

Town & Country

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2015

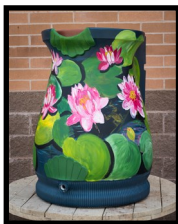
'Rain on Main' Brings Art, Education, and Conservation to Carmel

In early August, a new education and conservation program kicked off in Carmel. The SWCD partnered with the City of Carmel Engineering and Utilities Departments as well as the Arts and Design District to hold the first annual Rain on Main painted rain barrel art contest and silent auction. 20 local artists donated their time and talents to paint rain barrels for this event. A juried art show and People's Choice competition led to two artists winning cash prizes thanks to our premier sponsor Woodland Terrace of Carmel.



The rain barrels were displayed at the August 1st Farmer's Market along with stormwater and water quality educational materials. Enthusiasm from this display spread to the Arts and Design District in Carmel as the barrels were then displayed along Main Street during the week of August 3rd. The IU Health North Gallery Walk in the Arts and Design District brought the culmination of the Rain on Main event as a silent auction allowed the public to place bids on these one of a kind pieces of art with a purpose! All the of the barrels can be viewed on the BYC page of the SWCD website as well as updates on the Rain on Main program.

Special thanks to our sponsors for this event: Sherwin Williams of Carmel for donating primer and clear coat, Touch 'N Go Collision Center for sanding and priming the barrels, White's Ace Hardware and Garden Center for donating the beautiful flowers to fill the planters on top of the barrels, and Woodland Terrace—Inspired Senior Living for donating the cash prizes for the winning artists.



View all the barrels at www.hamiltonswcd.org



Did you know?

Carmel residents are now able to receive one time cost share incentive of \$50 (\$75 in target areas) for installing rain barrels. An application can be submitted to the city proving installation of rain barrels to qualify for the credit on your storm water utility bill. The maximum incentive is \$375— that's a lot of rain barrels!

View the application and learn more— a link to additional info can be found on the BYC page of the SWCD website.



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Town & Country

Published quarterly and distributed to landowners, farm operators, teachers, local agencies, public officials, conservation organizations and

2015 Photo Contest

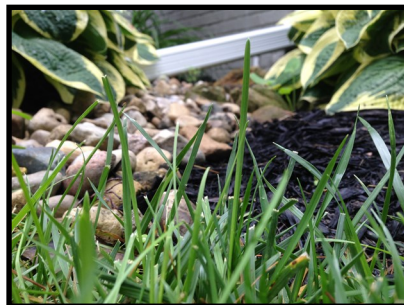
Thank you to all participants in our 2015 photo contest. We received many entries across the two categories: Farm Scenes and Conservation Practices. All entries were displayed at our 4-H Fair Display. Winners in each category and age bracket (adult and youth) were awarded \$50 prizes. The winning photos are featured below. All entries can be viewed on our Facebook page and on our website. Be on the lookout for 2016 Photo Contest info next May!



Matayia Owen—Youth
Conservation Practices First Place
“Winter Corn Field Conservation”



Matayia Owen—Youth
Farm Scene First Place
“Itchin’ to Ride”



Chris Hoffman—Adult
Conservation Practices First Place
“Downspout”



Norman William —Adult
Farm Scene First Place
“Gentle Evening”

Hamilton County Green Congregations Plans September Meeting

People of faith in Hamilton County are gathering from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM Saturday, September 26, 2015 at Grace Church, 5504 E 146th Street, Noblesville, to discuss the theology and practice of caring for our shared environment and the rest of God's creation. The event is free and open to the public and sponsored by Carmel Green Initiative and Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light. There will also be a free lunch preceding the gathering for additional networking and conversation. Registration is encouraged at CarmelGreen.org by September 16.

Greening Congregations will feature interfaith worship and fellowship, along with the opportunity to participate in two different workshops, including Creation Care Theology and Making Your Church and Home Energy Efficient (and saving Big Time Money). There will also be an optional and free lunch for further networking and conversation

Contact Mike Oles, Organizing Director of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, at 317-281-0568 or MikeOles@HoosierIPL.org for questions or for more information.

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2015 Native Tree Sale

Mark quantity desired next to each tree/shrub and total order on back page.

All trees/shrubs are \$24.00 plus tax (\$1.68) = \$25.68

Unless otherwise noted, all trees/shrubs are 3-5 feet tall at delivery and in 3 gallon containers.

No refunds will be given after tree pick up.

Payment due with order: **Thursday September 3rd, 2015**

Payment: Cash or check (make payable to Hamilton County SWCD)

Order pick up: **Friday September 11th 2:00pm*-6:30pm**

@ Hamilton County 4-H Fair Grounds Lama Barn

*Pickup prior to 2 available by appointment

Please contact our office with any questions: 1717 Pleasant St. Suite 100 Noblesville, IN 46060
Phone: (317) 773-2181 **Email:** soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov **Website:** www.hamiltonswcd.org

Native shrubs

Scientific name	Common name	Mature height	Mature Spread	Bloom time	Sun	Soil moisture	Notes	Quantity
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	3-6	3-6	May	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Good as hedge, tolerant of wide range of soils.	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	5-12	4-8	June	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Grows well in wet soils. Showy, unique flower heads.	
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	6-12	6-12	May-June	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Tolerates deer, good for erosion control, somewhat wild for prominent placement.	
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	6-9	7-10	May-June	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Tolerates clay soil, wet soil, and deer. Can be used for erosion control or screening.	
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut	10-16	8-13	March- April	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Edible fruit, showy flowers. Good for hedges but remove suckers to limit naturalization.	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch hazel	15-20	15-20	Oct-Dec	Full sun - Part shade	Medium	Tolerates heavy clay soils. Promptly remove suckers to prevent colonial spread. Little pruning is required.	
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	6-12	6-12	April	Sun- Shade	Dry- Wet	Fast growing. Good in moist, shady spaces. Larval host to Swallowtail butterfly.	
<i>Physocarpus opulifolia</i>	Common Ninebark	6-8	4-6	April	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Tolerates wide range of soil conditions. Great for hedge.	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	5-12	4-6	April-June	Sun-Shade	Dry-Medium	Drought and deer tolerant.	
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry	2-5	4-8	April-May	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Dry	Coral berries provide winter interest.	
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	6-10	6-8	June	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Good for borders, hedge, or screen.	
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum	14-16	6-10	May	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Good for shrub borders/screening or background for native plants. Remove root suckers to control spread.	

Small trees

Scientific name	Common Name	Tree Size	Sun	Soil Moisture	Notes	Quantity
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Serviceberry	S	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Edible berries attract birds. Attractive understory tree for lawns or street tree.	
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Paw Paw "Indiana banana"	S	Full sun- shade	Dry	Great understory tree. Tolerates shade and competition. Large, edible fruit ripe in Oct. Need multiple trees for pollination/fruit production and/or hand pollination. 1-2 ft. at delivery.	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	S	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Showy flowers. Avoid poorly drained soils. Tolerates deer, clay soil, and black walnut trees nearby.	

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Medium and large trees

Scientific name	Common Name	Tree Size	Sun	Soil Moisture	Notes	Quantity
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	M	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Considerable litter, tolerates rabbits. 1-2 ft at delivery.	
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	M	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Tolerates wide range of soil conditions and poor soils.	
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	M	Full sun-Part shade	Dry-Medium	Male & female trees necessary for fruiting. Prune suckers for central leader.	
<i>Juniper virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	M Ever-green	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Good for screen or windbreak. Intolerant of shade. 2-3 ft at delivery.	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum	M	Part shade-Full shade	Medium-Wet	Prefers moderately acidic soil but tolerate poorly drained soils & drought. Ornamental.	
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	M	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Good street tree, well adapted to urban poorly drained areas. Remove lower branches for pedestrian clearance. Resistant to salt spray, drought, & heat.	
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak	M	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Tolerates wide range of soils, good street tree,. Prune early for central leader & strong structures	
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	L	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Tolerates wet soil and air pollution. Shallow root system.	
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch - single stem	L	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Beautiful exfoliating creamy white bark. Prune in summer to avoid sap loss. Susceptible to chlorosis in alkaline soils. Tolerates temporary flooding and clay soils.	
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree	L	Full sun	Medium	Avoid heavy clay soil. Leaves out late and drops leaves early. Very hardy- no pest or disease problems & not bothered by wind or ice.	
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Poplar	L	Full sun	Medium	Tallest deciduous hardwood tree in North America. Prefers moist well drained sites.	
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	L	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Largest diameter deciduous tree in NA. Prefers rich organic soils, tolerant of urban pollution. Intolerant of shade.	
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	L	Full sun- part shade	Medium	Tolerates wide range of soils and urban pollution.	
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	L	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Adapts to urban alkaline soil, drought & salt spray. No serious pest problems.	
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	L	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Easily grown landscape, ornamental oak. Good shade tree.	
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	L	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Prefers well drained soils, needs ample space. Prefers acidic soils but tolerates pollution, compacted soils, & salt spray though not flooding.	
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	L- Deciduous conifer	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Tolerates wide range of soils. Loses needles in fall.	

	Quantity	Total
Shrub/small tree total		@\$24.00 =
Medium/Large tree total		@\$24.00 =
	Subtotal	
	+ 7% sales tax (\$1.68/tree)	
	Total	

Orders and payment due to SWCD by September 3rd!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please print clearly!

Watch your email for a pick up reminder and instructions the week of pick up.

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Backyard Conservation Spotlight

Claire Lane, Backyard Conservation Coordinator



September brings River Clean Ups and White River Festival

The White River Festival is a two week celebration of the White River and the land, wildlife, plants, trees, streams, and people who live in the areas surrounding it. The purpose of the festival is to show that the river is beautiful and worth visiting, that it's a source of drinking water for cities and towns along the river, and that our actions impact the river even if we don't live right next to it. Festival events are taking place from September 11-27 throughout central Indiana, though are concentrated in the Indianapolis area. This year's theme is "Create". Find more events here: <http://whiteriverfestival.org/>

Noblesville White River Celebration— Saturday September 12th

In the afternoon and evening a celebration of the river will be held downtown. Fun and games, art, a bridge fair, music, and the Noblesville Main Street 1M\$ Duck Race will all be part of the fun!



21st Annual Hamilton County White River Clean Up

On the morning of Saturday September 12th, help clean up your water and enjoy the biggest natural water resource in your backyard, at the 21st Annual Hamilton County White River Clean Up. Volunteers will be provided with clean up supplies, lunch, and a free t-shirt (while supplies last). Contact Noblesville (317.770.5132), Carmel (317.571.2441), or Fishers (317.567.5056) for locations and times. Groups must pre-register at hcrivercleanup@yahoo.com.



Pond Edge Workshop a Success

On June 13th, over 50 people gathered to learn about pond edge enhancements. The workshop was sponsored by the SWCD, Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association, the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, and Hoosier Aquatic Management. Interested individuals and HOA reps learned about the environmental and financial benefits, challenges, and management associated with establishing native plants around ponds. The workshop was held at Ridgefield Subdivision in Fishers where pond edge enhancements were installed 8 years ago.

Ridgefield Subdivision also converted a large turf grass area into native prairie plantings with a nice walking path. The community has reaped the benefits of this habitat as well as dramatically reduced maintenance costs. I invite anyone interested in viewing a successful implementation of pond edge enhancements or turf to prairie conversion to drive through this neighborhood to see what is possible. The projects are located off of Promise Road just south of 131st street. Turn onto Alamosa Drive then left onto Glazer Way. Please be respectful of neighborhood residents.

Special thanks to Dan McCord of Ridgefield and HC Urban Conservation Association and Ridgefield residents for sharing their projects and great workshop location with us!



Ridgefield Subdivision pond—Summer 2015

Cover Crops for Prevented Planting Acres

Hamilton County agricultural producers have experienced considerable challenges this year due to the excessive and frequent rainfalls. This has resulted in detrimental soil conditions in low areas that could affect next year's crop. Following is a synopsis of recommendations that Eileen Kladviko, Agronomy Dept., Purdue University, and Barry Fisher, Indiana NRCS have assembled that should be useful. Web reference: <https://ag.purdue.edu/agry/extension/Documents/PreventedPlantingCovers2015.pdf>

Excessive rainfall and prolonged ponding conditions this spring have resulted in many fields remaining unplanted to corn or soybeans this season. These "prevented planting" acres, while unfortunate for this year's production, should be managed in ways to prevent further soil degradation and to increase soil productivity for next year. Cover crops are an excellent option for producers to consider for protecting their soil and increasing productive capacity for succeeding years. This article briefly describes the benefits of growing cover crops compared to leaving the soil bare and fallow, and then it provides guidance on selecting and seeding cover crops for prevented planting acres. Producers are advised to check with FSA and their crop insurance agent about harvest or grazing restrictions for cover crops. Prolonged and excessive rainfall and ponding can cause soil aggregates to break down, especially near the soil surface. Flooding and erosion remove valuable topsoil and all the nutrients, organic matter and soil organisms it contains. When these fields finally dry out, the surface becomes hard and crusted and is prone to further erosion by water or wind. If tillage is performed to control weeds and the soil is left bare, soil organic matter declines and nutrients can be

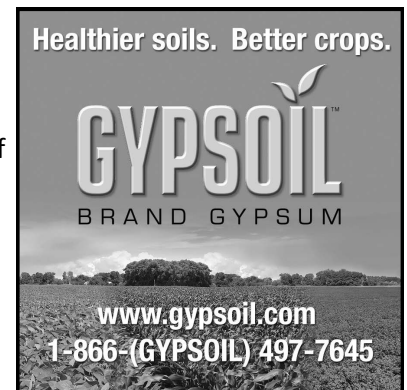
lost through leaching, even on fields not subject to water erosion.

To rebuild lost productive capacity and improve soil health, growing a cover crop for the remainder of the season is crucial. **In fact, having something green and growing during all non-frozen times of the year is a key concept for improving soil health, decreasing nitrate leaching to drainage waters, and improving water quality.**

A direct mailing was mailed out to Hamilton County farmers last week with additional details on utilizing cover crops in prevented planting areas, and described how to:

- Improve soil structure and biological activity in topsoil
- Increase permeability and decrease compaction
- Build soil nitrogen
- Select cover crops
- Seed cover crops

Cover crops can be an excellent management tool to improve soil productivity under any conditions but especially on prevented planting acres. Producers are encouraged to utilize the opportunity to rebuild soil productive capacity after a difficult spring by growing cover crops for the remainder of the growing season. If you farm and did not receive the additional mailing from the SWCD please let us know and we will send that out.



Healthier soils. Better crops.

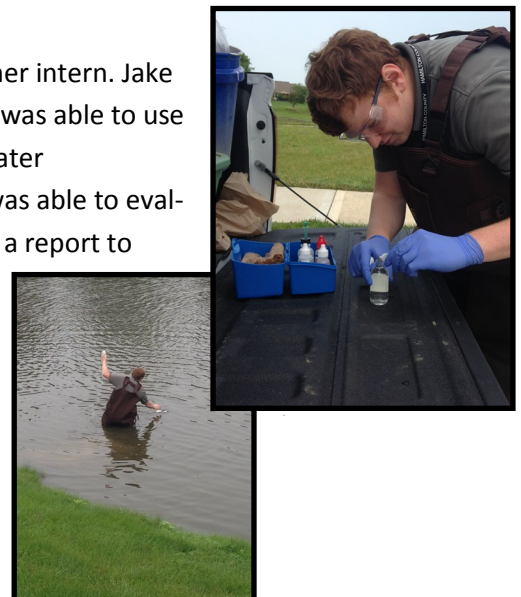
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Special Thanks to Intern Jake

This summer the SWCD was thankful to have Jake Houchins with us as a summer intern. Jake started his summer by assisting in the pond edge enhancement workshop. He was able to use contacts established at the event to kick off his main initiative, a survey and water quality testing program of dozens of Hamilton County detention ponds. Jake was able to evaluate and test the water quality of many ponds across the county. He provided a report to property owners and compiled an overview report of the state of these ponds across our county. This report will be used to help address management decisions in the future.

Jake also organized and led a two night Pond Management Class with over 30 attendees as well as assisting with many ongoing projects in the office. Jake has been a great asset to the SWCD and we wish him all the best as he returns for his senior year at the University of Indianapolis where he studies chemistry!



Visit our website!
www.hamiltonswcd.org

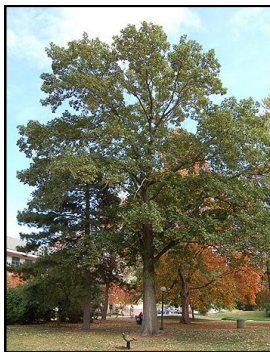
“Like” us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/hamiltonswcd

2015 Native Tree Sale

30 species of native trees and shrubs available for order! Cut out the enclosed order form and submit with payment by September 3rd. Tree pick up will be Friday September 11th from 2:00-6:30pm.



Buttonbush



Swamp White Oak



Red Maple



Paw Paw

“Indiana Banana”



Eastern Red Cedar

All trees/shrubs \$24.00 + tax.

More information available online at: www.hamiltonswcd.org/tree-sale.html

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