



# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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ISSUE 3

In this newsletter:

Field Days Return  
*Page 1*

Watershed Project  
Update- guest article  
*Page 2*

Save the Dates  
*Page 3*

Upcoming Events  
*Page 4*

## We Welcome Back 4th Grade Field Days!

After two years of cancellations, we were able to bring back 4th grade field days! This is the 23rd year we have taught the 4th graders about the importance of natural resources through a variety of stations. We had 455 students join us at Cain's Homelike Farms in Darlington this year with all of the schools in the county attending.

The students were thrilled to be out of school for the day and on a working farm. We, the organizers, were happy to see the kid's eyes light up with excitement as they got off the bus and saw the pond, the tractors, the hay ride, and more. The students who started in the morning at the Water Quality station (shown above) spent their time until lunch alternating walking or riding around the pond to the Incredible Journey, Wetlands, and Erosion stations. After lunch, they transferred to the back 4 stations in the more forested area of the property. Here they learned about forestry, agriculture, wildlife/pollinators, and soils.

When students were asked what their favorite part of the day was most replied with kissing the fish at Water Quality, the erosion table, or seeing all of the cool animals and insects at Wetlands. This is a huge event that takes many volunteers donating their time. This year with the time spent preparing for the event, the two field days, and tearing down we had a total of 301 volunteer hours. We would like to thank all of our volunteers again for creating such an amazing event and especially the Cain Family for hosting and all the hard work they contribute to this event every year.

# Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project

3rd Quarter Update: May 18th- August 17th

Sara Peel, Arion Consultants

The second draft of the Watershed Management Plan was submitted to IDEM on August 15, 2022. Watershed inventory efforts continued this quarter with steering committee members completing 8 of 29 (20 of 29 total) targeted inventory areas. Historic water quality data and desktop inventory and windshield survey data were added to the draft Watershed Management Plan.

Water chemistry monitoring occurred on May 24, June 27, and July 25, 2022, this quarter and will continue monthly. Biological monitoring occurred in July and August with fish community assessments occurring July 18-20 and August 1 and macroinvertebrate community and habitat assessments occurring July 15-16, 2022. Macroinvertebrate community identification is underway and the species list as well as IBI, mIBI and QHEI data will be included in the next draft of the watershed management plan.

The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on July 12, 2022, and reviewed desktop inventory efforts completed to date to identify relevant relationships; selected water quality benchmarks, and reviewed upcoming education and outreach events. The Wabash College students are working on compiling public meeting comments and results and those will be incorporated into the next WMP draft. The project website was updated within the Montgomery County SWCD website and has been updated several times since its creation. The Montgomery County SWCD social media is used to promote the project and has been updated 9 times this quarter with information relevant to the project. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure continues to be distributed including at the Montgomery, Boone, and Clinton County 4H fairs (July 10-23, 2022) and at high-profile locations. Hoosier Riverwatch training occurred on June 21, 2022, with 10 participants trained and can now monitor in the Sugar Creek Watershed. The farmer float trip occurred on July 26, 2022. The farmer's listening session occurred on August 15, 2022, with 60+ farmers in attendance. The SWCD newsletter was distributed on July 22, 2022, and contained an update on the Sugar Creek project. A press release highlighting the farmer listening session was deployed on August 4, 2022.

## Get to Know Us!

David Stanley- District Conservationist NRCS - assists the District with putting local conservation on the ground.

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!

Dave graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Soil and Crop Management in 1991. Dave started back in 1990 with NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service - back then the Soil Conservation Service as a student trainee. He has been in his current position as the District Conservationist in Montgomery County since 1994. Dave farms on his family farm with a corn and soybean rotation and he has been no-till since 1994.

If you are a private landowner in Montgomery County and have a resource concern like soil erosion, water quality, invasive species, etc. you can reach out to Dave about possible programs to help fund solutions for those resource concerns.



# Forestry Field Day

Hosted at a property of Moore Family Tree Farm

Use the address 2235 N 175 E to find the Property. We will be meeting at the lane south of the house furthest from the I-74 overpass. There will be signs to point you in the correct direction.

Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 From 1:30 pm-4:00pm

**RSVP TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY SWCD AT 765-362-0405 EXT. 3**



- HOW TO GET STARTED IN TREE FARMING
- WHY TREES MATTER ECONOMICALLY
- TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT



## Women4theLand Forestry Learning Circle

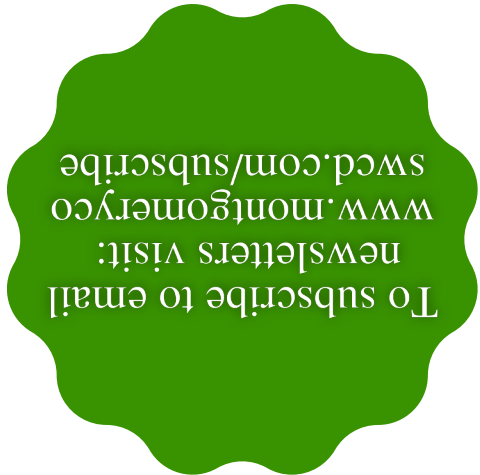
Join us October 19th 9 am - 3 pm

At Fusion 54 101 West Main St. Crawfordsville IN 47933 at the Training Area on the fourth floor

We have partnered with the Hendricks County SWCD to host this Women4theLand Learning Circle with a focus on forestry and invasive species. Learn the importance of managing invasive species for yourself, your family, and your land! In the morning we will be offering educational sessions and networking opportunities. At 11 am we will move our discussion outdoors to Moore Family Tree Farm where multiple demonstrations such as tool use, timber stand improvement, and more will be shown. Attendees will later see first hand some aspects that were discussed in the morning session.

Light morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. This event is FREE but spots are limited! Please **RSVP** with the QR code, calling the office at 765-362-0405 ext. 3 or emailing [msweeney@montgomerycoswcd.com](mailto:msweeney@montgomerycoswcd.com) by October 14th. Learn more at [montgomerycoswcd.com](http://montgomerycoswcd.com)





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

### Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- October 5th: Forestry Field day 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm see more info above
- October 6th: SWCD board meeting at 8 am
- October 10th: SWCD office closed- Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day
- October 17th: Weed Wrangle 1:30 - 3:30 pm meeting location TBD
- October 18th: Weed Wrangle 1:30 - 3:30 pm meeting location TBD
- October 19th: Women 4 the Land learning circle- Forestry and Invasive Species
- November 3rd: SWCD board meeting at 8 am
- November 5th: Low-head dam panel discussion at the Carnegie Museum 2-3 pm
- November 8th: SWCD office closed- Election Day
- November 11th: SWCD office closed- Veteran's Day
- November 24th-25th: SWCD office closed- Thanksgiving
- December 1st: SWCD board meeting at 8 am
- December 23rd-26th: SWCD office closed- Christmas

### Plant a Tree & Make History!



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
BICENTENNIAL • 1822-2022

This year we celebrate Montgomery County's bicentennial! To celebrate 200 years the county has a goal of planting 200 trees! If you have planted a tree this year you can submit your information to be recorded in a historical document that will be displayed in the Carnegie Museum. To add your tree(s) to the list submit your name, address, type, and number of trees to [Tom.Klein@montgomerycounty.in.gov](mailto:Tom.Klein@montgomerycounty.in.gov) by the end of the year. The fall is a great time to plant new trees!!