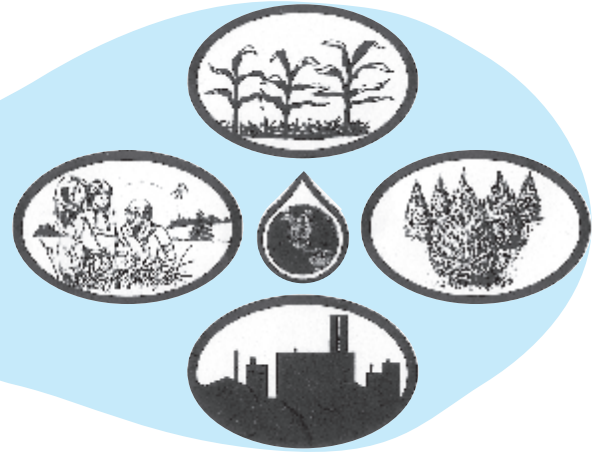




St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CONSERVATION KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

March/April 2015
Volume 17, Issue 2

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What's Going On...

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

March 1

Tree & Rain Barrel Order
Forms DUE TODAY!

March 11

Producers Breakfast
(see page 4 for details)

March 17

SWCD Board Meeting
6:30 pm Centre Township
Library—Butterfly Room

April 3

Good Friday - County
Holiday

April 10-12

Ag Days, St. Joseph County
Fairgrounds

April 18

Tree, Rain Barrel,
Composter Sale Pick
Up Day!!

April 21

SWCD Board Meeting 7 pm
Centre Township Library

April 24

Arbor Day

May 5

Primary Election Day -
County Holiday

May 19

SWCD Board Meeting 7 pm
Centre Township Library

May 25

Memorial Day - Office
Closed

Have You Heard? ...



Love Your Pollinators

By: News From Unity Gardens January 29, 2015

What is all the fuss about flowers? As most of us gardeners know, many of our vegetables need to be pollinated. But there are more reasons to grow flowers than just pollination of our vegetables. Let's start with pollination.

Honey bees get most of the press as the "kings of the pollinators", but there are many more pollinating insects than just honey bees. According to the USDA there are approximately 200,000 different species of animals around the world that act as pollinators. Of these, about 1,000 are vertebrates, such as birds, bats, and small mammals. The rest are invertebrates, including flies, beetles, butterflies, moths, and bees. It is such a diverse world!

So while we look forward to these pollinators coming along and pollinating our vegetable garden in June or July, we have to understand that there is a diverse ecosystem relying on nectar and pollen as a source of food throughout the year! What are these pollinators feeding on in March, April, or even October?

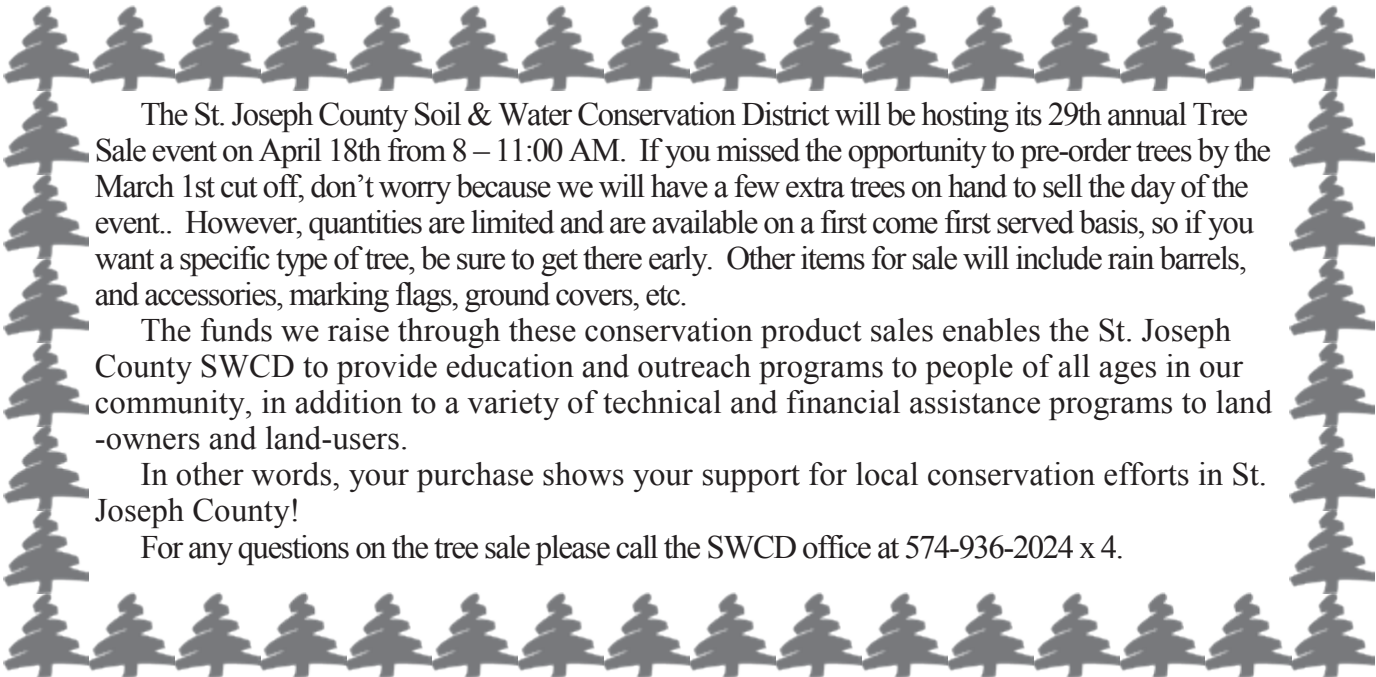
This is where we begin in thinking about what to grow to sustain a complete ecosystem; a variety of colors, blooming at different times of the year, a variety of sizes and shapes of flowers, and growing in clusters so they are easy to find. Also think about making the most of your plants native varieties. These plants are well adapted to our area with subsequently less maintenance or increased survival rates than annual varieties.

We know attracting pollinators is a good idea, but what are some other reasons for planting flowers in and around the garden? Let's start with the evil "bad bugs" that invade your garden. They are only there to eat your vegetables. They are very targeted. Bad bugs make up less the 1% of the insect population.

Through planting flowers and native varieties, there are many beneficial insects that you can invite into your garden! A few great examples are lady beetles that feed on aphids, or the parasitic wasps that feed on tomato hornworms. Guess what they are attracted to? Flowers and herbs, of course! Many of them like small flowers like angelica, chervil, fennel, dill, and cilantro, with umbrella-shaped clusters (umbels) of minuscule flowers (known to attract beneficial wasps).

A great way to decide "what to plant where" is find a good companion planting guide. Think about letting some of your cilantro or carrots go to flower. Many flower and herbs also ward off or confuse insects that are in search of their favorite vegetable meal. Of course, another good reason to plant flowers is also the fact that they are pretty! Makes "Flower Power" really rock!

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.
~ Chinese Proverb



The St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District will be hosting its 29th annual Tree Sale event on April 18th from 8 – 11:00 AM. If you missed the opportunity to pre-order trees by the March 1st cut off, don't worry because we will have a few extra trees on hand to sell the day of the event. However, quantities are limited and are available on a first come first served basis, so if you want a specific type of tree, be sure to get there early. Other items for sale will include rain barrels, and accessories, marking flags, ground covers, etc.

The funds we raise through these conservation product sales enables the St. Joseph County SWCD to provide education and outreach programs to people of all ages in our community, in addition to a variety of technical and financial assistance programs to land-owners and land-users.

In other words, your purchase shows your support for local conservation efforts in St. Joseph County!

For any questions on the tree sale please call the SWCD office at 574-936-2024 x 4.



Thank you to everyone who donated towards our very successful Silent Auction!

55th Annual SWCD Meeting January 30, 2015 St. Hedwig Memorial Center 150 in attendance

A special thank you goes to Senator Jim Arnold and his wife Lauren, Senator Donnelly's Regional Director Meredith Perks, Representative Jackie Walorski's District Director Ben Falkowski, as well as Indiana Representative David Niezgodski and his wife Sheila, and St. Joseph County Commissioners Dave Thomas & Deborah Fleming for joining us!



Guests socialize and browse the silent auction items prior to the meeting's call to order.

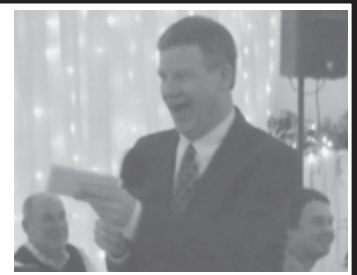
The Supervisor Election was officiated by SWCD Supervisor, Mike Burkholder. He introduced candidates Jeremy Cooper and Paul Williams III as well as explaining the legal requirements to vote. After the ballots were passed out, picked up, and counted, it was determined that Jeremy Cooper had been re-elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Dave Thomas swore Ms. Silvers into office as an appointed Supervisor. Cooper was unable to attend and will be sworn into office at the next board meeting.



Congratulations and Thank You, Jim Eller & Randy Ehninger, for being St. Joseph County River Friendly Farmers!!

Craig Tornquist Comedian



Thank You for Helping to Sponsor Our 55th Annual Meeting
Keith & Nancy Lineback

Regional Conservation Partnership Program project announcement

January 14, 2014 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that 115 high-impact projects across all 50 states, including Indiana, will receive more than \$370 million as part of the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

RCPP's historic focus on public-private partnerships enables private companies, local communities and other non-government partners a way to invest in efforts to keep our land productive and water clean, and promote tremendous economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism and outdoor recreation, and other industries.

Of the 115 projects announced, the three that impact Indiana include:

The University of Notre Dame – The project will assist with adoption of cover crops and two-stage ditches in targeted watersheds. Soil and water quality and quantity benefits will be quantified and monitored at the watershed scale. The effect of these practices on water and soil quality and the economic impacts for both public and private interests will be documented. In addition, modeling efforts will make broader conclusions at the regional scale.

The Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative – A diverse team of partners will identify high-priority sub-watersheds for phosphorus reduction and increase farmer access to public and private technical assistance in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. The project will coordinate with the Ohio Phosphorus Task Force Report and move Lake Erie toward goals in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The partners will gauge success and monitor results using water quality monitoring and watershed modeling.

The Michigan/Indiana St. Joseph River Conservation Partnership - The partnership optimize groundwater use, improve infiltration, and reduce nutrients and sediment while also improving wildlife and fisheries habitat, using innovative methods to target high-priority areas and appropriate conservation practices. Monitoring will be used to adaptively manage this project from the field-scale to the entire watershed.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.



2015
International
Year of Soils

The International Year of Soils (IYS) 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

The specific objectives of the IYS 2015 are to:

- Raise full awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life;
- Educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups;
- Strengthen initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda;
- Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).

Q: What do rocks say when they agree with one another? **A:** My sediments exactly.



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

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



St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

2015 Producer's Breakfast & PARP Re-Certification Meeting

When: Wed., March 11, 2015
Registration starts at 7:30 am

Where: St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds
Esther Singer Building

Take advantage of this FREE event to take in some helpful information AND get your annual PARP credits. We will be discussing Gypsum Use in Agriculture, Micronutrients & Fertility, Weed Update & Cover Crop Management.

If you have questions or to RSVP by March 3, 2015, please call 574-936-2024, ext 4. or e-mail us at: info@stjosephswcd.org

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
Paul Williams, III
Dru Wrasse

SWCD Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:

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

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Gideon Nobbe, CED
Linda Bentele
Aldona Martin
Cindy Slonaker
Abby Ciesielski
Lorin Awald

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!!!!

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