



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



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

September/October 2013  
Volume 15, Issue 5

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### What's Going On...

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

#### SEPTEMBER 2013

- \* **Sept 2 - Labor Day, Office Closed**
- \* **Sept 7 - Greening the Bend's Rain Barrel Ball**
- \* **Sept 9 - Last day to order rain barrels !!**
- \* **Sept 13 - Rain barrel pick up date @ Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, 1342 Berkshire Dr, South Bend**
- \* **Sept 17 - (TUES) SWCD Monthly Board Mtg., Centre Township Library, 7PM**
- \* **Sept 18 - Compost 101 Seminar @ Main Library, 6pm**
- \* **Sept 21 - Forestry Field Day, 9am-11:30, contact us for details**

#### OCTOBER 2013

- \* **Oct 14 - Columbus Day, Office Closed**
- \* **Oct 15 - (TUES) SWCD Monthly Board Mtg., Centre Township Library, 7PM**



Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Indiana's forestry and wood products industry produces more than \$7.5 Billion dollars and employs more than 54,000 workers. In fact, according to the assessment Indiana has ranked first nation wide in the production of kitchen cabinets, hardwood veneer, etc for the several years leading up to the publishing of the assessment. While Indiana is a leader in the Forestry and Wood Products industry, several outside factors look to threaten this sector of the economy. Some of these factors include outside timber growing markets from China & South America, disease/pest pressures in domestic forests and fragmentation of domestic forests due to conversion of land use.

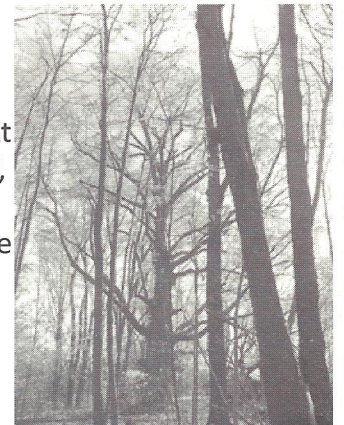
Anecdotally we here at the St. Joseph County USDA service center have seen an increase in the number of forest/wooded acreage being

### Have You Heard? ...

According to the 2010 state wide forest assessment published by the Indiana Dept. of

converted to farm ground, which with the spike in corn prices last year to \$8.00+, is to be expected.

While profits and progress are good things to pursue, let us not forget the lessons of the past. In the early 1970's grain prices were also good, and many acres of new land were brought into production. As a result of the increased grain production, along with other factors, markets were weakened, tough times came about for farmers in the 1980's. From these tough times, programs such as CRP, and other related Farm Bill programs were implemented to reclaim the acres of marginal ground that had been brought into production with the aspirations of high profits, which may or may not have been realized. So, when or if you are going to try to expand your operation by clearing a forested area, you may want to think to yourself, why is this woods here, where will the market be in the future, and do the benefits outweigh the costs?



*Thank You!*

**Kuharic Enterprises - General Donation - Personal Affiliate Member**

A huge **THANK YOU** to our donors this year!

Your support helps us provide St Joseph County with outreach and programs that might not be possible otherwise! Here are a just a few who have helped out (check out past and future newsletter editions for others)

**River Bend Hose Specialty**

General Donation - Gold Member

**Ava Preacher and Coleen Hoover**

General Donation - Gold Member

**George "Andy" Beutter, Indiana Farm Bureau**

General Donation - Gold Member

**The Farmer's Exchange**

General Donation - Silver Member

**Frick Services, Inc.**

Producer's Meeting - Silver Member

Partner Affiliate Members

**Ron and Jan Ivkovich**

General Donation

**Gunter Kinson**

General Donation

Interested in helping support YOUR SWCD by donating or volunteering?  
Contact us at **574-936-2024 ext 4**, email us at **info@stjosephswcd.org** or  
visit our website at **stjosephswcd.org**

Please note that the St. Joseph County SWCD is **not** considered  
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

However, Internal Revenue Code 26 U.S.C. §170(c)(1) provides that any donations made to **political subdivisions of a State** (including Soil & Water Conservation Districts like us) are  
**tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.**

*Thank You!*

**Mike and Lois Burkholder - Conservation Field Tours - Personal Affiliate Member**

# DON'T FARM NAKED



## PLANT COVER CROPS



Graphic based on a design by Practical Farmers of Iowa

organic matter and return of essential nutrients to the soil.

This year, we've had record rainfall and seen many flooded fields. How did cover crops help when it came to too much water? *Shannon Zezula, state resource conservationist for NRCS in Indiana, says the "cover" that cover crops provide is only part of the erosion control benefit. Zezula points out, "Any ground cover protects soil from taking a beating from the force of falling raindrops. Crop residue and living plants protect soil aggregates from crumbling under the hammering energy of raindrops."* Likewise, continued and varied use of cover crops increase soil health and adds organic matter to the soil. For each 1 percent in organic matter, there is a 25 percent increase in water holding capacity! In cases where planting was prevented due to flooding, planting cover crops can help prevent further erosion and keep the soil active.

So, the lowdown is this:

Healthy soils hold more water. This reduces runoff that can cause flooding, and also increases the availability of water to plants during dry periods. The reduced need for fertilizers and pesticides keep nutrients and sediment from running into lakes, rivers, and streams. There is less leaching from healthy soils into the groundwater as well. As yet another added benefit, fewer trips across fields with farm machinery means less fuel used, fewer emissions, and better air quality. So, reduced erosion, reduced nutrient cost, reduced fuel cost, reduced negative environmental effects... why would you not plant cover crops?

To read the CTIC/SARE survey in full visit [www.ctic.org](http://www.ctic.org). If you are interested in learning even more about cover crops and their benefits visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) and click on the "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil" icon. If you are interested in planting cover crops in the future and are not sure what to plant, your area NRCS and SWCD can help choose the right seed mix that will be most beneficial to your soil.



[nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov)

*Thank You!*

Robert and Charlene Plasschaert - Tree Sales - Personal Affiliate Member



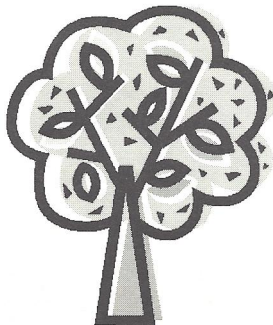
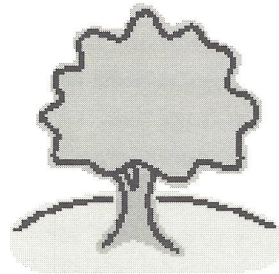
ST JOSEPH COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
2903 GARY DRIVE, SUITE 1  
PLYMOUTH IN 46563



## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

# Tree Sale!

It will soon be time for our 28th annual tree sale to get revved up! While the pick up date is not until April, we will be sending out the flyer/ pre-order form soon. Yes, we will have rain barrels,



accessories, and composters as well.

Not sure what to order? Keep an eye on the "Notices" section on our website for the Tree Planting Seminar date and time.

[www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org)

### Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors:

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Arlene Schuchman, Member  
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### St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:

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**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!!!!**