



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

Feb/Mar/Apr 1996

Editor: Rick Glassman
Beth Gushwa

1996 SWCD ANNUAL MEETING

The 100 guests of the 36th Annual Meeting of the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District were treated to a delicious two-meat buffet meal at Avalon Grotto Club and then sat back to be entertained by the Adams High School Chorus. The District then showed a short slide presentation on the achievements of the Soil and Water District. After the slides, the District presented awards to outstanding conservation-minded individuals in the community. Jim LaFree was then re-elected for a three year term as a supervisor of the SWCD board.

CONGRATULATION TO THE 1995 ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

GOODYEAR AWARD

Kenneth Carbiener, of Union Township, was recognized as the recipient of the 1994 Goodyear Outstanding Cooperator Award. Ken was one of 2,000 producers honored nationwide for his contributions in preserving and protecting the natural resources of this nation. Some of Ken's accomplishments include Integrated Crop Management on 326 acres, as well as, the use of minimum tillage on most crop acres. Ken's minimum tillage includes no-till soybeans. These practices help protect water quality by reducing the amounts of fertilizers, pesticides and sediment getting into the water resources. Additionally, Ken built a Grade Stabilization Structure at the head of a ditch. This structure keeps the ditch from eroding into the crop field.

Congratulations, Ken, and thank you for your work in protecting our county's natural resources.

FARMER OF THE YEAR

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to announce that Danny N. Donathen was selected at the 1995 Conservation Farmer of the Year. Mr. Donathen was recognized by the South Bend Audubon Society and the District for his conservation achievements at the recently held 36th Annual SWCD Banquet on January 20, 1996. Danny has been concerned about the environment and protecting our

natural resources long before stringent rules and regulations were placed upon him. Danny was selected to receive this special award because of his wise use of conservation tillage, residue management, permanent vegetative cover and Integrated Pest and Crop Management on over 400 acres. He also maintains a farmstead windbreak, wildlife cover and streambank protection along his watercourses. In addition to his conscientious efforts protecting our natural resources, his community involvement is also well deserving of this award. He is currently the President of Union Township School Board, Past President of the Lakeville Lions and instrumental in various crop harvests and local benefits to raise funds to cover medical costs for ill farmers and children of the community. On behalf of the South Bend Audubon Society and the St. Joseph County SWCD, we congratulate Danny N. Donathen for his outstanding achievements in St. Joseph and wish him the very best for the future.

CONSERVATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Amy Weiss, the District's Elementary Conservation Teacher of the Year. Amy is a third grade teacher at North Liberty Elementary School. Amy was instrumental in the creation of an environmental education outdoor laboratory on the school property. She was able to bring families, school and the community together for this excellent educational project. Amy was also able to bring in outside instructors to help show teachers the many ways to use the outdoor lab.

Amy's dedication and insight also brought her recognition as the District's State Conservation Teacher of the Year.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Eugene Myers has served on the SWCD board since 1961. His dedication and commitment to the District's Forestry Program is what one can only say as extraordinary. During the last 10 years, Eugene has been instrumental in assisting the Forestry Committee, without any compensation, Eugene has personally delivered hundreds of advertising tree posters and thousands of tree flyers.

The District Forestry Committee would like to thank Eugene for his efforts and sincere cooperation to the District's Forestry Program, it is truly appreciated.

WHAT SHAPE ARE YOUR ASSETS IN?

How many of us have been reviewing our cash flows in the last few months? Whether looking over the past year for tax purposes or looking ahead to plan for next year, we all, at some point, inventory what we have of value. As we often inventory the condition of our equipment or buildings, do we ever consider the condition of other inventory we have such as soil, water, plants, and animals? If these inventory items are not kept in good condition in our fields, we may see the effect at the end of the year in our cash flow. Poor condition of these natural resources can cause lower yields, higher fertilizer or chemical bills, clean-up costs (from sedimentation of ditches or contaminated drinking water), loss of crops, poor growth of plants, unhealthy animals (domestic or wild) or, conversely, an overabundance of animals. The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can assist you in developing your inventory and providing alternatives for any natural resource problems you may be experiencing. Contact the SWCD/NRCS office and let us help you keep your inventory in good repair.

THE DISTRICT ON THE MOVE IN '96

St. Joseph County SWCD has always prided itself in being a leader in conservation and this year promises to be no different. The year 1996 will be bringing with it some new and innovative programs for the SWCD.

If you are a homeowner or future homeowner, be sure to give the District a call and ask about our Environmental Guide for Homeowners. Although not quite ready yet, this guide will contain information on landscaping, erosion and basic soil properties and even information on drainage. Stay tuned for more information on this great little guide.

The St. Joseph County SWCD and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 690-1538 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**St. Joseph County Soil & Water
Conservation District
60455 U.S. 31 South
South Bend, IN 46614**

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Permit No. 225

Water quality has always been concerned of the District and one of the best ways to help out water quality is to leave filter strips along the sides of streams and ditches. To help in this area the District will be introducing a Cost-Share Filter Strip Program. This program, which should begin in the fall, will help provide moneys for the planting of filter strips.

The youth of the county will also play a large role in the District's programs for 1996. This year the District is offering matching grants for the development of Environmental Education Outdoor Laboratories. The grants, either a 50% - 50% match for existing projects or 75% - 25% match for new labs, will be for up to \$500. Applications are due into the SWCD office by March 1, 1996.

The District also has plans for Urban Reforestation. Working with the South Bend Parks Department and the City of South Bend, this program will supply large trees to local residents for the beautification of residential areas in South Bend. Participants will receive education and information on the planting and care of their trees.

The District is excited with the new programs and looks forward to working with it's new alliances in the fight for conservation and education in our county.

**WANTED !!!
TREE ORDER FORMS
DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 1996
ORDER TODAY !!**