



# The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Spring 2020

## Our Mission:

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



We would like to announce the roll-out of The Southwest Ohio Agricultural Conservation Menu (SOACM) website. Collaborating with surrounding soil and water conservation districts and other agencies, a website has been created as a “one stop shop” for your conservation program needs.

The SOACM was designed to help local producers and landowners find information, technical assistance and programs related to conservation practices. The SOACM website also includes a Farmer Forum where farmers can post questions, share information and discuss local issues. Information on soil health, watershed health and local water quality monitoring data is also available to provide citizens with updated information related to the health of our local streams and lakes.

Agriculture and nutrients have been hot topics in the news lately, with large amounts of funding from the Ohio governor’s office to help address the nutrient issues occurring in our state. This website helps consolidate all the conservation programs available to the farmer, including information on federal, state and local funding sources and technical assistance.

This project was funded through the Ohio Environmental Education Fund administered through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Please visit our site and visit often as we continually update.

[www.soacm.com](http://www.soacm.com)

## *Krebs retires after 31 years*

At the end of January, Judy Krebs retired from Clermont SWCD after 31 years of service. When Judy started as the District’s first ever Education Specialist, she instituted the in-school education programs that continue to this day.



In recent years, Judy would present over 300 programs annually to local students on various topics related to soil and water conservation and litter prevention and recycling. During her tenure, Clermont SWCD was named the Ohio Conservation Education District of the Year in 2000 and 2010. Over 31 years, Judy has touched the lives of countless students and worked diligently over the years to instill a strong sense of environmental stewardship in Clermont County communities. Thank you for your service, Judy! You will be missed.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

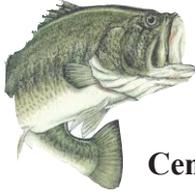
David Anspach  
Joe Glassmeyer  
Connie O’Connor  
Steve Phillips  
Todd Winemiller

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Vacant

## DISTRICT STAFF

John McManus  
Susie Steffensen  
Becky McClatchey  
Jacob Hahn



## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL POND CLINIC

Our annual pond clinic will again be held at the **Cincinnati Nature Center** April 14 at 5:30. This will give you additional guidance on owning and maintaining ponds. **Check out our agenda:**

Come early for our **pond walk with experts** if you desire. Weather dependent 4 pm-5 pm. This will be an easy hike, but may include uneven terrain.

Featured Speakers: **Gus Kiebel** and **Randy Morgan**, from Ohio Department of Natural Resources will discuss muskrat prevention and control in regards to maintaining a healthy and structurally safe pond.

Breakout Session 1A: **Ponds 101** Jake Hahn with Clermont SWCD brings 10 years of pond assistance tips and guidance. For those who are new with management or those wondering where to start first  
or

Breakout Session 1B: **Pond Health and Aeration** with Jones Fish Hatchery. Maintaining a healthy pond with aeration and other management tools to create a healthy environment for your fish.

Breakout Session 2A: **Pond Weed Control** with Jones Fish Hatchery. Learn to ID and manage plants in your pond from those who deal with it every day.  
or

Breakout Session 2B: **So you Want to Build a Pond?** with Jake Hahn. Come learn about resources, permitting, and proper pond construction to be able to speak to a contractor. Sorry, no grant money available for building ponds.

Cincinnati Nature Center- Rowe Woods  
4949 Tealtown Road Milford, OH 45150

Tuesday April 14th, 2020  
5:30 PM

There is no cost, but registration is required to gain admission to the Cincinnati Nature Center. To register visit [clermontswcd.org](http://clermontswcd.org) or call 513-732-7075 for additional information until April 7th.

Clermont County Farm Bureau is providing snacks.



## **Spring Litter Clean-Up - Saturday, May 16, 2020 -**

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, **May 16, 2020**, from 9:00 a.m. – noon at various locations across Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River Watershed.

Volunteers are needed! You can register individually, organize a school/scout group, or bring some neighborhood friends, to participate in this fun, worthwhile event! Protective gloves and trash bags will be provided. All volunteers will be given a picnic lunch and a stainless steel water bottle with the winning logo from design contest as a thank you for helping out. Watch our website for locations and to register at: **[www.springlittercleanup.com](http://www.springlittercleanup.com)**.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our event partners: Clermont Office of Environmental Quality, Clermont County Park District, Ohio Department of Natural Resources-State Parks, US Army Corp of Engineers, and Valley View Foundation.

### **NRCS Announces EQIP Deadline**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced Friday, March 20, 2020, as the deadline to submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This is a voluntary conservation program which helps producers make conservation work for them. Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or conservation practices.

Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, and organic. Several projects are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations and wildlife habitat, pasture improvements and many more.

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest landowners and must meet eligibility criteria. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by March 20 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2020 funding.

Contact John Williams for additional information and to sign up at 513-877-3720.



# 2020 Conservation Plant Sale

## Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District



ORDERING PLANTS IS A BREEZE AT OUR ONLINE STORE! PLEASE GO TO:

[WWW.CLERMONTPLANTSALE.COM](http://WWW.CLERMONTPLANTSALE.COM) to place your order.

WE ACCEPT CASH AND CHECKS BY MAIL OR CREDIT cards through our store.

**\*\*Please see our new pick up hours below!\*\***

**T**he Clermont SWCD is offering tree and shrub seedlings, as well as a few native perennials at discount prices. This program offers the opportunity for individuals to develop small areas of reforestation, wildlife enhancement, or additions to home landscaping.

Most of the seedlings described in this newsletter are from 12 inches to 24 inches tall. Tree and shrub seedlings will be bare rooted; we dip the plants in a root

preservative to help keep the roots from drying out and then wrap them in a plastic bag. Most packets will be in a bag about the size of a grocery bag and can easily be placed in your car for pick up. Perennials are sold as 'plugs'. Please see page 5 for plug description.

**For detailed descriptions and photos, please visit our website at [clermontplantsale.com](http://clermontplantsale.com)**

**\*For Best Livability, Plant Immediately\***

### Planting Tips For Bare Root Seedlings...

1. Never let roots dry completely **OR** leave seedlings immersed in water for long periods as they will drown. These are the most common causes of seedling death!
2. Make your planting hole deep enough to accommodate the roots. **It is better to prune the roots with scissors than to wad or curl the roots to make them fit** in your planting hole. Plant so that the roots are free, not cramped. Trim any broken roots. **DO NOT TRIM TAP ROOT!**
3. Plant the seedling at same depth as it was in the nursery. Ground level should be where the roots stop and the stem begins.
4. Water thoroughly. Use only water soluble fertilizer with root stimulating ingredients.
5. Mulch, mulch, mulch! Dried grass clippings, ground up leaves or commercially available organic mulches will suppress weeds and hold in moisture.
6. **WATER SEEDLINGS FAITHFULLY FOR THE FIRST 2 YEARS!**

### Check out our new native pollinators.

They are recommended by the Cincinnati Zoo and provide plenty of flowering potential to attract the bees and butterflies. These are a great addition to your flower garden.



*Dwarf Blue Star*



*Pink Turtlehead*



*Lyra Leaf Sage*

**Order Deadline : April 9, 2020**

**Please call Clermont SWCD for availability after this date!**

**Pick Up Dates:** Thursday April 16 and Friday April 17, Noon - 6:30PM

**Where:** Clermont County Fairgrounds, Commercial Building

**Please order early to guarantee availability. Thank you!**



# 2020 Conservation Plant Sale



**Packet A**                      **Eastern White Pine**                      **\$11.00**  
 Prefers sun, partial shade OK. *PINUS STROBUS*                      3/pkt.  
 18" bare root

**Native Species;** Beautiful hardy evergreen. Color is bluish green-Long soft needles. The fastest growing evergreen we offer. Will tolerate slightly wet areas but does best on drier slopes. Grows to 100 ft. at maturity. Excellent for windbreaks and ornamental use.

**Packet B**                      **Dawn Redwood**                      **\$11.00**  
 Prefers sun    *METASEQUOIA GLYPTOSTROBOIDES*                      3/pkt.  
 12-18" bare root

Growing to a mature height of 100', this large tree needs a large space. Excellent landscape specimen or street tree. Very fast grower - up to 2' per year.

**Packet C**                      **Sweet Bay Magnolia**                      **\$11.00**  
 Full/Part Sun                      *MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANA*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

This small semi-evergreen grows to 10-35' and prefers moist to wet soil, including clay. Creamy white, fragrant flowers appear in late Spring early Summer. Provides larval food for swallowtail butterflies. No known pest / disease problems.

**Packet D**                      **Bur Oak**                      **\$11.00**  
 Full Sun                      *QUERCUS MACROCARPA*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** This massive, majestic oak is the state forester's recommendation. Slow growing to 90' with a spread up to 80'. The Bur Oak produces the largest acorns, and is an important food source for Ohio wildlife, insects and birds.

**Packet E**                      **Downy Serviceberry**                      **\$11.00**  
 Full/Part Sun                      *AMELANCHIER ARBOREA*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** The tallest of the serviceberries, this species can grow to 15-25'. Can be grown as a tree or shrub and excellent in natural borders and as screens. The flowers attract native bees & pollinators, and the June berries are a favored food source for many bird species. Fantastic Fall color.

**Packet F**                      **White Flowering Dogwood**                      **\$11.00**  
 Full/Part Sun                      *CORNUS FLORIDA*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** Small tree with spectacular white flowers in early spring. Tolerates shade as well as full sun. Excellent as a landscaping tree. Red fruits are an important food for many birds and other wildlife species. Height & spread: 10-30 ft.

**Packet G**                      **Eastern Redbud**                      **\$11.00**  
 Prefers partial shade                      *CERCIS CANADENSIS*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** brilliant purple flowers in early spring. Very effective in mass plantings / naturalized settings. Large, dark green heart-shaped leaves turn bright yellow in fall. **Northern bobwhite and songbirds eat the seeds and this tree provides nesting sites and cover for both birds and small mammals.** Grows to 25 feet.

**Packet H**                      **Buttonbush**                      **\$11.00**  
 Sun,/Part Shade.                      *CEPHALANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** This small, wet-loving shrub can grow to 15' but is normally 3-5' tall. The ping pong ball shaped flower clusters are frequented by many pollinators, including butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Excellent shrub for erosion control.

**Packet I**                      **American Beautyberry**                      **\$11.00**  
 Full/Part Sun                      *CALLICARPA AMERICANA*                      3/pkt.  
 18" bare root

**Native species;** This loose, open shrub is valued for its spectacular fruits. Mature size is 5-8' in height and spread. Late Spring blooms are inconspicuous, but the bees and butterflies frequent it. Beautiful bright purple berry-like drupes are high in moisture and a prized food source for over 40 species of songbirds. Leaves contain natural insect repellents... crush them and rub on your skin to keep pests away!

**Packet J**                      **Spicebush**                      **\$11.00**  
 Sun to part shade                      *LINDERA BENZOIN*                      3/pkt.  
 18" bare root

**Native Species;** A light fragrance, yellow fall color and pest tolerance makes this plant perfect for the shrub border. **The Spicebush attracts birds and butterflies and serves as host plant for butterfly larva.** Rabbits and deer browse on leaves and twigs. Mature height of 10-20 feet. Spicy yellow to red fruit are a delicacy, as few shrubs set fruit.

**Packet K**                      **Arrowwood Viburnum**                      **\$11.00**  
 Tolerates shade                      *VIBURNUM DENTATUM*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** Dainty but durable little shrub that befits the naturalistic woodland garden, or a mixed shrub border; 6-12' at maturity. Fall colors can be quite impressive and the birds relish the showy blue-black fruits. Arrowwood thrives in the filtered light under large oaks or tall pines. Arrowwood responds well to pruning and can be kept at any desired size. It also can be pruned to a central leader, to make an elegant little tree. Arrowwood flowers every spring, but you need two different plants to get fruit production.

**Packet L**                      **Black Chokeberry**                      **\$11.00**  
 Full/Part Sun                      *ARONIA MELANOCARPA*                      3/pkt.  
 18-24" bare root

**Native Species;** Small shrub (reaching 3-6 feet at maturity) White flowers in the spring are followed by handsome purplish black fruits later in the year. Glossy green foliage turns wine-red in the fall. Because of suckering and its tolerance to wet soils, this species is used in mass plantings, naturalized gardens, for erosion control, in windbreaks, and in landscapes with excessively wet soils. Berries are consumed by 24 different species of wildlife, but less preferred by deer.



## 2020 CONSERVATION PLANT SALE ORDER FORM

Pkt.	Description	Plants/Pkt.	Size	Price/pkt.	# of Pkts.	Total Cost	Pkt.
A	Eastern White Pine	3	18"	\$11.00			A
B	Dawn Redwood	3	12-18"	\$11.00			B
C	Sweet Bay Magnolia	3	18"	\$11.00			C
D	Bur Oak	3	18-24"	\$11.00			D
E	Downy Serviceberry	3	18-24"	\$11.00			E
F	White Flowering Dogwood	3	18-24"	\$11.00			F
G	Eastern Redbud	3	24"	\$11.00			G

### SHRUBS

H	Buttonbush	3	18-24"	\$11.00			H
I	American Beautyberry	3	18"	\$11.00			I
J	Spicebush	3	18"	\$11.00			J
K	Arrowwood Viburnum	3	18-24"	\$11.00			K
L	Black Chokeberry	3	18-24"	\$11.00			L

### POLLINATOR PERENNIALS

G1	Amsonia 'Blue Ice'	3	DP50 plug	\$9.00			G1
G2	Chelone Lyon II 'Hot Lips'	3	DP50 plug	\$9.00			G2
G3	Salvia 'Purple Knockout'	3	DP50 plug	\$9.00			G3

### RAIN BARRELS *(Limited Quantities)*

RB	Rain Barrel - <i>Terra cotta</i> or <i>Granite</i> (circle color choice)	50 gallon	\$85.00				RB
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Donations to Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. **Thank You!!**  
All proceeds and donations go towards conservation education and outreach programs.

**Total Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by check, make check payable to **Clermont SWCD** and mail to:  
PO Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160-0549

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ email address: Include if you would like to be added to next year's sale!

**Please make arrangements to pick up your order April 16 or 17 Noon- 6:30, as we cannot ship or hold orders.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street
City
State
Zip

**ORDER DEADLINE IS APRIL 9TH - To order after this date, please order online.**

## Green Acres looking for Citizen Help

If you have an interest in learning more about the water quality in a nearby stream, you may want to consider becoming a volunteer water quality monitor. The Saturday Stream Snapshot (SSS) is a volunteer program run by Greenacres Foundation that researches the health of the Little Miami River watershed. Saturday Stream Snapshot takes place on the second Saturday of each month from March-November (11 am – 2 pm).

Volunteers are able to participate by collecting water samples from sites along the Little Miami or any of its tributaries and/or performing water quality analysis at the Water Quality Education Center in Milford. No previous water testing or lab experience is needed to participate! To learn more about the SSS program, please contact Emily Pickett at [epickett@green-acres.org](mailto:epickett@green-acres.org) or (513) 370-3662.



## Storm Sewers Flow to the River

In recent months, Clermont SWCD staff has responded to a variety of complaints regarding materials being emptied into a storm drain or ditch, including restaurant grease, concrete washout, wastewater from carpet cleaning and pet washing, paint and motor oil. Please remember that storm sewers do not lead to a treatment plant, but rather directly to a nearby waterway, and dumping anything other than water into a storm sewer is illegal.

If you have questions on how to properly dispose of an item, or if you happen to witness an illegal dumping, please contact us at 513-732-7075 ext. 3.

## Sustainability... What Is It?

By: Susie Steffensen

There are a number of definitions for sustainability and ways to achieve it. For example, one definition is, "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Another, as it applies to nature is, "The quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance". For both of these definitions, steps taken now will determine the quality of life for future generations.

There are factors that play into the world's ability to be sustainable, such as population growth... energy usage... waste production... agricultural practices and deforestation...

plastic use. Addressing these factors and implementing practices that reduce their effects on the environment is the goal, and everyone can do a little something to achieve this goal.



Recycling and reducing the use of single use plastic addresses the need to reduce waste. Turning down the thermostat, turning off lights, and reducing the hot water heater to 120° are ways to reduce energy consumption. Implementing best management practices such as precision agriculture, cover crops, and grassed waterways will improve water quality and help prevent erosion.

So if you are already taking action to help sustainability, thank you! Picking up litter, stopping erosion on your property, allowing weeds to grow in your yard... these things are so beneficial and don't cost a thing. It might mean rearranging your priorities, but anything that benefits our natural world will benefit you in the long run.

For more information follow us on Facebook, as we will be posting additional ideas on ways to practice sustainable living.

*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  
P.O. Box 549  
1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160  
Phone: 513-732-7075  
www.clermontswcd.org  
<http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd>  
<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>



<<First>> <<Last>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

<b>Calendar</b>	
Monthly Board Meeting	Mar. 11 8am
Monthly Board Meeting	Apr. 8 8am
Conservation Sale Order Deadline	Apr. 9
Perennial School (OSU Extension)	Apr. 9
Pond Clinic at Cincy Nature Center	Apr. 14
Conservation Sale Pickup	Apr. 16 & 17
Rain Barrel Art Auction, Cincy Zoo	Apr. 23
Monthly Board Meeting	May 13 8am
Spring Litter Cleanup	May 16
Office Closed (Holiday)	May 25
Monthly Board Meeting	June 10 8am
Ohio River Sweep	June 20