



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CONSERVATION
KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

Oct./Nov./Dec. 2009 5605 U.S. 31 South, Ste. 4 South Bend, IN Telephone (574) 291-7444 Ext.3 Alisa Wynn, Editor
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EVENT CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 6 -Compost Workshop @ 6:30pm
- 12 -Columbus Day
- 20 -SWCD Board Meeting @ 7:00am
~ Farm Bureau Meeting Room
- 31 -Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 1 -Daylight Savings Time Ends
☼ *Fall Back* ☼
- 11 -Veterans Day ~ *Office Closed*
- 15 -America Recycles Day
- 16 -SWCD Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
~ Farm Bureau Meeting Room
- 26 -Thanksgiving ~ *Office Closed*

DECEMBER

- 21 -SWCD Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
~ Farm Bureau Meeting Room
- 21 -First Day of Winter
- 25 -Christmas ~ *Office Closed*
- 31 -New Years Eve ~ *Office Closed*



JANUARY

- 1 -New Years Day ~ *Office Closed*
- 11-13 - IASWCD Annual Conference
(Indianapolis) ~ *Office Closed*
- 18 - Martin Luther King Day
~ *Office Closed*
- 19 -SWCD Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
~ Farm Bureau Meeting Room
- 29 - 50th Annual SWCD Meeting
~ *St. Hedwig Parish,
South Bend*

We are proud to announce...
**The St. Joseph County
Soil & Water Conservation District's
50th ANNUAL MEETING
1959-2009**

*You are cordially invited to join us at the
St. Hedwig Parish for a Polish Buffet
and a night of Entertainment*
331 S. Scott St., South Bend, Indiana

Friday, January 29, 2010

Additional details will be forthcoming!

Reservations will be accepted until Thursday, January 21, 2010

OWL TRIVIA

1. All owls are nocturnal. **T or F**
2. How many 'families' of owls are there? **5, 4, 3, 2**
3. Owls must turn their entire heads to look sideways.
T or F
4. Owls range over the whole globe except this region:
Antarctica, Finland, Greenland, Iceland
5. Owls nest in: **holes in trees, tree nests,
on the ground, all of these**
6. All owls lay the same color egg, which is ____.
speckled, grey, light brown, white
7. Owls feed entirely on animals. **T or F**
8. A single barn owl can eat over 1,000 mice in a year.
T or F
9. A group of owls is called a (an) ____.
assembly, flock, parliament, swarm
10. Which owl is the smallest in the world? **Elf, Pigmy, Saw-whet, Screech**

**FIND OUT THE ANSWERS AND
LEARN MORE ABOUT OWLS
ON PAGE 7 INSIDE!**



**TREE
PRE-SALES**

Order forms for our
24th Annual
2009-2010 Tree Sale
will be mailed out
during the
1st week of October.
If you have not
received an order
form and would like
one, please give our
office a call
@ 574-291-7444 ext.3.



**TREE
SELECTION
& PLANTING
SEMINAR**

Tues., Feb. 2, 2010
@ 6:30 P.M.
Farm Bureau
Meeting Room
Please call our office
to RSVP by Mon,
Feb. 1, 2010.



What's Inside . . .

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Field Day at Eddy Street Commons Construction Site: A Morning of Learning and Networking

On Friday, August 7, 2009 the **St. Joseph County MS4 Education Committee** hosted an educational field day for contractors, planners, and developers. About 65 people attended the field day at the Eddy Street Commons construction site in South Bend, near the Notre Dame campus. The field day featured a tour of the active construction site and discussion of storm water pollution prevention practices, a presentation on post-construction storm water practices and presentations from vendors on specific storm water products. The purpose of this field day was to increase awareness of storm water pollution and prevention, site planning and storm water permitting requirements for construction activities that occur within St. Joseph County. It also provided the opportunity for vendors, contractors, planners, and developers to network with each other.

The MS4 Education Committee appreciates the time and efforts of the attending vendors:

- **Advanced Drainage Systems**
- **CBI Systems**
- **CONTECH-CPI**
- **D2 Land & Water Resource**
- **Inlet and Pipe Protection**
- **Indiana Ready Mix Concrete Association**
- **Mulch Plus**
- **NuVale Products**

We would like to extend special thanks to Lawson-Fisher Associates and Kite Realty for their assistance in hosting the event.

What is an MS4?

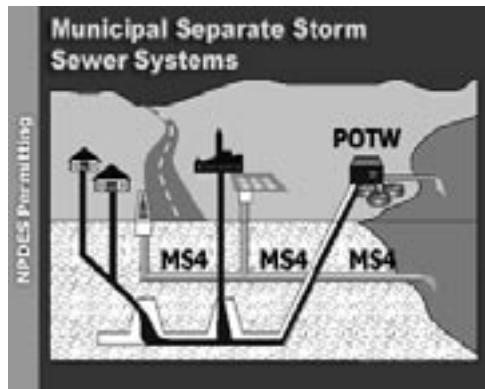
What is an MS4 Education Committee?

MS4 is an acronym for **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System**.

In December of 1999, a law commonly referred to as **Phase II of the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permitting program was signed. This program aims to reduce the amount of pollutants in our waterways by helping keep storm water clean through education, awareness, and new regulations for illegal

dumping, construction sites, and development requirements.

According to the EPA, "While **combined sewer systems** have **one set of pipes** to carry both storm water and wastewater, **municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s)** have **separate lines**—one set for the storm water and another set for sewage. **MS4s that discharge to surface waters** are also required to get **NPDES** permits, since they are, in effect, point source discharges of water mixed with various pollutants—oil and grease, metals, pesticides, pathogens, sediment and nutrients." (<http://tinyurl.com/lgsmaa>)



POTW is an acronym for Publicly-Owned Treatment Works.

Image Source: EPA: <http://tinyurl.com/lgsmaa>

The federal NPDES Phase II program required each state to develop their own programs and state laws to carry out the EPA's requirements and goals. In Indiana, the **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)** regulates the state storm water permitting for MS4's under Indiana state law 327 IAC 15-13. Usually, the rules under this law are simply called "**Rule 13**".

To most efficiently meet the goals required under the NPDES Phase II program/Indiana's Rule 13 program, the MS4 entities of St. Joseph County have formed the cooperative **MS4 Education Committee**. Participating MS4s include **City of Mishawaka, City of South Bend, St. Joseph County, Bethel College, and Ivy Tech College**. While not an entity designated as an MS4, the **St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District**, which has been involved in storm water permitting programs since 1992, has been contracted to, among other things, provide technical advice, perform key educational activities, and act as a hub for the MS4 Education Committee. Representatives from the **Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)** and **Lawson-Fisher Associates** are also on the committee.

The mission of the MS4 Education Committee is to inform residents, operators and employees within the MS4 areas about the impacts storm water runoff can have on water quality. In addition to this, the committee works to educate the public about ways they can minimize their impact on storm water quality. Providing information and knowledge to the public is the best way to promote the MS4 program, gain support and increase compliance with the program throughout our area.

For more information on issues related to storm water, visit our website at www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org/ms4_conservationist.html



The Ancient Art Form of Tree Sculpture

... Believe it or Not!

In the 1920's a hobby, bean farmer from Hilmar, California named Axel Erlandson (1884-1864) discovered a curious natural phenomenon in a hedgerow on his farm. Two trees had leaned up against each other and self-grafted, an occurrence called "inosculation." Inspired by this observation, Erlandson began intentionally shaping trees into fantastic formations by bending and grafting them together. The shaping of tree trunks to create art and functional items through bending, grafting, pruning, and multiple planting is called "arborsculpture."



Axel Erlandson underneath one of his arborsculpture (Image credit: Wilma Erlandson, Cabinet)

One of Erlandson's most famous trees is the "Basket Tree," which he created by planting six sycamore trees in a circle and then grafting them together with 42 different connections to form diamond patterns. Erlandson honed his skills to be able to transform straight tree trunks into intricate designs in the shapes of hearts, lightning bolts, basket weaves and rings.

In 1945, Erlandson transplanted about a dozen of his trees to Scotts Valley, California in the Santa Cruz mountains, where he continued to make more tree sculptures. By 1947, he began displaying his tree sculptures as a public attraction for a fee, marketing his creations as "Circus Trees," and advertising with a large road sign that said simply, "SEE THE WORLD'S STRANGEST TREES HERE." That same year, Erlandson wrote to Robert Ripley: "Enclosed you will find two snapshots of trees which I have trained to grow into these unique shapes. This training took about ten years. These trees are located on the Los Gatos highway near Santa Cruz, California." Ultimately, Erlandson's trees were featured in Robert Ripley's Believe It or Not! twelve times.

Erlandson guarded his self-taught methods of creating the Circus Trees as a "trade secret". When asked by children how he got his trees to grow into such complex shapes, he would reply, "I talk to them." Erlandson's Tree Circus was a labor of love, as his yearly income during a relatively good year brought in less than \$330.00. Still, having began his tree forays so late in life (he was in his 60's), Erlandson regretted not having more time to further refine his methods and to pass his knowledge on to a worthy predecessor.

When Axel Erlandson died in 1964, there were 74 Circus Trees on his Scotts Valley land, however, with no one to tend to them they began to die, until the 1970's when the remaining trees were purchased by Michael Bonfante for display at a theme park that was being built about 50 miles away in Gilroy, California. In 1985, the surviving 29 Circus Trees (formed out of Sycamores, Box Elders, Ash and Spanish Cork trees) were transported from the Santa Cruz mountains to the Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park, an effort that involved the coordination of more than 20 municipal, county and state agencies.

To this day, all 29 of the transplanted Circus Trees have survived at the Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park, 19 of which are on public display throughout the park. In fact, the famous Basket Tree is featured as the park's centerpiece.

Modern-day arborsculpture is actually a re-emergence of an ancient practice. There are records of gardeners grafting trees in China and Mesopotamia as early as 2000 BC. It became quite common in ancient Greece, as it did later in Renaissance England.

Today, there are about a dozen or so arborsculpturists around the world that started experimenting with this art form at around the late 1980s or early 1990s (in Oregon, China, Germany, England, Australia, Israel, and Thailand.) Most of these individuals had never heard of Axel Erlandson. Rather, they each came into this practice in their own way, out of a desire to see whether they could shape tree trunks into different shapes.

For more information on this fascinating subject, the book *Arborsculpture Solutions for a Small Planet* (2005) by Richard Reames and Reames' website www.arborsmith.com may inspire you to try your own hand at grafting trees. For more information about the Gilroy Gardens Theme Park, visit www.gilroygardens.org or give them a call at (408) 840-7100.



Basket Tree (Image credit: jpeepz flickr)



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Kaleidoscope Editor's Note: Since this article was originally published on 8/06/09, we have edited the contents of Ms. Wyant's article to reflect that this edition of the Kaleidoscope is being published in October 2009. Lisa Wynn, Editor

Conservation Stewardship Program Sign-up Starts Aug. 10th

By Sara Wyant, *Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.*

While many farmers and ranchers already pride themselves on protecting soil, water, and wildlife, USDA's newest program is designed to help pay for those stewardship activities and encourage more. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offices will accept applications in the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Many of you may remember these initials from the past, but the Conservation Stewardship Program is a brand new program, sharing nothing but its CSP initials with the discontinued Conservation Security Program. As part of the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress renamed and revamped the former Conservation Security Program completely to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers. NRCS Chief Dave White says the new program will be open coast-to-coast, with states determining resource areas of concern.

"The minimum requirement is that the producers have to meet one resource of concern on their entire operation, such as meeting soil erosion on your entire farm, or it could be water quality or wildlife for instance," says White. "Each state will determine what the resources of concern are for their state, so air quality could be a resource of concern in California but not in Alaska. To be eligible you have to meet one resource of concern on your entire farm, and then you have to be willing to meet one additional priority resource of concern within the five-year contract."

Because CSP is new, producers won't know at signup what reimbursement rates will be right away. As laid down by Congress in the Farm Bill, the new CSP can enroll 12.7 million acres each year from 2009 to 2012 at a national average of \$18 per acre. The first [few months'] signup will

help determine the mix of rates, with rangeland potentially averaging less and cropland averaging more, in order to meet the \$18/acre goal.

"NRCS won't know what the reimbursement per acre will be until we've had the first signup, as a kind of a pilot for future signups," White says. Based on this first [few months'] signup, he says, in future signups NRCS will offer a fixed national price per acre for each type of land, whether cropland or range or forest. He says the program will be a farmer-friendly menu-driven system "based on environmental points, on how much environmental benefit your particular existing operation provides and how much benefit your particular offer for the future creates."

To apply for the newly revamped CSP, potential participants will be encouraged to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. It will be available on NRCS Web sites and at NRCS field offices.

After self-screening, the producer's current and proposed conservation practices are entered in the conservation measurement tool (CMT). This tool estimates the level of environmental performance to be achieved by a producer implementing and maintaining conservation activity. The conservation performance estimated by the CMT will be used to rank applications. States will determine their own priority resource concerns, one of the criteria that will be used to rank applications. States will establish ranking pools to rank applications with similar resource concerns.

NRCS field staff also will conduct on-site field verifications of applicants' information obtained from the CMT. Once the potential participant has been field verified and approved for funding, he or she must develop a conservation stewardship plan. White expects [that the first round of] field verification will be done in September, with contracts offered in October.

For information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, producers can visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp or visit their local NRCS field office.

Agri-Pulse provides you with a weekly update on the politics and players driving agricultural and rural policy. You'll receive insight on the 2008 farm bill, conservation and environmental policy, renewable energy, international trade, and more! For a sample issue, visit the Agri-Pulse website at www.agri-pulse.com or call 630-443-3257. The Agri-Pulse website also offers agriculture-related news that is updated regularly.

August 29, 2009 -- Indianapolis -- Lt. Governor, Becky Skillman, Sec. of Agriculture and Rural Development, announced that the new **Agriculture Director** of the **Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)** will be **Joe Kelsay**, a 6th generation dairy and crop farmer. In early November upon completion of the 2009 harvest, Kelsay will succeed Anne Hazlett who will move on to serve as Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry under ranking member U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss. Kelsay is a 1999 graduate of Purdue University in agricultural economics. His family's farm is in rural Johnson County, IN. Kelsay farms full-time with his father and brother.



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Indiana USDA's Farm Service Agency to Begin Accepting Applications for New Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Indianapolis, August 19, 2009 - Julia A. Wickard, State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Indiana today announced that biomass conversion facilities can begin signing up to participate in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, which will help increase production of renewable energy. The program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible material to biomass conversion facilities and FSA will provide financial assistance to collect, harvest, store and transport eligible materials.

"This program will benefit producers, the developing biomass industry, the general public and the environment as we continue working to expand production and availability of renewable energy," said Wickard. "Owners of eligible material can receive financial assistance for delivering qualified biomass to conversion facilities that use biomass for heat, power, bio-based products or advanced biofuels."

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA State Office [574-291-7444, ext 100 in St. Joseph County] or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information. FSA will begin accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.

For example, if a qualified biomass conversion facility pays a producer \$30 per dry ton for biomass, the material owner or producer would be eligible for a matching payment of \$30 per dry ton from FSA. This payment will help offset the costs of CHST.

Biomass conversion facilities may become "qualified" by submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the FSA State Office. The MOU generally provides the requirements for becoming a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA County Office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.



NEWS RELEASE

NRCS ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

INDIANAPOLIS, July 21, 2009—USDA's **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** announces that \$1.7 million dollars in Farm Bill funds will be focused on partnership initiatives over the next five years through the **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)**. CCPI is a conservation initiative that enables NRCS to target Farm Bill funds to projects and geographic areas proposed by eligible partners.

Under CCPI, NRCS solicits proposals and enters into partnership agreements with selected entities. Four CCPI projects have been approved in Indiana. As these projects are implemented, eligible producers located in the targeted geographic areas will be able to apply for assistance. The approved projects will be funded through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** and the **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** of the 2008 Farm Bill.

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

“CCPI is an opportunity for us to target NRCS funds for conservation practices in areas that also meet the conservation objectives of our partners,” said NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty. “I am happy to announce that we will be implementing four of these partnership projects in Indiana over the next few years.”

The four CCPI Projects include:

- The **Nature Conservancy** will utilize \$40,000 of Fiscal Year 2009 EQIP funds and \$160,000 of Fiscal Year 2010 EQIP funds to implement the Two-Stage Ditch practice in 26 northern Indiana counties (Newton, Jasper, Benton, Pulaski, White, Tippecanoe, Fountain, Montgomery, Carroll, Clinton, Boone, Cass, Fulton, Marshall, Kosciusko, Wabash, Miami, LaGrange, Noble, Whitley, Huntington, Steuben, DeKalb, Allen, Wells, and Adams).
- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forestry** will utilize \$200,000 of Fiscal Year 2009 EQIP funds and \$300,000 per year of Fiscal Year 2010 through 2013 EQIP funds to implement forestry practices on lands enrolled in IDNR’s Classified Forest and Wildlands Program.
- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife** will utilize \$31,780 of Fiscal Year 2010 WHIP funds for Woody Cover practices in IDNR’s 14 Quail and Pheasant Habitat Priority Areas throughout the state.
- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife** will utilize \$12,710 of Fiscal Year 2010 WHIP funds for Regeneration Opening practices in eight southern Indiana Counties (Morgan, Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Jackson, Martin, Washington, and Orange).

Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or contact your local NRCS Field Office for additional program information.

For the past 20 years, a tillage/residue transect has been

Conservation Tillage On the Rise in St. Joseph County

conducted throughout the state of Indiana.

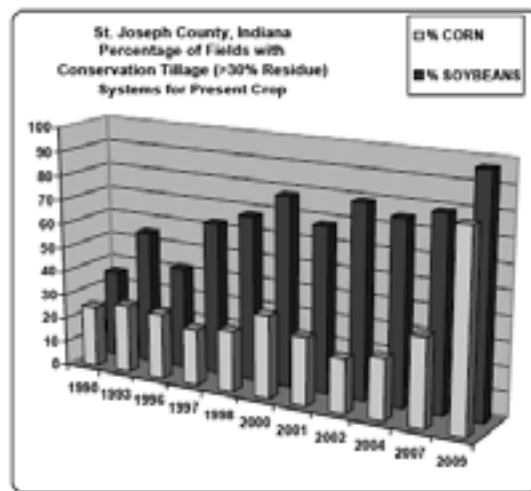
In each county, the transect involves driving a predefined route and recording the land use on both sides of the road at each stop, usually every half mile. The sites

where stops are made were originally selected in 1990 and have been sampled semi-biannually since. Data is recorded at each designated site for crop residue ground cover, current and previous crops, soil type, and land slopes.

The accompanying graphics shows transect results from 2009 tillage transect conducted this past summer, depicting trends from 1990 to 2009.

If you have questions or would like a copy of these charts, or even the complete results of the Indiana statewide tillage transect, call the SWCD office (574-291-7444 ext. 3) or learn more at www.in.gov/isda/2354.htm

Indiana Cropland Transect Survey St. Joseph County, Indiana Conservation Tillage (> 30% residue)		
YEAR	% CORN	% SOYBEANS
1990	25	38
1993	28	55
1996	27	42
1997	23	63
1998	25	68
2000	34	78
2001	28	68
2002	22	79
2004	25	75
2007	36	79
2009	80	97



Looking for Aerial Photos or Topographic Maps?

The TerraServer-USA website has just what you need! TerraServer-USA is a free online repository, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, of public domain aerial imagery and satellite imagery.

You can visit the website at www.terraserver-usa.com.

Not on the Internet?

Visit your local library for free internet access and, even better, library staff who can assist you.

Weather Proverb: "Halo around the sun or moon, rain or snow soon." The halo around the sun or moon is a layer of cirrus clouds made of ice crystals. These ice crystals act as tiny prisms, forming a white or sometimes colorful halo around the sun or moon. This cirro-stratus cloud often indicates an approaching warm front and an associated area of low pressure. Rain or snow will not always follow, but there is a higher probability of it after a halo is seen, and the brighter the circle, the greater the probability.



Time to go OWLING

If you have ever read the popular book, Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, you may have imagined that the story took place during the coldest part of winter, but the story likely took place in the late fall to early winter. In Indiana, October is probably the best time to hear owls and actually call them in close to you. During this time, the young owls begin to leave the family groups and search for a territory of their own. At the same time, the older pairs do not want the young owls to move in on their territory. For owlers, this means that the owls become quite vocal and will even come in close to investigate the intruder, giving owlers a chance to see these amazing creatures.



Screech Owl

Owling Tips

You probably don't even have to leave your neighborhood to find owls if you have large older trees nearby. Each of our St. Joseph County parks are home to the "Big Three": Great Horned, Barred and Screech owls. I have heard owls in downtown Mishawaka and South Bend on numerous occasions. Again the key—some large old trees.

The best time to go owling is about 45 minutes after sunset. Check the paper or www.timeanddate.com for sunset times and plan accordingly. If you wait too long the owls may be in feeding mode, which means they will not really be talking much. Better yet, get up early and be outside about 30 minutes before sunrise. You will be amazed at how vocal owls can be at this time and personally I find that this is the best time of the day to be outside. The sounds, sights and colors can not be beat.

Calling Owls

I have practiced and can imitate each of our Big Three Owls. You can get tapes or CDs at the library or many of our local lawn & garden store, pet shops, etc. sell recordings of owl calls. Online, you can visit www.owling.com and www.owlpages.com for recordings and other great information on owls.

Once you get your hands on some recordings, begin practicing. It is a great feeling to be out in the woods, give a hoot and have a response. You may find yourself in some very lively conversations. I have yet to figure out what the owls and I talk about, but I have had some awesome discussions. You could also use the actual recordings to call in owls. I know many naturalists who use this method.

Whichever method you choose, give a few calls and wait a few minutes...call again and wait a few more minutes. If you hear nothing move a little further down the trail and try again.

Don't forget to **KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!**

Owls may fly in towards you without first talking. If they do talk, but are then quiet, they are probably coming in to investigate, so be alert. No...owls will not attack you, but I have had owls fly only foot above my head...

WHAT A RUSH!

Humans actually have good night vision; it just takes awhile for our eyes to adjust. However, you could use a red or green filter over a flashlight lens to allow you to see without upsetting the wildlife like a white light would.



Barred Owl

And speaking of light, even though the father and daughter in Owl Moon go owling during a full moon, in reality the rule is *the darker the night the better*. Full moons can actually be terrible times to call owls.

The Big Three

Great Horned Owl ~ This is our hoot owl that gives a five-note call:

Hoot-hoot-hoot-hoot-how!

Great Horns can be up to 24" tall and have yellow eyes, 5-foot wingspans, ear tufts and prefer dry upland forest. They are mottled brown, tan and grey.



Great Horned Owl

Barred Owl ~ This medium-sized owl prefers to live in wet lowland forest.

Barred Owls have grey and white barred feather patterns and stand about 20" tall with a 4' wingspan. Their call sounds like:

Who cooks for you, who cooks for y'all?

Just a *little* crazy sounding!

Screech Owl ~ Our smallest of the "Big Three" stands only 10" tall and can be either a mottled grey or red color and look like miniature Great Horned Owls. Screech Owls are the easiest to call in by using a trembling whistle. If you can get one of these to talk to you, be prepared... they will come in very close to investigate.

**So what are you waiting for?
Grab the family and go OWLING!**



ANSWERS TO OWL TRIVIA FROM PAGE 1 ~ 1. F (A few, like the Snowy Owl, may hunt by day); 2. Two ("Typical" owls @167 species & "Barn" owls @14 species); 3. T (Their eyes are directed forward & encased in a capsule of bone which allows little eye movement); 4. "Barn" owls @14 species; 5. all of these; 6. white; 7. T (Owls eat anything from insects to mammals as large as hares--a few eat fish); 8. T; 9. Parliament; 10. Elf — For more information on owls and other wildlife, check out the [Encyclopedia of Life](http://bit.ly/2n8OHG) on the internet at <http://bit.ly/2n8OHG>.



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL & WATER
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Dave Craft, Member
John Kulwicki, Member
Carole Riewe, Member

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Melvin Kulwicki
Jim LaFree
Charles Lehman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
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Dale Stoner
Dave VanDewalle
Paul Williams III
Dru Wrasse

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.

GET INVOLVED

*The **St. Joseph County SWCD** continues to grow and expand into new areas of resource conservation every year. This growth is possible because of the continued time contributed by our Supervisors, Associate Members and volunteers, and the financial support of our Affiliate Members. If you would like to learn more about us, or if you are interested in learning more about membership options or volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org or give us a call.*

Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
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