

August, 2006

Conservation Notes

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Web Site: www.montgomeryswcd.org

We are committed to promoting community stewardship of Montgomery County's soil, water, wildlife, and open space resources by providing conservation education and Technical assistance.

New Addition to Wolf Creek Rail Trail

One of our County's nicest facilities for biking and hiking is Metro Park's Wolf Creek Rail Trail, with the link between Trotwood and Verona being truly scenic, running through much of Sycamore State Park. There's trail access on Shiloh Springs at Diamond Mill, and a steady uphill grade to Brookville, but it's full of many birds and much privacy.



From Brookville to Verona is a much flatter grade, and this section is becoming more interesting with a new boardwalk through an eight acre woods on the Dull Homestead property. This property has a conservation easement on it, meaning the Dull family and Metroparks agree not to develop this land. The Park District considers this woods to be an excellent example of a swamp woods similar to what covered Clay Township 200 years ago.

The boardwalk being built in the woods will lead around a massive Red Oak that was likely a large tree when Native Americans lived in this area of Ohio. An interpretive sign and parking rack for bicycles is soon to be finished near the entry into the woods. Visitors that need parking can park off of US 40 at the east end of Bachman and walk southward along the bike path about a quarter mile to the woods entrance.



The 302 acre Dull Homestead farm was chosen in 2002 as one of the initial farms to be protected by the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Alternative Energy Museum to Open

On August 27th 2006, there will be an open house for The Future Energy Center, on Dull Homestead Farm, 10404 National Rd. (north west of Brookville) 4-8 pm, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 6 pm. A new building next to six wind turbines will display exhibits for the public to study alternative energy and ways to conserve our natural resources and the environment.

Residential hydrogen production will be highlighted, along with solar, wind, geothermal, bio-diesel, biomass, methane, ethanol, Peak Oil, Farmland Preservation, open space, and green building design. The new museum is very near the boardwalk mentioned above, and is the part of the Dayton International Peace Museum that emphasizes energy and environmental concerns. A suggested donation of \$10-20 for the museum is requested.

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Conservation Notes is published in January, March, June, August, November

Candidates for the District's 2007 Board of Supervisors

Fred Glander farms a large acreage of owned and rented land in German Township with his wife Phyllis and son Fred. They have a diversified family farm operation—growing grain and producing livestock. Wise use and management of soil and water is evident on their farmland. The entire family is involved in agricultural groups and community affairs. Fred has been a member of the District Board of Supervisors since 1965. As a hobby, Fred keeps some unusual types of livestock: white tailed deer, turkey and raccoons, with the appropriate permits, of course. As a board member, Fred is interested in focusing District resources on the County's storm water and erosion control activities in urban areas. He would also like to facilitate the design and implementation of several group drainage projects annually.



George Markus is currently the Fire Chief of New Lebanon. He has been serving the public safety field for 37 years, which included assignments in Kansas City, Kansas and Ann Arbor, Michigan. After graduating from Chaminade High School, he earned an Associates degree in Law Enforcement from Sinclair College, a Bachelors degree in Public Administration from Central State University, and a Masters degree from the University of Dayton, also in Public Administration. Mr. Markus is married with three daughters and seven grandchildren. Because he enjoys fishing and hunting, he has also developed interests in natural resource conservation. Mr. Markus feels that his background in Public Administration will make him well-suited to assist the District in legislative matters, which is an important aspect of conservation work.



Annual Meeting / Picnic Ticket Reservation

Saturday, September 9, 3:00 pm-7:00 pm @ Sycamore Park

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

of Adult Tickets _____ X **\$10.00** = \$ _____

of Child Tickets _____ X **\$5.00** = \$ _____

Total Enclosed _____ \$ _____

Candidates for the District's 2007 Board of Supervisors

Lori Tahmassebi is a graduate of Northmont High School, and has an avid interest in local government and water quality issues. Currently a full-time mother, she lives in Clay Township with her husband, two sons and daughter. She holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science from Eastern Kentucky University, and a Masters in Public Administration and Planning from Atlantic University in Florida. Her work experiences include urban planning in Broward County, Palm Beach County, and Boca Raton, Florida; Mrs. Tahmassebi is active in the Army Reserve. She remains involved locally as a soccer coach and current member of Clay Township Board of Zoning Appeals. She served on the Clay Township Zoning Board for 3 years.



Duane Plessinger graduated from Versailles High School and lives in Trotwood with his wife Cindy on Spring Run Farm, comprising 55 acres. They raise Haflinger horses, Lincoln sheep, corn, beans, hay and wheat. Duane is currently employed in the Maintenance Department at the University of Dayton, and has been there for 27 years. He also taught carpentry for 20 years at Miami Valley Career Technology Center (formerly Montgomery County JVS), and served 2 years in the United States Army, including a Vietnam tour. More recently, Duane has organized a relief effort for farmers in the Gulf states still suffering from hurricane damage, resulting in an ongoing delivery of many tons of hay and feed to these hard hit areas. He is very interested in promoting agriculture in general, and the local agricultural economy in western Montgomery County in particular; Duane understands the need to conserve local natural resources, stating that "they are a valuable asset to society." Duane is a member of the Montgomery County Cattleman's Association, and the Nation Lincoln Sheep Association.



Request for Absentee Ballot
Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District
 Please send an absentee ballot for the Montgomery SWCD Supervisor Election that will be held at Sycamore Park, on Saturday, September 9th, 2006

Name (print) _____ Telephone _____

Address/City/State/Zip (print) _____

Signature _____

Second Signature (if requesting two ballots per household) _____

This form must arrive in our office by 5 pm on September 1st, 2006—10025 Amity Rd. Brookville OH 45309

I am an eligible voter of the Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District because I am

- 1) _____ 18 years old and reside in the District.
- 2) _____ I am 18 years old and own land within the District.

Trotwood Farmers Bale Montgomery SWCD Hay For Louisiana Cattlemen

By Bruce Kettelle,

Reprinted with permission from Totallytrotwood.com

Friday afternoon June 30, they were baling hay on Lutheran Church Rd. There is a lot of hay being baled in the area this week but this time it is special. This hay is going south to help dairy herds in Louisiana suffering from the effects of hurricanes and now drought.

About 35 acres of hay was donated by the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District's (MSWCD) demonstration farm. Today a dozen area farmers are chipping in to help cut, rake and bale. Now all they need is help getting the cattle food to needy ranchers down south.

"Hopefully we can convince somebody reading this to donate some trucking or money to pay for the transportation," said Duane Plessinger doing some paperwork under a shade tree next to the Sycamore Farm hay field. He was waiting for the midday sun to do its job of drying the freshly cut hay. Usually the Soil and Water District sells the hay to the highest bidder. We had two bids on the hay that were surprisingly low, so we thought we weren't losing that much money making the donation," said MSWCD employee Dan Jackson. "This is a wonderful use for the hay."

Plessinger owns the Spring Run Farm on Snyder Rd. He is also the Hay Relief Committee Chairperson for the Montgomery County Cattlemen's Association and has been championing a regional relief effort since last fall. He toured the area last year after the hurricane. "We surveyed a 125 mile stretch of Louisiana and couldn't believe how many trees were down," said Plessinger. Many cattle were killed by falling trees or were boxed in and could not be rescued. Then the hay fields in the area began to fail because of the salt-water storm surge.

"Hancock County, Louisiana had 14 dairy herds before and are now down to 5," said Plessinger as some of the local farmers began to arrive to start the hay harvest. To make matters worse, Plessinger said the area has been hit with a severe drought this year. They have managed to deliver a few small truckloads driven by area farmers this winter and spring. But now they need to concentrate on larger tractor-trailer loads or possibly river barges. Louisiana's Governor has taken notice of the effort. To help the state's \$400 million cattle industry, there will a meeting in the coming week to talk about solutions to the hay transportation challenge.

Coming up the Sycamore Farm lane is a truck pulling a fuel trailer. Plessinger points out that farmer Martin Milliken of New Lebanon drove out to Eaton to pick up over 100 gallons of bio-diesel donated by Harvest-Land Farm Co-op. Tractor Supply provided baling string and wrap.

A student from MVCTC swung by on a different tractor as he made another round cutting the last section of the hayfield. Over in the field that had been cut yesterday, Danny Jordan, another local farmer was driving his tractor with a rake attachment moving the hay into long rows to be picked up by the baler.

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Plessinger is still focused on the big picture. After hearing how grateful the ranchers were after receiving the winter shipments he realized we need to step up the effort. "I've got another 200 bales already staged in Fredericksburg, Ohio just waiting for transportation."

More farmers and now a few spectators begin to arrive and Plessinger finally gives up trying to finish his paperwork. County Commissioner Charles Curran was among the new arrivals.

Curran was supportive of the MSWCD decision to donate the hay. "Their whole mission is sound soils management and to help farmers," said Curran. "It's a wonderful extension of their mission, the Board of the MSWD has always been eager to give back to the community."

A few of the farmers ventured out into the field that had been recently raked. They reached under a row of the hay to feel if it was dry enough to start baling. Soon there was consensus and Terry Hohenbrink of Snyder Road fired up his tractor and baling machine. Soon he was ejecting fresh 4' diameter round bales from the back of the baler.

Plessinger looked on at all the activity. You could see the warmth in his eyes now with the project in full swing. Soon the herds in Louisiana would get another taste of Trotwood.

If you want to contribute to the hay relief campaign call Plessinger at these numbers: (H) 854-2080; (W) 229-3710; (Cell) 902-5302.

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Duane Plessinger works well with the media to promote relief program



Partnerships at work (L to R): Bill Wissinger, District Chairman, County Commissioner Curran; District Board member Doug Crowe; Trotwood area farmers Ronald Koesters, Larry Gassaway



A common summer scene in Ohio, with an uncommon purpose



Approximately 350 round bales were harvested from 36 acres.

Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
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Web Site: www.montgomeryswcd.org

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Montgomery SWCD Annual Meeting Saturday, September 9, 2006 3-6:30pm Sycamore State Park

3:00—5:00 pm

Board Member Election
Conservation Displays
Corn Hole & Other Recreational Activities

5:00 pm

Grilled Pork Loin Dinner
Home Made Ice Cream by Jim Ney
(\$10 / Reservations by September 5th)

6:00 pm

Featured Speaker—John Blakeman,
President, Ohio Prairie Association
Owner, Meadow Environments, LLC