

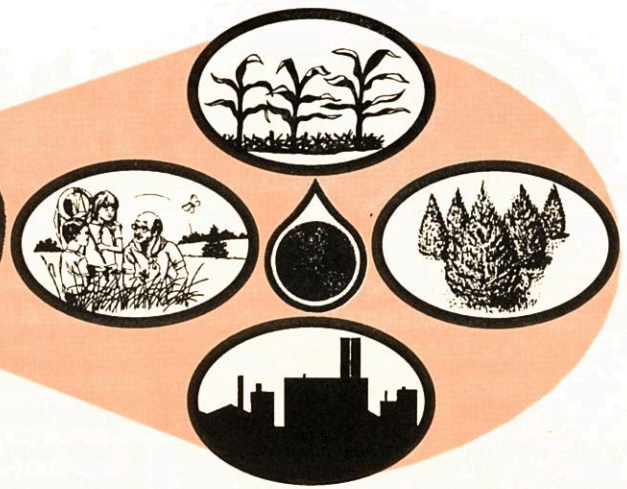


**St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District**

CONSERVATION



KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

Oct/Nov/Dec 5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4 *South Bend, IN * Telephone (574) 291-2300 Ext. 3 Editor: Troy Manges
Volume 5, Issue 4 Website: www.iaswcd.org/stjoseph Fax (574) 291-0284 Tonia Albright



Calendar of Events

October 6

Compost Seminar: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

October 16

Vermicomposting Seminar
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Farm Bureau Mtg. Room



October 20

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

October 22

Forestry Field Day
Elkhart County
3:00 – 6:00 pm



October 23

Tree Seminar
7:00 pm
Farm Bureau Mtg. Room



November 17

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

November 27 & 28

Thanksgiving Holiday
Office Closed



December 15

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

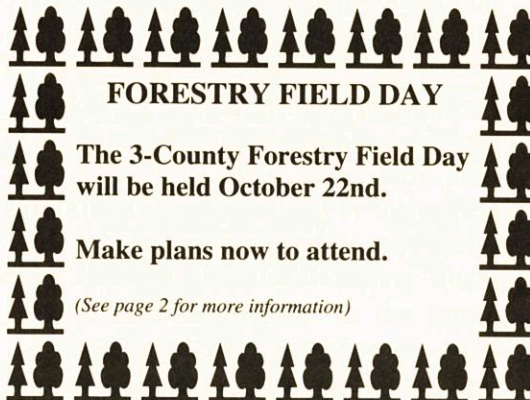
December 24, 25, & 26

Christmas Holiday
Office Closed



*The
44th Annual Meeting
of the
St. Joseph County Soil & Water
Conservation District
will be held
Friday, January 23, 2004
at
St. Adalbert's Heritage Center*

(Snow Date – Friday, January 30, 2004)



FORESTRY FIELD DAY

The 3-County Forestry Field Day
will be held October 22nd.

Make plans now to attend.

(See page 2 for more information)



What's Inside . . .

The Natural Educator	2
Woodland Times	3,4,5
Field Notes	6
Urban Meanderings	7



THE NATURAL EDUCATOR

Some Rambling Thoughts

By Rick Glassman,
SWCD Environmental
Educational Coordinator

While walking through a local fair this summer, I passed the "perfect" couple. They both looked very good and knew it, and most people noticed them. As they passed by I thanked God for giving the talent and skills to doctors to help make the "perfect" person.

Of course, seeing them made me think about myself and I decided that I too was "perfect", well perfectly imperfect. I then thought of an old cartoon and had to laugh for I could almost hear Popeye saying "I am who I am who I am." While that couple did look good, I feel it is a greater gift to be comfortable and understand who you really are.



Well, being an Environmental Educator, my thoughts started turning to planet Earth and how we, as humans, are always trying to "improve" the Earth. We, here in Northwest Indiana, live near the greatest wetland in the world. We did not like the way it looked so we "improved" it. The marsh is now gone. I do understand that we now have some of the greatest farmland in the world, and I do like to eat, unfortunately planet Earth is perfect, that is perfectly imperfect. I also realize that we must alter the earth in order to support our population. We should not, however, kid ourselves in to thinking we are improving the Earth. She already understood how everything must work together.

Soil supports the plants, the plants hold the soil. Plants produce their own food and a by-product called oxygen.

Animals eat plants, breathe oxygen and produce a by-product called carbon dioxide and fertilizer for the plants. Perfect, I don't know, but it works.

My thoughts turned back to the couple, who had convinced themselves that they looked perfect and I thought, would they feel the same way in five or ten years?

We need to understand that we are not improving planet Earth or making it "perfect," but understand how to work within the imperfections of our planet. The Earth has been around a long time and while we may be able to alter it we are not making it perfect, it already was.



Bird Feeding Tips

Many of us are thinking about starting to feed our feathered friends for the winter. These are some tips to help attract more birds.

Wash, clean and disinfect your old feeder. This helps prevent the spread of disease and helps prevent mold and mildew.

Place feeders within 10 feet of cover. This gives birds a sense of security and brings them to your feeder faster.

Use different seeds and multiple feeders. By doing this you are opening the welcome mat to a wide variety of birds. Enjoy your feathered friends.

COMPOST SEMINAR
OCTOBER 6, 2003
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Meeting Room
5605 U.S. 31 South
South Bend, Indiana
Please call for reservations:
574-291-2300 ext. 3

VERMICOMPOSTING SEMINAR
OCTOBER 16, 2003
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Meeting Room
5605 U.S. 31 South
South Bend, Indiana
Learn how you can use earthworms to reduce your trash and food waste.
Please call for reservations:
574-291-2300 ext. 3

3-County Forestry Field Day
October 22, 2003
3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Rex Miller Farms
(East of New Paris in Elkhart County)
Join us for an afternoon of forestry discussion in the woods. Mr. Miller's forest has had a recent timber stand improvement.
Please call the office for reservations:
574-291-2300, ext. 3
Hosted by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of:
Elkhart County Kosciusko County
&
St. Joseph County



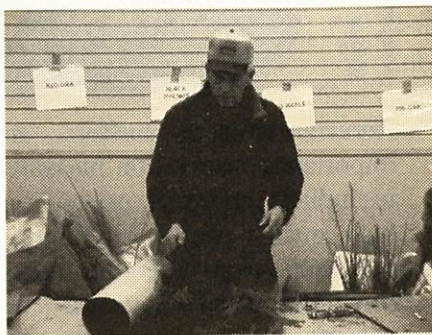


THE NATURAL EDUCATOR



The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is beginning its 18th Annual Tree Sales Program. We would like to **THANK** everyone that purchased trees from our previous programs and have helped support the SWCD.

This year the SWCD has a variety of evergreens, deciduous, flowering trees and shrubs for you to choose from. Our new trees and shrubs for this year are: Canadian Hemlock, Red Oak, Red Maple, Ohio Buckeye, Persimmon, Buttonbush, Serviceberry, Ninebark and Nannyberry. Our sale will also include Pachysandra, Creeping Phlox and wildflower seed packets. The items being sold have one of more of the following environmental improvement uses: borders/screens, erosion control, shade, windbreak, beauty, home sites, timber and wildlife.

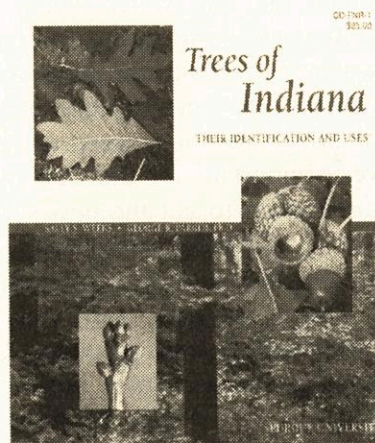


The order forms will be sent out in early October 2003. If you are not on our mailing list and would like an order form, please give us a call and request an order blank or visit

our web site at www.iaswcd.org/stjoseph to download a copy. The deadline to order is March 1, 2004. The items will be available for pickup on April 17, 2004. If you have any questions please contact the St. Joseph County SWCD office.

Now Available Trees of Indiana CD

The Trees of Indiana – Their Identification and Uses CD is now available at the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District. This CD was produced by Sally S. Weeks and George R. Parker, Ph. D. at Purdue University. The CD contains pictures and detailed descriptions of all the native trees of Indiana plus some introduced trees. There is a key to work through or a scroll down species list if you are looking for a



specific tree. The pictures illustrate leaves, buds, twigs, flowers, fruit, bark, habitat and form. The keys are designed for the student of Dendrology but are user friendly. There is highlighted terminology that gives definitions when selected. Also included are U.S. Forest Service range maps for the tree

species. The CD is Windows 95/98/NT/XP and Power Macintosh compatible. You can purchase the CD from the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District for \$25.00 by stopping in the office. If you have any questions please give us a call at (574) 291-2300 ext. 3.

Tree Seminar October 23, 2003

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a tree seminar on October 23rd, from 7-9 PM at the Farm Bureau Building Meeting Room. Dave Duncan, from Custom and Moore Tree Experts, Inc., will be talking about things to consider when selecting a tree to plant. Please call (574) 291-2300 ext. 3 to reserve a seat by October 21, 2003.



DNR Tree Seedling Orders

The Indiana DNR Division of Forestry 's tree sales program for 2003 – 2004 is now underway. October 17, 2003, is the deadline for submitting orders to be processed in the lottery. Orders placed after October 17, 2003, will be filled on a first come, first served basis. To obtain an order blank you can go to their web site at www.in.gov/dnr/forestry or visit our office.



WOODLAND TIMES

Forestry News Updates for St. Joseph County

STREAM-SIDE PLANTS PROTECT AND IMPROVE STREAMS AND RIVERS

Riparian Forest Buffers clean up the water for all Hoosiers. A riparian buffer is simply a strip of trees and other vegetation along side streams or other water bodies. The buffers intercept surface and subsurface water as it flows from the upland. They serve many important functions. Perhaps the most important purpose is to filter nutrients, pesticides, sediment and other pollutants from the surface water before it enters the stream or water body.

Trees in the buffer create shade to lower water temperatures thereby improving habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. The buffer provides a source of large woody debris to improve habitat and food supply for fish and other aquatic organism. Small pieces of debris, called detritus, made up of leaves, blooms and other pieces of vegetation, are very important food sources for aquatic organisms, which then become food for larger organisms and fish. Production of this detritus is a key function of the buffer.



Tree and other plant roots intercept shallow ground water flow and absorb nutrients and other chemicals.

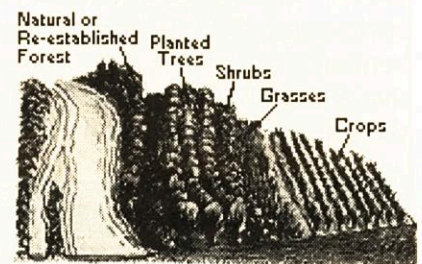
Finally, riparian buffers become important corridors for wildlife travel from one habitat area to another.

The best riparian buffers just don't happen. Good planning is key to any effective conservation measure. The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District and its partnership staff can help with this process. The first fifteen feet from the edge of the stream bank or other water body is often the most important. Dominant vegetation should be existing trees and shrubs, or if planting is necessary, select several local native species. The trees closest to the water should be species with wide spreading crowns. These trees will provide shade to the water when they mature and will reach out over the water to provide the much-needed detritus. As with any tree or shrub planting operation, weed control is very important for the first two or three years to get the best survival rate. Consider tree and shrub species that not only provide shade, but also produce fruit, nuts and other wildlife food products. Other species can be planted in the outer zone of the buffer to provide a minimum buffer width of 35 feet. Trees and shrubs in this part of the buffer will not be as important for shading the stream. Consider trees in the outer zone that will produce future timber and possibly other marketable products such as nuts or stems, like yellow twig dogwood, used in the floral trade.

Livestock should be excluded from the buffer to maintain healthy and vigorous growth. Some land users may want to plant a strip of warm season or other grass-legume mixture at the outside edge of the buffer. This area will trap sediment before it reaches the woody area. It can be used for hay production and as a travel area for crop harvest and other purposes.

To reduce water temperatures, the most important locations for a riparian forest buffer is along the south and west sides of streams and water bodies. The best buffers will be the ones that, when mature, achieve 50 percent crown cover with average canopy heights greater the width of the stream or 30 feet for water bodies.

Riparian Forest Buffers



Riparian forest buffers are important conservation measures in Indiana and will protect our high quality water by filtering pollutants from upland sources, providing food for fish and wildlife, and by reducing water temperatures. The St. Joseph county Soil and Water Conservation District is the place to get planning and installation assistance.



WOODLAND TIMES

Forestry News Updates for St. Joseph County

Summer Intern

Kerry Behnke worked as an intern for the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) this summer. She is majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Science at Purdue University.



Kerry received training on Farm Bill Programs, gathering information from the field, working on the Natural Resource Inventory and EQIP applications. She also worked on the St. Joseph County SWCD 4-H Fair display for the Nature Center.

When Kerry returns to Purdue University this fall she will be working on her duties as President of the Environmental Science Club. She will also be able to utilize some of her training in her class work.

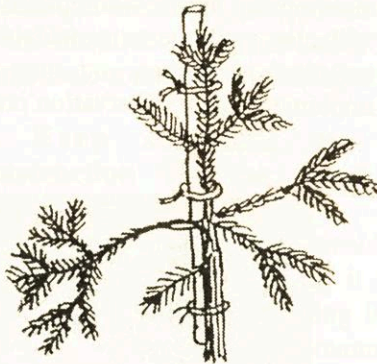
When a Storm Strikes

(The following information can be found in the Tree City USA bulletin No. 2, published by the National Arbor Day Foundation.)

Broken Conifers

Occasionally the top of a young conifer will be broken by falling

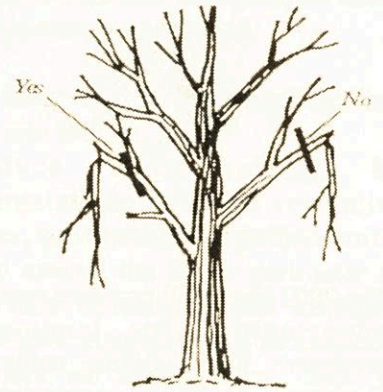
trees or limbs. You can restore form to your tree by helping a branch in the top whorl become the new leader. Select the best, and perhaps longest, and carefully bend it upward. Tie it to a pole that is securely fastened to the trunk. Check every few months to make sure the ties are not cutting into the new leader, and remove the pole in two to three years.



How To Prune Storm-Damaged Trees

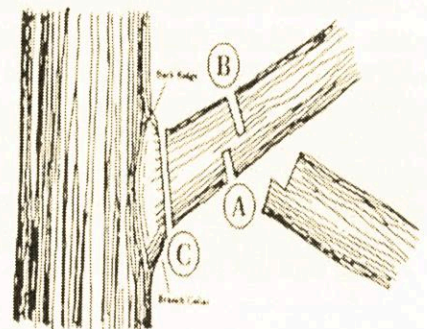
Removing the jagged remains of broken limbs is the most common repair that homeowners can make after a storm. It is also an important task because, if done properly, it will minimize the risk of decay pathogens entering the tree. Following good pruning techniques, cut off limb stubs where they join the next largest branch or the trunk. Do *not* simply cut immediately below the break. Cutting flush against a larger limb or the trunk was once believed to be the best way to prune. We now know that such a method is improper because it weakens a tree's natural defense against the invasion of disease organisms. The possibly harmful effects of pruning wounds can be minimized by making all cuts just outside of the raised areas at branch

intersections. These features are called bark ridges (above) and branch collars (underneath).



Because of its weight a large limb could tear loose during pruning, stripping bark and creating jagged edges that invite insects and disease. That won't happen if you follow these steps:

- A. Cut part way through the branch from beneath at a point one or two feet from the trunk.
- B. Make a second cut on the top of the branch, at a distance of 1/3 to 1/2 the diameter of the limb from the first cut. This should allow the length of the limb to fall from its own weight and be safely removed.
- C. Complete the job by making a final cut next to the trunk, just outside the branch collar, with the lower edge farther away from the trunk than the top.





FIELD NOTES



Interest High In Farm Bill Programs

The 2002 Farm Bill provides many opportunities for landowners, producers and wildlife enthusiasts. Costshare, permanent easements and technical assistance are greatly sought after by the residents of not only St. Joseph County, but Indiana as a whole.

The desire of so many to protect natural resources and to protect the ability to produce crops has created a situation where more people are seeking assistance for conservation practices than what we have funds for at this time.

Examples from 2003 Farm Bill sign-ups in Indiana:

Program	Allocation Received	Dollars Requested by Landowners
EQIP	\$6,207,000	\$24,809,073
WRP	\$9,350,000	\$19,476,050
WHIP	\$315,000	\$665,000
GRP	\$475,000	\$10,819,486

Obviously, the initial round of funding was not able to fund all applications. However, don't get discouraged and don't stop applying for Farm Bill dollars. The applications show Congress the needs and desires that landowners and/or producers have in protecting their natural resources. Strong sign ups for the Farm Bill

programs indicate to Congress the popularity of a program and provides support to keep or expand these programs.

Indiana State Conservationist, Jane Hardisty, is diligently working to get more money yet this year from other states that did not use all of their allocation. Also, conservation dollars are projected to double in 2004. We will continue to work with each of you to keep your conservation plan current and your application competitive. We will also continue to provide whatever technical assistance you may need to implement your conservation practice.



Protect Your Grassland With The Grassland Reserve Program

The Grassland Reserve program is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including pastureland, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. Restoring and protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and improves environmental quality.

Applications may be filed for an easement or rental agreement with NRCS or FSA at any time. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while retaining the right to conduct

common grazing practices: produce hay, mow or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation and construct firebreaks and fences.

The program offers several enrollment options:

1.) *Permanent Easement:*

This is a conservation easement in perpetuity. Easement payments for this option equal the fair market value, less the grazing value of the land encumbered by the easement. These values are determined using an appraisal.

2.) *Thirty Year Easement:*

USDA will provide an easement payment equal to 30 percent of the easement payment as described for the permanent easement.

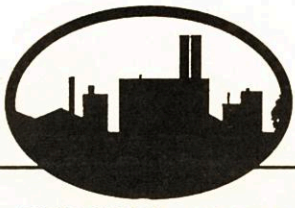
3.) *Rental Agreement:*

Participants may choose a 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, or 30-year contract which outlines a yearly rental payment.

If restoration is determined necessary, a restoration agreement will be incorporated into the rental agreement or easement. Cost share is available for the restoration.

If you need information about GRP, please contact our office or go to the NRCS website at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002>





URBAN MEANDERINGS

TEN GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

(The following information is taken from the Rule 5 handbook section 2.)

Soil erosion and sedimentation increase dramatically when land is disturbed at a construction site. The resulting detrimental impact on water quality concerns the public as well as natural resource managers. The following general principles should be the basis for a landuser's erosion and sediment control plan as development and construction occurs.

1. Fit the development to the existing terrain and soil.

Assess the physical characteristics of the site, including topography, soils and drainage, to determine how best to develop it with minimal environmental damage. Utilize the existing topography to minimize grading. Utilize the natural drainage patterns where possible. Preserve any existing wetland in accordance with the law.

2. Develop an erosion and sediment control plan before land disturbing activities begin, then follow it.

If necessary, get professional help in developing such a plan, which should identify the areas where erosion and sedimentation problems are apt to occur on the construction site and specify the measures to reduce those problems. Obtain all local, state, or federal permits that may apply to the construction activity. Make sure that all land disturbing activities on the site are carried out in accordance with the erosion/sediment control plan.



3. Retain existing vegetation on the construction site wherever possible.

If existing vegetation must be cleared, retain and protect it until the area must be disturbed. Maintain a buffer strip of existing vegetation around the perimeter of the site to reduce off-site erosion and sedimentation.

4. Minimize the extent and duration that bare soil is exposed to erosion by wind and water.

Use staged clearing and grading to reduce the amount of disturbed area to the absolute minimum needed for immediate construction activities.

5. Keep sediment on the construction site as much as possible.

Retain sediment from unavoidable erosion on-site by trapping it with sediment basins or by filtering it out of runoff with vegetative or manmade barriers. Install any needed sediment traps and basins before construction activities begin.

6. If possible, divert off-site away from disturbed areas.

Use diversions, perimeter dikes and waterways to intercept off-site runoff and divert it away from the construction site. Install these measures before clearing and grading to reduce the potential for erosion.

7. Minimize the length and steepness of slopes.

Use stair-step grading, diversions and sediment barriers to break up long, steep slopes. Design measures to slow runoff and allow deposition of sediment.

8. Stabilize disturbed areas as soon as possible.

Use stabilizing measures, such as seeding temporary or permanent vegetation, sodding, mulching, sediment

basins, erosion control blankets or other protective practices within seven days after the land has been disturbed. Consider possible future repair and maintenance needs of the measures selected.

9. Keep velocity of runoff leaving the site low.

Reduce runoff velocity by maintaining existing vegetative cover, preserving a vegetated buffer strip around the lower perimeter of the land disturbance and installing perimeter controls, such as sediment barriers, silt fences, filters, dikes or sediment basins or traps. Depending on local ordinances and site conditions, either a) discharge concentrated flow into a well defined, adequately protected natural or manmade channel or a pipe large enough to handle the expected maximum storm; or b) detain the stormwater runoff on-site in a retention/detention facility.



10. Inspect and maintain erosion control measures regularly.

Assign someone the responsibility for routine, end of day inspection/maintenance checks of all erosion and sediment control measures. Inspect all measures for damage after each storm event. Repair any damaged measure, since it may cause more damage than it prevents if not properly maintained. Consider consequences of the failure of a control measure when deciding which one to use. When construction is completed and the area stabilized, remove erosion control measures no longer needed in a manner that minimizes site disturbance, and seed immediately.



**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

Supervisors:

Paul Williams III, Chairman
Dave Craft, V-Chairman
Steve Horvath, Member
John Kulwicki, Member
Dale Stoner, Member

Associate Supervisors:

Jerry Dominiack
John Dooms
Jim Gries
Melvin Kulwicki
Jim LaFree
Charles Lehman
Jay Lindenman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
Beverly Riddle
Richard Schmidt

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
Harold Mutti

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Troy Manges, SWCD
Tonia Albright, SWCD
Beth Forsness, IDNR

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Mike Hoskins, CED
Helene Cannoot
Cindy Philhower
Denise Trimboli
Dee Fox
Claudia Bell