MSWCD 2021 ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

JUDGING CRITERIA*
1. Technical excellence (sharpness, lighting, composition, exposure). Keep in mind that some of these photos have been scanned if the submission was a printed photo.
2. Originality/creativity.
3. Interest (photo features a recognizable center of interest in relationship to one of the categories below).

*All entries must be received by 4:30PM on Friday December 10th.*

"FALL" IN LOVE WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY
"FOCUS ON THE DETAIL"
"HISTORY: THEN AND NOW"

Winners of each of the three divisions will be awarded a rain barrel kit for use at their home.
Entry into the contest grants the MSWCD permission to use the photo for publicity purposes. All submissions will be judged by District employees and the top three in each category will be presented for a public vote on the MSWCD web page. Submit your entries to: mullenm@mcohio.org

MSWCD Host County FFA Soils CDE

More than 130 high school FFA members recently participated in the Montgomery County Soils Career Development Event held at the Dull Homestead, Chambers Farm. Teams from Brookville, Centerville, Miami Valley CTC and Valley View evaluated soils for either agriculture or urban uses. Students evaluated three soil pits determining various soil properties, overall degrees of limitations and best management practices to consider. Additionally, each student completed a general soils knowledge test and site specific using Web Soil Survey. The ag soils first place team was from Centerville High school while the first place urban soils team was from the Miami Valley CTC. Following our local contest, all schools participated in the Ohio FFA District 5 contest held in Fort Loramie. Centerville High School placed second in the district on Ag soils and first in Urban. The team from Miami Valley CTC placed second in Urban. All three of these advanced to the State soils competition.

Centerville High School Qualifies for Nationals
Centerville High school placed 3rd in the Ag division and 2nd in the Urban division at State. Both teams will advance to the National contest to be held in Oklahoma in May of 2022.
Pictured left to right are Michael Kunst, Morgan Martens, Zoé Lamb, Tyler Penucci, Daphne Cannon, Lucy Seaton, Kimberly Tomb, and Asia Horenziak. Their advisor is Mr. Robert Erwin. Good luck at Nationals!
2021 Fall Fest a Success

The 71st annual meeting of the MSWCD Board of Supervisors and Fall Fest was held September 11th at the Sycamore Education/Conservation farm. Attendees had the opportunity to see first-hand antique and modern farm machinery on display, witness sheep shearing and wheat threshing demonstrations, take a hay wagon or pony ride and sample the food and fall offerings from various local vendors. ODNR wildlife officer Trent Weaver had an archery trailer for kids, Hueston Woods State Park naturalist, Shawn Connor had several birds of prey, Butler County SWCD loaned their soils exploration trailer and SCI provided their mobile sensory safari trailer. Entertainment was provided by the Good Earth Ramblers and the Moron Brothers. Congratulations to Fred Glander on his reelection to the Board of Supervisors. Thank you to all who attended, we look forward to seeing you again in 2022. Mark your calendars for 09/10/22 for next year’s event.

Rain Barrel Kits for Sale

A Rain Barrel is a ‘rain collecting system’ that stores some of the rain water from your roof for you to use later. Help the environment, your plants, and even your water bill! Each barrel has a 55 gallon capacity.

These kits and barrels are available during office hours M-F 7:30am- 4:30 pm or on-line at www.montgomeryswcd.org/store
Amity Road Wetland Project
Update 09/30

I wanted to provide an update on the Sycamore State Park/TNC stream and wetland mitigation project. I would like to thank your group again for helping us connect with the community thus far and hosting our meeting back in April. During that meeting it was noted that the community would like to be kept in the loop on the project as it progresses, and your group agreed to help us disseminate this information (thank you!).

Since that meeting, TNC has hired an engineering and ecological firm to help them design a successful restoration project. Over the next few months the firm will be performing site assessments which will inform the engineering that will go into their responsible design. Prior to completing their assessments, the firm has hired a company to remove invasive species throughout the site including invasive honeysuckle in the wooded areas. This work will include small machinery and will begin after the corn is harvested from the fields. This work and future activities will require one or two pull off areas in order for equipment to access the site and allow contractors to safely off load equipment and stage their work. Given the concerns raised by the neighbors, we will make sure any such access area will be located well away from adjacent residences.

The estimated timeline for the project includes: site assessments and design (including reviews and agency approvals) will continue through 2021 and likely the first half of 2022. Currently, construction is still estimated to begin in summer of next year.

With that, the design of this project is still far from set in stone and we intend to continue the conversation with local stakeholders and incorporate features that provide maximum benefit to the neighbors of the site as well as others who may use this area of Sycamore State Park in the future. We would like to remind folks that we welcome questions and feedback. The best way to get those to us is via email to me at this address. We will continue to communicate progress and provide project updates as things move along.

Thank you again for your time and partnership!

Kyla Maunz, PWS
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Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate and Land Management,
Environmental Review Services Section
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Columbus, Ohio 43229
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Mobile: (614) 636-8635
Kyla.Maunz@dnr.ohio.gov
Benefits of Trees
(Add Value to Your Home)

Trees can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife.

The Value of Trees to a Community

The following are some statistics on just how important trees are in a community setting.

The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.  

*U.S. Department of Agriculture*

If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%.  

*Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research*

A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between $1,000 and $10,000.  

*Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers*

Having large trees in yards along streets increases a home’s value from 3 percent to 15 percent.  


In Portland, Oregon, street trees increase the value of homes by a total of $1.1 billion, an average increase of $7,020 for each house.  


Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent.  

*Management Information Services/ICMA*

One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.  

*U.S. Department of Agriculture*

There are about 60- to 200-million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving $4 billion in energy costs.  

*National Wildlife Federation*

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20–50 percent in energy used for heating. USDA Forest Service Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent.  

*The Arbor Day Foundation*

Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property’s value.  

*USDA Forest Service*

The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.  

*USDA Forest Service*

In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension.  

*Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University*

Nationally, the 60 million street trees have an average value of $525 per tree.  

*Management Information Services*
Melting Snow: It's Stormwater Too!

When snow melts at your home it can create lots of problems that are both similar to spring rains and unique to winter weather.

-Winter snow often puts a pristine white coat over every surface that makes for beautiful photos and lots of family fun. However, it’s not long before the sun comes out to expose a host of issues created by the melting snow. Just like when rain falls the rest of the year, melting snow turns into stormwater runoff. Heavy rains sweeping across your yard and driveway carry pollution and high volumes of water into our nearby streams, lakes, and other waterways. Melting snow does the same things. Both rain and snow melt can seriously impair Pennsylvania’s waters when they travel over the land in our developed communities. They can also cause significant property damage at your home.

-In winter, melting snow actually causes a few unique stormwater problems. Because the ground is often frozen at the surface, melting snow can’t infiltrate into the soil the way a light or moderate rain would be able to. So even a small amount of snow can cause localized flooding on your property. When snow builds up over several small storm events without melting in between, it can turn into large winter storm impacts when it finally does melt - leading to potential community wide flooding events. In both cases, that standing and flowing water on the ground is picking up all kinds of debris, pollutants (especially de-icing salts and chemicals), and litter that will find their way into nearby streams.

-Here are some tips for managing your property for winter stormwater this season: When piling your snow after shoveling and plowing, choose locations where the snow will have the most opportunity to infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Pile your snow in areas where you don’t usually have ponding in the spring rains, on relatively flat areas, and away from sensitive areas like streams, ponds, and your private well if you have one. Clear your downsputs to allow melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.

-Make sure your nearest storm drains are melting. Do not pile snow on storm drains and make sure your neighborhood plow is not piling snow over the drains too. Clear away any snow that may have been kicked onto the drains by passing cars. Use de-icing chemicals and salts judiciously. Use what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe, but try to avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways and your private well.

Postpone outdoor construction projects in winter, when you can’t establish new vegetation to reduce soil loss and muddy runoff.

Pay special attention to places that are eroding during snow melt, and make a plan to improve these areas in spring using plants that can slow and stop erosion, like native grasses and meadow plants or native trees and shrubs.

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Is melting snow causing water issues on your property? Image credit: Jennifer Fetter
Century Farms

Ohio’s Historic Family Farms program was developed in 1993 to honor Ohio’s founding farm families for their contributions to agriculture in Ohio. Farms under same-family ownership for 100 years or more qualify to be designated as a historic family farm.

“In 26 years, we’ve seen this program grow from eight recipients in its inaugural year to nearly 1,800 registered farms today. The level of enthusiasm from farm families receiving their historic designations is indisputable,” said Erin Dillon, program administrator for the Ohio Historic Family Farms Program. “The successes of the Historic Family Farms Program can be solely attributed to families who proudly continue their farming heritage - it’s our duty and honor to acknowledge that perseverance.”

Ohio’s Historic Family Farms is a voluntary program administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. ODA has recognized families who have owned their farms for at least 100 years since 1993.

Ohioans who can verify that a currently owned farm has remained in their family for at least 100 years may register for a historic family farm designation. For more information, visit https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/markets/ohio-historic-family-farms/, or contact Erin Dillon by phone or email at 614-752-4505 or Erin.Dillon@agri.ohio.gov.

The following Montgomery county families are currently listed as Ohio’s historic family farms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Family</td>
<td>1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keener’s Walnut Grove Farm</td>
<td>1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolton Family</td>
<td>1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pansing Family</td>
<td>1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leis Family</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wysong Family</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leis Family</td>
<td>1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinger Family</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Family</td>
<td>1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foust Family</td>
<td>1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartman Family</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartman Family</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dull Homestead, Inc.</td>
<td>1918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is our top 10 (13) list of the most interesting facts about soil...

1. There are more microorganisms in a handful of soil than there are people on earth.
2. It takes 500 years to produce just under an inch of topsoil, this is the most productive layer of soil.
3. It greatly reduces flood risk by storing up to 9200 tons of water per acre. In total that’s about 0.01% of the Earth’s total water.
4. Soil is a living system.
5. Soil acts as a filter for underground water, filtering out pollutants.
6. Approximately 10% of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions are stored in soil.
7. It provides all the nutrients required for successful plant growth.
8. Soil consists of 45% minerals, 25% water, 25% air & 5% organic matter for good garden soil. Uncultivated soil tends to be 3% organic matter.
9. As already mentioned 50% is air and water, the other 50% is broken rock and decaying plants and animals.
10. The amount of sand, clay and silt is what gives different soil types their various textures. Most soils are a mix of all three.
11. Soil has 6 layers called horizons O, A, E, B, C and R. Horizon O is the topsoil and R is bedrock.
12. Worms enrich topsoil by feeding on organic material in the soil and converting it into nutrients for plants. As they move through the soil it becomes more absorbent and better aerated too.
13. Soil is at the bottom of the food chain, yet it is the cornerstone of life on earth.
Hazards of Manure Applications to Frozen Ground

From our friends at Tuscarawas SWCD

Protecting water quality would be easier if farmers never need to apply manure when fields are frozen or covered with snow. But the fact is, some farmers don’t have enough storage capacity to get through the winter. Sometimes, even farmers with storage capacity need to apply manure in the winter because wet fall weather or other problems delayed application. Manure applied earlier in the winter can remain frozen in fields for weeks or even months, but after thawing, can rapidly enter streams, creeks or ditch through surface flow. These occurrences are violations of Ohio’s Agricultural Pollution Abatement Law and could subject a livestock producer to further regulations federal law.

In June of 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) revised its waste utilization practice (Practice Standard #633) which provides recommended practices for manure application. As a result, additional criteria were added to the #633 standard that deals specifically with application of manure to frozen or snow covered soil. The revised USDA-NRCS Practice Standard #633 is followed by local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) when working with livestock farmers to develop and implement manure management plans, and does not recommend that manure that be applied to frozen or snow covered ground unless it becomes necessary due to storage limitations.

If manure must be applied, only minimal quantities of manure should be applied and all of the following guidelines required by the standard are to be completely followed:

- Must have 90% ground cover.
- Increase setback distance from all streams, ditches, grass waterway, surface drains and other water bodies to minimum of 200 feet.
- Limit rate of application to 5,000 gallons per acre or 10 wet tons per acre.
- Limit application area to 20 contiguous acres, separated by 200 feet.
- In fields with slopes exceeding 6% apply in alternate 60-200 strips.

Ohio’s livestock producers are at a risk of losing this sometimes necessary option if pollution problems from winter applications continue. To protect this option, farmers and applicators need to guard water quality by minimizing winter applications and following Practice Standard #633 when winter application is unavoidable. For more information about the revised application criteria or other manure management issues, contact the MSWCD office at 937-854-7646.
GO GREEN DIGITAL!

In an effort to reduce the use of resources and conserve valuable financial resources we are encouraging individuals to go paperless. We will cease to mail a hard copy of the newsletter to those opting in and instead send a digital copy of our newsletter to your email. To participation please send your email to the link below and you will be added to our digital only mailing list.

montgomeryswcd@mcohoio.org

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