



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

January/February 2018
Volume 20, Issue 1

2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563
Website: stjosephswcd.org

Telephone (574) 936-2024
e-mail: info@stjosephswcd.org

58th Annual Meeting

Entertainment: Larry Wirtz

Plans are underway for the 58th Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a night of great food where you can enjoy a family style Polish dinner, awards, board supervisor election, and our very popular silent auction.

This is also a great night to see what your local Soil and Water Conservation District is doing to improve soil health and water quality right here in St. Joseph County. You can also talk to members of the St Joseph County community who serve on the board of supervisors.

Where: St. Hedwig Memorial Center (331 S Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601)

When: January 26, 2018.

Time: Doors open at 5:45 pm and the call to order is at 6:30 pm.

Cost: Tickets are \$15 each.



Larry draws upon his 33 years of performing experience to bring a rare sense of perspective and conviction to his presentations. He delivers an eye-opening, jaw-dropping program that is genuine, dignified, funny and entertaining.

Contact the office for more details or to order your tickets!

Call: 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.

Email: info@stjosephswcd.org

Visit our website to register: www.stjosephswcd.org

Silent Auction Donation Form

Each item being auctioned will be displayed along with the name of the donating individual, business, or organization. You may provide a business card to attach to each item if you wish. We ask that each auction item have a retail value of at least \$10.

Item(s) Submission Deadline: 1/19/2018

If you have questions about the Silent Auction or would like more information, call the St. Joseph County SWCD Office Staff at 574.936.2024 x4.



Company/Organization Name (If applicable)

Contact Person

Email:

Phone:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Donated Item & Short Description of Item or Service:

Retail Value \$: _____

What's Going On...

Events hosted by the St. Joseph County SWCD & Our Partners in Conservation

January

- 1st - New Year's Day - Office closed
- 8th & 9th - IASWCD Annual Conference, Indianapolis
- 12th - USDA NRCS WRE Application Deadline
- 15th - Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday - office closed
- 16th - Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public 9AM - LOCATION: Farm Credit Services 5310 S Main St, South Bend, IN 46614.
- 26th - 58th Annual Meeting see page 3 for details.

February

- 15th - Farming for the Future—Producers Workshop →
- 19th - President's Day - Office Closed
- 20th - Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public 9AM - LOCATION: Farm Credit Services 5310 S Main St, South Bend, IN 46614.

March

- 20th - Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public 6:30 PM LOCATION: Butterfly Room Centre Township Library at Kern and Miami Roads in South Bend - 1150 Kern Road South Bend, IN 46614
- 30th - Good Friday - County Holiday

Farming for the Future - Producers Workshop



Keynote Speaker: Barry Fisher is a Training Cadre for NRCS, and represents NRCS on the Midwest Cover Crops Council and North Central SARE Advisory Council. Barry Fisher is was recently recognized as one of the 25 the Central Living Legends of No-Till and was given the Region Conservation Legacy Award from NRCS for his Leader for contribution to the "Unlock the Secrets of the the Soil Soil" campaign. Barry is also a certified crop Health advisor, and he and his wife operate a cash Division of grain and livestock farm in west-central USDA-Indiana. He provides **PARP credits available.** Cost is \$10 paid at the workshop.

soil health management systems technical leadership, training, and assistance to NRCS, **When:** February 15, 2018 farmers and partners throughout the Corn **Where:** Christo's Banquet Center, 830 Lincoln Belt and Northern Plains. He assists with state Hwy East, Plymouth, IN 46563 and regional conservation cropping systems **Time:** 9am-2pm (EST) initiatives, serves on the National Soil Health **Cost:** TBA

New Environmental Education Coordinator

Hi, my name is Jane Sablich and I am and events for their education the new Environmental Education departments. Even though my Coordinator at the SWCD. I currently passion started with animals, it has live with my husband, Christian, in truly expanded into being outside, Mishawaka. Some of my favorite conservation, environmental science, hobbies include kayaking, hiking, and being green. Sharing my traveling when I am able, and knowledge on these subjects is snuggling on the couch with my pets. something I really enjoy and I look I graduated college from Northern forward to doing them as a part of Michigan University with a Bachelor the SWCD team! My experience gives of Science in Zoology. Most of my a great base for this position and I experience comes from working at look forward to learning more while different zoos, providing programs serving St. Joseph County.



2018 Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____

Please make checks payable to "St Joseph County SWCD" and mail along with this form to:

St. Joseph County SWCD, 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

Please Confirm Your Giving Level

_____ Affiliate Membership: \$25-\$99 _____ Silver Membership: \$250-\$499
 _____ Bronze Membership: \$100-\$249 _____ Gold Membership: \$500 & above

Want to donate with your Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal account? Visit our website at www.stjosephswcd.org and click on the "Donate" button.

Scan me to donate now!



THANK YOU for your support! The many outreach and education projects we provide would not be possible without the help of community members like YOU!

Indiana NRCS Invests Dollars to Help Protect and Restore Sensitive Lands

Indianapolis, IN, November 8, 2017 – State Conservationist Jane Hardisty announced today that Indiana’s USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is making funding available to help landowners protect and restore key farmlands, grasslands and wetlands across Indiana. The funding is provided through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), created by the 2014 Farm Bill to protect critical water resources and wildlife habitat, and encourage private owners to maintain land for farming. Eligible entities must submit applications for the current funding pool on or before **January 12, 2018**.

“I cannot overemphasize the benefits of restoring, enhancing and protecting these working agricultural lands and critical wetlands,” said Hardisty. “NRCS is committed to preserving working agricultural lands to help protect the long-term viability of farming across Indiana as well as to restoring and protecting wetlands that provide important wildlife habitat and improve our water quality.”

ACEP streamlines the conservation easement options into two primary components: a working lands component where NRCS provides assistance to partners with farmland protection programs to purchase agricultural land easements, and a wetlands reserve component where NRCS works directly with landowners to restore and protect their agricultural wetlands.

ACEP’s Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) protects the long-term viability of the nation’s food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses while supporting environmental

quality, wildlife habitat, historic preservation and protection of open spaces. State and local governments, non-governmental organizations and Native American Tribes that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to protect farmland through easements.

Wetland reserve easements (WRE) help landowners reduce damage from flooding, recharge groundwater, restore, enhance and protect habitat for wildlife, and provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Eligible landowners can choose to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement. Tribal landowners also have the option of enrolling in 30-year contracts.

In Indiana, over 3,250 acres were enrolled in the WRE (formerly the WRP or Wetland Reserve Program) in the last year alone. Once restored, these acres will join over 73,000 acres of additional protected floodplain and wetland easements in the state to protect water quality resources and provide for wildlife. Many of these easements lie in areas critical for migratory waterfowl and other birds, such as the Wabash River, Goose Pond, Kankakee Marsh, and Muscatatuck River Corridor.

ACEP applications may be submitted at any time to NRCS; however, applications for the current funding round must be submitted on or before January 12, 2018.

To learn about ACEP and other technical and financial assistance available through Indiana NRCS conservation programs, contact your District Conservationist Debbie Knepp at (574) 936-2024 Ext. 4.



During Construction 2008



After - April 23, 2015



Visit us on Facebook 2903 GARY DRIVE PLYMOUTH IN 46563

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

St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

Recycling your Christmas Tree

Option 1: Check with your city trash service to see if they offer curb side pick up. **Option 2:** Drop off at **Organic Resources**. **Note:** The fee will be waived for disposal of Christmas trees only. Trees must be dropped off during business hours: 8:00 AM- 3:45 PM (Closed 12:30 PM- 1:00 PM) Address: 4340 Trade Dr., South Bend, IN 46628. **Option 3:** Composting the tree yourself. You can cut it into smaller pieces and add it to your compost pile or stand it up in your backyard to create some attractive bird habitat. You can even decorate it with orange slices, nuts and bird suet to create an organic bird feeder!

NEED MORE INFO?

- * South Bend Street Department (574) 235-9244
- * Mishawaka Street Department (574) 258-1660
- * Organic Resources (574) 287-6841



Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors:
John Dooms, Chair
Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair
Mike Burkholder
Stacey Silvers
Dave Vandewalle

SWCD Associate Supervisors:
Dave Craft
Jim LaFree
Charles Lehman
Randy Matthys
Carole Riewe
Richard Schmidt
Arlene Schuchman
Dale Stoner
Dru Wrasse

SWCD Honorary Members:
Bernard Byrd
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:
Sarah Longenecker, SWCD
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD
Jane Sablich, SWCD
Debbie Knepp, NRCS

Farm Service Agency Staff:
Gideon Nobbe, CED
Aldona Martin
Abby Ciesielski
Tara Wolfe
Devan Herrell



Scan me to go Green!

Are you ready to "GO GREEN" and help us save money and natural resources? We can deliver your "Conservation Kaleidoscope" newsletter by email ... Give us a call or send us an email and tell us you'd like to "GO GREEN" THANK YOU!!!!

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