



# 2017 Annual Report



On January 29, 2016 we were joined by 120 community members at the Hedwig Memorial Center in South Bend for the 57th Annual Meeting. John Glenn High School entertained us with a show choir.

We were honored to have Former Senator Jim Arnold, Lauren Varga Regional Director to US Senator Joe Donnelly, and Commissioners Dave Thomas and Deborah Flemming as honored guests.

Our annual supervisor election was held with candidate John Dooms being re-elected to the board for another 3 year term. We'd like to thank John Dooms for his 35 years of dedication and service to our board!

Conservation Awards were given to our 2016 River Friendly Farmers of the Year, Ness Farms and Jim Eller; and our Friends of Wildlife was given to Patty & Chris Fowler. We also gave Debbie Knepp with NRCS and Rick Glassman of our SWCD a service appreciation award for their years of service and dedication to our district and district staff.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **58th Annual Meeting**

Join us in celebrating 58 years of serving St. Joseph County

January 26, 2018

Doors open at 5:45 PM

St. Hedwig Parish

331 S Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601

**Please RSVP by Friday, January 19, 2018**

Tickets for the Family-Style Polish Dinner are available for \$15.00 each from any St. Joseph County SWCD board member or call the office at 574-936-2024 ext. 4. You can also visit our website to register: [www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org)

The evening will feature:

**Larry Wirtz**

Larry draws upon his 33 years of performing experience to bring a rare sense of perspective and conviction to his presentations. He delivers an eye-opening, jaw-dropping program that is genuine, dignified, funny and entertaining.

The evening will also include our very popular Silent Auction, board supervisor election and awards ceremony.



# 2017 Conservation Practices



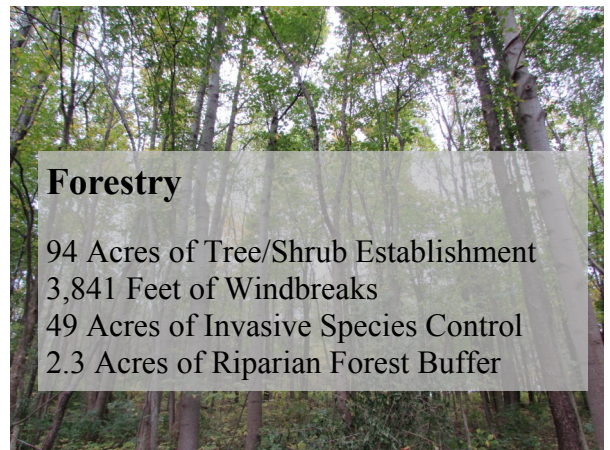
## Crop Production

1,579 Acres of Cover Crops  
173 Acres of No-Till  
342 Acres of Nutrient Management  
232 Acres of Irrigation Water Management



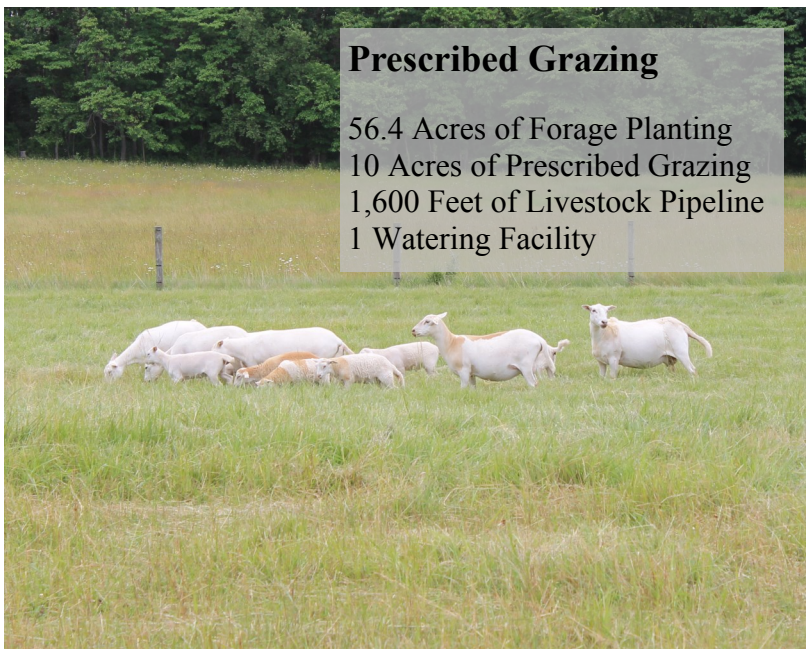
## Wildlife Habitat

35.4 Acres of Warm Season Grasses/  
Pollinator & Monarch  
14.5 Acres of Upland Wildlife  
Management



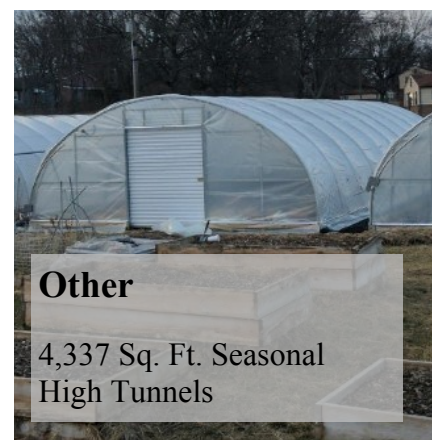
## Forestry

94 Acres of Tree/Shrub Establishment  
3,841 Feet of Windbreaks  
49 Acres of Invasive Species Control  
2.3 Acres of Riparian Forest Buffer



## Prescribed Grazing

56.4 Acres of Forage Planting  
10 Acres of Prescribed Grazing  
1,600 Feet of Livestock Pipeline  
1 Watering Facility



## Other

4,337 Sq. Ft. Seasonal  
High Tunnels

4,604.6 Acres Planned

3,462 Acres Applied



# Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health

1,456.03 Acres of Cover Crops and 142 Acres of No-Till was paid for by the Clean Water Indiana Grant in 2017.



Funds are still available for

- Cover Crops
- No-Till
- Filter Strips
- Nutrient Management
- Pollinator Habitat

Contact our office for more information and an application.



## St Joseph County

434.9 Acres  
Of cover crops

## Marshall County

718.43 Acres of  
cover crops

142 Acres of  
No-Till

## Starke County

302.7 Acres of  
cover crops

## Rainscaping

Our first demonstration Rain Garden was installed June 9, 2017 at Zion United Church of Christ located at 211 S. St. Peter St., South Bend, IN 46617. We held a rain garden workshop with John Orick & Kara Salazar from Purdue University in the morning and installed the demo garden in the afternoon.

Through a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant and in partnership with Marshall & Starke County SWCD's, the St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District has funds available to help you with installation costs of your rain garden. Contact our office for more information and an application.





## 2017 Urban Conservation

Storm Water Management, Erosion Control Planning, and Public Education are critical elements in protecting and improving water quality in St. Joseph County and downstream. Indiana's 92 Soil & Water Conservation Districts are key partners in the implementation of IDEM's Storm Water Program, and most specifically with Rule 5 and Rule 13. These storm water programs manage the permitting of large municipal storm water discharges, storm water associated with construction activity, and storm water associated with municipal separate storm sewer systems. In 2017 the St. Joseph County SWCD reviewed 15 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for MS4 entities and processed 5 Notice of Terminations for completed construction projects.



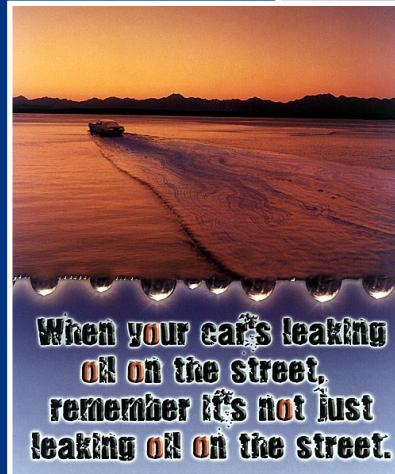
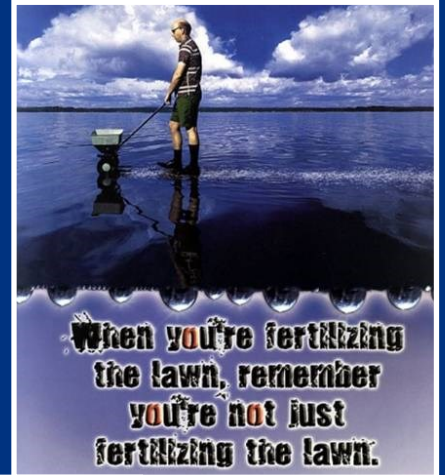
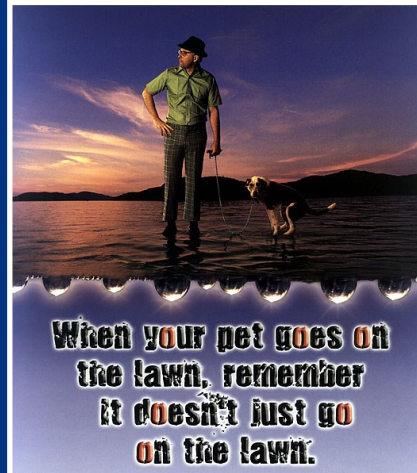
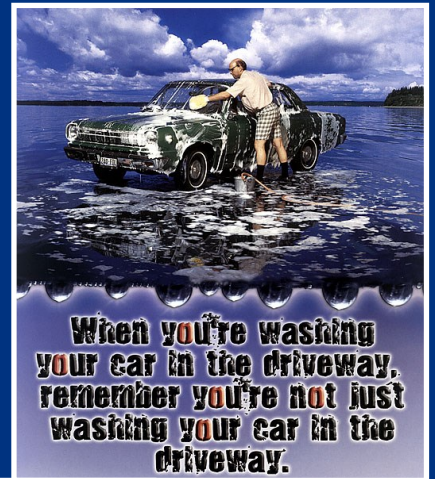
Proper use of silt fence to prevent runoff of soil and materials onto the streets.

### In Partnership



The Michiana Stormwater Partnership (MSP) is an educational group represented by nine local entities in the Michiana Area: City of South Bend, City of Mishawaka, Town of the Roseland, Town of Osceola, St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District, St. Joseph County, Ivy Tech Community

College, Bethel College, and the St. Joseph River Basin Commission/MACOG. Our mission is to educate our community on the importance of good environmental stewardship of all of our rivers and streams and provide the community with information, resources, and opportunities to help them develop or enhance their own efforts for the common good. In accordance with the MSP and SWCD's mission the St. Joseph County SWCD provided free presentations throughout the year to several community groups on the benefits of best management practices that improve soil health and water quality such as rain gardens, native grass plantings, and pollinator habitat.





## Farming for the Future A Tri-County Producers Workshop

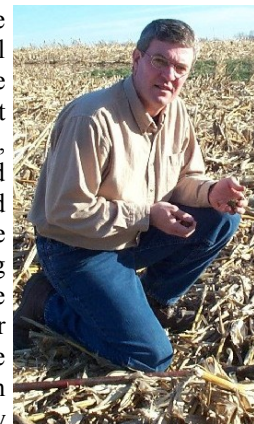
On February 28, 2017 the St Joseph County SWCD along with the Marshall & Starke County SWCD's hosted a producers workshop. The day consisted of vendor booths, general sessions with Brad Clayton from Clayton's Greenhouse talking about Healthy Soils; and a farmer panel Q&A. There were also 3 breakout sessions with Tom Moneyheffer from Nutritional Blending who discussed cover crops, Jim Camberato from Purdue University & Nate Mrozinski with INField Advantage talked about nutrient management and Derek Thompson & Scott Haley from NRCS demonstrated the effects of tillage on soil health.



## Save The Date

### 2018 Farming for the Future A Tri-County Producers Workshop

**Keynote Speaker:** Barry Fisher is the Central Region Leader for the Soil Health Division of USDA-NRCS. He provides soil health management systems technical leadership, training, and assistance to NRCS, farmers and partners throughout the Corn Belt and Northern Plains. He assists with state and regional conservation cropping systems initiatives, serves on the National Soil Health Training Cadre for NRCS, and represents NRCS on the Midwest Cover Crops Council and North Central SARE Advisory Council. Barry was recently recognized as one of the 25 Living Legends of No-Till and was given the Conservation Legacy Award from NRCS for his contribution to the "Unlock the Secrets of the Soil" campaign. Barry is also a certified crop advisor, and he and his wife operate a cash grain and livestock farm in west-central Indiana.



**PARP credits available.** Cost is \$10 paid at the workshop.

**When:** February 15, 2018

**Where:** Christo's Banquet Center, 830 Lincoln Hwy East, Plymouth, IN 46563

**Time:** 9am-2pm (EST)

**Cost:** TBA

The 2016-2017 school year marked the final year for Rick Glassman. After serving the district for 27 years as the Environmental Education Coordinator, Rick decided it was time to retire. Students and teachers alike will remember him as *Ranger Rick*. During his years at the SWCD, Rick had numerous programs he held at schools, small groups, and with other organizations. Some of his most popular programs included Jethro the Scarecrow, Swamp Stomps, Owl Prowls and Amphibians & Reptiles.

"What an amazing teacher for our students! I have been retired 12 years and so fondly remember all that Rick meant to the children in my classroom! He had a special way with children, teaching all about our environment in such a fun and interesting way! Thanks, Rick for sharing yourself and your knowledge with my students for 26 years!" Kay Beyer, Studebaker and Greene Primary Schools.

#### 2017 Youth Education Highlights

- ◆ 21 Schools participated
- ◆ 240 in school programs
- ◆ 2 Project Wild & Growing Up Wild Workshops
- ◆ Science Alive







## To our 2017 Donors

### Gold Donors

Ava Preacher & Coleen Hoover

Keith & Nancy Lineback

### Silver Donors

The Farmers Exchange

Joe & Dorene Graff

### Bronze Donors

Chez Chevaux Farm

First Source Bank

Scott Laidig - Pioneer Hi-Bred

Lehman & Lehman, Inc.

Matthys Farm Market

McCormick Electrical Services

North Central Co-op

River Bend Hose Specialty, Inc.

Shoemaker Welding

St Joseph Co Farm Bureau Inc.

University of Notre Dame

### Affiliate Donors

Bob's Country Store

Anna Me Coryell

Dave & Pam Craft - Craft Orchard

Peter & Lois Holmgren

David Johnson

Gunter & Erika Kison

Jeff Peterson - Pioneer Hi Bred

Robert & Charlene Plasschaert

Ritschard Brothers Inc.

Dale & Dorothy Stoner

Randy & Cindi Stoner

Rick Stoner

Donald Sporleder

Fredrick Ulbricht

Unity Gardens

Zahl's Elevator & Feed Mill

## Get Involved

### Are you interested in enhancing and promoting conservation in your county?

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are governed by boards made up of local "supervisors" who work to promote the wise use, development, and conservation of our state's soil, water, and related resources in ways that are relevant to our unique regions.

Past state board member Mike Starkey says:

"The benefits of being a supervisor, is a tremendous opportunity to meet others that have a passion for conservation but also to educate others that are not aware of how they can be conservationists. The general public has no idea that there are others like us that serve to conserve the soil and water that we all use. When they become aware of that, we as supervisors are respected for not only who we are but what we do in serving in our community and state."

**Associate Supervisor** - This is where most people begin their journey with the SWCD. New Associate Supervisors are approved by the Board, which is comprised of both Supervisors and Associate Supervisors. Potential Associates are encouraged to attend a few board meetings prior to board approval.

**Supervisor** - This is the official voting voice of the SWCD. Three supervisors are elected (for a three-year term) at an annual meeting of land occupiers. Two are appointed (also for three-year terms) by the State Soil Conservation Board based upon recommendations of the current supervisors in the district. Elected Supervisors must own 10 acres of land in the county.

### How much time is involved?

The amount of time depends on how much or how little you have available to offer. Listed below are some examples of the ways you can volunteer with us.

**Monthly Meetings** - The SWCD meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Please see our website for dates, times and location. Meetings generally last 1.5 hours. The public is always welcome to attend our monthly meetings, so come by any time!

**Committee Meetings** - The St. Joseph County SWCD believes in the committee process. The committees bring their recommendations to the board for approval and generally meet before the monthly meeting lasting about 30 minutes.

**Supervisors** - Generally meet an extra 4 times per year.

**Events** - Field Days & workshops, science alive, and other events can add 10 to 20 extra hours per year.

Contact us if you are interested in joining the St. Joseph County SWCD.





## SWCD/NRCS Partnership Staff



Sarah Longenecker, SWCD  
County Conservationist



Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD  
Administrative Assistant



Jane Sablich, SWCD  
Environmental Education  
Coordinator



Debbie Knepp, USDA  
NRCS District  
Conservationist

## SWCD Board of Supervisors



John Doms  
Chairman  
36 Years of Service &  
Dedication



Jeremy Cooper  
Vice - Chairman  
7 Years of Service &  
Dedication



Mike Burkholder  
Supervisor  
5 Years of  
Service &  
Dedication



Stacey Silvers  
Supervisor  
9 Years of  
Service &  
Dedication



Dave Vandewalle  
Supervisor  
8 Years of Service  
& Dedication

### 2016 ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Dave Craft \*17 years\*  
Chuck Lehman \*37 years\*  
Randy Matthys \*30 years\*  
Jim LaFree \*27 years\*  
Carole Riewe \*13 years\*  
Richard Schmidt \*32 years\*  
Arlene Schuchman \*7 years\*  
Dale Stoner \*48 years\*  
Dru Wrasse \*10 years\*

### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Bernie Byrd  
Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

### PURDUE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (USDA)

Extension Educator -Agriculture & Natural  
Resources : Jacob Holloway  
Extension Educator - 4-H Youth Development :  
Matthew Bellina  
County Extension Director: Christopher Gillam  
District Secretary: Michele Poitras  
Secretary: Rebecca Best, Julyenne Freeland, &  
Francisca Woodcox  
Nutrition Education Program Assistants:  
Myriam Nicodemus & Lindsey Walejewski  
Expanded Food & Nutrition Education  
Program Advisor - Jennifer Noie &  
Luz Rivera  
Nutrition Education Program Community  
Wellness Coordinator - Margaret Gibney,  
& Rebecca Lies

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY (USDA)



Gideon Nobbe - County Executive  
Director  
Program Technician's  
Abby Ciesielski, Aldona Martin,  
Tara Wolfe, & Devan Herrell



A big heartfelt thank you to all of our Supervisors & Associate Supervisors, as well as our partnership staff. Without all of you we would not be able to accomplish all that we have this year and in the years to come!



## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

### St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Members' Mission Statements



*Helping St. Joseph County residents improve  
their natural resources through conservation  
and education.*



*Mission: Helping People  
help the Land  
Vision: Productive Lands  
Healthy Environment*



*To facilitate the protection and  
enhancement of Indiana's  
land and water.*

#### Got Questions? For St. Joseph County, Indiana Residents, here are a few numbers we give out regularly:

- ◆ **Soil Testing:** St. Joseph County Purdue Extension: 574-235-9604
- ◆ **Free Mulch/Compost for South Bend Residents:** Organic Resources: 574-287-6841
- ◆ **Solid Waste Management District, including Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Disposal:** 574-235-9971
- ◆ **Water Testing:** St. Joseph County Health Department: 574-235-9750
- ◆ **Trees/Forestry:** Indiana DNR District Forester: 219-843-4827
- ◆ **"Nuisance" Wildlife:** Indiana DNR Conservation Officer: 574-457-8092
- ◆ **Other wildlife questions:** Indiana DNR Wildlife Biologist: 260-367-2186 (**Urban Biologist:** 260-244-6805)
- ◆ **St. Joseph County PLAT BOOK:** [www.stjosephcountyindiana.com/301/GIS](http://www.stjosephcountyindiana.com/301/GIS)
- ◆ **NOT SURE who to call? We can help figure that out:** St. Joseph County SWCD: 574-936-2024 EXT 4 or visit our resources page on our website at [www.stjosephswcd.org/resources---links](http://www.stjosephswcd.org/resources---links)