Proper Pond Construction will help in the Aquatic Vegetation Fight

A successful pond is only as good as proper pond construction and proper construction begins with the knowledge of the builder. A pond should have 25% of its basin at a depth of eight feet or greater and side slopes at a 3:1 ratio (three feet out, one foot down). A minimal round pond size built to this spec. will be approx. 100 feet in diameter. This does three things, it gets you into deeper water quickest while maintaining a stable slope on your bank, creates “open water” on your pond and provides proper habitat for spawning.

Shallow water (usually three feet or less) is where a majority of your plant life establishes, especially algae, and minimizing these areas will decrease the occurrence of nuisance plant problems. Some plant life in your ponds is needed to add oxygen, uptake nutrients, and provide habitat for your fish and other beneficial organisms that make a pond function. Also, there will be enough shallow areas around your pond for spawning without the need to create additional shallow water habitat. Excessive weeds can make a pond less enjoyable and harmful to your fish.

Over time ponds will fill in with silt and organic material, making the ratio of shallow water to deep water less and will need to be cleaned out to function as designed. An older pond has a greater chance of having vegetation problems because of this accumulation of material. Ponds act as a sink to store organics, nutrients, and sometimes pollutants that find their way in. The dynamics of a pond also slow because of this excess material, making it easier for vegetation to establish and quickly spread.

If you are having trouble with vegetation in your pond, it is likely the pond was not constructed with enough open water or your pond is aging and becoming less efficient at nutrient cycling. If you want a smaller pond, take into consideration vegetation management during planning. If you would like an assessment of your pond, please call our office to set an appointment with Jake Hahn at 513-732-7075 x-4.
Natural Resources Day at the Fair
-Kid friendly activities-
Join Clermont SWCD along with Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Division of Watercraft, Ohio Division of Parks, National Wild Turkey Federation, Clermont County Parks and others during the second Natural Resources Day held at the Clermont County Fair. Archery, BB-guns, reptiles, and other exhibits will be on display along with our own stream table and animal footprint station for people to interact with. The event will be held at the Lykins Pavilion on Tuesday July 26, 2016 from 12-6 pm. Meet with representatives from local conservation clubs, Ohio trappers associations, and local sportsmen clubs. Representatives will also be available to discuss how you can improve wildlife habitat on your property.

Interactive stream table displayed by Clermont SWCD during last year’s event to demonstrate how streams function and the influence people have on them.

2016 Ohio River Sweep
On Saturday, June 18th thousands of volunteers from Pittsburgh, PA to Cairo, IL will do their part to clean up the 3,000 miles of Ohio River shoreline.
In Clermont County, Ohio volunteers can report to Chilo Lock #34 Park (rough terrain – adults or teens only!), Moscow Riverfront Park at 222 Second Street, Neville – Indian Mound Campground or the riverfront Bandstand in New Richmond.
The event starts at 9 am and ends around noon. Volunteers will be asked to sign a waiver and will receive free t-shirts, gloves and trash bags. There will be refreshments available after the event, with most communities hosting a cookout. The Ohio River Sweep will be held rain or shine but canceled if the weather is dangerous (lightning, etc.). Participants are asked to wear old, comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes. If you have questions please contact Becky Ploucha, Valley View Foundation, at ors.clermont@gmail.com or at 513-218-4094.

Calendar
Ohio River Sweep June 18
Holiday (Office Closed) July 4
Monthly Board Meeting July 13 8am
Clermont County Fair July 24-30
Monthly Board Meeting Aug. 10 8am
Holiday (Office Closed) Sept. 5
Annual Meeting Sept. 8
Monthly Board Meeting Sept. 14 8am

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

Greenville, OH – Competition was intense at Chenoweth Trails on April 26, 2016, as high school students from southwest Ohio met in the Area IV annual Envirothon. Students were tested on their environmental knowledge in five areas including aquatics, current environmental issues (CEI), forestry, soils and wildlife. The CEI this year focused on invasive species which really hit home with the amount of tree loss southwest Ohio has endured due to the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle (not to mention the issues with honeysuckle infestations).

CNE and Felicity high schools fielded three teams each for Clermont County.

Sponsorship for the Area IV Envirothon came from Honda of America, Cargill, and the 18 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Southwest Ohio.

Thank you to all the students, advisors, and administrations from the Clermont schools for their hard work and support of the event.

Another Successful Spring Litter Clean-up

The East Fork Watershed Collaborative and Valley View Foundation are pleased to report that the 2016 Spring Litter Clean-Up for Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River watershed was another great success! The event attracted 545 volunteers to clean up 13 sites across Clermont County and the East Fork, including 10 miles of riverbank and lake shoreline! Volunteers collectively cleared approximately six tons of trash and contributed over 1,462 hours of community service.

We truly appreciate the support from our event sponsors: the Clermont County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and the Southern Ohio Association of Realtors. The event was also supported with materials from Keep America Beautiful and with a Community Litter Grant provided by Ohio EPA.

Thank you also to our partnering agencies and organizations, including the Clermont Office of Environmental Quality, Clermont County Park District, Clermont Office of Public Information, Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Divisions of Parks and Watercraft, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Friends of Stonelick State Park.

Found: Williamsburg High School Bell

We’ve found some interesting stuff over the years of the Spring Litter Cleanup, but this year’s find may be the best. Two Western Brown students found the bell used by Williamsburg High School during football games when the Wildcats score a touchdown. The school was very happy to have the bell returned. So if you’re missing something, you may want to join us for the 2017 Spring Litter Cleanup!
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 our Winter 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, you must call us at 513-732-7075 ext. 2, or email ssteffensen@clermontcountyohio.gov

Annual Meeting Slated
For September 8th!
—Pattison Park Lodge—

Please save the date to help us celebrate another great year of conservation at our 73rd Annual Meeting Banquet. This year’s event will be held at the Clermont County Park District’s Pattison Park just west of Owensville on State Route 50. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Election polls will remain open until 7:00 - one board supervisor will be elected.
Additional meeting information will be included in our autumn newsletter.

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.