



# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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## Farm Tour

The Community Growers of Montgomery County held a Farm Tour with Gillenwater Farms and Trinity Acres Farm on June 4th. Attendees included fellow producers, homesteaders, and customers of the two farms. The speakers of this tour were Jordan and Paige Gillenwater at Gillenwater Farms and Gary Cox and David Schamber at Trinity Acres Farm. The Gillenwaters spoke about their produce, hogs, beef, selling at Four Seasons Local Market in comparison to farmers markets, and more. Gary and David spoke about their CSA boxes (Community Supported Agriculture), selling at farmers markets, extending their growing season with high tunnels, being organic, and how they suppress weed pressure. Attendees were able to ask various questions which led to great conversation throughout the entire event. We hope to make Farm Tours throughout the County an annual event.



To the left: Attendees at Gillenwater Farms listening to Jordan Gillenwater discuss their raised beds.

To the right: Attendees at Trinity Acres Farm listening to Gary Cox (out of photo) discuss their operations.



# Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project

## 2nd Quarter Update: February 18th- May 17th

Sara Peel, Arion Consultants

Watershed inventory efforts continued this quarter with steering committee members completing 12 of 29 targeted inventory areas. Water chemistry monitoring occurred on February 23rd, March 23rd, and April 27th, 2022, and will occur monthly. Biological monitoring is scheduled to start in July 2022. The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on April 26th, 2022, and reviewed desktop inventory efforts completed to date. The first public meeting occurred on March 16th, 2022, in partnership with the Wabash Democracy & Public Discourse (WDPD). The students are working to compile meeting comments and results and those will be incorporated into the next Watershed Management Plan (WMP) draft.

The project website has been updated several times this quarter. The Montgomery County SWCD social media continues to promote the project and has been updated 16 times with information relevant to the project. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure distribution continues to partner groups and in high-profile locations. The project was promoted at the four SWCD annual meetings occurring on February 19th (Boone), February 23rd (Tippecanoe), March 1st (Clinton) and March 8th (Montgomery). Additional promotional events are scheduled to occur in the next quarter including Hoosier Riverwatch training on June 21st and the Farmer Float Trip with Friends of Sugar Creek on July 26th.

Thank you for your support!



Our 2nd annual native plant sale was a big success! A special thank you to members of the Community Growers of Montgomery County for helping with plant pickup.

By choosing native plants you are choosing plants that naturally grow in Indiana. These often require less maintenance, are hardier, and require less water and this saves you time and money!

If you would like recommendations on what native plants would thrive in your yard feel free to reach out! We also offer FREE invasive species site visits!

## Get to Know Us!

During our annual meeting we shared a video introducing the staff and board members of the district. Here we will share a little bit about us in case you missed the meeting!

### Megan Sweeney, Program Coordinator

Megan started as the Program Coordinator with the SWCD in August of 2021. She is in charge of programming, events, and outreach for the district. Megan graduated from in May of 2020 Ohio University with a degree in Environmental Biology. After graduating she served as an AmeriCorps Member with Green Iowa AmeriCorps. Through this position she was able to work with Practical Farmers of Iowa to help create farmer-led programming for other farmers. Megan graduated from the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy through Purdue Extension this month which she will use in her day to day work. Contact Megan with any questions relating to upcoming events, invasive species, or backyard conservation techniques.



## Upcoming Garden Walk

If you are interested in either starting a garden, are interested in learning new ways to garden, or would like to meet fellow gardeners in Crawfordsville stop by our Garden Walk on July 30th! This event will take place from 10 am - 2 pm starting at 207 West Main Street in Crawfordsville. We will have multiple stops along Main Street in Crawfordsville with all types of gardens and gardeners. At each stop the gardeners themselves will be the host of their own garden and will be able to answer any questions. This event is for gardeners of all experiences as we have hosts that have been gardening for 2-3 years all the way up to multiple decades. For this walk we will be walking together from garden to garden to allow gardeners to meet as many other gardeners in the area as possible and to allow the hosts to attend each other's gardens. We will have signs posted at each of the gardens with the time we will be viewing that location. There will be more information with the addresses and timing for each stop on our website in the coming weeks. Feel free to drive or bike from spot to spot if you have limited mobility or to join in at any point on the route. Looking forward to seeing you there!



## 2nd Annual Farmer Float Trip

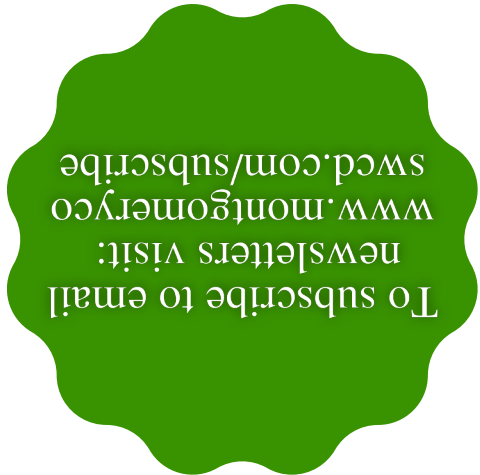
Calling all farmers! Bring your family and join us as we co-host a canoe trip with Friends of Sugar Creek (FOSC) on July 26th from about 9 am- 2 pm. This is a FREE event with lunch included.

Learn about what the FOSC and the district are doing to preserve Sugar Creek for all future generations to enjoy.

Spots are limited and are restricted to farmers and their families. Children must be over the age of 5. Each participant will be provided a life jacket. The exact start and end locations will be determined by the water level leading up to the day of the event.

**To secure your spot RSVP to [canoe@friendsofsugarcreek.org](mailto:canoe@friendsofsugarcreek.org) with your name, number attending, and age of any minors.**





Montgomery County SWCD  
2036 E. Lebanon Road  
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933

### Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- July 4th: SWCD office closed
- July 7th: board meeting in the USDA Service Center conference room at 8 am
- July 9th: tabling at the Crawfordsville Farmer's Market 8 am- 1 pm
- July 12th: Upper Sugar Creek Project steering committee meeting 2 pm HHSB Success Center
- July 15th-21st: County Fair
- July 16th: tabling at Shades State Park 75th Anniversary celebration
- July 20th: Community Growers of Montgomery County meeting in the USDA Service Center conference room at 1:30 pm.
- July 26th: Farmer Float Trip with FOOSC on Sugar Creek
- July 29th- August 21st: Indiana State Fair
- July 30th: Garden Walk 10 am - 2 pm starting point is 207 W. Main St., Crawfordsville
- August 4th: board meeting in the USDA Service Center conference room at 8 am
- August 15th: Farmer listening session 6 pm location TBD - voice concerns or ask questions about Sugar Creek.
- September 1st: board meeting in the USDA Service Center conference room at 8 am
- September 5th: SWCD office closed

**SAVE THE DATE! Women 4 the Land learning circle October 19th**