



Conserving the Natural
Resources of Steuben County
for Future Generations!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Forestry Field Day	2
Grasslands for Gamebirds & Songbirds Initiative	2-3
Farm Service Agency Updates	3
Upcoming Events	4
2018 Affiliate Members	4



Photo by Kayleen Hart

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



The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 4

FALL 2018

Forestry Field Day

November, 3 2018

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Rolling Acres Farm

5768 W Lake Valley Rd

Pleasant Lake, IN 46779

**Come join us for a Timber Stand Improvement
& Invasive Species Control Workshop**

-This is a Free Event -

Lunch will be provided

Featured Topics:

Long Term Effects of Logging

Invasive & Unwanted Species Control

Speakers:

Tom Crowe, Crowe Forest Management

Nate Simons, Blue Heron Ministries

**Sponsored by: LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District,
Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District**

Please RSVP for lunch by October 31.

LaGrange Co. residents can reserve transportation by calling the LaGrange SWCD.

LaGrange County SWCD Office at (260) 463-3471 ext. 3.

Steuben County SWCD Office at (260) 665-3211 ext. 3.

See page 2 for details.

Forestry Field Day

The Steuben and LaGrange Soil & Water Conservation Districts are pleased to present a 2018 Forestry Field Day on **Saturday, November 3, 2018** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is a free event; lunch will be provided, courtesy of the Steuben and LaGrange SWCDs.

The workshop will be the first of a three-part series, which will provide information about timber stand improvement (TSI) and invasive species management.

Rolling Acres Farm, located at 5768 W. Lake Valley Road in Pleasant Lake, has graciously offered their property to host this workshop series.

The featured speakers on November 3rd include Tom Crowe (Crowe Forest Management) and Nate Simons (Blue Heron Ministries). They will share their expertise on timber stand improvement / logging and invasive & unwanted species control.

The workshop is scheduled from 9 -12:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m., with coffee and donuts. Lunch will follow the workshop, beginning around noon.

If you are interested in attending this **free event**, please **RSVP** to the Steuben County SWCD at (260) 665-3211, ext. 3 **by October 31, 2018**. LaGrange County residents can reserve transportation by calling the LaGrange SWCD at (260) 463-3471, ext. 3.

Timber stand improvement (TSI) is implemented to improve forest stands for a specific purpose. Most often, the objective is to improve timber, forest health and/or wildlife habitat. Forest health also benefits from these treatments as poor formed, unhealthy or diseased trees are culled to give additional growing space to the healthy trees. Treatments also allow the landowner to maintain important tree species that might otherwise be lost without management.

The goal of these workshops is to highlight long-term forest management. The second workshop is being planned for next spring, after trees have been removed. The final workshop will be scheduled approximately 1-year after tree removal.

GRASSLANDS FOR GAMEBIRDS & SONGBIRDS INITIATIVE (GGS)



What is GGS?

The Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Program provides technical and financial assistance to improve or develop grassland and pollinator-friendly habitat in selected regions of Indiana. The main goal of the program is to establish 3,250 new acres (or 2,461 football fields!) of grassland habitat across Indiana.



Why grasslands?

Grasslands are declining across the U.S. and Indiana. The Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan identifies loss of grasslands as the **single greatest threat** to wildlife species in Indiana. Many pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.) are exhibiting population declines as well, and face many threats, including loss of habitat and food resources. Estimates suggest that 1 in 3 bites of food consumed worldwide are a direct result of pollination services. Healthy grasslands rich in native wildflowers and grasses can provide mutually beneficial habitat for pollinators, songbirds, gamebirds and many other wildlife species.

What's in it for You?

Professional help and funding, just for creating some beneficial habitat.

- \$555/acre* for planting native grasses and forbs.

- \$772/acre* for planting pollinator species.
- \$72/acre* for strip disking.

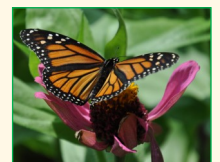


Photo by Bill Schmidt

(continued on page 3)

GGG (continued from page 2)

- \$759/acre* for edge feathering.
 - \$660/acre* for planting trees and shrubs.
- * RATES are 2017 rates. Actual rates may vary year to year.

What will GGS do?

- Develop & improve grassland and pollinator habitats.
- Improve soil and water quality.
- Increase hunting & other outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Increase funding to local economies.

Are you eligible?

If you are interested in restoring important grassland or pollinator habitat and live within DeKalb, LaGrange or Steuben Counties, they can help. DNR biologists can meet with you to develop a habitat plan that achieves your goals and assists with potential funding opportunities. Don't have equipment, time, or experience to do the work yourself? They've got you covered! Their habitat teams may be available to come to your property and do most of the heavy lifting for you. All you have to do is to call, sit back, and enjoy the wildlife!

Benefits to soil and water

One primary benefit of the habitat produced by the Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Initiative is improving water quality and soil health. Grassland and pollinator plants act as a filter to water run-off and groundwater resulting in better water quality. The plants also restore organic material to the top soil that may have been lost due to disturbance, and minimize soil erosion due to their extensive root system.

You can help attract more wildlife by participating in the Grassland for Gamebirds and Songbirds Program (GGS). The program relies on YOU to be successful, whether that be by restoring grasslands on your property, donating to the program, or simply by spreading the word about GGS and grasslands.

Learn more at the following website or contact our office:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/9467.htm>

Farm Service Agency Updates

Please call the office (260-665-3211, X2) for more details.

- 1. 2019 Hay and Wheat Certification Deadlines:** Producers who have fall-seeded **hay or pasture** need to certify this crop by **November 15, 2018**, to avoid late filing penalties. Any fall-planted **wheat or other small grains** needs certified in our office by **December 15, 2018**. Michigan has a November 15, 2018 deadline for wheat, so please keep this in mind if you farm any Michigan ground.
- 2. Wheat Marketing Assistance Loans:** March 31, 2019 is the deadline to apply for a loan on your 2018 wheat. The loan rate for wheat is \$2.94 per bushel.
- 3. Corn and Soybean Marketing Assistance Loans:** The deadline to apply for a loan on your 2018 crops is May 31, 2019. The loan rate for corn is \$1.95 per bushel, and soybeans is \$5.00 per bushel.
- 4. Market Facilitation Program (Trade Mitigation Package)** - The sign-up period for MFP is now open and runs through **January 15, 2019**, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. The MFP is established under the Statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation CCC Charter Act and is under the administration of USDA's FSA. **Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.** A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.
- 5. Make sure you vote for a County Committee member** when the ballots come in the mail. Voting will be for a representative from the northern portion of the county this year.
- 6. If you would like to enroll in the 2018 Organic Cost-Share Program**, please have your information in before October 31st. Payments can be issued on your certification and inspection fees, from October 1, 2017—September 30, 2018.



Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

Peachtree Plaza 200
1220 N 200 W, Suite L
Angola, IN 46703
260-665-3211 EXT. 3
www.steubenswcd.org



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

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

October 8 th	Columbus Day Holiday County Offices Closed
October 10 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 7:00 PM @ USDA Service Center
October 10 th	Imagine a Day without Water 2018 Day to raise awareness about value of water.
October 16 th	Steuben County Life Program - Last Day
November 3 rd	Forestry Field Day 9-12:00 PM, Pleasant Lake, IN - see page 2
November 3 rd	Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting 8:30 AM at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola
November 4 th	Daylight Savings Time Change
November 6 th	Election Day Holiday County Offices Closed
November 12 th	Veteran's Day Holiday County Offices Closed
November 14 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 6:00 PM @ USDA Service Center
November 22- 23 rd	Thanksgiving Holiday County Offices Closed

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

2018 Affiliate Members

Angola Seed & Supply, LLC (Angola, IN)
Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc. (Angola, IN)
Carper Farm Supply, Inc. (Ashley, IN)
City of Angola/Trine University MS4
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy (Fremont, IN)
Jerome & Lynn Chandler (Angola, IN)
Bill & Diana Clingan (Hudson, IN)
Daft Erosion Control LLC (Ada, OH)
Tom & Marilyn Deweese (Angola, IN)
Edon Farmers Co-Op (Edon, OH)
Mary Alice & Tom Filbrun (Angola, IN)
Tom Green Engineering (Angola, IN)
Hoham Feed & Seed (Auburn, IN)
Mel & Sandy Hathaway (Fremont, IN)
Kevin Northup Excavating (LaGrange, IN)
Lake George Conservancy (Coldwater, MI)
Lake James Association (Angola, IN)
Moody and Crew, LLC (Fremont, IN)
Peter Mountz (Garrett, IN)
Sue A. Myers (Angola, IN)
Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC (Angola, IN)
Sheets LP Gas, L.P. (Angola, IN)
Steuben County Lakes Council (Angola, IN)
Stroh Farm Supply (Stroh, IN)
John Williamson (Angola, IN)

