



Montgomery
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

The Conservation Advocate

AUGUST 2011

Mission Statement: The Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District connects the residents, businesses, governments and agriculture of Montgomery County with education, best management practices, and technical leadership of water quality, water management, conservation, and wildlife habitat. We are the community's natural resource stewards for a livable community today and tomorrow.

61st District Annual Meeting



The Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD) will hold its 61st Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 10th, 2011 at Sycamore Conservation Education and Demonstration Farm, located at 3225 N. Lutheran Church Road, Trotwood, Ohio. Come join us at 4:00 p.m. for some friendly conversation and some friendly competition in outdoor yard games. Our young guests will each receive a **free** pumpkin (one per child), and can join our Education/Information Specialist to give it a personality of its own with the provided paint and art supplies! The sitting Board of Supervisors will award certificates for 'Most Creative', 'Scariest', and 'Board Favorite.'



A delicious meal consisting of pork barbecue and brisket with sides from Adam's Rib of Eaton, Ohio, will be followed by homemade ice cream provided by the Ullery Family (favorites from the Montgomery County Fair), all for \$12.00. The meal will be served starting at 6:00 p.m. (**reservations required**), after which will be a short program. Voting for the MSWCD Board of Supervisors will be held between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Our featured speaker is AJ Ferguson, a senior at University of Dayton who has been highly involved in the River Stewards program. He will speak on his experiences with the Great Miami River, and the lessons it taught him on recreation, outreach, community building and enterprise.

Tickets are available at the MSWCD office, or from any staff member, Board member or Board candidate. You may also fill out the form at the bottom of the page and send it back to the MSWCD office by September 2nd to order your tickets. Tickets are not necessary to attend or to vote, but if you plan to join us for the meal and dessert, you will need to purchase a ticket in advance.



Short biographies and pictures of the Board candidates can be found on page four and five of this newsletter. Get to know them and their reasons for wanting to serve the community by being a part of the Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District.

Representative Michael Henne of the Ohio 36th District will act as our Master of Ceremonies. Come join us September 10th out at the Farm!

61st MSWCD Annual Meeting and Dinner Reservation Form



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

of Adult Tickets _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____ # of Child Tickets (2-10) _____ X \$6.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Make checks payable to Montgomery SWCD

The Conservation Advocate is published quarterly

Stillwater River Clean-up **CLEANS UP!**



the trip tired, muddy, but very pleased to be a part of what was accomplished!

This June, Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD) and our partners held the 10th Annual Stillwater River Clean-Up. Thank you to our 16 wonderful volunteers, who pulled, tugged, dug, rinsed and wrestled a variety of items out of the river and its banks, totaling 0.6 tons of debris! We had the usual, like tires and bottles, and the unusual, like three quarters of an old canoe, collected in pieces by two different teams. Everyone ended

We would also like to thank our partners and sponsors for the 2011 event. They include the Cities of Clayton and Englewood , Five Rivers MetroParks, Meijer (the Englewood Location), Montgomery Solid Waste District, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Div. of Watercraft. Three other sections were cleaned as well, totaling 2 tons of waste removed with the help of 52 volunteers. Additional partners for one or all of the sections include Darke and Miami SWCDs, Brukner Nature Center, Miami County Park District, the Ohio EPA, Newberry, Newton and Union Townships, Miami County Sanitary Engineers Office, and Patty's IGA. This yearly effort to clean the Stillwater River could not be done without their help and support!

As impressive as the numbers are, the experience speaks for itself. Join us next year, and maybe you'll be privileged, as I was this year, to look back at a just-cleaned sandbar, only minutes before covered with all manner of rubbish, and then look ahead to spy a young fawn hiding in the tree roots. So thanks again everyone, for cleaning up the river for our enjoyment, for better fishing and more enjoyable canoeing, and for those who live there. Maybe we'll see you next year, as you realize the joys of getting muddy to clean up!



Did you know ???

A lawn only needs 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week.

Watering every 4 to 5 days creates deeper, stronger roots and a healthier lawn.

Conservation Corner

Plan on going to the Montgomery County Fair this September! As in previous years, Conservation agencies will be featured in the Round House. Our MSWCD display will include a Rain Barrel, which can now be purchased by contacting our office, as well as free water to cool you down and information for you to peruse and take with you if you'd like! Partnering agencies will again join us. In past years, these have included the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, University of Dayton Rivers Institute, Miami Valley Career & Technology Center, Montgomery County Solid Waste District, City of Dayton Water Department and the Miami Valley Conservancy District. We hope you come out and visit our wonderful displays!



The Montgomery County Fair will be held August 31st -- September 5th

Upcoming Events!

Creekin' For Critters!

Join us for some 'cool' family fun! Bring the kids to Madison Park, at 301 S. Broadway, Trotwood, Ohio, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, and join us in the Wolf Creek to see what interesting, un-earthly looking critters are to be found! By getting in the water, and looking at who lives on the stream bottom, we can not only have fun learning about stream life, but determine how healthy our stream is! So join us to see if will we find 'gold' (water pennies), or just say 'rats' (rat-tailed maggots, that is). Please wear closed-toed shoes and clothes that you don't mind wearing into the creek, and we will provide the nets and bins for sorting. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Focus on Farmland Preservation!

Join us at the MSWCD office at 6:30 p.m. on September 27th to discuss the options available to you for preserving your land as a productive farm for future generations. Larry Frimerman, Executive Director of the Three Valley Conservation Trust, along with our own Dan Jackson, Resource Conservation Technician, will make sure you are familiar with several different methods, allowing for different lengths of time and economic circumstances. These include Agricultural Security Areas, the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, and the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Come learn about the benefits and differences in each program from these 'seasoned pros!'

Free Family Farm Tour



Come out to the family farm for our Farm Tour, and see how all things old are being made new again! Gardens are the hot 'new' trend, and we'll show you how one family has embraced this trend, some ways they grow and preserve their crops, as well as different efforts to conserve water and provide beauty and habitat at the same time. Join us Saturday, October 15th, anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the Hastings Family Farm, 5226 Seybold Road, Brookville, Ohio. We look forward to meeting you at this fun, FREE, family event!

Contractor's Workshop!

Are you an area contractor looking to get some knowledge and some Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits? Then have we got the event for you! Join us November 18th, 2011, at the Miami Valley Career & Technology Center, for our Sediment & Erosion Control for Contractors Workshop! For your small \$10 registration fee, you get lunch and presentations on the regulations, materials, and new techniques available, as well as live demonstrations of the products in use! See our website for the registration form, or call Kristen at (937) 854-7646 ext. 109 for more information.



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Meet the Candidates

Did you know ????? Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites! Also, in early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling!

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission Election Legal Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Montgomery County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the annual meeting, which will take place Saturday, September 10, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; (2) at the MSWCD office until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2011; or (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address:

Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District
10025 Amity Road
Brookville, OH 45309
Phone Number: (937) 854-7645

Two (2) Supervisors will be elected.
Nominees are: Doug Crowe, Felicia Olinger, and Bill Wissinger

Doug Crowe



Doug Crowe lives in Perry Township with his wife Lisa, daughter Katie, and step-son 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 The Ohio Cattleman's Association. He also served as Chair of the Production & Distribution subcommittee for the Montgomery County Food Policy Coalition, focusing on making nutritious food available to all Montgomery County children.

During his three years (2006-2008) of Board service, he directed District resources toward the Sycamore Conservation & 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 that optimizes the use of chemical inputs in agricultural production.

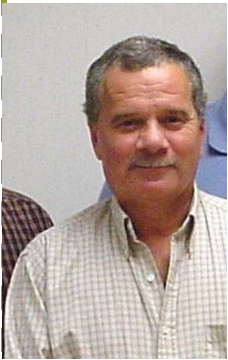
Felicia Olinger



From 2008-2010, Mrs. Olinger served as the Education Specialist at MSWCD, giving her a thorough knowledge of how MSWCD works and their strengths and weaknesses. She wants to use this knowledge to help MSWCD run more efficiently and be more productive. During her time as the Education Specialist, Mrs. Olinger was involved in the Drainage Program, developed the Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop and organized and gave many presentations to all age levels about the importance of soil and water conservation. Mrs. Olinger has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio and is a native to Montgomery County. Mrs.

Olinger currently works for ITB as a Journeyman Engineer and her primary duties include support on a NASA Energy and Water contract. If elected, she wants to encourage the MSWCD to develop more active programs. Mrs. Olinger currently volunteers as an Associate Supervisor to the Board for the MSWCD and as such; she serves on the Employment Policy and Education committees.

Bill Wissinger



Bill Wissinger lives in Clay Township with his wife Beth. Bill and two of their children work at Brookville Rental, a family-owned business which they have operated for 22 years. In addition, he calls himself a mini farmer as he applies conservation practices on their 30 acres of farmland. Bill was previously an employee and later a supervisor at the Dayton Power and Light Company.

Bill is 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 various other associations and Boards.

During his nine year tenure at the District, Bill has served three terms as Board Chairman. The construction of a number of conservation works of improvement (Drainage Projects) are attributed to his work. Bill's deep beliefs in preserving our natural resources and farmland for the future are his driving force for running for another term.

2011 Scholarship Winner

Each year, the MSWCD offers two scholarships to Montgomery County students. Our forestry scholarship went unfilled this year, but will be offered again next year. Start thinking about who you can recommend it to now!

Jessica McLaughlin, a graduate of Stivers School for the Arts, won our 2011 College Scholarship. She will be attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks, studying Wildlife Biology & Conservation. In her words, "By learning about the animals of the world, their lives, how they interact with their environment— we can protect them, ensure that they will be there for another generation of kids to be awed and inspired by." That is a goal we at the MSWCD can connect with and are proud to support through our scholarship program. Good luck Jessica!



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**NRCS District
Conservationist**

Jeff Barnes

Fall Upcoming Events

-  August 23 - 'Creekin' for Critters' Stream Monitoring
-  August 31 - September 5 - Montgomery County Fair
-  September 5 - Labor Day - Office Closed
-  September 7 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
-  September 10 - 61st Annual Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
-  September 27 - Farmland Preservation
-  October 5 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
-  October 10 - Columbus Day - Office Closed
-  October 15 - Farm Tour, Hastings Farm
-  November 2 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
-  November 11 - Veterans Day - Office Closed

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.