

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Spring 2016



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 647-2651, ext. 3

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
Darin Hodapp – Supervisor
Tim Hofer – Supervisor

Associate Supervisors:

Roger Bommer
Lee Giesting
Clinton McNally
Eugene Meyer
John Selm

Conservation Staff:

Evan Divine – NRCS
Chris Fox – SWCD

The SWCD Board of Supervisors meets on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

April 20 May 18 June 15

Need to test your well water?

The SWCD has bottles for collecting water samples to test for various pollutants. The cost for testing starts at \$25. For more information contact the SWCD office.



Whitewater River

At the recent SWCD annual meeting in February, keynote speaker Bob Barr discussed many interesting characteristics and facts about the Whitewater River. Mr. Barr is a research scientist for IUPUI and has extensively studied many of Indiana's rivers including the Whitewater. Although technically there is no true "white water" on the river there are many rapids due to the steep gradient. In fact, Mr. Barr pointed out the Whitewater is said to be the swiftest river in the state as it falls an average of six feet per mile. The speed at which water moves through the river and watershed can lead to issues with erosion. Thus it is no surprise the Whitewater River carries more sediment than any other river of its size in the state. Mr. Barr stated that one can expect a river to move about 8 times the average width of the river. However, the Whitewater doesn't always play by the rules. In some areas it will meander more than 22 times its width. Actually, the Whitewater holds the distinction of having the most

channel migration of any river in the state. Channel migration is how much a river or stream channel will move from year to year. The Whitewater River has an average channel migration of 30 feet per year (much more than that in certain areas) which is more than double the second place White River. As Mr. Barr explained there are many factors that affect the rate or amount of channel migration. Based on the research it is likely the river has always had a very actively moving river channel.

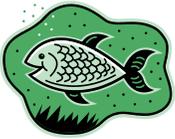
2016 Poster Contest Winners

- | | |
|-----|--|
| K-1 | 1 st Stephanie Wagner
2 nd Maddy Smith
3 rd Brandon Weekley |
| 2-3 | 1 st Abbi Baxter
2 nd Annie Hoff
3 rd Haley Wiesemann |
| 4-6 | 1 st Jack Stirn
2 nd Grace Roth
3 rd Clare VanMeter |
| 7-9 | 1 st Ashlan Hill
2 nd Jaime Stortz
3 rd Sarah Schuman |

Congratulations to our State Winner in K-1 and National Honorable Mention

Ethan short

Congratulations to our contest winners!



Spring Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Monday, April 18, 2016 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Wednesday, April 27, 2016 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"	\$0.60	\$50.00		
Hybrid bluegill	2-3"	\$0.60	\$55.00		
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.65	\$60.00		
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$0.60	\$50.00		
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$0.95	\$90.00		
Fathead Minnows	\$9.50 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			
			TOTAL		

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>



Winter Fish Kills

Although we had a mild winter compared to recent years some ponds still may be impacted by fish kills. There are many factors that can lead to a fish kill. Shallow, weedy ponds are especially susceptible to winter kills. The most common cause of fish kills in Indiana ponds is suffocation due to the lack of oxygen. Aquatic plants can produce oxygen only when sunlight is available. While some sunlight can penetrate clear ice, snow and thick ice can often block sunlight, resulting in dangerously low oxygen levels. Then, as aquatic plants naturally die during winter, plant decomposition consumes oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need. If you had a winter kill and need to restock, we can help. See the stocking info below or call the office for more details, as well as, information on how to prevent future fish kills.

Fish Stocking

Stocking strategies differ for each pond based on the size of the pond, as well as, the desired fishing goals. The best all-around stocking combination for Indiana ponds has proven to be largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. There are other species of fish available but many are not suitable for pond environments and may actually cause problems. Choosing the correct stocking ratio is also important because too many fish leads to poor fish growth and too few fish can increase the risk of overharvest and an unbalanced fish population. The initial stocking ratio widely used in Indiana consists of a 5:1 bluegill to bass fingerlings ratio, not to exceed 1,000 bluegill and 200 bass per acre. Stocking 100 (2-4 inch) bass fingerlings and 500 (1-3 inch) bluegill fingerlings per acre is recommended for new ponds. Redear are often stocked in combination with bluegill because they seldom overpopulate with 250 fingerlings of each species.



ARBOR DAY

Franklin County SWCD will be holding the 5th annual tree giveaway & food drive on **Arbor Day, April 29th** beginning at 9am. Over 700 tree seedlings will be available on a 1st come basis at the office. There will be a limit of 5 trees per person. A variety of tree species will be available, including: flowering dogwood, redbud, scarlet oak, white oak, tulip tree, red pine, river birch and black gum. Trees provide many vital services to our community by producing oxygen, creating shade, reducing run off, preventing erosion and creating habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Again this year, we are asking for canned food donations, which will be given to the SIEOC food pantry and Works of Mercy Center in Brookville. While donations are not required to receive trees, they are greatly appreciated.

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

“Monarch News”

By: Chris Fox

By now most everyone has heard about the plight of our pollinators. Honey bees, along with native bees, are experiencing severe population declines. However, bees are not the only pollinators facing a challenging future. Monarch populations have also been on a steep downhill descent. In fact, the previous 3 years have been the

lowest recorded populations and represent a 90% decline over the past 20 years of study. But we do have some good news. Recent population surveys in Mexico and California, where Monarchs overwinter, have shown a significant increase in numbers. The estimate for the winter colonies in Mexico is actually the highest in five years. Why the increase? Favorable weather last summer was certainly one reason for the population increase. According to Dr. Karen Oberhauser of the Monarch Joint Venture, “Good weather in the growing season this year allowed us to produce about the maximum number of monarchs as possible from the habitat we have, but we know that this amount of habitat can also produce many fewer monarchs in a bad year”. Thus creating more breeding habitat in the US is critical to the rebound of the Monarch population. Protection of the wintering sites is also crucial to the Monarch survival. The entire Eastern population of Monarchs winter in 12 small remote mountainous sites in southern Mexico. Loss of this habitat could spell disaster to the Monarch population. In addition to the threats of illegal logging in the protected wintering sites, Monarchs are also vulnerable to severe weather especially during migration and in winter when they are clustered in large groups. Unfortunately, just a few weeks ago a winter storm of historic proportions struck the Monarch sanctuaries in Mexico. There is no word yet about how the Monarchs

were affected. However, the sequence of events is of particular concern. The storm began with rain and was followed by hail, snow, and sub-freezing temperatures. Monarchs are more susceptible to mortality from freezing when wet. Images from Mexico show trees within the sanctuary area toppled by the strong winds. Sadly, many Monarchs may have perished in the storm. Scientists estimate mortality as high as 50% is possible due to the precipitation and extremely low temperatures. The hope is that a majority of the Monarchs had already left the wintering sites to begin the annual spring migration north. So as you can see pollinators, including Monarchs, face many perils. You can help our pollinators by creating and protecting pollinator habitat. If you would like to get more involved and find out what else you can do to help our pollinators contact the SWCD office.

Dates to Remember

April 14: *Ag-Day* for Franklin County 3rd and 4th grade students.

April 18: Deadline to order fish.

April 20: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

April 27: *Fish sale* pick up, delivery to SWCD at 10:00am.

April 29: Celebrate *Earth Day & Arbor Day* at the 5th Annual tree give-away & food drive.

May 18: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

May 30: **Memorial Day.** Observed holiday. **Office closed.**



Franklin County Soil &
Water Conservation District
10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012-9414



Wenning Farms, Inc
Roger Wenning
Cover Crop Specialist
812-593-1148
rwenning@etczone.com

Bounty Ryegrass - Crimson Clover
Oilseed Radish - Cereal Rye
Other Cover Crop Seed

Call Roger to order your cover crop seed!



Greensburg, IN

Grassed Waterways (NRCS Certified) - Septic
Farm Drainage - Grass Seeding - Ponds

Roger: 812-593-1148

Kevin: 812-528-6512

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited passes apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.