

Our Mission:

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

Annual Meeting Celebrates 72 Years of Conservation

Over 100 friends of conservation turned out at Pattison Park on September 10th for the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. The evening got underway with the election of two board supervisors (see article pg. 2) and a tasty meal catered by Clermont Northeastern High School Food Services.

At the meeting, several conservation partners were recognized for 2014-2015 achievements in the conservation field, including Greg Nause of Wayne Township who was honored as the District’s Conservation Cooperator of the Year (see article p. 6).

Karen McDonough of Batavia Middle and High School was awarded the District’s Outstanding Conservation Teacher of the Year award. Karen has been teaching gifted education and science grades 7-12 for 26 years. She is participating in a two-year STEM program at UC that is funded by the National Science Foundation. The project involves studying stream anatomy and low head dams which are a public danger in Ohio.

Upon learning of the plans to remove the low-head dam in Batavia, she saw an opportunity to use a real-world project to teach her Batavia Middle School students about stream functions and sediment transport. Under her guidance, the students designed a method to remove a low head dam with the least



Teacher of the Year winner Karen McDonough (fourth from left) with her students from Batavia.

effect on the stream. They made a prototype and presented their final design on the District’s stream table.

Award recipients were also recognized by the Clermont County Commissioners and the Ohio Congress with proclamations recognizing their accomplishments and dedication to promoting good land stewardship.

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 2015 conservation banquet a great success.

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

Glassmeyer, Winemiller Re-elected to Board of Supervisors



In the election held on September 10th, Joe Glassmeyer (left) retained his seat on the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors, where he will begin serving his eleventh term. Joe operates a farm in Felicity and will surpass 30 years as a board supervisor at the end

of the year.

Todd Winemiller (right) has also retained his seat by being elected to his second term as board supervisor. Todd currently farms approximately 3500 acres and resides in Wayne Township.



Their terms will begin January 1, 2016 and run through 2018.

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

Calling All Artists

Want to showcase your art in the Rain Barrel Art



Benefit Auction?

1. Visit SaveLocalWaters.org website sign up and submit your idea for approval.
2. Once approved pick up your rain barrel to paint it on the assigned date and location.
3. Return your painted rain barrel to Save Local Waters and visit it at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Simple as that!

Special thanks to all our sponsors in 2015 through newsletter advertising, door prizes, and donations!

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 Clermont SWCD's Amazing Supervisors!

Entry Dates

Nov. 15th, 2015 to Jan. 16th, 2016

This Rain Barrel Art Project was created to promote the use of rain barrels throughout the Ohio River Valley area via an entertaining yet educational medium.

Visit SaveLocalWaters.org for more information.

The purpose of the Rain Barrel Art Project is to draw attention to storm water runoff and provide a positive alternative.

T-Shirt Design Contest "Let's Fight Dirty"

The Spring Litter Clean-Up, sponsored by Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District, the Valley View Foundation and East Fork Watershed Collaborative, is kicking off its 2016 event with a T-shirt design contest for local K-12 students. The contest and litter event are sponsored locally by the Southern Ohio Association of Realtors (SOAR) and the Clermont County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB).

Any K-12 student attending a school located in Clermont County, or within the East Fork watershed, may register to compete. Home-schooled children living in the county and/or watershed are also invited to participate. T-shirt designs should emphasize litter clean-up and prevention. Students can review contest rules and register through the event website at: www.springlittercleanup.com. Design entries are due by Jan. 15, 2016. The student with the winning design will receive a cash award of \$100; there will also be 13 grade level awards of \$25 each.

The Spring Litter Clean-Up is a combination of two

events that have proved successful for more than 20 years in Clermont County - the East Fork River Sweep and Clermont Clean & Green events. This year's event will be held 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 23, in various communities across the county and watershed.

For more information about the Spring Litter Clean-Up or the T-shirt design contest, please contact the East Fork Watershed Collaborative/Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District at 513-732-7075, or visit the event website: www.springlittercleanup.com.



Photo: Milford Junior High students at the 2015 Spring Litter Cleanup.

New study released involving Deer Accidents in Ohio

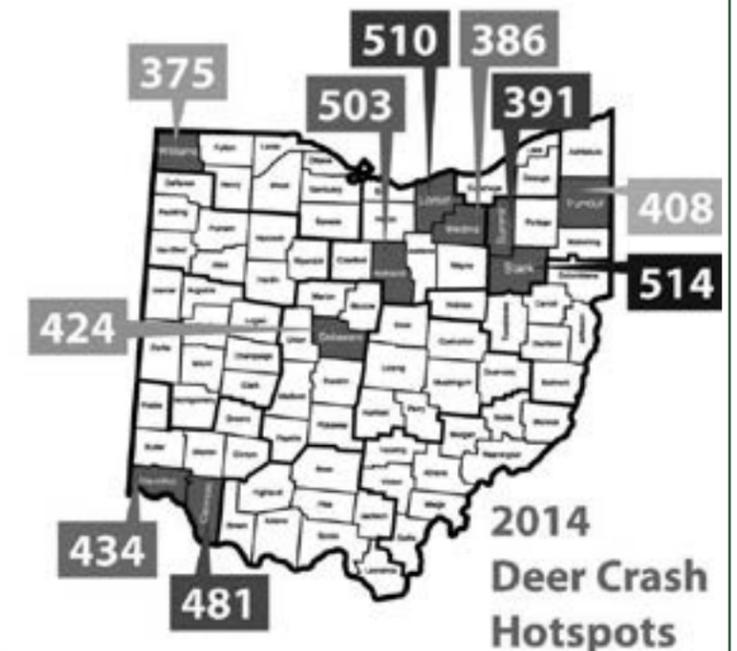
The Ohio Department of Transportation recently identified the top 10 deer collision "hot spots" around the state. Clermont County was deemed to have the 4th most deer collisions within the state and the most in Southwest Ohio with 481 in 2014. Already there have been over 300 deer strikes in Clermont County this year, highest in the state according to the Clermont County Sheriff's Office.

The number one section of road in the county for deer strikes is State Route 32 between Elick Lane and Batavia.

Should you hit deer, keep your vehicle under control, pull off to the side of the road and stay in vehicle, and call 911 for assistance. October and November are the prime time for deer incidents which coincides with the deer mating season. During this season deer are traveling larger areas in search of mates.

If you are interested in utilizing the meat of a deer

that you struck, you can do so. You can also be put on a "deer strike list" by calling the Communication Center at 512-732-2231 to be notified when deer have been struck in your area.



Upcoming NRCS Programs

Applications are being accepted for anticipated USDA funding for conservation practice implementation on farmland and forested land.

- Do you have an erosion problem on your farm field?
- Do you have honeysuckle in your woodlot?
- Do your cows have access to a pond or a creek that runs through your property?
- Would you like to extend the growing season of your produce that you take to market?
- Would you like to see your farm field alive and green over the winter?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, and you'd like to do something about it, please call Lori Lenhart at 513-732-2181 x3. We assist by making farm visits and making recommendations on a va-

riety of agricultural related land use issues. We also have funding programs to help offset the cost of implementing conservation practices. Applications for funding are accepted at any time, however, the funding deadline for 2016 is expected to be January 15, 2016.

Farm Service Agency Program Availability

FSA will offer CRP General Sign-up Dec. 1- Feb. 26. Farmers and landowners interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses and trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll. Contracts for land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are 10-15 years in length with reimbursement for land taken out of production. Please call (513) 732-2181 or (937) 378-6137 for more information at the Clermont or Brown County FSA Offices.

Congratulations, Jake!



Clermont SWCD Technician Jake Hahn received the Water Management Association of Ohio's Technician of the Year award at its annual conference on November 17. Without question, this is a well deserved award! Congrats Jake!

Calendar

Monthly Board Meeting	Dec. 8 5pm
Holiday (Office Closed)	Dec. 25
Holiday (Office Closed)	Jan. 1
Monthly Board Meeting	Jan. 13 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Jan. 18
Monthly Board Meeting	Feb. 10

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Thanks to all our Cooperators for all the Conservation Best Management Practices installed this Year

AES Asset Mgt.	Brush Mgt.	Greg Nause	Conservation crop rotation, nutrient mgt.
Doug Auxier	Cover crops	Tony Panetta	Cover crops, waterway (2)
Troy Baker	Cover crops (2)	Steve Phillips	Forage and biomass planting (3), fence
Roy Barger Jr.	Brush Mgt.	Charles Pratt	Rain garden
Roger Benter	Brush Mgt.	Richard Rosselot	Cover crops (3), residue and till mgt.
Robert Bolce	Brush Mgt.	Jim Rouse	Watering facility, pipe line, stream crossing, fence, heavy use area
Tina Bosworth	Conservation Stewardship Program	Charles Stahl	Cover crops
Chatham Farm LLC	Forage and biomass planting	James Stahl	Cover crops
Cincinnati Nature Center	Forest stand improvement	John Stahl	Cover crops
Dave Conrad	Waterways	Lee & Jenny Stahl	Cover crops
Robert Fee	Cover crops	Dan Tarvin	Cover crops
Joe Glassmeyer	Cover crops, residue mgt.	Varick Trust	Brush mgt. (2)
John Gray	Seasonal high tunnel	David Uible	Conservation Stewardship Program
Jeff Gunter	Cover crops	Laura Weber	Brush Mgt. (2), tree planting
Earnest Hatfield	Cover crops	Dan Welz	Brush Mgt.
L & L Farm Holdings	Cover crops (2), GMP+	Arthur Williams	Brush Mgt.
Lowell Hatfield	Cover crops	Anthony Wolfer	Cover crops
Hal Herron	Cover crops (2)	Wolfer Farms	Cover crops
Ted Hollander	Cover crops		
Tim Jarman	Cover crops (2)		
Lee J. Farms	Cover crops		
James Liming	Cover crops		
Mark Liming	Cover crops		
Brian Lung	Cover crops		
Kathy McLoughlin	GMP+		
David McNutt Trust	Forest stand improvement (2)		
James Monteith	Tree site prep. (2)		
Leanne Moorman	Rain garden		
David Morgan	Roof and cover (2), Heavy use Protection		
Jeremy Mount	Brush mgt., forest stand improvement		

**(2)- Number of practices completed
+ GMP- Grazing Management Plan*



Cover crops, such as kale, improve soil quality and protect against erosion during the winter

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.

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District
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<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>

Greg Nause Receives District Cooperator of the Year Award

There is a small farm in Wayne Township that has been operated by the Nause family since the 1930's.

Over the years much has changed, but the commitment to conservation has endured. In 1983 the district honored this farm, then owned by Phillip Nause, as cooperator of the year and now, 32 years later, Greg Nause, his nephew, is being honored for his work managing this family farm.

Greg purchased the farm in 2009 from his family and he noticed some things he just didn't like, did some investigating, and found out more about his soils and in particular, the low amount of organic matter. This led to planting winter cover crops to improve the soils and protect his property from erosion. Greg has trialed many different types and mixes of cover crops over the last few years and has been a vocal proponent for



their use by working with the district and area farms.

Greg has hosted multiple events at his farm to show others what he does, what he does wrong, and what he plans to do in the future. He tells people that you shouldn't be asking yourself "Why do I need to use cover crops?" and instead ask yourself "Why am I not using cover crops?" He has also assisted the district in creating multiple cover crop publications specific to the soils found in Southwest Ohio.

Greg farms 230 acres and raises corn, soybeans, and wheat. In 2014 he planted 126 acres of his ground in cover crops. The District congratulates Greg and his family for their commitment to improve soil and water quality and for their support of the district.



Greg showing the benefits that cover crops provide his soils