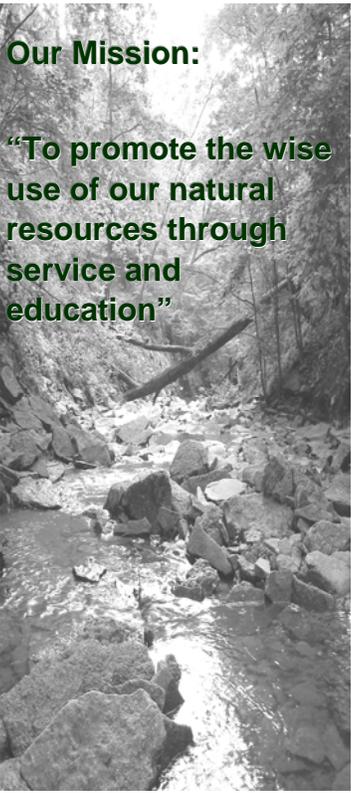


Spring 2011



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

Conservation Sale Edition!!

Balanced Growth Planning Continues

Members of the Middle East Fork Watershed Planning Partnership are continuing their work to develop a Balanced Growth Land Use Plan for the Middle East Fork Watershed. The Balanced Growth Plan seeks to balance economic development with natural resource protection by prioritizing areas suitable for development and conservation. A set of recommended planning tools/practices will be included for use by jurisdictions, along with general recommendations for local incentives to encourage landowners and developers to implement the Balanced Growth recommendations.

Support for this initiative continues to grow, as local jurisdictions and key stakeholders recognize the advantages of implementing a voluntary and incentive-based land use plan. The "Priority Development" and "Priority Conservation" land use designations do not limit property rights; these designations simply open up the possibility of utilizing state (and/or local) incentives if jurisdictions and landowners choose to implement the recommended land use. While there's much work to be done to develop local incentives, this approach provides a win-win scenario for communities and individual landowners. Communities can continue to foster economic growth while protecting important resources and landowners are still able to realize the full potential of their property.

For more information on the Balanced Growth project or to view a list of the Watershed Planning Partnership Members, please visit:

<http://clermontswcd.org/balancedgrowth.aspx>

Mark your calendars now! Volunteers are needed for the 19th Annual East Fork River Sweep. This annual event will be held on **Saturday, April 30th** from 9:00 a.m. to lunchtime. 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. 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.

(Continued on page 2: Riversweep)

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- DISTRICT STAFF
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 Susie Steffensen
 Rebecca McClatchey
 Jacob Hahn

(Continued from page 1: Riversweep)

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, contact East Fork State Park office at 734-4323 and ask for watershed coordinator Becky McClatchey.



River Sweep, contact East Fork State Park office at 734-4323 and ask for watershed coordinator Becky McClatchey.

NOTE: Children under 18 will need to have a waiver signed by their parents to participate.

Rural Stormwater the Urban Way?

Many Ohioans are closely observing the dire situation of the newly distressed watershed of Grand Lake St. Mary's in Mercer County. What is the plan to address these water quality issues? Agencies in Clermont County are taking a proactive approach to the issue by integrating traditional agricultural best management practices (BMP's) with urban stormwater practices.

Clermont County SWCD, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Office of Environmental Quality, USEPA, OSU Extension and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have collaborated to address local agricultural runoff. A USDA Conservation Initiative Grant (CIG) was recently submitted for area farmers to fund environmental practices. According to FSA executive director, Steve Anderson, "What we are currently doing is just not enough; innovative methods need to occur to address the unique soils found in the county".

The objectives of the grant is to create a non-traditional treatment scheme to improve water quality, focusing on the onsite removal of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus. Many of these approaches are currently utilized in urban settings as detention basins and bio-swales. In addition, the use of a cover cropping system will provide ground cover to fields during the dormant season, further reducing erosion and pollution.

Nearly half of the county obtains drinking water from East Fork Lake; making the quality and safety of this water source a major interest to all residents within the county. If awarded the CIG grant, the collaborative hopes to begin the project this summer.

Pond Clinic to be Held April 19th

If you own or are planning on building a pond, plan on attending the Clermont SWCD's annual pond clinic on **Tuesday, April 19 at 6pm**. The clinic is free and there will be door prizes available.

Last year was extremely stressful for ponds in our area. Come learn about the new information available about pond health and maintenance, including hazardous algae and Asian carp.

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

Subjects to be discussed:

- pond construction
- aquatic weed control
- fish stocking
- aeration
- Nuisance wildlife control



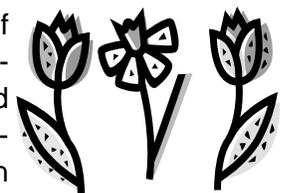
Grants for Rain Gardens Available

There are still several \$100 grants available for anyone interested in constructing a rain garden. Rain gardens are beautiful landscape features filled with deep rooting native plants.



They often attract various kinds of wildlife. Rain gardens collect stormwater from rooftops, driveways, and roads. The native plants help filter and slow down stormwater, which in turn keep our streams and lakes clean.

Contact the district office if you are interested in constructing a rain garden and receiving a grant, at 732-7075. An application can also be found on our website



www.clermontswcd.org/raingardengrantapp.pdf

2011 CONSERVATION PLANT SALE

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District

Order Form on Back & Descriptions Inside!

Orders Taken : Until April 8, 2011

Pick Up Date: April 16, 2011, 8:30AM - 2:00 PM

Order Form Also Available at clermontswcd.org

Why Plant Natives?

Susie Steffensen, Administrative Assistant

Ahhh, Can you feel it coming? Local nurseries and garden centers are gearing up for the 2011 planting season. Plants in a rainbow of colors with interesting shapes, textures and leaves will soon be available to all us gardeners. A majority of nurseries and garden centers carry predominantly non-natives; those plants that grow naturally in other parts of the world and have been cultivated in North America for their ornamental value.

Sadly, along with urbanization and development, gardens made up exclusively of non-native plantings are contributing to a decline in habitat and natural resources needed for our insects, birds, and other wildlife. A mix of natives and non-natives provide habitat and food for our wildlife, and color and interest to the homeowner.

1. A large number of insects rely exclusively on native plants for food and habitat; and a lot of homeowners don't like bugs. It's time to change our way of thinking; less bugs and loss of habitat is causing our song bird populations to drop rapidly, in some areas 5 to 10% a year. Without food and shelter, some bird species could face extinction. (Native plants supply a food source to a multitude of wildlife species as well as habitat and nesting materials).

2. Non-native plants require more maintenance and resources – more trimming and pruning, more water and periodic applications of pesticide and fertilizer in order to thrive. That big front lawn is expensive to maintain, requires excessive amounts of water to survive, and offers few benefits to the environment. (By the way, native plants require little or no maintenance, fertilizer or water **once established**.)

3. Non-native gardens and lawns are more costly (see #2 above) and their maintenance contributes to air pollution in the form of mower, trimmer and blower emissions.

If every homeowner would plant some native plants on their property, we would be on our way to re-establishing habitat for wildlife and improving our environmental health. Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District is including more native plants in the 2011 Conservation Plant Sale. New this year we have Sugar Maples for reforestation or as foundation trees, and Spicebush for its bright Fall color and wildlife benefits. Read more about these and other native plants inside, or contact Clermont SWCD with questions at 513-732-7075.

The Clermont SWCD is offering 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 6 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.

In addition to trees and groundcovers, we will have **bird houses, rain barrels and compost bins**. There are descriptions of all these items and an order form in this newsletter. The deadline to place orders is **April 8, 2010**. Please send your check or money order with your completed order form to Clermont SWCD.

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. Make your planting hole deep enough to accommodate the roots. It is better to prune the roots with scissors than to wad or curl the roots to make them fit in your planting hole.
3. Plant so that the roots are free, not cramped. Trim any broken roots. Ground level should be where the roots stop and the stem begins.
4. Plant the seedling at the same depth as it was in the nursery.
5. Water thoroughly. Use only water soluble fertilizer with root stimulating ingredients.
6. Mulch, mulch, mulch! Dried grass clippings, ground up leaves or commercially available organic mulches will suppress weeds and hold in moisture.

7. WATER SEEDLINGS FAITHFULLY THE FIRST 2 YEARS



2011 Conservation Plant Sale



Packet A Eastern White Pine \$12.00
 Prefers sun, partial shade OK. PINUS STROBUS 10 /pkt.
 4 year / 12-22" bare root

Native Species; 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 G River Birch \$8.00
 Full to partial sun BETULA NIGRA 1/pkt.
 36-48 inch bare root

Native Species; the River Birch has become a popular landscape tree because of its distinctive bark and graceful crown. The cinnamon-colored, exfoliating bark of the River Birch is spectacular in the winter. Its small but plentiful seeds are appreciated by a wide range of songbirds. 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 B Norway Spruce \$12.00
 prefers sun, partial shade OK. PICEA ABIES 10 /pkt.
 4 year / 12-24" bare root

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 H 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 C American Plum \$10.00
 Prefers sun PRUNUS AMERICANA 2/pkt.
 3-4 ft. bare root

Native Species; 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 I American Hazelnut \$12.00
 Deep shade to full sun CORYLUS AMERICANA 3/pkt.
 24-36" bare root

Native Species; this large, fast growing thicket forming shrub has a mature height of 10-18 feet and is perfect for naturalizing or as a screen or windbreak. Leaves turn orange to red-purple in the fall. American Hazelnut shrubs are used for wildlife plantings and the nuts are prized by cooks throughout Europe and the US. Nuts also known as filberts.

Packet D White Flowering Dogwood \$10.00
 Shade to full sun CORNUS FLORIDA 3/pkt.
 18 to 24 inch bare root

Native Species; small tree with spectacular white flowers in early spring. Tolerates shade as well as full sun. Excellent as a landscaping tree. Red fruits are an important food for many birds and other

Packet J Sugar Maple \$10.00
 Sun or Part Sun ACER SACCRUM 3/pkt.
 18-24 inch bare root

Native Species; brilliant Fall color, sap for maple syrup, and important forest tree, the Sugar Maple can reach mature heights of 60 to 75 feet. This maple can tolerate shade when young, but grows best in full sun. Not good as a curbside tree.

Packet E Tulip Poplar \$10.00
 Prefers sun LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA 3/pkt.
 18-24" bare root

Native Species; 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. Fast growth rate; will grow to heights of 50 to 100 ft with trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet.

Packet K Spicebush \$10.00
 Sun to part shade LINDERA BENZOIN 3/pkt.
 18-24" bare root

Native Species; A light fragrance, yellow fall color and pest tolerance makes this plant perfect for the shrub border. The Spicebush attracts birds and butterflies and serves as host plant for butterfly larva. Rabbits and deer browse on leaves and twigs. Mature height of 10-20 feet. Spicy yellow to red fruit are something of a delicacy, as not many shrubs set fruit.

Packet F Eastern Redbud \$12.00
 Prefers partial shade CERCIS CANADENSIS 3/pkt.
 18-24 inch bare root

Native Species; brilliant purple flowers in early spring. Very effective in mass plantings/ naturalized settings. Large, dark green heart-shaped leaves turning bright yellow in fall. Northern bobwhite and songbirds eat the seeds and this tree provides nesting sites and cover for both birds and small mammals. Grows to 25 feet.

See our new rain barrels!
 New Style! Lower Price!

GROUNDCOVERS

Packet G1 **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 G2 **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 G3 **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. ** Can be invasive if not managed

RAIN BARRELS

RB **Rain Barrel** **\$75.00**



Conserve municipal water supply and cut household water bills by up to 40%. Rain water is an excellent water source for lawns, plants and gardens.

The use of rain barrels lowers municipal water demands and saves energy at water treatment facilities by reducing water pollution and storm water runoff.

FEATURES

- 55 gallon capacity
- Constructed of up to 50% recycled materials
- Mosquito mesh keeps bugs and leaf debris out
- Lid is screwed onto base for added safety
- Easily accommodates existing downspouts
- Overflow hose can be linked to another rain barrel. Installation instructions, spigot, screws, overflow hose and clamp included
- BPA free

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.

Plant spacing in inches	50 plants	100 plants	150 plants	200 plants
24	200sq ft	400sq ft	600sq ft	800sq ft
18	112.5sq ft	225sq ft	337.5sq ft	450sq ft
12	50sq ft	100sq ft	150sq ft	200sq ft
6	12.5sq ft	25sq ft	37.5sq ft	50sq ft

BIRD HOUSE & FEEDERS

BH1 **Bluebird House** **\$ 15.00**

Made from red cedar, this nesting box is naturally weather resistant and ideal for Bluebirds.

Includes mounting hardware and hinged door for easy



BF2 **Cedar Bird Feeder** **\$ 22.00**

This cedar hopper style bird feeder holds 5 lbs. of seed and has 2 suet cake holders. Made locally.



BF3 **Ecozebo** **\$ 9.00**

This ecologically friendly bird feeder's roof & base are made from recycled decking waste here in the USA. Feeder holds 2.5 lbs. of seed.



COMPOST BINS

CB **Compost Bin** **\$45.00**



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.

- 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
- 10 year manufacturer warranty
- Vertical and horizontal columnar ventilation

2011 ORDER FORM - CLERMONT SWCD

Pkt.	Description	Plants/pkt.	Plant Size	Price/pkt.	# of pkts.	Total Cost	Pkt.
A	Eastern White Pine	10	12-22"	\$12.00			A
B	Norway Spruce	10	12-24"	\$12.00			B
C	American Plum	2	36-48"	\$10.00			C
D	White Flowering Dogwood	3	18-24"	\$10.00			D
E	Tulip Poplar	3	18-24"	\$10.00			E
F	Redbud	3	18-24"	\$12.00			F
G	River Birch	1	36-48"	\$ 8.00			G
H	Butterfly Bush	3	18-24"	\$10.00			H
I	American Hazelnut	3	24-36"	\$12.00			I
J	Sugar Maple	3	18-24"	\$10.00			J
K	Spicebush	3	18-24"	\$10.00			K



Denotes Ohio Native Trees/Shrubs

Cut Here →

GROUNDCOVERS

G-1	Pachysandra	32/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-1
G-2	Periwinkle	48/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-2
G-3	Crown Vetch	48/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-3

BIRD HOUSE and FEEDERS

BH1	Bluebird House	1		\$15.00			BH1
BF2	Cedar Bird Feeder	1		\$22.00			BF2
BF3	Ecozebo	1		\$9.00			BF3

RAIN BARRELS & COMPOSTERS

RB	Rain Barrel	1	55 gallon	\$75.00			RB
CB	Compost Bin	1	80 gallon	\$45.00			CB

Donation to Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District.... Thank You!!

All proceeds and donations go towards conservation education and outreach programs

Total Due

A check must accompany your order. Please make check payable and send to:

Clermont SWCD, PO Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160 *we cannot accept credit cards *

Check #: _____

You must make arrangements to pick up your order on April 16th, as we cannot ship or hold orders.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Those “Dam” Trees

Jacob Hahn, District Technician

Among the most utilized SWCD services requested, is site assessments of the counties 4,000+ ponds. As a pond owner, you understand there is much more about maintaining these structures beyond what fish to stock. Most problems associated with ponds are due to the lack of knowledge; rather than blatant disregard to a given situation. One of the most prevalent problems throughout the county is the placement or growth of woody plants on embankment dams.

The dam structure is the weakest area on a constructed pond and usually the most abused. If a pond should fail, this is where it would most commonly occur. One of the leading reasons for dam failure or leakage is the presence of trees and brush on the spillways and dam. Imagine what a tree root will do if planted in close proximity to a city sidewalk and multiply that by all the trees growing on your dam.

The extensive root systems can produce voids within the dam as roots grow and die off naturally; creating a pathway for water to flow. An early sign of trouble is wet areas on the downstream side of the dam during dry weather. A leak that is detected early is “easiest” to repair. Fallen trees leave large voids, causing increased erosion that may lead to imminent dam failure. Uncontrolled growth will inhibit maintenance inspections, attract nuisance wildlife including groundhogs and muskrats, and may lead to failure and possible legal ramifications.

Removal can be conducted by mowing, pulling, or by a cut and brush method with herbicides (do not spray). Stumps should be removed to a depth of six inches below ground surface and the cavity filled with well compacted soil. Quick grass establishment will limit effects of erosion. Mowing the embankment should occur at least twice a year to discourage woody plants and nuisance wildlife and to allow for the visual inspection of the structure. Mowing should not occur on wet slopes.

Additional information can be found on the district website, including links to ODNR Dam Safety publications on which this article was based. If you have concerns with the safety of your pond or would like a general assessment, allow our office to assist you in making the proper management decisions. The District’s goal is to help you construct and maintain a safe, functional, and attractive pond.

Plan to attend our upcoming pond clinic and Dam Safety Workshop.

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



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 A membership organization which fights for fair property taxes, property rights, and the interest of agriculture.
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P.O. Box 549

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District

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Calendar of Events

SWCD Board Meeting	Mar. 9
Public Officials Dam Safety Mtg.	Mar. 30
Dam Owners Dam Safety Mtg.	Apr. TBD
SWCD Board Meeting	Apr. 13
Conservation Sale Pick-up	Apr. 16
Pond Clinic	Apr. 19
East Fork River Sweep	Apr. 30
SWCD Board Meeting	May 12
Office Closed (Memorial Day)	May 30