



**Volume 12, Issue 2
Summer 2012**

**CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Conservation Quarterly

Come to the Fair!

The annual Clark County 4-H Fair will be held July 13-21, and the Clark County SWCD staff has been busy making preparations. The SWCD would like to invite you to stop by their Natural Resources Conservation Facility (located at the rear of the Fairgrounds), and enjoy the activities, view the demonstrations and displays, and visit with the guests scheduled to appear. The Natural Resources area will be open Monday through Friday evenings, July 16-20, from 6-9 p.m.

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Monday, July 16

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District—permits
County municipalities' Stormwater Department staff
Learn how to green your yard with rain barrels, composting, beneficial insects, greenscaping, plus much more!

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Tuesday, July 17

Joe Autry, Louisville, KY, will demonstrate chainsaw carving

.....
Wednesday, July 18

Agriculture Night

Come celebrate agriculture and the Indiana State Fair Year of Dairy Cows!
Southern Indiana Beekeepers
Jennifer Kipper—Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mary Hendrix—local goat cheese entrepreneur
Met the Chick-fil-a cow
Cow Costume Contest in honor of Chick-fil-a Cow Appreciation Day (dress as a dairy cow for a chance to win a prize!)

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Thursday, July 19

Raptor Rehab of KY, special raptor program starting at 7 p.m.
Special viewing of the original animated movie "The Lorax" at 8 p.m.
Rocky Brown, Deam Lake Naturalist, Shannon Winks, District Wildlife Biologist, and Don Stump, District Forester, will be on hand to answer your forestry and wildlife questions

Meet the hosts of Indiana Outdoor Adventures, www.indianaoutdooradventures.com, the "all-Indiana" hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation show

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Friday, July 20

No activities, SWCD exhibit building open



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Rain Garden Workshop Coming in August



Have you ever wondered what to plant in that low spot in your backyard where the grass won't grow because water puddles there after it rains? Or how to fix the erosion gully where rainwater drains away from one of your downspouts? Well, there may be an easy, attractive solution. Try planting a raingarden!

A raingarden is simply a garden with a depression that is designed to catch rainwater runoff in your yard, growing plants that don't mind getting partially flooded on occasion. Raingardens provide wildlife habitat and an opportunity to create beautiful landscaping. And, by soaking up rain where it falls, raingardens slow stormwater runoff, help prevent erosion, and remove pollutants in the process. (Excerpt from "The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens" by Rusty Schmidt, Dan Shaw, and David Dods)

This rain garden workshop will provide information and instruction for those familiar, and those not so familiar, with rain gardens, to allow either to build a garden with confidence. In addition, a special session at the end of the workshop will review the steps to start a rain garden program within a community for businesses, organizations, or entities that want to take rain gardening to a higher level.

Agenda

8-8:30 a.m.—Registration

8:30 a.m.-Noon—Design and Construction of Rain Gardens, Rusty Schmidt, co-author of the "Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens"

Noon-12:45 p.m.—LUNCH (included in registration cost)

12:45-1:30 p.m.—Planting Recommendations, Margaret Shea, Dropseed Nursery

1:30-2 p.m.—Rain Garden Maintenance, Rusty Schmidt

2-4 p.m.—Program Development for Promoting the Installation of Rain Gardens, Rusty Schmidt

Date: Friday, August 17th

Location: Museum Building, Clark State Forest, Henryville, IN

(Enter park through Hwy 31 main entrance, follow road across the I-65 overpass and take the 1st lane to the right.)

Cost: \$45 (includes lunch)

Vendor Cost: additional \$20 for a table

Sessions approved by Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System

To register for the workshop, or for more information, contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3. **Deadline for registration is August 8, 2012.**

Dates to Note

- 7/4/12—4th of July Holiday, SWCD office closed
- 7/10/12—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 7/16-7/20/12—Clark County 4H Fair
- 8/2/12—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 8/17/12—Rain Garden Workshop, 8-4 p.m.
- 9/3/12—Labor Day Holiday, SWCD office closed

Project Offers Cost-share Dollars

The Silver Creek Watershed Improvement project currently has agricultural and urban cost-share dollars available to implement best management practices (BMPs) on land within the watershed in order to improve water quality. BMPs are effective and practical methods which prevent or reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants from the land to surface or ground water.

The cost-share program provides **60% match** of the allowed actual costs of implementing approved BMPs. Technical assistance is provided. Some of the practices that may be funded include; *livestock exclusion from streams, cover crops, streambank stabilization, riparian buffers and more.* Visit www.mysilvercreekwatershed.weebly.com for more examples. If you are an agricultural producer, homeowner, organization or entity and are located in the Silver Creek Watershed district, you may be eligible to apply.

For more information about the cost share program contact David Trotter, Watershed Technician, at 812-256-2330, ext. 110, or David.trotter@in.nacdn.net.

Rent our Equipment

No-Till Drill - \$8 per acre

Outback S2 Guidance Systems - \$10 per day

Call 256-2330, ext. 3 for scheduling

Stop by our office and sign an Equipment Rental Agreement

Photo Contest Announced

The Clark County SWCD is pleased to announce its 7th Annual Photo Contest. The contest is open to amateur photographers (those who make less than 50% of their income from photography). Categories are: Trees & Plants, On The Farm, Landscapes, Wildlife, and Water.

Entry forms are available by calling the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or by visiting the home page of the District web site, www.clarkswcd.org. Entries must be received by close of business, July 3, 2012.

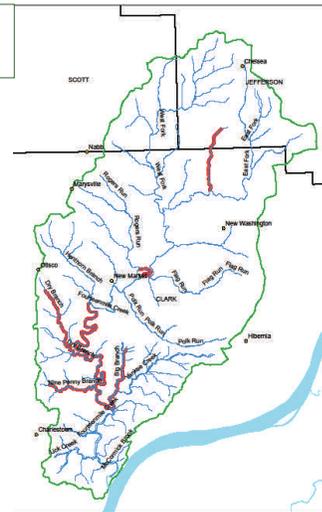
Winning photos will be displayed during the Clark County 4-H Fair in the SWCD's Natural Resources Conservation Education Area.

Public Input for Grant Requested

The Clark County SWCD is in the process of preparing a grant proposal to develop a watershed management plan for Fourteen Mile Creek, and the Indiana portion of Goose Creek-OH River. Fourteen Mile Creek is currently listed on the EPA's 303(d) list of impaired waters for E.coli, dissolved oxygen, and impaired biotic communities.

We would like to hear from residents who are concerned about the condition of these watersheds, or who would like to volunteer to help with activities such as water sampling. Please contact our office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or email melanie.davis@in.nacdnet.net.

Please note: the watershed management plan will address water quality issues, not water flow issues such as building structures to contain water).



The SWCD has Rain Barrel Kits available for \$40 each plus tax. These DIY kits, include a 55 gallon plastic barrel, 2 faucets, and instructions (additional materials required for completion). Contact the SWCD office for more information or to purchase yours!

Fall Tree Sale Scheduled

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will begin taking orders for its' Fall Tree Sale in July. Once again the SWCD will be offering quality stock from Forrest Keeling Nursery, Missouri. These trees are 3-gallon, Grade 1 (nursery stock) container trees grown using Forrest Keeling's RPM® (Root Production Method). This method produces fast-growing, uniform trees, which can be easily removed from their containers and directly planted. A few of the tree species offered in the sale include: Dawn Redwood, Norway Spruce, Northern Redbud, Red Maple, White Pine, and Oak. Many more! Trees are \$25.00 each.

Perennial plants are also be offered in the sale. Beautiful and hardy, these natives are perfect for low-maintenance and working landscapes. Other items included in the sale are: Tree-Mate-O "Tree Success Kits" (tree support, guard, and stake), and wildlife nest boxes.

For more information, or an order form, contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3. Forms also available at www.clarkswcd.org.

Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are currently available for the Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship sponsored by the Clark County SWCD and funded through the Southern Indiana Community Foundation.



The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to a current high school senior or current college student entering or enrolled in an environmental science course of study at a post-secondary institution (2 year or 4 year program). Examples include but are not limited to horticulture, landscape architecture, agriculture, environmental engineering, forestry, agronomy, environmental studies, geology and wildlife.

Funds received by scholarship recipient will be paid directly to the school from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana.

Questions or application requests should be directed to Tami Kruer, Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director, by phone at 256-2330, Ext. 107 or by email at tami.kruer@in.nacdnet.net. The application is also available online at www.clarkswcd.org. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m., Monday, July 3, 2012.



Record the trees you plant at the Plant A Tree For You And Me website at www.clarkswcd.org/PAT/openpage.htm.

Help us reach our goal of 100,000 trees planted by August 2012.



9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3
Fax: 812-256-0362

Return Service Requested



**CLARK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Charlestown, IN
Permit No. 6**

SWCD Supporters....we thank you!

*Clark County Farm Bureau
Farm Credit Services
Huber Orchard & Winery
Kruer Grading-Seeding, Inc.
Sanders Farm Service—Pioneer Seed*

*Dan Cristiani Excavating
Memphis Meat Processing
New Washington State Bank
Ottis Wright—dba Wright Brothers*

No-Tiller Seeds Cover Crops While Harvesting

Some no-tillers say they don't plant cover crops because there isn't enough time, or they don't want to add extra equipment passes in their fields. Not so for no-tiller, Ray McCormick, Vincennes, IN. Last fall, he mounted a Gandy Orbit-Air applicator onto his combine and seeded annual ryegrass into freshly harvested corn fields. According to McCormick, "It's a one-pass operation."

McCormick called up one company to get an air seeder to mount to his combine, but was told it would take 8 months to take delivery. He then called Gandy, which eventually sold him a used 6-bushel applicator that he could put together and use.

McCormick spent \$80 to buy metal that he welded to the top rail of the corn head to support the applicator. After drilling two holes for bolts, he fastened the Gandy unit onto the rail and ran the air hoses underneath the corn head's snapping rollers.

"We didn't want the seed to go out the back of the combine. We wanted it blowing out under the rollers so the plant material comes out on top of the ryegrass," he says.

McCormick hooked up the unit's electrical drive so it turns on and off as the corn head is raised or lowered, and he configured the hydraulics so no hoses need to be plugged in when the header is attached or removed. Among the many problems he expected was the Gandy's air intake getting clogged with debris, but it wasn't an issue.

As fertilizer prices continue to skyrocket, McCormick sees the ability of covers to hold or produce nitrogen critical. He estimates it would cost him \$165,000 to fertilize some of his fields with his standard fertilizer program, with no sidedress application factored in. His goal now is to use cover crops to generate about 100 pounds per acre of nitrogen per year. Seeding covers with the combine will reduce field passes, fuel use and equipment wear and tear, possibly saving even more money. *(adapted from No-Till Farmer magazine, April 2012 issue)*



District activities and programs will be made available to all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status or disability.