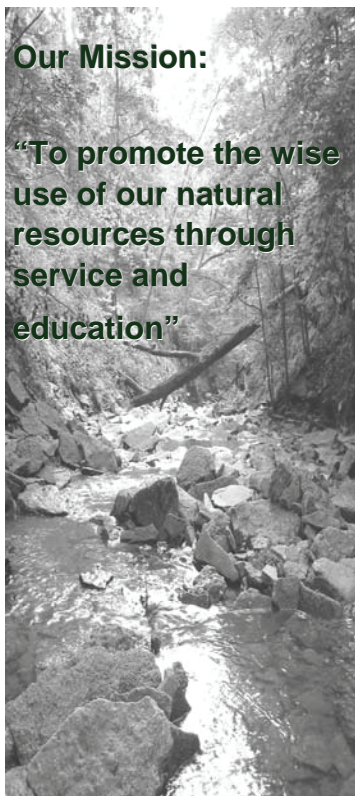


Autumn 2008

Our Mission:

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



**You're Invited to Our 65th Annual Banquet!
Great Food and Entertainment—
Featuring Meteorologist Rich Apuzzo!**

Droughts, Tornadoes, and Global Warming - Oh My! Learn more about what's behind the bizarre weather patterns and events that have befallen the tri-state and U.S. What's with the record tornadoes this spring and the severe drought last summer? Is global warming real and is this just the tip of the iceberg?

Former Channel 19 Weatherman Rich Apuzzo and his company Skyeye Weather provide weather consulting and education services to the tri-state through internet broadcasts, school presentations and on-site consultations (www.skyeyeweather.com). Join us for a fun evening and let Rich share his expertise and perspective on our recent extreme weather patterns. You won't want to miss this awesome presentation!



The banquet will be held on October 23rd at the Multi-Purpose Building at the Fairgrounds in Owensville. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under (ticket order form printed in this newsletter) and must be purchased in advance. Door's open at 5:45 p.m. Voting polls for SWCD Board Supervisor will remain open until 6:45 pm (see page 2 for candidate bios). A catered dinner by *Good Seasonings Catering* will be served at 6:30 p.m. and include roast pork and gravy, roast chicken breast in white sauce, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, tossed salad, pasta salad, fruit salad, and assorted homemade desserts. After dinner festivities include conservation awards, a brief district update, and featured presentation by Rich Apuzzo. And don't even think about leaving early or you may miss out on one of the many awesome door prizes, including the grand prize!

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- David Anspach
- Joe Glassmeyer
- Meri Johnson
- Bill Skvarla
- Jim Wilson

**NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Lori Hillman - District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

- Paul Berringer
- Judy Krebs
- Susie Steffensen
- Wade Hawes
- Rebecca McClatchey

Conservation Tour 2008

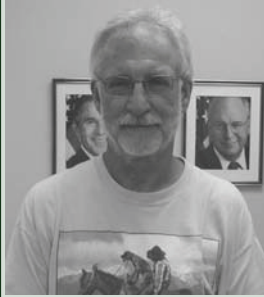
On August 5th, a group of local and state officials were introduced to some of the conservation practices taking place in the County. The tour began at the Arch Mine on OH 276 where visitors were taken 850 feet below ground to view the mining project. It was then on to Pattison Park for lunch and a view of the cooperative rain garden effort constructed by the SWCD and County Park District staff. The tour concluded at the Cincinnati Nature Center where visitors learned of intensive new conservation programs taking shape, such as stream restoration, wetland mitigation banking, and riparian zone mitigation efforts.



L to R: Dave Anspach, Bob Proud, Dave Spinney, Mary Walker, Joe Glassmeyer, Bill Skvarla, Jim Wilson, Meri Johnson

Candidates for SWCD Board of Supervisors

Steve Smith has been a resident of Owensville for 31 years where he currently lives with his family. He and his wife have a son and a daughter. Steve owns several acres of pasture land and 2 draft horses. Steve has worked for B-Way Corp. of New-town for 42 years.



Steve Phillips is a lifetime resident of Clermont County. He lives with his wife and family on their farm in Tate Township just south of Bethel. Steve attended the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster where he earned an associates degree in Agronomy. He worked locally for Cargill for 20 years. Steve and his family farm 130 acres raising cattle, and growing berries and tobacco. Steve has worked closely with the Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS staff to install numerous conservation practices on his land including spring development and automatic livestock waterer/trough pipeline through funds from the ECP Drought Program; stream crossings, pasture seeding, fencing livestock out of streams, and heavy use pad installations using CRP and US Fish & Wildlife grant funds.



Dave Anspach grew up on the family farm in Owensville, where he and his wife Pam reside today. They have two sons, Zach and Matt. Dave's family has always practiced conservation on the farm including a WASCOB, several drainage/ditching projects and utilizing no-till in their operation; and his father Ray was the District's Outstanding Cooperator of the Year in 1977. Today, about 100 ac. are rotated in soybeans and corn on the 125 ac. farm.

Dave has a B.S. degree in Business from Miami University, and worked for the Farm Credit Services Agency for 15 yrs., before serving as the administrator of the conservation district from 1990-97.

During his tenure with the SWCD, Dave helped oversee the development of a full-time education program and helped coordinate the development of the Agricultural Center complex and movement of the district offices to the fairgrounds facility in 1995.

Dave has served on the Clermont County Park Board for 9 yrs., during which time he helped plan and direct the development of the new Chilo Lock #34 Museum and Visitor Center. Dave has been self-employed for the last 11 yrs. as owner and operator of Milford Stamp and Engraving and is a member of both the Milford and Clermont Chamber of Commerce. Dave is just completing his first term on the SWCD Board and states that he would like to continue to use his conservation background and experience to serve the community.

New Watershed Coordinator for East Fork



Rebecca McClatchey has joined the Clermont SWCD staff as the new Coordinator for the East Fork Little Miami River watershed. She holds a B.S. from NKU in Biology/Psychology and is a recent M.S. graduate of the Miami University Environmental Sciences Program. Most recently, Rebecca has been the program coordinator for Project Dragonfly, a cooperative graduate training program of the Cinti. Zoo and Miami University. She also has experience coordinating a local volunteer stream monitoring program and has completed several international research assistantships. Welcome to the District team, Becky!

Rebecca replaces Jason Brown, who recently left the District to become Land Manager at the Cincinnati Nature Center. Jason intends to stay closely involved with the East Fork watershed program in his new position which includes a focus on enhancing and restoring streams & wetlands at the Nature Center. Thanks for all your hard work, Jason—we look forward to partnering with you and the Nature Center on many other great projects in the future!

Board of Supervisors Election Procedures

County residents and property owners attending our annual meeting this year will find the voting procedures for SWCD board members to be very similar to voting in the general election. Upon arrival at the annual meeting, attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the voter registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify their eligibility, be given a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

We will be electing 2 board members to a 3 year term commencing January 1, 2009. County residents and landowners have an additional option for voting for SWCD board members if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting. They may call, mail enclosed request, or stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the District Office October 1st through October 23rd (4 pm). Absentee ballots must be received by the District Office by 4pm on October 23, 2008. For more information call SWCD at 732-7075.

Destroying Wetlands Can Place Strain on the Environment and Your Wallet

Whether it's for farming or building new homes, today's landowners should be extremely cautious of clearing any ground without first checking for the presence of wetlands. Shallow ponds, swamps, and stream-side/seaside marshes are classic examples of wetlands that most people recognize on sight. But some wetlands, particularly the wooded wetlands prominent throughout Clermont County, are not readily apparent to the untrained eye. Wetlands (except for lands in agricultural production) fall under the jurisdiction of the Army Corp of Engineers (wetlands connected to a navigable waterway) or Ohio EPA (upland or isolated wetlands). Wooded wetlands can be very high quality wetlands because they take so long to grow and develop, and they contain unique habitats (vernal pools) that are critical to many threatened and endangered amphibians. Wetlands also provide enormous benefits to surrounding communities in reducing storm water runoff and downstream flooding and erosion.

Destruction of a regulated wetland by a landowner can result in severe penalties. Foremost, they may be faced with expensive mitigation (restoring or constructing wetlands to offset those destroyed) that can range from \$2,000-\$20,000 per acre. But they could also face substantial fines as well.

From an agricultural standpoint, wetlands that were cleared or drained for farming prior to the 1985 Swampbuster Act, known as "prior converted wetlands," can continue to be farmed and are not regulated by the Corps or Ohio EPA. However, if these previously drained lands are left fallow for any length of time after 1985, they may revert back to a wetland. Farmers who drain or destroy these reverted wetlands are usually required to restore or re-vegetate the area, or they could be banned from participation in future Farm Bill commodity and other benefit programs. Also, farmers who clear land that has no history of agricultural production could be in violation of the CORP's, USDA's or Ohio EPA's wetland regulations if wetlands are found to be present. Farmers who are planning to clear or drain any new lands for production (cropping, pasture, etc.) should contact NRCS or FSA at 732-2181 beforehand!

Family Farm and Environment Day

at County Fairgrounds — Saturday Sept. 27th, 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.



A **FREE** Great Outdoor Weekend Event! Food, fun and activities for the whole family...

- Learn to monitor a stream
- See a rain Garden & rain barrel demo.
- Hay rides, farm animal demos
- Learn about locally grown major crops
- Learn how to compost, can, and preserve

For more Information Call 513-732-7070 or Visit <http://clermont.osu.edu>

** These are paid advertisements, and inclusion in this newsletter should not be construed as a recommendation of any advertiser or their products or services.*

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Clermont County Farm Bureau

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

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Parts

Service

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.

If your address is incorrect or you would like to be added / removed from our mailing list, please contact us at (513) 732-7075

Calendar of Events	
SWCD Board Meeting	Sept. 10 - 6pm
Family Farm and Environment Day	Sept. 27
SWCD Board Meet	Oct. 8 - 6pm
SWCD Annual Meeting	Oct. 23
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Nov. 11

Phone: 513-732-7075
Email: soil_water@fuse.net
Web: www.clermontswcd.org

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Request for Absentee Ballot

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District

Please send an absentee ballot for the Clermont SWCD Supervisor Election that will be held in the Multipurpose Building on the Fairgrounds, Thursday, October 23, 2008

Name(s) _____
(print)

Address/City/State/Zip _____
(print)

Signature _____

Signature (if requesting 2 ballots) _____

***This form must arrive at our office by October 10, 2008 by 4:00 pm

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets

October 23, 2008 Multipurpose Building at the Fairgrounds, Owensville

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

No. Attending _____ Telephone No. _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$4.00 for 12 and under. Please mail check and order form to

Clermont SWCD
Attn: Susie Steffensen
P.O. Box 549
Owensville, OH 45160