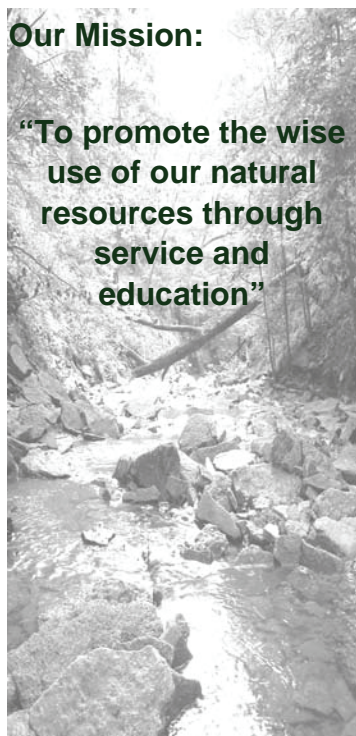


Winter 2011

Our Mission:

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



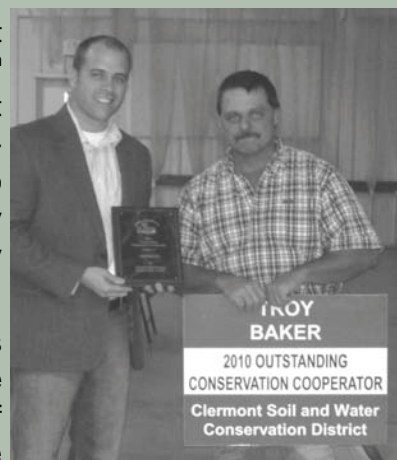
Annual Meeting Spotlights Conservation Success

Over 100 friends of conservation turned out at Clermont County Fairgrounds on October 27th for the 68rd Annual Meeting of the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. The evening got underway with the re-election of two board supervisors (see article p. 2) and a tasty chicken and roast pork dinner provided by Hesler’s Catering.

At the meeting, several conservation partners were recognized for 2011 achievements in the conservation field, including Troy Baker of Franklin Township who was honored as the District’s Conservation Cooperator of the Year (see article p. 6) for his outstanding efforts.

The evening continued with a presentation by Administrator Paul Berringer highlighting the District’s 2011 program achievements. *The Four Leads* barbershop quartet entertained with some of their favorite tunes and humor!

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 2011 conservation banquet a great success.



Board member Dave Smith (left) with Troy Baker, SWCD Cooperator of the Year

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- David Anspach
- Joe Glassmeyer
- Melody Newman
- Steve Phillips
- David Smith

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Hillman - District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

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

Yard Waste Stresses our Waterways

Many people are unaware of the consequences of disposing yard waste in our streams and drainage ditches. Leave, grass clippings, tree trimmings, and other waste that are raked or blown into streams or stormwater structures can cause significant damage to the ecosystem and cause localized flooding by clogging stormwater grates and pipes. According to Ohio law, “No person regardless of intent, shall deposit litter or cause litter be deposited in the waters of the state”, which also includes yard waste.



Anspach, Phillips Re-elected to Board of Supervisors

In the election held on October 27th, Dave Anspach (right) retained his seat on the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors, where he will begin serving his fourth 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 second term as board supervisor. Steve was the District's Cooperator of the year in 2008 and a lifelong resident of Clermont County.



Dave and Steve's terms will begin January 1, 2012 and run through 2014.

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

(Yard Waste Continued from page 1)

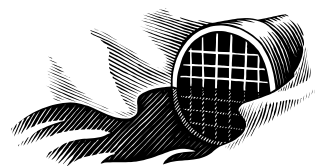
As yard waste decomposes, excess nutrients are released into our streams, ponds, and lakes that could lead to undesirable algae growth. This undesirable algae makes poor food for fish and chokes out native, desirable algae and plant life. According to Ohio State University, nutrients are the leading cause of pond problems due to algae growth in Ohio. Unlike household wastewater, storm sewers receive no treatment before entering our waterways. Large amounts of waste in the streams could cause oxygen depletion and result in fish kills and/or stagnant, foul smelling water. Waste collects in pool areas, leading to higher flood zones.

Yard waste piles retain moisture and prevent plant growth along streambanks, increasing the possibilities of erosion. Eroded areas, once started, can be very difficult and expensive to control. Yard waste will not help stabilize eroding slopes or streambanks. It adds weight and instability, and is often carried away by the next storm event. Although yard waste is a natural material, our streams are unable to handle this increased loading.

Options for disposal of yard waste material include composting, mulching, and leaving grass clipping on the lawn. Store yard waste in upland areas away from streams and ponds. This returns nutrients back into the landscape and reduces the frequency of fertilizing. If you need to dispose of your yard waste, check out Clermont County Stormwater Department website for drop off locations.

Special thanks to all our sponsors in 2011 through newsletter advertising, door prizes, and donations!

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Trends in Water Quality

Stream Series Article #3 of 4

In the 1700s, historical accounts by pioneers documented the exceptional quality of streams throughout Ohio. Watersheds were densely forested with scattered openings and abundant wildlife. Ohio streams ran clear through deep, narrow channels shaded by leaning trees that crowded their banks. Even small streams flowed throughout the year. However, by the late 1800s, streams and their watersheds had been drastically changed by booming urban and industrial development and the quality of streams began to decline.

(Continued below)

In the early 1990s, Ohio EPA set the goal of reaching full attainment of the aquatic life use designation in 80% of assessed streams by 2010. The 2010 reporting cycle was a critical milestone for Ohio EPA to measure its success in achieving that goal. Ohio EPA's water quality reports include three components: Watershed Assessment Units, Large Rivers, and Principle Streams and Large Rivers. Although Ohio EPA was just short of meeting the 80% by 2010 goal for Watersheds and Principle Streams, there is an overall upward trend in water quality over the last decade (Figure 1).

Since more than 88% of Ohio is privately or locally owned, the future well-being of Ohio's stream and watersheds is

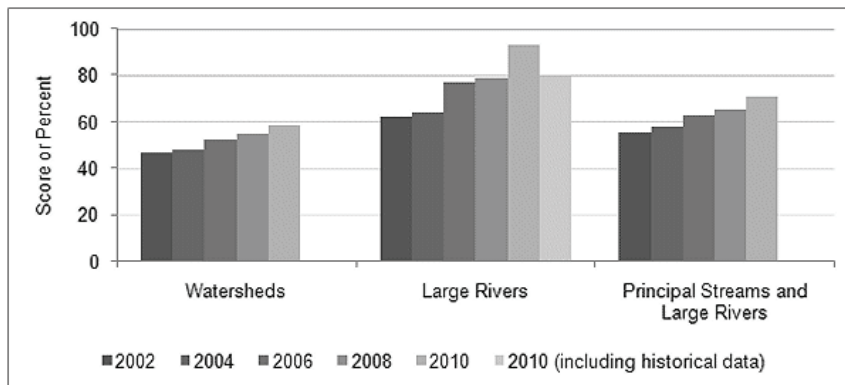


FIGURE 1. OHIO WATER QUALITY STATUS

Use Designations are goals set for specific surface water bodies in the state. There are 4 types:

- Aquatic Life Habitat
- Water Supply
- Recreation
- State Resource Waters

As Ohio became increasingly populated, cities were built, forests were cleared, wetlands were drained and the quality of streams continued to worsen. Realizing how impaired streams had become, new federal and state laws were passed in an effort to reverse more than a century of stream degradation. Ohio passed the first "State Scenic Rivers Act" in 1968. Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act were passed in the 1970s which required states to establish water quality standards and chemical limits to maintain and restore the nation's surface waters. As a result, the quality of many streams in Ohio today has improved. Since 1988, there has been a 48% decline in point sources (e.g. wastewater treatment plants) as a major source of impairment. However, impacts from non-point source pollution, including habitat and hydrologic modifications, the loss of streamside forests, urban and agricultural stormwater, and excessive sedimentation are becoming increasingly evident. Ohio EPA estimates that non-point source pollution currently accounts for 75% of the water pollution in Ohio.

very depended upon the willingness of local communities and landowners to practice voluntary conservation. Many community-based watershed groups comprised of citizens, landowners, businesses, and government representatives have formed to protect and restore streams and watersheds throughout Ohio. Here in Clermont County, the East Fork Watershed Collaborative strives to engage local stakeholders in watershed planning efforts to restore and protect the impaired East Fork Little Miami River. Stream restoration and protection efforts include land use planning, pollution control, education, and the protection and restoration of stream channels, riparian forests, floodplains and wetlands. To learn more about what you can do help conserve local water resources, visit the Clermont SWCD website or contact the East Fork Watershed Collaborative.

Sources:

Ohio EPA's 2010 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report


A Guide to Ohio Streams: Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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

Arthur Motch	Forest Stand Improvement (2)	
Troy Baker	Pipeline (2), Watering Facility (2)	
Roger Bedinghaus	Fence (10), Pasture and Hay Planting	
Brantner Elementary	Rain Garden	
Boy Scouts of America	Forest Stand Improvement	
Matt Crozier	Stream Crossing (3), Access Road	
Russell Durbin	Pasture and Hay Planting, Fence	
Charles Ernstes	Cover Crop, Seasonal Tunnel System	
Lee Eubanks	Pasture and Hay Planting	
Robert Farrell	Rain Garden	
Robbie Fischer	Heavy Use Area	
Christina Freeman	Pipeline, Heavy Use Area, Access Road, Watering Facility	
Rebecca Geiger	Seasonal Tunnel System	<div data-bbox="1055 709 1485 814" data-label="Caption"> <p>Seasonal Tunnel System for Crops installed by Nancy Pinger</p> </div>
Linda Gonzalez	Pasture and Hay Planting (2), Fence (2), Stream Crossing (4)	
Donald Graves	Waste Storage Facility, Fence, Grade Stabilization Structure, Stream Crossing (2)	
Stewart Gregg	Forest Stand Improvement	
Tom Grote	Forest Stand Improvement (2)	
Billy Hazelbaker	Access Road, Heavy Use Area, Pasture and Hay Planting	
Hal Heron	Residue Management/No Till, Cover Crop, Nutrient Management (2)	
Greg Hensley	Waste Storage Facility, Pasture and Hay Planting	
Hal Herron	Till/Strip Till, Nutrient Management, Cover Crops	
Buck Jarman	Pasture and Hay Planting (5)	
Tim Jarman	Comprehensive Nutrient Mgt. Plan	
Donald Larrison	Fence (2), Access Road	
League of Animal Welfare	Forest Stand Improvement	
Robert Meiners	Forest Stand Improvement	<div data-bbox="1084 1312 1464 1434" data-label="Caption"> <p>Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) in action on Liming farm.</p> </div>
Elaine Miller	Pipeline, Watering Facility (3), Pumping Plant	
James Napier	Access Road, Fence, Pasture and Hay Planting, Heavy Use Area (2), Watering Facility	
Earl Neltner	Forest Stand Improvement	
Robbie Fisher Trust	Heavy Use Area	
James Rouse	Fence	
Bernard Schultian	Nutrient Management, Pasture and Hay Planting, Fence (3)	
Ken Shinkle	Comprehensive Nutrient Mgt. Plan	
Albert Stahl	Conservation Crop Rotation, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway (2), Subsurface Drain	
Karl Stuermer	Forest Stand Improvement (2)	
Eric Thompson	Forest Stand Improvement	
Anne Thornbury	Comprehensive Nutrient Mgt. Plan	

(Cooperators...Continued from page 4)

Tim Trester	Pipeline, Watering Facility
Vincent Urbanek	Restoration of Declining Habitats
Greg Wahl	Pasture and Hay Planting (3)
Daniel Weber	Pasture and Hay Planting, Prescribed Grazing, Fence (2)
Eric Wolfer	Conservation Crop Rotation



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Asian Longhorn Beetle Update

The district is continuing its effort to assist landowners and partner agencies in the eradication of this damaging insect. Tree cutting began recently in Tate Township, removing infested trees from the landscape. This insect, if not contained threatens to destroy countless acres of forested land throughout the U.S.. Feeding on a large variety of trees makes this insect extremely damaging to our landscape.



Clermont SWCD is available for landowner consultation as the result of tree removal disturbances and related soil and water issues. A press release is now available on our website regarding our role in this eradication effort.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

USDA ALB information site: www.BeetleBusters.info
 USDA APHIS ALB newsroom:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/alb/alb.shtml
 ODA ALB information: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/>
 ODNR ALB information:
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/health/asianlonghorned/tabid/5197/Default.aspx>
 Clermont County ALB page: <http://bugs.clermontcountyohio.gov/>

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Calendar of Events

SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Dec. 26
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Jan. 2
SWCD Board Meeting	Jan. 11
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Jan. 16
SWCD Board Meeting	Feb. 8
SWCD Office Closed (Holiday)	Feb. 20

Troy Baker Receives District Conservation Cooperator of the Year Award

Troy Baker has strived the last few years to improve and enhance his livestock operation by implementing practices to address environmental and management problems. While working with NRCS and SWCD, Troy has moved his winter feeding area adjacent to Bullskin Creek to a hilltop with adequate drainage where he constructed a concrete winter feeding pad and an attached covered manure storage facility. A gravel road for all weather access was incorporated into this new feeding area. The new location and improved facility benefits the health of his cattle, as well as protecting his pastures and the improvement of water quality.

Troy also fenced out a stream and a pond from his livestock, again for the safety of his cattle and for water quality protection. He installed a stream crossing to access his pastures after fencing the stream. Two automatic waterers were installed to give cattle fresh water to drink, to enhance rotational grazing, and to allow the cows to remain locked onto the confined feeding area

during the most sensitive times of the year. This feeding area can be used both in the winter when the pastures are saturated, and also during droughty summers when there is little forage available for uptake. One pasture field has been reseeded with grasses and legumes, and plans are to seed the other fields next year.



Stream crossing reduces erosion and improves access to pastures



Manure Storage Facility and Heavy Use Area

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