

Conservation Quarterly

Spring 2024

CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dates to Note

- 3/7/24—SWCD monthly board meeting
- 3/19/24—Spring begins
- 3/20/24—Yard Sprouts Workshop #2
- 3/29/24—Good Friday, SWCD office closed
- 4/4/24 — SWCD monthly board meeting
- 4/17/24—Yard Sprouts Workshop #3
- 4/19/24—Tree order deadline
- 4/22/24—Earth Day
- 4/26/24—Arbor Day
- 4/28-5/5/24—Stewardship Week
- 5/2/24—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
- 5/7/24 – Election Day, SWCD office closed
- 5/27/24—Memorial Day, SWCD office closed

Rent our Equipment

No-Till Drill - \$8 per acre

Outback S2 Guidance Systems -

\$10 per day

**Call 812-256-2330, ext. 3 for
scheduling**

Stop by to sign a rental

SWCD Awarded Funds to Purchase No-Till Drill

The Clark County SWCD is happy to report that at their October 2023 board meeting, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) voted to fully fund the SWCD's proposal for a 2024 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) competitive grants program project. The project officially began January 1, 2024, and has a 3-year completion window.

With these funds, the District will purchase a new 10-ft. John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill to assist landowners in improving the quality of their soil and water resources. The drill will be equipped with a small seed box as well as a grain box that will allow it to be used to plant soybeans, legumes, and pollinator plots. This particular drill also offers the capability to fold the tires behind the drill body for ease in hauling on narrow, rural roads.

The District currently conducts a no-till drill rental program with a Great Plains 10 ft. drill. The program has been quite popular with producers over the years as is evidenced by the ISDA 2023 tillage transect survey results. Clark County's survey found 12,382 acres of no-till, 334 acres of reduced tillage, and 836 acres of conventional till corn. Soybeans came in at 28,132 no-till acres, 0 reduced tillage, and 1,329 acres conventional till. These statistics gave the District the incentive to replace their aging Great Plains drill, and continue to offer the drill rental program.



This project addresses the SSCB priority natural resource concerns of water quality, soil health/degradation, and erosion by minimizing soil disturbance. This keeps sediment out of waterways, keeps top soil in place, improves organic matter, and keeps sheet, gully, and rill erosion from occurring.

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The District expects to receive delivery of the drill this April. Until that time, the Great Plains drill will be available for producers to use at the current rate of \$8 per acre. A workshop will be scheduled once the new drill has arrived to introduce producers to the operation of the drill; a sales rep will be on hand to answer questions.

Producers desiring to rent either drill should contact the SWCD office at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3. An equipment rental agreement must be signed in advance of removing the drill from the premises.

SWCD Welcomes New Board Member



The SWCD is pleased to welcome Gerald “Jerry” Roach to its five-member board of supervisors. Jerry replaces Dana Coots, longtime board member who chose not to run for re-election in 2024. Dana is maintaining his connection with the SWCD, however, by assuming the role of an Associate Supervisor.

Jerry comes to us with thirty- three years of experience working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During that time, he held positions as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Easement Program Coordinator, Resource Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Soil Conservationist. In these positions I worked with landowners, units of governments and private companies on a variety of conservation related issues. He managed the conservation programs in Indiana for eight years, providing oversight and management of NRCS programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). He served for 17 years as the Easement Program Coordinator for all of the NRCS easement programs. As a conservationist, he assisted landowners at the county, area and

state levels on conservation and natural resource related issues (soil erosion, water quality, forestry, wildlife habitat, etc.). In addition, he served on several national and state details, providing management on NRCS programs and personnel. Jerry is recently retired from NRCS.

Cover Crop Premium Discount Program Available to Hoosier Farmers

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the United State Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency have joined forces to implement the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program for the fourth year in a row. This program will reward farmers who plant cover crops by providing a reduced premium on their crop insurance. The discount program was designed to promote planting additional acres of cover crops that are not covered by other state or federal incentives. This program is eligible for 26 out of the 92 counties in Indiana.

“Cover crops are unmatched in the benefits they provide to soil structure, providing nutrients and needed ground cover to ensure vitality,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “Implementing cover crops, however, can be expensive. So, I am excited this program will once again give farmers an opportunity to increase their cover cropped acreage, which will improve water quality and enhance the fertile soil in our state.” Over the last year, this program has had great success with 117 farmers participating, translating to more than 35,000 acres of cover crops on Indiana farmland in the watershed.

This program will provide farmers with a unique opportunity to receive financial incentives for implementing cover crops on their operation. Farmers who plant cover crops on owned or rented acres will receive a \$5 per acre crop insurance premium discount. Farmers who planted cover crops in the fall of 2023 are eligible to apply.

Qualifying counties in the project area include Bartholomew, Brown, **Clark**, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Randolph, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Switzerland and Washington. Seeding of cover crops must follow best agronomic practices in terms of appropriate seeding rates, seed mixes and seeding dates to ensure objectives of the cover crop are being met. To ensure the practice provides the best results termination must be completed in the spring.

Cover cropping has many benefits including increased organic matter, improved soil biology as well as better water infiltration and water-holding capacity. This practice also prevents nutrients and sediment from running off the farm, keeping them out of nearby waterbodies and streams. Funding for this program is provided by a Clean Water Indiana grant and the Cummins Foundation. The Cummins foundation is supporting The Nature Conservancy to improve water quality across Indiana and the Mississippi River Basin.

Applications are due **March 15, 2024** or when available funds are exhausted. Learn more and apply by visiting www.isda.in.gov.

Stewardship Week Celebrated

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship Week is one of the largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, NACD has sponsored the national Stewardship Week program by selecting a theme and developing materials for schools, communities and churches of all denominations. Stewardship Week, celebrated annually between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May (April 28 - May 5, 2024), reminds us of our personal responsibility to care for the natural resources which we all depend upon. This year's theme is *May the Forest Be with You, Always*.



This theme underscores the critical interplay between soil and water conservation and the resilience of our forests. Forests play multifaceted roles in sustaining our planet, serving as sources of oxygen, carbon storage, and vibrant hubs of biodiversity. They function as steadfast protectors of soil and water resources, preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds. In today's context, marked by environmental challenges, resilient forests are indispensable in fostering a sustainable world. The phrase "**May the Forest Be with You, Always**" signifies our commitment to responsible forest stewardship, emphasizing their enduring strength and adaptability. *For more information about Stewardship Week visit the NACD website at <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/stewardship-week/>.*

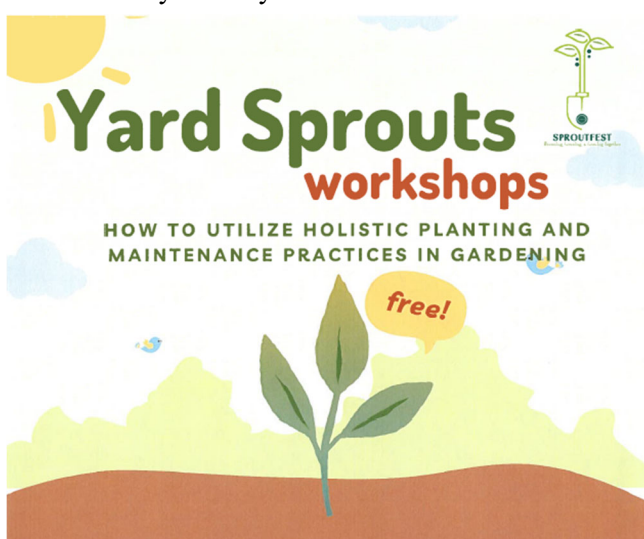
Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship

Marvin Wright was a longtime farmer and implement dealer in the Borden, IN area. He served on the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors from 1963-1988. Marvin was dedicated to farming, the farm community and the protection of our natural resources. An endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana was established through the generous donations of the Marvin Wright, Harold Armstrong, and John Woehrle families to provide an annual scholarship to a student pursuing a natural resources conservation course of study in honor of Mr. Wright.

Applications are now available for the Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship. The \$1000 scholarship is awarded each year to a current high school senior or current college student from Clark County, pursuing a career in a natural resources related field. Forms will be sent to all area high schools, but may also be obtained by contacting Tami Kruer, SWCD Education Coordinator, at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3462. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2024.

Holistic Gardening Workshops Offered in 2024

Clark County's newly formed S.O.I.L Health Team is hosting a four-part series of workshops in 2024 on how to utilize holistic planting and maintenance practices in gardening. The Team is a partnership of the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Purdue Extension Clark County, and Clarksville Parks & Recreation, and promotes Sustainability, Outreach, Innovation, and Leadership in Clark County. Workshops and topics will be:



February 21, 2024 – cold frames, cold crops, raised beds, season extension

March 20, 2024 – “Yardening”, city weed ordinances Q&A

April 17, 2024 – gardening with native plants and trees, beneficial insects, planning & selecting plants, sight prep, post-planting maintenance, pollinators

August 21, 2024 – putting your garden to bed, cover crops, season extension for fall, cool crops

There is no charge to attend the workshops; light refreshments will be provided. All workshops will be held at Endris Lodge,

Lapping Park, 2404 Greentree N, Clarksville, IN, from 6-8 p.m. To register, contact the SWCD office at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3, or visit www.clarkswcd.org.

9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3
Fax: 855-391-1921 (toll free)



**CLARK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

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

Return Service Requested

SWCD Supporters....we thank you!

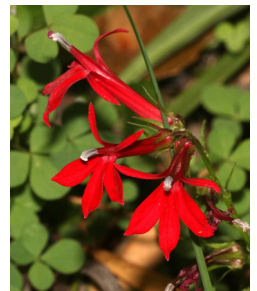
*Dan Cristiani Excavating
Sanders Farm Service LLC
Jim O'Neal Ford*

*Indiana Land Company
Farm Credit Mid-America
Wright Brothers Implement Sales, Hardware & General Store*

SWCD Spring Tree Sale Underway

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting a spring tree sale. Trees offered in this sale are supplied by Woody Warehouse, Lizton, IN. These trees are 3-gallon, Grade 1 (nursery stock) container trees. Trees can be easily removed from their containers and directly planted.

Species offered are: Red Maple, Shadblow Serviceberry, River Birch, Northern Pecan, Buttonbush, Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, Smooth Hydrangea, Tulip Poplar, Norway Spruce, White Pine, Quaking Aspen, Swamp White Oak, and Arrowwood Viburnum. Trees are \$30, shrubs are \$25 each, plus tax.



Cardinal Flower



Meechans Mint

Native perennial plants are also offered in the sale. Species available are: Anise Hyssop, Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly Milkweed, Cardinal Flower, Columbine, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Little Bluestem, New England Aster, Great Blue Lobelia, Common Milkweed, Wild Bergamot, Joe-pye Weed, and Purple Coneflower, Prairie Dropseed, Obedient Plant, and Meehan's Mint. Plants are sold in small pots, and are \$7 each, plus tax.

Deadline for orders is the close of business, Friday, April 19, 2024. Order pick-up dates are very specific as follows: May 6—TREE ONLY orders, 1-4 p.m.; May 8 & 9—tree AND plant order pick-up, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. There is NO PICK-UP on May 7.

For order forms or more information, contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, visit us at www.clarkswcd.org, find us on Facebook (Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District).

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