



Montgomery
Soil and
Water
Conservation
District

The Conservation Advocate

January 2007

Helping People and Communities Care for Land and Water

10025 Amity Rd. Brookville Ohio 45309 937-854-7645 Fax 837-2241 www.montgomeryswcd.org

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Plan for Spring Plant Sale

The District's annual sale offers a wide variety of hardwood trees, evergreens, flowering shrubs, and potted wildflowers—see enclosed order form. This article is highlighting the advantages of several native Ohio species for your consideration.

Purple Coneflower. A particularly beautiful and hardy wildflower being offered is purple coneflower. This gorgeous prairie wildflower grows easily in almost all local soils. Its prominently purple or lavender flowers in July and August attract several species of butterflies and other beneficial insects.

Purple coneflowers are a beautiful addition to any garden or landscape, yielding colorful points of interest during the summer. Coneflowers are long-lived and require only open, unshaded conditions to thrive. They even grow well in poor soils. They should not be planted in soils that can be soggy or wet for extended periods, nor in shade conditions. Like all prairie plants, purple coneflowers require at least a half day of full sun to thrive.

Little Bluestem. Little Bluestem is one of the most beautiful native prairie grasses. In natural areas, it is found on medium to dry soils, but like purple coneflower, will grow well on all unshaded, normal soils. It grows on both clay and sandy soils. It cannot tolerate extended periods of saturated, wet soils.

In the summer, mature Little Bluestem grows to about 2-feet or so, with long, narrow, arching leaves that flutter and wave in summer breezes. A patch of Little Bluestem with waves of moving leaves on a hot summer day evokes the cool breezes and waves of a lake.

In September, Little Bluestem shoots up small stems that can be loaded with wispy, fluffy white seed hairs. By October, the plant loses its summer green and turns a remarkable russet red, a distinct color that is often retained during the entire winter. On cold, dark, wet, and rainy winter days – those ones we all dread – Little Bluestem seems to ignite in color. While the rest of the winter landscape is cloaked in dull grays, browns, and black, little bluestem radiates colorful russets and reds.

Because of this, the planting of a patch of numerous Little Bluestem clumps will create a particularly beautiful and interesting winter landscape feature. Clumps can be planted on 12- or 16-inch random centers. Just ten of these will plant an island or drift of about 10 to 12 sq. ft. In all seasons, a patch of pure Little Bluestem is beautiful. It also sinks its roots deeply in the soil and promotes the soaking in ("infiltration") of rainwater, helping to restore soil moisture.

Once established, Little Bluestem never needs to be irrigated. It thrives in the worst of Ohio's summer-long droughts and heat. It is a perfect modern conservation plant for gardens, yards, and urban landscapes. The only required maintenance is to mow off or remove the dead stems and leaves at the end of winter. Beyond that, this is a perfect native plant to use in modern conservation landscapes.

A staggered triple line of Little Bluestems on 16-inch centers can make a beautiful living snow fence when planted along a drive or access lane.

For beautiful color photographs of these and other selected native plants good for conservation landscaping, visit our website at www.montgomeryswcd.org

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2006 Waterway Report

7.5 miles of grass waterways were constructed on 23 farms in Montgomery County this past year. The District would like to recognize landowners and producers for their commitment to conservation of water quality in 2006. District Conservationist Steve Boeder and the staff of the Farm Service Agency were instrumental in coordinating the cost-share funding for these projects through the Conservation Reserve Program. A strong partnership among Agency staff and landowners make this success possible.

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Waterways</u>	<u>Total Length (ft.)</u>	<u>Soil Loss Reduction (Tons / Year)</u>
Carl Smith (Dull Homestead)	3	3,025	15
Marilyn Cones	1	1,255	17
Walter Stiver	1	277	5
Ethel Boomershine (Jerry Sollenberger)	2	3,462	8
Jim Henry	2	1,960	2.2
Jack Wampler (Blanton Farms)	2	2,100	12.5
Larry Ristaneo	1	600	9
Richard Hewitt	2	1,000	14
Harms Farms	4	2,650	15.2
Randy Leis	3	3,065	14.1
Mark Osswald	1	850	4
Duane Friend	3	3,410	15.5
Jerry Sollenberger	4	2,096	9.4
Tim Terrill	1	800	2.7
Larry Bickel	2	960	17.3
Jim Sollenberger	3	1,728	9.6
Nathan Leis	2	820	8.5
Brian Shackelford	4	2,688	15.5
Marderece Farms	3	2,700	11.9
Greg Slepicka	1	1,075	7.2
Dale Miller	1	970	5
Mark Judy	2	2,000	9
Total	23	39,491	230.1

Note there is not a direct or proportional relationship between the number of feet in the waterway and soil loss reduction. This is because each waterway has a unique combination of topography and soil types, the two factors that determine erosion rates.

Important Dates

Monthly Montgomery SWCD Board Meeting	January 31 March 7th
Deadline for Plant Sale Orders	March 9th
Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) Annual Conference	
Aullwood Audubon Center, Vandalia Ohio	April 26-29
<i>Visit web site for registration & information, http://www.eeco-online.org/conferences/Announcement.htm</i>	

Amazing Facts about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), this program is designed to help agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. In 20 years, it has prevented 450 million tons of soil each year from polluting streams and watercourses. Additional benefits include the restoration of 1.8 million acres of wetlands. 2 million more ducks survive each year because of the restored natural habitat. The success of the CRP program is a testament to the value farmers and ranchers place on land stewardship. For information on how to enroll, contact Kerry Yount at 937-854-7646 ext. 127 or visit the Farm Service Agency web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>

Announcements

- **Fred Glander elected to Board of Supervisors**

Fred Glander was re-elected to the Board in September this year. His service began in 1965, and continues into the 42nd year as of January 2007; this will be his 14th term on the Board, expiring in 2010.

- **Annual Conservation Poster Contest / Stewardship Week**

For 52 years the National Association of Conservation Districts has promoted Soil and Water Stewardship each spring. Promotional materials will be available to help schools, churches and other groups and individuals learn about the importance of stewardship as a personal and social responsibility. Check the District website for materials availability in January. Stewardship week (April 29 - May 6, 2007) reminds us that each person has the power to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When people work together with the Nation's network of conservation districts, the results can be powerful.

Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a K-12 Conservation Poster contest that follows the same annual theme as Stewardship week; this year's theme is "Conservation's Power", focusing on energy conservation and alternative / renewable energy. Check our web site in January for guidelines and links to support materials — www.montgomeryswcd.org

- **2007 Agricultural Easement Purchase Program**

Tax incentives are available for farmers who want their land to be protected from future development. A public information meeting will be held on January 16, 7 p.m. at the Perry Township building. Contact Dan Jackson for more information, 854-7645.

- **2007 Drive-It-Yourself Farm Tour**

Sunday September 30th, from 1-5 pm is slated for an open house at three western Montgomery County Locations—Tuken's Farm Market, Germantown Reserve, and the Louis Potter / Mark Judy Farms. Plenty of family-friendly activities will be available. Watch for future announcements in late summer.

- **Ohio State University Extension Workshops**

-Farm Commodity & Input Pricing, 1/11/07, Eaton OH. 937.456.8174

-Pesticide Applicator Re-certification, 1/25/07, Farmersville, OH. 937.224.9654

-Southwest Regional Agronomy School, 2/28/07, Monroe, OH. 513.887.3722

And Now... A Word From Our Sponsors

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Do the Right Thing — Recycle

Lots of people don't know much about the programs that are offered by their local solid waste district. Montgomery County Solid Waste District has excellent education and specialty recycling programs. That makes it convenient for conscientious people to help reduce our enormous solid waste stream. Thus, the power to reduce the need for landfills is in our collective hands.

Here is a small sampling of programs that are offered:

- Residential household hazardous wastes (paint, solvents, automotive fluids, household cleaners, fluorescent lights): weekly on Tuesdays, 8-2 pm at the north facility, 6859 Webster St., Vandalia; weekly on Saturdays, 8-2 pm at the south facility, 2500 Sandridge Dr., Moraine.
- Residential electronics (except microwaves, vacuums, and counter appliances) are accepted Mondays-Saturdays.

Other programs include tires, pallets, large appliances, and yard waste, just to name a few. There are also recycling programs for businesses. Check out the web site at <http://www.curby.org/> or call 225-4999 for information.

Also, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention and the Division of Hazardous Waste Management are publicizing a list of recyclers for producers involved in the CSP program. The goal is to recycle 100% of on-farm lubricants. View the lists of commercial lubricant and used oil marketers doing business in Ohio at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/recyc/oilmark.html>, also, <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/usedoilcclist04.pdf>.

District Conservationist to Retire



Steve Boeder will be retiring from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in January 2007, with 36 years of service, the last 21 as District Conservationist for Montgomery County. Steve has probably been on more farms in the county than any other person in local government service.

He grew up in Wisconsin and received his degrees from The Ohio State University where he met his wife Joyce. They have two grown children, Michael and Anna. His early career was spent in Kosciusko County, Indiana, where he helped bring about the no-till program in northeastern Indiana. Under his watch in Montgomery County, he has been a fine advocate for farmers and others involved in conservation; hundreds of waterways, many wetlands, and numerous rural drainage projects have been implemented. The collective result has been a reduction of flooding, the saving of precious top soil by reducing erosion, and improved water quality. Steve takes great pride in his role in the different wildflower and tree plantings that were accomplished at sites near interstate and state highways in our county.

As much as Steve has enjoyed his 36 year career, he thinks that there are many exciting things to come in farming and conservation. A better variety of corn could make no-till production practical, energy production from farms, government financial incentives for conservation, and the adoption of new conservation and farming technology tools, are just a few exciting examples. Many people know Steve through the many hours he spends officiating high school sporting events. Although battling knee problems, he still hopes to do some officiating, plenty of traveling, and some golfing. He may still find time for a little volunteer work in conservation. Steve's replacement from NRCS should be on the job by June of 2007; from all your friends on the farm, in conservation and government service, THANKS, STEVE! You've done a fine job.

And Now... A Word From Our Sponsors

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