



CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water
Conservation District Newsletter

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Changes Ahead

The first half of 2021 has brought many changes to our office. Planning is in full swing for our 4th grade field days this year and we hope to have the event "as normal" this year. We know there were a lot of disappointed students last year when we had to cancel due to the pandemic.

June brought some staffing changes to the district and our Program Coordinator, Kristen was promoted to Conservation Director. We thank Sina for almost seven years of service and wish her luck in her future endeavors. We are in the process of hiring a new Program Coordinator.

We have finished our Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE) which allowed us to complete a diagnostic study of the Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek watershed. We are about halfway through our Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant, which allowed us to hire Kristen last year. She has been on board for almost eight months now and is bringing lots of content to our website and social media channels as well as organizing events, including our new CISMA (see the next article for an update!). Kristen recently graduated from the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy and collaborated with Jasper and Pike SWCDs to produce a video highlighting producers involved in conservation practices throughout the state, including Montgomery County's very own Zach Cain! Be sure to check out the video on our Facebook page or at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqWZlePwDOU>



CISMA Update

We are charging ahead with our Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) and have been networking with local organizations and citizens to remove invasive species from the county. We were awarded a grant from the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) in February that will allow us to host multiple events along the Sugar Creek Trail in collaboration with the Crawfordsville Parks Department.

In mid-April, we partnered with NICHES Land Trust to host our "call-out" meeting. Instead of having a zoom meeting call-out to introduce our CISMA creation to the public, we decided it would be more productive (and more fun!) to have a workday event. We had four three-hour shifts over two days to remove invasive Garlic Mustard from Bachner Nature Preserve. Bachner is one of two Montgomery County properties owned by NICHES.

We held our first "Weed Wrangle" with Parks in May to remove Wintercreeper at the River Rock Trailhead. Weed Wrangles are volunteer events hosted nationwide to control invasive plants that are negatively impacting our public parks, green spaces, and natural areas. Keep an eye out for more of these events on our Facebook page and website! We will be returning to each site for multiple years to ensure invasive species are kept under control. To see resources on invasives and the work we are doing in the county visit:

www.montgomerycoswcd.com/cisma





Photo courtesy of Friends of Sugar Creek

Farmer's Float Trip

Calling all Montgomery County producers! We've teamed up with Friends of Sugar Creek to host a canoe trip down Sugar Creek! This is an event aimed at producers and their families and will be FREE with lunch provided! Come join us as we take a relaxing float down the creek before the craziness of the state fair and the new school year take over. This event will be held Wednesday, July 28th. We will have informational materials available if you have concerns with runoff into the creek, erosion, or other issues related to Sugar Creek. We love that Montgomery County has this beautiful natural resource and hope to preserve it for generations to come!

If you are interested in securing your spot or for more information, please email Kristen at klatzke@montgomerycoswcd.com or call 765-362-0405 extension 3. Spots are limited!

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klatzke@montgomerycoswcd.com

RSVP: Send Kristen an email at

and make lasting connections!

land, meet other women producers in the area,

water quality or to solve issues on your own

farm, get the resources you need to improve

Why: Learn about water quality on a local

Cost: FREE!

Where: Starkey Farms, Hendricks County

When: Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021

counties

Montgomery, Hendricks, and surrounding

Who: Women landowners and producers in

What: Women 4 the Land Learning Circle

Save the Date!

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- July 5th: SWCD, NRCS, and FSA offices closed
- July 15th: Acreage reporting date for Spring seeded crops
- July 16th-22nd: Montgomery County 4-H Fair
- July 28th: Farmer's float trip with Friends of Sugar Creek
- July 30th - August 22nd: Indiana State Fair
- August 26th-27th: 4th grade field days
- September 6th: SWCD, NRCS, and FSA offices closed

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