



Providing leadership and assistance
in the proper use and management
of soil, water, and related natural
resources in Steuben County.

The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District
1220 N 200 W, Suite L ~ Angola, IN 46703 ~ Phone: (260) 665-3211, ext. 3

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2020

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What's "Abuzz" in Steuben County?

Have you heard the news, or buzz, shall we say? Steuben County landowners participating in the Soil & Water District's (SWCD) Urban Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program have been busy, like bees, installing practices geared towards helping wildlife and protecting water quality. Several projects either have been completed or are near completion. These native-scaping (*planting with native and non-invasive adapted plants*) and water-edge enhancement projects will help to:

- ☞ Attract beneficial native animals by providing food sources & valuable habitat ☞
- ☞ Increase wildlife viewing opportunities ☞
- ☞ Improve & protect the variety of life around the landowner's property ☞
- ☞ Enhance the beauty of the landowner's yards and neighborhoods ☞
- ☞ Reduce energy consumption and pollution (reduced amount of grass to mow!) ☞
- ☞ Reduce suspended solids & associated contaminants in runoff ☞

Resource concerns of urban landscapes differ from those of rural landscapes. Impervious rooftops, roads, parking lots, and compacted areas of urban landscapes increases surface runoff; delivering sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants to receiving bodies of water. Impervious surfaces do not allow water to pass through or infiltrate. Plants in urban landscapes can be used to manage stormwater runoff, similar to how rain gardens use plants to capture runoff from surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, and patios.

Dareen McClelland, a participant in the Steuben SWCD Urban CWI Grant Program, replaced a



portion of her "lawn landscape" with a beautiful native-scaping for pollinators. Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. Pollinators are also keystone species in most land ecosystems; fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25% of all birds and of mammals (Xerces.org). Have you thought about what you could do in your landscape or small area of your yard that could benefit wildlife and help protect water quality?

*A new native-scaping near Crooked Lake.
Steuben County resident Dareen McClelland participated
in the Steuben SWCD Urban CWI Grant Program converting
a portion of her lawn into a pollinator garden.
Photo courtesy of Dareen McClelland*



Farm Service Agency Updates

Please call the office, (260-665-3211, ext. 2) for more details.

1. **Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP):** Organic producers and handlers can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification. Applications for eligible expenses paid between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020 are due October 31, 2020. Certified producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope.
2. **The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP):** The deadline to apply for this program has been extended until September 11, 2020. CFAP provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. A range of commodities are eligible for CFAP, including cattle, milk, corn, hogs, corn, and soybeans. You can access the full list of eligible non-specialty, specialty, livestock, dairy, and wool commodities by visiting farmers.gov/cfap.
3. **Banking Information:** If you have changed banks or opened a new account, please contact us to update the information in our office. Payments will be issued for many of our programs soon, and you don't want your money floating around cyberspace without a home.
4. **Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL):** These low-interest loans provide interim financing to producers so that commodities can be stored after harvest when market prices are typically low, then be sold later when price conditions are more favorable. Wheat loans are available now - See us for details if you would like to apply.
5. **County Committee Elections:** Ballots for our upcoming election will be mailed November 2nd to eligible voters in LAA 3. We have two candidates running for this position – Chuck Howard and Ginger Peckhart. Make sure to cast your vote.

2020-2021 Tree Sale

The Indiana Division of Forestry announced the ordering process for 2021 will be open October 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021. The State Nurseries offer more than 40 species of native tree and shrub seedlings to be planted in Indiana for conservation purposes. Tree seedlings can be ordered using the online ordering platform or by completing an order form. To order online, visit: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3620.htm>. Scroll to the bottom of the page for the link to order trees. Order forms can also be downloaded from the website; forms should be available online by late August.

The Steuben SWCD will again offer tree pick-up for county landowners. Trees are picked up at the nursery in the Spring & delivered to our office. We ask for a small donation for this service. If you would like your trees picked up in the Spring, complete the **3rd party pickup section** when placing your order (**Check** the Jasper-Pulaski box — write **Extension** next to **Name** — write **Steuben** next to **County** — Use **260- 668-1000 x 1400** for the **telephone number**).



Steuben SWCD's 2020 River Friendly Farmer: Dailey Farms

We congratulate our 2020 River Friendly Farmer **Terry Dailey!** The River Friendly Farmer Award has been presented by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and sponsored by the 92 local SWCDs, and Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. since 2000. This statewide initiative recognizes farmers, who through good production management practices help keep Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams clean. **Dailey Farms** is a family owned farm in southwestern Steuben County. The primary conservation practices they utilize include **no-till, grassed waterways, filter strips & forage/biomass plantings**. These practices trap sediment and increase infiltration so sediment & nutrients can be reduced in surface runoff. Vegetated filters also offer diversity & cover for wildlife species. Terry Dailey/Dailey Farms will be honored at our annual meeting next March. **CONGRATULATIONS DAILEY FARMS!**

What's "Abuzz" in Steuben County? *(continued from page 1)*



A new native-scaping & tree/shrub planting near Pleasant Lake. The landowner is participating in the Steuben SWCD Urban CWI Grant Program, converting a section of lawn "landscape" into a pollinator planting. The bottom picture is the property prior to renovation. You might believe your property doesn't have much impact on the larger picture, but it's possible for our decisions to reach past boundary lines. *(Photos courtesy of Janel Meyer)*

Thank You!

**WE ARE
GRATEFUL
FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT!**

2020 Affiliate Members

Bronze Level

Carper Farm Supply
Caruso's Restaurant
Bill & Diana Clingan
Daft Erosion Control LLC
Hoham Feed and Seed
Deloris Howarth
Kenn-Feld Group, LLC
Niann Lautzenhiser
Erik & Laura Sorensen
Stroh Farm Supply

Silver Level

Booth Farms
City of Angola MS4

Clear Lake Township Land
Conservancy

Tom & Marilyn DeWeese
Edon Farmers Co-Op
Steve & Pauline Elett
Franklin Paul Group, LLC
Kevin Northup Excavating
Peter Mountz
Sandhill Environmental
Services LLC
John Williamson

Gold Level

Aquatic Enhancement &
Survey, Inc.
S & P Earthwork, Inc.

Platinum Level

Cameron Memorial Community
Hospital
Dailey Farms
Farm Credit Mid-America
Lake George Conservancy, Inc.
Sheets LP Gas, L.P.
Steuben County Lakes Council
Stoy Farms
Tom Green Engineering
The Wilson Farm in Memory of
Loyal Wilson
Travis Wilson
Tom Wilson

S. Martha & Wall Street Rain Gardens

The rain gardens at the South Martha & Wall Street parking lot are in full bloom and looking GREAT! These rain gardens were designed to capture & filter stormwater coming off the paved lot. The project was funded by an Indiana Department of Environmental Management 319 Grant & Steuben County Government in July 2016.



S. Martha & Wall Street parking lot; NE corner rain garden (Photo courtesy of Janel Meyer).



S. Martha & Wall Street parking lot; SW corner rain garden (Photo courtesy of Janel Meyer).



Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Providing Leadership and Assistance in the Proper Use and Management
of Soil, Water, and Related Natural Resources in Steuben County.

Please 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 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 29 th | LaGrange SWCD Forestry Field Day
9:00 AM @ Topeka, IN |
| September 5 th | Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting
8:30 AM at the First Congregational
United Church of Christ in Angola |
| September 7 th | Labor Day Holiday (County Offices Closed) |
| September 9 th | Steuben County SWCD Board Meeting
5:00 PM @ Steuben Co. Community Center |
| September 14
- 18 th | EPA Septic Smart Week
https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-week#ssw2020 |
| September 15
- October 20 th | Steuben County Life Program
Tuesdays, 6 - 8:15 PM (various locations) |
| September 26 th | Free Fishing Day for Indiana Residents
Fishing license or trout/salmon stamp not
required to fish Indiana's public waters |
| October 3 rd | Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting
8:30 AM (location listed above) |
| October 12 th | Columbus Day Holiday (County Offices Closed) |
| October 14 th | Steuben County SWCD Board Meeting
5:00 PM @ USDA Service Center |
| November 3 rd | Election Day (County Offices Closed) |

****For more events and updates please check our website****
Times and places of meetings subject to change.

SWCD - NRCS - ISDA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

Board of Supervisors:

Craig Holman, Chairman Chuck Howard, Vice Chairman
Gene Diehl Kayleen Hart David Perkins

Associate Supervisors:

Timothy Groosbeck Daniel Oberst

SWCD Staff:

Janel Meyer Tara Lee
Administrative Coordinator Resource Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Arthur Franke, District Conservationist

Indiana State Department of Agriculture Staff:

Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist