



The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Spring 2023



Our Mission:

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

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Be the Change for Clean Water

Is your house located along a stream? Streams are dynamic systems, meaning they are constantly changing. Your stream may be a babbling brook most days but after a heavy rain, it can become a roiling river. The best way to get along with your stream is to protect the edge with a buffer strip of native grass, forbs, trees, and/or shrubs. Streamside buffers are beneficial for many reasons:

- Plant roots help stabilize the stream bank. Native plants have deep root systems which hold the soil in place.
- Buffers filter out sediment and other pollutants that may wash into a stream. Sediment can smother aquatic organisms that live on the stream bottom and make it difficult for fish to find food.
- Within the water, small fish and other aquatic organisms will find vital cover under plants that hang over the edge. The shade provided by the plants in the buffer helps to moderate the temperature of the stream. Cooler water holds more oxygen and reduces stress on fish and other aquatic creatures.
- Flourishing vegetation on the bank attracts desirable wildlife such as mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Buffers entice insects like dragonflies, and various birds, which feed

on mosquitoes and ticks. Buffers provide an excellent food source for our valuable pollinators. Buffers provide connecting corridors that enable wildlife to move safely from one habitat area to another.

- Buffers help filter trash as well as leaves, grass clippings, fertilizers, and other debris that can cause excessive nutrient spikes. If the stream receives runoff laden with nitrogen and phosphorus, nuisance vegetation and algae can grow. Excessive growth may lead to water quality problems such as foul odors, low dissolved oxygen levels potentially leading to fish kills, and harmful algal blooms which are unsafe for people, pets, and wildlife.
- Buffers absorb rainwater, which recharges groundwater supplies and allows storm runoff to be released more slowly. This can reduce the intensity and frequency of flooding.

Clermont SWCD staff can provide guidance on how to establish an effective and attractive stream buffer. If you would like our assistance, please give our office a call at 513-732-7075.

For a list of stream buffer friendly plants available through our Annual Plant Sale, see page 2.

(Adapted from an article published by Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District)

Calendar

Monthly Board Meeting	Mar. 8 8am
Pond Clinic	Apr. 4 5:30pm
Monthly Board Meeting	Apr. 12 8am
Spring Litter Clean Up	Apr. 22
Plant Sale Order Deadline	May 2
Plant Sale Pickup	May 4 & 5
Monthly Board Meeting	May 10 8am
Office Closed (Holiday)	May 29

Join Us for Our Annual Pond Clinic

Join us for our first spring pond clinic since 2019 at the Cincinnati Nature Center on Tuesday April 4th from 5:30pm - 8:00pm. This clinic will give you additional guidance on owning and maintaining ponds. We will also hold a pond walk with experts, weather dependent, 4 pm-5 pm. Discussion on the walk will be based on group questions and interests. This will be an easy hike, but may include uneven terrain.

There is no cost, but registration is required to gain free admission to the Cincinnati Nature Center. To register visit clermontswcd.org or call 513-732-7075 for additional information until April 3rd.

Guest Speaker: Randy Morgan, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, will deliver the opening presentation regarding muskrat issues in ponds.

Breakout Session 1A: Ponds 101 Jake Hahn with Clermont SWCD brings 14 years of pond assistance tips and guidance. For those who are new with management or those that are thinking of building.

or

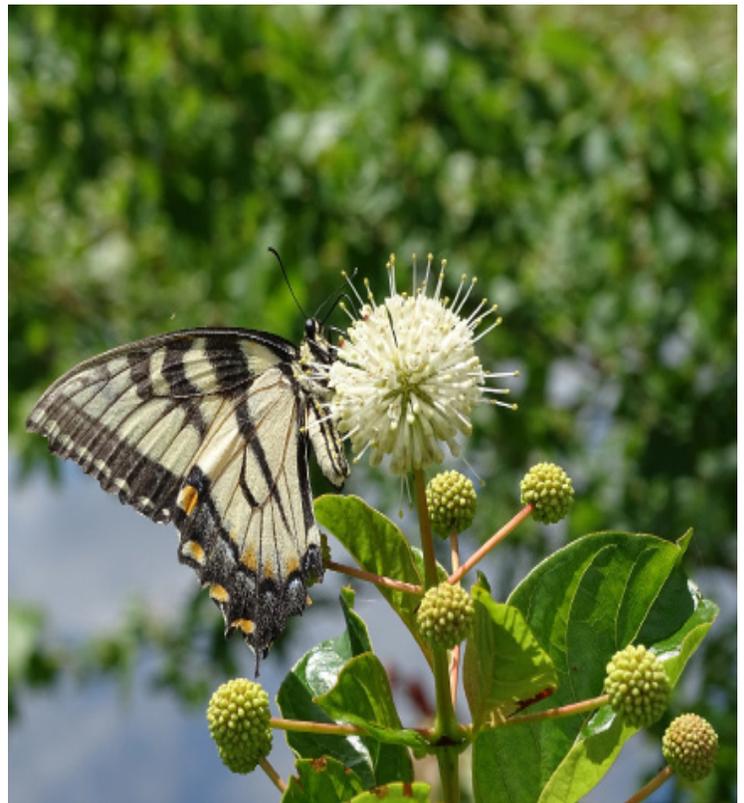
Breakout Session 1B: Fish Stocking with Jones Fish Hatchery. What fish will be most successful in your pond and what fish should you stock that you don't know about.

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: Nature Talk, with staff from the Cincinnati Nature Center.

Clermont County Farm Bureau is providing snacks.



Buttonbush is a great option for stream buffers and is a favorite of butterflies. Photo from U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Stream Buffer Plants Available at Plant Sale

The “Be the Change for Clean Water” article on page 1 describes how a buffer of native plants along a stream helps prevent bank erosion, filters pollutants, cools the stream, and provides habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Several of the species we are offering as part of our annual plant sale work well as stream buffers. In particular, buttonbush will work very well along the stream edge. Other plants will fare well higher up on the bank including:

- Spicebush
- Serviceberry
- Elderberry
- Maple leaf viburnum
- Hazelnut
- Redbud

For questions on what plants would work best in your stream bank buffer, contact Clermont SWCD at 513-732-7075 for assistance.



2023 Conservation Plant Sale



Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District

WWW.CLERMONTPLANTSALE.COM

To place your order

For questions or help with ordering please call

Connie Miller at (513) 732-7075 ext.2

The 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.

Tree, shrub, & vine seedlings will be bare rooted; we dip the plants in a root preservative to help keep the roots from drying out and 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’.

For Best Success, 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. Putting seedlings in pots is a great alternative to planting in the ground. This way you can keep the plants near water and care for them until they get roots established. If you plant directly into the ground, make your planting hole deep enough to accommodate the roots. **DO NOT TRIM TAP ROOT**, but it is better to prune the axillary 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.
 3. Plant the seedling at same depth as it was in the nursery pot. 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 WHEN DRY FOR THE FIRST 2 YEARS!**
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Orders Will be Taken Until May 2nd OR Until Stock Runs Out

Pick Up Dates: Thursday, May 4th, Noon - 6:30 pm, AND Friday, May 5th, Noon - 4:30 pm

Clermont County Fairgrounds, Commercial Building

Please order early to guarantee availability. Thank you!

TREES/SHRUBS

Packet A Eastern White Pine 3/pkt. \$11.00

Bluish green with long soft needles Grows to 80-120 ft. at maturity Used for windbreaks and ornamental applications.

Packet B Norway Spruce 3/pkt. \$11.00

Dark green short needles with drooping branches and upswept tips. Grows 60-90 ft. at maturity. Used for windbreaks and Christmas trees.

Packet C Eastern Redbud 3/pkt. \$11.00

Native Species. Large dark green heart-shaped leaves turning bright yellow in fall. Grows to 15-25 ft. at maturity.

Packet D White Flowering Dogwood 3/pkt. \$11.00

Native Species. Small tree with spectacular white flowers in early spring. Grows to 15-30 ft. at maturity.

Packet E Persimmon, Common 3/pkt. \$11.00

Native Species. Fragrant white flowers yield orange edible fruit in fall. Grows 40-60 ft. at maturity.

Packet F Butternut 3/pkt. \$11.00

Native Species. Sometimes called white walnut. Produces rich butter-flavored nuts and high quality wood. Grows 40-70 ft. at maturity.

Packet G American Hazelnut 3/pkt. \$11.00

Native Species. Multi-stemmed shrub. Leaves turn orange to red or purple in fall. Grows to 10-18 ft at maturity.

Packet H Allegheny Serviceberry 3/pkt. \$11.00

Native Species. Oval leaves turn orange in fall; blanketed in white flowers in spring. Grows 15-40 ft. at maturity.

Packet I Black Elderberry 3/pkt. \$11.00

Small to large shrub with white petal flowers that produce purple-black berries. Grows 6-13 ft at maturity

Packet J Mapleleaf Viburnum 3/pkt. \$11.00

Long green maple-like leaves that turn orange in fall with berries that are bluish-black. Grows 4-6 ft at maturity

Packet K Spice Bush 3/pkt. \$11.00

Small yellow flowers in the spring and fall with light green leaves in summer. Grows 10-20 ft at maturity.

Packet L Buttonbush 3/pkt. \$11.00

Clustered white flowers that leave ball-like fruits filled with seeds. Can grow up to 15 ft but normally around 3-5 ft at maturity

Packet M Common Lilac 3/pkt. \$11.00

Known for its beauty and fragrance. Used as an accent plant.

Packet N Sensative Fern 2 per order \$2.00

Native Species. Used to provide areas of lush groundcover.

POLLINATOR PLUGS

Packet O Blazing Star 5 plugs \$15.00

Grass like foliage and tall spiky blooms. Attracts butterflies, birds, and bees.

Packet P Pink Turtle-head 5 plugs \$15.00

Wildflower with upright, busy mound of shiny green foliage.

Packet Q Purple Coneflower 5 plugs \$15.00

Daisy like flower that draws butterflies and bees.

Packet R Smooth Aster 5 plugs \$15.00

Large heads of flower clusters. Hardy plant with a long lasting bloom.

Packet S Ox-eye Sunflower 5 plus \$15.00

Daisy like flower with yellow-orange rays surrounding brownish-yellow center cones. Birds love the seeds and attractive to butterflies.

Packet T 25 plugs \$65.00

Let us give you a hand at starting your pollinator garden! You will get 5 plugs each of :

- Blazing Star
- Pink Turtlehead
- Purple Coneflower
- Smooth Aster
- Oxeye Sunflower

We will include information on sizes and recommended spacing, Just prep, plant, mulch, and water!

RB RAIN STATION™ RAIN BARREL \$90.00

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

COMPOSTERS

We have partnered with the Adams/Clermont Solid Waste District again this year to sell Earth Machine composters at cost.

Please see www.clermontplantsale.com for more information and pricing for 2023.



2023 Greater Cincinnati Master Rain Gardener Courses

The Master Rain Gardener (MRG) Course is a 5 day course that takes place over 6 weeks. During the course, students are guided through the rain garden design and installation process by experienced regional professionals.

\$50 Registration Fee

Spring Course

Registration 1/11/2023
Butler Soil & Water Conservation District
9:00am - 1:00pm
March 5, 10, 17, 24 & April 7

Fall Course

Registration Opens 6/1/2023
Clermont County Park District
9:00am - 1:00pm
August 4, 11, 18, 25 & September 8

For additional information, registration, and to see a list of rotating host locations, visit www.cincyraingardener.org.

Clermont SWCD Needs Your Feedback as Part of Strategic Planning Process

Throughout 2023, Clermont SWCD is seeking feedback from county residents as part of our strategic planning process. We are interested in hearing your feedback regarding services we have offered in the past as well as what programs you would like to see offered in the future. We have developed an online survey and will be collecting community responses through the end of July. To thank you for your time and thoughtful responses, we are offering four \$75 gift cards to the following local businesses: Bite Restaurant, Scene 75, Little Miami Brewing, and Roads Rivers & Trails. We will be randomly drawing from the pool of respondents in August. If you have any questions or would like more information about the process, please contact Kat Zelak at kzelak@clermontcountyohio.gov or 513-732-7075 ex. 5

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO COMPLETE A SURVEY FOR THE CLERMONT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SCAN



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT CONNIE MILLER AT (513) 732-7075 OR CMILLER@CLERMONTCOUNTYOHIO.GOV



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>



Clermont SWCD 2023 Spring Litter Clean-Up Logo Design Contest

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District and the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District are kicking off the 2023 Spring Litter Clean-Up (SLC) event with a Logo Design Contest for local K-12 students. Any K-12 student attending a school located in Clermont County or within the East Fork Little Miami River watershed (including home-schooled students) are 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. Entries are due to the

Clermont SWCD office by Friday, March 10, 2023 by 4:00 pm.

The 2023 Spring Litter Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at various locations across Clermont County and within the East Fork Little Miami River watershed. For more information or questions contact Connie Miller at (513) 732-7075 ext. 2 or cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov.

