



CONSERVATION AT THE CROSSROADS

Vol. 35, No. 2, Spring 2014

SWCD Annual Spring Tree, Shrub and Rain Barrel Sale

Order by May 1st, Pick up on May 10th

Spring is finally here and it's time to get outside and make improvements to your yard. Add native shrubs and trees and support conservation work in our county by ordering from the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District's Spring Tree and Shrub sale. We will also be selling rain barrels all summer.

Our trees are container grown and have a well-established root system so they are ready to take off and grow as soon as you plant them. Most of our trees and shrubs are native to Indiana making them the best choice for our climate and soil types as well as being the most beneficial to our native wildlife species.

We again have two rain barrel types for sale. Our original rain barrel is made from recycled materials and has brass hardware. It comes with a water saver downspout connector and sells for \$75. Our economy model has plastic hardware and utilizes your own downspout connection to direct water into the barrel. It sells for \$60. Both rain barrels hold approximately 50 gallons of rain water. You can see pictures of the rain barrels on our website at www.marionswcd.org – click the “Go Green” tab and follow it to the “Water Management” page. Here you will also find additional information on rain barrels.

Best Start Tree Care

Visit our website at www.marionswcd.org and click on the “Tree” tab for information on how to plant your tree.

Mulch 2 -3 inches deep and out an inch or two from the trunk.

Water to keep the soil around the tree moist but not soaked. Water the first year to provide one inch per week during dry spells.

Prune only damaged limbs the first year.

Don't fertilize the first year.

Protect your tree from wildlife using physical or chemical barriers. Stake only if necessary.

See pages 5-7 of this newsletter for the order forms and more information. Complete tree and shrub descriptions are available from our office by contacting Marilyn at 317-786-1776 or on our website under the “Trees” tab.

SWCD

Board of Supervisors

Brian Neilson, Chairman
John Hazlett, Vice Chair
J. Dennis Slaughter,
Treasurer
Heather Buck

Associate Supervisors

Paula Baldwin
Rick Bein
Marvin Brethauer
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Local Residents and Groups Honored for Conservation Efforts

Leslie White, Backyard Conservation Coordinator for the Fall Creek Watershed Project honored a large number of Marion County residents and groups at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Marion County SWCD in February for their conservation efforts.

Many of the individuals and groups honored have received or will be receiving cost share money through the Fall Creek Watershed project to do conservation practices on their properties.

Cost share funds are still available for those who own land in the Fall Creek watershed and can be applied for by contacting Leslie by email at leslie-white@iaswcd.org or calling her office at 317-773-2181.

A complete list of honorees can be found on the homepage of our website: www.marionswcd.org

Register for Fall Soils Class at IUPUI

The SWCD highly recommends IUPUI's soils course for everyone working with the soil or making land use decisions. A basic knowledge of soil is highly beneficial to understanding and correcting soil type limitations.

The course will be taught with three options 1) G123 Soil Survey for 1 credit, 2) G404 Soils Geography for 3 credits and 3) G704 Geography of Soils for 3 graduate credits. The courses include a number of field trips. G123 meets only the first 5 weeks of the semester.

To view options and be admitted to the register at IUPUI, contact the Admissions Center at <http://enroll.iupui.edu/admissions> or call 317-274-4591.

For more information on the course you may contact the instructor, Dr. Rick Bein at 317-274-1100, rbein@iupui.edu

More information will also be available on our website: www.marionswcd.org

The Mission of the Marion County SWCD is to assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water and related natural resources by providing technical, financial and educational services.



Conservation at the Crossroads is published quarterly to give information to landusers by the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District, Discovery Hall, 1202 E. 38th St, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46205
Phone: 317-786-1776 FAX: 317-786-1757 website: marionswcd.org
The Marion County SWCD holds a regular monthly board meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. These meetings are open to the public & are held at the SWCD office at the address above. This board meets to administer the program of soil & water conservation in Marion County. The district prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Why is Bush Honeysuckle a Bad Plant?

It didn't take long for an Asian Bush Honeysuckle forest to get established along Cox Creek in Wayne Township. Thirty years ago the creek bank was mostly tall trees, seedling trees, wildflowers and native shrubs and lots of songbirds and other wildlife. Now it is covered with bush honeysuckle with fewer birds and wildlife.

It rapidly moves in an area and takes over, forming a dense shrub layer that crowds and shades out native species. It changes the environment. Scientists suspect that bush honeysuckle produces an allelopathy chemical that suppresses the growth of surrounding vegetation.

It out-competes the native species. Its leaves appear early in the spring and remain into late fall, giving bush honeysuckle a competitive advantage over native plants. It's even thought that the flowers are sweeter, thus attracting more pollinators than the native shrubs and flowers. Consequently, natives aren't able to set enough fruit. The fruits of bush honeysuckle are high in carbohydrates and birds love it. Over 20 different species of birds feed on it

Here's the rub......their fruits are not the high fat, high protein-nutrient rich food that migratory birds need to make their long flights....That diet comes from the fruit of native plants, the plants that disappear when bush honeysuckle moves in and takes over.

(Continued on page 4)

**Join Us At Earth Day -
Saturday, April 27, 2014!
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**White River State Park
801 West Washington Street
Downtown Indianapolis**



Free Outdoor Festival - Rain or Shine

**130 Environmental Exhibitors / Good Food /
Live Music / Kids Activities**

Find us at the south end of Tent C - booth 52

More information at www.earthdayindiana.org

Watch for Fish Kills with Spring Thaw

Homeowners Associations and individual owners of shallow ponds and lakes, should watch for fish kills this spring, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Considering the record or near-record snowfall and ice up to 20 inches thick on lakes and ponds, Indiana fisheries biologists anticipate numerous reports of fish kills once the bodies of water thaw.

The most common cause of fish kills in Indiana ponds is lack of oxygen. Aquatic plants can produce oxygen only when sunlight is available. While some sunlight can penetrate clear ice, snow can block sunlight, resulting in dangerously low oxygen levels.

Shallow, weedy ponds are more susceptible to winter kills. As aquatic plants naturally die during winter, plant decomposition consumes oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need. Once a winter kill begins, little can be done to stop it. Drilling holes in the ice will not help.

Pond owners who experience a fish kill or need advice on other pond-related issues can refer to Indiana's Pond Management Booklet at wildlife.IN.gov/3356.htm.

Biologists do not expect significant fish kills at deep natural lakes and reservoirs. The



exception could be winter kills of gizzard shad, a species that is vulnerable to prolonged cold weather. Because the species is prolific and fast growing, shad losses do not have a lasting impact on shad populations.

Lake residents and anglers who observe significant fish kills on public waters should contact their district fisheries biologist. Contact information is in the 2014 Fishing Regulation Guide or at wildlife.IN.gov/3590.htm.

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More bad news for the birds... Bush honeysuckle creates a denser shade than native shrubs, reducing both plant diversity and nest sites for many forest birds resulting in a decline in the bird populations. Also, spiders and other insects that provide the needed protein and fat avoid the bush honeysuckle and therefore are absent from honeysuckle thickets.

The solution is removal and then constant maintenance to keep new plants removed. After removal, plant native shrubs that produce seed with nutrient rich fats and protein. The Chapel Glen homeowners association is beginning a campaign to remove the honeysuckle and to plant native shrubs. Check out the SWCD's Spring and Fall tree and shrub sale or the DNR Nursery for these. Need help to begin your campaign to fight invasive plants, contact the SWCD.

2014 SWCD Affiliate Members

Silver Member

Marion County Farm Bureau

Nickel Members

Professor Frederick Bein

Copper Members

George Haerle in honor of Eli Bloom

Thank you Affiliate Members for your support of conservation through the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District!

Donate to support the mission of the Marion County SWCD by becoming an Affiliate Member! Check our website: www.marionswcd.org or call the office for more information (317)786-1776

Marion SWCD Fall Tree & Shrub Order Form

Tree Species	Sizes Available	Price Each	Quantity Ordered	Total Amount
Red Sunset Maple	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Red Maple	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Allegheny Serviceberry	1 gallon	\$18.00		
American Hornbeam	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Redbud	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Hazelnut	1 gallon	\$18.00		
Persimmon	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Eastern Red Cedar	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Sycamore	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Swamp White Oak	1 gallon	\$18.00		
	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Bur Oak	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Willow Oak	1 gallon	\$18.00		
Red Oak	1 gallon	\$18.00		
	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Bald Cypress	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Shrub Species	Sizes Available	Price Each	Quantity Ordered	Total Amount
Black Chokeberry	1 gallon	\$18.00		
	5 gallon	\$32.00		
Buttonbush	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Silky Dogwood	1 gallon	\$18.00		
	3 gallon	\$25.00		

Totals from this page -
(Transfer totals to next page)

Totals from previous page -

Note: 5 gallon trees may be quite large - bring a vehicle large enough to accommodate!

Shrub Species	Sizes Available	Price Each	Quantity Ordered	Total Amount
Red Osier Dogwood	1 gallon	\$18.00		
	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Common Ninebark	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Chokecherry	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Pasture Rose	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Elderberry	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Arrowwood Viburnum	1 gallon	\$18.00		
Nannyberry Viburnum	3 gallon	\$25.00		
Blackhaw Viburnum	3 gallon	\$25.00		
American Cranberry Bush	1 gallon	\$18.00		

Total number ordered and amount due - _____ \$ _____

Original 50 gallon Rainbarrel with diverter - \$75 each Qty. _____ Amt. \$ _____

Economy Model Rainbarrel - \$60 each Qty. _____ Amt. \$ _____

Discounts Available: \$20 off order of 10+ trees/shrubs and \$200 off 100+. - \$ _____

Order Deadline: May 1st TOTAL ENCLOSED - \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Marion County SWCD* and mail to Discovery Hall, 1202 E. 38th Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Descriptions of all species and rainbarrels are available on our website: www.marionswcd.org

Tree Order Reminders

Order Deadline: **Thursday, May 1st**

Pick up date: **Saturday, May 10th**
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pick up your trees in front of Discovery Hall at the northwest corner of the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street (A reminder and directions will be posted on our website - www.marionswcd.org - and will be mailed to you.)



Note: The 5 gallon trees can be quite large - bring a vehicle large enough to accommodate!

If your trees are not picked up on May 10th, unless other arrangements have been made before this date, your trees will be donated.
NO REFUNDS.

Farm Services Agency News
Marion/Johnson Counties
3059 N. Morton
Franklin, IN 46131
317-736-6822



Crop Reporting due for all spring crops by July 15th

Rural Farmers Needed to Lend a Helping Hand to Urban Neighbors

Urban gardens and community projects are popping up everywhere. Those working in these gardens are in need of common necessities such as composted manure, mulch, or tree seedlings.

Rural farmers who would like to help these community projects and gardeners by donating items from their farms can contact Leslie White, Backyard Conservation Coordinator for the Fall Creek Watershed Project at leslie-white@iaswcd.org

More information will be soon posted on our website where urban and rural landowners will be able to see what needs various projects have this spring.

Contact Us for more information on soil & water related issues

Marion County SWCD
Discovery Hall, Suite 200
1202 East 38th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Phone: 317-786-1776

FAX: 317-786-1757

On the Web: marionswcd.org

Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District



Discovery Hall, Suite 200
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205
(317)786-1776
marionswcd.org

Address Service Requested

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 8365

Septic & Well Workshop

June 9th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Southport Library

The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Marion County Health Department are making preparations to offer a helpful workshop for residents who have well water and/or a septic system. Knowledgeable professionals in these fields will be giving expert advice on the function and care of your well and septic system. They

will answer questions regarding any concerns or problems you may be experiencing. A representative from Citizens Energy Group will also be on hand to relate information regarding future water and sewer line expansion in the county.

More information will be coming soon. Please check our website: www.marionswcd.org, for updates and a meeting agenda. Please contact our office at 317-786-1776 to register or email Julie Farr at julie-farr@iaswcd.org.



The Septic & Well Class

Free Help for Homeowners

SWCD

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