



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



**Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future**

September/October 2018 Volume 20, Issue 5	2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563 Website: stjosephswcd.org	Telephone (574) 936-2024 e-mail: info@stjosephswcd.org
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**What's Going On...**

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

**September**

**3rd - Labor Day** - office closed

**18th - Monthly Board Meeting** - Open to the Public  
7 PM LOCATION: Alligator Room Centre Township Library at Kern and Miami Roads in South Bend - 1150 Kern Road South Bend, IN 46614

**October**

**8th - Columbus Day** - Office Closed

**16th - Monthly Board Meeting** - Open to the Public  
7 PM LOCATION: Alligator Room Centre Township Library at Kern and Miami Roads in South Bend - 1150 Kern Road South Bend, IN 46614

**November**

**6th - Election Day** - County Holiday

**12th - Veterans Day (Observed)** - FSA & NRCS staff off, SWCD staff will be in the office.

**20th - Monthly Board Meeting** - Open to the Public  
7 PM LOCATION: Alligator Room Centre Township Library at Kern and Miami Roads in South Bend - 1150 Kern Road South Bend, IN 46614

**22nd - Thanksgiving Day** - office closed

**23rd - County Holiday**

**In Honor of Dale Stoner (Dec. 14, 1927- Aug. 5, 2018)**

The St. Joseph County SWCD would like to take a moment to remember Dale Stoner. Dale was a 49 year member of the Soil and Water Conservation District as well as being involved with the St. Joseph County Farm Bureau, and a long time farmer. Dale was known as a genuinely kind and encouraging man with a heart for conservation. He believed strongly in the mission of the district and spoke often of the importance of no-till, cover crops, and filter strips as well as strongly supporting the SWCD's education and outreach. He actively participated in events such as Science Alive and the SWCD Tree Sale Program and was invaluable in helping market annual meeting tickets.



Dale has been a great asset for the district and will be remembered fondly.

**2018 Legislator Conservation Tour**

On June 27<sup>th</sup> the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a Legislative Tour to show our federal, state, and local legislators some of the conservation practices being implemented in our county in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and through the Clean Water Indiana grant. We showcased rural agricultural practices as well as urban practices, exhibiting the varied land uses in St. Joseph County. While the practices shown ranged from no-till and cover crops to raingardens and seasonal high tunnels (hoop houses) they all work together to improve soil health and water quality across the diverse landscape.



Pictured left to right: Courtney Papa, District Director for Senator Todd Young; St Joseph County Commissioner Deborah Flemming; (front) SWCD Environmental Education Coordinator Jane Sablich; SWCD Supervisor Stacey Silvers; NRCS District Conservationist Debbie Knepp; Lauren Varga, Regional Director for Senator Joe Donnelly; Chris Lee, Field Director for Congresswoman Jackie Walorski; (front) SWCD County Conservationist Sarah Longenecker; SWCD Supervisor Mike Burkholder. (Not pictured, Joe Taylor III, IN State Representative.)

## New Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Announced



Indianapolis, IN, July 25, 2018 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Indiana welcomes new state conservationist, Jerry Raynor. Jerry will oversee 80 local service centers, four area offices, and eight conservation delivery teams across the state and over 200 employees

who work directly with farmers and landowners.

Jerry is a native of North Carolina and has spent a majority of his 26-year career as part of the conservation partnership there. Jerry began his career with NRCS as a student trainee and he spent most of his early years in field and area office conservationist positions. Jerry also worked for Johnston County Soil and Water Conservation District and the North Carolina State Department of Environment. In 2012, he was selected to serve as the state resource conservationist and acting director National Plant Materials Center in Maryland. In 2013, he returned to North Carolina as assistant state conservationist for operations, later transitioning to assistant state conservationist for management and strategy. Jerry has

also served on several detail positions at the national level, most recently as the acting state conservationist in Idaho.

“I am honored to be the new state conservationist in Indiana,” said Raynor. “I look forward to meeting and working with our customers, partners and staff in this position to learn about the many great things Indiana is already doing to help conserve natural resources and to continue to move the state forward in agricultural conservation.”

Jerry comes to his position with proven agricultural and leadership qualities. He was raised on a farm in Sampson County, North Carolina by his parents, Louis and Katie. After high school, he attended North Carolina State University – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and graduated with a degree in Agriculture Business Management. Jerry also is a graduate from George Washington University’s Emerging Leadership Development Program; a two-year program hosted in partnership with NRCS.

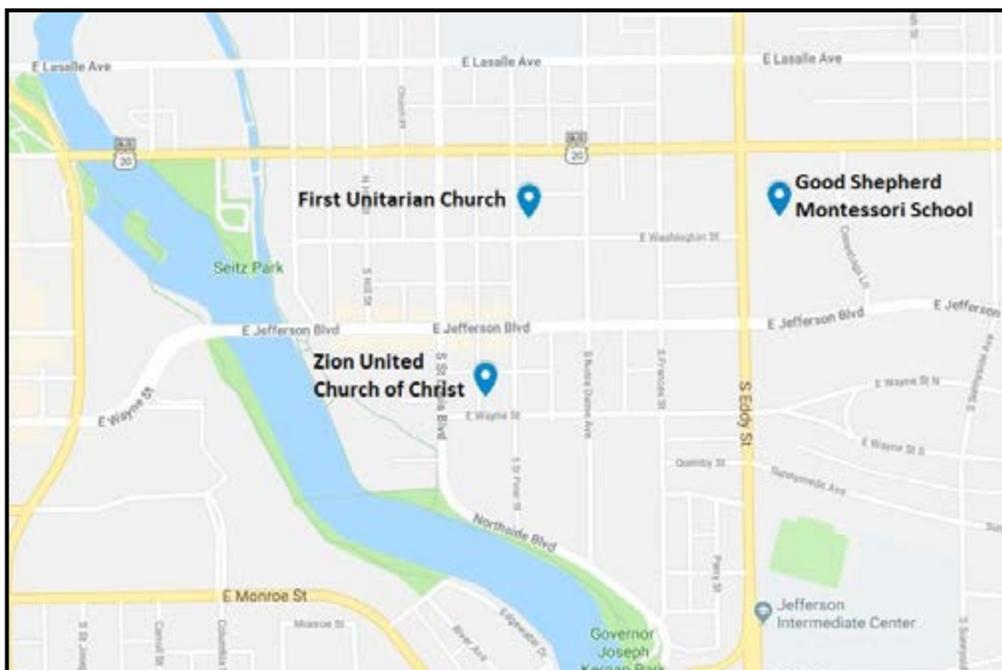
Jerry has four sisters and currently resides in Indianapolis with his wife Amanda and daughter Amaris.

Indiana NRCS is pleased to welcome Jerry to lead the agency and believes he will bring fresh ideas to the state’s conservation partnership.

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## Demonstration Raingardens Installed in South Bend

Interested in what a raingarden looks like? Drive or take a stroll and see the newly installed demonstration raingardens in South Bend. The 3 demonstration gardens were installed at Zion United Church of Christ (211 S St Peter St), First Unitarian Church (801 E Washington St.), and Good Shepherd Montessori School (1101 E Jefferson Blvd). These raingardens were funded through the Clean Water Indiana grant and our donors.



Rain Gardens help to reduce storm water runoff by helping water infiltrate into the ground quickly which mitigates non-source point pollution from entering the St. Joseph & Kankakee River watersheds. Up to 70% of pollution in streams, rivers and lakes come from stormwater runoff.

Rain Gardens contain flowering plants and grasses (preferably native species of both) that can survive in soil soaked with water from rain water. These gardens are wonderful examples of what you can do in your own back yard to help keep our watersheds clean!

# Gamble Dairy Farm, LLC & Lichtenbarger Farms Named 2018 River Friendly Farmer of Indiana



On Aug. 15th Gamble Dairy Farm, LLC and Lichtenbarger Farms were honored as the St. Joseph County winners of the Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts' (IASWCD) 2018 River Friendly Farmer Award. The Award is given to those farmers across Indiana who have shown a dedication to improving the

quality of their local waterways through sound conservation farming techniques.

Gamble Dairy Farm, LLC produces milk, corn and alfalfa. In order to protect the many ditches and small streams that flow around their farm, they have implemented no-till and cover crops as well as testing nutrient levels in their manure before applying it to their fields to avoid over fertilizing which could run off into the ditches and streams. They also utilize rotational grazing and recycle water within their dairy cow operation.

They feel it is their responsibility to care for the resources on their land for the next generation. They lead by example and they are involved on the FFA advisory board, Farm Bureau members and past 4-H leaders.

Lichtenbarger Farms produces corn and soybeans. This family farm, which was started in 1932, implements several practices on their farm such as no-till, cover crops, irrigation management, grassed waterways, and they conduct soil test for variable rating fertilizer systems, among other woodland best management practices. They feel these practices are important for two reasons. The first being to take care of the environment by preventing wash outs which keeps nutrients from moving away from the fields and flowing into the ditches and rivers. Secondly they see the economic benefits to no-till and applying fertilizers that are needed and not over applying. They are involved with the community through 4-H, Farm Bureau and they support St Joseph County Ag Days.

Congratulations to both farms on their commitment to conservation and being recognized for their hard work.

## St. Joseph County's Youth Leadership Program

St. Joseph County is implementing a new Youth County Leadership program. The vision of this program is to improve St. Joseph County for both current and future generations by connecting the local youth and the local government. The Soil and Water Conservation District believes this is important because we are also trying to improve this county through conserving our natural resources. Jane Sablich, our Environmental Education Coordinator, has been sitting on a committee to develop this program and create service projects for the youth members to participate in. Students accepted into

this program will be introduced to the county departments, help with a variety of service opportunities, and explore job options within our community. By helping with this program, the Soil and Water Conservation District is hoping to inspire students to care about their natural resources and consider a career in conservation.



## Hoosier Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society Announces 2018 Scholarship Application

The scholarship program is intended to encourage qualified students to increase their interest in conservation, to obtain technical competence in some area of conservation, and to pursue a career in this area of endeavor.

### ELIGIBILITY

An applicant for the scholarship must:

- Have successfully completed at least two years of study in an Indiana accredited college by August, 2018.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on 4.0 scale).
- Be an undergraduate enrolled in an agricultural or natural resource conservation related curriculum.
- Be working toward his/her first B.S. degree.

Scholarship applicants will be enrolled in such major courses of study as agronomy, biology, soil science, wildlife management, forestry, geography, and environmental management. Other

courses of study related to conservation may also qualify. Previous recipients are not eligible for a second Hoosier Chapter scholarship.

### SCHOLARSHIP

One scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded. Recognition of scholarship recipient and presentation of award will be made at the annual meeting of the Chapter held in November.

### DEADLINE

Applications for the scholarship may be emailed or sent by regular mail, and must be received by the scholarship selection committee chairman, or postmarked by November 1, 2018.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information please see the Hoosier Chapter's website at: <http://www.hoosierchapterswcs.org/>

## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership



### Thanks to our Donors & Sponsors!

With the help from our donors and sponsors, we have been able to have a successful 2018 with education and outreach programs such as the Best Week Ever Rain Barrel Workshop. We were able to offer this program free of charge to 30 participants who were able to build their rain barrel to take home and install on their property.

With the help of two Clean Water Indiana Grants and donor funds, we were also able to install several rain gardens, and help producers implement conservation practices such as cover crops and no-till.

We couldn't do any of this without donors and sponsors like you! Look for more details on how you can support your local SWCD in the Nov/Dec newsletter.



#### 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  
Chuck Lehman  
Randy Matthys  
Richard Schmidt  
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!!!!**