



Winter 2019

Our Mission:

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

Celebration for our 76th Anniversary

Over 100 friends of conservation turned out at the Clermont County Fairgrounds on September 12th for the 76th Annual Meeting of the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District.

The meeting got underway with the election of a new board supervisor (see pg. 2) and a tasty meal by Taste of the Good Life Catering.

Several partners were recognized for their achievements in the conservation field. Louise Gartner of Monroe Township was honored as the District’s Conservation Cooperator of the Year (see article pg. 6).

Meri Johnson was presented with the District’s Outstanding Conservation Teacher of the Year award.

Meri taught at Clermont Northeastern High School for 13 years and Batavia High School for nine years. During that time she taught biology, environmental science, outdoor science, physical science and more. In 1999, Meri was elected to our Board of Supervisors and served the District for 12 years. In 2003 she joined the Education Service Center as the County’s Science Curriculum Specialist. She currently works for Curriculum Engineering Inc. where she has trained hundreds of teachers in Ohio and been actively involved as a science education advisor for Clermont Northeastern schools, the Cincinnati

Nature Center, several local universities, the Ohio Department of Education and the National Science Teachers Association.



Meri Johnson receiving the educator of the year award from John McManus, District Administrator

The Clermont County Commissioners and the Ohio Congress and governor’s office presented the award recipients with proclamations recognizing their accomplishments and dedication to promoting good land stewardship.

Staff members were also recognized for their tenure on staff. Judy Krebs was recognized for 30 years and Becky McClatchey and Jake Hahn were both recognized for 10 years of service to the district.

The district would like to extend a special thank-you to all individuals and businesses who donated funds or door prizes to help make the 2019 conservation banquet a great success.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

David Anspach
Joe Glassmeyer
Melody Newman
Steve Phillips
Todd Winemiller

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Vacant

DISTRICT STAFF

John McManus
Judy Krebs
Susie Steffensen
Becky McClatchey
Jacob Hahn

Connie O'Connor Elected to Board of Supervisors

In the election held on September 12th, Connie won the seat on the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors. Connie is Director of Education for the Cincinnati Nature Center, where she has worked for the past 24 years. She received her bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Macalester College in St Paul, MN and her masters in natural resources from University of Wisconsin. She is a Certified Interpretive Planner with the National Association for Interpretation. Her term will begin January 1, 2020 and run through 2022.

Congratulations Connie, and thank you for serving your conservation district!



NRCS Office Changes

Lori Lenhart has taken a new position within NRCS and will no longer be serving as the District Conservationist for Clermont and Brown Counties, a position she has held since 2007. She will be heading up an urban agricultural initiative in Cincinnati and will still be stationed in Owensville.



Jenna Swanson served Clermont County as a Soil Conservationist since 2017 and has taken a similar position in her home state of Virginia.

We wish them both the best and appreciate the work they have provided during their stay in Clermont County.

Until further notice, please contact the Butler County NRCS office at 513-785-6660. Currently neither position has been filled. Please check our Facebook or website for additional information as it becomes available.



Batavia

Low-Head Dam Removed

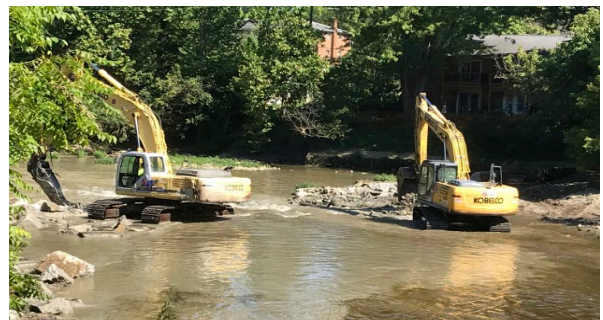
After more than eight years of planning, the Valley View Foundation, Clermont SWCD and other project partners have removed a 90 year old low-head dam on the East Fork Little Miami River, restoring its natural system and opening up a free-flowing waterway from Harsha Lake Dam to its confluence on the Little Miami River just south of Milford.

Public safety and stream restoration were the primary goals for this project. Many communities across Ohio are opting to remove defunct low-head dams. To date, over 65 low-head dams in Ohio have been eliminated. Funding for the Batavia project was provided by Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP).

This project also required the relocation of freshwater mussels within the project area. With the removal of Williamsburg Dam last year, this was the last remaining low-head dam on the main stem of the East Fork Little Miami River. This dam has not been in useful operation in many years and was beginning to deteriorate.



Batavia Dam prior to demolition.



Dam removal in progress.

Clermont SWCD would like to express our appreciation of the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their support through donations to the 76th Anniversary Celebration and other district events:

- Park National Bank
- Clermont Family YMCA
- Grants Greenhouses
- Carney's Feed Mill
- Bite Restaurant
- Jack Burriss
- Duke Energy
- Vista Grand Ranch
- Clermont Co. Farm Bureau
- Clermont Co. Visitors Bureau
- Jones Fish & Lake Management
- Southern Ohio Association of Realtors
- Clermont SWCD's Amazing Supervisors!



Calling All Artists

Want to showcase your art in the Rain Barrel Art Benefit Auction?

Here is How:

1. Visit SaveLocalWaters.org website to sign up and submit your idea for approval by Jan. 17.
2. Once approved attend the artist workshop on February 1 at the Cincinnati Zoo.
3. Pick up your rain barrel at end of the workshop
4. Return your painted rain barrel March 26-28 and visit it at the Cincinnati Zoo through April.

Simple as that!

This Rain Barrel Art Project was created to promote the use of rain barrels throughout the Ohio River Valley area via an entertaining yet educational medium.

Visit SaveLocalWaters.org for more information.

Rain Barrel Art Benefit Auction

April 23, 2020

(online auction Apr. 13 to 23)



Spring Litter Clean-Up Kicks Off with Logo Design Contest

Clermont SWCD and the Valley View Foundation are kicking off the 2020 Spring Litter Clean-Up (SLC) event with a T-shirt Design Contest for local K-12 students. This year's contest is sponsored by the Duke Energy Foundation, Southern Ohio Association of Realtors (SOAR), and the Clermont County Ohio Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). Any K-12 student attending a school located in Clermont County or within the East Fork Little Miami River watershed (including home-schooled students) is eligible to compete.

Logo designs should emphasize litter clean-up and prevention. Students can register for the contest through the event website: www.springlittercleanup.com. The student with the winning design will receive a \$100 cash award and an additional \$100 gift given to their school art department or local art program. There will also be 13 grade-level awards of \$25 each. The 2020 Spring Litter Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, May 16th at various locations across Clermont County and the East Fork Watershed. Entries due to the SWCD office by Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 by 4 pm.



Previous Clean-up design submissions.

SWCD Receives Award for Partnership

In 2018, the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD) began a partnership that has greatly benefited both organizations. To celebrate this relationship, Clermont DD presented Clermont SWCD with a Friends of Developmental Disabilities at its annual banquet on October 23.

The partnership began when Clermont SWCD was looking for assistance with preparing materials for the numerous education programs given through the year. Judy Krebs, the SWCD Education Specialist, typically presents over 275 programs in county schools annually, and had been spending considerable time making and organizing supplies for these. "We knew that Clermont DD had several programs that help students become more involved in the community, so we decided to reach out," said Krebs.

Clermont DD staff thought this was a wonderful idea. Soon, students from both the Wildey Center and the Douglas A. Collins Center began to prepare materials for Krebs's "Life Cycle of the Monarch Butterfly" and "Animal Tracks" programs. "While they are working, the students also have a chance to learn something about nature," said Krebs. "The students are able to see how butterflies go from a very small egg to a beautiful butterfly in their life cycle. Those helping make animal tracks learn about animal adaptations, characteristics, and how animals can be harmed when people litter."



Recycle those old Christmas lights

This holiday season, Clermont SWCD will be partnering with the Clermont County Park District, Solid Waste District and Cohen Recycling to provide free disposal of broken or unwanted Christmas lights. From December 1 through January 12, bins will be placed in the following locations around Clermont County:



- Clermont Park District Chilo Visitor Center
521 County Park Road, Chilo
- Clermont SWCD/Agricultural Service Center
1000 Locust Street, Owensville (Fairgrounds)
- Clermont Water Resources Lobby:
4400 Haskell Lane, Batavia
- Hartman Cabin Office
5260 Aber Road, Williamsburg

Please place lights only in marked bins, no pre-lit trees or wreaths. All proceeds from recycled lights will benefit the Clermont County Park District.

Calendar

Monthly Board Meeting	Dec. 14 11am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Dec. 25
Holiday (Office Closed)	Jan. 1
Monthly Board Meeting	Jan. 15 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Jan. 20
Monthly Board Meeting	Feb. 12 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Feb. 17

Melody retires from Board of Supervisors

Melody Newman of Wayne Township has decided to retire from our board following nine years of service at the end of the year. She has been a valuable asset to our board with her experience in conservation education.



Thank you Melody for all your contributions.



Thanks to all our Cooperators for all the Conservation Best Management Practices Installed this Year

Roy Barger Jr.	Brush Management	John Stahl	Nutrient Mgt. (2)
Bob Bolce	Brush Management	Galye Taylor	Cover Crops
Cornwell Family Partnership	Cover Crops	Jason Tolliver	Cover Crops, Brush Management
Robert Fee	Cover Crops	Varick Family Trust	Brush Management (3)
Scott Forman	Cover Crops	Laura Weber	Herb. Weed Control, Brush Management
James Fulton	Cover Crops	David Werring	Nutrient Mgt (3), Cover Crops (4)
Louise Gartner	Cover Crop, Nutrient Mgt., Roof Runoff Structure (2), Subsurface Drain (2)	Tim Werring	Nutrient Management
Charles Grant	Nutrient Management	Tony Werring	Nutrient Management
Jason Grant	Nutrient Mgt. (2)	Wiederhold Farms	Nutrient Mgt (2), Cover Crops (2)
James Grosnickle	Cover Crops	Wolfer Farms	Cover Crops (2)
Harold Herron	Cover Crops	Timothy Zurmehly	Cover Crops (2)
Ted Hollaender	Nutrient Mgt. (5), Cover Crops (2), Residue and Tillage Management	<i>*(2)- Number of practices completed</i>	
John Hutchinson	Nutrient Management, Cover Crops	What Exactly is Nutrient Management	
Tim Jarman	Nutrient Mgt. Plan	Nutrient management is not always a conservation practice that one can visually see in the field, but more of a management change. The goal of this practice is to reduce the amount of nutrient loss into our waterways with science based fertilizer/manure application rates based on crop needs and soils. This practice follows the 4-R's of nutrient management; the right source, right rate, right time, and right place.	
Lori Lenhart	Cover Crops	Producers follow guidelines to safely apply their nutrients in a sustainable manner. This may include updated soil testing, variable rate applications, no surface applications on frozen or snow covered grounds, limited fall nitrogen applications and nutrient applications that follow the Tri-State Fertility Guide recommendations to name a few.	
Michelle McClain	Brush Management	The end results is economical crop yields, decreased amount of nutrient loss, and enhanced water quality. This practice provides a written plan for producers to follow for their farms' specific needs. The end result is greening up our fields and not our lakes and rivers.	
James Metzger	Brush Management (2)		
Jeremy Mount	Brush Management		
Andrew Mueller	Tree/shrub site Prep, Wildlife Structures		
Jeremy Myers	Nutrient Mgt., Residue and Tillage Mgt.		
Anthony Panetta	Cover Crops		
Richard Rosselot	Cover Crops (2), Nutrient Mgt. (2)		
Paul Schmidt	Cover Crops		
Wesley Scott	Cover Crops		
Donald Smith	Brush Management (2)		
James Stahl	Nutrient Mgt. (2), Cover Crops		

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 Soil and Water Conservation District
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Phone: 513-732-7075
www.clermontswcd.org
<http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd>
<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>

Louise Gartner Honored as SWCD Cooperator of the Year

Louise Gartner, of Monroe Township, in two years, has gone from a small vegetable garden to raising organic crops under four high tunnels, with plans to construct two additional high tunnels. Her production includes beets, broccoli, carrots, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, and zucchini.

She has worked with NRCS to implement other sustainability practices such as cover crops, integrated pest management, nutrient management, and a drainage system around the high tunnels to further improve her operation. She now has a very productive operation, selling to a local food Co-op based out of Cincinnati, as well as an upper-end grocery store chain.

Louise also devotes her time to educating and training others. She has hosted various educational tours for groups such as: National Farm to Table

Conference and the Turner Farm who has a Veteran to Farmer Training Program.

The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District commends Louise for her stewardship efforts, growing food for her local community while protecting the land and valuable natural resources of the county.



*Louise receiving her award from
District Technician Jake Hahn.*