



Autumn 2016

Our Mission:

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

**Join Us for our Annual Banquet!
Thursday,
September 8, 2016
Pattison Park Lodge**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 8 – the date of our 73rd Annual Meeting Banquet at Clermont County’s Pattison Park Lodge in Owensville. We are pleased to announce that our speaker this year will be Ty Higgins from Farm & Country Radio. With 20 years of experience, an in-depth knowledge of agriculture, and a love of country music, Ty Higgins delivers the content of Farm & Country Radio like no one else can (see bio on page 3).

election of one SWCD Board Supervisor will remain open until 7:00 pm (see page 2 for candidate bios). Banquet tickets (\$12 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under), which must be purchased in advance. See the back page of the newsletter for the ticket request form.



Ty Higgins -annual meeting speaker

With the wonderful program we have planned, we expect tickets to move fast. Don’t wait; order yours today!

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

The banquet will feature a catered dinner through CNE Schools, so your attendance will help support the local school district! In addition to the great food, wine and Firehouse Brewery beer will be available for your enjoyment. After dinner festivities include conservation awards, including our Cooperator and Educator of the Year. We will also be hosting a silent auction - come bid on an airplane tour of Clermont County and other great prizes - and as always, door prizes galore.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Voting polls for the

Important!!! Please contact us to keep receiving our newsletter

Conservation is a focus of all of our programs at Clermont SWCD, including our quarterly newsletter! To save paper, we will be switching to an electronic format for the **NEXT NEWSLETTER.**

You can sign-up to receive the electronic newsletter at www.clermontswcd.org, or simply call the office. If you wish to continue receiving the printed version, please call us at 513-732-7075 ext. 2, or email ssteffensen@clermontcountyohio.gov

2016 Supervisor Candidates

Mark Burgess

Mark is a Landscape Architect and Project Manager for Bayer Becker, a professional design consulting firm with three offices in Ohio and Kentucky. He earned his Landscape Architecture degree from Purdue University in 1987. Mark has extensive design experience in both Planning and Landscape Architecture with completed projects in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. He has been involved in several park projects in the Southwest Ohio area, from the conceptual stage to final construction documents, including Chilo Park and the award winning Miami Riverview Park. He has also worked on numerous commercial and retail projects in the greater Cincinnati area, including in Clermont County.

Mark's park designs have included a wide variety of park types, from passive to active designs of nature paths and bike trails to more active spaces. From concept to final plans, he works hard to solicit input from the communities. In addition to design, Mark also has experience in bid review and construction observation and experience working with park and lighting manufacturers in specifications of products for improvements, including benches, tables, backstops, trash containers, and drinking fountains. He has teamed with engineers for pavement specifications for parking areas and paths.

In addition to park design, Mark has provided master landscape plans for projects that help create the human spaces that people enjoy in the park. His designs include entry features and signage, lighting for security in parking areas and shelters.

Mark and his wife Gina live in Milford. They have two sons - Ryan who lives in Denver, CO. and Nick who is a senior at Purdue University this fall.



Melody Newman

Melody retired from teaching after 35 years at Clermont Northeastern, where she taught fifth grade Science and Language Arts and used the outdoors as a springboard for teaching her students writing, ecology and life science.

As a middle school teacher, Melody sponsored an after school environmental club for grades 5 thru 8. She spearheaded the use and improvements to the school nature center with the addition of an outdoor classroom and bird blind. She also started the "green cafeteria," teaching students and staff how to recycle and compost items daily from the cafeteria. Since she retired from teaching, she continues to stay very busy both as an SWCD Board Supervisor and as an educator for Greenacres Water Quality Project, where she continues to teach students about the environment and conservation. Melody is also a trailside ambassador volunteer at the Cincinnati Nature Center. Melody received her bachelor's degree from Morehead State University and her masters from Northern Kentucky University. She has continued her education through Green Teacher Institute at Miami University, traveling to Costa Rica to learn first-hand about biodiversity. For four summers she taught for Southwestern Ohio Science Institute, a teacher workshop, through Miami University.

Melody has lived her entire life in Clermont County and currently lives near Stonelick Lake with her husband of thirty-six years, Ken Newman. They have two children, John and Lauren Newman, two grandchildren and a third on the way.

Melody is currently a board member and has held several board positions. She is seeking her third term on the board.



that muddy creek because you're worried about losing a calf? How about wanting your crop field to soak in water when you have too much rain in the spring, or hold on to water in late summer when it's hot and dry? Try a winter cover crop, many producers in the county have been quite surprised at the benefits they've seen from seeing green all winter.

Our programs provide financial incentives for a number of practices. Contact Lori Lenhart, District Conservationist, at 513-732-2181 x3 for more information.

Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection

Pollinator species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, monarch butterfly numbers have drastically declined here in Ohio and in the wintering grounds of Mexico. In response to this decline, the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other partners have created the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) to educate the public and help create beneficial habitat for pollinators such as the monarch butterfly. OPHI formed after the 2014 petition to list the monarch as federally endangered or threatened. The group's primary focus is to find



Monarch on Leaf

opportunities and other partners to assist in the efforts to create habitat. To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, OPHI, in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is organizing a Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection this year starting September 1st and ending October 30th. Milkweed is essential to the survival of monarch butterflies (it is their only food source!), and Ohio is a priority area for monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring. During September and October, everyone is encouraged to collect milkweed pods from established plants and drop them off at the nearest pod collection station. Clermont SWCD's office at

Ty Higgins to speak at Annual Meeting

Farm Broadcaster with The Ohio Ag Net and host of the nationally syndicated show Farm & Country Radio.

Ty was born and raised on a dairy farm in Licking County. Using the "its who you know" and "seize an opportunity" mantras, he started his farm broadcasting career right out of high school at WRFD-AM thanks to his uncle, American Dairy Association Mid East CEO Scott Higgins, introducing him to then Farm Director Joe Cornely.

the county fairgrounds (1000 Locust Street in Owensville) will serve as the collection station for Clermont County. Anyone is welcome to drop off milkweed pods between 8 am and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For pod collection stations in other counties, check with your local SWCD.

To collect the seed pods from a milkweed plant, it is best to pick them when they are dry, gray, or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver it to our office. Harvesting pods from milkweed plants does not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas. It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seed collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the monarch butterfly throughout Ohio.

If you have any questions about this program, you can contact our office at (513) 732-7075 or send an email to jkrebs@clermontcountyohio.gov; or call OPHI at (614) 416-8993.



From there his radio path led to Columbus country music station WHOK-FM for over 12 years. Eventually he ended up right where he started and where he feels most comfortable, back in farm broadcasting! He became a member of The Ohio Ag Net team in 2010 and he is proud to share the great stories about Ohio Agriculture, one broadcast at a time.

He currently lives in Delaware County, where he and his wife Angela are raising their 9 year old son, Calvin and 12 year old daughter, Paige. When he is not coaching his son's baseball team or rehearsing for his role in his daughter's annual dance recital, he is grilling, golfing and doing whatever may be on his "honey-do" list at any given moment.

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. Meeting attendance is not required to vote.

We will be electing one board member to a 3 year

term commencing January 1, 2017. County residents and landowners have an additional option for voting for SWCD board members if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting. Residents may mail the enclosed request form, stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the District Office beginning August 18th through 4:00 pm September 8th, 2016. Absentee ballot requests by mail must be received by the District Office by 4:00 pm on September 1, 2016.

There are special requirements for non-resident landowners and corporations. A notarized affidavit must be on file prior to absentee ballot request at our office before the September 1st deadline. For more election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075 ext. 2.

Natural Resources Day Success

Fair goers were given the opportunity to meet (and play) with officials from the Clermont SWCD along with Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Division of Watercraft, National Wild Turkey Federation, Clermont County Parks, Ohio Trappers, and US-DA-APHIS-Asian Longhorn Beetle experts during the Natural Resources Day held at the Clermont County Fair. Archery, BB-guns, reptiles, and other exhibits were on display along with our own stream table and animal footprint station for people to interact with. SWCD also had displays for tree leaf identification and a Monarch butterfly station. Thanks to everybody who stopped in.



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

Calendar

Shank Park Project Tour	Aug. 31
Holiday (Office Closed)	Sept. 5
Annual Meeting	Sept. 8
Monthly Board Meeting	Sept. 14 8am
Great Outdoor Weekend	Sept. 24
Holiday (Office Closed)	Oct. 10
Monthly Board Meeting	Oct. 12 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Nov. 11

Shank Park Stormwater Project Completed

With the help of a Surface Water Improvement Fund grant from Ohio EPA, Amelia Village and Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District have recently completed an innovative storm water project at Spencer Shank Memorial Park. Under the grant, the project team was able to renovate the existing storm water detention basin into a fully functioning water quality and flood control structure.

Prior to the project, the basin at Shank Park had a poor design that funneled high rates of storm water through a concrete channel into the nearby stream. These highly erosive flows caused the stream banks to erode and dump sediment into the stream system. As part of the project, the basin's concrete lined channel was replaced with a small meandering stream with energy dissipating stone. Toward the end of the basin, a "bioretention" area (similar to a rain garden) was created and planted with native species to help better infiltrate water and filter pollutants. The improvements also included modifications to the outlet structure which will help slow down the flow of storm water and allow sediment and other pollutants to settle out and be absorbed by surrounding vegetation.

"We're very excited about this project because simple improvements to the basin will reduce the problems with storm water runoff in this area and beautify the park at the same time," states Todd Hart, Village Mayor. "We hope both res-

idents and visitors to Amelia stop by Shank Park to see the work that was done."

Shank Park renovation - view of infiltration bed



Mark your Calendars for the Great East Fork River Canoe Adventure

Come join us for a naturalist guided canoe adventure down the East Fork of the Little Miami River to search for beaver, wood ducks, turtles, and other aquatic wildlife. We'll make a brief stop on the Wilson Nature Preserve island before ending at Sycamore Park. After the trip, grab a kick net and help us collect aquatic insects to determine the quality of the water in the river. Participants will be given a brief safety demonstration before entering the water. If water levels are low, be prepared to pull your canoe through shallow rapids...you will get wet.

Saturday September 24, 2016

2 time slots for canoe trips:

9:30-11:30 am or 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Meet at Sycamore Park

***Preregistration is required. Call 513-732-7075 x-102 to register before September 22nd, spots limited.**

Participants must sign a waiver prior to the program. (No children under the age of 4 in the canoes please). Canoe Adventure program is co-hosted by the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District, the Clermont County Park District and the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality. The program is part of the Great Outdoor Weekend. Visit this website to learn more about Great Outdoor Weekend 2015.

<http://www.greatoutdoorweekend.org/>



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

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 County Farm Bureau



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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www.clermontswcd.org
http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd
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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 at
Pattison Park on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

**Please note non-resident landowners and corporations must have a notarized affidavit on file before requesting absentee ballot.*

Name (print) _____

Address/City/State/Zip (print) _____

*By signing this request, I confirm I am over 18 years of age and a resident of the county.

Signature

Date

***This form must arrive at our office by 4:00 pm September 1, 2016.

Request for Annual Meeting Tickets

September 8, 2016 Pattison Park, 2228 US 50, Owensville, OH

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

No. Attending _____ Telephone No. _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Tickets are \$12.00 for adults, \$4.00
for 12 and under. Please mail
check and order form to:
Clermont SWCD
PO Box 549
Owensville, OH 45160