

Conservation Today For Tomorrow

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Education Edition

Spring, 2006
Lafayette, Indiana

SWCD Partners With Tippecanoe NPDES Phase II Project Team Concerning Stormwater Education



The Tippecanoe County Phase II Stormwater Homepage can be located at <http://www.tippecanoesw.org>

The previous Education Newsletter ended with a column about stormwater, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP), the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Municipal Separate Storm Sewers (MS4s). Just as rain will continue to fall from the sky, the District will proceed to educate the county on how to protect the quality of that water before it reaches the local streams and rivers. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District and the Tippecanoe NPDES Phase II Project Team. This agreement allows the District and the Team to cooperatively work together toward increased stormwater education in the county by utilizing existing programs currently being presented by the SWCD Water Quality Educator, Don Emmert.

The Project Team consists of members from Lafayette, West Lafayette, Dayton, Battle Ground, Purdue University, Ivy Tech and Tippecanoe County. The Team meets to discuss how each entity will comply with their NPDES Phase II requirements.

A component of these requirements includes public education and outreach about stormwater. One way to “get the word out” about stormwater is setting up booths at public events to educate the public. One common misconception is that water, after falling into a storm drain along the street, is first treated before it is released into the local streams and rivers. This is untrue. Water that flows into a storm drain, be it along the street or in the middle of a parking lot, is in fact, NOT treated and flow directly into the waterbody fed by the stormwater pipe.

Another way to inform the public about stormwater is to label storm drains with stencils or markers. These markers are small, plastic disks that have a catchy saying such as, “Do not dump, Drains to stream”. These visible disks are adhered to the curb as a reminder to people walking along the sidewalks that we must protect the water flowing into the drain before it enters. How can you help us with this? One way is to assist with the Tippecanoe Storm Drain Stenciling program.

Storm drain stenciling is an activity that
....NPDES continued on page 2

2nd Annual Detrash the Wabash Event

Come celebrate the Wabash River by volunteering to assist with Detrash the Wabash on **Saturday May 20, 2006**. In its second year, Banks of the Wabash watershed group is leading the charge and working with both the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette. There are many city and county departments assisting with the clean up and we are looking for volunteers who care for the environment to help us out. **Volunteer registration will be held from 8:30 - 9:00 am at Reihle Plaza for Detrash the Wabash land crews.** Maps will be available at registration as we will be picking up both sides of the river. Team leaders will assist groups at certain locations including Lybolt Field, Tapawingo Park, and more.

Who Can Participate? EVERYONE! Homeowners Associations, Businesses, Schools, Girl & Boy Scouts, Churches, Families, Individuals, Fraternities, Sororities. Tell a friend!

If you are feeling more adventurous, boats will launch directly from Davis Ferry on North 9th St. in Lafayette and float to Mascouton Park in West Lafayette. At registration, ask to see if any seats are remaining.

The event will last from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers will receive trash bags and gloves to use and pizza at the end of the event. For more information please contact Don Emmert at (765) 474-9992, Ext 111.



Tippecanoe County Farmers Plant Wildlife Habitats



A prairie provides good wildlife habitat

Did you know that Tippecanoe County farmers produce more than food or fiber...they also help produce clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat.

I am pleased to announce this spring, 360 acres of wildlife habitat will be planted thanks to the voluntary efforts of 20 Tippecanoe County farmers and landowners. These plantings include habitats such as prairie, wetland, and woodland. The new habitats will provide food, cover and shelter for a variety of wildlife including insects, birds, reptiles and large and small mammals. The plantings vary from a ½ acre to a little over 100 acres in size.

Would you like to know more about these plantings and the wildlife they attract? By fall you will be able to take your students on a “virtual tour” by visiting our website. The virtual tour will include a county map with links to photographs of the plantings as well as information about the people who are working hard to put wildlife habitat and other types of “conservation on the land”.

-Linda Eastman
Rural Conservation Coordinator

NPDES Phase II continued...

draws attention to one of the many types of nonpoint source pollution and what we can do to reduce this type of pollution. Not only does stenciling warn people not to dump their waste down the storm drain, related programs can give residents options on how to dispose of their used oil, anti-freeze, lawn and garden chemicals, pet waste and any other litter that may be dumped into a storm drain. To facilitate the program, I will oversee the storm drain marking project for the county. I will be working with each entity on how many markers are used and how many drains are marked.



I am also in charge of the **Logo Contest open to Purdue, Ivy Tech, and high school students to design the logo that will be on the storm drain markers, brochures, and other information concerning the county's stormwater.** The contest ends May 24th. We are accepting submissions in the form of pen, ink, and computer generated logos. **The winner of the contest will receive a \$500 prize.** For rules, please see below.

SWCD Education Committee Call Out

If you are interested in serving on the Soil and Water Conservation District's Education Committee and would like to know more about our involved and talented group, please contact Don Emmert at the District. We have representatives from Alcoa, Purdue, Wildcat Solid Waste Authority, and many other organizations. An integral part of the committee is the feedback we receive from teachers in the county. If you would like your voice heard on soil and water instruction in the county, please consider joining us so we can better serve your needs in the classroom. The District houses over 30 soil and water education programs that can be loaned to your school. The opportunities are here to create excitement about soil and water. Without them, how would Earth be different? Don can be reached at don.emmert@in.nacdnet.net or (765) 474-9992, ext 111.

Rules for the 2006 Tippecanoe Phase II Project Team Logo Contest

- 1) ALL submissions must be received by the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District no later than 4:30 pm, Friday, May 26, 2006.
- 2) All submissions must be computer generated OR drawn with pencil or ink. Please no pastels, paintings, water colors, etc.
- 3) If submitting a color drawing, please accompany a second identical drawing that is strictly black and white (for printing purposes).
- 4) All submissions must be on CD, disk, OR white paper measuring 8 ½" x 11".
- 5) All submissions will become the property of the Tippecanoe Phase II Project Team.
- 6) Limit of 2 submissions per person.
- 7) All submissions will have an accompanying paper with the artist's name and contact information (address and phone number so we may contact you if you are the winner of the contest).

Thank you to all who participate in the contest. The Tippecanoe Project Team appreciates your dedication to increasing awareness of stormwater in the community.

You may drop off or mail submissions to:

**Tippecanoe Soil and Water
Conservation District
c/o Don Emmert
1812 Troxel Drive
Lafayette, IN 47909**

Be Water Wise, NACD Stewardship Week

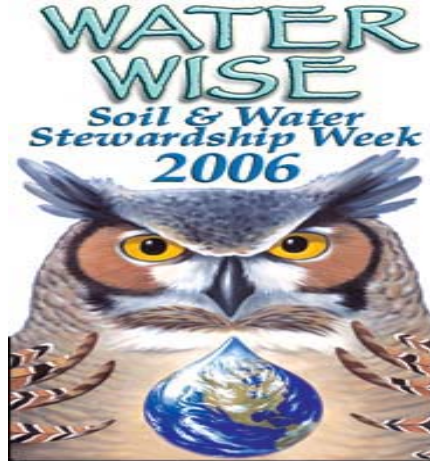
The theme for Stewardship Week 2006 is "Water Wise." Water is vital to our life. We sometimes take water for granted. But this precious resource may become increasingly scarce as we place more demands on fresh water supplies.

To ensure future water supplies, we need to learn about water resources, and plan to use them carefully. To help achieve this goal, NACD has chosen "Water Wise" as the theme for the 2006 Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

Join us as we help share with friends, neighbors, and children the very important reasons we all need to be "Water Wise." Did you know we are celebrating over 50 years of Soil and Water Stewardship Week? It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sponsored the national Soil and Water Stewardship Week program.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week helps remind us of the power of each person to conserve natural resources to use them wisely.

When people work together with their local conservation district, that power grows and grows. And as these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts, the results can be spectacular!



The concept of stewardship involves personal and social responsibility. We have a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely. By doing this we can achieve material and spiritual growth in our own lives, and leave a rich legacy for future generations.

If you would like materials to celebrate Soil and Water Stewardship Week, please contact me as I have a limited number of educational activity booklets for grade 1-5.

- Here's What You Can Do:
- Share Educational Printed Materials
 - Give A Classroom Presentation
 - Promote Stewardship Week
 - Conduct a Poster Contest

City of Lafayette/West Lafayette – Water Pollution Control Department Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Public Notification Program

During rains or snowmelts, the wastewater and storm water runoff volume can exceed the capacity of the combined sewer system. As a result, sewers in the older areas of Lafayette/West Lafayette can overflow, sending untreated sewage and rainwater into our waterways.

Please avoid all contact with water down stream of the combined sewers. Ingestion or hand-to-mouth contact with sewage-contaminated water could make you sick. Signs are posted along our waterways to identify the 18 combined sewer outfalls and areas where contact with the water could be hazardous to your health.

The City's of Lafayette and West Lafayette encourage you to take protective actions when recreating in City waterways.

For more information on Combined Sewer Overflows in the City of Lafayette visit www.city.lafayette.in.us or call (765) 807-1800 and ask to speak with Brad Talley, Water Pollution Control Superintendent. For more information on Combined Sewer Overflows in the City of West Lafayette visit www.city.west-lafayette.in.us or call (765) 775-5145 and ask to speak with Mark Moore, Wastewater Treatment Superintendent.

Backyard Conservation, Beautify Your Yard and Attract Wildlife

Conservation is moving from the country to backyards across Indiana. Everyone is interested in natural resource protection. We, and our cooperating partners, not only help rural land users with natural resource concerns but have valuable information for homeowners, neighborhood associations and others.

Over ninety five percent of the land in Indiana is privately owned. Therefore the quality of our water is largely determined by private landowners and how they treat the land. Farmers utilize conservation plans to help them apply practices to meet production objectives while protecting soil, water, air, plants and animal resources. And homeowners may want to develop a similar plan for their backyard.

Stop by our office or go online to get a copy of [Backyard Conservation](#) to help you develop a plan for your backyard. This booklet and others available from our office



A Monarch butterfly feeds on Indian's state flower, the Purple Coneflower.

will help you plan for erosion control, wildlife habitat, tree planting, building a pond, and many other activities.

Think about joining with your neighbors for a neighborhood effort. The joys of natural beauty, song birds, butterflies, mosquito control, cooler summer evenings and the great outdoors will become a satisfying reward for a little planning and neighborhood effort for backyard conservation. If you're interested in "Backyard Conservation" and would like

to purchase native trees and plants for your backyard this spring, please contact me at 765-474-9992, Ext. 101 or go online for an order form.

www.tippecanoeswcd.org

We will be accepting orders until May 1, 2006!

-Chris Remley
Urban Conservation Committee

Upcoming Events

April 22 Earth Day

April 28 Arbor Day

April 30-May 7 NACD Stewardship Week
<http://www.stewardshipweek.com/>

May 7-13 Drinking Water Week
<http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww/>

May 13 International Migratory Bird Day

May 29 Memorial Day

June 5 World Environment Day



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1812 Troxel Drive, Ste C3
Lafayette, IN 47909
phone 474-9992, ext. 3
www.tippecanoeswcd.org

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**Tippecanoe County SWCD
Board of Supervisors**

Roger Verhey, Chair
Jim King
Chuck Shelby
Randy Geswein
Vacancy

Think Spring! Think Green! Think SWCD!

And think about planting native trees, shrubs and plants around your home, neighborhood and community! Folks are getting excited about spring being just around the corner, and the Tippecanoe SWCD, in its effort to help people care for their land, encourage all of you “green thumbs” out there to plant, plant, plant for a healthier Tippecanoe County.

So, you’ve got the “green light”...place your order now and support the Tippecanoe SWCD!

There are a variety of sources, including local nurseries, where you may purchase high quality trees and shrubs, and small seedlings can be obtained from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. However, if you are interested in supporting environmental efforts in this county, the Tippecanoe SWCD is offering you the opportunity to purchase trees, shrubs, and plants this spring to help you “green things up” around your home.

Native trees, shrubs and plants are attractive additions to the landscape, but also help attract wildlife, birds and butterflies. Many of the new homes being built in this county are bare of trees and shrubbery, and homeowners are missing out on the benefits that trees and shrubs can provide. Benefits include reduced cooling costs as a result of shade, peaceful surroundings/quality of life, and increased property values of up to 30 percent more than homes without trees and shrubs. So don’t be “green with envy”, make your investment in the future today, and order some trees and shrubs for your yard now.

You’ll be “green around the gills” if you don’t submit your order for our trees, shrubs and native plants. We’ll be taking orders until Monday, May 1st. Tree species include Red Sunset Maple, Speckled Alder, River Birch, Northern Pecan, Pagoda Dogwood, Swamp White Oak, Overcup Oak, Bur Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Pin Oak, and Bald Cypress. Shrub species include Buttonbush, Witchhazel, Red Chokeberry, Winterberry and Arrowwood Viburnum.

Trees and shrubs will be available in limited quantities of 3, 5 and 15 gallon sizes with prices of \$22.50, \$27.50 and \$90.00. Native plants will be priced at \$2.50 each per 3" pot or you may purchase a flat of 32 at a cost of \$64.00 Orders will be available for pick-up on Saturday, May 13th at the USDA Service Center from 11:00am to 3:00pm

Please call our office at 765-474-9992, Ext. 101 or visit our website at: www.tippecanoeswcd.org for a listing of available native plants and/or to obtain an order form.

-Chris Remley
District Administrator

SWCD Office Staff
Chris Remley (ext. 101)
District Administrator
Linda Eastman (ext. 110)
Rural Conservation Coordinator
Don Emmert (ext. 111)
Water Quality Educator

NRCS Office Staff
Mark Eastman
District Conservationist
Monica Jackson
Soil Conservationist

ISDA Staff
Sue Gerlach (ext. 115)
Resource Specialist

SWCD Committee Chairs
Rural Conservation - Jim King
Urban Conservation - Dave Kovich
Education - Lorraine Rund
Personnel - Roger Verhey
Finance - Steve Roy
Marketing - KD Benson

All programs and services of the Tippecanoe County SWCD, ISDA, IDNR, and USDA NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, or handicap.