



Conservation in the Neighborhood

VOL. 38, NO. 2

SUMMER, 2017

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Marion SWCD Welcomes Cheyenne Hoffa

New Urban Resource Conservationist

The Marion County SWCD is pleased to welcome Cheyenne Hoffa to their staff! Cheyenne is a recent graduate from Purdue University's College of Agriculture where her studies and research focused on urban and agricultural stormwater, natural resource social science and science communication.

Cheyenne will head up the SWCD's stormwater pollution prevention program which

includes assisting contractors and developers of new construction sites to meet their stormwater pollution prevention plan (Rule 5) requirements. The Marion County



SWCD inspects new construction which disturbs more than 1 acre of land in order to ensure that sediment is not leaving the site and impairing the water quality in their watershed.

Cheyenne will be spending much of her time in the field. The easiest way to contact her is through our website: <http://marionswcd.org/contact-us/>

We've Moved!!!

The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District has recently moved!!!

We are now located at 1200 S. Madison, Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46225. Our new office is co-located with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works. Our phone number remains the same

(317)786-1776.

As all of our staff members spend the majority of their

time working in the field, it is recommended that you call to make an appointment if you need to come in to the office for assistance. You can email any of our staff members by going to the "[Contact Us](#)" page of our website: www.marionswcd.org

For questions regarding our Soil Health Program contact Kevin Allison; for Rule 5 reviews contact Cheyenne Hoffa;

for drainage or other natural resource questions contact Julie Farr; for USDA-NRCS farm program questions contact Jerod Chew.

SWPPPs can be mailed to our new address or dropped off at the DPW front desk.

Soils Geography Class Offered



Hands-on learning happens during the class field trips.

“The SWCD highly recommends Dr. Bein’s Soils class for everyone who makes land use decisions for their home or business”

Harold Thompson & helper working at the STEM farm



The Soils Geography Course is being offered at IUPUI this coming Fall Semester. It is taught by Professor Rick Bein who brings a great diversity to the soils from the tropics. It meets Thursdays at 6:00 – 8:40 PM starting Aug 24, 2017 in Cavanaugh Hall 203. Three options available:

1) G123 Soil Survey (1 credit, s# 258821), meets for the first five weeks and ends on 21 September. It includes one field trip.

2) G404 Soils Geography (3 credits, s#25822) will continue the entire semester until the evening of 7 December. There

will be 4 or 5 field trips.

3) G704 (3 graduate credits, s#25820) Geography of Soils will continue the entire semester with the last class on the evening of 7 December. There will be 5 field trips to surrounding counties.

To view options and be admitted as a visiting or non-degree student bring documentation of academic degrees to the registrar at IUPUI, contact the Admissions Center at <<http://enroll.iupui.edu/admissions>> or phone (317) 274

4591. For walk-in admissions information and assistance with registration go to Admissions Center, 255 Campus Center, 420 University Blvd. For further course information contact: Dr. Rick Bein - Phone: (317) 274-1100; Department (317) 274 8877; Fax: (317) 278-5220 [rbein@iupui.edu] IUPUI, Cavanaugh Hall, Room 213D, 425 University Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

STEM Farm

The Marion County SWCD is partnering with the STEM Connection, a non-profit corporation, providing on the land experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math on their 30 acre outdoor learning site at Moore Road Farm in the Traders Point Rural Historic District of Northwest Marion County.

The farm includes forest, Eagle Creek channel, fields of crops, an orchard and a soil health garden that are used to teach conservation to help protect our valuable soil and water resources.



2017 River Friendly Farmer Award Winner

The River Friendly Farmer Award is a statewide initiative that recognizes farmers who do an outstanding job of protecting rivers, lakes and streams through their everyday conservation management practices on the farm.



Tim Dorsey of the CUE Farm at Butler University is one of these outstanding farmers, and the Marion County SWCD is proud to announce Tim as a 2017 River Friendly Farmer Award recipient!

Nestled between the White River and the Central Canal, the Butler Center for Urban Ecology Farm is located in the Upper White watershed. The diverse farm produces mixed vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, flowers, and mushrooms and Tim's mindset is soil regeneration and holistic farm management. He utilizes crop rotations, diverse cover crop tactics, mulching, minimal tillage and no-till, tarps, perennial plantings with diverse complimentary understories, all natural and organic inputs, native and targeted plantings for beneficial insects and pollinators, rain harvesting, and drip irrigation.

Over about 5 years, conservation practices that increase soil microbiological activity and in turn improve soil structure have been important to several benefits on the farm. Water infiltration has improved visibly. Increased activity has enabled greater available fertility which has made possible denser plantings which not only improve revenue opportunities but combat weed populations. Improved texture has even made common garden tasks like weeding and seed bed preparation easier and more effective. Cover crops serve as catch crops for nutrients and improve soil quality. Multiple plantings, on their own and as inter-plantings, of targeted flowering plants have dramatically increased predator/parasite beneficial insects and cut down on pest insect impact. The CUE Farm has also recently begun to see the presence of reptile life on the farm which could be attributed to the layered perennial cover available as habitat. Butler University also maintains

a managed prairie and riparian buffer adjacent to the farm.

The CUE Farm shares its commitment to conservation and local food production by engaging various communities. Tim regularly hosts tour groups that range from grade school children to various Butler University classes in which he talks about sustainable growing practices and goals. The CUE Farm has begun relationships with several Butler and IUPUI professors whose classes will be working on research modules. These will range across several disciplines, and are not confined to the hard sciences. This fall, the CUE Farm will host a screening of a film exploring the intersections between agriculture and human sustainability as part of the Up Up Farm! series being presented by the Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition. Last fall and each year going forward, the farm is honored to play host to a breakout session of the Future Farmers of America conference, the largest that Indianapolis hosts, during which they engage young people, many of whom have not been exposed to many elements of urban farming and sustainability. Tim also participated in the 2016 Wisconsin Urban Farm and Restoration Agriculture tour offered by Purdue Extension and has been instrumental to the SWCD and USDA-NRCS soil health initiative through his sharing of knowledge and hands-on experience with conservation and plant diversity.

Beautiful Lupines are used at the CUE Farm. It benefits the garden by fixing nitrogen in the soil.



River Friendly Farmer Tim Dorsey will be recognized by the Lieutenant Governor and leaders of the Indiana Conservation Partnership at this year's Indiana State Fair. Well done Tim! The SWCD looks forward to continue working with you in advancing soil health and water quality!



Visit Pathway to Water Quality

Celebrating 25 years at the Indiana State Fair!



Visit Pathway to
Water Quality at
the state fair
August 4 - 20, 2017

This year Pathway to Water Quality celebrates 25 years at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Since it opened in 1993 on the northeast side of the fairgrounds, thousands of youth and adults have taken the path of the water drop through a model watershed that includes both rural and urban land uses such as woodland, cropland, prairie plantings, wetlands, pastureland, and more.

The idea behind Pathway is to explore the many ways people can do simple things each day to improve our water quality. From slowing down rain water as it leaves the roof, to using fertilizer according to directions, to keeping the septic system in good repair, to keeping our soil covered at all times—everyone can do something.

Whatever your age, there's something for you. You can grab a cool drink of water from our 30 foot well, learn about rain gardens and pervious concrete, spin the wheel of conservation, sit in the shade of our native trees, or have your photo taken with Walter the Water Drop and Sally Soil.



The exhibit is managed by the Indiana Conservation Partnership – eight agencies/organizations that work together to promote conservation and provide direct assistance to private landowners in the state.

<http://icp.iaswcd.org>

Come help us celebrate 25 years of success at Pathway August 4th through the 20th!

Stop That Dirt Campaign



Sediment is our county's #1 pollutant by volume - Help us Stop That Dirt!

Pollution of Marion County waterways comes from a variety of sources: industrial sites, combined sanitary and storm-water sewers, failing septic systems, agricultural and urban landscapes. These sources produce pathogens (such as E. coli bacteria); excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen); excess sediment (soil); and, farm and landscaping chemicals and other toxic materials. The City of Indianapolis and Citizens Energy Group (sanitary sewer system operator) have made progress in dealing with some of these pollution issues. One of several advances in curbing pollution can be found in the cooperation between the Mari-

on County Soil and Water Conservation District (MCSWCD) and the City of Indianapolis in curbing excess sediment from construction sites.

By volume, sediment is the greatest pollutant entering our surface waters. With the county largely devoted to urban uses, construction sites are numerous. In fact, at any point in time throughout the year, there are often more than 100 construction sites of 1 acre or larger in size of land-disturbing activities. As stormwater flows over these bare soil areas, sediment laden water can easily flow into storm sewers and/or directly into our waterways.

The MCSWCD has been working directly with the City of Indianapolis Departments of Public Works and the Office of Business & Neighborhood Services for many years now to provide Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan review for publically funded projects, on-the-ground inspection services, and assistance in training city employees, project managers and contract project inspectors.

While we work with city officials and contractors in making improvements, residents can play a role in assisting those efforts. We have added to our web site a "Stop That Dirt" campaign to make it easier to report construction site problems of sediment laden water leaving those sites. As you travel the county, please observe the construction sites you see and look for mud tracking on streets and chocolate-colored water running off these areas during rain events. Visit our web site – watch our video – and contact us when you see problems.

Contact our new SWCD Urban Resource Conservationist Cheyenne Hoffa regarding erosion control practices for construction sites.

marionswppp@iaswcd.org

Thank you Paula & Tom!

A HUGE "Thank You" to SWCD Associate Supervisor Paula Baldwin and her husband Tom for donating their Trooper to the Marion County SWCD!!!! Our staff puts many, many miles on our vehicles each year as we assist land-owners and check construction sites for erosion control all over the county, so having reliable transportation is extremely important to us.

Paula is a long time supporter of the SWCD who was a very active regular Supervisor for many years. We appreciate her continued dedication to the SWCD and this generous gift.



Support the Marion County SWCD by becoming an Affiliate Member. For information check our website: www.marionswcd.org or email julie-farr@iaswcd.org

Fall Tree Sales



Neighboring SWCDs are hosting tree sales this fall.

The Marion County SWCD will NOT be hosting a fall tree sale this year but some of our neighboring SWCDs are. Please consider supporting these SWCD's conservation work by purchasing trees & shrubs from them!

Hamilton County SWCD

Hamilton County SWCD will be accepting native tree orders starting in mid-July.

Orders are accepted online or via mail through September 28th. Order pick up will take place Friday, October 6th in Noblesville. Over 30 species of native shrubs and trees are available in 3 gallon containers for ~\$25/tree. A full species availability list and online ordering will be available in mid-July. More info is available at www.hamiltonswcd.org/treesale.html

Hendricks County SWCD

Hendricks County will be holding a tree sale. Orders are due by Sept. 20th. Check their website soon for details:

hendricksswcd.sdf.org

Invasive Highlight: Dames Rocket

Dame's Rocket was introduced to North America as an ornamental in the 1600's but has since become an invasive species.



Minnesotaseasons.com

Invasive Dame's Rocket plants are spreading across Indiana. If you haven't seen them yet, they are on the way. Dame's rocket is native to Eurasia but was introduced to North America in the 1600's as an ornamental but soon escaped into natural areas. This plant is usually found in woodlands, on woodland edges, along roadsides, and also in open areas displacing native plants. In woodlands the competition for moisture and nutrients inhibits tree seedling growth. It is normally a biennial having a basal rosette the first year from seed and growing a flower stalk the second and sometimes succeeding years. The first year rosette stays green all winter. It grows 2 to 3 feet

tall and blooms from May to September. Seeds are produced in long wiry seed pods over the summer. Hundreds of seed are produced from each plant and stay viable in the soil for many years. Seeds are transported to new location by equipment, animals and human shoes. This results in extensive stands. Hand pulling is an effective control in small patches.

Larges infestation are best controlled by foliar spray of the rosettes with glyphosate or triclopyr in early spring or late fall to avoid damage to desirable plants. More information on identifying & controlling invasives can be found on our website: <http://marionswcd.org/invasive-species/>



Southeast Wisconsin CWMA

Don't miss the White River Celebration!



The White River Celebration & Stewardship Fundraiser is quickly approaching! You won't want to miss this year's event that includes a NEW twist to the team art building element of the event. Instead of building masterpieces from river trash, this year each team will paint and decorate a themed canoe! Canoe 'themes', as well as art supplies, will be auctioned off via live auction during this creative fundraiser. The resulting

**Mark your calendar!
Sept. 26th**

team-created artistic canoes will be displayed as public art and then returned to White River Canoe Company's active fleet next Spring. Staff and board members are finalizing details for registration, but in the mean time you can start building your team. Join us for a creative, interactive event to recognize exceptional river stewards and support our efforts to promote and protect our water resources.

The celebration will be held at the Biltwell Event Center in Indianapolis on Tuesday, September 26, from 5:30 to

8:30pm. Registration information will be coming in the next few weeks. Get a team together, support the Festival! Consider being a sponsor of the White River Celebration & Stewardship Fundraiser. The Alliance is seeking sponsors for this exciting and fun event. For information about becoming a sponsor, contact Jill at

jill@thewhiteriveralliance.org.

Learn more about the White River Alliance at their website- <http://thewhiteriveralliance.org/>

FSA Nominations Now Open

The nomination period for the Johnson/Marion County FSA County Committee opened on June 15, 2017. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Johnson/Marion County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2017.

County committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the

FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and

elections will be held in LAA 2, which includes Franklin, Needham and Union Townships in Johnson County and LAA 4 which includes the NE 1/2 of Marion county drawn on a diagonal from the Southeast to Northwest corners of the county including the NE 1/2 of Franklin, Pike and Center townships, Lawrence township, Warren township, and Washington township.

For more information call the FSA office at 317-736-6822.



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
— CONSERVATION DISTRICT —

1200 S. Madison, Suite 200
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Phone: 317-786-1776
Find us on the web:
www.marionswcd.org

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

THANK YOU Supporting Affiliate Members!

Paul Wright Hayes and Ruth Rosser Hayes in honor of:

- George Harley
- Glenn Lange
- Marilyn Hughes
- Eli Bloom Memorial

**George Haerle and Marion Haerle
Stephanie Schuck**

Project Learning Tree & Go FishIN News

GreenWorks! Grants

Project Learning Tree is now accepting applications for the next round of PLT GreenWorks! grants. Schools and community programs that wish to improve the environment are encouraged to apply. Grants up to \$1,000 are available and funding will be distributed in January 2018. You must have attended a PLT professional development workshop either in person or online to be eligible to receive a grant. Application is available at www.plt.org/news/greenworks-grants-now-available/

Natural Resources Teacher Institute

The fourth Natural Resources Teacher Institute was held June 26-30. With Morgan-Monroe State Forest as the base, 18 educators from all around Indiana learned about Indiana's forest resource, the forest products industry, and forestry research being conducted at the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE). Each participant was required to develop a lesson plan based on what they learned

during the week. Many participants have said that this program is the best professional development they have ever attended! Look for upcoming information on the 2018 Natural Resources Teacher Institute.

Go FishIN

To wrap up the summer, we will run the 12th annual State Fair Fishing Pond from Aug. 4 – 20. Come join the hundreds of volunteers already signed up and help bring joy to our young future anglers. Plus, you get free admission to the State Fair. What more could you ask for? How about being right next to the Walleye food stand? Don't worry, we have that covered too. Contact Cody Herring at dherring@dnr.in.gov or (317) 232-3146 for more info or help registering to volunteer.



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