



Town & Country

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2014

Plan Now

to attend the

SWCD Annual Meeting and Winter Workshop

February 20, 2014

9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

CCH & CCA Credits Have Been Approved !

Hamilton County 4-H Exhibition Center

2003 Pleasant St. Noblesville, IN

Lunch by: Carolyn Moreland Catering (\$10/person) RSVP required by Feb. 17, 2014

| Ph: 317-773-2181 | Email: soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov | Web: www.hamiltonswcd.org

Register & pay online at: <http://hamiltonswcdannual.eventbrite.com>

Sessions:

“Ammonia Equipment Maintenance for Safe Handling” (CCH & CCA)

Danny Starke, Office of Indiana State Chemist

“Surface Drainage Law” (CCH & CCA)

Justin Schneider, Attorney for Indiana Farm Bureau, John South P.E., Ham. Co. SWCD

“Progress Updates on U.S. 31 Corridor, Westfield Grand Junction & Westfield Grand Park”

Doug Fleanor, Emily Ball & Melody Jones

“Children and Nature”

Sara Kempfer, Coordinator of Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN)

(See next page for session descriptions)



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Fall Creek Watershed Coordinator

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NRCS District Conservationist

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ISDA

Town & Country

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

Annual Meeting Session Descriptions

Children and Nature

In today's world, children often spend very little time in nature. Sarah Kempfer, Coordinator of the Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN), will speak on the affects this break with nature has on children and share some of ICAN's efforts to reconnect kids with nature, including Family Nature Clubs. Claire Lane, Hamilton County Backyard Conservation Coordinator, will share some ways the district hopes to use backyard conservation practices to connect kids with nature.

Ammonia Equipment Maintenance for Safe Handling

CCH 1 - credit (cat. 1, 14 & RT)

CCA 1 - credit (Nutrient Management)

Any farmer will tell you that application of anhydrous ammonia is a costly input in corn production, and does come with some degree of risk. It is therefore important to be sure the product is handled and transported safely. Danny Starke, Agricultural Ammonia Specialist with the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) will be discussing proper "Ammonia Equipment Maintenance for Safe Handling" and application of anhydrous ammonia.

Drainage and Drainage Law

CCH - 1 credit (cat. 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 6, 14 & RT)

CCA - 1 credit (Soil & Water Management)

John South will be reviewing how changes to the land alter the hydrology of the watershed. Justin Schneider will review drainage law, enforcement and regulations. The attendee should learn what actions change stormwater runoff and what is legally permissible.

Community Projects Update

Three presentations will be made about major community projects. The reconstruction of US 31 is well underway. Learn about the construction schedule and unique solutions to building a freeway with limited right-of-way. Grand Park is the second project that will be reviewed. This huge sports park will bring visitors in large numbers. Learn about the park, its scheduling goals and proposed new development. The last project is in the center of Westfield— called Grand Junction. We've seen many changes to the area around US 31 and SR 32. Learn about the proposed changes to the old business district.

Apply by February 21, 2014 to Take Advantage of Fall Creek Watershed Partnership Cost-Share Assistance

The Fall Creek Watershed Partnership (FCWP) Backyard Conservation Program has cost-share funding available to help landowners defray the cost of implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that benefit soil and water quality and wildlife habitat on private land. Landowners within areas of the Fall Creek Watershed in Hamilton, Hancock, Madison and Marion Counties are eligible to apply. Funding is made available through Clean Water Indiana grants. Please review the cost-share document and types of conservation projects supported at <http://hamiltonswcd.org/fallcreekwatershed.html>.

Contact Leslie White at leslie-white@iaswcd.org or 317-773-2181 to request a site visit and assistance with project planning and the application process.



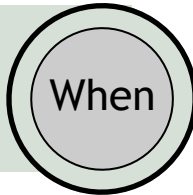
Creating a Drought Tolerant Yard Workshop

Does the stress of summer drought periods take its toll on your yard? Join us for expert advice on how to prepare and manage for a healthy and beautiful landscape all summer long!

Sessions include:
Adapting your Landscape to a Changing Climate
Trees, Shrubs, and Drought
Water Catchment and Storage
Irrigation and Turf Management

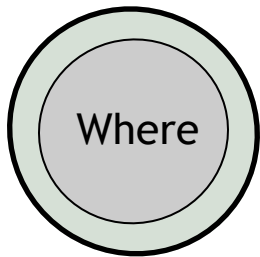


Plus time for one on one questions with the professionals regarding your yard questions!

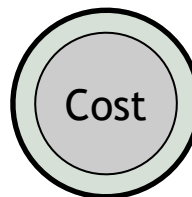


Sat. February 8th

9AM– Noon



Cool Creek
Nature Center
2000 E. 151st St.
Carmel, IN 46033



\$10

per household

Registration Form



Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Please mail this form and payment to:

Hamilton County SWCD
1717 Pleasant St. Suite 100
Noblesville, IN 46060

Online registration and payment at:
<http://droughtworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Make checks payable to Hamilton County
SWCD.

Questions? Call 317.773.2181 or visit
www.hamiltonswcd.org

Forestry Notes

John South

The recent "The WOODland Steward" newsletter had some good news about timber value-it's up. Increased home production is driving the demand. Most prices for hardwood logs for 2013 were 15% to 20% higher than the year before. Total mill production increased by 13%. Black Walnut is in short supply and demanding the best price. Below is a list of the average price paid for #1 grade logs at the mill. Timber species are graded as prime, No 1, No 2, & No 3. The value for standing timber will be less.

Specie	Price for 1000 board ft. of No 1 Grade log	Price for Veneer logs for 1000 board ft. (18" – 20" diameter logs)
Ash	\$200- \$550	
Cherry	\$200- \$1800	
Hickory	\$250 - \$750	
Hard Maple	\$200 - \$1400	
White Oak	\$250- \$800	\$2000 - \$2500
Red Oak	\$200 - \$900	
Tulip Poplar	\$150 - \$500	
Sycamore	\$150 - \$320	
Black Walnut	\$500 - \$2750	\$3000 - \$7500



This four year old mixed hardwood tree planting will enhance the county woodland and wildlife habitat, improve water quality and clean the air.

The newsletter reported that only 16 face veneer plants remain in the US. Many have closed and sold equipment to China. Indiana has at least four veneer plants which shows the strength of Indiana forestry industry. Central Indiana has great soil for growing premium hardwood but small woodlots and infrequent forest management reduce the potential for top quality logs. Readers that live in urban areas should not expect timber buyers to purchase single logs off your lot. The cost of harvesting a tree in an urban area is too risky.

Marketing Your Trees- Most landowners have little training on placing a value on their woodland trees. The price will vary by the market, timber quality, size and specie. The recommend procedure is to hire a consultant forester to help manage your woodlands. If a sale is recommended they will mark the trees, create a sale bill, advertise a timber sale and take sealed bids from timber buyers. The fee for this work is generally a percentage of the sale. The SWCD has a list of qualified professional foresters that serve Hamilton County. The winter months are an excellent time for foresters to make a woodland inspection.

Tree Sale- Indiana Department of Natural Resources has tree seedlings for sale for spring delivery. Seedlings are bare root stock and can be shipped or picked at the nursery. The minimum order is 100 trees of a single specie. The state nursery also sells several different tree packets that contain four to twelve different species in smaller quantities. For smaller plantings this is a good way to keep diversity in your tree planting. Cost varies between \$0.26 and \$1.00 per seedling depending on age and specie. Contact DNR Division of Forestry for more information and an order form. Stop by our office if you want a paper copy.



Asian bush honeysuckle dominates the ground cover in many woodlots.

Invasive plants- The Hamilton SWCD will be hiring a college student this summer to evaluate the presence of invasive plants in Hamilton County woodlots. Asian honeysuckle and garlic mustard plants are well known invasive plants. The student will conduct a survey, hold a workshop and assist landowners with identification and removal. If you would like your woodland/wildlife habitat to be included in the survey please contact the Hamilton SWCD to register your interest. Not all volunteers may be included in the study.



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2014 Affiliate Membership Program

The Hamilton County SWCD is funded for staffing and operating expenses by the Hamilton County Council and state grants. These funds support a minimal program. The SWCD Board believes the citizens of Hamilton County want a robust organization that is able to serve a wide variety of conservation needs. Additional resources are needed to meet this goal. You can help by becoming a member of the SWCD Affiliate Membership Program. This program offers a variety of rewards while allowing you to support SWCD programs with your tax deductible donation. We thank you for your support!

Membership Levels

Dogwood Member \$25—\$99

- 1 ticket to the SWCD Annual Meeting
- Recognition on website, brochure, & 1 newsletter

Maple Member \$100- \$299

- 2 tickets to the SWCD Annual Meeting
- 2 tickets to an SWCD workshop
- *Small* ad in all 2014 newsletters

Hickory Member \$300- \$499

- 4 tickets to the Annual Meeting
- *Small* ad in all 2014 newsletters **AND** a vendor spot at the Annual Meeting
- Free admittance to 2 SWCD workshops

Walnut Member \$500+

- *Large* ad in all 2014 newsletters **AND** a vendor spot at the Annual Meeting
- 4 tickets to the Annual Meeting
- Free admittance to all SWCD workshops
- Business logo featured on our website with a link to your website

Did you know?

Affiliate memberships at the Maple, Hickory, and Walnut levels offer ad space in this newsletter as well as vendor spots at the SWCD Annual Meeting!

Affiliate Membership

_____ Dogwood \$25 - \$99
_____ Maple \$100 - \$299
_____ Hickory \$300 - \$499
_____ Walnut \$500 +

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Use my business name in print materials.

Send your membership form along with your check payable to:

Hamilton County SWCD
1717 Pleasant Street, Suite 100
Noblesville, IN 46060

Or pay online at:
[www.hamiltonswcd.org/
Become_an_Affiliate_.html](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org/Become_an_Affiliate_.html)

As allowed by law, this donation
is tax deductible.

Upcoming SWCD Events:

Creating a Drought Tolerant Yard Workshop

February 8th at Cool Creek Nature Center- Carmel
More info: Page 3 or www.hamiltonswcd.org

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

February 20th at Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds- Noblesville
More info: Page 1 or www.hamiltonswcd.org

Carmel Green Initiative Sustainable Living Seminar- Vanishing of the Bees

February 27th at Carmel Clay Public Library
More info: www.carmelgreen.org

Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Urban Backyard Conservation Seminar

April 1st at Monon Community Center
More info: carmelclayparks.com

Well Water Meeting- Ground Water Rights, Well Operation and Addressing Common Problems

March 6th at Noblesville High School, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
More Info: www.hamiltonswcd.org or call the SWCD office at 773-2181

Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Backyard Wildlife Gardening Seminar

April 9th at Monon Community Center
More info: carmelclayparks.com

Cover Crop Survey

A windshield survey was completed this fall for cover crops in the county. We estimate 3126 acres of cover crop were planted, though some of those acres may be wheat as rye grass and wheat look pretty similar at two inches tall. Wheat is a good winter cover crop so counting those acres isn't bad either. There is significant cost to planting cover crops but farmers are realizing the benefits through increased soil health, reduced soil erosion, reduced soil compaction, improved drainage, better weed control and increased crop yield. Water quality is improved as the plants take up excess nitrogen. Not all of these benefits occur every year but cover crops should be considered to enhance the soil on some of your fields.



The combination of oats and radishes is an excellent first timer cover crop mix. The crop will winter kill to make management easier in the spring. The radishes soak up nitrogen and reduce soil compaction. The oats provide a broader cover and food for earthworms.

"Like" us on Facebook!

Like us to stay current on SWCD initiatives, workshops, and cost-share opportunities!

"Share" our page with your friends to promote conservation in Hamilton County!

www.facebook.com/hamiltonswcd



Earth Team Volunteer

Alex Davis volunteered to assist the SWCD during his last semester at Ball State. Alex learned about conservation activities and we got help with surveying, stalk sampling, soil sampling and a cover crop survey. Thanks Alex!



Visit our website!
www.hamiltonswcd.org

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Well Water Meeting

The Hamilton County SWCD is sponsoring an evening meeting about Well Water. The speakers will discuss well water supplies, proper well construction, common maintenance issues, well capping and ground water rights and regulation. Mark Basch with the Department of Natural Resources and Bruce Moss, well driller are the featured speakers. This meeting will be held **March 6th** at Noblesville High School (18111 Cumberland Rd.) in the Junior/Senior Cafeteria. Parking will be in the Cumberland Road lot and you will enter the building through Door #2. The program starts at 6:30 and ends at 8:30. Please register to attend at the Hamilton County SWCD. Call 773-2181, email at soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or register on our website at www.hamiltonswcd.org.



Well water is an important resource for many rural households. Find out what to do when your well goes dry or how to treat your water for taste and odor problems.

If you are receiving this newsletter and wish to be removed from our distribution list or make name or address change, please call 317-773-2181.

All programs and services of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, marital status or disability.