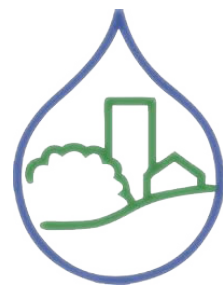


SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER - VOL. 12, No. 2

THE CONSERVATION ADVOCATE



"Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Heritage"



2025 SUMMER EDITION

CELEBRATE FALL FEST with FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

Saturday, September 13th, 2025 • 10AM-4PM

Sycamore Farm is located at:

3225 N. Lutheran Church Rd., Trotwood, OH 45426

(Corner of Wolf Creek Pike & Lutheran Church Road)

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!

- Hay Wagon Rides
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- Steam Engines
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- Pony Rides
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- Agriculture/Natural Resources
- Displays
- Local Police and Fire Departments

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ENTERTAINMENT!

**KIM CAMPBELL &
THE SOUTHERN MEMORIES BAND!**



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Board of Supervisors

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

ELECTION NOTICE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

There are 3 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1. At the SWCD office, 10025 Amity Road, Brookville, from 8/15/2025 until 9/12/2025 during normal business hours; or
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at Sycamore Farm, 3225 Lutheran Church Road on 9/13/2025 from 12:00 to 2:00 ; or
3. Voting absentee from 8/15/2025 until 9/12/2025, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address 10025 Amity Road, Brookville, OH 45309, by calling (937)854-7646, or email buchananh@mcchio.org. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 9/12/2025 during office hours.

Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028.

Nominees are:

Bruce Flora
Bill Myer

Tree & Plant Sale Update

After a fabulous tree and plant sale we want to continue to encourage the use of native trees in and around the home. This year the MSWCD provided residents of Montgomery and surrounding counties with **9200 trees** comprised of **22 different species**. We thank each of you for your support and hope to see you again next year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1 Office closed-Labor Day
September 3 SWCD Board Meeting
September 13. Fall Fest/Ann Meeting at Sycamore Farm
October 1 SWCD Board Meeting

October 13 Office closed-Columbus Day
November 5 SWCD Board Meeting
November 11 Office closed-Veterans Day

MSWCD Scholarship Winners Announced!

Lindie Helsinger

Lindie Helsinger is the daughter of Chris and Sarah Helsinger. She graduated from Valley View High School and MVCTC in the agriculture livestock production program. Lindie will be attending Wilmington College majoring in middle childhood education with a minor in agriculture. She has shown Hereford cattle at the local, state and National level since she was seven years old and participated in 4-H and FFA



Ethan Pappas



Ethan Pappas just graduated from Miami Valley Career Technology Center in the Natural Resource Management Program. He is dedicated to all things conservation and has won first place awards for the State Wildlife and State Environmental Natural Resources Competitions. With his newfound experiences, he plans to go to Hocking College for Wildlife Resource Management as well as taking an advanced class at OSU's Gibraltar Island Campus over the summer for Natural Resources Spatial Technology. He plans to pursue a career in wildlife research and to dedicate his time to protecting the planet's natural resources in any way he can.



WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION



Fresh water is a limited resource and it is important that we all do our part to conserve and efficiently use water in our everyday lives. Water conservation education can result in effective and sustainable conservation practices. Ohioans of all ages should be aware of the importance of water conservation and their role in preserving this precious resource. Listed below are several resources for parents, teachers, and students who want to learn more about the importance of water conservation and efficiency.

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Water Cycle Fact Sheet
- Project WET (Water Education Today)
- Kid's Activity Books
- Project WET Publications (resources for teachers and students),
- Water Education Foundation, Water Conservation

If you or someone you know is interested in a program on water conservation please contact our **Education Specialist, Mike Mullen at 937-248-0521 or mullenm@mcoho.org**

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STORMWATER SOLUTIONS...

Smart Stormwater Solutions: What Homeowners Can Do to Help

Heavy rains and seasonal storms are becoming more frequent, and with them comes an increase in stormwater runoff—water that flows over roofs, driveways, and yards instead of soaking into the ground. This runoff can carry pollutants into our rivers, lakes, and storm drains, leading to flooding, erosion, and water contamination.

As a homeowner, you have the power to make a difference. Here are a few practical ways to manage stormwater effectively and protect your community's waterways:

1. Install a Rain Garden

A rain garden is a shallow, landscaped area planted with native plants that collect and absorb rainwater from roofs, driveways, and patios. It's a beautiful and functional way to reduce runoff and support local biodiversity.

2. Use Rain Barrels

Capture rainwater from your roof using a rain barrel. This not only reduces runoff but also gives you a free water source for gardens and lawns. Many municipalities even offer discounts or rebates for installing them!



3. Go Permeable

Replace traditional concrete or asphalt driveways and walkways with permeable pavers or gravel. These materials allow water to soak into the ground rather than flow into the storm drain.

4. Plant More Trees and Native Plants

Trees and deep-rooted native plants help absorb stormwater and prevent erosion. They also improve soil quality and provide essential habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

5. Direct Downspouts Wisely

Make sure your gutters and downspouts direct water onto lawns or garden beds rather than onto hard surfaces. Better yet, route them into a rain garden or rain barrel.

6. Maintain Your Gutters

Clogged gutters can lead to overflow and poor drainage. Keep them clean, especially during the fall, to ensure water flows freely away from your home.

7. Avoid Overuse of Fertilizers and Pesticides

Chemicals applied to lawns and gardens can be picked up by runoff and end up in nearby waterways. Opt for organic or slow-release options and apply only what's needed.

Small Steps, Big Impact By making a few simple changes to your property, you can play a key role in reducing flooding risks, preventing pollution, and protecting your local environment.

Have a stormwater success story or photos of your rain garden? Share them with us—we'd love to feature you in our next issue!

ORDER YOUR RAIN BARRELS HERE...

**ORDER
ONLINE
NOW!**



The Hidden Value of Trees in Your Home Landscape

The Hidden Value of Trees in Your Home Landscape

Trees are more than just beautiful additions to your yard—they're silent powerhouses that deliver long-lasting value to your home, your wallet, and the environment. Whether you're planting a single sapling or maintaining a mature canopy, trees offer incredible benefits that go far beyond aesthetics.

Boosting Property Value

Well-placed, healthy trees can increase your home's value by as much as 15%. Mature landscaping adds curb appeal and creates a sense of permanence and care that buyers notice. In fact, tree-lined streets are consistently ranked as some of the most desirable places to live.

Cooling and Energy Savings

Trees provide natural shade, reducing the need for air conditioning in the summer by up to 30%. Deciduous trees placed on the south and west sides of your home block hot sun in the summer and allow sunlight through in the winter, keeping your home more comfortable year-round.



Stormwater Management

Tree roots help absorb rainfall, reducing stormwater runoff and helping prevent erosion and flooding. Their canopies slow down rain as it falls, giving water more time to soak into the soil.

Improved Air Quality

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. They also filter pollutants like ozone, ammonia, and dust, making the air around your home cleaner and healthier to breathe.

Wildlife Habitat

Trees provide critical shelter and food for birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects. Native trees in particular support a wide variety of local species and enhance the biodiversity of your neighborhood.

Mental and Physical Health

Spending time around trees has been shown to reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and improve overall mental well-being. Even a view of trees from your window can have a calming effect.

Planting for the future planting and caring for trees is an investment that pays off for generations. Choose native species when possible, give young trees proper care as they establish, and prune thoughtfully to ensure safety and longevity. Not sure what to plant? Check with your local extension office or tree board for recommendations on species suited to your area.

**SEE YOU AT FALL FEST!
SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

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WHAT IS ENVIROTHON?

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The Envirothon is a competitive, academic, outdoor team event for high school students which tests their knowledge in five areas: Aquatic Ecology, Current Environmental Issues (CEI), Forestry, Soils and Wildlife. The event is designed to stimulate and reinforce the students' interest in our environment and our natural resources while encouraging cooperative decision making, team building and problem solving.

Students who participate gain a greater awareness of natural resources and environmental issues, a better understanding of interrelationships between living and non-living components of the environment and an increased interest in further science study. Teams consist of five members from the same school and though each student contributes his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of the day is the TEAM score.

The four top scoring teams then progress on to the State Envirothon Competition where the winning team then goes on to compete in the North American Envirothon Competition. The Envirothon encourages young people to become action-oriented members of society and promotes the spirit of inquiry, competition and excellence.

An Introduction

Environmental interest has shown steady growth in the past years. More and more people of all ages are taking the time to get educated and to get involved in activities to protect and promote our natural resources.

The Envirothon, designed to take youthful curiosity one step farther, is all about getting involved and getting educated. It is our hope as resource professionals to push the minds of young people to realize the interrelationship of all living things and to look toward the future of resource management.

The Area IV Envirothon is one of five Area Envirothon's to be held throughout the state. From here, winners proceed to the State Envirothon where they are given the opportunity to advance to the National Envirothon.

Test Questions and study material for the Envirothon are prepared and assembled by natural resource professionals from a variety of agencies, organizations, universities, and businesses. These individuals also staff the various resource stations at each competition.

Purpose

The Envirothon is a competitive, academic out-

door event for high school students. The program has several goals and objectives, including:

- to promote greater awareness of natural resources and environmental issues
- to heighten understanding of the interrelationships between plants, animals, humans and the environment they share
- to increase student interest in further environmental and natural history study
- to celebrate the spirit of competition and excellence
- to encourage young people to become action-oriented members of society
- to interest students to explore natural resource environmental careers

By preparing for and participating in Envirothon, students will develop interpersonal skills by working with other student team members in cooperative decision making and problem solving.

Students will also meet professionals from a variety of federal, state, and local natural resource conservation and management agencies and organizations and private industry. Students will benefit from exposure to various approaches to environmental questions. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about environmental career opportunities and responsibilities.

Results

This year the Montgomery /Greene Envirothon was held at Centennial Park in Englewood. Teams from Beaver Creek, Centerville, Miami Valley CTC and Northridge High School participate. All did a great job and got a sneak peak at what an Area IV Envirothon would have in store.

The Area IV Envirothon was held in Troy at Lost Creek Reserve with 62 teams from 18 counties in attendance. Big thanks to our Miami/Shelby SWCD host on a great contest. The top 4 teams from this event qualified for the State Envirothon. They were Centerville teams 1 and 2, Miami Valley CTC and Bethel High School.

The State Envirothon was held in June at Wilmington College. Our local teams did a fantastic job with the team from MVCTC receiving the highest score in both Wildlife and Aquatics, Centerville #1 receiving the high score in Soils. Centerville #2 placed second overall, MVCTC fourth, Centerville #1 sixth and Bethel twelfth. The team from Lynchburg Clay was the winner.

811 For Homeowners

WHAT IS 811?

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. Anyone who plans to dig should call **811** or go to the **Ohio 811** center's site a few business days before digging to request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags so that you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.

811 protects you and your community! Hitting a buried line while digging can disrupt utility service, cost money to repair, or cause serious injury or death. Always contact your **811** center, wait the required time for utilities to respond to your request, and ensure that all utilities have responded to your request before putting a shovel in the ground.

DO I NEED TO CONTACT 811?

Yes! Any digging requires contacting your **811** center, either by calling **811** or making a request through the **Ohio 811** center's website. Planting a garden? Installing a fence or mailbox? You must contact **811**.

When you dial **811**, you will automatically be connected to a representative from Ohio **811** who will ask you simple questions about the location and details of your digging project. If you make your request online, you will enter the same information into a form. Either way, you will receive a ticket number and instructions for much time utilities have to respond to your request, as well as how to confirm that all utilities have responded before you can safely dig.



PLAN AHEAD

Notify - Notify utilities of your intent to dig by calling **811** or making an online request a few days before you plan to break ground.

Your state **811** center will notify utility operators in your area that they need to mark any buried utility lines on your property with paint or flags.

Wait - Wait a few days to allow utilities to send out locators to mark buried lines with paint or flags. On average, between 7-8 utility operators are notified for each request.

Confirm - Confirm that all utilities have responded to your request. Use the process explained by your **811** call center representative or outlined on your **811** center ticket to confirm that each affected utility has responded.

Respect - Respect the utility marks (paint or flags). The marks provided by utility operators are the guide for the duration of your project.

If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project, or the project will continue past your request's expiration date, please contact your **811** center to ask for a re-mark.

DIG CAREFULLY

Try to avoid digging on top of or within 18-24" on all sides of utility marks, which may mean moving your project to another part of your yard less congested with buried lines.

If you must dig near the marks or use machinery of any kind, contact the Ohio **811** Center about the law in our state.

Even projects you might think are "small," like planting a garden, require you to contact 811.



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