Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District

The Conservation Advocate

JANURARY 2012

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.

Educator Workshops - Coming Soon!

HEALTHY WATER HEALTHY PEOPLE

Attention Educators! We have opportunities for the teachers of two different age groups!

Preschool: The 'wildly' successful new curriculum from the Council for Environmental Education and Project WILD, called 'Growing Up WILD,' (GUW) can be yours! This opportunity is presented by Butler, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Warren SWCDs. Join us Saturday, Jan. 28th at Butler SWCD, 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, Ohio, for an action and fun filled morning! Registration is only $10, and everyone can earn CEUs and take home a GUW book, provided for you by the ODNR Div. of Wildlife. GUW incorporates nature play, math, language and literacy, and promotes healthy, curious, and imaginative kids!

Middle School: If you are looking for relevant material that is correlated to current Ohio Science & Social Studies Standards and the National Science Standards, we have the workshop for you! Join us on Saturday, Feb. 4th at Talawanda High School, near Oxford, OH, for a Healthy Water, Healthy People (HWHP) Workshop. This opportunity is presented by Butler, Hamilton, and Montgomery SWCDs, and the Greenacres Foundation. HWHP provides activities focusing on health, history, math, social studies and of course many areas of science. Registration is only $40. Attendees will receive 2 books and many other classroom resources! Earn CEUs! 1 Qtr Hr Grad Credit Optional.

The registration forms for both workshops are available at www.montgomeryswcd.org. Contact Kristen Lauer, Montgomery SWCD Education/Information Specialist, for additional information. Registration is on a first come first served basis, and closes on January 20th, 2012. for GUW, and January 23rd, 2012 for HWHP.

For those of you who can't make these opportunities, keep tuned for future workshops in the works!

Growing Up WILD™

Board of Supervisors

Fred Glander

Calvin Helsinger

Felicia Olinger

Duane Plessinger

Bill Wissinger

District Staff

Cheryl Barkalow

Stefan Bridenbaugh

Jim Dillon

Russ Heintz

Jeremy Huggler

Dan Jackson

Kristen Lauer

NRCS District Conservationist

Jeff Barnes

Upcoming Events

- January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed
- January 28 - GUW Teacher's Workshop
- February 1 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- February 4 - HWHP Teacher's Workshop
- February 20 - Presidents' Day - Office Closed
- March 22-24 - Mont. Co. Solid Waste District Farm Tire Disposal
- March 9 - Tree & Plant Sale Order Deadline
- April 12-13 - Tree & Plant Sale Pick-Up

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2012 Board of Supervisors Update

At our annual meeting and through absentee ballots, the citizens of Montgomery County let us know who they want on our Board of Supervisors each year. We want to officially welcome Felicia Olinger to our Board. Felicia is no stranger to the Montgomery SWCD. She served as an intern, and then the Education Specialist, from 2008 to 2010. Last year she was an Associate Supervisor, and now she joins the Board! In addition, Bill Wissinger was re-elected for his 4th term. We also want to extend our thanks to retiring Board Member Steve Boeder. Steve served the area as the NRCS District Conservationist until 2007, and then served on our Board from 2009-2011. He will continue as an Associate Supervisor. Thanks to all!

Congratulations to the

Honey Creek Watershed Association

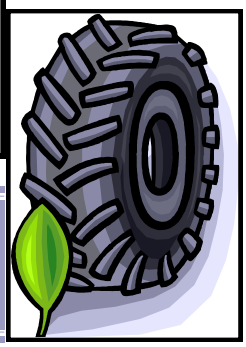
Celebrating 10 years of protecting local water quality!

Another Free Farm Tire Disposal!

Congratulations to our partner, the Montgomery County Solid Waste District, (MSWD) on another successful free farm tire disposal collection! The most recent collection occurred December 1-3, 2011, and resulted in 33.13 tons of tires being brought to the facility by 83 residents of Montgomery County. This free service helps residents beautify their property, cleans up the environment, and promotes recycling!

If you missed the drive this last time, don't worry! You have another opportunity to get rid of your old farm tires on Thursday, March 22 through Saturday, March 24, 2012. Farm vehicle tires without rims will be accepted for disposal FREE of charge at both the North and South Solid Waste Facilities during these dates. Montgomery County's farming community is encouraged to take full advantage of this free service and properly dispose of all their old implement tires.

From March 22 - 24, the MSWD is not limiting the number of farm tires brought in for disposal, but a driver's license will be required to establish proof of Montgomery County residency. In addition, please note that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) requires a "Tire Manifest" for anyone transporting more than 10 tires per load.



Montgomery County's North Solid Waste Facility is located at 6589 Old Webster St. in Vandalia and the South Solid Waste Facility is located at 1001 Encrete Ln. in Moraine. Hours of operation for both locations are Monday – Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For additional information regarding the Farm Tire Recovery Program call 225-4999 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.mcswd.org. Thanks for helping us protect your natural resources!

Honeysuckle – Beauty or Beast?

Erik Lewis, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Photo courtesy of Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

If you are a native of southwestern Ohio, like me, then you are probably very familiar with bush honeysuckle, commonly known as "honeysuckle". I remember growing up with the fragrant smell and beautiful flowers of honeysuckle every year. We would even play in it, building forts in the thickets that it would create. Back then we never thought anything about the ecological role it would play many years later and the problems that could arise from its presence.

Exotic (or non-native) bush honeysuckle was introduced to the US many years ago as an ornamental plant, for erosion control, and for wildlife habitat. Exotic bush honeysuckles are native to Eurasia and have become very aggressive invasive plants here in the eastern United States. Bush honeysuckle can grow 6-18 feet tall, has hollow stems, egg-shaped opposite leaves, white to yellow tubular flowers, and many bright red berries in the fall. The berries have many seeds per berry and are a big part of why it is so invasive. It is spread quickly by birds, seeds to ground, and vegetative sprouts.

When bush honeysuckle invades an area, the habitat can be overtaken very rapidly and the dense layer of honeysuckle that is formed can have serious ecological effects. The dense canopy created by honeysuckle decreases light availability for native plants. It depletes the soil nutrients and moisture native plants need to survive. Native plant species are quickly crowded and shaded out in these situations. Bush honeysuckle is most common in woodlands, edge habitats, and grassland or idle/open areas.

Bush Honeysuckle can also have a negative effect on bird populations, and acts as an ecological trap for many bird species. Bush honeysuckle can produce a large amount of food for bird species and many species eat it. But, the berries are high in carbs and low in fats and other important nutrients. This causes birds to struggle more during migration and resident birds to have tougher winters. Higher mortality and lower reproductive rates can result from weakened birds. Also the birds that tend to use honeysuckle as a food source (cardinals, robins) are generalist species and would easily adapt to using other food sources. It has also been shown that nest predation is increased in bush honeysuckle thickets.

Now, hopefully you are asking, what can I do about the honeysuckle on my property? Mechanical and chemical control is the primary means of removal, but timing and method can be important. The best thing would be to have a professional assess your property and make recommendations on control. Contact ODNR Service Forester Casey Burdick, at 513-932-6836, Casey.Burdick@dnr.state.oh.us, for assistance.

For areas of significant infestation, the USDA does offer some cost-share programs for controlling bush honeysuckle on private lands. Please contact NRCS District Conservationist Jeff Barnes at 937-854-7645, or jeff.barnes@oh.usda.gov for more information.

Note: This is our last article from Erik, since he has accepted a position with Pheasants Forever in Washington State. We will miss Erik, and wish him all the best!

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Thanks Sponsors!

2012 Tree & Plant Sale Descriptions

NEW for 2012! Order & Pay Online

www.MontgomerySWCD.org QR Code on Page 7

There will be a 3% additional cost for online orders to cover PayPal's transaction fee

Deciduous & Nut Trees

	Size	Price
American Chestnut Hybrid (2)	10-12"	$10.00

NATIVE - *Castanea dentate* x - **Potted**. Grows 80-100' tall. Likes full sun and well drained soils. Rich, flavorful, edible nuts in 13-15 years.
NOT GUARANTEED TO BE BLIGHT RESISTANT.

Hazelnut (5)	12-18"	$ 8.00

Corylus americana - **1 yr. Seedlings**. Grows to 15' tall and 15'wide. Also known as the American Filbert. Adaptable to moist or dry soils. Best nut production in full sun. Tasty nuts desirable to humans & wildlife.

Northern Pecan (5)	12-18"	$ 7.00

Carya illinoinensis - **1 yr. Seedlings**. Grows 50-70'. Spreads 40-70'. Beautiful and majestic shade tree. Provides a crop of thin shelled nuts in 12-15 years. Plant in full sun in moist, well drained soils.

Persimmon (American) (5)	12-18"	$ 6.00

NATIVE - *Diospyros virginiana* - **1 yr. Seedlings**. Grows 30-60'. Easy to grow. Does not like wet sites. Bears sweet, orange fruit in the fall in about 6 years. Gather after frost. Used in making spiced fruit breads and puddings. Enjoyed by wildlife/bees.

Red Oak (5)	12-18"	$ 6.00

NATIVE - *Quercus rubra* - **1 yr. Seedlings**. Grows 70-80'. Dense green foliage turns deep red in the fall. Acorns are large, rounded & eaten by a variety of wildlife. Tolerant of urban conditions: salt, ozone, & sulfur dioxide.

Sugar Maple (5)	12-18"	$ 7.00

NATIVE - *Acer saccharum*- **1 yr. Seedlings**. Grows to 75'. Valued for its sap, from which maple syrup is made. Brilliant scarlet-orange foliage in fall. Popular shade and ornamental tree.

Evergreens

NEW!	Size	Price
Green Giant Arborvitae (2)	6-10"	$ 6.00

Thuja plicata x standishii 'Green Giant' - **Potted**. Grows 50-75'. Width 10-20'. Fast Growing. A vigorous pyramidal grower. Dense, rich green foliage with a graceful, fern like texture. Can be used as a specimen tree or an easily maintained hedge. Resistant to deer damage.

Evergreens (continued)

	Size	Price
Arborvitae (5)	8-15"	$ 6.00

NATIVE - *Thuja occidentalis* - (Northern White Cedar) **1 yr. Seedlings**. Grows 40-60'. Evergreen foliage is scale-like and flat. Will reach 6' in 6-7 years. Plant 4' apart for windbreaks. Red squirrels and birds like the seeds.

Colorado Blue Spruce (25)	10-18"	$ 18.00

Picea pungens - **2 yr. Transplant**. Grows 80-100'. Needles 1-1.5" long. Color varies from green to silver blue. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture & full sun. Slowest growing, but most popular spruce. Ornamental, windbreaks, Christmas trees.

Norway Spruce (25)	8-14"	$ 18.00

Picea abies - **2 yr. Transplant**. Grows 60-90'. Needles dark green, 0.5-1" long. Branches droop gracefully as it matures. It does well in average soil conditions, but it prefers moisture in the soil to maintain a deep green color. Ornamental, timber, windbreaks.

Scotch Pine (25)	8-16"	$ 18.00

Pinus sylvestris - **2 yr. Transplant**. Grows 75'. Needles are stiff, 1.5-3" long. Grows in most soils, and is excellent for windbreaks, Christmas trees and timber. Space 6' apart for windbreaks.

White Pine (25)	8-14"	$ 18.00

NATIVE - *Pinus strobus* - **2 yr. Transplant**. Grows 75-100'. Soft, flexible needles 3-5" long, blue-green color. Prefers moist sandy loam soils and full sun.

Ornamental Grasses

	Size	Price
Little Blue Stem (1)	1 gal. pot	$ 8.00

NATIVE - *Schizachyrium scoparium* - Attractive blue green foliage grows to about 12" by mid summer. Fluffy seeds emerge on 2-3' seed stalks in August. Foliage turns reddish-brown in fall & remains attractive throughout the winter.

Switch Grass (1)	1 gal. pot	$ 8.00

NATIVE - *Panicum virgatum* - Ornamental warm-season prairie grass, also excellent for erosion control and wildlife cover. Dense, attractive clump grows 4-6' tall. Seed produced on large, airy panicles. Outstanding soil stabilization.

2012 Tree & Plant Sale Descriptions

Flowering Trees/Shrubs

	Size	Price
Butterfly Bush (1)	1 gal. pot	$ 7.00

Buddlieia davidii - Black Knight variety (purple) - Grows 6-8' tall. Profuse bloomer with gray-green to dark green leaves and large, fragrant 6-8" long flower heads that are very attractive to butterflies. A must for your butterfly garden! Blooms from July all the way to fall.

Elderberry (5)	12-18"	$ 7.00

NATIVE - *Sambucus candadensis* - **2 yr. Seedlings**. Fast growing up to 10' tall and 6-8' wide. Needs full sun in any soil type. Is wetland tolerant. White flowers bloom in the summer. Blue-black berries are used for making jelly, preserves and wine. Very attractive to many types of wildlife.

Lilac (2)	12-24"	$ 7.00

Syringa vulgaris - **2 yr. potted**. Dense, vigorous growth to 15', spreads 6-10'. Masses of very fragrant, light lavender flowers in late spring. Makes a wonderful flowering screen, spaced 6' apart.

Paw Paw (Common) (5)	12-18"	$ 10.00

NATIVE - *Asimina triloba* - **1 yr. Seedlings.** Grows 12-20' Slow growing. Maroon flowers, March to May. Deep fertile soils, full sun. Fruit 3-6" long, ripens mid August to October. Green skin lightens in color as it ripens. Yellow flesh is custard like and highly nutritious with a tropical flavor.

Red Bud (Eastern) (2)	6-8"	$ 5.00

NATIVE - *Cercis canadensis* - **Potted.** This early blooming tree grows in moist soil, in full to mostly shady areas. Hundreds of magenta blossoms emerge in April and May before leafing out. This wonderful tree makes a lovely landscaping addition to any yard.

Spicebush (5)	12-18"	$ 7.00

NATIVE - *Lindera benzoin* - **1 yr. Seedlings.** Grows 6-12'. Very showy, native plant. Deciduous shrub that is very tolerant of wet conditions. Suitable for shady areas. Blooms in spring, with very small white flowers in tiny clusters. Oblong, green leaves turn yellow in fall. Scarlet fruit in fall through early spring.

White Flowering Dogwood (5)	12-24"	$ 6.00

NATIVE - *Cornus florida* - **2 yr. Seedlings**. Grows 15-40'. White flowers in the spring. Red leaves in the fall. Red berries eaten by numerous song and game birds & other wildlife. Prefers moist, rich soils.

NEW – Garden Kit!

Hummingbird/Butterfly Garden Kit (1)
Each kit contains 38 Native Plants! $ 105.00

Covering approximately 100 square feet with 10-12 different species of native plants per kit, and plants only $2.77 each, this is a gem of a deal!

These plants are suited for an area that receives full sun with typical garden soils

Although you order and pay for this kit the same way, it Will Be Shipped to your House!
(expect arrival on approx. June 1st)

Benefits of Native Plants:

Sustainability: able to reproduce without extra watering, fertilizer or other chemicals

Habitat: serve as nectar and food source for butterflies & birds

Water Quality: deep roots allow water to 'soak in,' while the plants filter and use the nutrients in water, purifying it.

Aesthetics: beautiful to the eye, and alive with birds, butterflies, and dragonflies!

The kit will include 10 to 12 of the following species:

Nodding Onion	Allium cernuum
Purple Milkweed	Asclepias purpurpascens
White Wild Indigo	Baptisia leucantha
Maryland Senna	Cassia marilandica
Turtlehead	Chelone glabra
Pale Purple Coneflower	Echinacea pallida
Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea
Cardinal Flower	Lobelia cardinalis
Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica
Wild Bergamot	Monarda fistulosa
Orange Coneflower	Rudbeckia fulgida
Showy Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia speciosa sullivanti
Stiff Goldenrod	Solidago rigida
New England Aster	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
Ohio Spiderwort	Tradescantia ohiensis

2012 Tree & Plant Sale Descriptions

Wildflower Descriptions

All Wildflowers: Size: 1 gal. pot Price: $7.00

NEW! Aromatic Aster (1)
NATIVE - *Aster oblongifolius* - "October Skies" variety. Height & spread 1.5 - 2'. Features deep sky blue flowers that are attractive to butterflies and insects. Dark green leaves are fragrant when crushed.

Black-Eyed Susan (1)
NATIVE - *Rudbeckia fulgida* - "Goldsturm" variety. Height & spread 2 to 2 1/2'. Vigorous and compact. Bright golden flowers from July through the fall. Easily reseeds. Flowers attract butterflies. Seeds attract birds.

Butterflyweed (1)
NATIVE - *Asclepias tuberosa* - This popular milkweed requires full to part sun. Its bright orange blossoms attract bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. This stunning plant blooms June - August and reaches a height of 2-3'. Plant in well drained, dry to moist soils.

Cardinal Flower (1)
NATIVE - *Lobelia cardinalis* - This bright red attractive native of wet to moist soil grows to a height of 2-5'. Blooms July-September, and attracts hummingbirds. It grows in full sun to nearly full shade in moist, rich soils.

Hardy Geranium (1)
Geranium hybrida - "Johnson's Blue" variety – Grows 1-1.5' Blooms in mid-summer to autumn with lots of large, lavender-blue flowers. It blooms best in full sun. It's a magnet for bees and butterflies.

NEW! Lavender (1)
Lavandula angustifolia - "Munstead" variety - Commercially planted for use in perfumes, sachets and potpourris. This 12-15" hardy lavender has rich lavender-blue blooms all summer long.

Marsh Blazing Star (1)
NATIVE - *Liatris spicata* - These showy and beautiful flowers prefer sunny or partly shaded locations. Excellent as a garden plant in moist soil, the purple spikes of blossoms topping the plant can reach heights of 3 to 6 feet. Flowers July through September. Long referred to as a "butterfly magnet."

NEW! Meadow Sage (1)
Salvia nemerosa - "May Night" variety - Grows 1 to 1.5' tall, 0.75 to 1' spread. Produces dense spikes of purple flowers over gray-green foliage. Flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies.

Speedwell (1)
Veronica spicata - Royal Candles - grows 10-12" tall. This is an erect bush, clump-forming, compact spiked speedwell. Likes full sun and blooms deep blue/purple flower spikes from June to August.

Swamp Milkweed (1)
NATIVE - *Asclepias incarnate* - Grows 2-4'. Mauve flowers form clusters at the top of the plant and bloom in mid-summer. Grows in moist areas in nature, but does not require a moist location in the garden. Attracts the most butterflies, especially monarchs that depend on milkweed for their survival, and hummingbirds.

Wild Bergamot (1)
NATIVE - *Monarda fistulosa* - A very popular native for the garden, this lovely plant grows 2-4', blooming June through September. Many dense, lavender clusters of flowers attract hummingbirds, birds, butterflies and moths. Grows in a wide range of soils: moist to dry, sand to clay, in full sun to part shade.

Other Items

Rain Barrel (1) $ 90.00
55 gallon barrel

Pre-made 55 gallon plastic barrel (gray or white), designed and constructed by District Technician, Russ Heintz. A rain barrel is a rain water construction system that stores rooftop runoff to be used later for activities such as lawn and garden watering and car washing. Rain water is naturally soft and devoid of minerals. Collecting rain water can not only lower our water bills, it is also beneficial to the environment because the stored water would otherwise run off into storm sewers and streams.

Eastern Bluebird Nest Box (1) $ 20.00
Features 7/8" predator guard, overhanging roof, and ventilation. Easy open front for monitoring & cleaning. 7/8" kiln dried western cedar. Place in open rural country with scattered trees. Mount 5' off ground. 7.25"x9.25"x12".

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____ Email:_____

#	Name (Number of items in Packet)	# of Packs	Price	Total Price
1	American Chestnut Hybrid (2)		$ 10.00	
2	Hazelnut (5)		$ 8.00	
3	Northern Pecan (5)		$ 7.00	
4	Persimmon (American) (5)		$ 6.00	
5	Red Oak (5)		$ 6.00	
6	Sugar Maple (5)		$ 7.00	
7	**NEW!** Green Giant Arborvitae (2)		$ 6.00	
8	Arborvitae (5)		$ 6.00	
9	Colorado Blue Spruce (25)		$ 18.00	
10	Norway Spruce (25)		$ 18.00	
11	Scotch Pine (25)		$ 18.00	
12	White Pine (25)		$ 18.00	
13	Little Blue Stem Grass (1)		$ 8.00	
14	Switch Grass (1)		$ 8.00	
15	Butterfly Bush (1)		$ 7.00	
16	Elderberry (5)		$ 7.00	
17	Lilac (2)		$ 7.00	
18	Paw Paw (Common) (5)		$ 10.00	
19	Red Bud (Eastern) (2)		$ 5.00	
20	Spicebush (5)		$ 7.00	
21	White Flowering Dogwood (5)		$ 6.00	
22	**NEW!** Garden Kit (1)		$105.00	
23	**NEW!** Aromatic Aster (1)		$ 7.00	
24	Black-Eyed Susan (1)		$ 7.00	
25	Butterflyweed (1)		$ 7.00	
26	Cardinal Flower (1)		$ 7.00	
27	Hardy Geranium (Johnson's Blue variety) (1)		$ 7.00	
28	**NEW!** Lavender (Munstead variety) (1)		$ 7.00	
29	Marsh Blazing Star (1)		$ 7.00	
30	**NEW!** Meadow Sage (May Night variety) (1)		$ 7.00	
31	Speedwell (1)		$ 7.00	
32	Swamp Milkweed (1)		$ 7.00	
33	Wild Bergamot (1)		$ 7.00	
34	Rain Barrel (1) 55 gal.		$ 90.00	
35	Eastern Bluebird Nest Box (1)		$ 20.00	

Date Order Received:_____

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Payment Received By:_____

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Total Enclosed:_____

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Tree & plant pickup:
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8am to 5pm

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Order By:
March 9, 2012

Please bring your own bags!

Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District

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

2012 TREE & PLANT PROGRAM

Deciduous Trees	**Nut Trees**	**Evergreens**
Flowering Trees / Shrubs	**Ground Covers**	**Potted Wildflowers**
Rain Garden Plants	**Ornamental Grasses**	**Native Plants**

These packets are offered as a low cost source of conservation plant materials which will provide food and cover for wildlife. Many plants are small and bare-rooted. ***We are offering a few varieties in small pots again this year.*** The majority of our plants are native to Ohio. Most packets will fit easily into one or two grocery bags. They are available to anyone and may be planted anywhere. To keep the cost low, we are unable to furnish replacements nor will we mail or deliver the packets. We reserve the right to make substitutions if necessary.

***NEW FOR 2012! Order & Pay Online* (www.MontgomerySWCD.org)!**

****Please Note: There will be a 3% additional cost for online orders to cover PayPal's transaction fee****

Please send your **check** or **money order** with your order form. Packets can be picked up from our office on **April 12th and 13th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No additional pick up notice will be sent so mark your calendar!** You will receive your receipt when you pick up your order. ***We have limited quantities of some trees and plants, so place your order early!*** Orders must be received by the District office by **March 9, 2012.**

Make your check payable to: **Montgomery SWCD**

And mail to: **10025 Amity Road**

Brookville, OH 45309

WANT TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE MONTGOMERY SWCD?

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 2012 WILL AGAIN BE USED TO CONTINUE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS. A BIG THANKS TO OUR 2011 DONORS.

Are there types of trees, plants, bird houses or bird feeders you're interested in that we don't offer? Give us a call or stop in our office and we'll try to locate a source for you.