountains
- Weed Control
- Water Gardens and Ornamental Fish

Toll Free: 1-800-662-3474

Free Delivery with min. order



JOHN DEERE

Calvin Cahall President Kyle Cahall General Sales Manager Roland Cahall Aftermarket Manager

CAHALL BROS., INC.

946 South Main Street - Georgetown, Ohio 45121
(937) 378-6439 800-474-4095 Fax (937) 378-4283

Email: cahallbros@cahallbros.com
Website: www.cahallbros.com

Sales Parts Service



Farm Credit Services OF MID-AMERICA

"Farm & Country Home Loans"

18848 S.R. 136 1-800-321-3013
Winchester, OH 45697 1-937-695-0993

www.e-farmcredit.com

Operating, Livestock, Equipment, Real Estate Loans,
Equipment & Facility Leasing, Home & Lot Loans,
New Home Construction

Kathy S. Conaway, Ag or Wendy Osborn, Consumer

R & L Pond Builders, Inc.



Pond Builders
New Construction
Enlargements
Repairs, Problems

Free Estimates (513) 876-2154

2790 Chilo-Cem. Mck. Ch. Rd.
Felicity, OH 45120

What is a Frost Hollow?

As Fall approaches, cooler temperatures will inevitably start filtering into Clermont County. These cooler temperatures bring with them the added risk of frost. Frost occurs on a surface when that surface reaches 32° F or below and there is sufficient moisture in the air. The first frost of the Fall generally marks the end of the growing season. In Clermont County, this first frost event occurs during the third week in October on average. However, the first frost is capable of occurring as early as September or as late as November. When the first frost comes early, it can catch gardeners and farmers off guard, leading to damaged crops, vegetables, fruit, and flowers.



Some areas in Clermont County are warmer than others. Nighttime temperatures in more urbanized portions of Clermont County as well as the Ohio River Valley usually remain warmer than the open countryside and smaller stream valleys. This is because several buildings combined with a lot of concrete and blacktop absorb heat during the day and radiate it during the night. Because water has a high specific heat, the Ohio River tends to moderate temperatures in the Ohio River Valley. Conversely, rural areas and the smaller, deep valleys will have colder overnight temperatures. On calm, clear nights, cold air behaves much like water. It will flow downhill and collect in the lowest areas. Small, deep valleys allow cold air to build because the cold air is relatively isolated from the larger, slightly warmer regional air mass. These valleys where cold air tends to collect are known as "frost hollows" or "frost pockets". There is no doubt that several frost pockets exist in Clermont County. Frost hollows can be 8 - 10° F cooler than the surrounding land. In some extreme cases, frost hollows have even had temperatures that were 20° + cooler than surrounding terrain! Frost hollows typically also have shorter growing seasons than nearby land, having later frosts in the Spring and earlier frosts in the Fall.

If you live in or have plants in a low area you suspect may be a frost hollow, there are a few things you should do:

1. Be extra vigilant in caring for your plants. Cover or bring in tender vegetation even when your friendly TV Meteorologist forecasts low temperatures in the low 40s, because it may get down to 30° F in your frost hollow!
2. Try not to plant anything with exceptionally long growing seasons (longer than 180 days) in frost pockets.
3. Avoid planting more southern species of perennials in frost-prone areas. These species will grow poorly.
4. Keep a thermometer that records daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Then compare your readings with the temperatures you see on television or read in the newspaper. This way you'll gain a better understanding how temperatures behave on your property in relation to more regional temperatures.

If you have any more questions on frost hollows or related topics, give Josh a call at the SWCD office, 732-7075.

Renew Ohio! Alternative Energy Applications in Ohio

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies are rapidly developing in Ohio and can provide good jobs and clean, dependable energy for Ohioans. Come to the Clermont County Renew Ohio meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Office of Environmental Quality and find out about the

feasibility and latest developments in alternative energy solutions for residents and business in Ohio. John Fanselow, Southwest Project Coordinator for Green Energy Ohio will discuss emerging alternative energy technology and its impact on Ohio communities. The meeting will be held on Tue. evening, Nov. 27 at 7pm at the Union Twp Civic Center located on Aicholtz Road. Contact Cyn Macke 553-7349 for additional information.

Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 4.



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

- Annual Meeting October 25 - p. 1
- SWCD to Provide Dry Hydrant grants - p. 1
- Board Candidate Info - p. 2
- Stream Restoration Beginning - p. 3
- Winery Tour - p. 3
- Farm Tour - p. 4
- What is a Frost Hollow? - p. 5
- Renew Ohio! Meeting - p. 5

Inside this issue:

Phone: 513-732-7075
Fax: 513-732-7077
Email: soil_water@fuse.net
Web: www.clermontswcd.org

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OWENSVILLE, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 21

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 on the Fairgrounds, Thursday, October 25, 2007.

Name(s) (print) _____

Address/City/State/Zip (print) _____

Signature _____

Signature (if requesting 2 ballots) _____

This form must arrive at our office by October 12, 2007 and absentee ballot must be in our office by 4:00 pm October 25, 2007. Our mailing address is: Clermont SWCD, P.O. Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets

October 25, 2007 Multipurpose Building at the Fairgrounds, Owensville

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

No. Attending _____ Telephone No. _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$4.00 for 12 and under. Please mail check and order form to
Clermont SWCD
Attn: Susie Steffensen
P.O. Box 549
Owensville, OH 45160