

Montgomery County SWCD  
2036 E Lebanon Road  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933



# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter



WINTER 2025 | VOL 5 ISSUE 4

To subscribe to email newsletters visit:  
[www.montgomerycoswcd.com/subscribe](http://www.montgomerycoswcd.com/subscribe)

### In this newsletter:

Clark Ketchum Conservation Award

*Page 1*

Fall Wrangle Recap  
Annual Meeting RSVP

*Page 2*

Wintery Wildflowers  
Invasive Species Spotlight

*Page 3*

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

*Page 4*

## Montgomery County SWCD and Crawfordsville Parks and Rec Honored at IPRA Luncheon!

Recently, at the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association Awards luncheon, the District and Crawfordsville Parks and Rec were awarded with the Clark Ketchum Conservation Award for our Brickyard Prairie planting! The Award recognizes a Parks department in the state each year for an innovative conservation project that showcases environmental stewardship. We are proud to have been recognized for our work with Parks and Rec on this project, and look forward to partnering on more projects down the road with them.

Over the past year we have kept a careful eye on it and done occasional maintenance by mowing. Visitors to the park can see the prairie by taking the gravel path south from the parking lot. Be sure to read the interpretive signs we installed along the path to learn more about prairie ecosystems and the wildlife who use them. A blanket of snow and a long winters rest has us excited to see what the prairie will show us next spring.

Pictured left to right: Clint Jones, Fawn Johnson, Sam Lovold, Lea Dick

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- December 24th and 25th: Office Closed
- January 1st: Office Closed
- January 8th: SWCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 8 am
- January 13th: Table Talk Tuesday, The Tablespoon, 10am-1pm
- January 22nd: CRP Landowner Meeting, HHSB Success Center, 6 pm
- February 5th: SWCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 8 am
- February 17th: SWCD Annual Meeting, Stone Creek Lodge, 5:30 pm
- March 5th: SWCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, 8 am

## Fall Wrangle Recap

Even though we were out of the office during the shutdown, we kept busy this fall cleaning up our parks of invasive plants. Our annual team up with the Wabash biology department moved to the Brickyard Nature Park this year where we put two afternoons worth of work into chopping down honeysuckle and autumn olive. The students of Wabash helped us on another Weed Wrangle at the Sugar Creek Canoe Launch a few weeks later, when Theta Delta Chi came and helped clear more invasives from the bank. Streams can carry off invasive seeds and deposit them in new areas, making it especially important that we continue to remove invasives from our stream corridors.



Left: Wabash Fraternity Theta Delta Chi. Right: Wabash biology students at the Brickyard Park.

## Wintery Wildflowers

Winter has arrived and the cold and snow it has brought has halted most outdoor projects until springtime. But there is no better time than now to plant wildflowers and grasses. Native forb seeds need to go through cold stratification, or a period of freezing and thawing in the ground to germinate the next spring. The simplest thing you can do is find a bare spot of soil and cast some seeds on it before a snow or freeze. A step above that would be to seed flower pots or milk jugs and leave them out over winter so you can keep tabs on them over the winter. Laying a mesh screen across the top of your pots will also keep pests from digging up your seeds. Once spring arrives you can divide and nurture them until they're large enough to plant. But what if you are even more ambitious and have a CRP field or pollinator plot in mind? You're likely going to need some recommendations on a seed mix and access to a drill. Our office can connect you with the resources and expertise you need if this sort of project is one of your goals. In the meantime, spread a little future joy by spreading a little bit of seeds this winter. You won't regret it!



Above: Seeding prairie in the dormant season using a drill. Below: Dormant seeding natives at home, just add snow!



## Join us for our Annual Meeting!

Please join us for the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual SWCD Meeting! On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30 pm we will have a networking hour, catered meal, keynote speaker, business meeting, and presentation of our 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award!



RSVP by scanning the QR code or call (765) 362-0405 ext 2666

## Invasive Species Spotlight: periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

Periwinkle is a low lying ground cover popular for its light blue flowers, but don't let its pleasant looks deceive you. This glossy-leaved vine forms a thick mat in an area that chokes out the growth of any competing plant. It can be controlled by pulling or raking but if you pair that with an herbicide treatment you will see better success. Be sure to treat with a non-ionic surfactant and only on days above 50 degrees for best results. Fall is an ideal time due to most other plants being dormant making this little invader an easy target for removal.

