



Montgomery
Soil and
Water
Conservation
District

The Conservation Advocate

MAY 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.

Welcome, New District Conservationist Jeff Barnes



Greetings! My name is Jeff Barnes. I have been selected as the new District Conservationist with NRCS for Montgomery County.

I started working in conservation after High School as an intern with the Preble SWCD. I parlayed that experience into a position with NRCS as a student trainee while I completed a degree in agriculture / agronomy at Wilmington College. As a student trainee, I worked in many counties in Western Ohio, including Montgomery County. Upon graduation from Wilmington in 2004, I was placed in the Butler County office as a Soil Conservationist. While in Butler County I had the opportunity to travel all over the state working in different counties as the Acting DC. I stayed in Butler until I was reassigned to the Darke County field office in the summer of 2009. From there I applied for this position and was accepted.

Now that the official introduction is out of the way, let me tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised on the West side of Preble County and currently reside in Eaton, with my wife, Jackie. My experiences on the family farm, in 4-H, and FFA led me to get involved in agriculture. I like to help out at the family farm, and do that as often as I can. My hope is that one day I will have a small farm of my own.

I am excited to be here and hope that I can be of great service to the landowners and farmers of Montgomery County. If you have any questions or concerns that I can help with, please feel free to give me a call here at the office, (937) 854-7646 ext. 102, or send me an email at jeff.barnes@oh.usda.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

2011 Tree & Plant Sale a Success!

Thanks to all who purchased seedlings and plants from the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District's (MSWCD) 2011 Tree & Plant Sale. We had over 160 pre-orders and made a total of 203 sales. Our top selling offerings this year were the hybrid American Chestnut and the Paw Paw trees. The MSWCD donated over 400 seedlings and 16 potted plants to the Second Street Market for a free tree distribution in recognition of Arbor Day and Earth Day and to the MVCTC Environmental Science Class for establishing a Sensory Garden at Union Elementary School. The Montgomery County Master Gardeners were a great help, volunteering to help with tree packaging and hand out. If there are any specific types of trees or plants you would like to see the MSWCD offer, please contact Cheryl Barkalow at (937) 854-7645 or email her at BarkalowC@mcOhio.org. We will do what we can to find a source for your request and possibly place it on our order form for next year. If you do not currently receive our tree and plant order form in January, please contact Cheryl with your name, address, phone number and email address to receive the 2012 Tree & Plant Sale order form.



The Conservation Advocate is published quarterly

District Seeks Nominations for Board

The nominating committee of the MSWCD will meet June 28th, 2011 to nominate candidates for its Board of Supervisors. Two members will be elected to the MSWCD Board during its annual meeting on Saturday, September 10, 2011, to serve three-year terms beginning in January 2012. The Board meets monthly to conduct District business. This consists of entering into working agreements with other agencies, establishing policy, and setting priorities on the work of District employees. Supervisors approve financial decisions for the continued growth and stability of the agency. They are also involved in other tasks that help landowners and local governments develop natural resources wisely in Montgomery County. Issues regarding urban growth in the townships, drainage, and water quality provide Supervisors with many opportunities to make a difference for the betterment of our community.

Board membership is a chance to take an active role in the decisions about natural resources of both the rural and urban communities of the County. Being a Supervisor also offers an individual the opportunity to attend state and national meetings, to network and learn firsthand information that will affect local landowners, and provides a venue to offer ideas and feedback to many agencies and government officials. As the MSWCD offers a variety of programs, it seeks Supervisors with a diversity of interests such as agriculture, natural resources, education, development, finances, land preservation, and government and environment, to name a few areas. Supervisors are required to be at least eighteen years of age and must reside in Montgomery County. Past Supervisors have included teachers, farmers, business owners, and others. To learn more about being a MSWCD Supervisor or to request that your name be placed on the ballot, contact Board Chairman Fred Glander, (937) 855-2665, or, at the MSWCD office, Jim Dillon or Cheryl Barkalow, (937) 854-7645.

Stillwater River Cleanup - Volunteer!



Looking for something fun to do that will make a difference? Mind getting a little wet and dirty (or maybe a lot wet and dirty, depending on how adventuresome you are)? Join the MSWCD in a cleanup of the Stillwater State Scenic River between Aullwood and Dogleg Road.

The 10th Annual Stillwater River Clean-Up is Friday June 10th, 2011. The Stillwater Watershed Project, Darke, Miami, and Montgomery SWCDs, ODNR, Scenic Rivers Program, Darke & Miami County Parks District, Brukner Nature Center, Ohio EPA, Veolia Water, New Tech Plastics, Inc., McDonalds, and many others are taking part in this fun filled day to clean four different sections of the Stillwater.

Volunteers will get outfitted with a canoe, gloves, trash bags, and water. The clean-up will start promptly at 8:30a.m. and end around 12:00p.m. Please dress appropriately for the event, no sandals or flip flops (water shoes will work). For more information or to register contact Kristen Lauer, Education/Information Specialist, at (937) 854-7646 ext. 109 or LauerK@mcoho.org. Please pre-register by June 2nd, 2011 to guarantee you will get a canoe.

Did you know ?????

An acre of trees can remove about 13 tons of dust and gases every year from the surrounding environment.

Every year in the U.S. each person uses the equivalent of one tree, 100' tall and 16" in diameter, for their wood and paper needs.

Teachers Workshop



Attention teachers! Earn CEUs or College Credit!

Montgomery SWCD is looking into Trashy Trends! No, we're not starting our own tabloid. We're looking into the fine art of how we, as a society and individuals, get rid of the stuff we no longer want. In our 'Trashy Trends' Teachers Workshop, August 2nd and 3rd, 2011, we will spend two days looking at recycling, composting, and re-use of our waste. This Workshop, brought to you by the Montgomery, Darke, Miami & Shelby SWCDs, will combine aspects of Windows on Waste, Project Learning Tree and Project WILD Science & Civics. Learn how the trash stream actually flows, how you and your students can influence the stream and see how it's all connected to our natural resources.

The first day, listen to great speakers and gain lesson plans to make this a worthwhile workshop. Come for the second day for field trips to a company that is leading the way in recycling most of their waste, along with other sites that will help us all gain an understanding of how much trash there is, where it goes and how it can be reduced, reused or recycled. We'll follow the curriculum guidelines and provide lessons for you to take to your classrooms. Register by July 25th, 2011. Prices are \$35 for Aug. 2nd only, \$45 for Aug. 2nd & 3rd, and an additional \$175 if you would like the college credit (Ashland University). Call Kristen Lauer, Education/Information Specialist at (937) 854-7646 ext. 109 for more information or to

Annual Pond Clinic - Free!

Mark your calendars for the Preble Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Pond Clinic on Thursday, June 2. Each year, Preble and Montgomery SWCD's co-sponsor a Pond Clinic. This year it will be held in Preble County at Curtis and Kristi Falldorf's, 2812 New Market Banta Rd., West Alexandria, Ohio 45381. Their farm is on the east side of New Market Banta Rd., approximately one mile south of Pymont Rd. Look for the signs.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with free hot dogs and drinks being served. At 6:00 p.m., the program will begin. There will be an aquatic reptile and bird demonstration, presented by the Hueston Woods Nature Center. Next, a local insurance agent will speak on Pond Liability. A representative from a pond management service will talk about algae control and pond maintenance. To conclude the evening, Preble SWCD will speak on what the District can do to help with your pond concerns. The evening will conclude by 8:00 p.m.

The Pond Clinic, made possible by donations from local businesses, is free and open to the public. It will be held rain or shine. Please bring your own lawn chairs, as seating is not provided. If you have any questions or would like more information, call Preble SWCD at (937) 456-5159.



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Board Member Recognized



The Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Employees (OASWCDE) annually recognizes a Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor who has been an example of going above and beyond for the SWCD and the community, supporting the employees, and working for the best for those they represent. This year, Fred Glander was recognized as the OSWCDE Supervisor of the Year.

One way Mr. Glander has served the community has been with the Montgomery SWCD. He has served on our Board of Supervisors for 45 years, with an excellent attendance record at Board meetings and all

the extras that come with being involved in the MSWCD, like budget hearings, VIP tours, and drainage meetings.

He supported and promoted conservation practices we now consider standard, like no-till, when they were new and needed support the most. Each year, when MSWCD holds its annual Tree and Plant Sale, Mr. Glander can be found helping to package the seedlings into their individual orders, and has driven to Pennsylvania many years to pick up seedlings and plants. Each year during Soil and Water Stewardship week he makes a presentation to a local church.

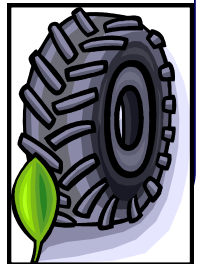
He helped establish the District's Group Drainage and Ditch Maintenance Programs, establishing a Three-Way Memo of Understanding between the County Commissioners, Engineer and the District to provide these services, ensuring good partnerships. Mr. Glander made sure we had vision for the future with a long range Strategic Plan, making sure we had a quality consultant to guide us.

Mr. Glander has also been involved on the state, regional, and national levels, attending workshops and meetings as well as meeting with legislators. While there, he represents the needs and goals of our citizens, as well as bringing back valuable insights from partners and others with similar goals.

Outside of the Montgomery SWCD, Mr. Glander has been a vital, valuable member of our community. His obvious philosophy of lending a helping hand to neighbors in need, as well as giving back to the community is an inspiration to all of us. We have already reaped the benefits of his forward thinking, and are proud of this well deserved honor and recognition. Congratulations, and thank you, Fred!

Farm Tire Drive Successful

The Montgomery County Solid Waste District's Spring Farm Tire Drive during the last full week of March was a success, with 51 customer transactions that took in some 16.82 tons of tires. This event is becoming very popular in the Montgomery County agricultural community. The current disposal charge is \$170.00 per ton if you bring tires on a non-amnesty day. So, if you missed this most recent tire amnesty weekend, stack any old tires behind the shed until the next drive, which will be December 1st, 2nd and 3rd of 2011.



Did you know ???
Agricultural land provides food and habitat for 75% of the nation's wildlife.
Deer, moose, fowl and other species have shown significant population increases in the past several years.

Ditch Maintenance Bill Passed

The Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) is pleased that House Bill No. 114 will become law June 29, 2011. It includes several revisions to Ohio's ditch maintenance laws that were submitted as a resolution to the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) in June of 2006. Since that time, the Montgomery SWCD and the OFSWCD as well as the County Commissioner's Association of Ohio, the County Engineer's Association of Ohio, and the Ohio Farm Bureau have repeatedly supported provisions which allow the County Engineers to revise the construction cost of drainage ditches every six years for purposes of maintenance assessments. In addition, SWCDs now have the authority to use the same procedures and requirements as the Engineers do in administering their respective ditch maintenance programs. MSWCD extends its appreciation to (pictured left to right) Representatives Roland Winburn (D-Dayton) and Richard Adams (R-Troy) as well as Senators Bill Beagle (R-Dayton) and Thomas Patton (R-Cleveland) for their leadership and assistance in supporting these legislative provisions



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Agricultural Security Area Grows

On April 4th, 2011 the Perry Township Trustees voted to enlarge an existing Agricultural Security Area (ASA), created on May 8th, 2009, with the addition of two adjacent farms. The revamped ASA will be 682 acres.

ASA's are a collection of adjacent agricultural properties over 500 total acres that have all agreed not to do non-agricultural development for ten years. This agreement is a three way commitment between the farm families, the Township, and County Commissioners. ASA's can involve multiple Townships and Counties, but this ASA is within Perry Township.

ASA's were developed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The first ASA was established in 2006, and now there are in excess of 30,000 acres in ASA's in Ohio, with the largest being almost 2,100 acres.

ASA's are a good way to provide short term protection against losing viable cropland in both a state that is gaining population, or in one that is losing population, like Ohio. Thanks to those landowners in Perry Township involved in this ASA for their effort to wisely use much needed farmland.



Thanks Sponsors!

**Montgomery Soil and Water
Conservation District**

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**NRCS District
Conservationist**

Jeff Barnes

Upcoming Events

-  **May 30, 2011: Memorial Day - Office Closed**
-  **June 1, 2011: Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**
-  **June 2, 2011: Pond Clinic, Falldorf Farm at 5:30 p.m.**
-  **June 10, 2011: Stillwater River Cleanup, meet at 8:30 a.m.**
-  **July 4, 2011: Independence Day - Office Closed**
-  **July 6, 2011: Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**
-  **August 3, 2011: Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**
-  **August 2-3, 2011: Educators Workshop, ATC, Piqua, OH**
-  **August 31-Sept. 05, 2011: Conservation Corner at Fairgrounds**

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.