

June, 2006

# Conservation Notes

## Board of Supervisors

Doug Crowe  
Fred Glander  
Calvin Helsinger  
Clifton Williams  
Bill Wissinger

## District Staff

Cheryl Barkalow  
Stefan Bridenbaugh  
Jim Dillon  
Russ Heintz  
Jeremy Huggler  
Dan Jackson  
Caroline McColloch  
Lynn Peters

## NRCS District

### Conservationist

Steve Boeder

Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District  
10025 Amity Road, Brookville, OH 45309 Phone: (937) 854-7645 Fax: (937) 837-2241  
Web Site: [www.montgomeryswcd.org](http://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.*

## Montgomery County Cattleman's Association Needs Help Coordinating Hay Relief Effort

Local Trotwood farmer Duane Plessinger has been coordinating hay relief efforts for Louisiana farmers stricken by the 2005 hurricanes. The program has expanded, and the states of Mississippi and Texas have been added to Cameron Parish in southeast Louisiana as recipients of livestock feed donations from the Midwest. Most needed right now are hay and grain donations.

As detailed in the Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District March newsletter, there is a local shortage of hay and feed - a steady flow of feed contributions had been coming from farmers in North Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. As 2005 hay supply runs out, new sources will need to be found. Non-marketable hay that is otherwise suitable for cattle, will be accepted. contact Duane Plessinger at 854-2080, 951-902-5302, or 229-3710. The relief program is also accepting shelled corn to be processed in Louisiana; a tax I.D. number is available for tax-deductible donations.

## Technical Projects Report

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues in a long-standing partnership with Soil and Water Conservation Districts. NRCS provides engineering support and cost share programs for most of the projects that District Technicians design. They continue to be very busy with "putting conservation on the land":



Inside  
This  
Issue:



Hay Relief Efforts Continue	1
Technical Projects	1
Meyer Farm Protected	2
Pond Fact Sheets	3
Environmental Agencies	4
Board Nominations	5

- 47 waterway projects surveyed for completion in 2006, through the Conservation Reserve Program
- 15 nutrient management plans approved for cost share under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- 2 wetland projects approved for construction through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program
- Financial commitment by USDA for 2006 estimated at \$700,000 for all Montgomery County programs

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

*And Now... A Word  
From Our Sponsors*

**Long Excavating**

*Ponds, Waterways, Excavation*  
Gary Long  
12780 Chicken Bristle Rd.  
Farmersville OH 45325  
937-696-1402

**HARVEST LAND**

Eaton 456-5155 Lewisburg 962-2557  
Verona 884-5526 Pittsburg 692-8400  
Soil Testing / GPS  
Happy to Serve All Your Waterway, Seed,  
and Fertilizer Needs

Miller Brothers Excavating, Inc.  
Ponds, Waterways, Excavation,  
**Complete Plat Development**

7900 S. Kessler Frederick-Tipp City  
937-222-3131

**Wengerlawn Nursery Co.**

*Specializing in Ground Covers*  
6450 Wengerlawn Rd.  
Brookville  
(937) 884-7692

**Hall Farms**

Premium Straw Blankets - Buy Direct  
Fasteners & Installation Tools Available  
[www.hall-farms.com](http://www.hall-farms.com) / Office: 812-623-2217  
*"Keeping Family Farms  
An American Tradition"*

## Montgomery County Wins Another Farm!



The Glenna Meyer farm was the top scoring application of five submitted from the county to Ohio's 2006 Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP), accomplished through the efforts of Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD). It is a partnership that works well for the community. Our mutual goal

is to preserve not only valuable farm ground from being turned into parking lots and buildings, but also to protect the agricultural economy, a way of life, and the rural character of Clay Township.

The Meyer farm is 150 acres of highly productive ground northwest of Brookville. 90 acres of that is of the very fertile Brookston soil type. Dan Jackson, Montgomery SWCD staff member, has worked closely with Glenna for several years to come up with a competitive application under this program. Her farm has strategic importance for several reasons. It's the largest acreage in the recently completed Wolf Creek North group drainage project. The Meyer farm is the fifth in Clay Township to be accepted into the program. Finally, this is the first farm in the AEPP program for which the District holds the easement, because of a recent change in Ohio law, allowing Soil and Water Conservation Districts to do so. The other farms already under Agricultural easements include the Chambers, Bixler, Dull, and Filbrun farms. Altogether, 848 acres of Clay Township farmland are preserved, along with 542 acres just across the county line; an additional 440 acres is under MSWCD-held conservation easements on the Dull property. That's 1830 acres of easement protected farms in very close proximity.

Mrs. Meyer recently enjoyed her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, at the homestead where she's lived since the mid-1940s. Well acquainted with hard work, she's spent untold hours on a tractor at different farms in this neighborhood. She still mows her own lawn, and remains very active and alert in the management of this farm, capably worked by Tom Arnett. Glenna related stories of the days when she and her husband had a large orchard, and of the labor involved in tree care. Her late husband Art won several awards for crop production. Just inside the back door, in a simply decorated room, hang several sets of mounted antlers. Glenna says they're from a 1972 deer hunting trip she and Art took in Colorado.

Growing up near Pittsburg Ohio, Glenna learned to play softball with a board and ball of twine. She eventually became quite good at it. Many people in the area remember her as an outstanding softball player, and indeed she is in the Dayton Softball Player's Hall of Fame.

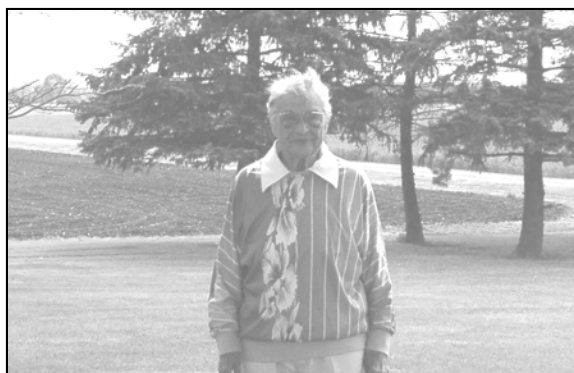
*Continued, Next Page*

## Conservation Notes

Farming has changed drastically since Glenna started out all those years ago. The old way was with the moldboard plow and a lot less fertilizer. Instead of herbicide use, they simply cultivated the fields to control weeds. Although crop yields were a lot less than today, ironically, farming is not as profitable as it was then; she thinks it's due in part to larger inputs and costs of fertilizer and pesticides.

Glenna hopes to use the proceeds from the sale of development rights on her farm as a legacy to her son. She is also proud of accomplishing a goal that she and Art held very dear: to keep this farm in agriculture. With its extensive, valuable road frontage, she rests assured that it will continue to grow crops instead of houses. "My parents were farmers too – came up the hard way..." She commented. "and my husband and I always said, keep the farm for the sake of farming." Clay Township and the District are very proud to be one of the top areas in the state in the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.

If you see Mrs. Meyer out and about, congratulate her on this fine effort, because truly FARMING is everybody's bread and butter.



**Glenna Meyer at Home  
on her Dodson Road Farm**

## Pond Fact Sheets Available from Ohio State University Cooperative Extension

The following information can be accessed on the internet at <http://ohioline.osu.edu> or by calling 614-292-3823.

- *Placing Artificial fish Attractors in Ponds and Reservoirs*: OSUE Factsheet A-1
- *Pond Measurements*: OSUE Factsheet A-2
- *Controlling Filamentous algae in Ponds*: OSUE Factsheet A-3
- *Chemical Control of Aquatic Weeds*: OSUE Factsheet A-4
- *Muddy Water in Ponds: Causes, Prevention and Remedies*: OSUE Factsheet A-6
- *Understanding Pond Stratification*: OSUE Factsheet A-7
- *Winter and Summer Fish Kills in Ponds*: OSUE Factsheet A-8
- *Planktonic Algae in Ponds*: OSUE Factsheet A-9
- *Fish Species Selection for Pond Stocking*: OSUE Factsheet A-10
- *Cattail Management*: OSUE Factsheet A-11
- *Algae Control with Barley Straw*: OSUE Factsheet A-12
- *Ponds and Legal Liability in Ohio*: OSUE Factsheet ALS-1006
- *Ice Safety*: OSUE Factsheet AEX-390
- *Farm and Pond Safety*: OSUE Factsheet AEX-390
- *Notifying the Ohio EPA Prior to Applying Aquatic Herbicides*: OSUE Factsheet A-13
- *Duckweed and Watermeal: Prevention & Control*: OSUE Factsheet A-14
- *When to Apply Aquatic Herbicides*: OSUE Factsheet A-15

### *And Now... A Word From Our Sponsors*

Cy Schwieterman, Inc  
Farm Drainage-Excavating  
Grass Waterways  
Conservation Projects  
4240 St. Rt. 49 Arcanum  
937-548-3965

A. Brown & Sons Nursery, Inc.  
Landscape Design  
Residential & Commercial  
1/2 Mile N. of Phillipsburg on 49  
937-884-5826

Keller Animal Feeds  
and Needs  
11597 Upper Lewisburg-Salem  
Brookville Ohio  
833-4128

Denlinger Farm Drainage Inc.  
"Complete Farm  
Drainage Service"  
Gary 937-962-2204  
Dan 937-884-5966

Rob's Family Restaurant  
And Catering  
Full Service Catering For:  
Parties-Weddings-Meetings  
705 Arlington Rd. Brookville  
937-833-3310



### Montgomery County Agencies

**Soil & Water Conservation (SWCD)**– technical and education assistance on soil and water conservation needs

**Solid Waste District (SWD)**– Trash transfer to landfills, disposal of hazardous waste, business and education programs, recycling services

**Sanitary Engineering (MCSE)**– Waste water transport and treatment, source water delivery

**County Engineer** – road and bridge construction / maintenance, some drainage ditch maintenance\*

\*Note: local governments are responsible for construction and maintenance of storm sewers.

Park Districts / Museum / Nature Center (all of these are involved in outreach and education to the general public)

### **Five Rivers Metroparks**

**Centerville-Washington Park District**

**Boonshoft Museum of Discovery**

**Aullwood Audubon Center**

**Brokner Nature Center**

**Glen Helen Ecology Institute**

**Marianist Environmental Education Center (University of Dayton)**

**Glen Helen Ecology Institute**

### Community Organizations

**Greenways of Greater Dayton** – land preservation through acquisition of easements

**Native Plant Society of the Miami Valley** – Education about native plant communities

**Beavercreek Wetlands Association** – wetland protection through easements

**Honey Creek Watershed Association** – Watershed education and restoration projects

**Montgomery County Farm Bureau** – promotes interests of agricultural industry, conducts Public outreach to non-farming communities.

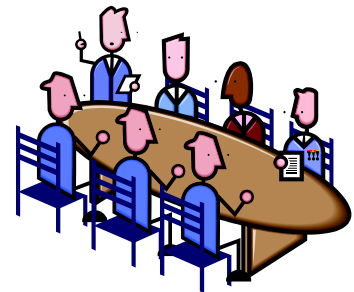
## **District Seeks Nominations to Board of Supervisors**

The District nominating committee will meet the first week of July to nominate candidates for its Board of Supervisors. Two members will be elected during its annual meeting on Saturday September 9, 2006, to serve three year terms beginning in January 2007. The Board meets monthly to conduct District business.

Responsibilities of Board members includes entering work agreements with other agencies, establishing policy, and setting work priorities of District Employees. Supervisors approve financial decisions for the continued growth and stability of the District. They are also involved in other tasks that help landowners and local governments develop natural resources wisely in Montgomery County.

The issues regarding urban growth, drainage, and water quality provides Supervisors many opportunities to make a positive difference for our community. Supervisors take an active role in the decisions about natural resources of both the rural and urban communities of the county. They also have the opportunity to attend state and national meetings, to network and learn firsthand information that will affect local landowners. There is also the chance to offer ideas and feedback to many agencies and government officials.

Because of the diversity of the programs, the District seeks Supervisors with a variety of interests such as agriculture, natural resources, education, development, finances, and land preservation to name a few. Supervisors are required to be at least 18 years of age and must reside in Montgomery County. Past Supervisors have included teachers, farmers, business owners, and others. To learn more about being on the Board or to place your name on the ballot, contact Jim or Cheryl at the MSWCD office at 937-854-7645



Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District  
10025 Amity Road, Brookville, OH 45309 Phone: (937)  
854-7645 Fax: (937) 837-2241  
Web Site: [www.montgomeryswcd.org](http://www.montgomeryswcd.org)

Bulk Mail  
Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
New Lebanon, OH  
Permit No. 13

Return Service Requested

*Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Heritage*



## Calendar of Events

Call the office for details..

854-7645

												
	Stillwater River Cleanup											
	Wolf Creek Stream Team Meeting											
	Ohio Envirothon											
	Great Miami River Cleanup											
	Composting Workshop											
	Tri-County Teacher's Workshop											