



Montgomery  
Soil and Water  
Conservation  
District

# The Conservation Advocate August 2008

*Helping People and Communities Care for Land and Water*

Montgomery SWCD 10025 Amity Rd. Brookville Ohio 45309

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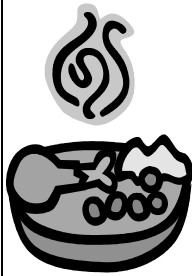
## NRCS District

## Conservationist

Lee Green

## 58th District Annual Meeting

The Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) will hold its 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on September 20, 2008 at the Golden Gate Park, Shelter #3 on Upper Lewisburg-Salem Road in Brookville, Ohio.



District Technician Russ Heintz will again be preparing the evening meal consisting of grilled chicken and pork loin, baked potatoes, tossed salad, dinner roll and homemade ice cream, all for the price of a ticket. Tickets only need to be purchased if you plan on eating dinner. Tickets are available at the District office, from any staff member, Board member or Board candidate. You may also send in the form at the bottom of the page back to the District office by September 12<sup>th</sup> to order your tickets.

Outdoor yard games and voting for Board members will take place between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Golden Gate Park has an amazing playground, so bring your children and grandchildren. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with a short program following. Representative Arlene Setzer of the Ohio 36<sup>th</sup> District will act as our Mistress of Ceremonies and will be our featured speaker. We hope to see you there!



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## Annual Meeting Ticket Reservation

Saturday, September 20, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm @ Golden Gate Park, Brookville

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adult Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Child Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## *Stillwater River Clean-Up*

On May 30th a group of 12 volunteers in six canoes set out on the Stillwater River for the Ninth Annual Stillwater River Clean Up. This group traveled for four hours down a five mile stretch of river filling their canoes with everything from lawn chairs to car tires and even some roofing shingles. The canoes came in one by one and their drivers started the process of emptying them (as seen in picture below). After all six canoes were emptied the amount of garbage that was pulled out of the river came to an impressive weight of 800 pounds!

This was not the only team that went and dedicated their time to beautify their local river. There were a total of 45 volunteers at four locations in three counties: Darke, Miami and Montgomery. All four teams worked hard to pull an amazing 5000 pounds of trash out of the Stillwater River, not bad for a days work!



## *2008 Reappraisal*



Auditor Karl Keith has received the Tax Commissioner's approval of new tentative values for the 2008 Reappraisal. The Auditor expects to mail out informal notices of new tentative values to property owners after Labor Day starting September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Informal reviews for owners questioning their new value will take place at the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District office on Amity Road on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. When you receive your notice in the mail and wish to speak with an appraiser regarding the informal value, please call the phone number on the notice to schedule an appointment.

## *No Dumping Drains To Wolf Creek*

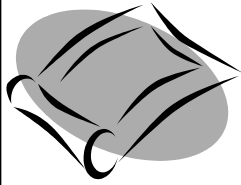


If you have seen a label on a storm drain reading "No Dumping Drains to Wolf Creek Protect Your Water" it is because of Robert Anspach. Robert and a group of volunteers on July 12<sup>th</sup> placed 200 of these labels on storm drains in Brookville as part of a leadership eagle project to promote community awareness regarding water pollution. Water that passes through storm drains does not go through a water treatment

plant, but instead goes straight to your local water way and in Brookville's case to Wolf Creek. Robert said "Hopefully (by placement), we will have better waterways in the Miami Valley."

Robert is a member of Troop 325 in Clayton under Scoutmaster John Combs. He has achieved the rank of Life Scout and is going to be a senior this year at Brookville High School.

## Strategic Plan



Following three productive meetings of the core planning group and multiple meetings of Montgomery SWCD staff, the District Board reviewed the Ninth Draft of the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation 2012: Strategic Plan at a July 16, 2008 special board meeting.

The four core strategies identified are as follows:

- 1. Enhance Water Management Systems**
- 2. Reinforce Water Quality Best Management Practices Working with Landowners, Residents, Developers and Businesses**
- 3. Advocate for Natural Resources**
- 4. Provide Leadership with our Partners and Cultivate Relationships with our Stake-holders to Sustain a Livable Community**

Each core strategy has a number of objectives and initiatives representing major priorities. Performance measures have also been established.

The next step in our planning process is to have two Strategic Planning Consulting Team meetings to review the Strategic Plan and assist in developing a time line for accomplishing the objectives and initiatives. These meetings will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Clay Township Office.

### Did You Know

- Freshwater animals are disappearing five times faster than land animals.
- Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Wherever it travels, water carries chemicals, minerals, and nutrients with it.

## Water Quality Report



The District technicians have been busy working on this year's grass waterway projects with help from Lee Green, District Conservationist. These projects are done through the Conservation Reserve Program, under the Farm Bill. Currently, there are 15 waterways scheduled for completion by the September 15<sup>th</sup> seeding deadline, totaling 3.9 miles in length. Several other projects are in

the planning stages. However, wet weather earlier this year has delayed construction activities, so some projects may be rescheduled for 2009, and any new sign-ups will likely be delayed until next year as well.

A quarter acre wetland has recently been completed in German Township. An additional quarter acre wetland is planned to be put in Clay Township this Fall.

Ponds continue to be popular, especially for irrigation use after last summer's dry weather conditions. Three ponds have been completed so far, and the District technicians have also prepared construction plans for several others.

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

Miller Brothers Excavating, Inc.  
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## Meet the Candidates for the District Board

### *Steve Boeder*



Steve Boeder has lived in Germantown for the last twenty years with his wife Joyce, and family. He recently retired from his position as District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Montgomery County, having served in five field offices during his thirty seven year career. Steve grew up in a rural community and spent time on his uncle's farm which motivated him to obtain a BS in Agriculture and Master's degree in Natural Resources from the Ohio State University. He maintains an active interest in conservation which has

led him to accept positions on the Germantown Parks Board, Ohio Storm Water Task Force and is the tri-State representative for the Certified Professional for Erosion and Sediment Control Council. He feels that his professional experience and knowledge will be useful in achieving his goal of leveraging resources and increasing the level of service provided to the public by the District.

### *Greg Buthker*



Greg Buthker has lived in Clay Township with his wife and family since 1992 where they are restoring their 1905 home. Other personal interests include archeology, arrowhead flint knapping, the guitar, and home gardening. He obtained a BS in Chemistry and has worked for the Ohio EPA for 23 years as an environmental specialist in surface water quality. Additionally, Greg has held various positions with Clay Township including its Farmland and Open Space Committee and Chairman of its Zoning Commission. Greg has been involved in

farmland preservation activities since 2001 and was instrumental in placing farmland preservation provisions in the township's zoning code. Greg said that he would like to use his expertise to enhance the District's farmland preservation activities and promote water quality best management practices including the establishment of riparian corridors and conservation activities which reduce nutrient runoff into our streams.

### *Doug Crowe*



Doug Crowe lives in Perry Township with his wife Lisa, daughter Katie, and stepson Eric. He is a member of the Crowe Family Farm, farming with his father Harold, brother Steve, and their families. They have a diversified operation raising corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, cattle and hogs. Doug is a 4-H advisor and member of Montgomery County Cattleman's Association. During his three years of Board service, he has directed District resources toward the Sycamore Demonstration & Education Farm and its water quality & management programs. His specific areas

of interest are educational activities directed toward the urban community; locating alternative funding sources for drainage projects, and demonstration of precision farming technology which optimizes the use of chemical inputs in agricultural production.

*Barry Puskas*



Barry Puskas lives in Perry Township with his wife and four children who attend Brookville School. He currently works as the Technical Service Manager at the Miami Conservancy District. He holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the Ohio State University and is a Professional Engineer certified by the state of Ohio. Barry is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and serves on the Ohio Dam Safety Board. Regarding his Board candidacy, Barry's interest in conservation stems from his enjoyment of the out-of-doors as an avid hunter and fisherman. Thus, he has an inherent interest in enhancing the District's use of precision farming and land use activities where his expertise in rural and urban hydrology, natural channel design, geographic information systems, watershed modeling, and stream modeling can be used to implement these conservation practices.

*Bill Wissinger*



Bill Wissinger lives in Clay Township with his wife Beth. Two of their children work at Brookville Rental, a family-owned business which they have operated for 16 years. Bill was previously an employee and later a supervisor at the Dayton Power and Light Company. He's a life-long Clay Township resident and enthusiastic supporter of the Brookville Blue Devils. He has served on the Clay Township Zoning Board, and is currently a member of the Brookville Chamber of Commerce and the American Rental Association. During his six year tenure at the District, Bill has served two terms as Board Chairman. The construction of conservation works of improvement (Drainage Projects) are attributed to his work. He has recently purchased a 30 acre farm on which he has begun to farm and apply conservation practices.

**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 Golden Gate Park, on Saturday, September 20th, 2008

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 4 pm on September 12th, 2008—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.*

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

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***Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Heritage***

All programs and services provided by the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, handicap or marital status.

## *2008 Montgomery County Farm Tour*

Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District will be participating in the 2008 Farm Tour this October 11th & 12th from noon to 6:00 PM. This free drive-it-yourself tour has five fascinating stops with fun family activities at each. These stops are:

- Sycamore Conservation Education Farm
- Majestic Nursery and Gardens
- Tuken's Orchard and Farm Market
- Learning Tree Farm
- Possum Creek Farm

Discover the importance of our natural heritage and rediscover how dependent we are on our natural ecosystems and the farming community to meet society's basic needs. There is food available at all locations so stop by and see what's cooking!



For more information go to <http://www.montgomeryswcd.org/> and view the brochure or call (937) 854-7645.