



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

January/February 2022
Volume 24, Issue 1

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What's Going On...
*Events hosted by the
St. Joseph County SWCD
& Our Partners in Conservation*

January

1st - New Years' Day
17th - Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday - Office Closed
18th - SWCD monthly board meeting. Location and time TBA. Open to the public.

February

11th - 62nd Annual Meeting
15th - SWCD monthly board meeting. Location and time TBA. Open to the public.
21st - Presidents Day - Office Closed

62nd Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars to join us as we celebrate 62 years of serving St Joseph County.

When: February 11, 2022

Where: St. Hedwig Memorial Center,
331 S Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601

Time: Doors open at 5:45 pm, call to order at 6:30 pm.

Cost: Tickets are \$15 each. Includes Dinner

Key Note Speaker: Brian Capouch, History of the Grand Kankakee Marsh. Brian grew up on a big commercial "muck farm" in Jasper County. He has a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from IU, and a Master's in Agricultural Engineering Technology from Purdue. After graduation, he ran a crop consulting business for a few years, and then became involved in education. After working briefly as a technology facilitator at West Central High School in Pulski County, he began a 34-year career teaching Computer Science

at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, retiring in 2016 as chair of his department. Since his retirement, most of his time has been spent working to restore Sunny Crest, an architect-designed farm estate in Benton County established in 1916. He also engages in historical research, and has done many presentations to a variety of audiences on topics of local historical interest. His primary interest is the Settlement Period in Northwestern Indiana, approximately 1830-1880. He is currently living at Sunny Crest, where he keeps a flock of Rhode Island Red chickens and has a huge vegetable garden.

Contact the office for more details or to order your tickets!

Call: 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.

Email: info@stjosephswcd.org

Visit our website to register: www.stjosephswcd.org

Silent Auction Donation Form

Each item being auctioned will be displayed along with the name of the donating individual, business, or organization. You may provide a business card to attach to each item if you wish. We ask that each auction item have a retail value of at least \$10.

**Item(s) Submission
Deadline: 2/4/2022**

If you have questions about the Silent Auction or would like more information, call the St. Joseph County SWCD Office Staff at 574.936.2024 x4.



Company/Organization Name (If applicable)

Contact Person

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Donated Item & Short Description of Item or Service: _____

Retail Value \$: _____

Indiana NRCS Announces First Sign-up Period for Conservation Stewardship Program

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Jerry Raynor announced today that Indiana is now accepting applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest conservation program. While applications are accepted year-round, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by January 28 to be considered for this funding period.

CSP is a financial assistance program for producers who are already established conservation stewards and who want to add more conservation benefits on their land, such as improved water and soil quality and enhanced wildlife habitat.

"CSP continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals," said Raynor. "It is the largest conservation program in the United States with more than 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled."

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and management techniques, such as precision agriculture applications and on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and soil amendments to improve water quality.

CSP is for private working lands including cropland,

pastureland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of a tribe. Agricultural producers wanting to enhance current conservation efforts on their land are encouraged to apply.

Information about CSP, including national and state ranking questions and enhancement descriptions, is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp. This one-stop shop, which provides information to help individuals determine whether CSP is right for them, will be continually updated as more information becomes available.

For more information about Indiana NRCS and other technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.in.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your District Conservationist Deborah Knepp at (574) 936-2024 Ext. 4.



SWCD Offering Adult Programs

It's the perfect time to try something new or pick up an old hobby that you haven't done in a while. Why not learn something new as you have fun! We are offering adult workshops and classes throughout January, February, and March.

In January, we are ringing in the new year and resolutions by offering an adult workshop called Recycling Resolutions. If you have ever wanted to start recycling or step up your recycling game to include your natural resources, this is the workshop for you! This will be a 4-week series with a different topic on how to add (more) recycling into your life. We are excited to offer this program series at two locations, the Bendix Woods County Park and North Liberty Library Branch. Listed below is the current schedule:

Bendix Woods County Park

Glenn Bauer Shelter from 5:00-6:00pm EST

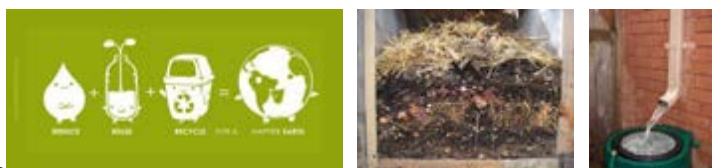
- Tuesday, January 4th: Recycling 101
- Tuesday, January 11th: Recycling Your Rainwater: Rain Barrel Workshop (Space is limited!)
- Tuesday, January 18th: Recycling Your Food Waste: Composting 101
- Tuesday, January 25th: Recycling Your Yard: Pollinator and Rain Gardens

North Liberty Library Branch from 5:30-6:30pm EST

- Thursday, January 6th: Recycling 101
- Thursday, January 13th: Recycling Your Rainwater: Rain Barrel Workshop (Space is limited!)
- Thursday, January 20th: Recycling Your Food Waste: Composting 101
- Thursday, January 27th: Recycling Your Yard: Pollinator and Rain Gardens

From mid-February to mid-March, we will be at the North Liberty Library Branch offering adult programs for senior citizens! Each class will cover a different subject of Indiana's native flora, fauna, and natural resources. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming details on this event!

Note: Dates and times for all of these programs are subject to change. Look for updates at www.facebook.com/StJosephSWCD. Registering for these events is recommended. Please contact Ally Pudlo at 574-936-2024 ext.4 or email at Allison.pudlo@in.nacdnet.net for more information!



St. Joseph County SWCD 2022 Membership Form

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Website:

Please Confirm Your Giving Level

Affiliate Membership: _____ \$25-\$99	Silver Membership: _____ \$250-\$499 *
Bronze Membership: _____ \$100-\$249 *	Gold Membership: _____ \$500 & above

Please make checks payable to **St Joseph County SWCD**.

I would prefer to make my donation anonymous.

THANK YOU for your support! The many outreach and education projects we provide would not be possible without the help of community members like YOU!

Want to donate with your Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal account? Visit our website at www.stjosephswcd.org and click on the "Donate" button.

If you would like to donate to a specific outreach, project or event, please indicate below:

<input type="checkbox"/> General Education and Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Cost Share (Conservation practices such as cover crops, no-till, pollinator habitat, raingardens, filter strips, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Environmental Education Supporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting Banquet (Must be submitted by 1-15-2022)	

Indiana NRCS Announces Funding Available to Help Protect and Restore Sensitive Lands

State Conservationist Jerry Raynor announced that Indiana’s USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is making funds available to help landowners protect and restore key farmlands across Indiana. The funding is provided through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), created to protect critical water resources and wildlife habitat, and encourage private owners to maintain land for farming.

"Conservation easements are an important tool to help landowners and partners achieve their goals to protect land for future generations," Raynor said. "NRCS helps guide landowners and partners throughout the easement process by providing technical expertise, conservation planning and financial assistance."

ACEP streamlines the conservation easement options into two primary components: a wetlands reserve component where NRCS works directly with landowners to restore and protect their agricultural wetlands, and a working lands component where NRCS provides assistance to partners with farmland protection programs to purchase agricultural land easements.

ACEP's Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) not only protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses,

they also support environmental quality, wildlife habitat, historic preservation and protection of open spaces. State and local governments, non-governmental organizations and Native American Tribes that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS and individual landowners to protect farmland through easements. Eligible entities must submit applications for ALE’s current funding pool on or before January 18, 2022.

"I cannot overemphasize the benefits of restoring, enhancing and protecting these working agricultural lands and critical wetlands," said Raynor. "NRCS is committed to restoring and protecting wetlands that provide important wildlife habitat and improve our water quality as well as preserving working agricultural lands to help protect the long-term viability of farming across Indiana."

ACEP applications may be submitted at any time to NRCS; however, applications for the current funding round must be submitted on or before the closing date – January 18 for ALE.

To learn about ACEP and other technical and financial assistance available through Indiana NRCS conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or contact your District Conservationist Deborah Knepp at (574) 936-2024 Ext 4.





Visit us on Facebook 2903 GARY DRIVE
PLYMOUTH IN 46563

St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership



“Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health,” offers education, technical assistance, and cost share to implement no-till, cover crops, pollinator habitat and filter strips to increase soil health and improve water quality. Cost share is based on practices implemented. Our cost-share program is made possible by the funding of a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant 2021-2023.

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana Division

of Soil Conservation under the direction of the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board.

If you have questions or would like an application please contact Sarah Longenecker, SWCD County Conservationist.

Are you ready to “GO GREEN” and help us save money and natural resources? We can deliver your “Conservation Kaleidoscope” newsletter by email ... Give us a call or send us an email and tell us you’d like to “GO GREEN” THANK YOU!!!!



Scan me to go Green!

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Dave Vandewalle, Vice Chairman
Mike Burkholder
Sam James
Chris Matthys

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Chuck Lehman
Randy Matthys
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