UPCOMING EVENTS
July 7 ................. SWCD Board Meeting
July 9 ................. Stillwater River Clean Up
July 11-17 .......... Montgomery County Fair
July 16 ....... Great Miami River Clean Sweep
July 22-24 .......... Brookville Community Picnic
August 4 .......... SWCD Board Meeting
September 1 ...... SWCD Board Meeting
September 11 .......... Fall Farm Fest
October 6 .......... SWCD Board Meeting

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MCSWD STAFFING UPDATE
Michael Mullen

Mike comes out of retirement to join our staff as the new Educational Specialist. He spent 34 years as the Environmental Science/ Natural Resources instructor at the Montgomery County JVS/Miami Valley Career Technology Center. He worked 7 summers with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program through high school and college. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Natural Resources/Agriculture Education. He is married to Nannette Burge and resides in Huber Heights. Mike enjoys riding his motorcycles, running 5K races and traveling in his spare time.

Jesse Foley

The MSWCD welcomes back Jesse. Jesse was a student intern from the Miami Valley Career Technology Center during the 2019-2020 school year. He is currently attending Hocking College in their Wildlife Resource Management program. He has completed his first year with the intent to return this fall semester. His goal is to pursue a career in wildlife biology with a focus on conservation and preservation of threatened and endangered species. He is returning this summer to help here at Soil and Water with ditch maintenance on the 40 miles that SWCD maintains and with the maintenance needs at Sycamore Farm. When asked, Jesse said, “Soil and water has been a huge helping force for me to be able to go to school and I’m so glad to have the opportunity to come back and help this summer.”
From the District Directors Desk

Ed Everman

The Montgomery SWCD office remained open to the public during the pandemic. We were one of few that did so. We believed it was important to continue to provide the public with answers to their resource concerns without sacrificing safety to you and our staff. We want you to know that our top priority is to provide you with resource information you need to improve and enhance your property. Our door is always open to assist you!

Rain Barrels 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.

Individual Rain Barrel: $40 (KIT NOT INCLUDED)

Single Rain Barrel Kit: $40 (Includes all parts to make your barrel, step-by-step instructions, and a Tip Sheet for care of your barrel, DOES NOT INCLUDE THE BARREL!)

Double Rain Barrel Kit: $50 (Includes all parts to make your barrel, a Linking Kit to allow water to flow between two barrels, step-by-step instructions, and a Tip Sheet for care of your barrels, DOES NOT INCLUDE THE BARRELS!)

Single Rain Barrel Kit & Barrel: $75 (Includes the Kit, instructions, tip sheet and a 55 Gallon Barrel)

Double Rain Barrel Kit & (2) Barrels: $110 (Includes the Kit, instructions, tip sheet, (2) 55 Gallon Barrels and a Linking Kit)

These kits and barrels are available during office hours M-F 7:30am- 4:30 pm or on-line at www.montgomeryswcd.org.
Join the Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) for Fall Fest, this free event that features family friendly activities, kid’s games, displays and speakers. This event was cancelled last year due to COVID but we’re excited for an even bigger, better 2021 return.

The Moron Brothers are joining us all the way from Lexington, KY for the 2021 Fall Fest. Hear Lardo and Burley as they advocate for agriculture and perform their music and comedy.

We'll still have the family friendly activities at this festival, including hayrides, kid's games, activities, sheep shearing, displays, farm animals, and antique farm equipment. Kids entered for a free raffle just by visiting the activities and games. Enjoy country and conservation themed crafts, games, and demonstrations. Learn about historic and modern agriculture. Delight in the tall tales told by the ‘Memory of Johnny Appleseed’, local naturalist Douglas Horvath.

Shop for handcrafted jams, breads and soaps or delight in some delicious homegrown produce, and visit Broke Smoker's, Ullery’s or the Hot Dish food truck for tasty meal options!

Booths, displays and activities around the farm have in the past included Birds of Prey from Hueston Woods State park, hay wagon rides to the wetland, the UD Rivermobile, Butler SWCD Soils Trailer, Steam Engines and Thrashing Machine demonstrations, the ODNR Division of Wildlife archery trailer. This year we hope to increase our exhibitors in the area of natural resources with potential displays from Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and Pheasants Forever. Local scout troops and local FFA Chapters will also be included.

Voting for the Board of Supervisors is open during the event from 11am-3pm. Each of the five members on our board serves a three year term and then may run again if they would like to continue.

Voters must be residents or landowners, firms, and/or corporations that own land or occupy land in Montgomery County and are 18 years of age or older.

More information on the Board of Supervisors candidates, their backgrounds with the Montgomery SWCD, a little bit about them and their reason for wanting to serve on the Board can be found on page 4 and on our website. Visit our website, www.montgomeryswcd.org, or call the Montgomery SWCD office for details on how to vote absentee and to get an absentee ballot request form. Election begins August 13, 2021.

We look forward to seeing you for a fun family day on the farm. Come out, enjoy the music, displays/exhibits, and vote for our Board of Supervisors. Bring your friends and make some new ones.
Meet the Candidates
(Board of Supervisors Election)

Bill (Wilbur) Meyer
A 45-year resident of Clay Township, Bill (Wilbur) Meyer is a 4th generation farmer who continues his family’s legacy by farming corn, beans and wheat. He is a good steward of the land by supporting drainage efforts and using a variety of cover crops that benefit soil conditions and the overall health of the crop. Technology is ever-changing and Bill strives to Stay abreast especially in the areas of variable rate fertilizer and seeding and multi-hybrid seeding. Bill and his wife, Denean, are active supporters of many local charities. Bill also has two children, Elizabeth Scout and Wilbur Jacob. Bill graduated from Miami Valley Career Technology Center with an emphasis on Industrial Design, giving him experience with CAD systems. He has over 25 years’ experience in shop and farm management. His knowledge and experience have given him a solid understanding of soil conditions and the importance of land conservation. If elected, Bill will work hard to help keep land preserved for future generations.

Fred Glander
Fred Glander farms around 500 acres of land in German Township with his son Kenny and Daughter-in-Law Marsha. They have a diversified family farm operation growing and producing livestock. Wise use and management of soil and water is evident on their farmland. The entire family is involved with agricultural groups and community affairs. Fred has been a member of the Board of Supervisor since 1965. As a hobby, Fred keeps some unusual types of livestock: white-tailed deer, turkey and raccoons, with appropriate permits, of course. Fred is interested in focusing Montgomery SWCD resources on the county’s storm water and erosion control activities in urban areas. He would also like to facilitate the design and implementation of several group drainage project annually. He believes that a good relationship with the County Commissioners, Engineer and OSU Extension is very important.

Website: www.MontgomerySWCD.org
Facebook: Montgomery SWCD
Twitter: montgomeryswcd
Check out our social media presence for current news and events!
Savard Wins MCSWD Scholarship

The District is proud to announce the winner of the 2021 scholarship is Ms. Hannah Savard.

Hannah recently graduated from Vandalia–Butler high school and the Miami Valley Career Technology Center where she completed the Natural Resources program. She has participated in Girl Scouts, 4-H and FFA.

While at CTC Hannah led a student research group looking into the use of various species of worms for composting. She presented her research findings at the Sinclair College Tech Prep Showcase. Hannah achieved a 4.0 GPA. Additionally, Hannah has worked as a student intern with the Soil and Water District.

Hannah plans to continue her education in the fall at Sinclair College majoring in Civil Engineering.

Hannah is the daughter of Ed and Mariann Savard.

Summer Rains and Storm Water

BY Hannah Savard, Student Intern

Summer Rains and Storm Water

Hannah Savard, Student Intern

Catch basins and storm drains funnel rain water to numerous nearby creeks and rivers. With more rain to come, it is important to remember that pollutants and debris washed into these basins are directly conveyed to a nearby waterway and are carried to a treatment plant for cleaning. Chemicals, yard debris, litter and dirt can degrade the quality of river water that we rely on for recreation and fresh drinking water. Also, basins and drains clogged by debris can lead to storm water flooding, which creates safety hazards and property damage.

Here are some tips to protect public health, property and the environment in the future:

• Sweep grass clippings, leaves and other debris off the street and away from storm drains.
• Properly dispose of all waste in cans and recycling bins.
• Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly on your yard and landscaping. Don't fertilize before rain.
• Never pour, or wash oil, chemicals, paint, yard debris, trash or other substances down a storm drain.
Water Quality News
Gavin Alexander, Water Quality Technician

As the water quality technician for Montgomery SWCD, it is my job to survey, design, implement and conduct conservation practices that improve the soil and water quality throughout the county. These practices include waterways, tile systems, ponds and education on best management practices (BMP) to reach a desired goal.
When starting a project with a landowner, my first steps include identifying the problem, communicating about the problem and a desired solution (all designs and solutions are based on NRCS specifications), designing an efficient method to fix the problem, implementing the method to achieve a desired outcome, and finally construction of a practice to improve the soil and water quality for the betterment of the environment.

Stormwater Update
Nick Wheeler – Stormwater Technician

We are happy to announce we have added the City of Riverside to the family of municipalities we are contracted with to perform various duties of the NPDES permit. We are now working with 8 different villages, cities and townships. Now that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Annual reports are completed and dry weather is headed our way it is time for outfall inspections. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination or IDDE consists of checking the stormwater infrastructure for sources of pollution. These could be catch basins, outlet pipes, retention ponds, or detention ponds. Each municipality has a map of the outflows and each flow must be checked at least once every 5 years. Typically, a quarter of the flows are checked annually to stay ahead of the curve. Per year we check around 175 outfalls. So, you may see us out and about checking various creeks and basins, if so stop and say Hi.

Farmland Preservation/CAUV
Cynthia Berk, Office Assistant

As a Local Sponsor for Farmland Preservation, MSWCD facilitates closing and monitoring easements purchased by Ohio Department of Agriculture. While COVID has changed the method and pace of work, easements are closing in a timely manner. There are three easements left to close that are dated 2019 and two dated 2020. Unfortunately, ODA did not allocate funds for 2021 but will for 2022. Anyone interested in applying for 2022 Farmland Preservation can call Cynthia Berk at MSWCD for details.

Did you know that MSWCD works with the auditor's office on Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV)? The auditor’s office processes the application and then MSWCD completes a field check. A simple drive-by is usually all that is required to verify the land is in agricultural use, so most field checks are done from the road. In the event the parcel is not visible from the road, the landowner is contacted for an appointment to view the land. Field checks are a confirmation that Montgomery County is both productive and beautiful.
We thought we would bring you up to date on the happenings of 2020 and the new things happening in 2021 with in Ditch Maintenance and Drainage Projects.

First of all, I am grateful to the landowners along all of the Ditches and Subsurface drains we maintain. I am lucky to have landowners that care and speak up when they see a problem and or a need. Most often I get a phone call and we address it quickly or as we are capable. We now have over 50 miles of open channel and tile we maintain by mowing, spraying berms and banks to include brush maintenance or outlet pipe replacement. Now let’s discuss what we have been up to!

Prior to repair
After repair
We have done many of this type of repairs in 2020 from storm damage in the spring. Many of these were 500 year storms that were very intense with very concentrated rainfall.

Please give me 15 feet to keep your ditch neat!

This picture shows correct berm width where we have done a small outlet tile repair. If you do not keep the berm wide enough, we will reseed it to 15 ft. wide and can charge you on your property taxes for the repair per Ohio Revised Code. We will be doing this in 2021.

New Drainage Projects – North Clayton Road Project in Perry Township
The District staff has worked very hard to get this project to bid. We were required by Ohio Revised Code to bid this project twice. Due to not receiving a reasonable bid for the project. We were able to get several qualified bids and plan to award the project to the lowest, best bidder which is Jagger Construction out of Lima, Ohio. Their references were excellent! So you may see stakes and construction going on outside of New Lebanon on Clayton Road. As always, please slow down and drive safely in construction zones.

Drainage Law Updates for Petition Projects
COVID-19 has brought many changes to the world and even our drainage laws, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 940. This is the law we follow to complete drainage projects requested by landowners in an affected area. Some of these updates will effect ditch maintenance of our open channels or ditches. This will unfortunately slow progress on some of the current projects as we update drainage protocol and memo of understandings we have with the Montgomery County Commissioners. These updates are underway and will be presented at a Commission meeting in the near future for approval. We will attempt to share a few of the law changes throughout 2021 to get our District cooperators up to speed.

The first part of the changes affecting Ditch Maintenance will be:

1. Sod or seeded strip shall not be fewer than 10 feet nor more than 15 feet wide. 940.26(C)(1)(a)  
   ***** Current law is four to fifteen feet.
2. All sod or seeded strips shall be compensated for removable from taxable valuation of the property. 940.26 (C)(1)(a)  
   ***** Current law is only those in excess of four feet.
Order Deadline: March 12, 2021
Limited Quantities. Place your orders early!
Order with the enclosed Order Form, or online with PayPal!

To order by mail, please send your check or money order made out to ‘Montgomery SWCD’ in with your order.
To order online, follow the link from www.MontgomerySWCD.org (5% additional cost for online orders to cover PayPal’s fees).

Pick-Up Dates/Times: April 8th & 9th, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Pick-Up Location: Montgomery SWCD Office, 10025 Amity Road, Brookville, Ohio 45309

Extra Sale Items: Any extras will be available for sale during order pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Any extra items can be paid for with cash or check only.

Abandoned Orders: Any orders left five business days after the pick-up date will be donated at the discretion of the Montgomery SWCD, and no refunds will be granted.

Please remember: these trees and shrubs are bare rooted tree seedlings, not full grown trees. Most orders fit into one or two grocery bags. Anyone may purchase from this sale. To keep costs low, we cannot furnish replacements, guarantees, or mail or deliver orders. We reserve the right to make substitutions if necessary.

Interested in making a TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION? Add it to your order!
Donations will be used for our Conservation Education programs.

A BIG Thanks to our 2019 Donors!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
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.

GO GREEN!
Sign-up for our Email Newsletter! Request at: MullenM@mcohio.org
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.

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