



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CONSERVATION KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

Jul/Aug/Sept 2004
Volume 6, Issue 3

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

Telephone (574) 291-7444 Ext. 3 Editor: Troy Manges
Fax (574) 291-0284 Tonia Albright



Calendar of Events

July 5
4th of July Holiday
Office Closed

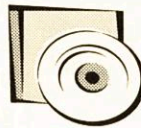
July 19
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
7:30 PM – Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

August 2nd – 7th
St. Joseph County 4-H Fair

August 16
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
7:30 PM– Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

September 6
Labor Day
Office Closed

September 20
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
7:30 PM – Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

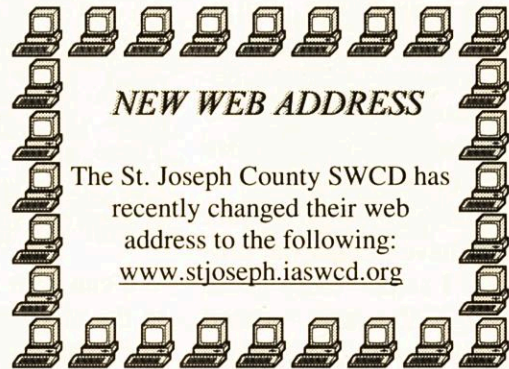


NEW SOIL SURVEY AVAILABLE

The new Soil Survey for St. Joseph County is now available on CD.

Call or stop by the office for more information.

(There will be a minimal charge for each CD purchased.)



NEW WEB ADDRESS

The St. Joseph County SWCD has recently changed their web address to the following:
www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org

FORESTRY FIELD DAY

Watch for upcoming information in the Oct/Nov/Dec Newsletter for the Fall Forestry Field Day.

What's Inside ...

The Natural Educator	2
Woodland Times	3,4
Field Notes	5, 6
Urban Meanderings	7



THE NATURAL EDUCATOR

GEESE ARE A GOOD THING – REALLY!!

Now before you get to thinking that I'm crazy, let me explain.

I realize that most of you either have problems with geese or know someone who has had problems with them, but please read on to find out why all of these geese are actually a good thing.



The Canada Goose (not Canadian, that is what you call people from the country of Canada. The goose is named after the country, not the people who live there) that we

have around today is the largest subspecies called the Greater Canada Goose. It is a resident free flying species, which means that it only migrates when absolutely necessary. This subspecies was actually eaten to extinction in our part of the world by the early 1900's. But in the 1960's the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) began a restoration project to bring back the Greater Canada Goose to our neck of the woods. Now if they had a crystal ball, I do not think that they would have started the program. But, as I said, these geese are a good thing. You see, around the time that we began to re-introduce the geese, people began to pay more attention to the environment and two conservation practices were started. One was no-till farming. This is an excellent farming practice that does not plow up the field, but instead leaves the old crop residue on the field. You may have noticed that many farm fields have old corn stalks



and soybean stubble on them all winter long.

The next spring the producers can plant right into this residue. By leaving all this residue on the farm field, the farmer is preventing soil erosion. The downside is that it also leaves the left over corn, or should we call it goose food, on the field.

Conservation practice number two is urban erosion control. Subdivisions are now required by law to prevent sedimentation from leaving the site. In order to do this, many developers design the development with a retention pond and then grass the area around them. These areas must look good so they are mowed. Geese are also grazers and love to eat grass.



We can now add one more thing to the mix. The geese have food, water and since many of these places are located in urban area with no hunting, a protective shelter. What a perfect habitat. So, when you look at the big picture, all these geese are just a sign of our conservation effort to clean our water and planet. Therefore, they really are a good thing.

DEALING WITH NUISANCE GEESE

Tricks to keep geese out of your yard.

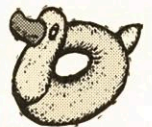
Repellents sprayed on your yard actually do work. They are expensive and do wash away. Repellants are best used before parties to make the yard presentable.

Two strands of fishing line or rope strung about 6 inches and 12 inches above the ground along the bank of the pond also works.

Allow the vegetation to grow up along the bank of the pond. geese do not like walking through obstacles to get to shore.



If it is a small pond, floating pool toys will also help. The toys must be anchored so that they move and spin in the wind.



Finally, geese are federally protected and can not be harassed. Removing them to another area does not work, they just return. But, they do have a hunting season.

COOKING WITH COMPOST

Mark your calendar now.
The next composting workshop is:
Where – Farm Bureau Insurance Meeting Room.
5605 U.S. 31 South,
South Bend.
When – Monday,
October 4, 2004
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Each participant will receive a free compost bin.

Sponsored by your local SWCD and Solid Waste Management District



WOODLAND TIMES

Forestry News Updates for St. Joseph County

What's Happening in St. Joseph County Forests

Woodlands across St. Joseph County are quite diverse. From droughty Oak-Hickory woods in the northeast and southwest to very productive Beech and Maple woodlands in the northwest and central areas of the county. Bottomland species dominate along rivers, streams, and depressions. Several areas even have small stands of rare (for Indiana) Northern Birch species. This diversity of native species is threatened by two major factors at this time.



One factor is sprawling urban development that eats up many woodland acres. The presence of a residence in a woodland, significantly changes the balance of the woodland ecosystem.

The second factor is an increasing presence of non-native invasive species. These include both plants and animals that aggressively spread into native dominated woodlands and fields.



Garlic Mustard



Common Periwinkle

Some plant species I have found causing serious disruptions in woodlands of the County include:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle
<i>Kibucera naacjuu</i>	Amur Honeysuckle
<i>Rosa Multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive & Russian Olive
<i>Pyrus caleryana</i>	Bradford Pear
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Common Periwinkle, Creeping Myrtle
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Phragmites
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife

Most of these plants are only a problem in a few areas at this time but most are seemingly increasing in the number of areas they occur at a rapid rate. Many of these non-native species come from ornamental plantings and some from a misguided attempt to improve wildlife habitat.



Asian Longhorn Beetle

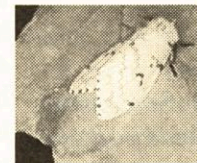
Several insect pests that are threatening our native woodlands include: Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, and Asian Longhorn Beetles. The latter two have not made it to St. Joseph County yet and in the case

of the Asian Longhorn Beetle the population found around Chicago appears to be on the way to eradication.



Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer was discovered only a few years ago around Detroit and has been found in spot infestations across Michigan, Ohio, and at least one spot in Indiana. These spot Infestations are generally traced to the importation of infested nursery stock and possibly firewood. Practices for control of the pest are still being developed so ash owners should keep an ear out for more information on possible control or eradication measures. Be extremely careful about purchasing nursery stock that may have come from any infested area and do not transport ash firewood from Michigan or any other infested area.



Female Gypsy Moth



Male

Gypsy moth is a serious oak pest that is slowly spreading into Indiana. The Department of Natural Resources has a monitoring and spray program to slow the spread of this pest that has been very successful. There is no plan for eradicating it as it has spread throughout the eastern US but by slowing the spread, natural diseases of gypsy moth are able to reduce the



FIELD NOTES

numbers and moths and prevent widespread defoliation. Also, research has come up with more and more effective control agents for the pest. You can help by not transporting gypsy moths. If you visit infested areas look for egg masses on campers, furniture, firewood and almost any other moveable object.

What can you do? Avoid planting or transporting plant material from other areas unless it has been certified disease and insect free. Landscape with native species rather than exotics. Keep a close eye on new plants and investigate any problems you might find. In the case of exotic plants already established, begin an eradication program. Most of the exotics require several trips over a few years to eliminate from woodland areas. If you start early when there are only a few plants, you can effectively keep them out by destroying any you find. If you have a lot of them a program of cutting and spraying on a regular basis will, in time, eliminate them.

Help stop the invasion.



Another Successful Tree Sales Program

Many young trees have been planted in the community this spring. The 18th Annual Tree Sales Program started in October, 2003, and ended April 17, 2004, at the St Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds. The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to announce that approximately 29,500 of those trees are from our 2003 - 2004 Tree Sales Program.

The Tree Sales Program has been very successful over the past eighteen years due to the outstanding conservation attitude of volunteers. Our thanks go out to Randy Matthys and Family, Master Gardeners, St. Patrick's County Park, Rum Village Nature Center, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Ryder Truck Rental and Leasing, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, Elkhart County SWCD, John Manuszak and the Mishawaka High School Waltonian Club, and Leon Verhaeghe with the John Glenn FFA.



Volunteers processing tree orders



A customer receives tree planting advice

This year we were able to donate trees to five different projects through our Tree Grant Program. The trees will be used for conservation, beautification, restoration, and educational practices. This is one of many ways that the money raised from the tree sales program is given back to the community.

For those of you who happened to miss this year's Tree Sales Program you can request a Tree Flyer for next year by contacting the office at: (574) 291-7444 ext. 3 or check out our web site in October 2004.

Izaak Walton League Utilizes Tree Grant Program

Every year the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District has a Tree Grant Program for the extra trees not sold or picked up after the Saturday Sales. Nonprofit organizations can apply for the grant trees each year starting in January and ending in March. The nonprofit organization must submit a one page written summary of the proposed project they have. They are not, however; guaranteed any trees. The St. Joseph County SWCD will only supply trees to groups if there are extra trees after Saturday Sales is over.

This year the Izaak Walton League was one of the lucky tree grant recipients. They planted the trees they received on their property to help reforest areas that were damaged by a tornado in 2001. They want future generations to be able to enjoy these wooded areas and improve the wildlife habitat of the area.



Izaak Walton League members are shown planting the trees they received from the St. Joseph County SWCD Grant program.



FIELD NOTES



HOW MUCH RESIDUE IS ON YOUR HIGHLY ERODIBLE FIELD?

To remain eligible for Direct & Countercyclical Farm Program Payments, commodity loans, LDPs and cost share programs, all producers of agricultural commodities must protect all cropland classified as being highly erodible (HEL) from excessive erosion.

At the time the highly erodible field(s) was identified, producers and/or landowners developed a conservation plan to address the erosion concerns. **YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THESE CONSERVATION PLANS.** All of the conservation plans state the residue requirements for the crop rotation selected. For example, a corn – soybean rotation requires a minimum of 40% soybean residue after planting and 50% corn residue after planting. Please be aware of the residue levels you are leaving in the field behind the planter. Field checks are presently underway.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss your conservation plans, please feel free to contact the office.



HIGH DEMAND MEANS PATIENT PLANNING

The conservation cost share programs are in high demand. More landowners and producers than ever before are interested in installing and implementing conservation practices. In fact, the demand far surpasses the supply of funds for these types of activities.



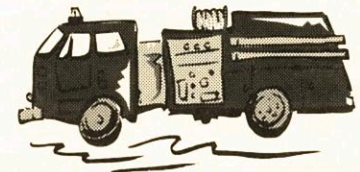
One way to help your chances of receiving financial help with natural resource concerns is to start early developing a conservation plan and working with the technical staff in the NRCS and SWCD office. Having the staff assist you early in your planning stage will help direct you to the cost share program that is best for you. Most programs allow applications to be submitted at any time. However, each program has cut off dates for the first round of funding based on when the money is released to each state from Washington. Planning ahead ensures your application is in place to be considered from the very start.

Secondly, since there is such a high demand for these conservation practices, and thus their associated cost share programs, all applications must be ranked and compared with other similar projects across the state. This takes time and patience. Because of the process involved, applicants who submit a request at the time they wish to implement the practice have very little chance to be funded. Planning

ahead and checking early in your planning of the conservation practice for possible cost share programs will help improve your chances for cost share assistance.

DRY HYDRANT GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Northwest Territory Resource, Conservation and Development Council has announced they have been approved by the U.S. Forestry Service to administer a dry hydrant grant program for the RC&D Council's area (Lake, Porter and St. Joseph counties). A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized hydrant at a pond or lake that gives firefighters a way to replenish their water supplies in localities not on a municipal water system.



All fire departments in the RC&D three county area are eligible for this grant. The grant is for 50% of the cost of installation and materials for the dry hydrant. The local fire department is responsible for the other 50% that can be an in-kind match. An in-kind match would include voluntary labor, donated material, and equipment used to install the hydrant. Dry hydrants installed under the grant program must be installed at sites that meet Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) standards. Once a potential site has been determined, landowner approval needs to be obtained by the local



FIELD NOTES

fire department to have access to the hydrant. The grant funds are available now through October 1, 2005. If you have any further questions contact your local fire department or the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District at (574) 291-7444 ext. 3.

Indiana Lakes Benefit From New Boating Fees

Many Hoosier boaters will pay a little more this year when they register their watercraft, providing increased funding to make Indiana's public access lakes and streams cleaner and safer.

A new state law, enacted last year, increases the Lake and River Enhancement fee paid by boat owners. The fee, which had been \$5 per boat, is now increased to a variable amount based on the value of each boat. The total amount of money generated each year is expected to increase from the previous \$1.2 million to an estimated \$3.9 million.



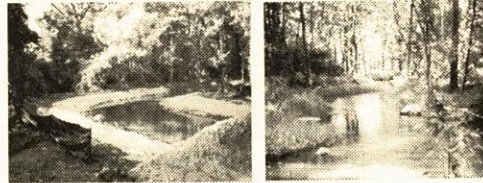
Last year the General Assembly created a sliding scale boat fee, based upon value of the boat when new, as a

way for boaters to pay part of the costs for improvements to Hoosier lakes and increased boating safety. The small boat owner still will pay \$5 and the fee will increase in five-dollar increments to a maximum \$25 fee for a boat that costs \$10,000 or more.



For several years, for example, the boater who owned a 12-foot jon boat for fishing weekends and the family that owned the fancy 50-foot cabin

cruiser paid the same \$5 fee as part of boat registration in Indiana.



The act stipulates that one third of the total amount of money generated will continue to be used (for the LARE program) in the same manner as it has since the inception of the original fee. Another third of the money will be directed to the IDNR Division of Law Enforcement to utilize and/or distribute, and the final third will be used "...by the department of natural resources to pay for lake projects, including projects to: (A) remove sediment; or (B) control exotic or invasive plants or animals."

Applications for the development of aquatic plant surveys and aquatic plant management plans were submitted to the LARE staff at the IDNR, Division of Soil Conservation. The deadline for submittal of those applications was April 30, 2004. The State Soil Conservation Board will determine which applications will be funded at its July, 2004, meeting, with the expectation that funded aquatic plant surveys will be conducted and management plans will be developed soon thereafter.

Once the aquatic plan management plans have been submitted to the Division of Soil Conservation and approved, lake organizations will be eligible for aquatic plant control grants. Application forms for those grants will be made available, with an anticipated submittal deadline of December 31, 2004. The SSCB will make grant award decisions regarding those applications in March, 2005.

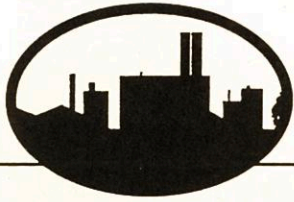
Application forms will also be made available, with a submittal deadline of October 31, 2004, for grants to prepare sediment removal plans or for grants to actually conduct sediment removal projects for which a plan is already in place. Those applications will also be acted upon by the SSCB at the March, 2005, meeting.

Funding requests for LARE projects are made by local entities such as lake associations, planning and development organizations, or governmental units.

The initial LARE program will remain the same. Applications for; Lake Preliminary Study, Lake or Watershed Diagnostic Study, Lake or Stream Strategic Management Plan, Preliminary Engineering Feasibility Study, Engineering Design Study, and Construction were accepted early in the spring. The State Soil Conservation Board will make decisions for funding at the July, 2004, meeting.



For more information about the Lake and River Enhancement Program, contact the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District, 574/291-7444, ext. 3, or the IDNR, Division of Soil Conservation at 317/233-3870, or access the Division's Web site at www.in.gov/dnr/soilcons/index.html.

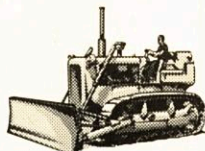
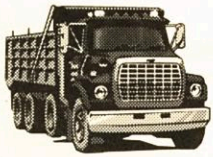


URBAN MEANDERINGS

New Stormwater Rules for Construction Sites Effective November 26, 2003

A revised rule governing stormwater discharges from construction sites became effective on November 26, 2003. General Permit rule 327 IAC 15-5, Indiana's Stormwater Quality from Construction Sites regulation, is part of the State's effort to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) established by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through the Clean Water Act. The revised rule is part of the Phase 2 implementation of the NPDES program. The intent of the NPDES program is to reduce pollutants entering our surface waters.

Specifically, 327 IAC 15-5 is intended to regulate stormwater discharges from construction sites, which disturb one (1) acres or more, or are part of a larger common plan of development or sale. The rule requires that potential stormwater pollutants be minimized, throughout construction, along with the inherent pollutants associated with the new landuse. In addition, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, meeting the requirements of the rule, must be submitted to the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in the county where the project is being proposed. Also, a Notice of Intent (NOI) form, along with a permit fee, must be sent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the agency that administers and enforces the regulation.



To comply with the new regulation, construction projects that will disturb one (1) acre or more are required to develop a Construction Plan, including a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, meeting the requirements of the rule. The plan is required to be submitted to the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in the county where the project is being proposed at least 28 days prior to the expected start date for the project. Staff at the SWCD office will review the plans, and if no changes are necessary for the plans to comply with the requirements, the project may begin. If changes are necessary, the project designer must make the appropriate changes before construction operations are started.



Silt fence can be an effective sediment control practice on individual lots during the house construction phase. They keep sediment from getting into the streets and street inlets, and from damaging neighboring lots.

The rule also requires that potential stormwater pollutants be minimized in stormwater discharges from the site by implementing measures to prevent the transport of the pollutants. These measures include the installation of erosion and sediment control practices to minimize sediment discharges, changes in sequencing to reduce the amount of exposed soils, self-monitoring procedures to make sure adequate protections are in place and functioning properly, material handling and storage procedures to reduce the chance of spills of

hazardous materials, modification of the project design to minimize potential pollutants from the completed project among others.



A slow release device installed in a stormwater detention basin detains water from the drainage area for up to three days.

After construction has been completed and the site stabilized, the slow release device is removed and the sediment cleaned out.

The grass cover is then re-established as needed.

Construction sites that disturb five (5) acres or more have been required to draft erosion and sediment control plans, and to implement those plans on their sites since September of 1992 to minimize stormwater pollutants during construction. SWCD and Division of Soil Conservation of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources staff have been reviewing plans, providing technical assistance and inspecting the construction sites for compliance, which will continue. The new rule reduces the land disturbance threshold to one (1) acre and adds several other requirements to better reduce potential pollutants leaving construction sites in storm runoff. For more information regarding the new rule requirements, contact the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District office at (574) 291-7444 ext. 3, or the IDNR, Division of Soil Conservation, Stormwater and Sediment Control Program at (317) 233-3870.



**St. Joseph County Soil and Water
Conservation District
5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4
South Bend, IN 46614**

St. Joseph County Soil And Water

Supervisors:

Paul Williams III, Chairman
Dave Craft, V-Chairman
Jim Gries, Member
John Kulwicki, Member
Dale Stoner, Member

Associate Supervisors:

Jerry Dominiack
John Dooms
Steve Horvath
Melvin Kulwicki
Jim LaFree
Charles Lehman
Jay Lindenman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
Beverly Riddle
Richard Schmidt

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.**

Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar
Harold Mutti

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Troy Manges, SWCD
Tonia Albright, SWCD
Beth Forsness, IDNR

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Mike Hoskins, CED
Helene Cannoot
Cindy Philhower
Denise Trimboli