



# THE STEWARD

## Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2010

### *SWCD Supervisors:*

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

### *District Coordinator:*

Colorado Wagner

### *District Conservationist*

Ben Zuecher

### *Clifty Creek Watershed Project Manager:*

Heather Siesel

### *Resource Specialist*

Christine Goldstein

### Points of Interest

- ☞ MRBI Begins
- ☞ Staff Updates
- ☞ CREP Dollars available
- ☞ Thank you volunteers

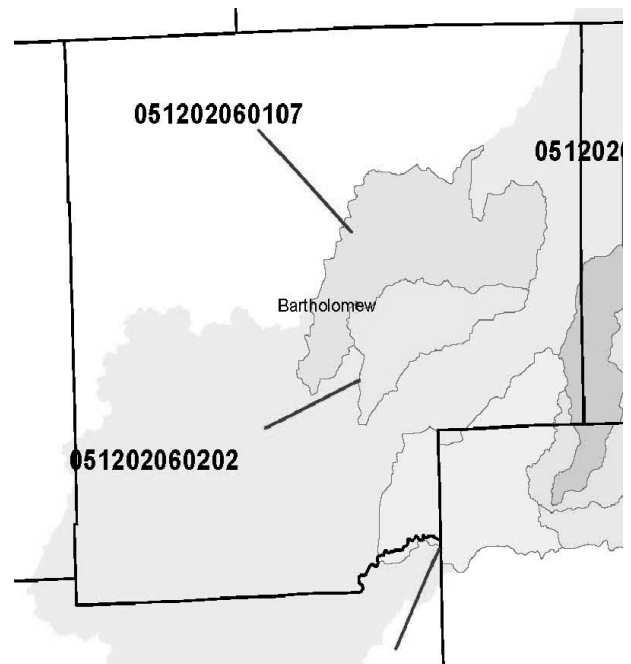
### MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (MRBI)

In June, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the funding for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) for 12 states in the middle of the U.S. The Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District, along with Decatur County SWCD and Jennings County SWCD, partnered together on a project encouraging cover crops and nutrient management. The Upper East Fork White Watershed Alliance project will start October 1, 2010.

Draining some 41 percent of the United States, the Mississippi River is the largest river system in North America. Through this new Initiative, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its partners will help producers in targeted watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation practices that avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity. According to NRCS Acting State Conservationist Shannon Zezula, "The MRBI is using a targeted approach to direct this conservation initiative. The goal of this initiative is to reduce nutrient loading in the basin, and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico. The funding is being offered directly to producers through three Farm Bill Conservation Programs."

The Upper East Fork White Watershed Alliance project will focus on seven subwatershed within the Upper East Fork White Watershed. For more information call the Bartholomew County SWCD 812-378-1280 x3.

A detailed map is displayed in the SWCD Office.



**STAFF NEWS AND UPDATES****COLORADO WAGNER**

Bartholomew County Soil and Water  
Conservation District Coordinator

812-378-1280 ext. 3

812-343-8091 cell

colorado.wagner@in.nacdnet.net

**Colorado Wagner**

The new Soil and Water Conservation District Coordinator/Educator is Colorado Wagner. A 11 year resident of Bartholomew County, Colorado is enthusiastic and eager to be involved with SWCD. Colorado received her degree from Indiana University in Outdoor Recreation and Resource Mngt. She lives on 16 acres southwest of town with her husband Ben and two children, ages 9 and 7. Colorado is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Zoology, and in between work and school she enjoys spending time outside, camping, and working around the barn. Currently the position is part-time and office hours will be limited but feel free to contact her via email or cell phone when you need to get a hold of her.

**BEN ZUERCHER**

District Conservationist

USDA-NRCS

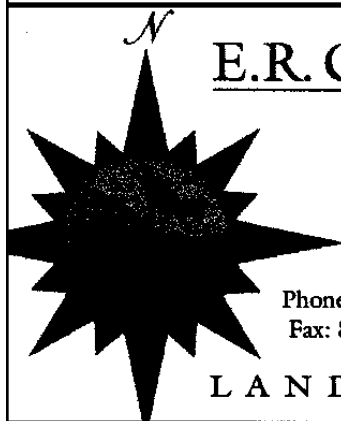
Office: (812) 378-1280 Ext. 110

Mobile: (317)-373-2302

Ben.zuercher@in.usda.gov

**Ben Zuercher**

Ben Zuercher joined NRCS August 1 as the District Conservationist. Ben has BS and MS degrees in Agriculture Systems Management from Purdue University. He has spent the last 5 years at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory in West Lafayette working with water quality, hydrology and soil database applications for the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). He has been involved with SWCD's in water quality modeling for the Cedar Creek Watershed in northeast Indiana. He spent a couple of years as a Cargill Ag Service Center manager at various locations in northwest Indiana and he has a livestock and grain farm background.

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**2011 ANNUAL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2011 at 6:30 PM**

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## Indiana Farmers Can Grow Their Communities One Donation at a Time Great Opportunity Exists to Nominate Bartholomew County SWCD

Indiana farmers in 83 counties have an opportunity to provide a boost to their rural community with \$2,500 awards available to their favorite nonprofit, civic group or unit of government, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) through **Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities program**. The **America's Farmers Grow Communities program** is intended to benefit non-profit community groups such as SWCDs, ag youth organizations, schools and other civic groups important to America's farmers.

Farmers can apply online at [www.monsanto.com](http://www.monsanto.com) or they can call 877.267.3332 to apply by phone. Farmers, age 21 and over, who are actively engaged in farming a minimum of 250 acres of corn, soybeans and/or cotton, or 40 acres of open field vegetables, or at least 10 acres of tomatoes, peppers and/or cucumbers grown in protected culture are eligible. Farmers can enter now through Dec. 31, 2010. The program is open to all qualifying farmers, and no purchase is necessary in order to enter or win. One winner will be drawn from each of the participating counties, and the Monsanto Fund will announce winning farmers and recipient organizations by February 2011.

Support your local SWCD. Enter the **Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities program** and **select your SWCD** as the community nonprofit.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

CREP is a federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses agricultural-related environmental concerns at the state and national level. CREP participants receive financial incentives to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts for 14-15 years. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, wetlands, trees and other vegetation.

The Indiana CREP is a partnership between USDA and the State of Indiana. The program, first announced in 2005, was originally slated to enroll 7,000 acres of eligible land within tree watershed. The 2010 expansion now covers 11 watersheds and is slated to enroll 25,250 acres.

CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality.

### Engelau Excavating

Waterways—Field Tile—General Excavating

Demolition—Stump Grinding

Adam Engelau

17241 S 450 W

(812) 521-5225

Seymour, IN 47274



Dan McGuckin

4680 Orchard Road  
Columbus, IN 47201

Phone: 812-320-3678

[danmcguckin@yahoo.com](mailto:danmcguckin@yahoo.com)

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



**Bartholomew County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

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

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[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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.

**THANK YOU**

To all the volunteers who came out to help with the in river clean up at Clifty Creek on October 6, 2010. There were nearly 30 volunteers who gathered 30 bags of trash and debris including a motorcycle! Thank you again for all your hard work.

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email please send us an email at : [Colorado.wagner@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:Colorado.wagner@in.nacdnet.net) 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.

☞ **Annual Meeting, February 3, 2010 6:30pm at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds.**

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

Email: [Colorado.wagner@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:Colorado.wagner@in.nacdnet.net)

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Phone: (812) 378-1280 ext. 3

**Columbus IN 47201**

**1040 Second Street**

**Bartholomew County SWCD**

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