



Montgomery
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

The Conservation Advocate

NOVEMBER 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.

Fall Farm Day – Fun for All!



We asked if you were interested in learning new and old gardening techniques, finding sources of local food, seeing how to preserve your harvest, and connecting with neighbors at a working, beautiful local farm. You showed us you are! Over 190 of you joined us at Morning View Farm, taking in the demonstrations and tours under a beautiful blue sky, despite the sometimes strong, chilly breezes.

Activities included garden and high tunnel tours, canning demonstrations, constructed wetland tours via hay wagons, composting advice, and sheep shearing, wool felting, spinning and knitting demonstrations. Montgomery SWCD staff were on hand to discuss our Rain Barrel Workshops, as well as ways to preserve farmland for future generations. A display allowed visitors to walk 'underground' and see all that happens below the soil surface. Various farm animals were showcased, and several young visitors even assisted in milking a goat! Other displays discussed efforts to keep diversity in cultivated plants and domesticated animals, as well a new, innovative system that allows you to store rain water in field drain tile, where it can help 'irrigate' crops during dry seasons. Each half hour, there was a chance to win your pick of the door prizes, donated by the All American Store, Brubaker Grain & Chemical, Five Rivers MetroParks, Kay's Restaurant, Keller Grain, The Land of Milk & Honey Farm, McMaken's IGA, Montgomery SWCD, New Lebanon Groceryland, Polara Farm, Spring Run Farm, Rob's Restaurant, Tractor Supply Co., and Morning View Farm. An impromptu hammer dulcimer concert by Mary-Jo Ward completed the friendly, collaborative atmosphere.



A special thanks to all our sponsors and vendors! Exhibitors included: the American Livestock Conservancy, Bridenbaugh Farms, Butler SWCD, Champaign Coal & Stove Co., Country Pines, the Dayton Knitters Guild, Garber Farms, the Institute on the Constitution, David King, Morning View Farm, Montgomery SWCD, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ohio Horseman's Council, Planet Off Road (W. Alex.), Polara Farm, Seed Savers, and the Chambers, Early, Judy, and McNutt families. Sponsors of the event included: Brubaker Grain & Chemical, Farm Credit Services of Mid America, Keller Grain, Morning View Farm, Montgomery SWCD, Stockslager's Greenhouse & Garden Center, and Tractor Supply Co.



Most of all, thanks to everyone who joined us and enjoyed the day!

Little Farms Project Underway

The Little Farms Group Drainage Project, consisting of approx. 7,094 ft. of subsurface drainage tile and 1,388 ft. of ditch reconstruction, is underway! The project was requested by Mr. Dan Grilliot in May of 2008 to reconstruct existing surface and subsurface tile, which since it's construction had silted in to 25% of it's capacity. This has caused the residents intermittent flooding of their property and sewage systems, as well as creating hazardous roadway conditions, erosion, sink holes, and reduced agricultural production. Montgomery County was awarded a \$238,578.00 grant for construction of the project by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), and Montgomery SWCD completed the project design and specifications. The project was bid, and awarded to Start 2 Finish Excavating, Inc. on October 31, 2011. Work started the second week of November, and is expected to be completed by the week of April 9, 2012.



The Conservation Advocate is published quarterly

Conservation on Your Farm

Join us on December 1st to learn how to earn money for conservation projects on your farm!

Did you know ???

Ohio farmers cultivate more than 40 different fruits and vegetables.

Two of the state's biggest fruit crops are grapes and apples.

DOES YOUR LAND NEED A CHECKUP?



Are You Interested In:

- Healthy Soil
- Tending Fruits and Vegetables
- Looking After Livestock
- Growing Crops Organically, or
- Caring for Trees?



The Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Doctors (Conservationists) invite you to hear how we can *Help People Help the Land*. We will also talk about ways to pay for land treatments using our conservation programs.

December 1st, 2011, 7:00pm

USDA Service Center
10025 Amity Road
Brookville, Ohio 45309

Join us and together we can make the land healthier so it can grow the best food!

Please RSVP
at 937-854-7646



USDA is An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Prep your Rain Barrel for the Cold!

It's the time of year when the air gets a chill, the leaves fall, and we in Ohio start looking ahead to cold days and snowy landscapes. We make our preparations by getting out sweaters, adding flannel sheets to the beds, and winterizing and putting away our mowers. For those of you who have joined us at a Rain Barrel Workshop, there is one more item on your to-do list.

Your Rain Barrel will last for many years, if it's treated right! Now is the time to winterize your Rain Barrel so it will be in good shape to help store rain water this spring, and water your flowers in the summer. Begin by unhooking your barrel, and cleaning out any sediment that has collected in the bottom. If possible, store the barrel inside. If that's not an option, turn your empty barrel upside down and place a large rock or two on the top to keep it from blowing away. Be sure to re-attach your downspout so any water coming from your roof flows out and away from your house. The final step? Enjoy the beauty of winter, and look forward to spring, when you can hook your barrel back up in time for the spring rains! Don't have a Rain Barrel yet? Be sure to sign up for one of our spring workshops. Registration info will be in our next newsletter, and posted on our website soon!



Free Farm Tire Disposal



The Montgomery County Solid Waste District's farm tire recovery program will be held Thursday December 1 through Saturday, December 3, 2011. 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.

This program is offered free of charge for Montgomery County residents only. From December 1 through December 3, the Solid Waste District is not limiting the number of farm tires brought in for disposal at the North and South Solid Waste Facilities, 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.

This event was last held in March 2011, and resulted in 16.82 tons of tires being properly disposed of, at no charge. We know there are still tires out there, so don't miss your chance to clean up the property and do a good thing for the environment, for free! For additional information regarding the Farm Tire Recovery Program call 225-4999 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.mcswd.org.

2011 Conservation Practices

2011 was another successful year for conservation practices in Montgomery County. A total of 20 grassed waterway projects were completed on 10 farms in the county, with a combined length of 14,095 feet (2.7 miles) and area of 10.3 acres. These projects will reduce soil erosion by an estimated 800 tons over the next 10 years, as well as filter runoff and improve drainage on 364 acres of land. These waterways were completed through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which offers incentives to owners of eligible cropland to offset construction costs, with the assistance of District Conservationist Jeff Barnes and Kerry Yount of the Montgomery County Farm Service Agency.

One wetland project was also recently completed, with a total size of 1 acre, in Jefferson Township. This wetland was completed through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), which offers incentives to eligible landowners to offset construction costs, under the coordination of District Conservationist Jeff Barnes.



And Now... A Word From Our Sponsors

A. BROWN & SONS NURSERY, INC.

Landscape Design
Residential & Commercial
1/2 Mile N. of Phillipsburg on 49
937.884.5826

AG DATA SOLUTIONS

Don Garret
5096 US Route 127 South
Eaton, OH 45320
937-286-0407

BROOKVILLE NATIONAL BANK

225 W. Upper Lewisburg-Salem Rd.
Brookville, OH 45309
937-833-2111

CUNNINGHAM ELECTRIC INC.

Dick Cunningham
13229 Old Dayton Rd.
New Lebanon, OH 45345
937-687-2339

CY SCHWIETERMAN, INC

Farm Drainage-Excavating
Grass Waterways
Conservation Projects
4240 St. Rt. 49 Arcanum
Phone: 937.548.3965

DENLINGER FARM DRAINAGE INC.

"Complete Farm
Drainage Service"
Gary - 937.833.4248
Dan - 937.884.5966

FARM CREDIT SERVICES OF MID AMERICA

312 Eaton-Lewisburg Road
Eaton, OH 45320
937-456-4146

HEUKER EXCAVATING LLC

Full Range of Services
"We'll do what most others won't"
Duane Heuker - 937.416.4905
8369 Wengerlawn Rd.
Brookville OH 45309

Asian Longhorned Beetle in Ohio

Did you know ?????

Maple sap contains only 2-4% sugar.

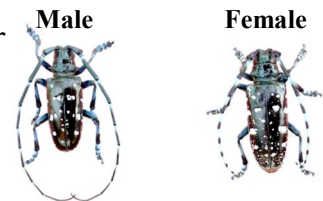
It takes about 40 gallons of sap, boiled down, to make one gallon of pure maple syrup. Vermont is the biggest U.S. producer of Maple Syrup.

For those of us who have been following the sad saga of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), you may think this is an update on that insect, by another name. It is not.

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), first discovered in Brooklyn, New York, in 1996, was discovered this past June in Bethel, Clermont County, Ohio (about 30 miles southeast of Cincinnati). ALB will attack and kill ash, birch, elms, European mountain ash, hackberry, horsechestnuts, buckeyes, London planetree, maples, mimosa, willows, katsura, golden rain and poplars. ALB is being actively eradicated from Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. It has been successfully eradicated from Illinois, Islip, N.Y., and Hudson County, N.J. Tree removals for the eradication of ALB from regulated areas within Clermont County, Ohio, are scheduled to begin the week of Nov. 14, weather permitting.

While the ALB may appear threatening, it is harmless to humans and pets. The adult ALB is a distinctive-looking insect with the following unique characteristics:

- * 1 to 1 ½ inches in length
- * Long antennae banded with black and white (longer than the insect's body)
- * Shiny, jet black body with distinctive white spots
- * Six legs
- * May have blue feet



Adult ALB are active during the summer and early fall. They can be seen on tree branches, walls, outdoor furniture, cars and sidewalks. If you see the adult or any signs of infestation, you need to report it immediately.

You won't see the adult after the hard first frost until it emerges again in the spring and early summer. During the winter months, ALB's larvae tunnel deep into the trees they infest and continue to develop. Although you can't spot adults during the colder months, you can still be a 'beetle buster' by not moving firewood. Moving firewood can spread ALB to un-infested trees. So buy and burn firewood locally, and refrain from moving firewood off of your property if you are in a regulated area. The best defense against this invasive threat is to obey any quarantines, to know how to identify potential infestations, and to report suspicions to those who can check the threat and take the next steps.

To report signs or symptoms of ALB, please call toll free to the Ohio Survey Program at (855) 252-6450, the USDA at (866) 702-9938, or report online at www.BetleBusters.info.

Pictured below: Adult, Oviposition Sites, Larva, Sawdust-like Frass, Exit Holes



Parts of this article and all photos are reprinted with permission from:
<http://beetlebusters.info/whatDoesItLookLike.php>

HELPING QUAIL IN SW OHIO



Erik Lewis, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Hearing the call of “bob...white” in the morning or evening is not something many people in southwest Ohio get to hear anymore, but the call of the Northern Bobwhite was common to hear at one time in southwestern Ohio. Loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation has really put a damper on the quail population in the last 20 years or so. But in the last few years it seems that there has been a slight increase in quail numbers in our area. This increase in quail is possibly due to the conservation efforts over the last 5-10 years.

In my position as a wildlife biologist, over the years I have met with many landowners who recall days of multiple coveys on the farm, and days a field hunting quail. There seems to be a historical tie between quail and the farms of times gone by. This helps spark a great interest in restoring quail and their habitat. There are ways that today’s farmers can help quail by implementing some basic management practices to their farms.

There are three basic components to quail habitat that are required for quail to thrive in a given area and all three components should be fairly close (0 to 70 feet) to each other.

1. Brood rearing habitat - areas of clump grasses mixed with wildflowers. These areas should be fairly open at ground level for quail chicks to be able to get around and with good over head cover.
2. Shrubby cover – provides thermal cover and escape cover from predators
3. Areas of vegetation that provide insects and seeds for food – Restored prairies can provide this habitat component.

Tall Fescue can be a major deterrent for bobwhites. Getting rid of fescue can make your farm much more attractive to quail. Fescue is a sod forming grass and is too thick for quail to use. There are native grasses like little bluestem, big bluestem, switch grass, and side oats that can be used in place of fescue and will improve your quail habitat tremendously. Even orchard grass can provide a good grass cover for quail. Also reduced or delayed mowing can also help quail nesting efforts.

Now you may be asking, “that’s sounds great, but how do I get started?” There are cost-share programs available through the USDA and other wildlife or habitat related organizations that can help landowners restore quail habitat on their properties. There are also Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists who work hand in hand with these conservation organizations and can help you get headed in the right direction. Your local USDA or SWCD office is a good place to start.

Quail habitat and quail restoration takes time and results can vary widely, but without the restoration effort, the quail of southwest Ohio will continue to decline.

For more information contact Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, Erik Lewis at (937) 654-3884 or ELewis@pheasantsforever.org

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



FULL SERVICE GRAIN
MARKETING & HANDLING
COMPANY
1.800.537.7302 or 937.833.4128
www.kellergrain.com

MIAMI AG DRAINAGE

Making Moisture Manageable
Tile Installation
GPS Mapping
Tile Sales

937.533.7161 Fax 937.473.5730

MILLER LAND APPLICATION INC.

AGRICULTURAL LIME

Cell: 937.533.0464 - Robert O'Neal

H: 937.237.9596 - Manager

Fax: .937.610.2882

Office: 937.839.4050



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FARM BUREAU

316 W. Walnut St.

Farmersville, OH 45325

937-696-3630

QUALITY TILE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

723 Yost Road
West Alexandria Ohio 45381
937.839.4672 / 937.839.4673

RO-LIN FARM SERVICES, INC. Seed - Grain - Fertilizer

8040 Conservancy Road
P.O. Box 278
Germantown, Ohio 45327
Phone: 937.855.4128

WENGERLAWN NURSERY CO.

Specializing in Ground Co-
vers
6450 Wengerlawn Rd.
Brookville
937.884.7692

Thanks Sponsors!



**Montgomery Soil & Water
Conservation District**

10025 Amity Road
Brookville, Ohio 45309

Phone: 937-854-7645

Fax: 937-837-2241

E-mail: LauerK@mcohio.org

Website: www.MontgomerySWCD.org

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Brookville, OH
Permit No. 13

Go Green!! - the "Conservation Advocate" can be delivered via email. This alternative will help save paper. If you are interested in changing your subscription to email, contact BarkalowC@mcohio.org or call 937-854-7646 ext. 100

Board of Supervisors

Steve Boeder

Fred Glander

Calvin Helsinger

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

- ✿ November 11 - Veterans Day - Office Closed
- ✿ November 16 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- ✿ November 18 - Contractors Workshop, MVCTC
- ✿ November 25-26 - Thanksgiving - Office Closed
- ✿ December 1 - Conservation Info. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- ✿ December 7 - Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- ✿ December 26 - Christmas Observed - Office Closed
- ✿ January 2 - New Years Observed - Office Closed
- ✿ January 4 - Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- ✿ January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed

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.