

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Summer 2014



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 – Temporary 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.

July 23* August 20 Sept 17

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.



Healthy Soil = Healthy You

By now most of you have heard the phrase soil health. This term is used to express a shift in the way we think about and care for the soil. Soil is not just an inactive growing medium but a living ecosystem filled with billions of organisms. In fact, there are more soil micro-organisms in a healthy teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. “When we manage the soil so that soil habitat is healthy, it also protects natural resources and results in higher production levels,” reported Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist. According to NRCS, everyone can improve soil health by using four key principles: minimize disturbance through no till; maximize soil cover; keep living roots growing as long as possible; and grow a variety of plants. When these principles are used together they build the soil’s resiliency, which will reduce flooding; erosion; runoff containing excess nutrients, pesticides and herbicides; hold moisture during drought; and much more. Indiana is at the forefront of this new approach to soil management. As a result of these innovations, the National Association of Conservation Districts will bring their summer

meeting to Indianapolis in 2014 to share Indiana’s lessons learned with national leaders. But how does soil health equate to a healthier you? Washington State University researchers using DNA sequencing technology found that soil teeming with a high biological diversity produced more nutrient-dense food. There is even some evidence that suggests a healthy soil ecosystem can help reduce allergies & asthma. Doctors in Central Europe are researching why children raised on sustainably managed farms have lower rates of allergies and asthma compared to urban children or those raised on industrial farms. Thinking of a healthy body as an extension of a healthy farm might be a new concept for many of us. However, our forefathers were very much aware of this fact. Franklin D. Roosevelt may have summed it up best when he said, “a nation that destroys its soils destroys itself”. Thus soil health is vital to our health. Just as we must be sure to take care of our bodies to remain healthy we must also care for the soil to ensure it is healthy.

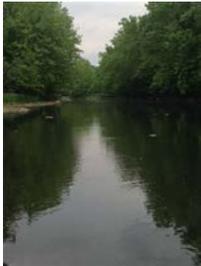
HEALTHY
SOIL
=
HEALTHY
LIFE





Whitewater River Watershed

What is a watershed?



We all live in a watershed. A watershed is simply the area of land that water flows across and/or under on its way to a common drainage point, such as; a pond, lake, stream or river. A majority of Franklin County falls within the Whitewater River Watershed. The Whitewater River is over 100 miles long. Thus the watershed is quite large with a surface area of 412 square miles which drains over 1400 square miles, covering 14 counties in 2 states. In order to fully address the issues and develop a useful management plan, the Whitewater River Watershed project is focusing on a smaller sub watershed located in the southern portion of the larger watershed. This sub watershed flows through 4 counties (Dearborn & Franklin in Indiana and Butler & Hamilton in Ohio) and covers approximately 159,884 acres.



One of a kind...

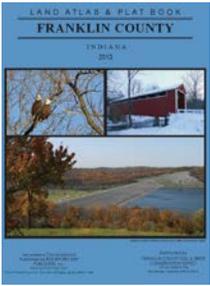
The Whitewater River is unique in the state for many reasons. Channel slopes on the Whitewater River are among the highest recorded for major Indiana rivers. The steep gradients and swift flows of the river combined with the abundance of quality water & habitat make the Whitewater one of the premier ecological & recreational rivers in the state. In fact, the river is designated an “outstanding river” by the Indiana DNR.

The Whitewater River watershed is home to several state and/or federally endangered species some more familiar than other. Two state endangered species of fish that most of us have probably never heard of or seen are found only in the Whitewater River watershed. The variegate darter (*Etheostoma variatum*) is a state endangered species and is considered critically imperiled in the state. The variegate darter is restricted to the Ohio River drainage and is one of the most colorful darter species. They are an indicator of good water quality and are most abundant in high quality medium to large sized streams and rivers. They feed on insect larvae, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The redbreast dace (*Clinostomus elongates*) is state endangered, rare or uncommon globally and critically imperiled in the state. In Indiana they are only found within the Whitewater River watershed. The redbreast dace is an indicator of very high quality headwater streams. They feed almost entirely on insects and can often be seen leaping into the air to capture insects flying just above the water’s surface. The species is intolerant of turbidity and silt. They are attracted to deep pools with an abundance of woody debris. The small streams they are found in typically have rather high gradients, very clear cool water, and are in primarily forested watersheds. Sounds like the Whitewater River! This season IDEM has been sampling the Whitewater River for water quality and biological diversity. We are happy to report that IDEM has found new records of the redbreast dace in the Whitewater river basin, which has doubled the distribution of the species statewide!

Variegate Darter



Redside Dace



**NEW
PLAT
BOOK**

The new Franklin County plat book is full color and includes aerial photos of each township. The books sell for \$25 each, cash or check only.

Did you know?

Indiana is ranked #2 in the nation for the production of tomatoes for processing. In 2012, Indiana grew 11.2 million pounds of fresh-market tomatoes, valued at \$7.6 million and 259.6 million tons of tomatoes for processing valued at \$30.6 million.

Looking to buy or sell fresh Indiana produce then consider a local farmers market:

Brookville Farmers' Market
South Main Street
Fridays 3:30 - 7:00pm

Batesville Farmers' Market
Main Street Village Green
Saturdays 8-11am



Help Save Pollinators
with Conservation

Insects and Pollinators

Summer has finally arrived and it won't be long before we are harvesting the bounty from our gardens and farms. However, much of what we will be picking would not "bee" possible without the assistance of pollinators. More than three-fourths of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators to reproduce. Over 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles and other insects. Most people are well aware of the severe decline in honey bee populations but the drastic decline in native bees and other pollinators may be an even more alarming threat to crop yields according to a recent worldwide study. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators. Each June, NRCS and

conservation partners salute pollinators during "National Pollinator Week". You can help save our pollinators by providing critical habitat, protecting foraging & nesting sites, reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides and educating others about the plight of the pollinators. You can get more information on protecting pollinators by contacting us or visiting the Xerces society website at xerces.org.



Dates to Remember



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

July 12-19: Franklin County 4-H Fair week. See you there!

July 23: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm. *Change of date due to the 4-H fair.*

August 1-17: Indiana State Fair

August 20: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

August 25: Soil health & cover crop field day (9-4pm) at Roger Wenning's farm in Decatur Co.

September 1: Labor Day.
Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

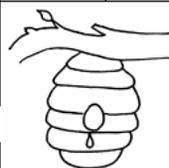
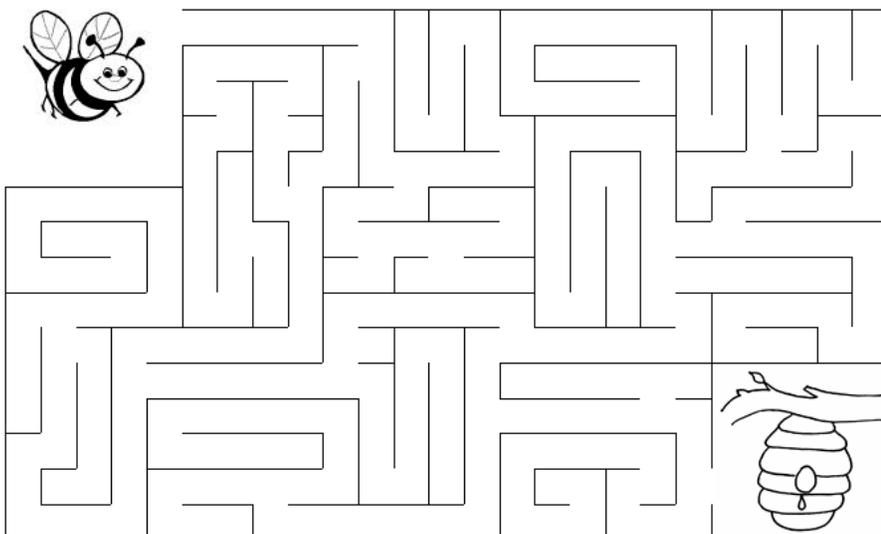
September 17: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.



Upcoming Local County Fairs:

Henry Co. July 9-19th
Decatur Co. July 10-17th
Franklin Co. July 12-19th
Union Co. July 19-24th
Ripley Co. July 20-26th
Fayette Co. July 26-Aug 2nd
State Fair Aug 1-17th 

Can you help the bee find its way to the hive?





Franklin County Soil &
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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

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