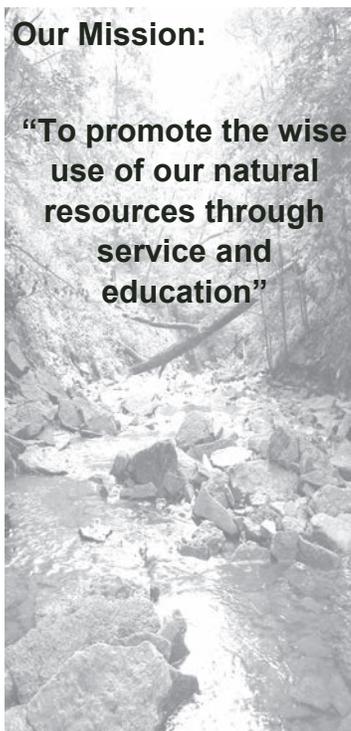


Winter 2014

**Our Mission:**

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



**Season's Greetings**



**Annual Meeting Celebrates 71 Years of Conservation**

Over 100 friends of conservation turned out at Pattison Park on September 25<sup>th</sup> for the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. The evening got underway with the election of two board supervisors (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 2013-2014 achievements in the conservation field, including Cornwell Farms of Jackson Township who were honored as the District's Conservation Cooperator of the Year (see article p. 6) for their outstanding efforts.



Mike (left) and Nick Cornwell of Cornwell Farms were honored as the District Conservation Cooperator of the Year

Leanne Moorman of Felicity High School was awarded the District's Outstanding Conservation Teacher of the Year award. Leanne is in her 17th year of teaching either agriculture or science at the middle and high school levels in Florida, Columbus and now Felicity. She approached our education specialist, Judy Krebs, about bringing District programs to Felicity Middle School. Prior to Leanne reaching out, Clermont SWCD had no presence in the Middle School. Since then, Leanne and Judy have teamed up to present indoor stream monitoring and other programs to her students. This year, she was instrumental in forming two

*(Annual Mtg. continued on page 2)*

**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

**Are You Planning to Cut Timber on Your Woodlot?**

**– Call Before You Cut –**

*By Paul Berringer & Ohio Division of Soil & Water Conservation Staff (reprinted from 2007 newsletter)*

Nearly every forest owner in Clermont County has now endured the painful reality of losing ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Driving down the roads, the damage is apparent everywhere you look. As a forest landowner, you may wonder what is next for my woodlot? Many woodlot owners have never thought of or even wanted to harvest timber on their property, but are now turning to logging to salvage timber or improve the appearance and health of their

*(Timber Harvest Continued on page 3)*

## Anspach, Phillips Re-elected to Board of Supervisors



In the election held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, Dave Anspach (right) retained his seat on the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors, where he will begin serving his fifth term. Dave lives on the family farm in Owensville and is a past administrator for the district.

Steve Phillips (below) has also retained his seat by being elected to his third term as board supervisor. Steve was the District's Cooperator of the Year in 2008 and a lifelong resident of Clermont County.



Their terms will begin January 1, 2015 and run through 2018.

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

*(Annual Mtg. continued from page 1)*

Envirothon teams from Felicity High School.

Award recipients were recognized by the Ohio House and Senate with proclamations

recognizing their accomplishments on behalf of the state of Ohio.

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 2014 conservation banquet a great success.



Commissioner Ed Humphrey (on behalf of Senator Joe Uecker) recognizes Leanne Moorman, winner of the Outstanding Conservation Teacher Award

Special thanks to all our sponsors in 2014 through newsletter advertising, door prizes, and donations!

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- Clermont County Visitors Bureau
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### Calendar of Events

SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Dec. 25
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Jan. 1
SWCD Board Meeting	Jan. 14
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Jan. 19
Tri State Green Industry Conf.	Feb. 5
SWCD Board Meeting	Feb. 11

*(Timber Harvest Continued from page 1)*

newly altered woodlot. Here are a few things to help those who are unfamiliar with timber harvests.

If you sold some timber in the past and the logging company's poor management practices led to soil erosion and stream sedimentation, you'd probably have some choice words for the person responsible. However, you'd be talking to yourself. When woodland owners sell timber, their legal responsibility for preventing water pollution doesn't pass to the logger harvesting the trees. Under Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement law, which addresses impacts to the "waters of the State" resulting from timber harvests, responsibility rests with the landowner.

Sometimes, erosion or sedimentation problems aren't obvious to the landowner until after the timber harvest is finished. By then it can be difficult to get the logging company to correct problems, especially if the company has gone on to another job – often in another county! That's why it is so important to choose a logger carefully, to insist on a written contract that requires the use of best management practices, and to file a Operation and Management (O&M) plan with the local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) before starting the harvest.



O&M plans are not mandatory for timber harvests, but they can help landowners and loggers head off problems. Filing a plan signals to the logger that the landowner takes erosion control seriously and lets the SWCD know a timber harvest is planned. If the SWCD sees a problem with the plan, the plan can be revised before the harvest starts and problems occur. A plan approved by the local SWCD can also help protect a landowner from nuisance lawsuits as long as the best management practices in the plan are being followed.

In 2006, the Division of Soil & Water Conservation and local SWCDs formed a coalition with forest resource agencies throughout Ohio to unveil a

campaign aimed at increasing landowners awareness of these critical timber harvesting issues. The "Call Before You Cut" program informs landowners of their options when considering a timber harvest.

## TOP 10 Reasons to Call Before You Cut

By Dave Apsley, Natural Resources Specialist, OSU Extension

- 10) Learn if harvesting is right for you & your woods
- 9) Harvest the proper trees
- 8) Receive expert advice from a professional forester
- 7) Save \$\$\$ on taxes
- 6) Find the best logger for the job
- 5) Develop a harvest contract to protect you & your forest
- 4) Assure a healthy & diverse forest for the future
- 3) Protect your soil & water resources, and learn about Ohio's resource protection laws
- 2) Maximize profit from your timber harvest
- 1) Ensure your overall satisfaction with the harvest!

Landowners should first visit the website <http://callb4ucut.com/> or call 877-4B4-UCUT to learn more details about the program. If landowners decide to file a "Notice of Intent to Harvest" or an O&M Plan, they can then call the Clermont SWCD (732-7075) for further assistance.

Of course, just putting a plan on paper won't ensure that best management practices are followed during a timber harvest. Unless the landowner has expertise in managing a timber harvest, it's best to seek out professional help. Service Foresters from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry can advise landowners on woodland management, including best management practices for timber harvests and filing O&M plans. Many landowners also rely on private consulting foresters, who can manage a timber sale and oversee the harvest. Industry foresters employed by companies that use raw wood products might also be able to help landowners manage a harvest.

## Selling Timber Workshop

A workshop is being planned for late winter to give woodland owners the opportunity to learn about timber harvests and selling their timber. Stay tuned for forthcoming information about this event.

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

AES Asset Management	Brush Mgt. (2)	Matt Myers	Rain garden
Doug Auxier	Cover crop (2), Nutrient mgt.	Jim Napier	Animal waste facility with cover, Fence
Troy Baker	Cover crops	Gregory Nause	Cover crop, Residue mgt., Nutrient mgt.
Jerry Bedwell	Rain garden	Steve Phillips	Stream crossing
Roger Benter	Brush mgt.	Raymond Averwater Trust	Brush mgt. (2), Forest stand improvement, tree and shrub establishment (2), Herbaceous weed control, tree and shrub site preparation
Martin Bezold	High tunnel	Douglas E RE	Brush mgt.
Boy Scouts of America	Brush mgt.	Victor Riley	Heavy use area, Forage planting
Chatham Farms	Forage planting, Heavy use area	Bernard Schultian	Heavy use area (2), access road
Cincinnati Nature Center	Brush mgt.	Shawnee Meadows	Brush mgt. (2)
Cornwell Farm LLC	Cover crop	Charles Snell	Cover crop
Amy Dane	Brush mgt.	Charles Stahl	Cover crop
Victor Day	Forest stand improvement (2)	Jenny Stahl/Lee J Farms	Cover crop
Russell Durbin	Watering facility, Pumping plant, Pipeline	Clermont County Park Dist.	Rain garden
Donald Ellis	Brush mgt.	Eric Thompson	Brush Mgt. (3)
Christina Freeman	Critical are planting	Union Twp. Veterans Park	Rain garden
Don Graves	Fence	Daniel Weber	Pipeline (2), Watering facility (2), Forage planting (2)
Linda Gonzalez	Pasture planting	James Weaver	Rain garden
Ernie Hatfield	Cover crop	Daniel Welz	Brush mgt. (3)
Ted Hollaender	Cover crop	Davie Werring	Cover crop, Conservation crop rotation (2)
Tim Jarman	Cover crop	Tim Werring	Conservation crop rotation
Lois Lustenberger	Rain garden	Thomas A. Wildey Center	Rain Garden
Alan Mancino	High tunnel	Todd Winemiller	Grassed waterway
Elaine Miller	Forage planting		
Arthur Motch Trust	Brush mgt.		
Jeremy Mount	Forest mgt. plan		

*\*(2)- Number of practices completed*



Clermont county farmer Greg Nause discusses cover crops and their benefits on his farm during a field day held this year.



Rain garden created to collect and filter runoff from downspouts.

# Seasonal High Tunnel

By Lori Lenhart, District Conservationist, NRCS

High tunnels are becoming increasingly popular, as they help extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnels can also improve plant and soil quality, reduce nutrient and pesticide transport, improve air quality through reduced transportation inputs, and reduce energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce. They are similar to greenhouses in construction, however they serve a major difference in their purpose. In high tunnels, crops are grown directly into the natural ground, just as they would when planted in a garden or crop field. The cover over the high tunnel allows for planting earlier and harvesting later in the fall. Some are used in the winter in Ohio for growing cold crops such as lettuce and kale.



Newly constructed high tunnel.

High tunnels are an approved practice through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio. EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers on cropland, pastureland, and forested land. EQIP uses a competitive process to fund applications with the highest environmental value in association with the cost for implementing the practices.

NRCS accepts and processes EQIP applications on a continuous basis. However, each state may establish deadlines for one or more application periods in which to consider eligible applications for funding. The next likely deadline will be January 2015. Applications submitted after these dates will be evaluated and considered for funding during later funding opportunities. Producers must submit a complete program application and other documentation to support eligibility to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.

Information on how to apply for assistance through EQIP is available through the local NRCS office. Contact Lori Lenhart, District Conservationist at 513-732-2181 x3, [lori.lenhart@oh.usda.gov](mailto:lori.lenhart@oh.usda.gov). Information is also available online at : <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/oh/home/>

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

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## **Cornwell Farms Receives District Conservation Cooperator of the Year Award**

Cornwell Farms has a long history of working with the District on conservation related projects, dating back to 1975. Mike, Nick, and Tom are continuing the farming traditions of their late father Robert. Together they farm approximately 3500 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat in Clermont, Clinton, Highland and Warren counties from their family farm in Batavia.

In 2011, the district received a Conservation Innovation Grant through NRCS to implement a new best management practice that could be reproduced across the landscape to address environmental concerns with farm runoff. The Cornwell's agreed to allow the use of their land for this project and constructed the water quality treatment basin designed by the district and our partners. This treatment system is a modified urban practice that will be used to remove pollutants (with a focus on nitrogen) from crop field runoff. A holding pond will be used to collect and store water until it can be piped to a subsurface gravel bed where wetland type plants will remove pollutants by root uptake. The attention this project has received is impressive, including a tour

requested by Bob Perciasepe, then Deputy Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2002, the Cornwell's were awarded their first Cooperator of the Year Award for installing multiple grassed waterways to help control erosion. They have supported the district over the years by providing their facilities for field days and Nick has served as a board supervisor from 2004-2006 as well as a contractor for installing waterways and other best management practices cost-shared by NRCS and FSA programs. We thank the Cornwell's for their contribution and support of sustainable agriculture.



Nearly completed detention structure with planted gravel bed (unmowed) in background.