



CLARK Conservationist

CLARK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Clark SWCD Annual Meeting

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Doors Open
Voting for Supervisor & Dinner

7:00PM

Clark SWCD Updates & Awards

7:20PM

Keynote Speakers:
Jim Brandeberry

7:45PM

Clark County Trivia

8:30PM

Election Results & Adjournment



MEETING AGENDA

BRANDEBERRY WINERY

September 4, 2014 is the date for the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Clark Soil & Water Conservation District. The event will again be held at the Union Club of Springfield, 3568 St. Paris Pk., Springfield, Ohio.

We will be serving a buffet style dinner at a cost of **\$5.00 per ticket** served by Lyons Catering of Christiansburg. Roast beef, chicken breasts, along with several side dishes and dessert will be on the menu.

In addition to the election for the Board of Supervisors, other activities have been planned. This year we are again hosting the **Feds Feed Families** food drive in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting and you will receive a door prize for your donation.

The key note speaker for the Annual Meeting will be **Jim Brandeberry** of the Brandeberry Winery, located on West Jackson Rd. in Southwest Clark County. He will be discussing the process and the history of wine making.

We will wrap up the meeting with another exciting round of **Clark County Trivia!** Registration to attend this year's meeting can be made in advance by sending in the reservation form, located on page 4, by Friday, September 1, 2014. For more information regarding the annual meeting, please call the Clark SWCD Office at 521-3880.

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Board of Supervisors Election

An election for Board Supervisor will be conducted at the Clark SWCD's Annual Meeting. This year's election has **Jason R. Bishop, Dale Stewart, and Denver Thompson** vying for two positions on the elected five-member board. The elected candidates will serve a three-year term starting in 2015. The election will be held on **September 4, 2014** at the Annual Meeting, or you may vote via absentee ballot prior to that date.

Information concerning the nominees along with voting procedures are featured on pages 2-3.

A Special Thanks to Dan Maxson



The Clark SWCD Board and Staff would like to thank Dan Maxson for his service on the Board of Supervisors. Dan was a 2 term Supervisor serving Clark County from 2009 through 2014. He has been a great asset to local conservation efforts focusing on putting conservation practices on the ground. Dan's leadership and experience will be greatly missed!

A Board Supervisor is a volunteer position elected to a 3-year term. The Board of Supervisors meet monthly and provide leadership and oversight in setting local priorities and guidance to carry out the mission of the Clark Soil and Water Conservation District.

Voting Procedures

County residents attending our annual meeting will find the voting process for SWCD board members to be similar to voting in previous elections. You must be at least 18 years of age **and** reside within Clark County to be eligible to vote. **However, those who are firms, corporations, LLCs, trusts and non-residents that own or occupy lands in Clark County can also vote. These entities MUST have a signed and notarized affidavit designating a voting representative to be able to vote at the annual meeting or by absentee ballot.**

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, there are two different ways to cast an absentee vote. Anyone who wishes to vote absentee by **mail** is required to fill out a Request for Absentee Ballot form no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and the Clark SWCD office must receive the request no later than 3 days prior to the election. The second option is casting an absentee vote in **person** at the Clark SWCD office. A completed Request for Absentee Ballot form must be received no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and no later than 12:00 P.M. on September 4, 2014. If you would like more information about the election or have questions about these proceedings, please contact our office at 521-3880.



The Board of Supervisors consists of 5 members who are elected to a three-year term. Supervisors meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and actively participate in district-sponsored events. They volunteer their time and efforts to carry out the mission and goals of the Clark Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Clark SWCD was commissioned in 1942 at the request of the citizens interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, and flood prevention. The Clark SWCD was the second district chartered in the state of Ohio.

1975 Board Pictured Left to Right: Robert McConkey, Linn Shuey, Helen & Robert Greiser, & Luther Keenen

2014 Board of Supervisors Candidates



Jason Bishop and wife Jennie reside in German Township. They have a 5 year old daughter, Kendall and a 3 year old son, Reid. Jason graduated from Wilmington College in 2002 where he earned a degree in Agricultural Business & Production. Jason is a full-time farmer and assists his family with their operation of 1,400 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat in Northwest Clark County. He has incorporated GPS technologies with variable rate application of fertilizers based on soil testing. He also manages a cattle feedlot/breeding operation and is a sales associate with Berner Farms Pioneer Seed. Jason's hobbies include snowmobiling, snow skiing, camping, boating, and spending time with family and friends.

Jason wishes to serve on the Board because land quality concerns such as flood prevention, erosion control and water conservation will always be high-profile issues both in and outside of the farming industry. His top priority is to pass on the same quality of land that he has had the opportunity to farm.



Dale Stewart is a full time farmer in Springfield Township. He is a graduate of Shawnee High School and Devry University in Columbus where he received his associated degree in Electronics. After college, Dale returned to the family farm where he farmed with his dad until he passed away in 1998. Dale's farming operation consists of 800 acres of no-till corn and soybeans. Dale and his late wife Clara have a son Travis who just recently earned his Master's Degree in both Accounting and Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati. When Dale is not hard at work on the farm, he enjoys bicycling and riding his motorcycle. He is very active at Maiden Lane Church where he volunteers in the Transportation and Children's Ministries. He is also a member of the National Corn Growers Association and Soybean Association.

Dale has experienced the benefits first hand of installing Best Management Practices on land he currently owns and farms to reduce soil erosion. Dale utilizes GPS technology in his farm equipment to apply variable rate chemicals and fertilizers to further reduce excessive contaminated run-off into our local streams. Dale would like to serve on the Board of Supervisors because he believes and understands the importance of conservation. He feels our soil and water resources are the life line for agriculture. If soil is unproductive or water contaminated due to improper Best Management Practices, no one benefits. It's a lot easier to conserve and preserve than it is to waste it and try to recreate Mother Nature.



Denver Thompson resides in Springfield Township with his wife Whittney and his 2 year old daughter Della. Denver is a farmer and owns his own excavation company. Denver's farming operation consists of 225 acres of corn and soybeans in Clark and Madison counties. Denver was born and raised in Clark County where he graduated from Southeastern High School. Denver then attended Clark State where he received his associate's degree in Ag Business. When Denver is not working, he enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time with his wife and daughter.

Denver would like to serve on the board to increase his knowledge of ways to help conserve and preserve our soil and water resources. Denver utilizes GPS technology in his farm equipment to apply variable rate chemicals and fertilizers to further reduce excessive contaminated run-off into our local streams. As a contractor, Denver has implemented many conservation practices throughout the Little Miami River Watershed and has seen firsthand the benefits. He is currently implementing erosion control practices on the farm he owns and would like to use his spot on the board to encourage others to do the same.

Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Clark Soil & Water Conservation District 72nd Annual Meeting RESERVATION FORM

Tuesday September, 4 2014, Union Club of Springfield, 3568 St. Paris Pike

Name(s) of Attendees _____

Address _____ - _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Tickets _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____

*Make checks payable to Clark SWCD and send to:
Clark SWCD, 3130 East Main St. Springfield, OH 45505*

2014 Conservation Scholarship Winner



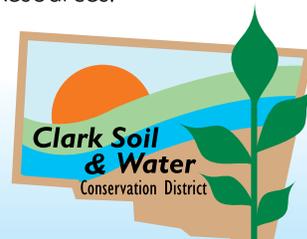
Courtney Dover was the recipient of the 3rd Annual Clark SWCD Conservation Scholarship for 2014. She graduated from Kenton Ridge High School this past Spring and will attend Otterbein University where she plans to major in Zoo & Conservation Science. Ms. Dover's participation in extracurricular activities while maintaining a 3.88 GPA, made her an excellent recipient for the Conservation Scholarship.

**Courtney Dover was the recipient of the 3rd Annual
Clark SWCD Conservation Scholarship for 2014.**

CONGRATULATIONS COURTNEY!

Thanks to the Clark County Commissioners

The Clark SWCD Board & Staff would like to thank the Clark County Commissioners for their continued support of local conservation. Funding for the Clark SWCD begins at the County level where appropriations are matched by the State through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil & Water Resources.



Open House Held at Springview Government Center



On the evening of May 29, 2014, The Agricultural Agencies of Clark County held an open house for customers and community members to view our new office locations at the Springview Government Center. This was coordinated in conjunction with the 100th year Celebration of OSU Extension. Over 300+ residents attended the event along with many of our County and State elected officials.

The Clark County Agricultural Agencies are located on the ground floor of the Springview Government Center. The main entrance is accessible from either of the front parking lots of the East Main St. entrance.

Know Your Miami Valley Watershed



A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water, such as a nearby creek, stream, river or lake. Watersheds vary considerably in size. For example, when it rains, all the water from a small watershed may travel to a local creek. That creek, like Buck Creek, will flow into a larger stream, which in turn collects water from an even larger watershed. Buck Creek flows into the Mad River; then to the Great Miami River; which then deposits into the Ohio River. **We all live in a watershed.**

What is the problem?

During the construction of homes, roads and office buildings, vegetation is often removed and replaced by large paved areas. These impervious surfaces keep rain from seeping into the soil and recharging groundwater supplies. Paved surfaces also increase the speed and amount of water that rushes down gutters and into storm drains during a rain storm. This stormwater runoff picks up pollutants from motor oil, lawn chemicals, pet waste, salt, litter and soil along the way, before flowing to rivers, lakes and streams — untreated.

What is the consequence?

The large amounts of untreated water entering the storm sewer system, and eventually our streams and lakes, has lasting health, safety, environmental and economic impacts on our watersheds and communities. Watersheds support a wide variety of plants and wildlife and provide outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Miami Valley. Protecting the health of our watersheds preserves and enhances the quality of life for Miami Valley residents and all those living downstream. Thinking about watersheds helps remind us that our actions can impact — for better or for worse — all of the streams and rivers in our region.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive



Right now, millions of Americans are struggling with hunger, and this summer, each one of us can do something to help. Through the **Feds Feed Families** food drive we can provide meals to families in need all across the country.

Our donation box will be in the entry way of our new office, Springview Government Center, 3130 East Main St. Please bring in your nonperishable food items and place them in the box. Donations can also be made at the Clark SWCD Annual meeting on September 4, 2014. **Suggested items include: Peanut Butter, Macaroni & Cheese, Tuna Fish, Soups, Jelly, Coffee, Cereal, Oatmeal and Sandwich Bags.**



It's so easy to pick up an extra canister of oatmeal or a few cans of beans the next time you're at the grocery store. Let's give back to our communities and help make a difference in the lives of those in need. You can follow the campaign on Facebook, Feds Feed Families, www.facebook.com/fedsfeedfamilies or Twitter @FedFoodDrive, www.twitter.com/fedfooddrive.

Rural Drainage



Typical Open Drainageway



Failing Network of Clay Tile



Nutrient Assimilation Occurring in Drainageways

Feel like you don't really understand rural drainage? Here is a 5-minute primer.

What are rural drainage systems, anyway?

These "systems" include the networks of tile (clay until about 1960, now usually plastic) and open drainageways (ditches) that receive water from individual farms, home lots and small rural communities. They generally cross multiple private properties and often extend several miles to "find" an outlet.

Where are these systems?

They are common in the glaciated parts of Ohio, generally north and west of I-71 on the extensive areas of low grade (<1%), and in similar, although generally smaller areas elsewhere. Ohio has a higher percentage of land that needs or benefits from drainage than any other state. Settlers realized this in the early 1800s when the first drainage systems were installed.

What good do they do?

FOR AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

Over 7.4 million acres of current (and potential) cropland benefits from drainage that drains “excess” water out of the soil profile during the growing season, through on-farm tile systems that landowners have installed, and continue to install today at a typical investment over \$600/acre. These on-farm systems can seldom function without connecting to a group project. Increased value of Ohio crop production due to drainage is often worth over \$100/acre. Importantly, these on-farm systems are also essential for certain cropland conservation practices, especially conservation tillage.

FOR HOMEOWNERS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Estimates indicate more than 500,000 rural homes/lots rely on group drainage projects for outlets for their yard, downspouts, and foundation and basement drains. While not recommended, tens of thousands of on-site septic systems and perimeter drains also tie into group drainage systems. The lots and businesses in many small rural communities often unknowingly also tie into these systems that were installed by farmers decades ago. Many of these lot owners and small community residents live in “ignorant bliss” of this reliance, until the system fails and their basement floods or their septic systems fail.



One-sided Construction



Traditional Two-sided Construction



Before (left) and After (right) of a clear & snag project in larger watershed in lieu of more extensive clearing and grading



How are these group drainage systems installed and maintained?

Until the mid 1800s most projects were constructed by groups of farmers on their own. In 1859 the state legislature gave authority to boards of county commissioners to construct drainage improvements for groups of landowners. The landowners that needed improved drainage were required to petition commissioners in their county to begin the process. Upon approval of the project to be constructed by county commissioners, benefiting landowners were assessed. Townships also implemented projects in the early 1900s. Finally in 1957 maintenance provisions were added to ditch laws. In 1969 SWCDs were given authority for project construction and maintenance upon county approval. Landowners can petition the county or SWCD requesting an improvement project. A project design is proposed along with a schedule of landowner property tax assessments; public viewings and hearings are held. Upon county commissioner approval, a project for large tile mains, open channels, or both, is bid and constructed, then maintained with future maintenance assessments. It is estimated that 10,000 miles of group tile projects have been constructed, along with 20,000 miles of open channel. Estimates indicate that only one-third of these systems are on county maintenance; many of the rest are at a high risk of collapse and failure.

Can projects cause environmental problems?

Projects installed without Best Management Practices (BMPs) often cause environmental problems. Until about 1970 some projects created an outlet watercourse to handle increased rates of runoff, sometimes converting a stream or wetland area into a ditch, replacing trees and shrubs with grass. This “hydromodification” has been identified as the leading cause of water quality impairment in Ohio since it is so widespread, including in rural and urban areas, and is a leading cause of aquatic wildlife diversity impact. Hydromodification could be changing the flow of a stream or diminishing its habitat by excavation or by installing restrictions such as culverts. Habitat is degraded, streams have less water during dry weather periods and nutrients and sediment are more easily transported, negatively affecting the health of the downstream watershed. Newer, alternative drainageway designs, i.e. designs that incorporate or restore natural stream characteristics and functions, can meet nutrient processing and wildlife biodiversity goals, yet still provide drainage of runoff water. Construction costs can be higher, but maintenance costs may be less.

“Drainage is a big boost to a crop farmer’s bottom line, but I know drainage projects benefit more than just our producers. So I’m pleased this report supports landowners’ rights to meet drainage needs yet emphasizes conditions where additional environmental protection is most critical - two goals consistent with state policy our members have adopted.” - Jack Fisher, Executive Vice President Ohio Farm Bureau Federation



**Clark Soil & Water
Conservation District**
3130 East Main St.
Springfield, Ohio 45505
(937) 521-3880

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Clark Soil and Water Conservation District

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