



# THE STEWARD

## Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District

Volume 10, Issue 1

March 2014

### SWCD Supervisors:

Dennis Brooks—Chairman  
Daniel Lienhoop—Vice  
Chair  
Chris McKinney  
Evan Clouse  
Nate West

### District Coordinator:

Heather Shireman

### Watershed Coordinator:

Jenny Whiteside

### District Conservationist:

Clint Harrison

### ISDA Resource Specialist:

Kevin Kreuzman

### Points of Interest:

- ◆ Outdoor Lab
- ◆ Pathway to Water Quality
- ◆ Poster Contest Winners
- ◆ Arbor Day
- ◆ 2016 Acreage Reporting Dates
- ◆ Avoid Wetland Violations

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## Outdoor Lab Revitalization

The District uses an area that is owned by Sycamore Land Trust for educational events called the Outdoor Lab, which is located off of 46. It has a very nice trail through the property that is open to the public from Dawn until Dusk. The bridges were in rough shape and we only ever used about half of the trail because none of the bridges had handrails and some were pretty high off of the ground. Cummins had taken care of half of the trail for a couple years by mulching it in the fall. This year, we had a young man, Garrett Pevlor, contact us and ask if there was anything he could for us that would help him earn his Eagle Scout status. We told him that we would like to be able to utilize the entire trail at the Outdoor Lab. Garrett went above and beyond our expectations. He, his family, and his troop, Troop 559, laid over 110 cubic yards of mulch, built 9 Bridges, and fixed many of the railings. The SWCD provided the money for the supplies and the County donated the mulch. However, all of the hard work and drive was done by Garrett and his crew. As you can see by the pictures, the bridges are beautiful and well-built and will make travel much safer for the little kids that will run across them. Also, you can see that they re-built many of the railings on the steep hills. They did a wonderful job! The District would like to thank Garrett Pevlor, his family, and Troop 559 for all of their hard work and for making the entire trail at the Outdoor Lab able to be utilized. The district has placed a plaque on the first bridge of the trail to recognize all of their effort in making the Outdoor Lab safer and much more accessible for educational events.



For further information please contact the SWCD Office at 812-378-1280 ext. 3  
Or the Purdue/Bartholomew County Cooperative Extension Office at 812-379-1665

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# INDIANA NRCS CONSERVATION SHOWCASE



United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## A River Runs Through it

A lot of things have changed in almost 200 years but at least two things have stayed the same - the family of a small south central Indiana farm and their struggle with the Flatrock River. The Shank family acquired the 80 acre farm around 1820, working a predominately row crop operation of soybeans and corn. Throughout the years they have witnessed the force of the Flatrock River pound its way over their man-made levee, slowly eroding the farm ground around it. To prevent further erosion to their land, the family continually repaired the levee after each breach, exhausting both time and money. In 2001, Judith Droddy inherited the land. After seeing the struggles her previous family members had gone through, she decided it was time to stop fighting Mother Nature.

"The flood of 2008 was the straw that broke the camel's back," recalls Droddy. "We decided it wasn't worth repairing the levee and to just let nature take its course."

The removal of the levee wasn't quite the solution the Droddy's had hoped for. Without it, the Flatrock River created a new path across the farm, making it impossible for the Droddy's to access farmland on the other side.

"It got to the point where we could no longer get a combine across to that land so it was basically just sitting there unused."

Droddy reached out to her nephews, who farm the property, for recommendations on what could be done to make that piece of land more useful while protecting it from further erosion.

"My nephews have always been good stewards of the

land," said Droddy. "They've enrolled in conservation programs before and were very successful so they suggested I look into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to see if there was better use for the land and if we could make some improvements to keep it from eroding any further."

With assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Droddy enrolled approximately 43 acres into a permanent conservation easement. She worked closely with the NRCS district conservationist to develop a plan that reintroduced native vegetation while allowing the Flatrock River to flow naturally. More than 8,300 tree seedlings, including black walnut, bur oak, swamp chestnut oak, cherry bark oak, swamp white oak, pecan, persimmon and river birch were planted in the area to hold the soil in place.

"Future generations are going to love those trees. I just hope I live long enough to see them get above the rooftops," said Droddy.

Droddy says enrolling in WRP has inspired her to do additional conservation work on all her land. She is currently working on enlisting an additional 17 acres of her land into the State's classified forest program. She is also working to remove invasive species around her property.

In the meantime Droddy, along with her family and friends, are enjoying the area as their own little nature preserve. The Flatrock River, once a source of frustration for Droddy and her ancestors, is now an extraordinary place to hike, camp, and enjoy nature with loved ones.



# Pathway to Water Quality

We are asking for your help! Over the past year, we have been working with Blue Marble Design and the Fair Board to design a “Pathway to Water Quality” around the Community Building at the Bartholomew County Fair. The Design is now complete. The pathway will be a great education area for adults and children and will showcase many different conservation practices, both urban and rural. This project will take a few years to complete, but hopefully this project will be good and underway by this year’s county fair. In order for the project to be successful we are in need of volunteers and monetary funds. If you have any questions, or know of any possible donors for this project, please let us know!



## National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Poster Contest

### Bartholomew County 2016 Poster Contest Winners



#### Grade 2-4

1st Place **Audrey Nordman**  
2nd Place **Stephani Christopher**  
3rd Place **Emma Christie**



#### Grades 4-6

1st Place **Mackenzie Bailey**  
2nd Place **Avery Brooks**  
3rd Place **Abbi Schiefer**



#### Grades 7-9

1st Place **Emily Hoene**  
2nd Place **Mikayla Frenzel**

*A huge thank you to all of our participants! We were excited to offer this contest to the Bartholomew County schools this year. This will be an annual event for us so we will be sending information to the schools each fall. Winners were awarded prize money and recognized at the SWCD Annual Meeting.*





At the Bartholomew County  
Soil & Water Conservation  
District  
1040 2nd Street  
Columbus, IN

# 5th Annual Tree Give-Away

**April 29—Arbor Day! Starts At 5:00 PM**

Approximately 1200 trees will be available on a 1st-Come-1st-Serve Basis.

There will be a limit of 5 trees per person.

Available species include:

Norway Spruce — Baldy Cypress — Pecan — Flowering Dogwood — Redbud — Red Oak

## 2016 Acreage Reporting Dates

**The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Indiana:**

**April 15:** ARC-CO Waiver Deadline

**July 15:** Cucumbers (Planted 5/10-6/15 in all counties), all other crops

**August 1:** ARC-PLC Enrollment

**September 30:** Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crop (for the coming program year)

**December 15:** Fall-Seeded Small Grains, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY

## Clearing Wooded Areas or Bringing New Land Into Production



Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Land determined to be a wetland has significant use restrictions.

Participants should ensure they are aware of any existing technical determinations for acreage they own or operate.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees, woody vegetation, or improve drainage to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.



## Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

## Contact Us!

Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Heather Shireman & Jennifer Whiteside  
812-378-1280 ext. 3  
heather.shireman@in.nacdnet.net  
jennifer.whiteside@in.nacdnet.net

The district holds its monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 5pm at the district office located at 1040 2nd Street in Columbus, Indiana. The meeting is open to the public.



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(Pink, Green, Orange)  
Bundle of 100 flags = \$20  
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# earth day

april 22

## WORD SEARCH



See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

Created by Sue Lindlauf  
Grand Forks Herald 2012

- |                |              |            |               |
|----------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. EARTH       | 5. RECYCLE   | 9. WATER   | 13. ENERGY    |
| 2. DAY         | 6. REUSE     | 10. LAND   | 14. CLIMATE   |
| 3. APRIL       | 7. REDUCE    | 11. AIR    | 15. POLLUTION |
| 4. ENVIRONMENT | 8. RESOURCES | 12. GLOBAL | 16. COMPOST   |



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