



CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter



To subscribe to email newsletters visit:
www.montgomerycoswcd.com/subscribe

JUNE 2023 | VOL 3 ISSUE 2

In this newsletter:

CGMC Garden Walk
Page 1

Watershed Project Update- guest article
Page 2

Get to Know Us - Sam Lovold
Page 2

Conservationist of the Year
Page 3

Get to Know Us- Aron Rhoades
Page 3

Upcoming Events
Page 4

2nd Annual Backyard Garden Walk

The Community Growers of Montgomery County (CGMC) is gearing up for their second annual Backyard Garden Walk! Last year's event had a fantastic turnout and we learned so much about some of our fellow urban growers. This year's event is open to everyone from beginners to experienced gardeners.

This year we have 3 gardens we will be visiting. We will hear from each owner and learn how they started gardening and the trials and errors that got them to where they are now. We will share info on garden practices like composting, mulching, cover crops, and more. Water stations will be available at each of the stops along the walk. Optionally, if you pack a lunch we will walk over to the Lew Wallace lawn after the garden walk to enjoy lunch in the shade!

CGMC is committed to being a resource to anyone in Montgomery County interested in improving their soil health. We are available to answer questions and provide gardening advice. If you or someone you know is interested in connecting with fellow growers and growing more sustainably we would love to chat with you!

The Garden Walk will be on July 29th from 10 am -12 pm and will meet at 409 E Jefferson Street in Crawfordsville. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- July 4th: SWCD Office closed
- July 12th: SWCD board meeting at 8 am in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- July 20th: Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) meeting at 5 pm in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- July 25th: 3rd annual Farmer Float Trip. We welcome all farmers plus their families for a FREE canoe trip on Sugar Creek. Lunch is included! Thank you farmers for all that you do for conservation! Please RSVP to canoe@friendsofsugarcreek.org to secure your spot!
- July 29th: CGMC Backyard Garden Walk at 10 am
- July 31st: Upper Sugar Creek Project public meeting at 5:30 pm at the HHSB Success Center in Crawfordsville.
- August 3rd: SWCD board meeting at 8 am in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- August 15th: Upper Sugar Creek project steering committee meeting at 2 pm at the HHSB Success Center in Crawfordsville
- September 4th: SWCD Office closed
- September 7th: SWCD board meeting at 8 am in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- September 13th: CGMC meeting at 10 am in the USDA Service Center
- September 23rd: Friends of Sugar Creek hosting a creek clean up along Sugar Creek

Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project

6th Quarter Update: February 18th- May 17th

Sara Peel, Arion Consultants

The fourth draft of the watershed management plan (WMP) was submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) on May 25, 2023. The Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) runs are complete, and half of the results have been field checked. All data have been shared with conservation partners.

The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on May 23, 2023, and reviewed critical areas, set preliminary goals, and selected priority BMPs. 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 being used to promote the project and has been updated eight times with information relevant to the project during this quarter. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure continues to be distributed. The SWCD newsletter was distributed on April 3, 2023, and contained an update on the Upper Sugar Creek project. The social survey data entry and analysis occurred this quarter. Survey results and associated information are included in this draft of the watershed plan. Friends of Sugar Creek (FOSC) hosted their bi-annual clean up on April 22, 2023.

Invasive Species Spotlight: Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

Summertime is here! Crops are coming up and the long hot days of the growing season are in full swing. That means there is no better time than now to talk about one of the invasive plants you have likely seen already, Canada Thistle! *Cirsium arvense*, or Canada thistle, invades roadsides, ditches, pastures, prairies, and anywhere with disturbed ground. Once established it forms dense colonies that will choke out other species. If left unmanaged it can quickly grow out of control and be hard to manage.

Canada thistle can be managed with spray or mechanical methods. Single plants can be plucked (with gloves!) before flowering. Big colonies of it can also be repeatedly mowed to weaken the roots. Combining this method with herbicide application can yield much better results. Mowing or spraying should be done before the plant has had the chance to flower to avoid spreading seeds. With the right treatment, Canada Thistle can be beaten. If you have an infestation and would like additional advice give us a call at 765-362-0405 extension 121 or Sam at programs@montgomerycoswcd.com



Get to Know Us!

Sam Lovold, Program Coordinator

Sam is a Montgomery County native who graduated from Purdue University in 2021. Sam coordinates events throughout the year and is your resource for soil health, invasive species, and education and outreach. Sam lives North of town and loves birdwatching, backpacking, and anything that gets him outside. A goal of Sam's is to remove the invasive plants from his family's property and create a habitat management plan.



Aron Rhoads, Supervisor

Aron has been a part of the Montgomery County SWCD board in some capacity for the last 17 years. His family farm is located Southwest of New Ross, North of Ladoga. He has a wife and three kids. Aron also works for Beacon Credit Union as a Loan Officer. He got involved when his family was installing some grassed waterways and filter strips and he was approached by Dave Stanley and George Reger about possibly joining the board. One of Aron's favorite parts of being on the board is seeing how much conservation is put on the ground in Montgomery County firsthand.

