



THE STEWARD

Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume 5, Issue 1

May 2011

SWCD Supervisors:

- Dennis Brooks—Chairman
- Adam Hall—Vice-Chair
- Ed Engelau
- Daryn Romine
- Scott Maley

District Coordinator:

Heather Shireman

District Conservationist:

Ben Zuercher

Points of Interest:

- ◆ Equipment Rental
- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Wildlife Improvement
- ◆ 4-H Fair
- ◆ New Staff



Free Fishing Week-
June 4th-5th, 2011

For more Information:
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3598.htm>



From your new District Coordinator!

Hello,

My name is Heather Shireman, and I am the new District Coordinator & Educator for the Bartholomew county SWCD. I am looking forward to enhancing the district's image through educational events throughout the county. Our goal is to empower you, a citizen of Bartholomew County, to conserve and protect our natural resources, whether it be on your farm or in your own backyard. If you have any ideas on anything you would like to see done in Bartholomew County, feel free to call or e-mail me, or stop by the office.

I am looking forward to working with you!

~Heather Shireman

Fuel prices have you down?



We can help!

Rent our no-till drill and save on fuel and time while implementing a great conservation practice on your farm!

Contact Nathan Arnholt at 812-579-6800 or at 812-378-1280

Come Visit Us!!

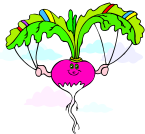


Where? The Bartholomew County 4-H Fair

When? July 8-16th

Why? Learn about conservation practices and how you can help with wildlife improvement in your own backyard.

****On Kids' Day, have your kids come to our booth to make their own pinecone bird feeders!****



Cover Crops



Cover crops are becoming a hot topic in southern Indiana. They are mostly known for helping farmers with erosion control. However, they have many other beneficial uses; such as: **nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation, weed suppression, water management, compaction alleviation, and increasing and diversifying soil composition.** During droughts, cover crops such as rye can help **maintain moisture** in the soil, thereby maintaining yields. No pricy irrigation booms needed. For the first year or two of going no-till, no significant change can be seen in bushels per acre. However, after about 3 years of no-till, cover crops help farmers boost their profits significantly. Profits increase due to the decrease in reliance on fuel, labor, applied nitrogen, insecticides, and fungicides. "From 2009 to 2010, net income improved \$8.64 per acre for no-till farmers in the Eastern Cornbelt. The highest increase was seen in the Western Corn Belt with an increase in \$35.43 per acre" (No-Till Farmer).

Choosing a cover crop depends on your soil type and what you are hoping to accomplish with your soil. Some common cover crops are cereal rye, annual ryegrass, radishes, small grains, clover, field peas, and sorghum, and each of these have their own special qualities. For example, radishes soak up nitrogen and then release it in the spring, boosting yields. All the while reducing compaction, suppressing nematodes, improving drainage, and increasing air to the soil.

To determine which cover crops you should use based on where you live, visit www.mccc.msu.edu/ and click "Cover Crop Selector" in the left-hand column. No-Till Farmer, May 2011, Volume 40, No. 5

Want Help Getting Started?

If you need help getting started or just need more information on your current cover crops, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide the technical assistance needed to get cover crops working for you. In addition to technical assistance, NRCS's EQIP program has the potential to provide financial assistance for the establishment of cover crops. Through the EQIP program, participants can receive financial assistance of \$31/acre for implementing cover crops into their operation. With the technical and financial assistance available from NRCS, you can not only learn about the benefits of cover crops, but you can also obtain help with implementing them into your operation. If you would like assistance with cover crops for your operation, please contact Ben Zuercher, NRCS - District Conservationist, at 812-378-1280 Ext. 3.



E.R. GRAY & ASSOCIATES
Land Surveying & Geometric Engineering

E.R. Gray III, L.S.
President

P.O. Box 1357
Columbus, IN 47202

Phone: 812.372.7398 1.877.653.6479
Fax: 812.372.2175 www.ergray.com



Glen Shireman
Hope, IN
(812) 546-4994

"Matching Seeds to Needs"

Soil Testing

Fertilizer & Herbicide Sales & Application

Seed Sales



Romine Tile Service
Daryn N. Romine

9943 NORTH 600 EAST

Hope, IN. 47246

Office: (812) 546-5952



Post Frame Buildings
Excavation Work

Larry Mohr Construction Inc.
1092 W Flat Rock Rd., Flat Rock, IN 47234

Cell: 812-350-5216

Fax: 812-587-5551

E-mail: larry@larrymohrconstruction.com

Larry Mohr

812-587-5216

1-800-340-5216



MONARCH WAYSTATIONS

CREATE, CONSERVE, & PROTECT MONARCH HABITATS

www.MonarchWatch.org



Monarchs return to our area of the United States in the Spring where they breed and then return to Mexico in the fall. Due to economic development and the abundant use of herbicides the Monarch habitat is rapidly disappearing. Monarchs need milkweeds and other nectar sources to breed, survive, and make their long journey back to Mexico.

How can you help?... You can create Monarch Habitats in your own backyard or perhaps at your children's schools. Visit www.MonarchWatch.org to obtain ideas and tips on how to create your own Monarch Waystation.

Hummingbirds are here!

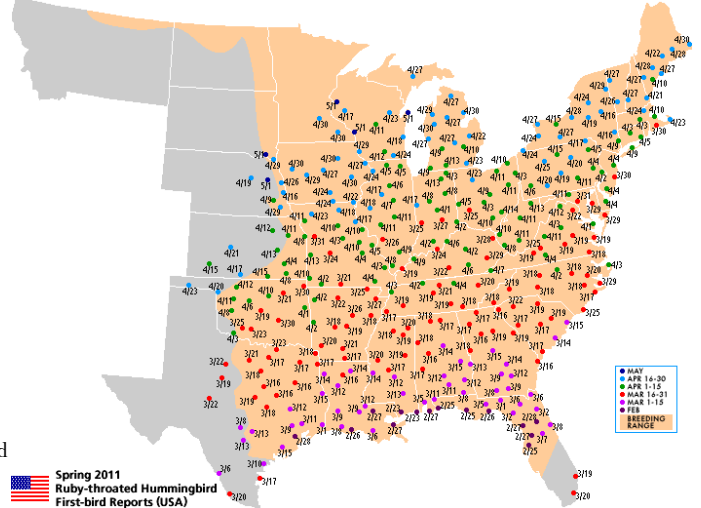
Monarchs are not the only ones who travel a long distance from Mexico to Indiana in the Spring. Some hummingbirds do, too. The Ruby-throated hummingbird is the most common hummingbird in Indiana. However another breed, known as a Rufous hummingbird, has been known to make an appearance.

Fun Facts:

- The average length of a Ruby-throated hummingbird = 3.5 inches
- Average weight is only 1/8 of an ounce
- They breathe nearly 250 times per minute; the average human only breaths 21 times per minute.
- Their pulse is also 250 beats per minute when at rest and when they are flying it can be as high as 1200 beats per minute; the average human's is only about 60 beats per minute.

As you can see, it takes a lot of energy for these little guys (and girls) to fly around and find food. You can help by planting flowers that attract hummingbirds, such as azaleas, columbines, hibiscuses, and bleeding hearts.

Another good way to help them is by placing hummingbird feeders throughout your backyard. The nectar to fill these feeders does not have to be purchased from a store. The recipe for homemade nectar is to the right. Do not add red food coloring to the nectar because it can be harmful to the hummingbirds. Make sure to clean your feeders out at least once a week to prevent any harmful bacterial or fungal growth.



Spring 2011 Ruby-throated Hummingbird First-bird Reports (USA)

Recipe for Artificial Nectar:

1 cup of sugar to 4 cups of water
Stir until completely dissolved

Information gathered from www.hummingbirds.net. Please visit www.hummingbirds.net for migration maps (shown above) and more information about hummingbirds and what you can do to help them.



Engelau Excavating

Waterways—Field Tile—General Excavating
Demolition—Stump Grinding

Adam Engelau 17241 S 450 W
(812) 521-5225 Seymour, IN



Dan McGuckin
4680 Orchard Road
Columbus, IN 47201

Phone: 812-320-3678
danmcguckin@yahoo.com

Prescribed Burning
Timber Sales/Appraisals
Timber Stand Improvement
Tree Planting
Native Grass/Wildflower Planting
Forest & Wildlife Mgmt Plans
Invasive Plant Mgmt
Prescribed Burning



We are committed to providing our customers with quality service through effective communication, professional integrity, and mutual respect.



Check us Out!

<p>WELCOME NEW STAFF!</p> <p><u>Heather Shireman</u></p> <p>Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District</p> <p>Coordinator & Educator</p> <p>Heather.shireman@in.nacdnet.net</p> <p>812-378-1280 ext. 3</p>
<p>The district will hold it's monthly meeting on the second 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.</p>
<p>If you would like to receive our newsletter by email please send us an email at : heather.shireman@in.nacdnet.net and we will gladly add you to our email list. Also, if you have changed addresses, moved or wish to stop receiving the newsletter please let us know.</p>

- ◆ The district has 2009 plat books for sale at a cost of \$20.00 each. These are available at the district office.
- ◆ Marking Flags are also available to purchase at the district office. The cost is 5¢ per flag.



Bartholomew County SWCD
 1040 Second Street
 Columbus IN 47201
 Phone: (812) 378-1280 ext. 3
 Fax: (812) 378-1213
 Email: heather.shireman@in.nacdnet.net

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 COLUMBUS, IN
 PERMIT NO. 139