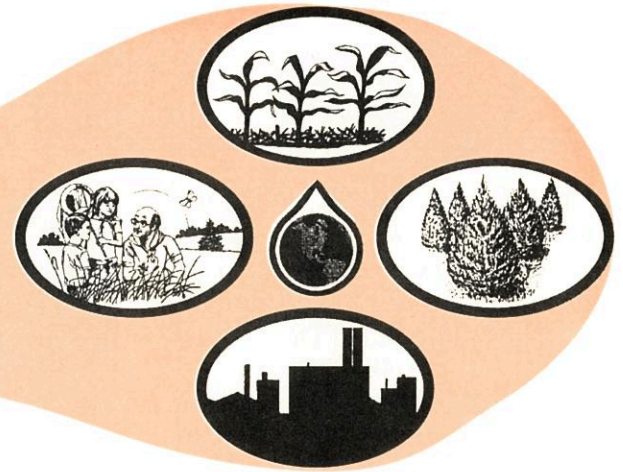
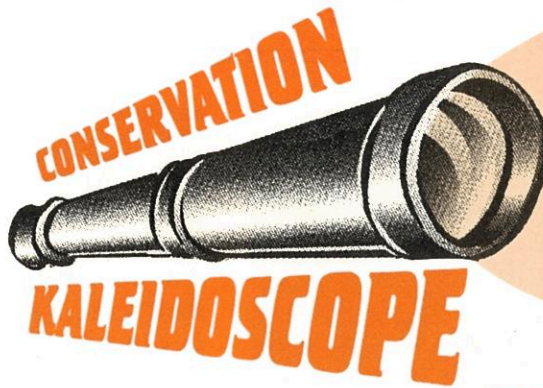




**St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District**



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

Oct/Nov/Dec 2005 5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4 *South Bend, IN* Telephone (574) 291-7444 Ext.3 Editor: Troy Manges
 Volume 7, Issue 4 Website: stjoseph.iaswcd.org Fax (574) 291-0284 Tonia Albright

Calendar of Events

October 10

Columbus Day Holiday
Office Closed

October 13

Compost Seminar
7:00 PM - Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

October 17

SWCD Monthly Board Mtg.
7:30 AM – Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

October 25 & 26

Contractor's Workshop

November 11

Veteran's Day
Office Closed

November 21

SWCD Monthly Board Mtg.
7:30 AM– Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

November 24 & 25

Thanksgiving Holiday
Office Closed

December 19

SWCD Monthly Board Mtg.
7:30 AM – Farm Bureau Mtg.
Room

December 26

Christmas Holiday
Office Closed



John Juhasz

46th Annual Meeting

Friday

January 27, 2006

6:30 P.M.

St. Adalbert's Hall

*Speaker: John Juhasz,
Juhasz Sez Productions*

Reservations are due Thursday, January 19, 2006.



**Tree Order
Forms**



If you haven't received an order form in the mail by the middle of October, and you would like to receive one please call the office at 574-291-7444, ext. 3.



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THE NATURAL EDUCATOR

DEER, DEER, EVERYWHERE!

It is fall and most of us will, at one time or another, have thoughts about the White-tailed Deer.

Some us will be looking forward to the sunrise from our deer stand and the anticipation of the hunt. Others will look at the diminished crop yield in some of our fields and probably not have happy thoughts about the deer.

Additionally, others will realize that fall is also the rut or mating season. Knowing this, drivers will drive with white knuckles on the steering wheel anticipating that a deer could jump in front of their car at any moment.

Whichever group you may find yourself in, we all agree, there are a lot more deer in Indiana now than there used to be. This, unfortunately is not necessarily a good thing.



It is hard to believe that just 75 years ago, we had no deer in our state. Between habitat loss and subsistence hunting, we removed the deer from our state. In 1935, the state released deer from Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania back into Indiana. The deer prospered and by 1970 we again had deer throughout our state. Then the deer did what all animal populations do and grew.

By the mid 1980's, we had a problem. Hunters were called on to help control the growing herd which reduced the deer population.



Today hunters help to maintain a steady population.

I should note that at this time, this is the only way to control the deer herd. Everyone has more deer than they need, so catch and release is not an option. Yes, we do have contraception for deer. Unfortunately, it has proven ineffective at controlling the population.

So, why care if the deer herd grows? Simply put, we are the stewards of this earth. We have altered the environment and removed predators. Deer are also able to do the same. By eating, they alter the environment so that other species cannot exist.

As stewards, we created the problem, but we can fix it, at least to a degree. The large forest and fields of the past our gone along with the large predators. But we can manage the areas we have left. By controlling the deer, we maintain the diversity of the planet, which in turn keeps our home healthy.

If you are a deer hunter, and want to help maintain the diversity of our planet, shoot does.

If you wish to donate your extra venison, consider contacting Sportsmen Against Hunger at (317) 638-5385.

If you are a landowner or resident of the county, hopefully you now

have a better understanding of the role hunters play in controlling deer herds and the beneficial results for wildlife and plants.

A few years ago Potato Creek State Park had its first deer hunt. Before this first hunt, I can remember looking into the woods for over 100 yards, and because the deer had removed the vegetation, the small animals were beginning to disappear. Today the plants and little critters are returning, thanks to deer management and understanding citizens.

COMPOST WORKSHOP

October 13, 2005

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Farm Bureau Meeting Room

5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4

South Bend, IN. 46350

574-291-7444 ext. 3

We will be discussing what to do with all those leaves.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The SWCD can provide a variety of education programs for your group, organization, summer camp or classroom.

Presentations cover a wide range of topics, from soil to water quality, earthworms to birds, reptiles to life in a hollow tree and much more. We can also provide talks on conservation programs that are available through the farm bill.

If you are interested in a presentation by the Soil & Water Conservation Partnership, just call the office at 574-291-7444 ext. 3

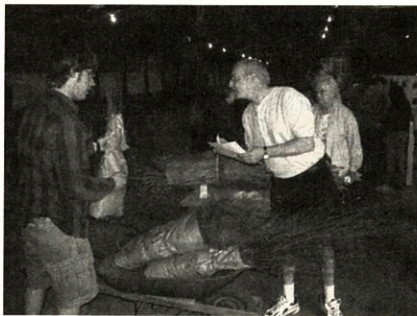


WOODLAND TIMES

Forestry News Updates for St. Joseph County



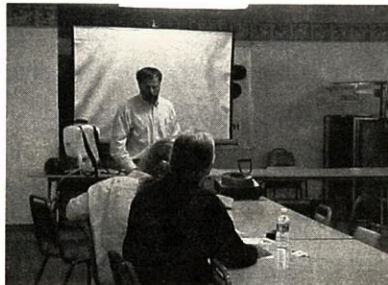
The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is beginning its 20th Annual Tree Sales Program. To everyone who has purchased trees or helped prepare trees, we would like to extend our THANKS! The money from the Tree Sales Program has allowed our district to provide an excellent service to the community and improve the quality of our environment here in St. Joseph County.



A customer picks up their trees at the Swine Barn

The new order blanks for the 2005-2006 Tree Sales Program will be available the beginning of October. We will have the following new tree species this year: Butternut, Nannyberry, Shagbark Hickory, and Silky Dogwood. All of the trees that will be for sale are good for wildlife, timber, and other environmental improvement uses. We are offering 21 tree species, 1 groundcover and 2 wildflower mixes.

The tree order deadline for this year is March 1, 2006. The trees will be available for pick-up on April 22, 2006, at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds Swine Barn from 8 AM to 12 noon. You can get an order blank online (stjoseph.iaswcd.org), call the office to have a form mailed to you or stop by the office to pick one up.



Bruce Wakeland answers a question at last springs tree planting seminar

Bruce Wakeland answers a question at last springs tree planting seminar.

As part of the Tree Sales Program, the St. Joseph County SWCD is sponsoring a tree seminar on February 7, 2006, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The seminar will be at the St. Joseph County Farm Bureau Building Meeting Room. The topics for the seminar will be tree selection and planting. To reserve a spot at the seminar please call us at (574) 291-7444 ext. 3.

Emerald Ash Borer, Better Known As EAB!

Emerald ash borers are pests of ash trees; White Ash, Blue Ash, Green Ash and Black Ash to name a few. They are part of a group of insects known as metallic wood boring beetles. The larvae of the EAB damage and eventually kill ash trees by feeding under the bark in the tree's vascular tissue, cutting off

the trees' food and water supply. As the EAB larvae feed, they leave tunnels which are S-shaped and curvy. When enough damage is done, the tree starves to death and dries out.



EAB adult on the left and the EAB larvae on the right.

Here are some symptoms that an ash tree is infested with EAB.

1. Dieback of leaves that begins in the upper third of the tree and progresses downward over time.
2. Appearance of 'water sprouts' on the tree.
3. Increased activity by woodpeckers on ash trees.
4. Vertical splits in the bark.
5. Tiny(1/8") 'D'-shaped exit holes in the bark on the trunk and limbs.
6. S-shaped channels under ash tree bark caused by larval feeding.

Visit the following Purdue University Website for more information www.entm.purdue.edu/Emerald_Ash_Borer/development/hoosier-text.html.



This photo shows the damage done by an EAB larvae. Notice the S-shaped channels and the 'D' shaped exit hole above the coin.



FIELD NOTES

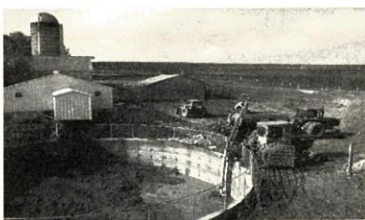


A LANDOWNERS GUIDE TO THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

There are many programs available to help landowners and producers implement conservation practices on their land. The conservation practices available are as wide and varied as are the problems that are facing our natural resources. How do you know what is right for you?

A visit to your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office can help you decide what is needed to protect or enhance the natural resources that you are concerned about. We will work with you to establish realistic goals and to develop a plan to reach those goals.

So what is available to help those wanting to protect the environment? The following programs provide technical and financial assistance to those wanting to restore, enhance and protect our natural resources:



Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers who face threats to soil, water, air, and relat-

ed natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the NRCS provides assistance to agricultural producers in a manner that will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. CSP identifies and rewards those farmers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

- a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including pasture, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal diversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-con-

serving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

- a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife habitat enhancement practices and protection.



Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

If you are interested in any of these programs, or would like a conservation planner to help develop a conservation plan for your property, please contact the local SWCD/NRCS office for assistance.





FIELD NOTES

STAND UP AND BE HEARD



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be conducting listening sessions across the nation to gather public input useful in preparing the 2007 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill Forums provide an opportunity for the USDA to hear directly from America's producers and other stakeholders who have tremendous insight to offer. USDA is approaching these listening sessions with an open mind, knowing the feedback we receive will help to set the course for a new farm bill.

When participating in the forums, the public is invited to respond to one or more of the following six questions:

1.) How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

2.) How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

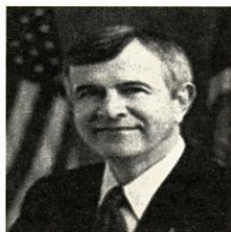
3.) How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

4.) How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

5.) How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

The public is also welcome to submit their comments via The USDA Farm Bill Forums website at www.usda.gov/farmbill.



Secretary of Agriculture,
Mike Johanns

Throughout 2005, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and other senior USDA officials will host Farm Bill Forums across the country. The dates, locations and times of the forums will continue to be announced as they are scheduled and posted on the USDA website.

ASH TREE SEED COLLECTION

The Indiana Plant Materials Committee and the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center have requested the assistance of NRCS employees and their partners to help with the collection of Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) tree seed. Due to the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer, ash trees in the Great Lakes Region are disappear-

ing from the landscape. Because of this threat, a non-funded Cooperative Agreement has been entered into between the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service and The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center.

Through this agreement, Ash seed collected from across the Great Lakes Region will be stored at the National Center for Genetic Resource Preservation Center in Ft. Collins, Colorado for future use. NRCS's goal is to secure seed over the next several years through voluntary seed collections that will afford future generations the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Ash trees.

NRCS volunteers across the Great Lakes Regions have been identifying Ash trees this past spring and summer and will collect the seed this fall. The following are the Ash species in jeopardy throughout this region: Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Blue Ash (*Fraxinus uadrangulata*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*).

Although public volunteers are not needed, if you are interested in more information in the



collection of the Ash Tree Seed, please call the office.



URBAN MEANDERINGS

STORMWATER BASINS

There are two general types of stormwater basins; detention basins and retention basins.

Detention basins “detain” stormwater for a period of time, but when the water level reaches a certain point, stormwater is discharged offsite. These basin areas have an outlet/overflow. During construction, protection of this overflow is critical, as this is the last line of defense against off site sedimentation.

Retention basins “retain” all stormwater on site.

Whether or not stormwater remains on site, these basin areas should not be mistaken for sediment traps. These areas are designed to handle a certain amount of rainfall. If they become silted in, flooding becomes an issue, as well as the potential for groundwater pollution.



The protection of these basin areas is critical both during and after construction. During construction, protective measures need to be implemented in order to keep all sediment in place, and prevent it from eroding downstream. Drop/curb inlet protection is critical in order to prevent off site sedimentation, and the sedimentation of (on site) stormwater basins. Maintenance of inlet protection should occur at least weekly and after every 1/2” rain event.

This is often overlooked, resulting in off site sedimentation.



A couple of possible options for inlet protection are as follows:

1.) Filter fabric inserts are common within St. Joseph County, but are frequently installed inadequately. These inserts can be installed under or over the grate. What is critical is that enough overlap is utilized to where maintenance is not going to be an issue (insert falls through when you lift the grate). I would recommend at least 3” of overlap. Maintenance of these measures is absolutely critical. Please consider more advanced products (Dandy Products or equivalent), which may be more expensive, but would be much more durable. It doesn’t take a lot of sediment to cave in these fragile filter fabric inserts, resulting in off site sedimentation, and overall a waste of time. These inserts should be used in combination with stone bags. Sand bags have been used in the past, but more times than not are run over by contractors, resulting in a failed measure and further off site sedimentation. If sand bags are utilized, strongly consider placing a sign stating “do not run over”.

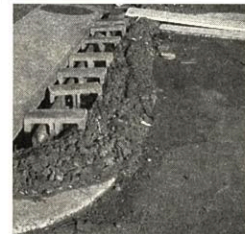
2.) Stone/sand bags should be placed at the upstream end of the grate, where they will prevent sediment from entering the storm sewer system. Sedimentation is the leading pollutant of Indi-

ana’s streams, lakes, and river. It is much cheaper to prevent this pollution altogether, rather than trying to clean up all of our surface waters, which would cost billions of dollars nationwide.

Post Construction (Stormwater Basins)

Attention Project Site Owners: Please consider posting “no dumping” and “no trespassing” signs around all stormwater basins. These areas are being misused. For example, grass clippings are commonly found in these stable basin areas. These clippings contain excess nutrients.

This can lead to an algae bloom, resulting in no oxygen in the water (fish kills), and potentially a foul odor.



CONTRACTOR’S WORKSHOP

A Contractor’s Workshop will be held on October 25th at the Osceola Town Hall from 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on the 26th at Ivy Tech from 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. The workshop will be provided by the MS4 entities of St. Joseph County, the City of South Bend, and the City of Mishawaka.

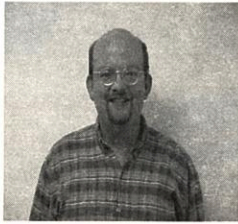
Panel discussions will be held by the MS4 entities and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management will be providing information on the rules of rule 5 and rule 13.

Please call the office for more information or to make reservations.





URBAN MEANDERINGS



MS4 CONSERVATIONIST HIRED

Hi! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tim Nemeth and I am the newly hired MS4 Conservationist for the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District.

My educational background includes a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin and a continuing education course (Class I Municipal Wastewater Operator certification class) at Ivy Tech State College.

I have been working in the environmental field for almost six years now. Water quality is my specialty. I have almost five years experience working as a technical report writer for Environmental Health Laboratories, a drinking water lab in South Bend, and a year of experience working as an Environmental Health Specialist for the LaPorte County Health Department.

I look forward to the challenges that this newly created position has to offer. I also look forward to offering assistance to individuals with their site plans for their erosion control measures. I hope to make the whole process as smooth and painless as possible. So feel free to give me a call or stop in the office even if it is just to say, "Hello." I look forward to meeting you.



PLEASE DON'T BURN YOUR LEAVES



The dry conditions throughout most of the state is one of the most important reasons right now to avoid burning your leaves. There are also health risks associated with this practice.

The following lists some of the possible ill-effects of leaf burning:

- 1.) Smoke from the burning leaves contains a number of toxic/and or irritating particles and gases. The tiny particles contained in the smoke can accumulate in our lungs and stay there for years. These particles can increase the risk of respiratory infection as well as reduce the amount of air reaching the lungs. For those that suffer from asthma and other breathing disorders, leaf burning can be extremely hazardous.
- 2.) Moist leaves, which tend to burn slowly, give off more smoke than dry leaves. These leaves are more likely to give off chemicals called hydrocarbons which cause irritation of the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Some of these hydrocarbons are known to be carcinogenic.
- 3.) Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas that results from a smoldering leaf pile. Carbon Monoxide is absorbed into the blood after inhaling the gas, where it reduces the amount of oxygen that the red blood cells can carry. Children, seniors, smokers, and persons suffering from chronic lung and heart disease are more susceptible to carbon monoxide effects than healthy adults.

Instead of burning leaves try one of the following alternatives:

Composting: Dry leaves alone will break down slowly over time, but you

can speed the process by mixing the leaves with green plant materials such as grass clippings, garden discards, and produce scraps. You can also add livestock manure or commercial fertilizer as a source of nitrogen.

Shredding Leaves: Shredded leaves can be used as mulch around garden and landscape plants. Mulches provide many benefits including weed suppression, moisture conservation, and moderation of soil temperature. No more than a two or three inch layer of leaves should be used around actively growing plants. Chopping or shredding the leaves first will help prevent them from matting down and preventing air from reaching roots.

Another option is to directly apply the leaves to a garden or unused area of soil. Try to spread the leaves over as large an area as possible and then till or plow them under. Chopping or shredding the leaves will help them break down faster.

Mowing: Shred the leaves through the lawn mower until the pieces are small enough to leave on the lawn.

For more information on composting, call the office.

STATE NURSERY ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE



If you would like to order trees from the IDNR Nursery program, the order forms are available at our office or on line. The web address for the on line order form is as follows:

www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry

Order forms are due Friday, October 21st, 2005, by 4:00 p.m.

Orders must be placed by phone, fax, or mail only.

For more information, call the office at 547-291-7444, ext. 3.



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

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Joe Long
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Beverly Riddle
Carol Riewe
Richard Schmidt
Paul Williams III

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
Harold Mutti

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
Brook Rieman, NRCS
Tonia Albright, SWCD
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Troy Manges, SWCD
Tim Nemeth, SWCD

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