



# The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Summer 2023



## The 2023 Spring Litter Clean-Up

The 2023 Spring Litter Clean-Up event was held on Saturday, April 22 with in-person clean-ups at various sites across Clermont County and the East Fork Little Miami River watershed. Over 230 volunteers participated and collected a combined 310 bags of trash that morning. The Litter Cleanup event is coordinated each year by the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and partially supported with a grant from Ohio EPA, Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention. We truly appreciate the support from our event sponsor, the Southern Ohio Association of Realtors (SOAR). Thank you also to our partnering agencies and organizations, including the Adams/Clermont Solid Waste District, Clermont County Park District, Clermont Office of Public Information, Ohio Department of Natural Resources—Divisions of Parks and Watercraft, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

### Our Mission:

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

### Board of Supervisors

Todd Winemiller  
Tim Rose  
David Anspach  
Joe Glassmeyer  
Connie O'Conner

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

Christina Gates  
Brittany Feichtner

### District Staff

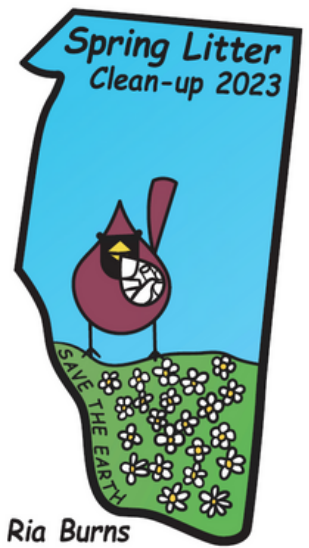
Amanda Best  
Jacob Hahn  
Becky McClatchey  
John McManus  
Connie Miller  
Kat Zelak



*Volunteers that helped with 2023 Spring Litter Clean up at Clepper Park, Batavia, OH.*



*K-12 Spring Litter Clean Up logo design contest winners.*



Ria Burns

*2023 Spring Litter Clean Up winning logo designed by Ria Burns*



# Clermont County Fairgrounds Rain Garden Overhaul

The Clermont County Fairgrounds rain garden was first installed in 2013 and was designed to capture storm water runoff from the roof of a nearby building. The garden was managed by Clermont SWCD staff over the years but was often forgotten during the busy growing season. Over time, the garden stopped functioning correctly due to overgrowth and nearby construction. This caused a buildup of sediment and water in the parking lot following heavy storms. After 10 years, the garden was in need of some TLC. Stacey Creamer, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) and Master Rain Gardener (MRG), volunteered to take on the garden overhaul from start to finish as part of her certification for the MRG program. Stacey completed her design for the project as part of the MRG course in Fall 2022 and worked throughout the fall and spring to dig a larger basin capable of handling more frequent and heavier rainfalls, build a berm to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain, and created a rock waterfall to slow water down as it entered the garden to prevent erosion. In total, Stacey logged 88 hours caring for the garden and managed a team of seven volunteers to help with digging, planting, and more digging. She was able to successfully rehome four native trees and over 120 perennial plants that were pulled out of the garden. She also planted over eight new native perennial species to ensure the garden has blooms from spring through fall providing food for pollinators and four-season appeal for Fairgrounds visitors. We cannot thank Stacey enough for all of the hard work that went into transforming this forgotten space into a beautiful natural landscape for all to enjoy. Special thanks also goes out to Kelley Williams, Mary Pierson, Wendy Grimes, Bill Bajorek, Nat Podboy, and Abbie Frazer for their help throughout the project. If you are interested in learning more about the OCVN or MRG programs or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kat Zelak, Education Coordinator, at [kzelak@clermontcountyohio.gov](mailto:kzelak@clermontcountyohio.gov) or 513-732-7075



*Volunteers working together with Master Rain Gardener Stacey Creamer to rebuild the Clermont County fairgrounds rain garden.*

## Calendar

Monthly Board Meeting	Jun. 14	8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Jun. 19	
Ohio River Sweep	Jun. 24	9am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Jul. 4	
Monthly Board Meeting	Jul. 12	8am
Natural Resources Day	Jul. 25	
Monthly Board Meeting	Aug. 9	8am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Sept. 4	
Monthly Board Meeting	Sept. 13	8am
Annual Board Meeting	Sept. 14	5pm

# LANDOWNER CONSERVATION SERIES

Free to All | Protect Your Land | Hands-On  
Second Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

## INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Wednesday June 14th at 6:30 p.m.  
Pattison Park Lodge



## INVASIVE INSECTS

Wednesday July 12th at 6:30 p.m.  
Sycamore Park

## IDENTIFYING COMMON TREE ISSUES

Wednesday August 9th at 6:30 p.m.  
Pattison Park Lodge



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Wednesday Sept. 13th at 6:30 p.m.  
Shor Park



Register at [www.clermontparks.org/registration-forms/landowner-conservation-series/](http://www.clermontparks.org/registration-forms/landowner-conservation-series/)

## Clermont SWCD's Summer Intern

This summer, Clermont SWCD has partnered with the University of Cincinnati in the first ever Braun Environmental Science Fellowship. This fellowship helps connect UC's students with organizations and project managers like the Cincinnati Nature Center, UC Clermont's Sustainability Committee, and Clermont SWCD. We are happy to introduce our summer intern, Abigail Frazer who will be working alongside our district staff in various projects. Abigail graduated this past spring from UC Clermont with an associate's in environmental studies and plans to continue her education in the future by pursuing a bachelor's degree in environmental studies in the upcoming years. In the meantime, she wishes to focus her time getting acquainted with different career opportunities in the field she obtained her degree in. Abigail has always been fond of the outdoors, which inspired her to pursue her environmental studies degree. When she isn't out hiking and enjoying the great outdoors, she enjoys painting at home and spending time with family, friends, and their pets.





**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@CLERMONTCOUNTYOHIIO.GOV




**Ohio River Sweep 2023**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**9 am - noon**

New Richmond MOSCOW

## *Ohio River Sweep Registration*

**Saturday, June 24th 2023 at four different locations!**

- **Chilo Lock and Dam** – meet at the boat ramp. This site is only open to adults and older teens due to the terrain. Participants will get wet at this site!
- **Moscow** – meet at Riverview Park on Second Street.
- **Neville** – meet at the boat ramp, located on Morgan Street off of US 52.
- **New Richmond** – meet at the riverfront bandstand.

**\*\*Participants must fill out and submit a Registration Form and Waiver Form\*\***

- **Registration Form:** <https://www.springlittercleanup.com/>
- **Waiver Form:** <https://www.orsanco.org/river-sweep/volunteer-waiver/>
- **More Information:** <https://www.orsanco.org/river-sweep/>

**For Questions, Concerns, & Waiver Submissions please contact Rebecca Ploucha via email at [rebeccaploucha@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaploucha@gmail.com)**



### Ohio River Sweep

**Saturday, Jun. 24**

**9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Location Information**

**provided above**

### Annual Meeting 2023

**Thursday, Sept. 14**

**5:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Heathfields Farm**

**(4211 McKeever Pike,**

**Williamsburg, OH)**

## Clermont SWCD Role in Solar Energy

As solar fields begin construction within the county, townships are in the process of changing their zoning codes to regulate this new industry moving into Southwest Ohio. This comes from the passage of Senate Bill 52 by the Ohio General Assembly, giving county and townships additional jurisdiction in planning, zoning and negotiating with solar and wind energy projects. For solar, SB 52 addresses the industrial sized developments that are 50 megawatts (MW) or greater in size. There are two projects currently in the county that are industrial scale and overseen by the Ohio Power Siting Board, one under construction and one in the planning stages. This leaves community scale solar farms (5-49 MW and the assumption of 4-8 acres required per MW depending on panel quality) highly unregulated and up to township zoning departments to oversee. Most townships have begun public outreach and community meetings to gather public input as they write regulations into their zoning codes.

Clermont SWCD has offered our technical services to provide maps, soils and water information and other conservation related guidance to assist townships in updating their zoning codes.

SWCD staff will continue to comment on any solar plans that are submitted for review, commenting on environmental, drainage, and overall layout concerns with the project. The District, in partnership with the Clermont Building Inspection Department, inspects erosion control and storm water management practices that are required under Clermont County's Water Management and Sediment Control (WMSC) regulations. Staff are also available to discuss site specific concerns in regards to solar installation with individual property owners.



*Image of Solar Panels from American Public Power Association*

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.clermontswcd.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd>  
<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>



## 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 Opens 1/11/2023  
Butler Soil & Water Conservation District  
9:00am - 1:00pm  
March 3, 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](http://www.cincyraingardener.org).**