

Town & Country

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2015

Don't Miss the 2015 Annual Meeting

There is something for everyone at the 2015 Hamilton County SWCD Annual Meeting. Meet with exhibitors between educational sessions and enjoy a great meal with us on February 26th! Educational sessions with PARP (\$10 fee for PARP credits), CCA, and CCH credits are available as well as sessions of interest to any property owner. Learn about pollinators, pesticides and well capping, common threats to our trees, and how your property can be home to a bountiful orchard. A delicious meal by Carolyn Moreland Catering will be provided and our short business meeting will allow Hamilton County residents the opportunity to vote for a SWCD board supervisor, hear about the District's successes in 2014 and recognize conservation partners that went above and beyond last year.

Education Sessions: (descriptions on page 2)

Protecting Pollinators from Agricultural Hazards

PARP, CCA & CCH Credits

Phil Gibson, Certified Crop Advisor, Bayer Crop Science

Common Tree Pests

Aren Flint, Urban Forester and Project Manager, Davey Resource Group

Keeping Pesticides Out of the Water Supply/Capping Abandoned Wells

PARP, CCA & CCH Credits

Curt Emanuel, Extension Educator (ANR & CED), Purdue Extension

Starting and Managing a Home Orchard

Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension agent & orchard owner

Thursday February 26, 2015

9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Hamilton County 4-H

Exhibition Center

2003 Pleasant St. Noblesville, IN

\$10 per person (includes lunch)

Registration required by Feb. 20

Registration Form (due by Friday Feb. 20)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please mail this form and payment to:

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

Online registration and payment at:
www.hamiltonswcd.org/workshops--events.html

Make checks payable to Hamilton County SWCD.

Questions? Call 317.773.2181 or
visit www.hamiltonswcd.org



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Leslie White
Fall Creek Watershed Coordinator

Angie Garrison
NRCS District Conservationist

Sarah Lake
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

Protecting Pollinators from Agricultural Hazards

PARP, CCA & CCH Credits

Phil Gibson, Certified Crop Advisor, Bayer Crop Science

Phil will be discussing the importance of protecting pollinators from agricultural hazards, and will cover the following: A. Why Important (Feeding a Hungry World, Population Growth in Emerging Economies) B. Benefit of Pollinators (Fruit & Vegetables, Worldwide Food Production) C. Pollinator Threats (Parasites, Nutrition, Diseases, Pesticides) D. Pollinator Protection and Health (Communication, Be Aware of Surroundings, Ensure Seed is Planted to Minimize Dust) E. Projects to Improve Pollinator Health + Safety (Communication, Cover Crops, Flowers & Trees, Current Stewardship – Seed Finishers & Fluency Agent).

Keeping Pesticides Out of the Water Supply/Capping Abandoned Wells

PARP, CCA & CCH Credits

Curt Emanuel, Extension Educator (ANR & CED), Purdue Extension

Curt will be discussing the importance of keeping pesticides out of the water supply when mixing chemicals, and steps that can be taken to avoid well contamination. This session will also include a discussion on proper procedures to plug an abandoned well.

Starting and Managing a Home Orchard

Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension agent & orchard owner

In this session, Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Educator and practitioner will discuss how to start and manage a small home orchard. He will discuss what trees do well in Central Indiana, spacing and size. Roy will also discuss how to manage your fruit trees for pests, production and pruning.

Common Tree Pests

Aren Flint, Urban Forester and Project Manager, Davey Resource Group

Session description coming soon to website!

Subsidized Rain Barrels Available to Noblesville Residents again this spring

The City of Noblesville Clean Storm Water Program will once again offer Noblesville residents the opportunity to purchase reduced price rain barrels through the SWCD this spring. This partnership will make 100 rain barrels available at \$25 a piece. To qualify you must be a Noblesville resident or business owner (limit one rain barrel per household/address) and complete and print a Clear Choices Clean Water pledge online. Proof of address via city sewer bill, printed pledge certificate, and cash or check payment at the SWCD is required. To learn more visit www.hamiltonswcd.org.

This program will begin April 20th, 2015.

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Golf Course Workshop a Success

Leslie White, Fall Creek Watershed Partnership BYC Coordinator

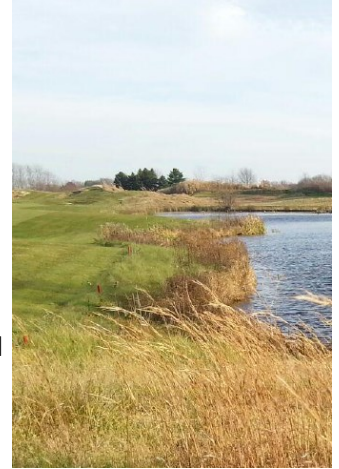
The Fall Creek Watershed Partnership (FCWP) Backyard Conservation Program, as part of its mission to improve water quality and offer technical and education assistance to landowners and land users, offered a Golf Course Workshop on Conservation Best Management Practices with key partners including Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Purdue University Extension, White River Alliance, and the Fort Golf Course on November 14, 2014, at the Fort Golf and Conference Center.

Over 50 participants across the State attended this all-day workshop in Lawrence, IN, to be proactive in their intent to be good stewards of our environmental resources. The event was tailored to assist golf course superintendents and staff, as well as parks and recreation practitioners, MS4 managers, landscape architects, bioengineering and conservation firms, and pesticide and nutrient applicators with their conservation practice planning and implementation for clean water, healthy soils, and natural resources. Indiana State Chemist credits and GCSAA points were offered.

Topics ranged from a national perspective on nutrient regulation, nutrient and pest management, drought tolerant turf, irrigation tools for water conservation, the Audubon International Certified Cooperative Sanctuary Program, and habitat restoration: invasive and natives in the landscape. Keynote speaker Dr. Michael Hurdzan joined the group to share his vast experience in designing sustainable, accessible, and profitable courses across the globe. In light of challenges such as drought, he emphasized precision turf management by scientifically managing water and showcased several case studies. The Fall Creek Watershed Partnership and White River Alliance presented a variety of technical and financial resources available to help large landowners plan and install conservation projects. A panel of Superintendents representing private, public and university golf courses discussed their challenges and successes with best management practices.

Special thanks are due our hosting course superintendent Randy Brehmer, the Fort Golf Course, and to speakers Chava McKeel, GCSAA Government Affairs; Dr. Aaron Patton, Purdue University Extension; Jim Held, Automatic Irrigation Supply Co.; Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Hurdzan Golf; Nancy Richardson, Audubon Golf Certification Program; Alex Salmins, Cardno JFNew; Shaena Reinhart, White River Alliance; and Leslie White, FCWP; Brent Emerick, Indiana University Golf Course and Athletic Fields; Adrian Roach, City of Peru Parks and Recreation Department; and Cory Troyer, Otter Creek Golf Course, moderator John Miller, GCSAA Great Lakes Regional Representative; and welcome committee members Bill Rice, Purdue Extension Hamilton County; Glenn Lange, Marion County SWCD, and Jan Maci, Backyard Conservation Program volunteer.

We also wish to thank our sponsors and exhibitors for their commitment to helping us offer educational programs: Jacobsen Great Lakes (A Textron Company); Automatic Irrigation Supply Co.; Cardno JFNew, D2 Land and Water Resource; Hoosier Aquatic Management, Inc.



A no-mow buffer strip along a Bear Slide Golf Course pond.



Participants heard from several experts at the workshop.

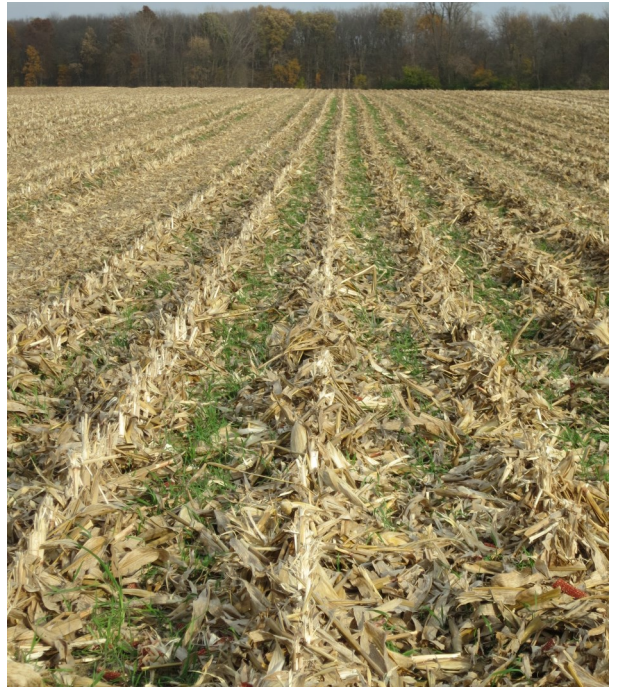
The FCWP Backyard Conservation Program is made possible by Clean Water Indiana grants through the ISDA / Division of Soil Conservation. If you are a landowner in the Fall Creek Watershed of Hamilton, Hancock, Madison or Marion Counties and are interested in putting conservation practices and resources to work for you, contact Leslie White at leslie-white@iaswcd.org or 317-773-2181.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Started 75 Years Ago

If your name starts with a “V” you figure that you’ll be at the back of the line. In this case, Vanderburgh County was at the front. In 1940, Vanderburgh was the first county in Indiana to form a conservation district in response to the Dust Bowl. Hamilton County was toward the tail end forming in May of 1968. Only Marion and Tipton Counties were later.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts have significant responsibilities but don’t have some of the resources that are available to other state or county agencies. We can’t tax or fine or assess or don’t have large budgets. We can encourage conservation with good technical advice, education and demonstrations. This voluntary approach to managing our soil and water resources on the farm fits with how farmers want to be treated. They don’t want to be regulated and they have selfish reasons to maintain healthy soil and clean water.

For this partnership to work well and solve the issues of the day we both have our work cut out for us. Two big issues are feeding the increased population of the world and doing it without turning our lakes and streams into green algae monsters. Emphasizing soil health shows promise as a building block for improved crop production. Water is a dominating factor for good yields. Our droughts don’t last for long periods of time but can decrease yield. Increased organic matter and infiltration are key components for the soil to be more resilient to drought. Increasing organic matter should be a priority in a farm management program. Cover crops are a great tool to increase organic matter.



Cover crops provide a host of benefits to the soil and water.

The current production efforts require more nutrients for larger yields. If a certain percentage of fertilizer is “lost” then it figures that there will be more loss (pollution) for larger yields. Farmers are going to need to give a little to control nutrient losses. These practices include filter strips along every mile of water, split applications of fertilizer, cover crops, reduced tillage, no-till, drain tile water control structures, wetlands, precision application of nutrients, filters around tile inlets and two stage ditches. Taking voluntary action to improve water quality is your responsibility to maintain an unregulated environment.

The issues are there; ask the Soil and Water Conservation District how best to implement these practices on your farm.



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think what thousands of us can do, working together!*



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Backyard Conservation Spotlight

Claire Lane, Backyard Conservation Coordinator



Do you have an area in your yard that tends to stay soggy after rains? Are you overwhelmed by mowing and other maintenance tasks? Would you like to attract butterflies and other pollinators to your yard? Through the Backyard Conservation Program, assistance is available to help you do these things and more! Additionally, financial assistance may also be available through our cost share program to help you take your project from an idea to your yard!

What is cost share?

The cost share program helps fund the implementation of certain conservation practices by reimbursing you for half the project cost up to a maximum funding level (usually \$1,000). Cost share funds are available to individual property owners, organizations like churches and HOA's, and even for projects on public lands or for service projects (Boy Scouts, etc.) You can learn more about approved cost share practices on our website: www.hamiltonswcd.org/byc-cost-share.html or by contacting Claire Lane at 317.773.2181.

How do I get started?

Contact the SWCD to arrange a free site visit where we can tour your property and discuss your resource concerns and/or options for your property. After your site visit, you will be provided with a written conservation plan outlining your conservation options. This plan can be used to complete your cost share application.

**The SWCD is accepting cost share applications for qualified projects through April 15th.
A second application period will take place in Fall 2015.**

Funding available for youth led environmental projects in Carmel/Clay Township

The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program is accepting applications for youth-led environmental projects!

Created, developed, and administered by teens, this nonprofit program empowers young people to take action by funding youth-driven projects that reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, and/or save energy.

Kids of all ages are encouraged to submit applications to receive funding. Previously funded projects include crayon recycling programs, tree plantings and community garden plot creation, reusable cup and shopping bag initiatives, butterfly gardens and more! Learn about past projects and get ideas for your project at www.carmelgreenteen.org.



Applications are due by February 28th, 2015.

While projects must take place in Carmel/Clay Township, kids do not have to live in Carmel to apply!

Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grants are proudly sponsored through a partnership with Carmel Utilities and the City of Carmel.

Become an Affiliate Member

Each year the SWCD offers a wide variety of programs, workshops, educational talks, event displays, and publications on diverse conservation subjects. This is in addition to the valued conservation technical assistance and cost share programs available through the SWCD. To offer the most robust program possible, we invite you to support your SWCD by becoming an Affiliate Member. Your important financial contribution will help the SWCD continue to improve our work with agricultural, rural, suburban, youth, and other customers, protecting and enhancing our natural resources every day.

The funding received from affiliate memberships will be used to produce literature and publications, hold workshops, establish demonstration sites, and support our programs. The SWCD's current programs will be able to continue and hopefully expand and improve as we gain more support.

Donations of any level are greatly appreciated.

Who are SWCD Affiliate Members?

Affiliate members are concerned about the conservation and proper use of our natural resources.

Members include:

- Farmers
- Businesses
- Teachers & schools
- Community leaders
- Landowners
- Homeowners
- Those who care about our environment.

Membership Levels

Dogwood Member \$25

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

Maple Member \$100+

- 2 tickets to the SWCD Annual Meeting
- *Small* ad in all 2015 newsletters

Hickory Member \$300+

- 4 tickets to the Annual Meeting
- *Medium* ad in all 2015 newsletters
- Vendor spot at the Annual Meeting

Walnut Member \$500+

- 4 tickets to the Annual Meeting
- *Large* ad in all 2015 newsletters
- Vendor spot at the Annual Meeting
- Business logo featured on our website with a link to your website

Affiliate Membership

_____ Dogwood \$25 +

_____ Maple \$100 +

_____ Hickory \$300 +

_____ Walnut \$500 +

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Use my business name in print materials.

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2015 Hamilton County SWCD Annual Meeting & Workshop

Thursday February 26th, 2015

9AM– 12:30 PM

Hamilton County 4-H Exhibition Hall
Noblesville, IN

See an agenda and speaker bios inside!



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available!



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