



### Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- October 19th: CISMA meeting (pending) in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- November 2nd: SWCD board meeting at 8 am in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- November 7th: Office Closed
- November 9th: Women's Learning Circle 1-4 pm at the Tippecanoe SWCD office. Visit [tippecanoecountyswcd.org](http://tippecanoecountyswcd.org) to register.
- November 10th: Office Closed
- November 23rd-24th: Office Closed
- December 7th: SWCD board meeting at 8 am in the Crawfordsville USDA Service Center
- December 25th-26th: Office Closed



# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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## 25th Anniversary of 4th Grade Field Days

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating 25 years of 4th Grade Field Days. Field Days are held in Darlington each August and every 4th grader in the county is invited to attend. Students rotate through eight stations and learn about a variety of topics including water quality, wetlands, pollinators, and forestry. There are educational talks and hands-on activities that aim to jumpstart students' interest in the environment and protecting our natural resources. The event spans two days each year and requires over 25 people and hundreds of volunteer hours to run the event.

The Cain Family has hosted Field Days since the late 1990s. Conservation is at the forefront of the family's farming operations. They believe in the importance of starting conservation education early and that we all have a responsibility to care for the land.



# Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project

7th Quarter Update: May 18th- August 17th

Sara Peel, Arion Consultants

The final draft of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was submitted to IDEM on August 18, 2023. The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on August 15, 2023, and reviewed selected priority BMPs, project goals, and funding needs and finalized the action register for the WMP. 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 with information relevant to the project during this quarter. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure continues to be distributed. The SWCD newsletter was distributed August 2023 and contained an update on the Sugar Creek project. A press release highlighted the final project meeting was sent on July 14, 2023. The farmer float trip occurred July 23, 2023. Project information was shared at the Montgomery, Boone, and Clinton County Fairs in July 2023. The final public meeting occurred on July 31, 2023.

## Women's Learning Circle: Landscaping for Wildlife

Join us Thursday, November 9th for a Women's Learning Circle on how to improve your landscaping to benefit wildlife from butterflies to songbirds. Women's learning circles are informal group discussions for women landowners where everyone can share knowledge and experiences.

The meeting will be held at the USDA Building at 1812 Troxel Dr., Lafayette, IN 47909. It is located at the corner of Veteran's Memorial Parkway and 18th Street, behind the Igloo. The meeting starts at 1:00 pm with registration beginning at 12:30. Refreshments will be provided.

Space is limited for this event, so please RSVP by 5:00 pm, Sunday, November 5th. You may phone or email your reservation to Kris Gertz, District Administrator with the Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) @ 765-474-9992, Extension 3, or kgertz@tippecanoe.in.gov. If you need special accommodations, please notify Kris when you RSVP. Also, please feel free to invite a female friend or family member, just be sure to let us know that they'll be coming along with you!

## Invasive Species Spotlight: Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)

With fall fast approaching, the leaves are beginning to turn and the plants of our forests are getting ready for a long winter's rest, except for Asian bush honeysuckle. Honeysuckle will maintain its green, bushy appearance through late fall and be among the first plants to leaf out in the spring, an advantage this invader has due to evolving outside of the United States. Bush honeysuckle can refer to a handful of species that originated from Eurasia and were planted here in the US as ornamentals and with the intention of providing cover for wildlife. However, these plants are more destructive to wildlife than they are helpful. Bush honeysuckle forms dense thickets that are impassable to wildlife and people alike, its berries have little nutritional value to wildlife, and it outcompetes understory trees which halts forest regeneration. If left unchecked the end result is a forest without diverse plant or animal life.

Chances are if you live in Montgomery County or anywhere near woods you have encountered this destructive plant.

Luckily there are many ways to go about removing it from your property. Fall is a great time to control it because most native plants are going dormant for winter. Smaller plants can be plucked relatively easily throughout the year as you go around your property. Foliar spray of small plants is effective, however larger plants should be cut and the stumps treated to kill it effectively.



One popular method of control is to find some large honeysuckle in the springtime to cut and then come back in the fall and spray the smaller resprouts. low dosages of glyphosate are recommended for foliar spraying while cut stumps should have higher levels of glyphosate painted or sprayed on them. The site should then be monitored for any resprouts or plants that were missed. Fighting honeysuckle is a multi-year fight, but it can be beaten with enough persistence!

If you have an infestation and would like additional advice or a free assessment, give Sam a call at 765-362-0405 extension 121 or programs@montgomerycoswcd.com