



THE STEWARD

Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume 4, Issue 10

April 2010

SWCD Supervisors:

Justin Gelfius—Chairman
Adam Hall, *Vice-Chair*—
Ed Engela
Daryn Romine
Dennis Brooks

District Coordinator:

Melissa Sporleder

District Conservationist

Adam Heichelbech

Clifty Creek Watershed Project

Manager:

Heather Siesel

Resource Specialist

Christine Goldstein

Points of Interest

*Watershed Project sponsors education events

- ☞ Cost share dollars
- ☞ Annual Meeting
- ☞ Sycamore Land Trust
- ☞ Spring Outdoor lab days
- ☞ Election Results

WATERSHED PROJECT SPONSORS EDUCATION EVENTS

The Clifty/Flatrock-Haw Creek Watershed Projects are sponsoring several educational events this spring season. The education events range from a water monitoring training to wetlands workshop for teachers to a backyard conservation field day. These events give the community an opportunity to learn more about the many endeavors of the watershed project from in-stream water monitoring, education, and in-yard practices to reduce pollution.

A Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Training will be held on May 1, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Clifty Park in Columbus. The training is an introduction to water quality monitoring with a specific focus on local watersheds. The event will cover habitat, chemical, biological assessment methods from a hands-on and speech format. After completing the training participants will become “Certified Volunteer Monitors” and are qualified to submit data to the statewide volunteer stream monitoring database. Any interested adult is welcome to attend. *Pre-registration is required!*

A WOW! Wonder of Wetlands Workshop will be held on April 16, 2010 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bartholomew County Landfill, Education Center. This workshop is a joint venture held by kidscommons, Bartholomew County SWCD, Bartholomew Solid Waste Management District, and the Watershed Projects. The workshop is an interactive, multidisciplinary wetlands education program that uses a standards-based science curriculum. The curriculum includes background materials, lesson plans, and techniques for grades K-12. The curriculum is intended to give all educators materials as well as activities for wetlands study. The Workshop is free of charge and lunch will be provided. Registration is required as we only have 30 spots open.

A Backyard Conservation Field Day will be held on May 20, 2010 from 6-8 p.m. at Bartholomew County Recycling Center located on Mapleton Street. The event will highlight ways to green up your backyard including rain barrels, rain gardens, recycling, soil testing, composting, and tree plantings. We will be hosting a rain barrel building session as well as Bioswale tours after the JFNEW speaker concerning rain gardens.

For information on any of these education events or to register contact Heather Siesel at 812-372-1280 ext. 3 or heather.siesel@in.nacdnet.net.

Cost Share Dollars Available!!




The Clifty Creek Watershed Project is continuing to offer its cost share program to landowners in the Clifty Creek Watershed. The cost share program is a voluntary program which can provide participants with financial assistance to install conservation practices.

Conservation practices are techniques used to reduce the potential damage to natural resources from human activities. These practices can be installed by most people and can directly improve water quality. The purpose of the program is to provide education about water resources conservation and encourage participants to install practices that will have a positive, long-term impact on water quality.

The cost share program is now accepting applications. For more information on the program or to learn how to participate, please contact: Christine Goldstein at (812) 343-6683 or Christine.goldstein@in.nacdn.net or check out our website at www.cliftycreek.org.

The program is available to residents and communities located in the Clifty Creek Watershed and all segments of the community are encouraged to participate. Examples of potential participants include farm operators, livestock owners, land owners, and urban & suburban residents. Examples of potential agricultural practices include cover crops, fencing livestock out of streams, heavy use area protection pads, and nutrient management planning. Examples of potential urban practices include rain gardens and rain barrels.

The Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District annual meeting was held on February 4, 2010 in cooperation with Purdue Cooperative Extension Office. There were 179 landowners/producers in attendance along with several local politicians. This years annual meeting consisted of the county electing Dennis Brooks to the board, replacing Shane Meier. Trevor and Brett Glick received the Gilman O'Neal award presented by Adam Hall – acting chairman. This years meeting was catered by The Rolling Pin and door prizes were given out this year to those in attendance, SFC Richard Joyce from the Indiana National Guard spoke about his time in Afghanistan working on the agribusiness development team. A good time was had by all in attendance. Thank you to everyone who helped, attended and supported our annual meeting in 2010.



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Sycamore Land Trust Helps Farmers with Conservation Easements

Last year the Indiana Department of Environmental Management presented the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence to Sycamore Land Trust (SLT). The award recognized SLT's innovative work teaching people to value southern Indiana's natural heritage. SLT, the fastest-growing conservation group in the Midwest, won the award for its Environmental Education Program, which IDEM said helps teachers meet state science standards, boosts academic performance, and promotes mental and physical health in K-12 kids. You read about the program in the recent SWCD Annual Report. The Governor's Award is the latest in a series of national, state, and local awards for SLT.

SLT is a non-profit organization whose core mission is preserving our disappearing landscape. Its goal is to conserve 20,000 acres by the year 2020. Bartholomew County is one of 26 counties in its service territory. The group permanently preserves family farms, working forests, wetlands, and prairies that make up southern Indiana's historical and ecological character. SLT currently protects over 5,500 acres on 65 separate parcels. Two of these properties are Touch the Earth and Tangeman Woods, both just west of Columbus.

Other projects include working with the owners of the Parker-Chambers Farm to create a conservation easement, guaranteeing it will always remain agricultural or natural land. It is a 100-acre farm east of Columbus that has been in the same family since its 1850 land grant, making it the twelfth-oldest family farm in Indiana. Another SLT conservation easement is on a 500-acre farm in Knox County, granted to the Ewing family in 1808, the sixth-oldest family farm in the state.

Spring Outdoor lab—plans are underway for the spring workshop, this years dates are May 11th, 12th & 13th. The 2nd grade students from area schools will be attending this springs outdoor lab. They will be attending stations throughout the woods covering topics regarding conservation. The theme will be *Conservation Habitats—Healthy Habitats*. This theme is the National NACD's theme for stewardship week, April 25—May 2, 2010. This week will mark the 55th year of the national event, the NACD encourages citizens, schools and communities to develop and maintain habitat areas using good conservation practices. "Being good stewards of our natural resources at home and in our communities is an important task for each person. When we think about protecting and managing our natural resources, we can provide healthy habitats for the ecosystem on our planet." says NACD president Steve Robinson. "Each of us can make a difference by developing habitat areas in our own backyards, our schools and in our communities."



Thank you to the following sponsors of door prizes given out at the 2010 annual meeting:

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Reminder: The district holds it's monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm at the district office located at 1040 Second Street in Columbus, Indiana.. The meeting is open to the public.

The SWCD recently held their election of officers. The results and board members are listed below:

Justin Gelfius—Chairman Adam Hall— Vice-chairman
Ed Engleau—Board Member Daryn Romine—Board Member
Dennis Brooks— Board Member Annette Heath—Associate Member
Brett Glick—Associate Member

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email please send us an email at : barth@bartholomewswcd.org and we will gladly add you to our email list., as well if you have changed addresses, moved or wish to stop receiving the newsletter please let us know.

- ☞ bartholomewswcd.org. SWCD website
- ☞ The district has 2009 plat books for sale at a cost of \$20.00 each. These are available at the district office.

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