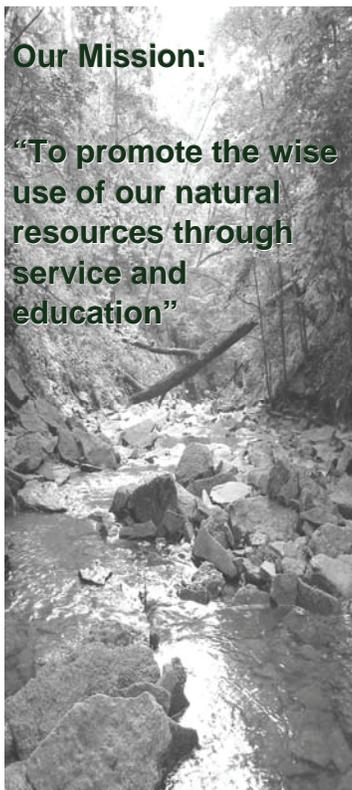


Winter 2010

Our Mission:

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



District and Partners Celebrate Successful Year in Conservation!

The District and its partners celebrated another successful year of conservation on October 28th at the District's 67th Annual Meeting held at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. The evening included the SWCD Supervisor election, and newcomer Melody Newman of Wayne Township was elected to a 3-yr. term of office (see full article on p. 2).



Dave Anspach recognizes Meri Johnson who is retiring from the board of supervisors after 12 years of service

Following a festive dinner, Cooperator of the Year Bill Rogers of Wayne Township, was recognized for his outstanding stewardship efforts (see article p. 6). The evening continued with a presentation highlighting the SWCD's programs and projects in 2010, followed by a rousing bluegrass performance by the Mule Skinner Band.

(Continued on page 5)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- David Anspach
- Joe Glassmeyer
- Meri Johnson
- Steve Phillips
- David Smith

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Hillman - District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

- Paul Berringer
- Judy Krebs
- Susie Steffensen
- Rebecca McClatchey
- Jacob Hahn

Stakeholders Weigh in on Balanced Growth

This fall Clermont SWCD held three public meetings for the Middle East Fork Balanced Growth land use planning project. Local stakeholders attended working sessions to discuss important community issues and to select key factors to identify priority areas for development and conservation. These factors are being used to create draft maps that show the location of priority areas in the watershed. These maps are in **Draft** form and are **not** the final product. The jurisdictions in the project area are currently reviewing the maps to ensure the locations of priority areas are consistent with local priorities. These maps will be made available on the Clermont County GIS website: <http://gis.clermontcountyohio.gov/>

(Continued on page 5)

Newman Elected to Board of Supervisors

In the election held October 28th, Melody Newman was elected to the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors. Melody has been a teacher at Clermont Northeastern for 32 years where she currently teaches fifth grade Science and Language Arts .



Melody received her bachelor's degree from Morehead State University and her masters from Northern Kentucky University. She has lived her entire life in Clermont County and currently resides near Stonelick Lake.

Melody will be sworn in by an Ohio Supreme Court Justice at the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Meeting in Columbus. Appointments begin January 1, 2011.

Congratulations to Melody and thank you for serving your conservation district and county!

Special thanks to all our sponsors in 2010 through newsletter advertising, door prizes, and donations!

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SW Ohio Experiences Dry Summer

Precipitation during the 2010 calendar year is below normal across most of the state with only the North Central and South Central regions being above normal. The state average is 30.97 inches, 1.31 inches below normal. Regional averages range from 36.62 inches, 1.97 inches above normal, for the South Central Region to 27.91 inches, 1.15 inches below normal, for the Northwest Region.



The 2011 water year (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011) is not off to a particularly good start as far as precipitation is concerned, except in areas of north central and northeastern Ohio. Near-normal precipitation during the next several months should provide adequate recharge for water supplies. According to the NOAA Climate Prediction Center, current predictions point to above normal temperatures and precipitation across most of Ohio during the upcoming winter season.

The August-October 2010 period has been unusually dry throughout most of the state with the western one-third exceptionally dry. During these 3 months, 4.43 inches of precipitation has fallen in the Southwest Region, 4.47 inches below normal, while in the Northwest Region, 4.69 inches of precipitation has fallen, 3.63 inches below normal. This ranks as the 4th driest August-October period during the past 128 years of record for the Southwest Region and the 5th driest for the Northwest Region. An example of how dry it has been in some areas of the state is in Fernbank (Hamilton County) where a total of 3.08 inches of rain has fallen during the August-October period, 6.96 inches below normal.

Source—ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources- Monthly Water Inventory Report for October.

New Tree Disease Found in Tennessee

Most people are aware of the problems Ohio and the Midwest are having with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the detrimental effects that is likely to occur on our woodlands and landscapes. Another problem is lurking on the horizon for Ohio's trees in the form of a deadly fungus. This fungus called Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) has been wreaking havoc with walnut trees in the western US and was recently located in Knoxville Tennessee.

TCD was first discovered in New Mexico in 2001 and later found in eight other states, mainly on the west coast. The July 2010 discovery in TN is believed to have been present for most of the last decade and is the only known find east of the Mississippi River.

The fungus is spread by a native bark beetle called the Walnut Twig Beetle. It "hitches" a ride on the beetles as they go from tree to tree. Once a tree has been infected with the fungus, cankers form under the bark and rob the tree of essential nutrients, eventually girdling the tree, much like a tourniquet. Death of the tree will occur within 1-3 years following infection. External symptoms will include yellowing and sudden wilting of leaves, and branch dieback. Infection normally begins in the branches of the tree, entering the main stem where beetles overwinter.

Walnut is an important tree for both the ecosystem of a forest and the commercial products that it produces. The nut that this tree produces is an important food source to wildlife. Products that come from the wood, nuts, and hulls is a multimillion dollar



Green Nuts of Black Walnut

business in the US. Nuts are popular in ice cream and baked goods, while the hulls are used in dye and sandpaper. The wood is favored by woodworkers because of its dark black color and its easy

workability. Once used in WWII for airplane propellers, it is used today to make gunstocks, furniture, flooring, coffins, and musical instruments, to name a few. Walnut has been a popular choice in tree plantations for both wildlife and economic benefits.

Early detection is the only way to combat TCD by pruning and the proper disposal of infected limbs. Chemicals may not be effective on this disease. The use of Imidaclopid insecticide, which is used for



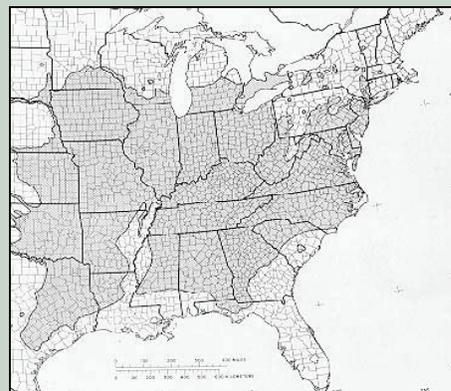
Adult Walnut Twig Beetle

combating EAB on ash trees, have been used to control the walnut twig beetle, but will not kill the fungus. The best prevention of TCD is restrictions on the movement of

walnut products. Quarantines are currently being established and walnut movement will be restricted much like ash products.

Currently there is no timeframe to when Ohio trees will be at risk, or if the problem is already present north of the Ohio River. Dutch Elm Disease, also a fungus disease, has caused dramatic tree loss on our street trees since the 1960's, and may be an indicator of how TCD will behave. Some experts believe that the walnut tree will decline as did the American Chestnut and American Elm. Currently the only trees that are affected by TCD are all native walnuts and English Walnuts. It is not known where this disease originated.

For more information visit the website:
www.thousandcankerdisease.com



Native Range of Black Walnut, (*Juglans nigra*)

Thanks to All Our Cooperators for the Conservation Best Management Practices Installed This Year!

AES Asset Mgt	Forest Stand Improvement (2)	
Craig Bailey	Dry Hydrant	
Troy Baker	Waste Storage Facility, Fence(2), Pasture and Hay Planting, Heavy Use Area	
Kimberly Becker	Pipeline, Heavy Use Area (4), Watering Facilities (3)	
Roger Bedinghaus	Fence, Pipeline, Watering Facility	
W A Byrne	Forest Stand Improvement (2)	
Randy Dean	Pipe Drop Structure	
Kathleen DeMougin	Rain Garden	
Barry Denham	Dry Hydrant	
Lee Eubanks	Pasture and Hay Planting	
Robbie Fischer	Heavy Use Area	
Christina Freeman	Pipeline, Heavy Use Area, Access Road, Watering Facility	
Rebecca Geiger	Forage Harvest Management, Pest Management (2), Cover Crop, Residue Management, Conservation Crop Rotation, Nutrient Management	
L&L Farm Holdings	Pasture and Hay Planting	
Linda Gonzalez	Watering Facility (4), Heavy Use Area, Access Road, Pipeline (3), Pasture and Hay Planting	
Donald Graves	Access Road, Heavy Use Area	
Mark Greifenkamp	Forest Stand Improvement	
Billy Hazelbaker	Waste Storage Facility	
Greg Hensley	Waste Storage Facility, Pasture and Hay Planting	
Hal Herron	Till/Strip Till, Nutrient Management, Cover Crops	
Buck Jarman	Fence (3), Heavy Use Area (2), Access Road	
Karen Johnson	Fence (2), Pipeline, Access Road, Heavy Use Area (2)	
Gale Kern	Rain Garden	
League of Animal Welfare	Rain Garden	
James Liming	WASCOB, Subsurface Drainage	
David Longworth	Forest Stand Improvement	
Elaine Miller	Heavy Use Area	
Steve Monterososo	Heavy Use Area	
James Napier	Watering Facility(2), Spring Development, Pump Plant, Pipeline, Pasture and Hay Planting (2) , Fence (2)	
Maryann Napier	Pasture and Hay Planting (2)	
Theresa Napier	Fence	
Samual Pschesang	Forest Stand Improvement	
Albert Stahl	Cover Crops	
Eric Thompson	Forest Stand Improvement (4)	
Greg Wahl	Fence (4)	
Daniel Weber	Pasture and Hay Planting, Prescribed Grazing	
Eric Wolfer	Cover Crops	

Covered Manure Storage Facility construction at Troy Baker's Farm.

Tillage radishes grown as cover crops on Wolfer Farm.

(District Celebrate...Continued from page 1)

The evening also included a tribute to retiring board member Meri Johnson, who has served on the District Board for 12 years (thanks Meri and best wishes for a happy retirement)! The meeting concluded with some wonderful door prizes. The District would like to extend a special thank-you to all those individuals and businesses who donated funds or door prizes to help make the 2010 conservation banquet so successful.

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(Stakeholders Weigh...Continued from page 1)

Local stakeholders also met to discuss the potential incentives that could be included in the Balanced Growth plan. Because the Balanced Growth Program is voluntary and incentive-based, stakeholders considered how local and state programs could be utilized to offer incentives to landowners and developers for implementing the Balanced Growth best land use practices. The recommended incentives will be discussed later this winter and spring, as the Watershed Planning Partnership continues work to select balanced growth planning tools and implementation strategies.

Clermont SWCD is organizing a Best Land Use Practices Workshop for late February to kick-off 2011 planning. Kirby Date, a landscape architect and community planner with Cleveland State's Countryside Program, will present information on the Balanced Growth Best Land Use Practices. Her areas of expertise include development planning and design, small town planning, and planning and design for parks, open space and environmental areas.

For more information on the Balanced Growth Project, please call Becky McClatchey at 513-732-7075 or visit the Balanced Growth website: <http://clermontswcd.org/balancedgrowth.aspx>

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Calendar of Events

SWCD Office Closed (Holiday) Dec: 24
 SWCD Office Closed (Holiday) Dec: 31
 SWCD Board Meeting Jan: 12
 SWCD Office Closed (Holiday) Jan: 17
 SWCD Board Meeting Feb: 9
 SWCD Office Closed (Holiday) Feb: 21

Web: www.clermontswcd.org
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Bill Rogers Receives District Conservation Cooperator of the Year Award

Construction was completed in September 2009 on the first wetland installed in Clermont County with federal funding. Due to high property values from urban encroachment, many landowners are reluctant to tie up their agricultural land under contract for any period of time. Bill Rogers is a different story. His property adjoins Stonelick Lake State Park, and he began tossing around ideas on how to manage his 34 acre hay field.

Bill had reseeded his field about five years ago, and noticed within the first couple of years he was growing more rushes and sedges than the timothy/orchard grass mix he had seeded for his horses. At that time, he decided it was time to “quit trying to make something out of what it’s not.” After exploring many options with the assistance of NRCS, ODNR, FSA, and Clermont SWCD, he settled on a managed wetland.

At full pool, the 13 acres of shallow water will be used to manage and restore wetland habitat. A stop log structure will allow Bill to control and encourage different types of vegetation by fluctuating water levels.

Bill has been very enthusiastic throughout the entire project. And now that the wetland project has been

completed, he is very pleased with the results. He has visited the wetland almost daily since construction ended, and finds new wildlife utilizing the area each time he visits.

Bill has shown the ultimate land sacrifice by enrolling his property into a 10 year Conservation Reserve Program easement to be protected for years to come. The benefits of his wetland include water quality, wildlife habitat, and storm water control.

Wetlands were once abundant throughout most of Clermont County, which over the years most have been drained for agriculture and homesteads. Wetlands also provide enormous benefits to surrounding communities in reducing storm water runoff and downstream flooding and erosion.



Jake Hahn, Clermont SWCD Technician, left, with Bill Rogers