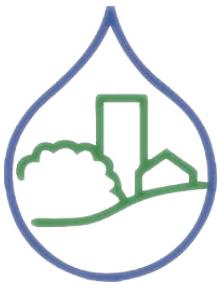
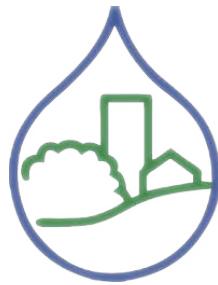


WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER - VOL. 13, NO. 1



THE CONSERVATION ADVOCATE



"Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Heritage"

2026 WINTER EDITION

THE TREE & PLANT SALE IS HERE NOW!



THE 2026 TREE & PLANT SALE IS HERE!

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montgomeryswcd.org/store

ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2026

LIMITED QUANTITIES:

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All orders will be ONLINE ONLY.

If you need assistance with placing your order, we can assist you during regular business hours.

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**Follow the link from:
www.MontgomerySWCD.org; click on "STORE".**

- Montgomery County sales tax of 7.25% is included in your sale price.
- Order Deadline: March 27, 2026.
- Pick-Up Dates/Times: April 9th and 10th, 8:00AM- 6:00PM
- Pick Up Location: Montgomery SWCD Office, 10025 Amity Road, Brookville, Ohio 45309
- Extra Sale Items: Any extras will be available for sale during order pick-up 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 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 fully grown trees. Most orders fit into one or two grocery bags.
- Anyone may purchase from this sale.
- To keep costs low, we cannot furnish replacement, guarantees, or mail or deliver orders.
- We reserve the right to make substitutions if necessary.

**Mark Your Calendars! 2026
Family Fall Fest at
Sycamore Farm:
Saturday, September 12th,
10AM-4PM**

Website



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Bruce Flora, Fred Glander, Dr. Mark Judy,
Andrew O'Diam, Billy Myers

FROM THE EDUCATOR'S DESK: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In-person programming continued growing and we were able to have a very productive year providing educational opportunities to the residents of Montgomery County. Our newsletters continued to be popular with hard copy distribution of 1700 and an additional 950 digital subscribers.

- A joint pond clinic with Preble SWCD was held at the Salem Church of God in June.
- Our annual meeting and Fall Fest at Sycamore Farm attracted 800 attendees.
- Displays and presentations at WPAFB Pollinator Expo and Five Rivers 2nd Street Market on rain barrels and rain gardens, a booth at the Montgomery County Fair Conservation Corner and a display highlighting storm water issues at the Brookville Community Picnic, Clayton Night Out and Carlisle Community Night Fair.
- Conducted our annual tree and plant sale with 8800 trees and 600 potted plants provided to the community.
- Conducted educational programming for more than 3000 students from:
 - Weisenborn Middle School (Wayne)
 - Vandalia Butler High School
 - Stephenson Elementary (Riverside)
 - Multiple Home School Cooperatives
 - Brookville Middle School/Brookville Elementary School
 - Northridge High School
 - Miami Valley CTC
 - Bishop Leibold (Miamisburg)
 - Dayton Public School
 - Trotwood Madison Schools
 - Miamisburg Schools
 - Valley View Schools
 - Local Boy and Girl Scouts
- Presented a \$500 award to Brookville, MVCTC and Miamisburg FFA's for their assistance with our Fall fest.
- Hosted our Montgomery County FFA soils CDE contest at Centerville Washington Township Park District Forest Field for more than 200 students from 6 area high schools.
- Hosted the Montgomery/Greene County Envirothon at Englewood Centennial Park
- Conducted the Great Miami River Clean Sweep and Stillwater River cleanup project. Volunteers removed more than 1600 pounds of trash.
- Conducted multiple summer programs for the Dayton Metro Library System in Kettering, Miami Township, Trotwood, New Lebanon, Vandalia and Brookville.
- Maintained the District webpage and social media account. Peak of 32K interactions.
- Provided professional development for the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs.
- Worked with Brookville City School and Brookville Library to establish and maintain a Path of Pages trail.
- Helped with the Brookville Elementary and Intermediate Schools Ecology Club.
- Presented two \$1500 college scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Jan. 9th | Office Closed/MLK Day | Mar. 20th..... | First Day of Spring | Apr. 22nd..... | Earth Day |
| Feb. 5th .. | Board of Supervisors Mtg. | Mar. 27th..... | Tree & Plant Sale Ends | Apr. 24th | Arbor Day |
| Feb. 16th | Closed/President's Day | Apr. 7th .. | Board of Supervisors Mtg | | |
| Mar.4th ... | Board of Supervisor Mtg. | Apr. 9th & 10th ... | Tree/Plant Sale PU | | |

Winter Stormwater: Cold Weather, Real Impacts

When winter arrives, stormwater doesn't take a break. In fact, snow, ice, and freezing temperatures can create ***unique stormwater challenges*** that affect local streams, groundwater, roads, and infrastructure. Understanding how winter conditions influence stormwater helps protect water quality year-round.

Snowmelt = Stormwater

Snow may seem harmless while it sits quietly on the ground, but once temperatures rise, melting snow behaves just like rainfall. Snowmelt can pick up pollutants that have accumulated over the winter, including:

- Road salt and deicers
- Oil and antifreeze from vehicles
- Pet waste and litter
- Fertilizers and soil from exposed ground

This polluted runoff often flows directly into storm drains, ditches, and streams—without treatment.

Road Salt: Helpful but Harmful

Salt keeps roads safe, but excessive use can:

- Increase chloride levels in streams and groundwater
- Harm fish, aquatic insects, and vegetation
- Damage soils, concrete, and infrastructure

Once salt enters the environment, it doesn't break down. Small reductions in use can make a big difference.

Winter Salt Smart Tips:

- Shovel first—less salt is needed on cleared surfaces
- Use the right amount (a coffee mug of salt covers a 10-foot driveway)
- Sweep up excess salt after ice melts
- Consider alternatives like sand for traction where appropriate

Frozen Ground Increases Runoff

Healthy soil normally absorbs rainfall and snowmelt. In winter, frozen or compacted soils can't soak up water, leading to:

- Increased runoff
- Streambank erosion
- Localized flooding

Leaving soil covered with mulch, vegetation, or crop residue helps reduce erosion and protects soil structure until spring.

Winter Impacts on Streams

Cold weather doesn't protect streams from pollution. Winter runoff can:

- Cause sudden surges in water levels that stress aquatic life
- Carry high concentrations of chlorides and nutrients
- Reduce oxygen levels under ice cover

Healthy riparian buffers and natural vegetation along waterways help filter pollutants—even in winter.

What You Can Do This Winter?

Everyone plays a role in protecting local water resources:

- Use salt responsibly
- Pick up pet waste—even in snow
- Keep leaves, trash, and debris out of streets and storm drains
- Maintain vehicles to prevent fluid leaks
- Support practices that improve soil health and infiltration

Winter Awareness, Year-Round Protection

Stormwater management doesn't stop when the temperature drops. Winter practices have lasting impacts on water quality, soil health, and community infrastructure. Small actions taken during the cold months help ensure cleaner water and healthier soils when spring arrives.

For more information on winter stormwater practices or local conservation programs, contact your ****Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District****.

**Mark Your Calendars! 2026 Family Fall Fest at Sycamore Farm
Saturday, September 12th, 10AM-4PM**

Winter Tree & Plant Sale

This Year's Lineup

Tree/Plant Sale!

ORDER
ONLINE
NOW!



Sassafras (6"-12")

A native to the entire eastern half of the United States, including all of Ohio. Sassafras is a rapidly growing colonizer and forms thickets primarily by root sprouts several feet away from the parent plant. It thrives in full sun to partial sun. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Downy Serviceberry (6"-12")

Downy serviceberry is a four-season tree offering white flowers in spring, small red berries in summer, excellent fall color, and gray bark in winter. The fruit is usually eaten very quickly by birds. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Black Walnut (12"-18")

Black walnut is a native tree that provides excellent shade for large properties. Its fruit is a rounded, yellow-green husk containing a nut that is a food source for squirrels. Black walnut also attracts the banded hairstreak butterfly, serving as a caterpillar host. Black walnut trees need to be sited with care, since the tree produces a chemical that is toxic to some other plants. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Spicebush (12"-18")

Spicebush is a deciduous shrub that may grow to 8 to 15 feet. Leaves produce a spicy odor when crushed. In early spring, small, yellow flowers mature in axillary clusters. The shrub produces a bright red drupe with a peppery taste and scent. The fruit matures in the fall. This plant is dioecious, which means female fruit sets need male pollinator plants to reproduce. This plant has good, yellow fall color. Great for wildlife. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

River Birch (12"-18")

This fast growing tree is distinctive because of its spreading limbs, pale yellow fall leaves and peeling bark which add winter interest. It is very valuable to birds for seeds and nesting. Grows 40-70' tall and up to 60' wide in full sun to part shade and medium to wet soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Black Cherry (12"-18")

This fast growing tree produces clusters of white blooms in the spring and red to purple fruit loved by wildlife as well as useful for making jam. The fall leaf color is yellow to rose. Grows up to 60' tall and 30' wide in full sun to part shade. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

White Flowering Dogwood (12"-18")

This tree has beautiful white flowers in the spring and red-purple leaves in the fall. The shiny fruit attracts song and game birds as well as other wildlife. Grows 15-40' tall and prefers moist, rich soil. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

NEW THIS YEAR: Nannyberry (12"-18")

Nannyberry is grown as a large shrub or a small tree reaching 15 to 20 feet high. Known for its dark, lustrous green leaves which turn maroon-red in the fall. This Midwest native is typically found in woodlands and wood edges, a great plant for naturalizing. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Sugar Maple (12"-18")

The medium to dark green leaves become a brilliant scarlet, burnt orange or yellow in the fall. The sap can be used to make syrup. Grows up to 75' tall and prefers full sun to part shade and moist soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

White Oak (12"-18")

This tree grows well in a variety of soil moistures and types and is resistant to air pollution and heat stress. It features large acorns and leathery dark leaves that turn yellow-brown in the fall. This tree attracts birds and other small wildlife. Grows 60-80' tall in full sun in a variety of soil moistures and types. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Red Oak (12"-18")

This relatively fast growing tree is tolerant of urban conditions. The dense green foliage turns deep red in the fall and is valuable to wildlife, moths and butterflies. Grows 70-80' tall in full to part sun and dry to medium soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Paw Paw (12"-18")

Two trees are needed for a paw paw to produce fruit. It has maroon flowers in the spring and the custard-like fruit ripens in the late summer to fall. Grows 12-20' in full sun and deep fertile soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Persimmon (12"-18")

More than one tree is required for a good fruit set. The leaves turn yellow to reddish-purple in the fall and the orange fruit is sweet after the first frost. Grows 30-60' tall in full sun to part shade and moist to dry soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Tulip Poplar (12"-18")

This fast growing tree has bright green leaves that resemble tulip flowers in profile. Greenish yellow flowers grow high in the tree on aromatic stems. This species is very attractive to bees. Grows 80-150' and prefers moist well-drained soil in full sun but, will tolerate part shade. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

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**ORDER TREES & PLANTS EARLY (ONLINE ONLY) AT:
MONTGOMERYWCD.ORG/STORE**

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NOW!



2026 Winter Tree & Plant Sale

Order Online at: montgomerywcd.org/store

NEW THIS YEAR: Washington Hawthorn (12"-18")

Washington hawthorn, a deciduous tree in the Rosaceae (rose) family is noted for its attractive flowers and foliage, bright red fruits long straight thorns, and fall color. It is a small, low-branching, deciduous tree that typically grows 25 to 30 feet tall with a rounded crown. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Redbud (12"-18")

Tight clusters of red-pink flowers cover the twigs for two to three weeks in the spring. Medium heart-shaped leaves do not have a significant fall color but the maroon-purple trunk adds interest. Grows 20-30' in well drained soil and partial shade. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

White Pine (8"-12")

A fast growing tree with soft blue-green needles that has a root system strong enough it can be used as a windbreak. The seeds are eaten by small mammals and songbirds. Grows 75-100' and prefers moist, sandy soil and full sun. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

White Spruce (10"-18")

This tree is popular for ornamental groupings, Christmas trees, visual screens, and windbreaks in both rural and urban areas. While it has many commercial uses, it is also an important source of food and shelter for several types of wildlife. Grows 40-60' in moist soil and full sun. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Button Bush (12"-18")

Deciduous shrub cultivated as a pollen and nectar resources for honeybees. Often used to develop or restore wetlands. A nice ornamental. Fragrant flowers mid to late summer. Grows 6-8' tall and will tolerate wet soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

NEW THIS YEAR: White Cedar (7"-12")

Also known as northern white-cedar, eastern white-cedar, or arborvitae, is an evergreen coniferous tree, in the cypress family Cupressaceae, which is native to eastern Canada and much of the north-central and northeastern United States. It is widely cultivated as an ornamental plant.. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Black Elderberry (6"-12")

Fast growing with white flowers that bloom in the summer and blue-black berries that are attractive to wildlife and can be used to make jelly, preserves and wine. Grows up to 10' tall and 8' wide in full sun with any soil type and is wetland tolerant. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

American Hazelnut (12"-18")

Also known as the American Filbert, two are needed for nut production. This medium fast grower is good for nonformal areas or naturalizing areas. The nut attracts a variety of song and game birds as well as some small mammals. Grows up to 16' tall and 13' wide and is adaptable to moist or dry soils. 5 for \$10; 25 for \$45.

Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia "Goldstrum")

This cheerful, bright yellow flower has daisy-like petals with a dark disk in the center. The leaves are oval shaped and covered with bristly hairs that give it a slightly rough texture. Grows 1-2' stems in dry to moist soil and full sun. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Blue False Indigo (Baptisia australis)

This deep blue flower with blue-green foliage is deep rooted, slow growing and long lived. Grows 3-5" in full sun and dry to moist soil. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Blue Flag Iris (Iris versicolor)

The violet-blue flowers are accented with yellow and provides nectar to native bees and hummingbirds. Grows 2-3' high and wide in moist to wet soil and part shade to full sun. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)

The bright orange blossoms can bloom anytime from May through September. It is of special value to native bees and makes a beautiful cut flower. Grows 2-3' high in full to part sun and well drained, dry to moist soils. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)

The showy red flower is particularly attractive at the end of a wooded area and attracts hummingbirds. Grows 2-5' in full sun to nearly full shade and wet to moist soil. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Magnus Coneflower (Echinacea "Magnus")

Common in pollinator plots, the seed heads attract birds and are valuable to native bees. The long lasting flower is also attractive in gardens and flower arrangements. Grows 2-3' stems in well drained soils and full to partial sun. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Great Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica)

Grows a showy spike of blue flowers from July through September and is great for a rain garden or woodland garden. The flowers attract native bees. Grows 2-3' tall and does best in medium to wet soils and full sun to part shade. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Lavender (Lavandula "Munstead")

This long blooming plants features a silvery-gray stem and fragrant purple flowers. It attracts bees and butterflies and is rabbit and deer resistant. It is great for borders, edging, containers, mass plantings, and landscaping. It also makes a beautiful cut or dried arrangement. Grows 12-18 inches high and wide and prefers well drained soil and full sun. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)

The bright orange blossoms can bloom anytime from May through September. It is of special value to native bees and makes a beautiful cut flower. Grows 1-2' in moist or wet soil with sun or part shade. \$10 each 1 gallon pot.

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STORMWATER Year-End Review

Andrew Rickard - Stormwater Technician

Our office is contracted with nine municipalities in Montgomery County for stormwater management services. We are proud to call Brookville, Butler Township, Carlisle, Clayton, Clay Township, Germantown, Jefferson Township, Phillipsburg, and Riverside our partners.

Under these contracts our office manages various elements of Ohio EPAs Minimum Control Measures, including:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Management of Construction Site Runoff
5. Management of Post Construction Site Runoff
6. Good Housekeeping and Municipal Operations

In 2025, our team inspected 22 active construction sites across our nine partner municipalities. We conducted a total of 550 inspections, ensuring compliance with erosion and sediment control requirements. These inspections help prevent sediment and pollutants from entering Ohio's waterways, supporting our mission to improve water quality.

Apart from these six control measures, our office also assists these municipalities in preparing their annual reports for the Ohio EPA. We also host an annual training for their employees that educates them on good housekeeping for municipal operations.

We are happy to be working with these municipalities and look forward to continuing our work to better Ohio's water quality!

RAIN BARREL KITS FOR SALE

A Rain Barrel is a rain collecting system' that stores some of the rainwater 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: \$45 (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: \$55 (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: \$80 (Includes the Kit, instructions, tip sheet and a 55 Gallon Barrel)

Double Rain Barrel Kit & (2) Barrels: \$115 (Includes the Kit, instructions, tip sheet, (2) 55 Gallon Barrels and a Linking Kit)

**ORDER YOUR RAIN
BARRELS HERE...**

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NOW!



From the Trenches - 2025 Project Updates

By Stefan Bridenbaugh - District Technician

The Clay Township Northeast Group Drainage Project is moving forward as an important investment in long-term water management and property protection for the community. Supported in part by \$313,522.11 in grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) in collaboration with the Montgomery County Commissioners, City of Clayton, Clay Township Trustees and the District. This project started in 1974 and has been attempted many times addressing longstanding drainage concerns affecting township roads, farmland, and adjacent properties is nearly complete. The work includes upgraded drainage infrastructure, tile installation, and channel enhancements designed to better manage runoff during heavy rain events. The project is currently 99.5 percent complete, with only a fence installation remaining, reflecting Montgomery SWCD's commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds while protecting private property, improving farmland and roadway subsurface and surface drainage, and reducing costs of this drainage by utilizing available public funds to reduce the cost for the landowners.

Hoke Road Group Drainage Project: This project began initially as a Volunteer Group Drainage Project in approximately 1989 with several neighbors having flooded basements and crawl spaces. They approached the district to engineer and design a tile system that would provide an outlet for their homes and yards. Kenny Adams, our past drainage coordinator, held meetings and came up with a drainage plan to be installed by Hoops Excavating. This project was voluntary and paid for 100 percent by the landowners and was a great success. However, at the time it was decided by the group not to request the district for perpetual drainage maintenance.

Thirty-six years later this would prove to be an oversight by the group and on March 23, 2017, the landowners reached out to the district in collaboration with the City of Clayton to ask for further assistance. At this we found the old tile system which compromised tree roots and was causing flooding and property damage to foundations and driveways. There was a large area of cat tails taking over an entire front yard. Claytons Road ditch was saturated and flowing with water which was compromise the roadbed. The district once again held public meetings and designed a larger drainage system to allow for more drainage capacity. We also used a different process this time, the Conservation Works of Improvement. This Ohio Revised Code 940.19 allows our board to hold public view and public hearing and make the decision on whether the project is needed. The benefits exceed the cost and assess the cost of the project to the parcels in the watershed. The other major benefit is the County Commission assists by upfronting the cost. This will also place project onto perpetual maintenance with the SWCD preventing the project from being taken over by trees and tiles plugged by roots.

Next the City of Clayton upgraded the road ditch infrastructure and made road maintenance and landowner maintenance so much easier for the city and the landowners Randy Sanders, Ken Phelps and Clayton City Counsel have been exceptional partners through this process! Coming in 2026 our Team will coordinate on the Talmadge Road drainage project! Stay tuned for more stories from the Trenches!

Drainage Project Heavy Maintenance 2026

Marshall Sweet Potato: During the past two years, we have been planning the necessary clearing of trees that are too close to the original tile main. These trees have pushed roots into the joints of the pipe, causing issues within the pipe itself. We have been using high-pressure water with a cutting head to keep the drains functioning properly. Now, we need to clear a 50-75 ft strip along the main to prevent further root intrusion into the pipe. We will also be installing 24" tees and adding yellow bar guards on top of these tees in certain locations. This will facilitate access for jet rodding the main tile and for camera inspections of the pipe. If we are working on your property, we will be in touch, as not all areas will be affected. Lastly, we want to thank those of you who have been waiting for these repairs to occur. We appreciate your patience with our staff and contractors since we depend on them to complete these maintenance repairs.

Pleasant Plain Project: After the last inspection, we noticed several areas along the project tile route that need clearing, as well as several inlets that need repair. We plan to contact each landowner we intend to work with, and as mentioned in the previous article, not all landowners will be affected. We will be clearing approximately 50-75 feet from the center of the drainage project tile and repairing the inlets and pipes as needed. Additionally, we will be installing some gates at existing fences for maintenance access. We will also be installing some large tees with yellow bar grates on them.

On both projects, we will be restoring these areas to turf-type fescue so they can be maintained in the future. Drainage Project Heavy Maintenance-2026.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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