

60455 U.S. 31 South * South Bend, Indiana 46614 * Telephone (219) 291-2300

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A QUEST FOR BEAUTY AND COLOR

Have you ever wondered how you might go about attracting birds and butterflies or small wildlife to your backyard? Ever thought what it might be like to watch hummingbirds hovering over bright colored flowers or squirrels scampering through the grass? According to the Indiana Wildlife Federation, providing wildlife habitat in your yard (food, water, cover and places to raise young) is easy to achieve and the results are beautiful to be around.

The St. Joseph County SWCD believes they have the perfect solution to everyone's backyard needs. For the 1993-1994 fall/spring season, the District has arranged for a tremendous variety of trees, shrubs, and wildflower seeds available for sale. Our regular tree sales program is in full swing with nut trees, ground cover, wildflower seed and deciduous and evergreen plants for sale. We are offering two kinds of wildflower seed this year, in addition to three different types of ground cover (English Ivy, Pachysandra and Myrtle). Pre-paid orders must be received no later than March 1, 1994, to be processed. Items that are ordered will arrive in early April for springtime planting.



For those of you who are more interested in having a greater variety of trees but in packet form, we have a new and exciting program that will give you the unique opportunity to order all year long. You will have the choice of fall or spring to plant the selected packets, with a 100% guarantee for a full year. The "Habipacks" available are a Homeowner's, Flowering Shrub,

Wildlife and an Evergreen packet. Again, all orders must be pre-paid, however, the packets can be ordered also through a credit card (MC and VISA). Your packets will be delivered directly to your door at the time that you request them. Order blanks are available through the SWCD Office (291-2300) or by calling 1-800-825-5547.



Our District will also be offering unique and selective conservation items on a bi-monthly basis. The items will be selected for children, parents and grandparents interests. For the Christmas season, we will be offering a variety of mushroom packets, christmas wreaths and six-foot Christmas trees. For more information, please contact our office at 291-2300 for ordering instructions.

We told you this coming year was exciting! You certainly can add beauty and color to your home and community through any one of these programs. All you need to do, is pick up your phone and order.



FLAGS FOR SALE

Are you tired of mowing over your tree seedlings, or missing your field boundaries? The St. Joseph County SWCD now has marking flags available for sale. The flags will be \$.10 each and come in flourescent orange. Come in today and get your flags for spring.

HOW'S YOUR WATER

Do you know how safe your drinking water is? Have you ever wondered how your farmstead practices and facilities affect the water you, your family, and neighbors drink? A program called Farm*A*Syst can provide the answers to your questions.

Farm*A*Syst is a series of work-sheets designed to evaluate how farm practices impact ground water quality. The program was developed by the Wisconsin Extension Service. It is now nationally supported by the USDA Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Before you say, "Whoaaa... another government program - forget it." **READ ON!**

Farm*A*Syst works in the following manner: 1.) The participant fills out worksheets which assesses the groundwater pollution potential of the farmstead. 2.) Site evaluation information is gathered which assesses how soil and geologic features affect groundwater pollution potential. 3.) The worksheet, soil and geologic information are combined to give the participant information on potential sources of water contamination, what improvements need to be made, and help in prioritizing where to spend time and money most effectively.



"Hm... sounds like a good program, but I don't think I want government folks snooping around my farm; what if they find out I'm in violation of some law?" **ALL EVALUATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, AND ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTICIPANT!** (The only exception is in the event of a hazardous spill; state law requires all hazardous spills be reported to IDEM.) Farm*A*Syst was designed to be a self-help program not a regulatory program. If you feel more comfortable, you can arrange to do the assessment on your own. However, qualified personnel may help in giving you a more realistic assessment of your property. After the farmstead has been assessed and the participant receives the results, there will be no other follow-up done unless requested by the participant.

"OK, who do I contact to receive more information?" In St. Joseph County the agencies to contact would be the Purdue Cooperative Extension (Ph: 235-9604) or you can contact our office (ph: 291-2300). We would be happy to assist you in protecting your groundwater resources.

ANNUAL MEETING

The St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District's 34th Annual Meeting will be held at St. Adalbert's Church Hall on Friday, January 21, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

Guest speaker for this event will be Tom Turpin from Purdue University. Tickets are available through the SWCD office (Ph: 291-2300). We hope to see you there!

WINDBREAKS - NATURE'S DEFENSE

Windbreaks. That one word can spark off heated conversations in some areas of the country. Many landowners pulled out their straight tree rows vowing never again to plant another tree anywhere near their crop fields. This happened for a variety of reasons, some of which are mentioned below. However, a lot of changes have occurred over the years that make windbreaks much more user friendly.

For instance, many windbreaks planted years ago were very wide due to the fact that it was believed the wider windbreak provided more protection from the wind. We now know it is not the number of rows that determines the amount of protection a windbreak will provide, but the density of the windbreak. Windbreak trends are moving toward single row windbreaks in the field. This takes up much less space and still provides the needed protection.

Furthermore, tree species of years ago also, eventually, presented two problems. First, the trees would branch out and become messy by dropping leaves and branches in the field. These trees also made it difficult to farm under and so the producer had to farm around an ever widening strip. Second, as irrigation systems became more prolific on the landscape, the trees posed a problem because they were too tall. Eventually, these windbreaks were cut down to make way for, not only irrigation

systems, but larger field equipment.

The Soil Conservation Service has been trying to respond to these concerns and problems of windbreaks from earlier decades by researching new species of trees that will better handle landowner expectations. Many trees have come on the market that will allow more diversity in selection of windbreak stock. SCS has one such plant species they would like to research here in St. Joseph County. The American Cranberrybush is being tested as a viable species for use as windbreaks under center pivot irrigation systems in muck soils. We are looking for a 200 foot strip to plant the American Cranberrybush. If you have muck soils under irrigation and would be interested in helping in the project, contact the office at 291-2300. Winbreaks have an important function in the farm fields. Let's do our part by planting windbreaks that will benefit not only our farms, but the whole community.



WHAT IS THE LIVING EARTH REFORESTATION PROJECT?

The Living Earth Reforestation Project, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to rural reforestation. It is the only group in Indiana dedicated to rural reforestation.

Espousing the doctrine "Think globally. Act locally", Living Earth believes that losses of forests in distant lands can be directly compensated for by massive reforestation at the local level. The sole purpose of the reforestation project is to plant trees on a large scale starting immediately.

The group's plan is to purchase seedlings with funds raised from private donations and reforest private lands at no charge to the landowner. Volunteers will be recruited and mobilized to do the actual planting.

Why Plant Trees?

Trees and forests provide numerous benefits. Among the benefits are:

Forest lands enhance the beauty of our surroundings and improve the quality of our lives. Forest shelter wildlife and preserve the bio-diversity and gene pool of life on earth. Forest lands that previous generations have enjoyed are the birthright of all future generations.

Forests moderate the climate. The air temperature under the forest canopy is 6 to 8 degrees cooler in the summer. The cool air flows by currents to the surrounding territory and has a cooling effect.

The immediate and massive effort toward reforestation on a planetary scale is a crucial element for healing our global ecosystems and averting the global climate which may result. Many people feel powerless to halt global deforestation or the global burning of fossil fuels. Planting trees offers local residents a chance to feel empowered to influence these global issues.

What can I do?

The success of the project rests on the support it receives from the community. Every citizen has the ability to help the project succeed. Any contribution of time, effort or money--large or small--is welcome.

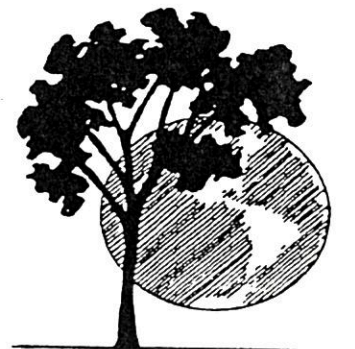
You can volunteer to participate in the planting of seedlings and other tasks.

You can donate items such as old buckets and any tools that can be used for digging and cultivating. The group also needs some larger items such as old mowers, weed eaters, roto tillers and even an old pickup truck.

You can help us spread the word by telling your friends and taking copies of this flyer and posting it at work and at church.

Financial donations are always needed. With a \$5.00 donation, the group can buy 50 seedlings.

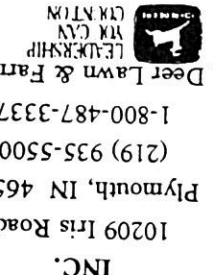

People interested in volunteering or making a donation to Living Earth Reforestation Project should call Conrad Kramer, Project Coordinator at 291-5814. Or write to Living Earth Reforestation Project, Inc.; P.O. Box 1561; Mishawaka, IN 46546.



T. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL
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<p>PLYMOUTH FARM CENTER, INC. 10209 Iris Road Plymouth, IN 46563 (219) 935-5500 1-800-487-3337 </p>	<p>ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC. 60455 U.S. 31 South South Bend, IN 46614 A Full Service Farm Organization</p>	<p>ZAHL'S ELEVATOR AND FEED MILL P.O. Box 66 New Carlisle, IN (219) 654-3625 Grain - Feeds Seeds - Fertilizer</p>
<p>LINEBACK REALTY SALES AND APPRAISALS Land - Commercial County Real Estate P.O. Box 2701 South Bend, IN 46680 (219) 233-3740</p>	<p>FRICK SERVICES - WYATT DIVISION P.O. Box 179 Wyatt, IN 46595 (219) 633-4065 Feeds - Grains Seeds - Fertilizers</p>	<p>WILSON AGR-SERVICE Lakeville, IN (219) 289-2101 (219) 784-3115 Bremen, IN (219) 546-2491 1-800-552-2828</p>
<p>WYATT FARM CENTER INC. 66400 State Road 331 Wyatt, Indiana 46595 (219) 633-4017/1-800-447-4141 White-Hiniker-Kelley-New Holland-Kubota-Woods-Land Pride-M.F.-D.M.I.-Century Sprayers-Deutz-Allis</p>	<p>LAKE'S FARM SERVICE, INC. Conservation - Fertilization Custom Application of Dry or Liquid Fertilizers 54300 Walnut Road New Carlisle, IN 46552 (219) 654-3116</p>	<p>KUHARIC'S AG LIMESPREADING SERVICE 57890 Crumstown Hwy South Bend, IN 46619 (219) 288-9410</p>
<p>Farm Credit Services  <i>Experience built from the ground up</i> South Bend, Indiana (219) 291-1277</p>	<p>AGP GRAIN, LTD. 1300 West 1st Road LaParz, IN 46537 (219) 546-2491 1-800-552-2588</p>	<p>AGP GRAIN, LTD. 1300 West 1st Road LaParz, IN 46537 (219) 546-2491 1-800-552-2588</p>

The programs and services of the St. Joseph County SWCD and the Soil Conservation Service are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.