

November
2005

Conservation Notes

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We are committed to promoting citizen stewardship of Montgomery County's natural resources through conservation education and Technical assistance.

Landowners Recognized for Conservation with Grass Waterways

District technicians work with the District Conservationist, Steve Boeder, to educate landowners about participating in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Other CRP programs promote wildlife habitat as well. This program provides cost share incentives for the construction of grassed waterways. When land topography creates low swales where surface water naturally concentrates during a storm, there is great potential for severe erosion in the form of gullies if this part of the landscape is farmed. The program pays farmers to take that land out of crop production and plant turf-type tall fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass grasses that not only provide good wildlife habitat, but also filter storm runoff for a water quality benefit. The District would like to recognize the following landowners for being good stewards of their land resources through the CRP program:

Name	Waterways	Length (ft.)	Township
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Dallas Lakes	1	1600	Perry
Betsy Eby	5	3600	Trotwood
Dull Homestead Inc.	1	3150	Clay
Marilyn Cones	2	1300	Perry
Ro-Lin Farms	1	916	German
Herb Lenk	1	600	Trotwood
Richard Mears	1	1400	Jackson
Joseph Johnson	2	2820	Jackson
Peter Chakiris	4	5150	Clay
Norris Sears	3	1800	Jackson
Raymond Metzger	1	850	Perry
Onilee Izor	1	1325	Perry
Robert Hough	1	1025	Perry
Virgil Roark	2	2600	Jackson
Jerry Sollenberger	2	1500	Perry
Roy Sollenberger	3	2690	Jackson
Duane Leis Sr.	2	3086	Perry
Betty Hawvermale	2	2385	Jackson
Duane Leis Jr.	1	585	Perry
Gerald Kurtz	1	1435	Jackson
Marvin Rieger	1	900	German
Valley View HS	1	1033	Jackson

Waitman North Group Drainage Project Out for Bid

The District has officially requested contractor bids for the Waitman North group drainage project, due by November 22nd, 2005 at 1:30 pm at the District office. This project has been approved for financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Program, up to 65% of the total project cost; this includes design and administrative costs as well as construction cost

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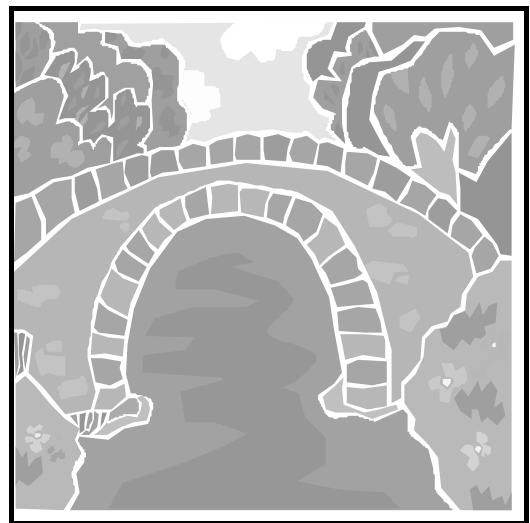
Nature Preserve and Park Dedicated

A new nature preserve and park will be dedicated on November 6, 2005 along Twin Creek in northwestern Warren County. The dedication of the "Susan and Clarence Carmody Memorial Park" will be the centerpiece of the larger area known as the "Lower Twin Creek Park and Nature Preserve". This preserve is from the confluence of Twin Creek and the Great Miami River northward for a mile along the Twin.

The facility has been almost five years in the making since the Warren County Park District acquired nearly 100 acres of streamside corridor from the heirs of the late Clarence Carmody. Five Rivers Metro Parks helped this to happen with a contribution establishing a conservation easement on much of the land bordering Twin Creek. Since then Clean Ohio funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and assistance from the Miami Conservancy District have helped to enlarge this beautiful natural area to nearly 400 acres.

The rapid growth of Warren County in the last few years has made the preservation of green space and the development of nearby recreational areas a top priority for the Warren County Commissioners. This new nature preserve will provide a terrific facility for people in the southern Montgomery County, Franklin, Carlisle and Middletown areas.

Clarence Carmody was a native of Middletown, Ohio and his wife Susan Jackson Carmody was a graduate of Dixie High School and grew up on Diamond Mill Road in northwestern Jefferson Township. District Technician / Open Space Program Coordinator Dan Jackson is a nephew of the late Clarence and Susan Carmody.



Conservation Security Program

This federal program was part of the 2002 Farm Bill. It's designed to reward farmers and landowners for good conservation practices already on the ground. The program is currently being implemented in the northern and eastern watersheds of Montgomery County

Self-Assessment Workbooks are available at the Farm Service Agency here on Amity Road. The workbook can also be accessed on-line at www.nrcs.usda.gov. The workbook will help an individual determine their possible eligibility for this three-tiered voluntary program. There are three categories a landowner might be classified into, depending on the number and types of practices being used. Those in the least category might only use no-till on their fields. Those in the next level may no-till and have a couple of grassed waterways. Those in the highest category might no-till, have buffers, waterways, wetlands, and a forest management plan. There are many variations regarding the number of fields, ownership arrangements, and practices used that will affect what category a farmer / landowner may be placed into. Once eligibility is determined, the level of financial reward will be calculated.

Our District Conservationist has mailed out letters to those farms considered to be in the (Montgomery County part of the upper Great Miami) watershed. If you have not received a letter and you feel you may be within this area, please contact Steve Boeder at 854-7645. If you are interested and believe you are eligible, the first place to start is by filling out the workbook. There may be several rounds of annual sign-ups, so it would be best to sign up early. This program has proved to be extremely popular in other watersheds in Ohio and nationally. Federal funds may be limited because of military action and disaster relief; but if you feel you've been a conservation minded farmer that has tried to better your land, then you may want to call Steve.



A Word From Our Sponsors

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Annual Fall Events Highlight Accomplishments and New Leadership



Montgomery SWCD hosted the annual meeting on September 10th 2005, at Sycamore State Park. About eighty guests enjoyed the warm and sunny afternoon, which was complimented by good food, outdoor activities and live music. State Representative Arlene Setzer graciously hosted the program as emcee. Four candidates vied for two positions on the five-member Board of Supervisors. Bill Wissinger was reelected for a second term, and Doug Crowe was elected for a first term.

All Soil and Water Conservation Districts are governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who are elected to serve voluntary three-year terms. The only requirement to run for the Board is that a candidate must live in the same county, and be at least 18 years old. The same is true for anyone casting votes in the election for new Board members. Ideally, candidates will have some relevant experience or education in natural resource conservation issues, particularly ones unique to the county.

The Board of Supervisors and Staff work together with the goal of delivering technical and educational assistance to landowners. We strive to help people learn more about conservation as well as implement various soil and water conservation practices that protect these critical resources from degradation. Soil and Water Conservation Districts were created across the nation some fifty years ago after the Great Dust Bowl of the 1930s, with the goal of protecting these resources for future generations. As a popular bumper sticker reads: "Those who ignore nature are destined to deplete it."

On October 14th the District hosted the annual VIP tour, featuring projects recently completed in Jackson Township, near Farmersville. Singer's Catering of Brookville served a good hearty breakfast at the Farmersville Community Center. District Open Space Coordinator Dan Jackson spoke during breakfast about how funds from the Clean Ohio Program have helped the District and other partnering agencies to promote land preservation in the form of conservation and agricultural easements. County Commissioners Charles Curran and Debbie Lieberman were in attendance, as was Ohio Senator Tom Roberts. Also present were representatives of the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Five Rivers Metroparks and Three Valley Conservation Trust, as well as all the District Staff and Supervisors. Thanks go out to landowners John Friedline and Scott Robinson, who volunteered their time to be a part of the tour. They explained how their projects were built and why they promote good stewardship.

A Word From Our Sponsors

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Ron Routzahn 4301 Dixon Rd
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Montgomery County Farm Bureau
316 West Walnut Street
Farmersville, OH 45325
937-696-3630 Fax 937-696-7021
email: montb@bizwoh.rr.com
President: Chris Helsing
Office Manager: Marcia Barnhart

University of Dayton Berry Scholars Partner with District on Education Programs

One of the great maxims of program development in conservation education (or any endeavor, probably) is that "you can't do it all" - especially by yourself. More often than not, there are more opportunities for involvement in various programs than there is District staff time available. This is why developing partnerships with other organizations is critical to effective conservation outreach.

Dr. David Herrelko of the University of Dayton approached District Education / Information Specialist Caroline McColloch in search of service learning projects for his Engineering class. The course pulls in students from other majors who are all part of the Berry Scholars group, so the service projects benefit even more from the diversity of the students' varied skills and interests.

We are now working with two teams of 6-7 students each. One project is entitled Stream Team Volunteer Development and Support, and the other one is Healthy Water Healthy People - Value-Added Curriculum for Dayton Schools. Each project is characterized with a mission, being a statement of the goal (s), and a list of deliverables - useful resources or products that constitute fulfillment of the mission.

For the Stream Team Project, the mission is to: "Develop a sustainable program to focus the work of volunteers who monitor water quality in the Wolf Creek Watershed". With three years of stream data collection accomplished, it is time to turn that 'trend' data into useful information to wider audiences. This requires not a small amount of time to analyze and interpret the data. The next step is publicizing it effectively. Volunteer development and support is also of vital importance to sustain the membership of the Stream Team. We are looking at ways to consistently address recruitment, training, and ongoing support; the goal is to enhance the volunteer experience while providing a valuable service to the conservation community. Some of the deliverables for this service project include: a promotional pamphlet, improved quarterly newsletter and web site, and a computer generated data analysis. UD students have also been interviewing stream team members and other affiliated parties for useful feedback on how to improve their volunteer experience. The student team will be making a presentation at the December 3rd volunteer meeting at the Montgomery SWCD office.

The Healthy Water Healthy People (HWHP) project's mission is to: "Implement a sustainable experience-based program for the inclusion of the HWHP curriculum in Dayton Public Schools classrooms. Montgomery SWCD partnered with Miami Conservancy District last February to conduct a 6.5-hour teacher workshop for 15 educators from 7 different middle school buildings in the DPS system. Each participant received the curriculum guide, water testing kit manual, and access to newly purchased water monitoring equipment designed to be used with the curriculum. However, simply having the material resources for water quality education activities doesn't guarantee that teachers will use them. This service project seeks to follow-up with workshop participants to figure out what obstacles might be preventing their use of the HWHP curriculum. We are looking into what other resources would be helpful, particularly administrative and technical support. Some of the deliverables include: help with lesson/activity selection, provision of material supplies for each lesson (via grant funding), analysis of volunteer possibilities such as education majors from area universities. Our short term goal is to develop these items for use as a 'pilot' program for a small group of committed teachers, and hopefully expand the program at a later time. Altogether, working with university students on service projects serves two important needs: the students get experience outside the academic setting, and the District gets help with program development. You might describe it as a 'win-win' situation!

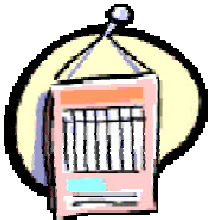
"Working with University students on service projects serves two Important needs: the students get experience outside the academic setting, and the District gets help with program development."

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Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Heritage



Calendar of Events

November 11	Veteran's Day / Office Closed
November 18	5 Year Strategic Planning Meeting
November 22	Sycamore Farm Planning Meeting
November 24, 25	Thanksgiving / Office Closed
December 1	Great Miami Watershed Network Mtg
December 3	Stream Team Volunteer Meeting
December 6-7	Sophomore Career Days Miami Valley CTC