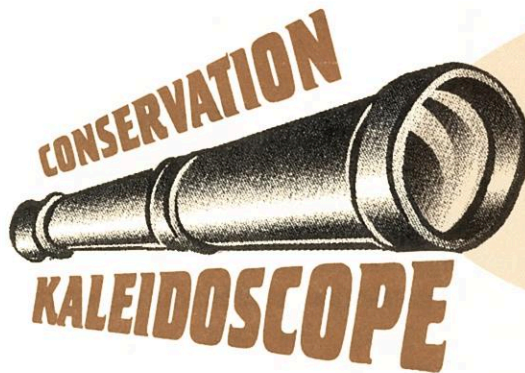




St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

Jan/Feb/Mar 2009
Volume 11, Issue 1

5605 U.S. 31 South, Ste. 4 South Bend, IN Telephone (574) 291-7444 Ext.3
Website: stjoseph.iaswcd.org Fax (574) 291-0284

Calendar of Events

January 1

New Years Day
Office Closed

January 19

Martin Luther King Day
Office Closed

January 20

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
7:00 PM—Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

January 30

49th Annual SWCD Meeting
6:30 P.M.—Scottish Rite

February 3

Tree Selection & Planting
Seminar—6:30 PM—Farm
Bureau Mtg. Room

February 16

Presidents Day
Office Closed

February 17

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
7:00 PM - Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

March 1

Tree Sales Order Forms Due!

March 16

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
7:00 PM—Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

March 20-22

Ag Days, St.
Joseph
County
Fairgrounds



"Smart Farming for the Future"

Friday, February 27, 2009

Location: Newton Center (Lakeville, IN)
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (Lunch Provided)

Workshop Topics:

Intensive Grazing, Organic Farming, No-till Problems,
Manure Management and Pesticide Management & Safety.

****Continuing Education Credits Applied For****

*To register for this workshop, please contact the St. Joseph County
Soil and Water Conservation District by Thursday February 19, 2009*

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Professor Tom Turpin

49th ANNUAL MEETING

Join us at the

Scottish Rite

427 N. Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601

Friday, January 30, 2009

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

The cost is \$10.00 per person which includes
an extravagant Polish Buffet & Dessert Bar

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 16, 2009

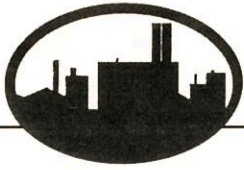
Guest Speaker: Tom Turpin

**Tree Sales
Order Forms**

Order forms for the 2008-2009
Tree Sales Program have been
mailed. **The deadline to put in
your order is March 1, 2008.**
If you have any questions, please
call (574) 291-7444 Ext. 3.

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Low-Impact Development: Designing communities for storm water protection

As our communities grow and develop, we recognize that developed land and new buildings alter the way our water cycle functions. New developments introduce a higher percentage of impervious surfaces to an area, causing more storm water to run off, and allowing less to filter into the ground. The results? Groundwater supplies decrease, and river levels spike. This can be a particular problem during storms, when a lot of rain in a short period can cause flooding or erosion.

Typical ways to plan for this excess surface water include adding storm water pipes and retention basins to development plans. Storm drains are used in urban settings to collect storm water from a developed area and divert it to the retention basins. The basins help hold back surface water, allowing ponding to occur while the water is released more slowly.

While storm drains and retention basins can be helpful when dealing with storm water, they do not solve all issues related to volume and quality. Due to the higher percentage of impervious surface *after* development, more total water is discharged than *before* development. Because that water does not filter through plants, plant roots, and soil, many pollutants can be carried into area surface waters, including bacteria, heavy metals, and chemical ions (such as nitrates and phosphates).

Some contemporary designs and techniques are aimed at addressing these issues of storm water volume and water quality, and together they are known as *low-impact development*. Low-impact development begins with a different design, and includes management practices that help storm water complete its cycle by re-entering the ground.

In order to reduce the volume discharged from developed areas, more pervious surfaces can be added to the development plans. The idea is to collect small amounts of storm water for infiltration, rather than large amounts for retention. This is sometimes called “distribution storage.” In addition to reducing the volume of surface water, infiltration also removes pollutants through plant root uptake, soil particle adherence, and bacterial breakdown. What are some ways of managing rain where it falls?

Pervious pavement—this can be porous concrete or asphalt, interlocking concrete blocks, or grass pavers. Pervious pavement provides a stable surface for vehicles to drive or park on, but allows storm water to filter through. (pictured below, Photo by USDA NRCS)



Grass channels—instead of a pipe to a basin, water can be diverted across a gently sloping vegetated channel to decrease speed, filter out pollutants, and reduce volume. (Pictured Below, Photo by USDA NRCS)



Continued on Field Notes Page



NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service

INDIANA ADDS ACREAGE TO USDA'S WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

More than two million acres enrolled, nationwide, surpassing national goal

INDIANAPOLIS, November 4, 2008 – Indiana has enrolled 12,409 new acres in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) during the last four years. To date, more than two million acres have been enrolled in WRP, nationally, helping exceed the Federal government's three-year goal of increasing the number and size of America's wetlands.

"Thanks to the stewardship ethic of our farmers and others who are concerned for our natural resources, people here in Indiana and across the nation are enjoying the benefits of more and better wetlands," said State Conservationist Jane Hardisty of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "I personally thank everyone here in Indiana who worked so hard and committed so much of their resources to achieve this incredible conservation milestone."

Indiana landowners have enrolled about 55,000 acres in WRP since the program was introduced in 1996. The Goose Pond/Beehunter Marsh WRP complex in southern Indiana consists of 7,100 acres and is one of the nation's largest WRP areas. Now owned and managed by Indiana Department of Natural

Resource's Division of Fish and Wildlife, the complex attracts hundreds of migrating Sand Hill Cranes, great flocks of migrating ducks, migrating neotropical birds and several species of creatures that are on Indiana and national threatened and endangered lists. The National Audubon Society conducted a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 2005, and birders identified 94 species of birds and over 74,000 individual birds. The Audubon Society has given the Goose Pond project their Important



Bird Area designation as part of their global initiative that seeks to inventory critical habitat worldwide, stating, "...the resources which NRCS has invested to this point in the Goose Pond restoration have had profound positive consequences on bird populations..."

In northern Indiana, 5,043 acres on the Kankakee Sands are enrolled in WRP. This vast area, owned by the Nature Conservancy, involves restoration of wetland and prairie habitat. Many mammals, birds, and amphibians that are on the Indiana lists of Threatened, Endangered, Restricted, and Species of Special

Concern have responded greatly to the restored land and are seen frequently by the property manager and birders.

Wetlands support diverse populations of wildlife, plants and fish, and supply habitat for hundreds of species, including many listed as endangered or threatened. Often called "nature's sponges," wetlands help protect water quality by filtering out pollutants and protect towns and cities against floods and storm surges. Wetlands also buffer coastal areas from erosion. They offer aesthetic and recreational opportunities, as well.

Administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the WRP provides eligible landowners the technical and financial assistance they need to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water and related natural resource concerns on private agricultural land.

For additional information on WRP and other conservation programs available in Indiana visit: www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/.





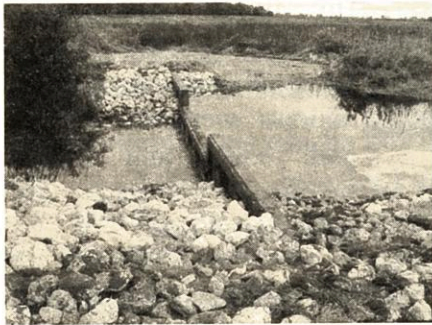
FIELD NOTES

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Wetlands Reserve Program

Submitted By: Mark Parrish of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Prior to European settlement, the Potawatomi Nation's traditional territory extended from the southern shores of Lake Erie in Ohio west to the Mississippi River in Illinois, halfway into Michigan's lower Peninsula to the north and south to the Wabash River. These territories were lost during the removal period and treaty-making with the U.S. government in the late 1700s and into the 1800s. While most of the Potawatomi were removed west of the Mississippi River, chief Leopold Pokagon negotiated with the U.S. to allow the Pokagon Band and its allied villages to remain within the Great Lakes region. Beginning in 1996, the Band began to restore its land base for the benefit of the tribal government and its citizens. Included in its purchases were 1,450 acres of land along the current Kankakee River, and land which was within the former Kankakee River marshland area near North Liberty, IN. Historically, the former marsh provided hunting, gathering, and fishing areas for our ancestors. The Band is utilizing the USDA-NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) to help re-connect to its ancestral cultural uses and activities.

Through the WRP, NRCS staff drafted a plan to recreate marsh areas and establish vegetation patterns over 1,147 acres of the Band's property to emulate the historic marsh and associated habitats. Several ditch plugs, a ditch realignment, and a weir structure have been constructed in strategic areas with the help of local contractors to create approximately 110 acres of shallow marsh. This will also affect water levels to help create several hundred acres of wetland habitat such as sedge meadows and wet meadows. Additional marsh areas will be constructed through shallow excavations.



Weir structure set in former ditch



Planting operations

Approximately 180 acres of warm season grasses and forbs have been planted to date by Pokagon Band Environmental Department and Land Maintenance Department staff to establish mesic prairie conditions. The grasses include Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Sideoats Grama, and Switchgrass. Wildflower species include New England Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Illinois Bundleflower, Partridge Pea, Purple Prairie Clover, and Canada Tick Trefoil. The planting was accomplished through valuable assistance presented by the St. Joseph County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the St. Joseph County NRCS. Seed was ordered through Pheasants Forever, who also offered use of their seed drill and tractor. The SWCD also provided use of their seed drill as well as technical support, and both the SWCD and NRCS provided technical support concerning agronomy.



FIELD NOTES



Mesic prairie alongside cool season grass firebreak



Big Bluestem & Black-eyed Susan

The experiences gained from the WRP activities offer several technology transfer opportunities for the Pokagon Band. The planting and establishment of native vegetated prairies is transferable to the installation of best management practices (BMPs), such as filter strips, vegetated swales, and native vegetated prairies to reduce non-point source pollution. These BMPs can be integrated into agricultural practices and development projects to manage stormwater in ways that protect water quality. Demonstrating technology transfer and expansion of the Band's capacity to address non-point source pollution, the Band utilized funds from a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to purchase a Truax FLX-II seed drill. Also, skills gained in wildlife habitat restoration/creation and management can be applied to other Pokagon Band properties in the future.

Over the long term, the restoration will provide a Tribal land preserve. The preserve is envisioned to offer recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities which can enhance the quality of life for our Tribal citizens.

The WRP project provides benefits to our local and regional neighbors by helping reduce the severity of flooding by retaining water on the Band's property that would have been conveyed to the Miller Ditch. The wildlife habitat created by the project provides a corridor link to surrounding State Conservation Areas, State Parks, and other private landowner efforts.

At a national level, the WRP project demonstrates how a partnership among the Pokagon Band, USDA-NRCS, St. Joseph Co. SWCD, Pheasants Forever, and US Environmental Protection Agency can be applied to meet two (2) sub-objectives under the US EPA's Goal #4 within the *2006-2011 EPA Strategic Plan*.

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems,

Objective 4.3: Restore and Protect Critical Ecosystems

Sub-objective 4.3.1: Increase Wetlands

Strategic Target: "By 2011, working with partners, achieve a net increase of 100,000 acres of wetlands per year..."

Sub-objective 4.3.5: Improve the Health of the Gulf of Mexico.

Strategic Target: "By 2015, reduce releases of nutrients throughout the Mississippi River Basin to reduce the size of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico..."



Saludos! My name is Lindsay Martínez-Whalen. I am originally from a beautiful tropical island in the Caribbean called Puerto Rico, characterized by having miles of white sandy beaches, mountains and valleys, and many other natural wonders. The island is also popularly known as "*La Isla del Encanto*", which translated means "The Island of Enchantment." I have been living in northern Indiana for almost a year now, where my husband and I both work for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Since our arrival we've fallen in love with the natural wonders in the Hoosier State and nowadays we feel like adopted Midwesterners. Coming to work here gives us the opportunity to explore new things, set new personal and professional goals and enjoy life at its fullest.

I have a bachelor's degree in Biology and I will receive my master's degree for Environmental Biology before the year ends. I have previous research work experiences related to microbiological and physical water quality testing for potable and recreational waters, wetland forest assessment and studies using oysters as bioindicators of environmental stress in coastal ecosystems.

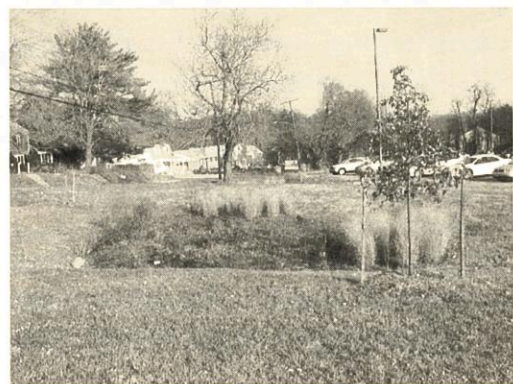
Last September I was selected as part of the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) for NRCS in South Bend. The opportunity to work for the NRCS was one of my career goals for a long time. It is my interest now more than ever to help people help their land regardless of language spoken since the main goal is for present and future benefit of all human kind. Since I was a little girl I have always respected and loved nature and it is my main interest to share that passion with the people in St. Joseph County.

Continued from Urban Meanderings

Rain gardens—these are low-lying areas or depressions planted with native plants. Not only do they collect and filter rainwater, but they can add a unique and natural beauty to a property. (Pictured Below, Photo by Brian Ash http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rain_garden)



Bioretention areas—unlike conventional retention basins, these areas are not fed by pipes, but rather runoff flows into them across landscaped areas. They are made up of a vegetated surface, a sandy mix of soil in the middle, and sometimes a perforated pipe underneath. This allows slower drainage of the area, much more infiltration, and pollutant removal. (Pictured Below, Photo by Moreau <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioretention>)



These are just a few of the many management practices used in low-impact development. By taking another look at development, and changing the way we manage our storm water, we can have a major positive effect on the quality of our water

Terms and Conditions

1. Orders of 500 or more trees per species receive a discount. Call for pricing information.
 2. Orders must be **postmarked** no later than: **March 1, 2009.** Orders will be filled on first come first served basis.
 3. Trees are available to anyone and may be planted without restriction.
 4. We reserve the right to make alterations if necessary.
 5. We **DO NOT** furnish replacements.
 6. Sizes may vary due to weather conditions beyond our control.
- Make all checks payable to:** St. Joseph County SWCD
5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4
South Bend, IN 46614
(574) 291-7444, Ext. 3

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() - _____

Telephone _____

Order #: 200900-

Order confirmations will be mailed in late March 2009

Fill in Number of packages and total	Pack of 5	Pack of 10	Pack of 25	Total \$\$
American Arborvitae 12-20"	x \$ 8.00	x \$ 15.00	x \$ 35.00	
Blue Spruce 16-22"	x \$ 9.00	x \$ 17.00	x \$ 40.00	
Douglas-Fir 16-24"	x \$ 9.00	x \$ 17.00	x \$ 40.00	
Norway Spruce 18-24"	x \$ 8.50	x \$ 16.00	x \$ 37.50	
White Pine 14-22"	x \$ 9.50	x \$ 18.00	x \$ 42.50	
Canadian Hemlock 12-24"	x \$ 9.50	x \$ 18.00	x \$ 42.50	
Black Walnut 14-20"	x \$ 5.70	x \$ 10.40	x \$ 23.50	
Chinese Chestnut 16-22"	x \$ 5.70	x \$ 10.40	x \$ 23.50	
Hybrid Poplar 18-24"	x \$ 8.30	x \$ 15.60	x \$ 36.50	
Pin Oak 18-28"	x \$ 6.00	x \$ 11.00	x \$ 25.00	
Red Maple 18-24"	x \$ 6.70	x \$ 12.40	x \$ 28.50	
River Birch 18-24"	x \$ 5.20	x \$ 9.40	x \$ 21.00	
Red Oak 20-30"	x \$ 6.00	x \$ 11.00	x \$ 25.00	
Sugar Maple 18-24"	x \$ 9.50	x \$ 18.00	x \$ 42.50	
Tulip Poplar 18-24"	x \$ 8.10	x \$ 15.20	x \$ 35.50	
Buttonbush 18-24"	x \$ 6.00	x \$ 11.00	x \$ 25.00	
Common Lilac 18-24"	x \$ 7.40	x \$ 13.80	x \$ 32.00	
Kousa Dogwood 18-24"	x \$ 8.30	x \$ 15.60	x \$ 36.50	
Ninebark 18-24"	x \$ 7.50	x \$ 14.00	x \$ 32.50	
Roselow Sargent Crabapple 18-24"	x \$ 7.50	x \$ 14.00	x \$ 32.50	
Red Bud 12-18"	x \$ 8.70	x \$ 16.40	x \$ 38.50	
Pachysandra (25 plants)			x \$ 14.50	
American Wildflower Mix (1 oz.)	x \$ 7.00			
Bird & Butterfly Mix (1 oz.)	x \$ 7.00			

****For OFFICE USE ONLY****

CK# _____ Date _____ By _____

**** All prices include sales tax ** Total Order \$**

The programs and services of the St. Joseph County SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age or disability. We are an equal opportunity employer.



St. Joseph County Soil and Water
Conservation District
5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4
South Bend, IN 46614

St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation District

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John Dooms, Chairman
Paul Williams III, V-Chairman
Dave Craft, Member
Jan Ivkovich, Member
Carole Riewe, Member

Associate Supervisors:

John Kulwicki
Melvin Kulwicki
Jim LaFree
Charles Lehman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
Richard Schmidt
Stacey Silvers
Dale Stoner
Dru Wrasse

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.

Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
Lindsay Martinez, NRCS
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Katie Kurtz, SWCD

Farm Service Agency Staff:

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Helene Cannoot
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