

# Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



## Spring 2013 Spring 2013



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)  
10165 Oxford Pike  
Brookville, IN 47012  
(765) 647-2651, ext. 3  
[www.franklincountyswcd.org](http://www.franklincountyswcd.org)

*\*Due to the nature of our work there will be times the office must be closed. Please call ahead before visiting.*

### **District Supervisors:**

Michael Schwab – Chairman  
David Hartman – Vice-Chairman  
Louis Schwegman – Secretary  
John Selm - Supervisor  
Darin Hodapp – Supervisor

### **Associate Supervisors:**

Roger Bommer  
Clinton McNally  
Eugene Meyer

### **Conservation Staff:**

Clint Harrison – NRCS  
Chris Fox – SWCD



The Franklin County SWCD Board of Supervisors meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the office. The public is invited to attend these meetings.

**April 17    May 15    June 19**

*If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email or would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter please let us know.*



The 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting & dinner held in February was a successful evening with over 90 people in attendance. The evening started with a meal catered by Have-a-bite restaurant and musical entertainment by Bryce Mullins. Keynote speaker Randy Ollis, meteorologist for WISH-TV in Indy, provided an entertaining and educational presentation on climate and weather forecasting. The annual conservation awards were presented to the following:

**2012 Conservation Farmer of the Year—Gerald Wendel**

**2012 River Friendly Farmers of the Year—Calvin Finch & Lance Cox**

**2012 Friend of Conservation—Elizabeth “Betty” Gabbard**

Following the awards ceremony, there was a drawing for door prizes. Thank you to the businesses and individuals that donated prizes and to all those that help support the SWCD mission to conserve our soil and water resources.

### **Plant a tree for Arbor Day**

Franklin County SWCD will be holding a tree giveaway on Friday, April 26, 2013. Approximately, 600 tree seedlings will be available on a 1<sup>st</sup> come basis at the office starting at 9 am. There will be a limit of 5 trees per person. A variety of native tree species will be available, including: flowering dogwood, redbud, ninebark, pin oak, pecan and Norway spruce. Trees provide many services to our communities by producing oxygen, creating shade, reducing run off, preventing erosion and creating habitat for a variety of wildlife species. New this year, we are asking for canned food donations, which will be given to the SIEOC food pantry in Brookville. Donations are not required to receive trees, but are greatly appreciated.



*“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago...the second best time is now.”*



# Spring Fish Sale



**Deadline** for ordering is **Friday, April 19, 2013 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 10:00am** at the SWCD office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone# (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Species	Size	Price each	Price per 100	Quantity	Total
Bluegill	2-3"	\$0.45	\$40.00		
Hybrid bluegill	2-3"	\$0.50	\$45.00		
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.55	\$50.00	<b>Unavailable Spring 2013 due to pond failure</b>	
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$0.45	\$40.00		
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$0.85	\$80.00		
Fathead Minnows	\$9.00 per pound---minimum of 2 pounds				
Triploid Grass Carp	8-12"	\$18.00/each---minimum of 6 per order			
			Sub-total		
			7% sales tax		
		\$35 Delivery fee for Triploid Grass Carp			
			<b>TOTAL</b>		

**Payment is due *with* order.**

Make check payable to **Franklin County SWCD**  
**10165 Oxford Pike**  
**Brookville, IN 47012**

For additional pond management information and stocking recommendations visit the DNR link: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3356.htm>



## 2013 Poster Contest Results

- K-1 1<sup>st</sup> Amelia Crawford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carly Burkhart  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jack Seals
- 2-3 1<sup>st</sup> Saige Mergenthal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meredith Hoff  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tyler Wuestefeld
- 4-6 1<sup>st</sup> Eva Grimm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Madie Hoog  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kayla Ertel
- 7-9 1<sup>st</sup> Jacob Orschell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Selm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dresden Lonegran



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners**

## Earth Day Word Search

E L C O N S E R V E H  
Y C W S R S A E E P T  
E Q O E O N U C R L W  
L A U L I I U Y E A O  
Y S R M O D L C T N R  
E F A T E G L L A T G  
M L E R H W Y E W U V  
T N E M N O R I V N E

animal  
conserve  
earth  
ecology  
environment  
growth



plant  
recycle  
reduce  
reuse  
soil  
water

## Conservation Reserve Program

The 45<sup>th</sup> General CRP sign-up will be held May 20 thru June 14, 2013. The General CRP sign-up will be a competitive bidding process where land is offered for a 10-15 year contract to receive an annual rental payment. The maximum rental rate is based on the weighted average of the 3 primary soil types for the land being offered. In return the producer will establish a conservation practice(s) of their choice from a list of available practices. An Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) score is calculated on the rental rate, conservation practice and other factors. The EBI score is then used to rank offers from across the nation

## Survey Finds Many Rivers & Streams in Poor Condition

**WASHINGTON** — According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released report, 55% of stream and river miles across the country are in poor condition for aquatic life.

- **Nitrogen and phosphorus are at excessive levels.** 27% of the nation's rivers and streams have excessive levels of nitrogen, and 40% have high levels of phosphorus. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water causes significant increases in algae, which harms water quality, food resources and habitats, and decreases the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to survive.

- **Streams and rivers are at an increased risk due to decreased vegetation cover and increased human disturbance.** These conditions cause streams & rivers to be more vulnerable to flooding, erosion, and pollution. Vegetation slows the flow of rainwater so it does not erode stream banks, removes pollutants and helps maintain water temperatures that support healthy streams for aquatic life. 24% of the rivers and streams monitored were rated poor due to the loss of healthy vegetative cover.



## "Just Say No to Tillage"

"Tillage is incredibly destructive to the soil structure and to the soil ecosystem," according to Barry Fisher, a soil health specialist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "In healthy soils you have 50% air and water – which is made possible by the pore space in the soil – and 50% mineral and organic matter. But tillage collapses and destroys that structure, making the soil more vulnerable to erosion and compaction," Fisher explained. The possibility of another dry year should also have producers rethinking their use of tillage, Fisher said. "Because it destroys organic matter and soil structure, tillage actually reduces the soil's infiltration capacity," he said. "In short, tillage tends to limit the availability of water in the soil," Fisher said. "And that could prove very costly during those long, summer dry spells." Fortunately, more and more producers in Indiana are farming with systems to build soil health, Fisher said. "Using a suite of conservation practices, like quality no-till and diverse cover crops," he said, "they're keeping living plants in the soil as long as possible and they're keeping the soil surface covered with residue year round." And according to Fisher, the benefits of improved soil health extend beyond the farm. "Producers who improve the health of their soil are also increasing its water-holding capacity, which reduces runoff that can cause flooding. Improved infiltration keeps nutrients and sediment from being carried off-site into nearby lakes, rivers, and streams," he said.

## Dates to Remember

**April 9:** *Ag-Day* for Franklin County 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**April 17:** *SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.*

**April 19:** Deadline to order fish.

**April 22:** *Earth Day.*



**April 25:** *Fish sale* pick up, delivery to SWCD at 10:00am.

**April 26:** *Arbor Day.* SWCD tree give-away & food drive.

**May 15:** *SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.*

**May 20—June 14:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up.

**May 27:** *Memorial Day.* Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

**June 3:** ACRE deadline.

**June 7:** SURE deadline.

**June 19:** *SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.*



**June 28-29:** *CanoeFest.*

**July 4:** *Independence Day.* Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

**July 15-20:** Franklin Co 4-H Fair

## No-till Drill Rental



A 7' and 10' Great Plains No-till drill is available to rent. For more information or to rent one of the drills call the office at (765) 647-2651 ext. 3

Franklin County Soil &  
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Brookville, IN 47012-9414



**Wenning Farms, Inc**  
Roger Wenning  
Cover Crop Specialist  
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rwenning@etczone.com

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*Oilseed Radish - Cereal Rye*  
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Greensburg, IN

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Farm Drainage - Grass Seeding - Ponds

**Roger: 812-593-1148**

**Kevin: 812-528-6512**

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