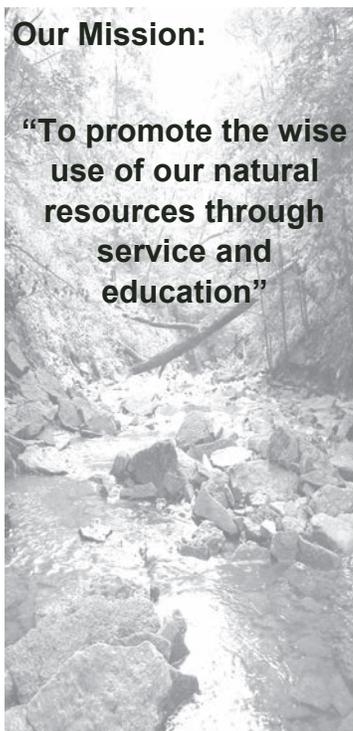


Winter 2013

Our Mission:

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



Season's Greetings



Annual Meeting Celebrates 70 Years of Conservation

Over 100 friends of conservation turned out at Pattison Park on September 12th for the 70th Annual Meeting of the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. The evening got underway with the election of one board supervisor (see article p. 2) and a tasty meal catered by Clermont Northeastern High School Food Services.

At the meeting, several conservation partners were recognized for 2012-2013 achievements in the conservation field, including Elaine Miller of Batavia Township who was honored as the District's Conservation Cooperator of the Year (see article p. 6) for her outstanding efforts.



Tom Bellar receiving the Clermont SWCD lifetime achievement award from Susie Steffensen

Rachelle Rapp-Dickerson of Milford Junior High was awarded the District's Outstanding Conservation Teacher of the Year Award. More than a decade ago she started environmental education with her classes focusing on the Little Miami River and its tributaries. The program, including river monitoring, litter clean-ups, storm drain labeling, and more, has grown to involve multiple teachers and more than 200 students each year. In the last few years the students

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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
- Rebecca McClatchey
- Jacob Hahn

Soil Quality and Nutrient Management Field Day

Local farmers are invited to attend a Farm Field Day on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, to discuss how nutrient management and best management practices (BMPs), including winter cover crops, can improve farmers' bottom line and the environment. The field day will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at a local farm in Wayne Township (3736 Lucas Rd. Blanchester, Ohio 45107).

Soil experts will be on hand to present information on the 4R Nutrient

(Field Day Continued on page 3)

Newman re-elected to SWCD Board of Supervisors



In the election held September 12th, Melody Newman was re-elected to the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors. Melody had been a teacher at Clermont Northeastern for 35 years where she taught fifth grade Science and

Language Arts before retiring in 2013.

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 County officials as she begins her second term on January 1, 2014.

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

USDA National Cover Crop Webcast

Clermont County has been selected as a viewing location for the upcoming national webcast:

NRCS is excited to announce its participation in a National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health, hosted by USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, to take place in Omaha, Nebraska, on February 18 and 19, 2014. To reach producers across the country, the morning session on February 18 will be broadcast live to landowners in NRCS and extension offices in every state and will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

4-H Hall

Clermont County Fairgrounds

February 18, 2014

AM time to be announced

Please contact the SWCD office at 513-732-7075 to register (free) and receive forthcoming information on event agenda and times as they become available.

Special thanks to all our sponsors in 2013 through newsletter advertising, door prizes, and donations!

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(Field Day Continued from page 1)

Stewardship Principles, which is choosing the Right Nutrient Source to apply at the Right Rate in the Right Place at the Right Time. A panel of local farmers will also share their experiences planting winter cover crops and discuss the different management strategies that work well for the region.

Local agricultural agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) encourage farmers to adopt the 4R Principles and BMPs as a means to increase crop production and improve profitability. These practices also help to minimize nutrient loss from fields and maintain soil fertility, while ensuring sustainable agriculture for generations to come.

Those interested in attending should register and pre-pay a \$10 fee that includes a free soil quality test kit (valued at \$30). Participants can register online at <http://clermontswcd.org/event.aspx> and mail or drop off the registration fee at:

Clermont SWCD
1000 Locust Street, P.O. Box 549
Owensville, Ohio 45160.

For questions, please contact 513-732-7075.



Winterizing your Rain Barrel

What do cold temperatures and your rain barrel have in common? Nothing! That's why it is very important to winterize your rain barrel. It is a simple and inexpensive procedure that you should do now.



Rain barrels are winterized to prevent them from being damaged. With the freezing and thawing that occurs during a typical Ohio winter, a rain barrel can easily crack and then leaks may form around the spigot. Strong winter winds may also blow it away. If you properly

winterize your rain barrel, it will last for many years to come.

To winterize your rain barrel simply drain and disconnect it from the downspout. Store it away for the winter in your garage, basement, or storage shed. If you choose to keep it outside, unscrew the spigot(s) and place a heavy object, such as a large brick, inside to weigh it down. Place all of the components inside the barrel and cover to prevent rain and snow from collecting inside the barrel. Or you can turn the barrel upside down and place a heavy object on top to weigh it down and prevent it from blowing over.

Remember to reconnect the original down spouting on the house to run roof water away from your house and its foundation.

Thanks to Summit SWCD for the article.

Call for Artists

The regional stormwater collaborative of Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky is again sponsoring a rain barrel art project to promote rain barrels in the region. Artists will be selected and given the opportunity to display their work at the Cincinnati Zoo. Please check the website below for information:

<http://savelocalwaters.org/rain-barrel-art-project>

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

AES Asset Management	Forest stand improvement (2)
R. Averwater Trust	Brush mgt., Forest stand improvement
Doug Auxier	Cover crops, Nutrient management
Martin Bezold	High tunnel
Bogie Greene Farms	Waste storage facility with cover
Boy Scouts of America	Forest stand improvement
Kelley Carameli	Raingarden
Cincinnati Nature Center	Forest stand improvement, Upland habitat management
Jerald Daniels	High tunnel, Critical area seeding
Russell Durbin	Waste storage facility with roof, Fence, Roof runoff structure
Donald Ellis	Brush management
Mark Feitlinger	High tunnel, Cover crop, Critical area seeding
Rebecca Geiger	Forage harvest management, Pest mgt. (2), Nutrient mgt., Residue mgt. (ridge till), Conservation crop rotation
Joe Glassmeyer	Residue mgt., cover crops
Goshen Park District	Raingarden
Thomas Grote	Forest Stand Improvement (4)
Greg Hensley	Fence (2), Pasture planting (2), Tree/shrub establishment
Tim Jarman	Animal waste storage facility with roof
Gail Losey	Raingarden
Brian Lung	Cover Crop
Elaine Miller	Forage and biomass planting
Dave Morgan	CNMP*
Jim Napier	Fence, Nutrient mgt. (2), Pasture planting,
Gregory Nause	Cover crops, Nutrient mgt.
Marcia Paasch	Raingarden
Douglas E RE	Brush mgt., Forest stand improvement
Bernard Schultian	Access road
Kenneth Shinkle	Waste storage facility with roof, Critical planting
Albert Stahl	Conservation crop rotation
Charles Stahl	Cover crops (2)
James Stahl	Cover crops
Stonelick Springs HOA	Forest stand improvement (4)
Dan Tarvin	Cover crops
Eric Thompson	Brush management
Anne Thornbury	Waste storage facility with cover, Heavy use area
Daniel Weber	fence (4)



High Tunnels are a way to extend the growing season and better manage water and chemical runoff .



Brush management with the removal of invasive honeysuckle before and after

(*)CNMP-Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

(2)- Number of practices completed

(Annual Mtg. continued from page 1)

have cleaned almost 300 acres of riparian land in and around Milford.

Rachelle has been instrumental in developing a wonderful relationship between Pattison Elementary School and Valley View Foundation, extending the school's classrooms into the Valley View property. Rachelle



Senator Joe Uecker recognizes Rachelle Rapp-Dickerson for her Outstanding Conservation Teacher Award on behalf of the Ohio General Assembly.

also took the lead in working with the district to create a rain garden at Milford Junior High to treat storm water runoff from the parking lot, and has assisted the District in reviewing and improving our own education programs.

Tom Bellar was honored with the district's first ever Lifetime Achievement Award. He has devoted close to 50 years to the conservation efforts in Clermont County while installing multiple conservation practices on his 155 acre property in Stonelick Twp.

Tom served three terms as a Clermont SWCD Supervisor from 1997 to 2005, devoting many hours to stream cleanups, watershed events, tree sale and other district programs.

Most recently, Tom has worked with SWCD and the Clermont County Park District to preserve his property for use as a future education facility and for passive public recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching. To help make this dream a reality, Tom has placed 52 acres of his property along Stonelick Creek into a conservation easement.

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 2013 conservation banquet a great success.

Calendar of Events

4R Nutrient Field Day	Dec. 11
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Dec. 25
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Jan. 1
SWCD Board Meeting	Jan. 8
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Jan. 20
SWCD Board Meeting	Feb. 12
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Feb. 17
USDA Cover Crop Webcast (Fairgrounds)	Feb. 18

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.

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Clermont County Farm Bureau

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

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Georgetown, OH 45121 (937)378-2212

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Fax: 513-732-7077

Web: www.clermontswcd.org

Facebook and Twitter at: /ClermontSWCD

Elaine Miller Receives District Conservation Cooperator of the Year Award

Elaine Miller operates Grassy Acres Horse Retreat in Batavia Township that borders East Fork State Park and has worked with the district for many years to improve her facility. Currently she has 20 horses that she boards on this family operation.

Elaine has installed many projects over the years through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), having had 4 contracts funded (2005, 2008, 2010, and 2013). Through this program she has increased the amount of pasture with fence and cross fence to facilitate rotational grazing for improved grassland utilization and management. Elaine has added heavy use areas for pasture protection when animals would typically damage pasture due to excessive wetness or overgrazing. Construction of an animal waste storage facility was completed to stockpile manure until it can be feasible to spread during the growing season for grasses. Pasture seeding has been done to improve forage quality and yield.

Elaine has also improved her operation with access roads and a storage tank for roof runoff water that she pumps to supply automatic waterers in her paddocks. A grazing management plan was produced for her property to optimize efficiency of the operation.

The SWCD office has also consulted on the construction of a pond on her property and researched alternatives to improve drainage of her fields. Over the years she has utilized many agencies to improve her operation and the willingness to listen to any ideas that improve and conserve her operation.



Watering system (above) and interior fencing (right) have been installed to improve pasture management

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