



Montgomery  
Soil and Water  
Conservation  
District

# The Conservation Advocate August 2007

*Helping People and Communities Care for Land and Water*

Montgomery SWCD 10025 Amity Rd. Brookville Ohio 45309  
937-854-7645 Fax 837-2241 [www.montgomeryswcd.org](http://www.montgomeryswcd.org)

## Board of Supervisors

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Fred Glander  
Calvin Helsinger  
Clifton Williams  
Bill Wissinger

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Stefan Bridenbaugh  
Jim Dillon  
Russ Heintz  
Jeremy Huggler  
Dan Jackson  
Caroline McColloch

## Acting NRCS District

## Conservationist

Lee Green

## District Annual Meeting September 8th



The public and members of the conservation community are cordially invited to Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District's fifty seventh annual meeting at Sycamore State Park on Providence Road in Perry Township. For the fourth year, the Sycamore State Park venue will continue as a very popular location to host this picnic-style event.

"Grill Master" Russell Heintz will again be preparing the evening meal, consisting of grilled chicken and pork loin, baked potatoes, salad and roll and homemade ice cream, all for just \$10. You can stop by or call the office or see any of the staff, Board or Board candidates to purchase your tickets.

Outdoor yard games and voting for Board members will take place between 4 and 6 P.M, while the meal and program will go from 6 to 7 P.M. This year's featured speaker will be Mr. Gene Krebs, State Director of Greater Ohio, a public policy organization. Gene has formerly been involved in community affairs as an Eaton City School Board member, Preble County Commissioner, and member of the Ohio Farmland Preservation Task Force. During his term of service in the Ohio General Assembly, he sponsored legislation to enact land-use reforms

Greater Ohio is a non-profit organization devoted to building a citizen network to influence public policy for two purposes: growing Ohio's economy and improving our quality of life through intelligent land use. The organization's tools include research, funding, public education, and grassroots advocacy.

Greater Ohio's work encompasses three basic areas: people, land, and prosperity. Highlighted specific initiatives in these areas include: reducing isolation of the elderly, diversifying transportation options, promoting new development that benefits all socio-economic levels, revitalizing existing cities and towns, conserving productive farmland and valuable natural areas, and involving citizens in planning for the future of their communities. We hope you'll come out to visit, enjoy a great meal, and learn more about how conservation encompasses so many other aspects of our community life.

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### **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 8th, 2007

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 August 31st, 2007—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.     or  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ I am 18 years old and own land within the District.

## **Meet the Candidates for the District Board**

### **Calvin Helsing**

Calvin Helsing, wife Carman and sons conduct their family farming operations in German Township. They raise corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and registered Polled Herefords. He received his degree from Miami University. He currently is an Industrial Arts instructor in the Miamisburg School System, where he has taught for 20 years. The Helsingers are very active in agriculture, church and community groups. Calvin has been on the Montgomery SWCD board since 1981; he wants to continue to serve the public interest as an advocate for good conservation practices.

### **Michael London**

Michael has operated his own management-consulting firm for over 25 years. He has been an advisor on the Boards of many organizations, including the Ohio Arts Council, the Planning Department for the City of Dayton, and the Citizen's Review Board for the Montgomery County Juvenile Court. He is a current member of the Perry Township Board of Zoning Appeals and the Chair of the Board for the Equestrian Arts Foundation and the American Artworks Foundation.

Michael holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees, along with other post-graduate certifications and has taught at Wright State University and Sinclair Community College. He has traveled extensively and taught in Russia and China. He recently created a new publishing company, London House Publishing.

Mike has managed small and large projects and has developed a variety of fund based accounting systems over the years. Policy development and financial planning have been at the center of much of his work since 1977. He is a graduate of the Grantsmanship Center and has worked on a wide variety of funding proposals. Mike says, "My only goal with this agency is to contribute what I may. I believe that I have a responsibility to give to the community when and where I can." Mike is an enthusiastic horseman and lives in Perry Township. He has three children and five grandchildren.

## Waid Lyons

Waid recently retired from a 30 year teaching career in Vocational Agriculture at Miami Valley Career Technology Center, where his roles included Farm Manager, and Agri-technology Instructor; He earned his B.S. degree in Agriculture from Morehead State University and Masters from The Ohio State University in Agriculture Education. Waid has many years of practical experience with farmers and the community. He has served as District Five Chairman for Agricultural Educators, and as an assistant to that group for four years; he was County Chair for District Five for ten years. He maintained his professional development through Ohio and National Associations of Agricultural Educators for thirty years. He is a member of Montgomery County Cattleman's Association, Farm Bureau, and many cattle breed organizations. Waid and his wife Pat have two grown children, Seth and Shannon, working as a graphics designer and payroll specialist, respectively. Waid says, "I would like to see a working relationship between farmers, contractors and the general public get even stronger. The communities within the county need a closer relationship to our SWCD."

## Duane Plessinger

Duane hails originally from Versailles, Ohio, and has been a resident of Montgomery County (Trotwood) for twenty five years. He is currently a very active Associate Supervisor for the District; he's on the planning committee for the 2007 Montgomery County Farm Tour, and president of the Montgomery County Cattleman's Association. In 2005-06, he headed a committee that shipped thirteen hundred tons of donated hay to the hurricane victims of Louisiana and Mississippi. Duane is a twenty eight year employee of the University of Dayton in the maintenance department. He and his wife Cindy have a son Mark and daughter-in-law Wendy who live in South Carolina. A life-long farmer and advocate of agriculture and conservation, Duane brings a wealth of experience in building strong working relationships, commitment to community, fund-raising, and many other skills that would serve well, the best interests of soil and water conservation in Montgomery County. Duane says "Western Montgomery County is still a farming community, and needs to continue the tradition of protecting the agricultural way of life; soil conservation and water quality - these things are, and have always been a very big concern of mine. The Montgomery SWCD staff works very hard with the community to further this kind of conservation, and if elected, I would be better able to support the MSWCD staff in this important work."

## Clifton Williams

Clifton Williams, wife Kristyna and their three children farm 78 acres in Jefferson Township. Clifton is a graduate of Jefferson High School. He has degrees from Sinclair College, Urbana University, and has completed course work toward a Master's at Central Michigan University. Clifton is the Vice President of Government Services for CDO Technologies, Inc.; he is active in community sports as a coach. He recently retired from the Air National Guard with thirty years of service. He has been on the Montgomery SWCD Board since 1996. He feels that his business skills and conservation ethic would continue to serve the best interests of natural resource management in Montgomery County.

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## Montgomery SWCD Hosts Tour for Annual Summer Supervisor's School

The ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts host an annual conference to educate Board members and staff of Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state each summer. This year's event was hosted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Southwest Ohio.

The bulk of this year's conference featured numerous bus tours of a wide variety of local economic, agricultural, and educational features in this part of the state. Over 350 Soil and Water Conservation officials were in attendance. Some of the features visited by attendees included alternative agriculture, an ecological research station, the Ohio River Educational Center, Industrial facilities along the Ohio River, stream ecosystem restoration projects, and a canoe float, just to name a few.

Montgomery SWCD was in charge of hosting the "Power of Conservation" tour. Participants visited three Montgomery County sites that demonstrate conservation in action.

The new Buckeye Trails Girl Scout Council urban campus is a LEE (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building, completed in 2006. The LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes whole-building approach to sustainability in five key areas of human and environmental health: Sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. A few of the many features seen by visitors included recycled material decking, a geo-thermal HVAC system, interior wood materials harvested from the construction site, natural daylight incorporated into all office areas, and an aggressive construction waste management plan to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.

The second stop was at the Englewood Dam. Representatives of the Miami conservancy District (MCD) described their agency's formation after the great flood of 1913, and the design, construction, and maintenance of their flood protection system that incorporates four other flood control dams from Shelby County to Hamilton County. MCD also promoted their Water Quality Trading Credits Program, which uses funding from wastewater treatment plants to pay farmers upstream to implement conservation practices that prevent phosphorous pollution.

The final stop on the tour was at Dull Homestead's Future Energy and Conservation Center. Mr. Ralph Dull and partner Preston Mote have created an exhibit area that demonstrates alternative, renewable energy sources, including a HVAC system sources such as geothermal, hydrogen, and a corn burning stove. Wind turbines supplement electricity from traditional sources. The museum also features many exhibits and displays about organizations and projects dedicated to conservation and alternative, renewable energies.

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## 2007 Farm Bill

The farm bill, also known as the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, is the most influential piece of legislation that affects agriculture in America. A new farm bill is re-authorized every five years, directing farm program policy including conservation. Also known as Title II, conservation is one of ten titles that make up the omnibus legislation.

Farm bill conservation programs help producers comply with federal and state environmental rules, enhance soil and water quality, improve wildlife habitat, protect agricultural and grass lands and provide various other benefits.

The 2002 Farm Bill provided a significant boost to conservation efforts throughout the country. It is set to expire September 30, 2007.

Lawmakers are in the throes of writing the 2007 Farm Bill. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is working to ensure that conservation is fairly represented in the re-authorization.

Conservation leaders from across the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., the last week of July to stress the importance of conservation on Capitol Hill. The group came together for the NACD 2007 Summer Legislative Conference.

NACD's 2007 Legislative Conference was a huge success," said NACD President Olin Sims, a rancher from McFadden, Wyo. "We had great turnout from the states, a dynamic speaker line-up and effective meetings with lawmakers. Conservation district leaders came to Washington and spoke with one voice on Capitol Hill—what an impact!"

Meeting participants networked, heard from key Congressional and Administration leaders, participated in an interactive advocacy training session, met with lawmakers and attended NACD's Congressional Reception. More than 200 representatives from 42 states and the Pacific Basin participated in the event.

*(The preceding article is taken from the NACD web site, at <http://nacdnet.org/policy/agriculture/farmbill/> )*

Montgomery SWCD's Board member Fred Glander attended this year's NACD Legislative Conference in Washington, as a representative of farming interests in Montgomery County. Fred has and continues to be regularly involved in legislative issues that affect agriculture and conservation.

The farm bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives with strong funding and technical support, continuing to build on conservation title programs achieved in the 2002 Farm Bill. Some highlights of the 2007 version include a Country-of-Origin Labeling program, maintaining current CRP acreage levels, freezing enrollment in the Conservation Security Program, and increasing funding for the Wetlands Reserve and Environmental Quality Incentives programs. The bill will now go to the U.S. Senate for review and debate before the final version is passed into law.

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

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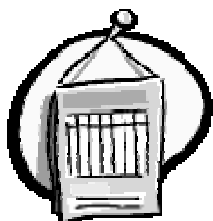
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## Calendar of Events

*For more information about District events, call 854-7645*

												
	<b>Montgomery County Fair</b>	<b>Aug 29 - Sept. 3</b>										
	<b>Wolf Creek Stream Team Quarterly Meeting</b>	<b>September 7</b>										
	<b>District Annual Meeting</b>	<b>September 8</b>										
	<b>FFA Soil Judging</b>	<b>September 21</b>										
	<b>Montgomery County Farm Tour</b>	<b>September 30</b>										
												
												
												