Town & Country

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2014

First Annual 4-H Fair Photo Contest

This year the SWCD held a photo contest as part of our fair activities. 50 entries were received across the following categories: Wildlife, Conservation Practices, and Farm Scenes. A \$50 prize was awarded to the top photo in each category in both adult and youth age divisions. Runners up were also selected. All of the entries were displayed at the SWCD 4-H fair tent.

Be on the lookout for photo contest entry details for the 2015 fair next May!

Wildlife



Anna Hopkins—"Hide and Seek"
Youth



Lisa Mills —"Moth"

Farm Scene



Kyle Schmidt "Morning Barnyard"

Conservation Practices



Matayia Owen—"Crop Curls"

Youth



Lisa Mills—"Lily Pads"



Matayia Owens—"Corn Fingers"
Youth

HAMILTON COUNTY Soil & Water



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Town & Country

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

Pollinator Garden and Rain Garden Projects for Clean Water, Wildlife Habitat and Therapy

Each August Ft. Benjamin's Blossoms Garden Club members hold a summer pitch-in picnic meeting. This year, their lunch combined a member-driven planting to help establish a pollinator garden and a rain garden at Chey Cook's residence in Fortville, Indiana.

The Garden Club learned about these two environmental conservation practices, and others, through a presentation from Fall Creek Watershed Partnership's Backyard Conservation Coordinator who reaches out to connect area residents and landowners with educational and technical resources from their counties' Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Clean Water Indiana grant program. Leslie White met with the group and then with Cook about projects that could help them address drainage and storm water issues on their own properties and in their neighborhood common areas. White made a free site visit, prepared a conservation plan with design and planting suggestions for Cook's property, then Cook submitted a cost-share (grant) application, successfully requesting partial funding for some native plants, topsoil, mulch and related materials.

When asked what piqued Cook's interest in the pollinator and rain gardens, she said, "Gardening is a therapy to help me recover from a recent stroke and complications. I had been struggling to overcome the challenges these health issues created. These backyard conservation projects encourage me to think from different perspectives about color, texture, numbers, and the outdoors. This is a wonderful way to stimulate my brain while doing something positive to add wildlife habitat, intercept rain and storm water runoff to keep our surrounding waterways clean, and create beautiful gardens in my neighborhood. I am thankful to have this opportunity and assistance from my garden club friends and the Soil and Water Districts."

The Garden Club members could think of no better way to use their horticultural talents than to help one of their members strategically plant native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. Their intent is to add habitat and create natural bioretention areas for runoff which carries nonpoint source pollution. The main threats facing pollinators are habitat loss as native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured turf lawns, crops, and non-native gardens. Pollinators have lost many of the food and nesting sites that are essential for their survival.

For a pollinator garden, the need for pollinating species (some birds, bats and insects) is a diversity of nectar and pollen sources. Keep these factors in mind when selecting plants for your garden.

- Select a variety of plants that flower at different times throughout the year to offer pollen and nectar sources over the growing season.
- Plant in clusters instead of single plants to better attract pollinators.
- Use a variety of flower colors and shapes to draw different pollinators.
- Select native plants as much as possible to attract more native pollinators.
- Contact your local or state native plant society and your Soil and Water Conservation District for suggestions.

For a rain garden, the plan is to intercept and infiltrate storm water volume from nearby impervious surface areas (roofs, driveways, lawns, patios, parking lots or streets) to improve water quality by filtering pollutants through plants, soil, sand and gravel. This landscaping technique also reduces the amount of storm water runoff as well as drainage and flooding concerns in neighborhoods. Visit the "Build Your Own Rain Garden" resource online: http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/SustainIndy/GreenInfra/Documents/HHRCD%20Rain% 20Garden%20Inf%20090428.pdf . For additional information and technical assistance on backyard conservation projects for individuals and organizations such as garden clubs, contact Leslie White, Fall Creek Watershed Partnership, at leslie-white@iaswcd.org or 317-773-2181.

Check out our new website!

Our new website is more accessible and features more content than every before! Info on SWCD programs, special events and workshops, and much more is just a click away!

www.hamiltonswcd.org

Celebration Fall Creek - Saturday September 13th @ 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This event will celebrate the new Fall Creek Greenway, which goes all the way from Meridian Street on the south side of Fall Creek to Fort Harrison State Park in Lawrence, approximately 10 miles, the longest trail in Indianapolis (Marion County). In those 10 miles you will need to stop only 4 times to cross a street!

There will be many events along the Greenway and Creek, such as water-quality demonstrations, fishing experiences for children, hands-on archery, food trucks, music, nature walks, clean-ups, public art and watershed ecology stations. Many neighborhood and community organizations are contributing events all along the Creek, including the Fall Creek Watershed Partnership Backyard Conservation Program and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Hamilton, Hancock, Madison and Marion Counties.

A wide variety of green infrastructure practices are peppered throughout the area. Three clean water



conservation practices in particular will be showcased with information tents nearby. Stop at the Millersville Retention Pond near 56th Street and Emerson Way to view pond edge enhancements of native plantings that stabilize the shoreline and reduce erosion and sedimentation. Just downstream on the 5300 Block of Fall Creek Parkway Drive North you can see firsthand how two residents addressed drainage and flooding issues at the edge of their driveway and street by constructing a dry creek bed and bioswale with native plantings and a gravel reservoir that infiltrates stormwater runoff during heavy rains. Closer into the City is a gorgeous and functional rain garden at Broadway United Methodist Church that intercepts thousands of gallons of runoff from the enormous slate roof.

To get more information and a map, go to the Destination Fall Creek web site at DFCIndy.org. The event is free, and there is no registration. Bike or walk all or part of new Greenway.



Working Group Meeting

The Farm Bill Program administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) depends on the Local Working Group in each county to set the local resource concerns that need addressed in their county. The Hamilton Co. Soil and Water Conservation District has been asked to organize and conduct the 2014 Local Working Group meeting to prioritize these natural resource concerns in Hamilton County. The meeting will take place on Thursday, August 28 at 8:30 AM, at 1717 Pleasant St. Noblesville, IN, after the SWCD's monthly board meeting. All land occupiers and other interested parties are invited to attend.

Additional information and a survey of resource concerns is available from the SWCD or by contacting Angela Garrison at 317-373-2345.

New Store for Drainage Supplies

A new store called Drainage Solutions is open in Lebanon. Hamilton County farmers have needed a good source for drainage supplies. Drainage Solutions offers metal and plastic pipe, fittings, erosion control blanket, tile inlets and a host of other products. They're located on the north side of Lebanon on SR 39 next to Wal-Mart (2478 N. Lebanon Street). They're open from 7:00 to 4:00.



Bar Guards for Tile Inlets



Animal Guards for Tile Outlets

Invasive Plant Summer Survey By: Tyler Glanz

Many different plants are crucial in a well-balanced ecosystem; however the introduction of new species can alter this delicate equilibrium. Plants that can do this are referred to as invasive plants and they get their name because they are able to invade areas of land and displace native plants. The reason they are able to do this is because most invasive species are foreign and therefore live outside their normal habitat. This is devastating because by living outside of their normal range, they do not have competition or the consumers that would normally diminish their abundance. This allows invasive plants to out compete native plants and ultimately disrupt an ecosystem.

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District hired me as an intern to conduct field surveys for invasive plants. In doing these surveys I looked for the different types of invasive plants, the abundance of these plants, as well as their location. My plan included taking a map of each location to be surveyed and constructing a grid system that would adequately allow me to walk along transects that are evenly spaced and distributed throughout each area. By establishing a grid system, I was able to accurately locate where each invasive species was and record that on a table along with the other criteria listed above. With the map and table, I effectively consolidated information that is valuable in understanding the type and coverage of invasive plants.

This survey was important because as I mentioned above, invasive species are detrimental to an ecosystem. They crowd out native plants, which decrease plant diversity. This means that there is less food and cover for animals. **Asian bush honeysuckle** provides food for birds however unlike native plants, the berries are rich in carbohydrates, but not in fat which is needed for migration. Since invasive plants like to invade open and disturbed areas they can invade farmland which decreases yield. The **Japanese barberry** and **autumn olive** are both invasive plants that are able to change nitrogen concentration in the soil, which alters the pH. Others reduce water flow in irrigation and drainage ditches like the **purple loosestrife**. Some are even toxic to humans and animals such as the **Tree of Heaven**, which causes rash.

If you would like more information about invasive species or different ways to remove them, call or stop by the **Hamilton County Soil and Water** office for brochures, handouts, and tips.





Did you know? Some types of invasive plants were brought to the U.S. for erosion control methods.

Pictured above is Autumn Olive on the left and Crown-vetch on the right.

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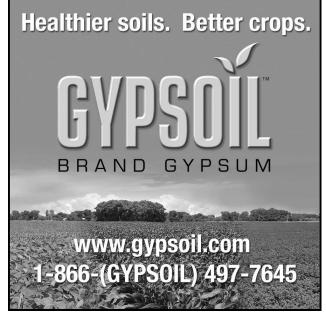
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Backyard Conservation Spotlight

Claire Lane, BYC Coordinator

The SWCD display at this year's 4-H fair featured a painted rain barrel silent auction and painting demonstration by local artist Leanna Pagdin. Learn more about Leanna in the interview below!



When did you begin to draw?

I was born in raised in north New Jersey and learned to draw before I could write by illustrating the sermon on the bulletin every Sunday. I got better at it by the time I studied illustration and graphic design at Indiana Wesleyan University. I moved back to New Jersey and worked in magazine publishing and the pharmaceutical industry for six years until about 2 years ago, when I moved here to Cicero, Indiana to be with my family.

What was your inspiration for the rain barrel design you created at the fair? I had three objectives. I wanted it to be colorful, I wanted to paint animals, and I wanted it to have some connection with the fair and 4H. What is better than a carousel? The idea thought of itself, almost!

How many rain barrels have you painted?

This was my second rain barrel. First time painting with people watching though, which I loved! Children especially seemed drawn to seeing artwork happen right at their eye level. It was a great conversation-starter.

What is different about painting a rain barrel vs other materials?

There is not much difference in materials and prep work between painting on a plastic barrel and painting a stretched canvas. They both get primed and applied with acrylic paint. Barrels need a clear exterior sealant like polyurethane because they will be exposed to the elements. The design process is a little different because the three-dimensional barrel needs to look good from every angle, so a design that tells a story as you move around it works the best, in my opinion. Also it helps to have a masseuse handy after painting anything!

What other types of art do you create?

Though not very obvious, graphic design is an art form because it conveys a message and requires design principles to solve problems. I've been a freelance graphic designer for eight years, creating things like logos and branding, trade show booths, app graphics, and book layouts. I have been designing, making and selling my own jewelry line for several years. The Boathouse restaurant in Winona Lake features one of my paintings. Photography, lampworking, glass fusing, watercolors, sewing, singing and

playing hammer dulcimer are a few of my other hobbies. I am always trying to learn new skills and right now it is metal-smithing in silver and copper.

Where can we view your work/purchase?

My etsy shop for my jewelry line is www.etsy.com/shop/ LeannaDawnAdornment.

Are you available to paint a barrel for an individual?

I would love to start my third barrel or canvas artwork! Contact me by email: wings_ofthedawn@yahoo.com so we can work together on a design!

Special thanks to Leanna for taking the time to share her talents with us and create a beautiful rain barrel. More photos of Leanna's barrel can be found on our website!

More info on rain barrels and BYC can be found at www.hamiltonswcd.org



Leanna painting the barrel during the 4-H fair (above) and with the finished product (below.).



Special thanks to the Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Outdoor Explorers Camp and Strawtown Koteewi Gardening Club for painting barrels for the auction!



What To Do With the Gullies? By: John South

Early, late and often spring rains have cut some nasty gullies across farm fields. Gullies this year are worse than many people can remember. Many are bad enough to interrupt farming operations. The question is not if they're repaired but when and how. Let's tackle the how first.

At minimum, these gullies will need to be filled in and graded or widened to create a proper waterway. I know many farmers don't like the depth and width of a NRCS waterway, but they do last a long time. They last because sufficient capacity is created to keep the water flowing in the waterway even after years of sediment build up. If only light grading is done, in a short time the water flow goes alongside the waterway. Now you have both a gully and a grass strip across the field. There are two programs, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through FSA and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through NRCS that will help pay the cost of a waterway. The paperwork is a hassle but the end result is a well-planned and constructed conservation practice. The other option is to do it yourself. The gully will need to be filled. Move the soil with a disc or box scraper. Compact the soil with a tractor tire when it's no more than 4" thick. Roll over it several times. Even though you try to compact the soil it still will be disturbed, fresh and easily eroded. Seeding the area with grass will help protect the work you've done and help the soil become cohesive. After a couple of years of grass, you may be able to farm the area again if you never had gullies in that location in the past. However, if we keep having these monsoon rains you had better keep it in grass. At minimum, plant a cover crop this fall in the drainage way and don't till it. No-till through the strip next spring after you've killed the grass. Cereal rye or wheat planted at 2 bushels per acre should provide a good cover. Keep the rows going across the drainage way.

Some situations are going to be beyond what a farmer can fix. Sediment bars have formed at the lower end of these gullies. The surface water is going multiple directions because the drainage way is filled with sediment. A dozer will be needed to clean out the sediment and establish a new flow path again. Again, this work should be completed while there's time to seed before cold weather arrives.

When are you going to do the work? Harvest is going to be late this year. Unless you have extra capacity at harvest time you may not be spending your time filling gullies and seeding them until after the seeding window is



Sediment bars will need to be shaped with a dozer.



This is a typical gully through a cornfield. A box scraper and some effort can fill this gully.

gone. Grass seeding needs to happen by mid-October to get a decent stand of grass. Seeding needs to be completed by September 30th for a NRCS waterway. You may want to consider working on the gullies before harvest. You're going to lose some crop but the work will be completed in time to sow grass and get it well established. You'll also have it done and ready for next spring.

In summary. The best option to control persistent gullies is to build a good waterway and get it seeding during prime growing months. The second best is to do the grading now and keep the area in cover crops or grass until the soil can withstand heavy rains. If you have persistent small gullies you should consider using cover crops in the drainage way every year. Contact the SWCD office if you will need a contractor to seed cereal rye or wheat on your drainage ways this fall.

Visit our website! www.hamiltonswcd.org

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Red oak



Buttonbush shrub foliage

Fall Native Tree Sale

30 tree and shrub varieties available!

Orders and payment due September 24th.

Tree pick up October 4th in Noblesville.

All trees and shrubs are \$22.00 + tax and 3-5 feet tall at delivery.

Order form inside!

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.



2014 Fall Native Tree Sale

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

All trees/shrubs are \$22.00 plus tax (\$1.54) = \$23.54

Most tree/shrub species are 3-5 feet tall at delivery. No refunds will be given after tree pick up. Payment due with order: Wednesday September 24th, 2014

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

Order pick up: Saturday October 4th 9:00a.m.—12:00p.m.

@ Hamilton County 4-H Fair Grounds Lama Barn

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
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry*	3-6	3-6	May	Full sun- Part shade	Medium	Good as hedge, tolerant of wide range of soils.	
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush*	5-12	4-8	June	Full sun-P art shade	Medium-Wet	Grows well in wet soils. Showy, unique flower heads.	
Cornus amomum	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.	
Cornus sericea	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.	
Corylus americana	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.	
Hamamelis virginiana	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.	
Physocarpus opulifolia	Common Ninebark	6-8	4-6	April	Full sun- Part shade	Medium	Tolerates wide range of soil conditions. Great for hedge.	
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac*	5-12	4-6	April-June	Sun-Shade	Dry-Medium	Drought and deer tolerant.	
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	Coralberry*	2-5	4-8	April-May	Full sun- Part shade	Medium-Dry	Coral berries provide winter interest.	
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum*	6-10	6-8	June	Full sun- Part shade	Medium	Good for borders, hedge, or screen.	
Viburnum lentago	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
Amelanchier laevis	Allegheny Serviceberry*	S	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Edible berries attract birds. Attractive understory tree for lawns or street tree.	
Cercis canadensis	Redbud*	S	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Showy flowers. Avoid poorly drained soils. Tolerates deer, clay soil, and black walnut trees nearby.	

* Attracts wildlife (birds, butterflies, etc.)

Medium and large trees

Scientific name	Common Name	Tree Size	Sun	Soil Moisture	Notes	Quantit
Aesculus glabra	Ohio Buckeye*	М	Full sun-Part shade	Medium	Considerable litter, tolerates rabbits.	
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry*	М	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Tolerates wide range of soil conditions and poor soils.	
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon	М	Full sun-Part shade	Dry-Medium	Male & female trees necessary for fruiting. Prune suckers for central leader.	
Juniper virginiana	Eastern Red Cedar* (18-24")	M Evergreen	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Good for screen or windbreak. Intolerant of shade.	
Nyssa sylvatica	Black Gum*	М	Part shade-Full shade	Medium-Wet	Prefers moderately acidic soil but tolerate poorly drained soils & drought. Ornamental.	
Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak*	М	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.	
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak	М	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Chlorosis common alkaline soils. Tolerates wet soil, even some flooding.	
Quercus shumardii	Shumard Oak*	М	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Tolerates wide range of soils, good street tree,. Prune early for central leader & strong structures	
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	L	Full sun-Part shade	Medium-Wet	Tolerates wet soil and air pollution. Shallow root system.	
Betula nigra	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 chlorsis in alkaline soils. Tolerates temporary flooding and clay soils.	
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffeetree	L	Full sun	Medium	Avoid heavy clay soil. Leafs out late and drops leaves early. Very hardy- no pest or disease problems & not bothered by wind or ice.	
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Poplar	L	Full sun	Medium	Tallest deciduous hardwood tree in North America. Prefers moist well drained sites.	
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore	L	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Largest diameter deciduous tree in NA. Prefers rich organic soils, tolerant of urban pollution. Intolerant of shade.	
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry*	L	Full sun- part shade	Medium	Tolerates wide range of soils and urban pollution.	
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak*	L	Full sun	Dry-Medium	Adapts to urban alkaline soil, drought & salt spray. No serious pest problems.	
Quercus rubra	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.	
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress*	L- Deciduous conifer	Full sun	Medium-Wet	Tolerates wide range of soils. Loses needles in fall.	

Not sure which tree or shrub is right for your property?

* Attracts wildlife (birds, butterflies, etc.)

The Missouri Botanical Garden has a helpful online tool to help you learn more about the characteristics of these trees and shrubs. Visit http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderSearch.aspx or Google "MBT Plant Finder." Additional information is also available from the Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association at http://hcmga.org.

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