



Summer 2019

**Our Mission:**

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

**Keep the “P” out of the Drain**

Phosphorus (P) is one of the most troublesome pollutants in storm water runoff. Phosphorus comes from many sources, and it is a major cause of water quality problems in our lakes and streams, and a leading contributor to harmful algal blooms.

Everything that is or was living contains phosphorus. It is in leaves. It is in lawn clippings. It is in animal wastes. It is an ingredient in most lawn fertilizers. It is even attached to soil. When leaves, lawn clippings, animal wastes, fertilizers, and soil are picked up by storm water runoff, they are carried directly to our local lakes and streams, providing them with excess phosphorus. This excess phosphorus causes increased algae growth.

You can reduce the amount of phosphorus entering a lake or stream by keeping your leaves and lawn clippings out of the streets and gutters. Leaves and lawn clippings are a major source of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the nearest street or storm sewer, they end up in your local lake or stream. Keeping your leaves and lawn clippings out of the streets and gutters will have significant benefits for your local lake or stream.

You can also help by testing your soil before you fertilize. A soil test will tell you how much - if any -



fertilizer your lawn needs. Clermont County residents can have their soil tested by the OSU Extension Office at the County Fairgrounds in Owensville for a small fee. They have prepared a short video that shows how to collect a soil sample that can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wwNnCsIbIk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wwNnCsIbIk).

Adapted from an article published by the New York City Department of Environmental Education.



**Annual Meeting 2019**  
76 years! Celebrate with us at the Multi Purpose Building on the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville on Thursday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- David Anspach
- Joe Glassmeyer
- Melody Newman
- Steve Phillips
- Todd Winemiller

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

- Lori Lenhart
- Jenna Swanson

**DISTRICT STAFF**

- John McManus
- Judy Krebs
- Susie Steffensen
- Becky McClatchey
- Jacob Hahn

## SWCD Water Quality Efforts Recognized

Clermont SWCD, along with the Clermont Office of Environmental Quality and the US EPA Office of Research and Development were awarded the top government storm water project of the year at the 2019 Ohio Storm Water Conference in Sharonville, OH. Our project was funded by a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and was installed in 2015. This project was funded to research innovative solutions by developing new strategies to support conservation efforts. The project involved the installation of an urban storm water detention basin into an agricultural setting. This project is currently being researched to determine effectiveness of agricultural nutrient removal.

The need to address agricultural runoff is important because of the water quality degradation and algal blooms that are occurring around the world. Nutrients leaving agricultural fields are a contributing factor to water quality problems. The soils that we have in our county are very unique to Ohio and an “outside the box” approach was needed because current management practices do not always apply in our area.

The partnership to make this project successful includes many county, state and federal agencies, landowners, and the private industry. This project speaks to the great success of everyone working together for a viable solution.



Full detention structure in field waterway.



Ongoing water quality monitoring.



Submerged treatment bed for nutrient removal.

### Calendar

Monthly Board Meeting	June 12 8am
Ohio River Sweep	June 15
Holiday (Office Closed)	July 4
Monthly Board Meeting	July 10 8am
Monthly Board Meeting	Aug. 14 8am
Covercrop Field Day, Highland County	Aug. 16
Holiday (Office Closed)	Sept. 2
76 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	Sept. 12

### Call for SWCD Supervisor Candidates

Clermont SWCD is seeking candidates for its Board of Supervisors. Two supervisors will be elected at the Annual Meeting which will be held on September 12.

Board Supervisors guide the district, its staff, and cooperating agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in the county that address management and conservation of soil, water and related resources. Board members should have a sincere interest in conservation and must have the enthusiasm, dedication and the time to serve as an elected official. This is a volunteer position, but supervisors can be reimbursed for mileage & expenses (registration, lodging, meals, etc.) related to events involving soil & water professionals.

#### **What a potential supervisor needs to know:**

- \* Candidate must be over 18 years old and a resident of Clermont County.
- \* This is a volunteer position and runs in 3 year terms.
- \* Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:00 AM and normally run 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- \* Attendance at occasional outside meetings, events or trainings is required.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Supervisor for Clermont SWCD, please contact John McManus, District Administrator at (513) 732-7075 Ext: 103.

## 2019 Ohio River Sweep

On Saturday, June 15th 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 volunteers can report to Chilo Lock #34 Park (rough terrain – adults or teens only!), Neville, Indian Mound Campground or the riverfront Bandstand in New Richmond.

The event starts at 9:00 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 Peggy Greenler at riversweep2019@gmail.com or at 513-335-4310.

## Another Successful Clermont County Cleanup

The Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District and Valley View Foundation are pleased to report that the 2019 Spring Litter Clean-Up was another great success! The event took place on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at sites across Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River Watershed. The event drew 450 volunteers to clean up 11 sites, including 10 miles of riverbank and lake shoreline! Volunteers collectively cleared approximately 3.2 tons of trash and contributed over 1,133 hours of community service.

We truly appreciate the support from our event sponsors: the Clermont County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Southern Ohio Association



*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.

## Its Not Too Late to Purchase a Rain Barrel

The use of rain barrels lowers municipal water demands and saves energy at water treatment facilities by reducing water pollution and storm water runoff.

### FEATURES

- 50 gallon capacity
- Large opening lid with locking feature
- Lid can be reversed to act as a planter
- FlexiFit™ diverter and all parts included for installation. FlexiFit™ diverter returns rainwater to downspout when barrel is full - no spillover
- 10 Year UV Resistance

**AVAILABLE IN TERRA COTTA OR GRANITE**

**PLEASE SPECIFY**

**\$80.00 each.**

Call our office - **LIMITED QUANTITIES**



of Realtors, the Duke Energy Foundation and the Buckeye United Fly Fishers!

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, Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Highland SWCD, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Friends of Stonelick State Park.

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District  
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1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160  
Phone: 513-732-7075  
[www.clermontswcd.org](http://www.clermontswcd.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd>  
<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>

## Palmer Amaranth in Ohio

Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is an aggressive, invasive weed native to the southwest region of the United States and northern Mexico. It has become a significant pest problem in the southern US soybean and cotton region. This plant is resistant to many herbicides including glyphosate, which makes it a difficult pest to control once it becomes established.

The plant is highly adaptable and is able to produce 100,000 seeds per plant. Its high growth rate and height (6 feet +) can cause significant yield losses and harvesting issues. If the plant is allowed to seed out, control will be difficult. Early detection and removal before seed heads form is best to combat this plant.

In Ohio, it has been found on multiple sites, with most eradicated before seed



formation, however, there are a few sites that have more severe infestations. The introduction of this plant can come from contaminated farm equipment, livestock feed, or from contaminated seed sources outside Ohio where Palmer Amaranth is present. It can come in from any seed source, including wildlife food plot mixes and deer feeder food. It is recommended to have your seeds tested by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure noxious weeds are not present before planting them on the properties that you manage.

If Palmer Amaranth is suspected on your property (there are native look-a-likes) contact any agricultural related office to report and get experts on site to confirm. There are many websites devoted to its identification and control; become familiar with this plant, as it is likely headed our way.