



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CONSERVATION
KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

April/May/June 2010
Volume 12, Issue 2

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**Tree Order
Pick-Up
and
"Extra Trees"
for Sale**

The pick-up date for pre-orders made for our **24th Annual Tree Sale** Program is **Saturday, April 17th, 2010, from 8:00 am until noon (EST).**

The pick-up will be in the **swine barn** at the **St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds.**

If you missed the March 1st deadline for pre-ordering trees, you still have a chance to purchase some ... **we will have extra trees for sale at the same time as the order pick-up.**

As of the printing date of this newsletter, we have extras of all species listed in the sales flyers. **See you at the fairgrounds on April 17th!**



**What a GREAT
50th Annual Meeting!**

Nearly 200 people throughout the community attended our 50th Annual Meeting on Friday, January 29, 2010 at St. Hedwig's in South Bend. Everyone seemed to enjoy the family-style Polish Dinner, talking with old and new friends, and listening to the various presenters throughout the evening. Our keynote presenter, Jim May, author and professional storyteller hailing from rural McHenry County, Illinois where his family has lived since the 1840's, interwove his Emmy Award winning story, "A Bell for Shorty" with some of the stories he gathered from our past and current Board Members. Several regular attendees of our Annual Meetings even said that Jim May was the best speaker we've ever had.

New Supervisors...

Each year, one Supervisor position that is to be filled by public election is held at our Annual Meeting. This year, Paul Williams, III was elected. Jim LaFree was also officially recognized for accepting an *appointed* Supervisor position.

Congratulations to our newest two Supervisors— Jim and Paul!

Here's to a great 3-year term for each of you!

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...on the Value of Trees

Trees have MANY VALUES.

They can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife.

CONSIDER THESE QUOTES AND STATISTICS...

"The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day." ~ U.S. Department of Agriculture

"Landscaping can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50 percent, by shading the windows and walls of a home." ~ American Public Power Association

"If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%." ~ Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research

"In one study, 83% of realtors believe that mature trees have a "strong or moderate impact" on the salability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98%." ~ Arbor National Mortgage & American Forests

"Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value." ~ USDA Forest Service

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." ~ U.S. Department of Agriculture."

"The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams." ~ USDA Forest Service

"In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension." ~ Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University

... AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

"Tree seedlings are readily available each year through the St. Joseph County Tree Sale. They are inexpensive and the species are selected because they are native or well adapted to our climate. Purchasing seedlings from this program not only gives you the opportunity to enhance your environment, but it also supports the programs of YOUR Soil and Water Conservation District." ~ St. Joseph County SWCD



**THANK YOU TO OUR
SUPPORTERS
FOR OUR
2009-2010
TREE SALE
PROGRAM**

**DON'T FORGET
THAT WE WILL HAVE
ADDITIONAL TREES
AVAILABLE
TO PURCHASE ON
THE PICK-UP DATE
FOR THE
PRE-ORDERED
TREES
(SATURDAY,
APRIL 17, 2010)**

See page 1 for details...



THE NATURAL EDUCATOR

Environmental Quiz

*Try your hand at this quiz
on local environmental issues.*

COMPOST 101

The **St. Joseph County Solid Waste Management District** and your **St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District** will be sponsoring a **FREE COMPOST SEMINAR** on **May 11, 2010** at the **St. Joe County Public Library**. The Seminar begins at **6:30 pm** and ends at **7:30 pm**.

Reservations are required by calling our office at **574-291-7444 ext. 3**

1. What is the name of the bird commonly heard in Indiana, that sounds like it is whistling peter-peter-peter? _____
2. Name the small furry animal that lives in your back yard that has a short tail, charcoal-colored fur, little feet, is about the size of your thumb and smells bad? _____
3. Is the Bald Eagle an Indiana Endangered Species? **Yes or No**
4. How many species of bats are found in Indiana? **5, 10 or 20**
5. What do all of the bats in Indiana eat? _____
6. In what year did the White-tailed Deer disappear from Indiana? **Never, 1872, or 1919**
7. True or False? The Indiana Department of Natural Resources reintroduced coyotes into Indiana to control the deer population?
8. What is our State Bird? _____
9. If every American recycled all of their newspapers, we would save how many trees a year? **25, 250,000 or 250,000,000**
10. How many trees can you save by recycling one ton of paper? **5, 10, 17, or 100**

Answers

1. Tufted Titmouse
2. Short-tailed Shrew
3. No, while it once was Indiana and Nationally Endangered, thanks to restoration efforts, the Bald Eagle is no longer Endangered. It is still listed as a species of special concerns and last year Indiana had over 100 Bald Eagle nest.
4. 10
5. Insects. We do not have fruit bats in Indiana and just one colony of our most common bat can save millions of dollars worth of food crops.
6. 1919. They were reintroduced in 1935 and today are so plentiful that we are working hard to control the population.
7. False. The Coyote is an extremely adaptable animal and once our attitude on predators changed, they re-established themselves and are actually quite plentiful in our area.
8. Cardinal
9. 250,000,000. Pretty amazing, especially when you consider everything trees do for us.
10. 17



**DON'T FORGET
Recycle Reuse Reduce
& Rethink**



URBAN MEANDERINGS

There's Still Time to Become a 2010 Affiliate Member

Sincere thanks, to all who have become 2010 Affiliate Members. Affiliate monies are used for educational and informational programs that are an important part of keeping the public informed about and involved in St Joseph County soil and water conservation. There is still time to renew your membership, or become a new supporter of conservation in St. Joseph County, by filling out the form below.

THANK YOU! to Our 2010 Affiliate Members!

Allsop, Al	Kabelin Ace Hardware (Walkerton, IN)	Roos, John
Asgrow Seeds - Phil Lehman	Kison, Gunter & Erika	Schafer, Dennis
Bellman Oil Company, Inc.	Kuharic Enterprises - John Kuharic	Schuchman, Arlene
Craft's Orchard - Dave & Pam Craft	Lehman, Charles	Shady Lane Farms - Randy Matthys
D & D Stoner Farms, Inc.	Lineback Realty & Appraisal	Shoemaker Welding
Dearing, George & Jane	- Keith Lineback	Sitescapes, Inc.
Doppke, Matthew	Matthys Milling - John Matthys	St. Joe County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Dow Agro Sciences - Dan Bladow	McCormick Electrical Services, Inc.	St. Joe County Farm Bureau, Insurance
Edward Jones Investments - Tyler Glynn	- Tom McCormick	Stoner Farms
Ehninger, Robert & Lois	Motion Industries	The Farmer's Exchange
Farm Credit Services of Mid-America	Peterson, Jeff	Vater, Robin C.
FDC Enterprises	Rader Equipment, Inc.	Weiss Family
First Source Bank (Bremen, IN)	Red Hen Turf Farm, Inc.	Wolfram, Charles & Violet
Forum Architects	Riddle Farms	Wrasse, Dru & Tom
Ivkovich, Jan & Ron	River Bend Hose	Wyatt Farm Center, Inc.
James LaFree Family	Rodriguez, Connie	Zahl's Elevator & Feed Mill

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Check all that you are interested in and return this form to the Mailing Address below and/or give our office a call @ 574-291-7444, ext 3)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____ Phone No. _____

- GO GREEN** ~ I would prefer to receive the **Conservation Kaleidoscope** newsletter by **EMAIL** in the future
(*SAVE A STAMP: You can also sign up for the EMAIL list by our website at www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org*)
- VOLUNTEER** ~ I would like more information on how to join the **Earth Team** (the volunteer arm of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.) (*Anyone 14 years of age or older and interested in conserving our precious natural resources can join the Earth Team. You can work part-time or full-time, outdoors or in a local NRCS office. You can volunteer as an individual or as a group.*)
- NEW and RENEWED AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS** ~ **Annual Affiliate Membership: \$20** — I would like to become part of the continued success of the St. Joseph County SWCD by offering my financial support and becoming an Affiliate Member (Affiliate Members receive a **membership certificate**, the quarterly **newsletter** "Conservation Kaleidoscope," a copy of the **Annual Report** and will also be listed on the **Affiliate Member page** of next year's Annual Report)
- GO GREEN** ~ As an Affiliate Member, I would prefer to receive the Newsletter by **EMAIL**
- ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT** ~ I would like to give additional support of \$_____.

Please make checks out to "St. Joseph County SWCD" and mail this form to

ATTN: Lisa Wynn, St. Joseph County SWCD, 5605 US 31 South, Ste 4, South Bend, IN 46614



Protect your sewer pipes, wastewater treatment facility, and septic tanks...



About 30 percent of what we eat is **Fats, Oil, and Grease**, or **FOG**. Foods high in **FOG** include meats, sauces, gravies, salad dressings, deep-fried dishes, pastries, cheese, butter and many others. Fat, oil and grease aren't just bad for your arteries and your waist-line; they're bad for your sewers too! Often, **FOG** is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. It sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and under the street) and over time, can build up and block the entire pipe. That's when you get disgusting **CLOGS** and possibly even a sewer backup.

A Few Do's:

- Dispose of all **FOG** in its proper place... which is NEVER in your drain.
- Pour all cooled cooking **FOGs** that will harden (bacon grease, meat drippings) into lidded or sealed container like the **Fat Trapper™** foil lined bags or a coffee can and dispose of in the garbage.
- Scrape, then dry wipe pots, pans, dishes, and utensils with a disposable towel and throw towel in trash.
- Keep drains clean by using vinegar and warm water or commercial products to dissolve grease.

A Few Don'ts:

- Pour used **FOG** down the drain!
- Put food scraps down the drain.
- Rinse the pan/plate/utensil with hot water.
- Use chemicals to remove grease **CLOGS**. They do not dissolve the grease, only move the problem further down the line.
- Dump grease down storm drains.



We are currently selling **Fat Trappers**, attractive receptacles designed to help reduce the amount of **FOGs** that enter **septic systems** and **sewer collection systems**. **FOGs** can **build up** in the sewer lines and cause **back-ups** and **overflows**. The **Fat Trapper** will help to **reduce operation and maintenance difficulties** associated with **FOGs**. Call our office or visit our website www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org/FOG.pdf to find out more or to order your own **Fat Trapper™ Starter Kit** (Fat Trapper™ & 2 bags @ \$5) and **Refill Packs** of 5 bags @ \$3 or 10 bags @ \$5.



Residential Runoff: Slow It Down, Keep It Clean

The rain and snow that flows away from your home and property has great potential for adversely affecting your community's source water. According to the most recent National Water Quality Inventory, runoff from urbanized areas is the leading source of degradation to all water. As one of the earth's caretakers, there are steps you can take to help reduce these effects. The latest issue of the quarterly newsletter, "Pipeline" discusses how building rain gardens and using rain barrels can help slow the flow. Recommendations for keeping stormwater runoff from picking up contaminants from your property are included.

You can access this issue (and all past issues) of "Pipeline" for free at www.nesc.wvu.edu/pipeline.cfm.

Each quarterly issue of "Pipeline" focuses on a single wastewater topic and presents it in an easy-to-read format. For instance, the Summer 08 issue featured "Septic Systems and Source Water Protection" for homeowners who want to improve their communities water quality.

The "Pipeline" newsletter was developed by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) and is now developed by NESCF. To subscribe to "Pipeline" for free, e-mail info@mail.nesc.wvu.edu or call 800-624-8301.

No internet access or questions?

Feel free to contact YOUR St. Joseph County SWCD at 574-291-7444, ext. 3.



USDA to Launch High Tunnel Pilot Study in 38 States to Increase Availability of Locally Grown Food ... But Not in Indiana



You may have been reading a lot lately about a new pilot project through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to use "high tunnels" – more commonly known as "hoop houses" – for fruit and vegetable production. Through this 3-year, 38-state study, the NRCS in the participating states will provide financial assistance through several of its programs including the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), funding one high tunnel per eligible farm.

The study will verify whether high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide use, keeping vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields, and providing other benefits to growers. This pilot study is part of the Obama Administration's "Know your farmer, know your food initiative." The idea is to place these tunnels on farms where there are markets for fresh, local produce nearby. High tunnels in the study can cover as much as five-percent of one acre. Among the participating states are: Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, South Carolina, South Dakota, Washington, Michigan, and Wisconsin

"There is great potential for high tunnels to expand the availability of healthy, locally-grown crops – a win for producers and consumers," said Washington State Conservationist, Roylene Rides. "This pilot project is going to give us real-world information that farmers all over the country can use to decide if they want to add high tunnels to their operations. We know that these fixtures can help producers extend their growing season and hopefully add to their bottom line," she said.

Made of ribs of plastic or metal pipe covered with a layer of plastic sheeting, high tunnels are easy to build, maintain and move. Essentially, high tunnels are low-tech unheated greenhouses.

High tunnels are used year-round in parts of the country, providing steady incomes to farmers – a significant advantage to owners of small farms, limited-resource farmers and organic producers.

To learn more about these low-tech structures, visit USDA-sponsored website maintained by Kansas State University, as part of a project in the Central Great Plains states. K-State's website aims to provide information developed under the project, as well as links to relevant sites around the world, so that growers and educators have a one-stop source where they can find information on all aspects of high tunnel construction and use. The web address is www.hightunnels.org.

While Indiana is not among the 38-state high tunnel study, feel free to contact our office if you have questions (574-291-7444, ext. 3).

Every Family Needs a Farmer. Do You Know Yours?

In September 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a new initiative called Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF). The new website for the initiative (www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer) features social media tools to help focus the public conversation about farming and food, while engaging American agriculture and linking producers to customers. The 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' website is a hub that directs you to such resources as the USDA blog, Facebook discussions, Twitter and YouTube videos. For instance, the public can send their stories, ideas or videos to the 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' team at knowyourfarmer@usda.gov or become a fan of USDA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USDA.

The KYF initiative includes major agricultural topics like supporting local farmers and community food groups; strengthening rural communities; enhancing direct marketing and farmers' promotion programs; promoting healthy eating; protecting natural resources; and helping schools connect with locally grown foods.

The KYF initiative also emphasizes the need for a fundamental and critical reconnection between producers and consumers. The effort builds on the 2008 Farm Bill, which provides for increases and flexibility for USDA programs in an effort to promote local foods. Consumer demand for locally grown food in the United States is expected to rise from an estimated \$4 billion in 2002 to as much as \$7 billion by 2012.

Visit www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer for detailed information about how existing USDA programs can support local food activities in communities, connections to USDA people working to support local and regional foods and forums to share stories, ideas, images and more.



Is There Conservation Funding Available for YOU?



Are you interested in any of the practices listed to the right?

If so, there's a chance we have a program or grant to help pay for getting started, or in some cases we can help improve and/or expand the practices you are already doing...

Programs are just one tool that the NRCS and the Soil & Water Conservation District can offer.

You can also receive technical assistance, including whole-farm conservation planning. Technical assistance does not have to be tied to program participants.

- Cover Crops
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Crop Residue Management
 - Crop Rotation
 - Diversion Embankment for Water Run-Off
 - Field Border
 - Filter Strip
 - Grazing
 - Grade Control Structure
 - Grassed Waterway
 - Heavy Use Areas
 - Irrigation and Water Management
 - Manure Testing
 - Manure Storage
 - Nutrient Management
 - Organic Farming Transition
 - Pasture Planting
 - Pest Management
 - Planned Grazing Systems
 - Residue & Tillage Management
 - Stream Protection
 - Tree Planting
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin
 - Well Protection
 - Wetlands
 - Wetland Enhancement
 - Wildlife Food Plot
 - Wildlife Upland Habitat
 - Windbreak
 - Woodland Management
- ... and MORE!**

The 2008 Farm Bill offers America's agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners more assistance than ever before to voluntarily conserve natural resources on our Nation's privately owned farm and ranch land.

There has been increased focus on energy conservation, organic and specialty crop production, forestry, air quality, and climate change. New programs and initiatives available to St. Joseph County producers have been introduced that include the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Additional funds specifically set aside for producers who qualify as beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers have been established.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offers a variety of programs to producers and landowners interested in conservation. Some programs offer annual conservation payments; others offer payments for long-term contracts and conservation easements. Whether through an agreement or easement purchase, all programs include Federal funds to assist with or offset costs of conservation practices and activities. NRCS helps customers plan and implement conservation practices on private lands through technical assistance.

NRCS programs target assistance to control water erosion, wind erosion, and soil depletion; enhance crop production, grasslands, wildlife habitat, and forests; and manage organic inputs.

For more information on how NRCS can help you with your resource concerns on your farm, please contact us at the USDA Service Center, phone 574-291-7444, ext.3.



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5605 US HIGHWAY 31 SOUTH STE 4
SOUTH BEND IN 46614-5296

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
SOUTH BEND, IN
PERMIT NO. 225

St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District

Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chair
Paul Williams, III, Vice-Chair
Jim LaFree, Member
John Kulwicki, Member
Carole Riewe, Member

Associate Supervisors:

Brian Cherry
Dave Craft
Jan Ivkovich
Melvin Kulwicki
Charles Lehman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
Richard Schmidt
Stacey Silvers
Dale Stoner
Dave VanDewalle
Dru Wrasse

Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar



APRIL

1 - Happy April Fools Day!
2 - Good Friday — OFFICE CLOSED
4 - Easter Sunday
17 - Pick-Up Day for Pre-Ordered Trees / Extra Trees for Sale ... See Page 1 for Details
19 - SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg. Rm.
22 - Earth Day

MAY

9 - Mother's Day
11 - Free Composting Seminar ... See Page 3 for Details
17 - SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg. Room
31 - Memorial Day — OFFICE CLOSED

JUNE

20 - Father's Day
21 - SWCD Monthly Board Meeting SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg. Rm.
21 - Summer Begins!

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
John Baute, NRCS
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Maria Schaefer, SWCD
Lisa Wynn, SWCD

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Morgan Thornburg, CED
Helene Cannoot
Cindy Philhower
Denise Trimboli

OUR MISSION

To provide guidance and education to the youth and adults of St. Joseph County and to administer programs to preserve, protect and improve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources for future generations.