



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

Oct/Nov/Dec 2010
Volume 12, Issue 4

5605 U.S. 31 South, Ste. 4 South Bend, IN
Website: stjoseph.iaswcd.org

Telephone (574) 291-7444 Ext.3 Alisa Wynn, Editor
Fax (574) 291-0284

**We are excited to announce...
The St. Joseph County
Soil & Water Conservation District's
51st ANNUAL
MEETING
1959-2010**

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

Friday, January 28, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

Additional details will be forthcoming!

Reservations will be accepted until Thursday, January 20, 2011

**CONSERVATION
TREE
PRE-SALES**

Order Forms for our
**25th Annual
2010-2011 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 x3.

*More details can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this
edition of the Conservation Kaleidoscope.*

SAVE THE DATE

Tues., February 8, 2011 ~ 6:30 PM
~ Farm Bureau Meeting Room @ 5605 US 31 S, South Bend ~

**FREE
TREE SELECTION & PLANTING
SEMINAR:
Selecting the right trees for your property
& tree planting advice**

Please call our office to RSVP by Mon, February 7, 2011
~ 574.291.7444 x3 ~

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Announcing our Fall Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Pre-Sale



**Compost
Bin**



**Rain
Barrel**

Nature's Way of Recycling ~ Rain Barrels and Compost Bins!

WHY buy a
Rain Barrel or
Compost Bin?

Save Water! Rain Barrels collect water on a rainy day and conserve it for use on a dry day.

Protect Our Waterways by Managing Your Stormwater! Rain Barrels help reduce the amount of rain water (or stormwater) that runs off your roof and enters our stormwater drains and ultimately our lakes and rivers. Reducing rain water runoff decreases the amount of valuable soil and harmful pollutants that wash away along with rain water runoff.

Save Money! Save money on your water bill by using water stored in your Rain Barrel. Instead of buying expensive commercial soils and nutrient additives, you can create fertile soil by composting.

Save Landfill Space! The Rain Barrels and Tumbling Compost Bins we are selling are made in Illinois from repurposed or "upcycled" materials and fittings are made with 40% recycled material. By composting, you help divert food and yard waste from the landfill by recycling it into nutrient-rich material.

Support YOUR SWCD! The proceeds earned from fundraisers like this one allow us to provide an important service to the community and improve the quality of our environment here in St. Joseph County.

HOW MUCH does
it cost?

Rain Barrels ~ 55-Gallon. Colors: Gray, Terra Cotta, Black, and Blue. Regular Price: \$95. Price after Instant Rebate: \$70*.

Rain Barrel Accessories ~ We offer a variety of accessories to enhance your Rain Barrel.

Tumbling Composters ~ 55-Gallon (Black) Regular Price: \$175. Price after Instant Rebate: \$125*. ~ 5-Gallon (Terra Cotta) Regular Price: \$75. Price after Instant Rebate: \$55*.

* **Instant Rebates** ~ Attend our **Sept. 21 Three County Forestry Field Day** or our **Sept. 27 Compost 101 Seminar** and receive a valuable Instant Rebate Form for \$25 off the Rain Barrels, \$50 off the 55-Gallon Composter, and \$20 off the 5-Gallon Composter.

What DATES
do I need to know
about?

Deadline to Pre-Order ~ Fri., Oct. 8, 2010

Pick-Up Date & Location ~ Thurs., Oct. 14, 2010 from 8AM to 2PM @ Our Office (5605 US 31 South, Suite 4, South Bend, IN 46614)

How can I
LEARN MORE?

@ **Ordering** ~ Call us at 574.291.7444 ext. 3 or visit www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org

@ **The Benefits of Rain Barrels, Composting, and Managing Stormwater** ~ Call us at 574.291.7444 ext. 3 or visit www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org



An Eye Opener



I, Rick Glassman, have been teaching environmental education for the St. Joseph County SWCD for 20 year now and am still amazed how much I have to learn.

During the last week of August, I had the great pleasure to assist another county and good friend with a high school age rafting trip on Lake Tippecanoe. Students learned about watersheds, water quality and many other environmental topics.

We started on Monday and rafted every day that week. The early part of the week was quite warm but by Friday we had a bit of a cool down. The reason that I mention this is because I have been talking about how we—as humans—affect our environment and lately global warming (or should I say climate change) as part of many of my programs for some time now.

While on this rafting trip we had the students learn about Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Turbidity. DO tells us which animals can live in the water and is also an indicator of pollution. Turbidity is the relative clarity of the water and is also a indicator of pollution and water health.

Lake Tippecanoe is a well-used lake by

boaters, especially on the weekend. When we tested turbidity on Monday we had about 6 feet of clarity—not bad actually. Monday was also hot and the water temperature was about 25 degrees C. Our DO was about 50 %—not great but acceptable for a lake in summer.

Let's fast forward to Friday...boat traffic had been very mild all week and the temperature had dropped considerably. Water temperature was 23 degrees C on Friday and just that two degrees difference resulted in an increase of the DO to 65%. Turbidity was now to 9 feet which is a major change in clarity.

These changes were truly a big eye opener for me. We have all heard about how our actions change the environment and most people agree—to a point. *But here it was in black and white, undeniable.*

Just a reduction of boat traffic had caused a dramatic increase in clarity on Lake Tippy. This translates to sunlight reaching deeper into the lake, helping plants to grow, which in turn allows for more animal life. Just a two degree change in temperature caused DO to change by 15%—again have a major impact on animal life in the water.

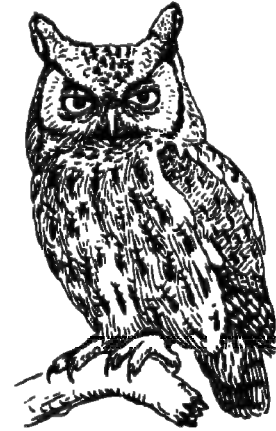
The lesson I took from this is that when we talk about climate change of just a few degrees making an impact on the environment, **BELIEVE IT.**

*When someone talks about you doing the little things for the environment and how they add up to being a **BIG THING, BELIEVE IT.***

So the next time someone says that by you doing this environmental practice, such-and-such is going to happen, don't say, "Right...sure...whatever."

Instead, smile because you know that everything little thing you do does have an impact.

Call in an Owl



October is a great time to call in Screech Owls. Borrow a tape from the Library or download their trembling whistle from the internet and take a little night hike.

Screech Owls are only about 10-inches tall, can be either gray or reddish-brown and not only will they answer your calls but they'll even come in close to investigate. They can be found anywhere that there are large hollow trees. Leave the flashlight off and they might just land 10-feet away from you in a tree.

More info about screech owls and other owls can be found at www.owlpages.com.

Don't Forget to Recycle Reuse Reduce And Rethink





St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District 25th Annual Conservation Tree Sale

Since 1985 the District has organized an annual Tree Sale. Each year we offer from 20 to 25 species of native tree and shrubs seedlings, as well as other plants. The seedlings are purchased from wholesale nurseries and brought to the St. Joseph County 4H Fairgrounds, where the event takes place. These native species grow well in northern Indiana conditions and are suited for soil stabilization projects, wind breaks, protect soil and water quality, to add diversity to a wildlife habitat area or just to plant around the yard. Over the past 24 years, you have helped us place **more than 400,000 trees** throughout our community.

1. Plant Sale Objectives

- ◆ Supply a wide selection of native plants for conservation projects in the community.
- ◆ Encourage homeowners to consider native (non-invasive) plant species in their landscaping.
- ◆ Provide education on tree planting, conservation, planning and other related topics to landowners.
- ◆ Maintain and increase conservation partnership visibility in the community.
- ◆ Serve as a fundraiser for the St. Joseph County SWCD.

2. Ordering Trees Through St. Joseph County SWCD

- ◆ The Plant Sale is an annual event held during mid-April.
- ◆ Order Forms are mailed in October and are also inserted into our Kaleidoscope Newsletter in January.
- ◆ To join our Newsletter mailing list, call **574.291.7444 x3** or email us at **info@stjoseph.iaswcd.org**. If you wish to receive only the Order Form and not the newsletter, just let us know.
- ◆ In October, the Order Form will be posted onto our website at **www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org**.

3. Deciding What To Plant

- ◆ Our website provides links numerous online resources. To go right to our webpage on Tree and Shrub Planting, use the shortcut to **www.tinyurl.com/stjoe-swcdtrees**.
- ◆ Attend our **FREE Tree Selection & Planting Seminar** on February 8, 2011 (see page 1 for details).
- ◆ The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) maintains a list of books about plants that are native to Indiana at **www.inpaws.org/reference_books.html**.

4. Discover What Your Tree is Worth

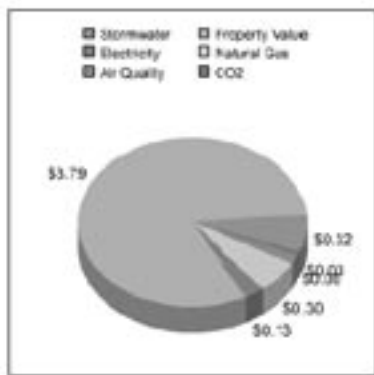
- ◆ The research of the U.S. Forest Service has led to the development of an interesting tool called the **“National Tree Benefits Calculator”**.
- ◆ This tool allows you to determine the dollar value of the economic and environmental benefits provided by any tree in your yard.
- ◆ First, visit **www.arboday.org/calculator** and you will be asked to enter your zip code so that the calculations can be based on the unique climate and environmental factors in your area. Next, you will have a dropdown list of 70 different species to choose from. Simply add the diameter of the tree and the kind of property (residential, commercial, park, etc.), and hit the “Calculate” button.
- ◆ Your results include the overall annual dollar contribution of your tree, and the calculator further breaks down the dollar benefits related to the various services your tree provides to you (stormwater retention, energy savings, air quality improvement, property value enhancement, etc.)
- ◆ **To give you an idea of the kinds of output the National Tree Benefits Calculator provides, we’ve summarized some calculations for 2 popular species that we are selling as part of our 25th Annual Conservation Tree Sale.**



National Tree Benefits Calculator Results for Tulip Polar (Tulip Tree)

~ Newly Planted (1-inch Diameter) versus 12-inch Diameter ~
(The Tulip Poplar Tree is fast-growing at a rate of around 2 feet in height per year)

Calculator output for a
newly planted (1-inch) Tulip Tree
South Bend, IN 46614



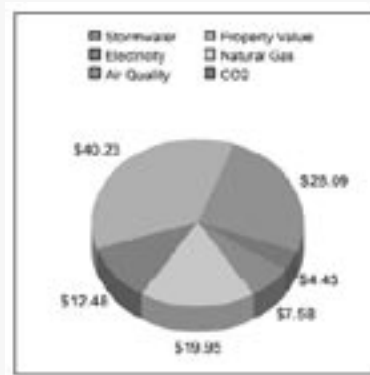
This 1-inch Tulip Tree provides overall benefits of \$5 every year.

If this tree is cared for and grows to 6 inches in diameter, it will provide \$44 in annual benefits.



TULIP POPLAR
Liriodendron tulipifera

Calculator output for a
12-inch Tulip Tree
South Bend, IN 46614



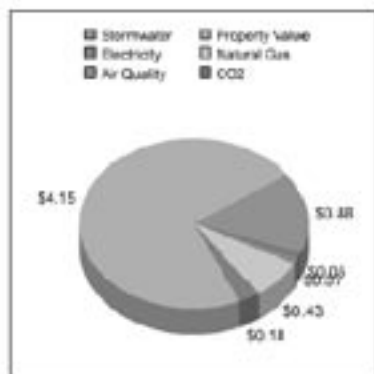
This 12-inch Tulip Tree provides overall benefits of \$113 every year.

If this tree is cared for and grows to 17 inches in diameter, it will provide \$171 in annual benefits.

National Tree Benefits Calculator Results for White Pine

~ Newly Planted (1-inch Diameter) versus 12-inch Diameter ~
(The White Pine Tree is fast-growing at a rate of around 2 feet in height per year)

Calculator output for a
newly planted (1-inch) White Pine
South Bend, IN 46614
Climate Zone: Midwest



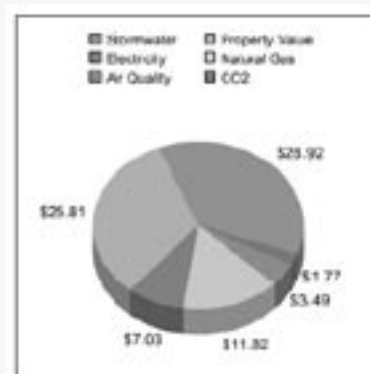
This 1-inch White Pine provides overall benefits of \$6 every year.

If this tree is cared for and grows to 6 inches in diameter, it will provide \$30 in annual benefits.



WHITE PINE
Pinus strobus

Calculator output for a
12-inch White Pine
South Bend, IN 46614
Climate Zone: Midwest



This 12-inch White Pine tree provides overall benefits of \$79 every year.

If this tree is cared for and grows to 17 inches in diameter, it will provide \$128 in annual benefits.

25th Annual Conservation Tree Sale (List of Species for Sale)

EVERGREENS: American Arborvitae, Blue Spruce, Canadian Hemlock, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, Serbian Spruce, White Pine
DECIDUOUS TREES: Black Walnut, Hybrid Poplar, Red Maple, Red Oak, River Birch, Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, Tulip Poplar
FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS: American Plum, Butterfly Bush, Common Lilac, Red Bud, Roselow Sargent Crabapple, Shadblow Serviceberry,

White Flowering Dogwood

GROUND COVER: Pachysandra

WILDFLOWER SEED: American Wildflower Mix, Bird & Butterfly Mix



Keep an Eye Out for Potential Issues While Harvesting (And YES, We Have Some Solutions!)



Radio boring you in the Combine?

Want something else to do while you are harvesting this fall?

It makes good sense to give your fields a look over for problems.

- ⇒ You should have the bird's eye view from your seat in the combine and be able to spot a problem easily. The earlier you can catch a problem, the easier and cheaper it is to fix.

Are you seeing any gully erosion?

- ⇒ A change in tillage could possibly help your situation.
- ⇒ Are you already doing no-till? Then maybe a CRP grassed waterway is what you need.
- ⇒ Waterways take runoff away from the field to a drainage ditch. As the water flows the grass acts as a filter and sediment from the runoff is caught by the grass in the waterway.

Do you have any runoff into the ditches, or are your ditch banks sloughing off?

- ⇒ CRP filter strips might be the answer.
- ⇒ Filter strips will strengthen your banks and filter runoff entering the ditches.

Another thing to look at while in the combine is yields. Do you have areas with extremely low yields?

- ⇒ Have you thought about developing a nutrient management plan or putting that part of the field into a wildlife area or some other CRP practice that would be beneficial?
- ⇒ The best place to start is a soils test. From those results, you can decide what is best for that particular area.

Have you noticed any other issues?

- ⇒ No matter what problem you are seeing in the fields this fall give us a call and set up an appointment. The NRCS has the right conservation practice for the job. **You can contact us at 574-291-7444 ext. 3.**



Don't let this be you!!



Effects of Conservation Practices on Cropland

A recent multi-agency USDA study provides farmers and landowners valuable information on how conservation practices are impacting water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient and pesticide loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The study documents the following:

- **Use of soil erosion control practices is widespread, reducing sediment loss from fields by 69%.**
- **On average conservation practices have reduced total nitrogen loss from fields by 18%, reduced total phosphorous loss by 49% and reduced pesticide loss from fields to surface water, resulting in a 48% reduction in edge of field pesticide risk for humans.**

These reductions in field-level losses due to conservation practices translate into improvements in water quality in streams and rivers in the region.

Conservation practice use has made good progress toward reducing sediment, nutrient and pesticide losses from farm fields. However, significant conservation treatment is still

needed to reduce nonpoint agricultural sources of pollution to acceptable levels.

Complete and consistent use of nutrient management practices is generally lacking, with 62 percent of the acres requiring additional treatment to reduce the loss of nitrogen and phosphorous from farm fields. The most critical conservation concern is the loss of nitrogen through leaching on half of the cropped acres. Nitrogen leaching loss is controlled by pairing erosion-control practices with nutrient management practices for rate, form, timing, and method of application.

Currently, good nitrogen management practices are in use on only about 14% of the acres for all crops during every year of production. Similarly, good phosphorous management practices are in use on 29% of the acres for all crops during every year of production.

In the final analysis, treatment with nutrient management practices in addition to soil erosion control practices is required to effectively control the loss of soluble nitrogen and phosphorous from farm fields in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

To learn more about this study (entitled the “Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin”), visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap.

Want Wildlife? Rent our Warm Season Grass Drill ...

Through a partnership with the St. Joseph County SWCD and the Elkhart County SWCD, a warm season grass drill (WSG) is available for rent. The drill is used in area counties to promote the establishment of warm season grasses for wildlife areas. The drill can be used to plant food plots, seed filter strips, and pasture plantings.

Landowners who are interested in planting pastures and hay will be charged a flat fee of \$50 for the first five acres. After the first five acres, there will be a charge of \$5 per acre. Those who wish to plant warm season grasses, food plots, and filter strips will be charged a flat fee of \$25. Please contact the St. Joseph County SWCD staff at 574-291-7444, extension 3, if you are interested in renting this drill.



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5605 US HIGHWAY 31 SOUTH STE 4
SOUTH BEND IN 46614-5296

St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District

Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chair
Paul Williams, III, Vice-Chair
Jim LaFree, Member
John Kulwicki, Member
Carole Riewe, Member

Associate Supervisors:

Brian Cherry
Dave Craft
Jan Ivkovich
Melvin Kulwicki
Charles Lehman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
Richard Schmidt
Arlene Schuchman
Stacey Silvers
Dale Stoner
Dave VanDewalle
Dru Wrasse

Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback



OCTOBER

8 - Deadline to Pre-Order Rain Barrels and Compost Bins (see pg 2)
14 - Fall Rain Barrels and Compost Bin Pick-Up Date, 8AM-2PM @ Our Office (see pg 2)
18 - **SWCD Monthly Board Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg Rm.

NOVEMBER

11 - VETERAN'S DAY (Office Closed)
15 - **SWCD Monthly Board Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg Rm.
25 - THANKSGIVING DAY (Office Closed)

DECEMBER

20 - **SWCD Monthly Board Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg Rm.
24 - CHRISTMAS EVE (Office Closed)
31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE (Office Closed)

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
John Baute, NRCS
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Maria Schaefer, SWCD
Lisa Wynn, SWCD

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Morgan Thornburg, CED
Helene Cannoot
Cindy Philhower
Denise Trimboli

OUR 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.