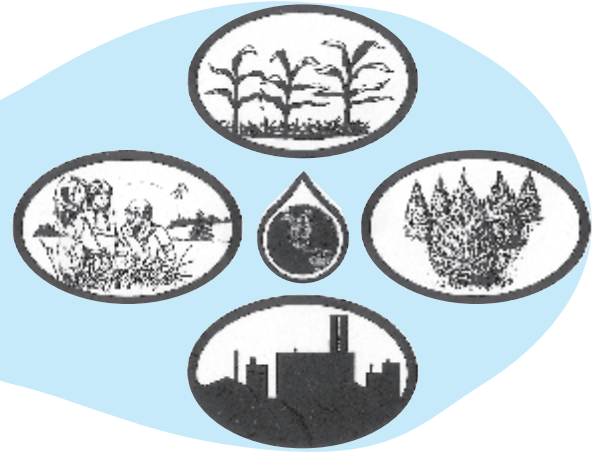




St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CONSERVATION KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

January/February 2015 2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563 Telephone (574) 936-2024
Volume 17, Issue 1 Website: stjosephswcd.org e-mail: info@stjosephswcd.org

What's Going On...

*Events hosted by the St. Joseph County SWCD
& Our Partners in Conservation*

January

- 1 - New Years Day, Office Closed
- 2 - Day after New Years, County Holiday
- 19 - Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. - Office Closed
- 20 - **SWCD Monthly Board Mtg.**, Centre Township Library, 7pm
- 23 - **Deadline for Dinner Tickets** - 55th Annual Meeting
- 30 - **Our 55th Annual Meeting**

February

- 11 - FREE PUBLIC EVENT - **Tree Selection & Planting Seminar**, Centre Township Library, 6:30pm - call to RSVP
- 16 - **Presidents Day** - Federal Holiday
- 17 - **SWCD Monthly Board Mtg.**, Centre Township Library, 7pm

March

- 1 - **Tree Sale PRE-ORDERS Due Today**
- 8 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 17 - **SWCD Monthly Board Mtg.**, Centre Township Library, 7pm

Have You Heard? ...

St Joseph County SWCD welcomes a new face to their office!



Hi, my name is Sandra Hoffarth and I am the new administrative assistant here at the SWCD. I have recently moved from Atlanta, GA back to our home in Rochester, IN with my husband Michael and our beagle, Mocha.

I graduated from Ball State University in 2005 with a Bachelors degree in General Studies with an emphasis in English Literature and Communications. . I have a variety of work experiences including advertising, banking and a bead shop owner. I have been an administrative assistant for several years and find it is my passion.

When I am not working I enjoy reading, beading, sewing, writing and singing in the Fulton County Choral Club and Fulton UMC church choir.

I am excited to be a part of the SWCD and I look forward to learning and serving St Joseph County in any way I can.



55th Annual Meeting

Join us to celebrate all of our 2014 accomplishments. This years meeting will be held at St. Hedwig Memorial Center in South Bend on January 30, 2015. Doors open at 5:45 pm and the call to order is at 6:30 pm. We will enjoy a family style Polish dinner and have our ever popular silent auction. Entertainment this year will be speaker and comedian Craig Tornquist! Call the office for more details or to order your tickets!

Craig Tornquist



Craig has performed more than 3,000 stand-up comedy shows across the country. Known for his quick wit, celebrity impressions, novelty songs, and hilarious audience participation routines, Craig's unique brand of completely clean comedy has put smiles on even the most skeptical of faces. Craig has consistently proven that "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson



USDA Approves 9,600 More Acres in Indiana for Wildlife Habitat

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Nov. 25, 2014 - U.S. Department of Agriculture Indiana Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Julia A. Wickard, today announced that additional acres in Indiana are now available for wildlife habitat improvement incentives.

“We can accept offers to enroll more acres in Indiana for farmers interested in protecting local threatened species,” said Wickard. “In exchange for creating habitat for these species, USDA will provide participants with rental payments and help with expenses.”

This opportunity comes from the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program, part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) whereby Farm Service Agency enters into contracts with participants so that environmentally sensitive land is not farmed, but instead used for wildlife habitat.

Indiana conservation partners have specifically identified habitat concerns for the following species: Indiana Bat, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow Sparrow, Ringneck Pheasant, and the American Woodcock.

Program participants establish long-term plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality, or strengthen declining wildlife populations. In return, participants receive annual rental payments between 10 and 15 years.

The SAFE program allows state fish and wildlife agencies, non-profit organizations and other conservation partners to target the Conservation Reserve Program within distinct geographic areas to help wildlife. SAFE is limited to 1.35 million acres nationally, with 97 projects in 36 states and Puerto Rico.

Statewide farmers and landowners have committed to establish 13,900 acres of valuable habitat since 2008. This announcement brings the total available acres for additional enrollment to 9,600 acres. Statewide acres are allotted to specific wildlife and areas in the state. For information regarding available acres in your area, contact your local FSA office at 574-936-2024 ext. 2 or visit the website at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.



St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District 2015 Membership Form

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

Please Confirm Your Giving Level

Personal Affiliate Membership: \$25-\$49	Silver Membership: \$250-\$499 **
Partner Affiliate Membership: \$50-\$99	Gold Membership: \$500-\$999 ***
Bronze Membership: \$100-\$249 *	Platinum Membership: \$1,000 and above ****

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!

All donors will receive a tax-deductible donation receipt, subscription to & special recognition in the SWCD newsletter, and recognition in our popular 2014 Annual Report/2015 monthly Calendar.

- *Bronze Memberships will include everything above PLUS a certificate of recognition, and recognition on the SWCD website
- ** Silver Memberships will include everything above PLUS recognition in SWCD eNews and/or Online Media Posts, as well as the opportunity to provide literature for your selected community focused outreach projects.
- *** Gold Memberships will include everything above PLUS 4 Complementary VIP Tickets & Oral Introduction to SWCD's Annual Meeting Dinner Banquet (if donation submitted by 1/8/2015).
- **** Platinum Memberships will include everything above PLUS exclusive recognition in our 2014 Annual Report/2015 Monthly Calendar on 2 monthly pages of your choice.

_____ I would prefer to make my donation anonymous.

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

COMMUNITY- FOCUSED OUTREACH	{	General Education and Outreach
	{	Conservation Kaleidoscope Newsletter Supporter
	{	Youth Environmental Education Supporter
EVENT- FOCUSED EDUCATION	{	Annual Tree Sales
	{	Annual Meeting Banquet and Supervisors Election
	{	Agricultural Producers' Breakfast and Workshop (Donation must be submitted by 2-27-2015)
	{	Conservation Field Tours (2 per year)

Please make checks payable to "St Joseph County SWCD" and mail along with this form to:

**St Joseph County SWCD
2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563**



ST JOSEPH COUNTY
 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 2903 GARY DRIVE, SUITE 1
 PLYMOUTH IN 46563

NON PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID
 SOUTH BEND IN
 PERMIT NO. 225



St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

29th Annual Tree Sale

- Evergreens**
- Shade Trees**
- Flowering Trees & Shrubs**
- Ground Cover**
- Wildflower Seed**
- Rain Barrels**
- Tumbling Composters**



If you have not yet received a flyer and would like one, please contact our office at 574-936-2024 ext. 4, or info@stjosephswcd.org or visit www.stjosephswcd.org

Pre-Orders Due March 1

Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chair
 Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair
 Mike Burkholder, Member
 Arlene Schuchman, Member
 Stacey Silvers, Member

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

Dave Craft
 Jan Ivkovich
 Melvin Kulwicki
 Jim LaFree
 Charles Lehman
 Joe Long
 Randy Matthys
 Carole Riewe
 Richard Schmidt
 Dale Stoner
 Dave Vandewalle
 Dru Wrasse

SWCD Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
 Al Gostola
 Jerry Knepp
 Keith Lineback
 William Millar

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:

Rick Glassman, SWCD
 Sarah Harville, SWCD
 Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD
 Debbie Knepp, NRCS
 James Rodriguez, NRCS

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Gideon Nobbe, CED
 Linda Bentele
 Aldona Martin
 Cindy Slonaker
 Abby Curtis

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!!!!