

The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Summer 2020

Our Mission:

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

Clermont County’s “Summer” Litter Clean-Up

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and the Valley View Foundation are working up plans to change this year’s Spring Litter Clean-Up into a virtual, Do-It-Yourself event during the month of July.

Communities across Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River Watershed participate in this annual event and although modifications are needed due to COVID-19 and state orders, volunteers can still do their part in areas close to home while enjoying the outdoors. This year’s event will kick off on July 4th in honor of our nation’s independence. We encourage people to pick any day through July 4-25 and find a nearby area in need of litter removal.

Volunteers can practice social distancing while they enjoy local parks and open spaces, walk trails, and canoe the river or lake. Clean-up materials, including trash bags and protective gloves, can be made available to volunteers if desired. Individuals that request litter clean-up materials will be sent details for supply pick-up in their communities. Volunteers are asked to register online at www.springlittercleanup.com and to review social distancing guidelines provided by the state.

Thank you to our local sponsors, including the Duke

SWCD Operation Schedule

Clermont SWCD continues to adjust to the changes required to combat COVID-19. District Board and staff have responded accordingly and found resourceful ways to continue our mission while honoring state/local orders and recommendations. At the time of this publication, Clermont SWCD offices and others at the Agricultural Resource Center in the County Fairgrounds remain closed to the public. Visits to the District office may be made by appointment only. Staff are rotating the days during which they work in the office, and are available to make site visits any time during regular business hours (M-F, 8 to 4:30). To schedule an appointment, please email our staff or call (513) 732-7075.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Becky McClatchey
Jacob Hahn
Kat Zelak

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Brittany McAdams



Annual Meeting 2020

77 years! For the safety of everyone stay tuned as we explore options for holding our banquet this year.

Tentative Date:

Thursday, Sept. 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

SLC Cont. on pg. 3

**Welcome the New Staff in our Office:
Kat Zelak, SWCD Education Coordinator and
Brittany McAdams, NRCS Soil Conservationist**

Hello, my name is Kat Zelak and I am looking forward to serving you as your Education Coordinator. I grew up in Rochester, NY and have called Cincinnati home for the last 3 years. In 2014, I completed two B.S. degrees from Cornell University in animal science and natural resources and in 2018, a M.S. degree from the Ohio State University in agriculture and extension education. In my free time I love to take backpacking trips, knit, and play ice hockey. I'm excited to learn more about your programming needs and work with you all in the future. If you have any recommendations for future programming or feedback about the programs we currently offer, please do not hesitate to contact me at kzelak@clermontcountyohio.gov.



My name is Brittany McAdams and I am the new soil conservationist for Clermont and Brown Counties. I originally hail from Aurora, IN, which is right across the IN/OH state line in Dearborn County. I earned my B.S. in natural resources from Purdue University and my M.S. in soil science from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For the past two years I worked as a land manager and educator for a parks district in Carmel, Indiana. When I'm not working as a soil con, I am an avid birder, and spend a lot of my time hiking in the beautiful woodlands of southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky. I am very excited to be joining the NRCS team and become a part of the Clermont and Brown County community.



The NRCS District Conservationist position has been hired with a start date in late June. Watch our Facebook page or www.clermontswcd.org for updates.

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 is tentatively scheduled for September 10.

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 encouraged.

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

Having Fun with Pond Management

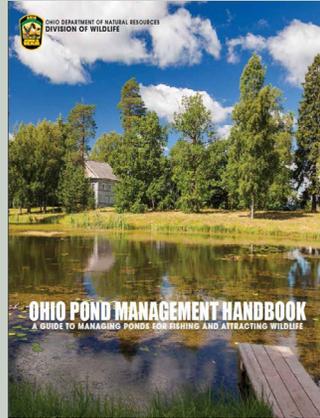
by Jake Hahn, District Technician

In these times of COVID-19, I have decided to write a fun article that will keep you busy and answer questions about your pond, while keeping to the social distancing. I visit many ponds each year throughout the county and assist land owners and pond managers with many problems they may be having including algae, pond leaks, pond construction and fish kills, most of which are not fun for the landowner to address. I often am asked how do I know if I have a healthy hatchery, or how sustainable is the fish population years after stocking? Not questions I can answer in an assessment, but here is where the fun begins.

People install a pond on their property for many different reasons, including recreation, aesthetics, water management, or maybe just to mow less grass. Whatever the reason, I am amazed at how little many of these ponds are fished. To accurately understand what is happening under the water you have to get in there with a hook and bobber to find out.

Keeping records of the type, size, and quantity of fish caught over time will let you know how your fish are doing. Are they getting larger? Are you catching as many bass as you once were? Are you seeing small fish due to reproduction? You can then use those numbers to make management decisions on your fishery. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has an excellent pond management publication available online that has tips to manage your fishery and includes a diary page example for keeping records.

So let the fun begin and get the kids, grandkids, and big kids at heart out doing some “pond inventory work.” This is a great way to get kids outdoors as they try to outfish their previous outing or for them to learn natural resources management and record keeping. So go out, be active, social distance and have fun.



Ohio River Sweep Update

ORANSCO's Ohio River Sweep 2020, the annual volunteer cleanup that extends the along the entire river, has been postponed until Saturday Aug. 15 from 9 am to noon. As of now, the event includes cleanups in New Richmond, Neville and Moscow. (Note: ORANSCO is the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission.)

“This is a great volunteering opportunity to give back to communities and create a healthier environment for people and wildlife along the fabulous Ohio River,” said Penny Greenler, Clermont County coordinator volunteers receive gloves, trash bags and t-shirts supplied by sponsors.

Calendar

Monthly Board Meeting	June 10 8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	July 3
Spring Litter Cleanup	July 4-25
Monthly Board Meeting	July 8 8am
Monthly Board Meeting	Aug. 12 8am
Ohio River Sweep	Aug. 15
Holiday (Office Closed)	Sept. 7
Monthly Board Meeting	Sept. 9 8am
SWCD Annual Meeting	Sept. 10 Tent.

SLC Cont. from pg. 1

Energy Foundation, the Southern Ohio Association of Realtors and the Clermont County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. We appreciate the support of our partner agencies, including the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality, the Clermont County Park District, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Ohio EPA and OSU Extension. Most importantly, thank you to the volunteers and communities that come back year after year to protect our local natural resources! Please visit the SLC website for more information and to register: www.springlittercleanup.com.

Event: Clermont County's Summer Litter Clean-Up

Date: July 4-25, 2020

Location: DIY – Find a nearby area in need of litter removal

How: Register online: www.springlittercleanup.com

P.S.: Send us some pics and info on your efforts! The event website will be updated with a collage of community efforts.

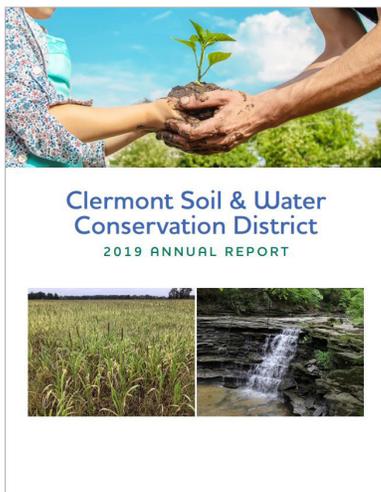
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www.clermontswcd.org
http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd
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Check Out our Newest Publications:

2019 Annual Report Available

The year of 2019 was exceptionally busy and productive for us. Read about our workshops, events, projects, grants, staff and board changes and more in our 2019 Annual Report. You can access this report from our homepage at www.clermontswcd.org



Thinking About Buying Property in Clermont County?

Clermont SWCD has just completed a guide titled **Look Before You Buy: Important drainage points to consider when purchasing a home or property in Clermont County**. Due to the soils and topography, drainage can be a major issue in our county. This guide gives you information on drainage, things to look for, and agencies that can help you out. You can view a pdf of the guide on our website, and once printed we hope to have copies at Clermont County offices and libraries... stay tuned!

