



Conserving the Natural  
Resources of Steuben County  
for Future Generations!

# The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2015

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Poster Contest 2  
Winners

Workshop 2  
Agenda  
Continued

Farm Service 2  
Agency (FSA)  
Updates

Conservation 3  
Camp  
Highlights

New LARE 3  
Grant for the  
District

2015 Affiliate 3  
Members

Lake Life Class 4

Upcoming 4  
Events

## Conservation Cropping Systems Workshop

Don't miss this valuable opportunity to glean information from two nationally known speakers on Soil Health. A workshop focusing on how to improve your Soil Health is being hosted at Moody Farms, 3285 North 650 East, Fremont, Indiana, on August 19th, beginning at 8:00 am. The workshop is brought to you through a partnership with Moody and Crew LLC, the Steuben and La-Grange County SWCD's, Indiana's Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), USDA NRCS, and Purdue Extension.



The keynote speakers for the day include: Dr. Ray Weil, Professor of Soil Science at the University of Maryland, best known for his ecological approach to soil science, and as a leader in researching and promoting the adoption of more sustainable agricultural systems in both industrial and developing countries. Ray's research focuses on soil organic matter management for enhanced soil ecosystem functions and nutrient cycling to improve water quality and agricultural sustainability.

Dan Desutter returned to his family farm after earning a degree and pursuing graduate studies in finance at Indiana University,

then working as a financial analyst and commodity broker. Dan farms full-time, raising crops and grass-fed beef, and remains an active spokesman and advocate for conservation agriculture. For the past decade, Dan has also been a leader in cover cropping, planting 2,000 to 2,500 acres of cover crops annually as part of the approach he calls "bio-till" to emphasize his commitment to a healthy soil ecosystem. In fall of 2014, Dan was awarded a prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship, which recently supported him on a month-long agricultural study tour in New Zealand and Australia.

*"We want soil to work for us. We want it to hold water, recycle nutrients, and keep diseases at bay. But we pulverize it with plows and expose it to evaporation and erosion. Now, does that make sense?"*

- Dr. Ray Weil

### Preliminary Agenda for this event:

**8:00 am Lessons Learned from Chesapeake Bay:** Soil Organic Matter Management for Nutrient Cycling and Agricultural Sustainability: Dr. Ray Weil

**9:00 am Economics of Soil Health Systems:** The Payback on a Systems Approach: Dan Desutter

### 10:00 am Breakout sessions:

Soil Pit - Dr. Ray Weil

Cover Crop Plots - Allen Dean & Tyson Franks

(See Conservation Cropping Workshop on page 2)

Scan this symbol with your  
smartphone to link to our website.



## Poster Contest Winners

As part of the National Association of Conservation Districts' Poster Contest, the Steuben County SWCD held it's own contest. Three girls from Marianne Wade's 4th grade class at Ryan Park Elementary submitted entries. Annie Dilts (pictured at left) was our 1st place winner; Maci Pawloski (middle) came in 2nd; and Grace Steury (right) was 3rd. Planter boxes were given to the winners along with wildflower seeds. Annie also received a decorative garden stake for coming in 1st. Our county entries were then sent down to Indianapolis for the State IASWCD competition. Thanks to these three girls for drawing their beautiful posters, Tom Mozena for donating the planter box materials, and Tom Meyer for making the boxes. Please contact us if you would like us to send you more information about this yearly contest.



## Conservation Cropping Workshop - Continued from page 1

Agenda for the Day continued:

**11:30 am Farmer Panel:** Cover Crops: Aha Moments and Lessons learned

**12:00 pm PARP Topic:** Crystal Van Pelt, Purdue Extension

**12:30 pm Lunch**

Registration is \$5 and includes lunch. PARP credits are available for an additional fee. Please contact

our office with questions or to register. You can also register online at:

[www.RayWeilAug19Moody.eventbrite.com](http://www.RayWeilAug19Moody.eventbrite.com).

Scan this code with a smart device to register for the event.



## FSA Updates:

Quick updates, call the office (260-665-3211, X2) for more details:

- 1) **ARC PLC Signup continues:** If you wish to participate in the ARC/PLC program you need to complete an enrollment contract for 2014 and 2015. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> step in the 3 step process to participate in the new farm bill program. The deadline to complete this process is **9-30-15**.
- 2) **CRP General signup:** The CRP is a long term (10-15 year) program which takes cropland out of production and devotes the acreage to conservation or wildlife uses. There has been a general CRP signup period announced that runs from **12-1-2015 through 2-26-2016**. The general signup includes practices such as grass/legume plantings and general tree planting practices, wildlife habitats, pollinator habitats, wildlife food plots and others. Feel free to contact us ahead of the signup if you have questions about the program.
- 3) **Grain Loans:** Price support grain loans will again be available this year. Once your grain is harvested you can apply for a 9 month loan using the grain as collateral for the loan. Interest rates are usually lower than what is available from commercial sources.
- 4) **2016 wheat certification:** The deadline to report fall seeded 2016 wheat is **12-15-15**.

By: Thomas R Saggars, County Executive Director, Steuben County FSA Office

# Conservation Camp Highlights

The Steuben County Conservation Camp, held at Pokagon State Park on July 14<sup>th</sup>, was an adventure-filled day, with participants embarking on a hike led by Pokagon’s Marjorie Hershman. After snacks, Marjorie also hosted a painting session overlooking



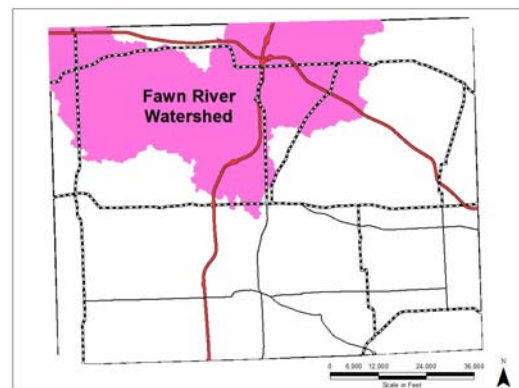
Lake Lonadaw. The highlight of the day was going on an awesome horseback ride around the Park after lunch. Campers were also able to make homemade ice cream and go on a scavenger hunt. Thanks to all the participants, parents, and helpers for the Day. The



Northeast Indiana Conservation SWCD’s hold three Day Camps each year. This year camps were held in LaGrange, Steuben, and Whitley County for 9 to 13 year old children. If you are interested in next summer’s camps, please let us know.

## New LARE Grant Awarded

We are pleased to announce that the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District is the recipient of a new IDNR Lake and River Enhancement Watershed Land Treatment Grant for the Fawn River Watershed. This grant totals \$60,000 and allows our District to assist with funding Conservation Best Management Practices, such as tree plantings, buffer/filter strips, hay plantings, or cover crops, in priority sub-watersheds throughout the Fawn River Watershed. If you live in this area and are interested in seeing if you are eligible to participate, please call or stop into the office. We would love to work with you to improve the quality of the soil and water on your property.



## Affiliate Members

The District Board gratefully acknowledges its current 2015 Affiliate Members. The donations received from these individuals and businesses help support the Information and Education programs of the District. If you or your business would like to become an Affiliate Member, please contact our office.

### Platinum (\$100 and above)

- Angola Seed & Supply  
Angola, IN
- Farm Credit Services Mid America  
LaGrange, IN
- The Nature Conservancy  
Angola, IN

### Gold (\$75 - \$99)

- Aquatic Enhancement Survey, Inc.  
Angola, IN

### Silver (\$50 - \$74)

- Edon Farmer’s Co-Op  
Edon, OH
- Kevin Northup Excavating  
LaGrange, IN
- Noll Bros. Oil, Inc.  
Hudson, IN

### Bronze (\$25 - \$49)

- Carper Farm Supply, Inc.  
Ashley, IN
- Caruso’s Restaurant  
Angola, IN
- Daft Erosion Control, LLC  
Ada, OH
- Hoham Feed and Seed  
Auburn, IN
- Stroh Farm Supply  
Stroh, IN
- Sue A. Myers  
Angola, IN



## Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

Peachtree Plaza 200

1220 N 200 W

Angola, IN 46703

260-665-3211 x3

[www.steubenswcd.org](http://www.steubenswcd.org)



[facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD](https://facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD)

**Conserving the Natural Resources of  
Steuben County for Future Generations!**

You can help us go green by subscribing to the newsletter via e-mail. Visit our website and click on the Newsletter tab or call the office to change your subscription at any time. You may change your subscription to *The Conservator* at any time.

*All programs and activities of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.*

## Upcoming Events...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| August 12 <sup>th</sup>                            | Steuben SWCD Board Meeting<br>7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center  |
| August 19 <sup>th</sup>                            | Conservation Cropping Systems Workshop<br>featuring Dr. Ray Weil<br>Moody and Crew Farms - See Story on Page 1           |
| September 5 <sup>th</sup>                          | Steuben Co Lakes Council Monthly Meeting<br>8:30 AM @ First Congregational Church of Christ, 314 West Maumee St., Angola |
| September 7 <sup>th</sup>                          | Labor Day<br>Offices Closed  |
| September 8 <sup>th</sup>                          | 4th Grade Youth Conservation Field Day<br>9:00 AM at Pokagon State Park  |
| September 9 <sup>th</sup>                          | Steuben SWCD Board Meeting<br>7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center  |
| September 22 <sup>nd</sup>                         | Lake Life Classes Begin<br>6-8 PM on Tuesday evenings for 6 weeks.<br>Contact us for more details                        |
| September 24 <sup>th</sup><br>and 25 <sup>th</sup> | Duck Days - Delta Waterfowl<br>Trine Recreational Facility   |
| October 2 <sup>nd</sup>                            | Soils Career Development Event<br>More info to be announced  |

**\*\*For more events and updates please check the website.\*\***

*Times and places of meetings are subject to change due to unforeseen issues.*

## Lake Life Class Is Back: Become a Class Act on Your Lake!!

Join us for the 4th year of a class dedicated to improving life on the 101 Lakes of Steuben County. Through this six week class, you will gain a basic understanding of what it takes to live near and respect these beautiful natural resources. Class costs \$50 for new participants and \$30 for returning students. Classes will run once a week on Tuesday evenings, from 6 to 8 pm, beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup>. All classes this year will be held at various locations. Please contact our office for an agenda or to register.

