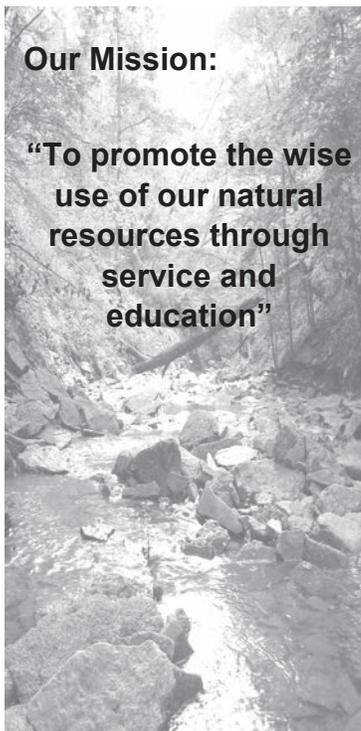


Summer 2014

Our Mission:

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



District to Assist in HAB Detection in Harsha

In May 2014, Clermont SWCD began a joint effort with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and East Fork Watershed Cooperative to monitor harmful algal blooms (HABs) at the main beach of East Fork (Harsha) Lake. With funding provided by USGS, the District has hired an intern to conduct 20 rounds of sampling on a weekly basis throughout the summer. Samples collected will be analyzed for indicators of harmful algal blooms (such as phycocyanin – a pigment produced by the blue-green algae), as well as the toxins produced by the algae.

For the past three years, the beaches at East Fork Lake in Clermont County have experienced problems with HABs. These types of blooms involve blue-green algae which produce toxins that 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. 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.

For more information on harmful algal blooms and conditions at Harsha Lake and other Ohio lakes, visit <http://epa.ohio.gov/habalgae.aspx>

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- David Anspach
- Joe Glassmeyer
- Melody Newman
- Steve Phillips
- Todd Winemiller

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Lenhart- District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

- John McManus
- Judy Krebs
- Susie Steffensen
- Becky McClatchey
- Jacob Hahn

Meet our Summer Intern



Alex sampling water clarity at East Fork Lake (Harsha)

Alex DelValle joined Clermont SWCD as a summer intern on May 14. Alex is currently a graduate student at Miami University’s Institute for the Environment and Sustainability, where he is concentrating his studies on Applied Ecology and Conservation. Alex obtained his Bachelor’s Degree from Kent State University in May of 2012. In addition to his work with the District and his studies, he also serves as Laboratory Manager for the Butler County Stream Team, and recently completed a project for the City of Oxford’s Environmental Commission that mapped storm water management

basins for the city and provided valuable input on its public education and involvement programs. Welcome, Alex!

What Does a SWCD Supervisor Do?

Board Supervisors guide the district, its staff, and cooperating agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in the county that address management and conservation of soil, water and related resources. Board members should have a sincere interest in conservation and must have the enthusiasm, dedication and the time to serve as an elected official. This is a volunteer position, but supervisors can be reimbursed for mileage & expenses (registration, lodging, meals, etc.) related to events involving soil & water professionals.

Three areas of focus for a board supervisor are policy development, planning and budget for the district and working with the district staff. A supervisor's primary focus is on setting policy and long term objectives, not the management of day to day operations. The staff then implements these policies and objectives to ensure that the district is proceeding in the general direction laid out by the board. The supervisors also work closely with the District Administrator to identify training needs, develop personnel policy and set work priorities.

What a potential supervisor needs to know:

- * Candidate must be over 18 years old and a resident of Clermont County
- * This is a volunteer position and runs in 3 year terms
- * Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM and normally run 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- * Attendance at occasional outside meetings, events or trainings is required

If you are interested in becoming a Board Supervisor for Clermont SWCD, please contact John McManus, District Administrator at (513) 732-7075 Ext: 103.

Rain Station™ Rain Barrel \$75.00

Rain Barrels are still available for purchase at the SWCD office. If you missed your chance to pick up one of these during our conservation sale, they are still available for a limited time. Call to pick yours up today!!



FEATURES include 65 gallon capacity, all parts necessary for installation, constructed from 25-35% recycled materials, and comes with a FlexiFit™ diverter to return rainwater to downspout when barrel is full - no spillover.

Volunteers “Fight Dirty” at Clean-Up Event

The 2014 Spring Litter Clean-Up was a great success! Over 460 volunteers came out on May 3rd to help remove nearly 4 tons of trash from 13 sites across Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River Watershed.



Milford Junior High students “Fight Dirty” to clean up a site along the East Fork Little Miami River.

The East Fork Watershed Collaborative and Valley View Foundation worked together again to coordinate the event. The annual clean-up event provides an excellent opportunity for local volunteers to do their part to enhance and protect their communities, while also enjoying the outdoors.

A special thank you to the event sponsors: Little Miami Conservancy, Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Clermont County Convention Visitors Bureau, Clermont Co. Park District, IGA Owensville, Kroger, Clermont County Water Resources Dept., Adams County Solid Waste District, Loveland Canoe & Kayak. Thank you also to our partnering agencies, including ODNR State Parks, ODNR Division of Watercraft, Clermont Office of Environmental Quality, Brown Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Harsha Lake).

Duke Energy Grant Brings New Rain Gardens to Clermont County

Thanks to a grant received from the Duke Energy Foundation, Clermont SWCD and its partners have recently completed two new public demonstration rain gardens at Veterans Park in Union Township and at the Thomas A. Wildey Center on U.S. 50 west of Owensville. In both cases, the rain gardens will help treat storm water runoff from parking lots and will also provide enjoyment for everyone who visits. A third garden in Miami Township is in the planning stages.

Clermont SWCD teamed with Greenacres Foundation and the Greater Cincinnati Rain Garden Alliance to design the gardens. At Veterans Park, a native shrub garden was planted that will have year-round interest. In conjunction with the creation of this garden, SWCD held a rain garden workshop on April 5, where Anne Lyon of Greenacres Foundation and Pam Simmons of Turpin Farms presented valuable guidance on everything from finding a good location for a rain garden, to sizing and preparing the bed and selecting the plants. Despite the cold and wind, the workshop was well attended.

For the second rain garden at the Wildey Center, which provides services for people from birth to adulthood with disabilities, special attention was given to selecting plants that will engage the senses of the students. Several plants that will attract birds and butterflies were included, including Swamp Milkweed and Blue Columbine. Some, like Little Joe Pye Weed, were also selected for their nice fragrance, and others, like Fountain Grass and Prairie Phlox, were chosen for their interesting textures.



Volunteers planting Wildey rain garden

Jo Praschak, Specialized Training Coordinator for the Wildey Community Integration Program, said “We are excited about the rain garden because it will give the individuals an opportunity to interact in a natural environment and will foster a sense of accomplishment and well-being. It has been our experience that when individuals get to be a part of nature, it increases their positive feelings and level of contentment.”

Warren Walker, Duke Energy’s District Manager for Community and Government Relations, said “Duke Energy enjoys working with creative partners like the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. We appreciate the District’s expertise and their ability to promote the use of rain gardens throughout Clermont County by installing these demonstration gardens. Duke Energy values the communities in which we serve, and appreciates our strong partnerships with organizations like Clermont Soil & Water.”

A third public rain garden will be planted in Miami Township some time in 2014. Watch our web site (www.clermontswcd.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ClermontSWCD) for updates.

Clermont County Farm Bureau

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

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Calendar of Events	
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	July 4
SWCD Board Meeting	July 10- 5 pm
Clermont County Fair	July 23-29
SWCD Board Meeting	August 14- 5pm
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Sept. 2
SWCD Board Meeting	Sept. 11- 5 pm
SWCD Annual Meeting	Sept. 25

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

Phone: 513-732-7075

Web: www.clermontswcd.org

<http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd>

<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>

Clermont SWCD Seeking Volunteers

Do you have a genuine interest in our natural resources and environmental conservation? If so, a volunteer position with the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District may be the perfect fit for you!

Volunteers are an important aspect of our conservation programming and we have many interesting and rewarding opportunities available. Volunteers are needed to assist Clermont SWCD staff with field work, public education, event planning and various administrative tasks. Through our office, you can also become a member of the NRCS Earth Team, a federal volunteer program that allows individuals to get involved in a variety of exciting local conservation projects. Contact our office to learn more!

Annual Meeting Slated For September 25th!

—Pattison Park Lodge—

Please save the date to help us celebrate another great year of conservation at our **71st Annual Meeting Banquet**. This year's event will be held at the Clermont County Park District's Pattison Park just west of Owensville on State Route 50. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Election polls will remain open until 6:45 - two board supervisors will be elected.

Additional meeting information will be included in our autumn newsletter.

If your address is incorrect or you would like to be added / removed from our mailing list, 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.