



# Conservation Times

Conservation Times

For Johnson County residents interested in agricultural and natural resource issues.

Summer 2009

Volume 7, Issue 2

## Director's Notes

With such a wet spring, everyone is now playing the catch-up game. Field work, gardening, and landscaping are just a few of the many projects that are behind schedule. Have questions? Our office has a host of informational brochures and pamphlets available to assist you. Stop by and browse through, you may just find the answer to your question or even a new idea!

Look at the back page of this issue; we may carry some of the materials to assist you with your project. How about a rain barrel to save some of this excess water for your garden later? Maybe one of our supporters from the Resource Guide (pages 6-7) has what you need, and by the way, thank them for supporting conservation efforts in Johnson County.

As you will see in this issue, we are proud to support an active and energetic Youth Board. If you know any Johnson County high school youth interested in conservation, encourage them to contact our office for more details.

See you at the Johnson County Fair!

## Johnson County Fair

The Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District will be at the Johnson County Fair July 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

You can find our booth inside the Farm Bureau Building. We will be presenting information on conservation and have a rain barrel give away at the end of the week.

Stop by and sign up.



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**Mission** — To conserve and enhance our soil, water, and other natural resources by coordinating with local partners to provide technical, financial, and educational opportunities in Johnson County.

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*Published quarterly and distributed to landowners, farm operators, schools, local agencies, public officials, conservation organizations, and other interested individuals.*

# Pine Seedlings

The Johnson County SWCD and the Johnson County Youth Conservation Board had a marathon, two-day, pine seedling educational program. The district provided 2,200 white pine seedlings and 200 pecan seedlings to the fifth grade students and teachers across Johnson County. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year that the SWCD has delivered this program to the county. This program allows the Youth Board an opportunity to share their knowledge while educating the younger students about conservation.

They demonstrate the advantages of erosion control and water filtration by planting trees.



## Youth Board

The Youth Board members presenting the pine seedling program were: Daniel Bechman, Levi Plummer, Leslie Barnett, Nathan Barnett, Paige Ericson, Ashley Dunn, Jerica Richter, Daniel Roberts, Amanda Workman.

The Youth Board capped off another exciting year with their annual Senior Night on May 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition to honoring the five seniors (pictured below), Nathan Barnett and Daniel Bechman were named the Outstanding Seniors. Starting out with a short meeting at the SWCD office, the Youth Board moved to Chili's for a well deserved dinner and celebration of their year.

Congratulations go out to all the seniors and a thank you for their dedication and efforts to the Youth Board.



Youth Board Seniors:

Front row left to right: Codi Morrison, Paige Ericson, Amanda Workman

Back Row: Nathan Barnett, Daniel Bechman

## **Office Space for Rent**

The Johnson County SWCD has office space available for rent in our building. We are located in downtown Franklin on Jefferson Street.

For more information please contact  
Ric Schlosser  
317-736-9540 ext. 102.



## Ag Day

The Johnson County Ag Day was held March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. There were over 670 students and teachers in attendance. The Johnson County SWCD along with other commodity groups from the county presented information on agriculture. This year the SWCD highlighted conservation, no-till, and erosion control.

Each group started their day in Scott Hall where they listened to presenters from the SWCD, Farm Bureau, Bee Keepers, Johnson County Beef Cattle Association, and Whiteland Orchard. The students and teachers then moved outside to see farm animals including sheep, dairy and beef cattle, chickens, and goats.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase Johnson County agriculture and educate the students about conservation.



## Tree Sale

The Johnson County SWCD held its spring tree sale. The district had orders for 95 trees to be planted in Johnson County. This bi-annual event is both a fundraiser for the district and a service to the residents of Johnson County. All trees sold are grown in Indiana from locally collected seed. This ensures that the trees will be well adapted to our climate and soil types. If you missed out on the spring tree sale, please look for the fall tree sale order form in the September issue.



# FUNDING FOR NEW ORGANICS INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED

INDIANAPOLIS, May 6, 2009— State Conservationist Jane Hardisty of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced \$862,564 is available in Indiana for a new initiative to encourage more organic agriculture production. Funding for the initiative is being made available as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

“Assisting organic producers is one of the priorities of the 2008 Farm Bill,” said Hardisty. “The objective of this initiative is to make organic food producers eligible to compete for EQIP financial assistance.”

The 2009 Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under general EQIP.

Under the Organic Initiative minimum core conservation practices will be required based on specific resource concerns. The practices are: Conservation Crop Rotation; Cover Crop; Nutrient Management; Pest Management; Prescribed Grazing; and Forage Harvest Management. Indiana will consider using any appropriate practice that meets the natural resource concerns on a particular farm.

Applications received from organic producers or producers in transition to organic farming will be accepted under this initiative starting May 11.

Ranking criteria has been established based on resource concerns that link to the National Organic Program (NOP) objectives and the core conservation practices. Find more information about NOP on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/> by choosing the subject 'Agriculture' then clicking on 'Organic Certification' under Related Topics.

In addition to the 2009 Organic Initiative, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture also offers the Indiana Organic Certification Program, which will reimburse 75 percent of the cost of certification fees up to \$750 for new certifications or renewals. Producers can apply for this program until September 30, 2009 and can find applications at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2399.htm>

The 2009 Organic Initiative will be administered by NRCS. Interested producers should contact their NRCS district conservationist at a USDA Service Center to determine eligibility. Visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> to find the nearest USDA Service Center. Additional information on the 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative is available at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/)

#

## Contacts:

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# Northern Nut Growers 100th Annual Meeting (Reprinted from December 2008)

Registration forms can now be downloaded from <http://www.icserv.com/nnga/meet2009regform.pdf>

## Indiana to Host NNGA's 100th Annual Meeting in 2009

By Jerry Lehman and Jim McKenna

The 100th Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association will be held July 19-21, 2009 at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana. Our Local Arrangements Chair is Mr. Jim McKenna with the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) at Purdue. Jim is working closely with the Purdue Conference Center and the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau to make this 100th annual NNGA meeting a memorable occasion.

Planning for our 100th Annual Meeting is well underway, and every effort is being made to hold down housing and registration costs so that more members will be able to attend in spite of high travel costs. To that end the FNR Department is contributing \$2,000 to help offset conference expenses. Additional sponsorship dollars are being solicited from other groups and companies, including suppliers and state nut grower associations.

Very affordable campus housing is available featuring duplex rooms (two double-occupancy rooms sharing one bath) that are within walking distance of the meeting. For physically impaired guests, golf cart shuttles will be available. Good affordable meals will be available in the modern dorm dining rooms.

The program at this time includes a board meeting on Sunday with registration scheduled to begin Sunday afternoon, followed by a BBQ and mixer in the walnut woods at the FNR Department's Martell Forest and Wright Center on Sunday evening. Show and Tell will be held in the new conference room at the Center following the barbecue. The possibility of live entertainment is being explored.

After the Monday morning business meeting and welcome address by Dr. Charles Michler, Director of the Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center (HTIRC), the keynote address will be delivered by the internationally renowned Dr. Jules Janick, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, on the "History of World Horticulture--Nuts, Fruits, and Art." The remainder of the day will consist of technical presentations followed by the Annual Research Auction in the evening.

On Tuesday we will tour the University fruit and nut research plots and the intensively managed 100-acre plantations of Arbor America, Inc., a Spanish company that grows grafted walnut for timber production. Our banquet speaker Tuesday evening will be Dr. Robert Swihart, Head of the FNR Department at Purdue, who will present a unique and fascinating talk on his years of research on nuts from the squirrel's perspective that is guaranteed to enlighten, infuriate, and entertain nut growers. Expect extra recognitions and awards from the Awards Committee.

Wednesday will feature a second full day of technical papers and presentations. The meeting will conclude Thursday with an optional tour to Indianapolis to see Charles Spurgeon's large collection of pecans, shag and shellbark hickory orchards, and Marilyn's well managed flower and vegetable garden. Charles also has a large



Continued on page 9

## Stewardship Week 2009



This year's stewardship week ran April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a national program sponsored in part by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Each year the SWCD makes a number of educational materials available to schools and churches in Johnson County. This year the SWCD supplied 7,856 pieces of Stewardship material to Johnson County residents.

Each year there is a theme to the materials, and this year's theme was Soil Makes Life Possible. Materials included informational posters, books, program covers and inserts, coloring books, and bookmarks. All materials are age appropriate and designed to meet federal education standards. Thank you to everyone who participated in this program.



## Northern Nut Growers 100th Annual Meeting Cont.

collection of antique tractors. From there we will travel to Terre Haute to see Jerry Lehman's persimmon and pawpaw plantings and test orchard. For those who wish to depart for home from either Indianapolis or Terre Haute, a tag along auto caravan will follow the buses.

Additional activities are being planned by the Complementary Alternative Program (CAP) committee and will be announced soon. A Centennial Cookbook being prepared under Sally Martyn's direction featuring CAP members' favorite nut recipes will be distributed to meeting attendees.

Last but not least, Charles Spurgeon is researching and writing a report on the history of NNGA. Since Charles has been an outstanding historian for the Indiana Nut Growers for years, and since he has a complete collection of NNGA's annual reports, he is uniquely qualified to write an interesting, informative, and comprehensive treatise on the history of the first century of the NNGA.

A Call for Papers, Exhibit and Auction Items will be published in the December *Nutshell*. Nevertheless, it is not too early to plan ahead. Extra reports are expected and being planned for this year. Please contact Jim McKenna at [jrmckenn@purdue.edu](mailto:jrmckenn@purdue.edu) or Jerry Lehman at [JWLehman@aol.com](mailto:JWLehman@aol.com) for details.

To have this 100th meeting announced in your favorite publication's event calendar, contact the Publicity Committee Chair, Mari Briggs at [mjbriggs3@aol.com](mailto:mjbriggs3@aol.com); and if you have suggestions for publications the committee can contact, please forward them to Mari.

Mark your calendars now! Send email to [icomserve@aol.com](mailto:icomserve@aol.com) with the subject "NNGA 2009 Meeting" to be notified when additional information and a registration form are available on <http://www.northernnutgrowers.org/>



## Province Park

The Youngs Creek Watershed Cost-share program continues to wrap up projects. The Johnson County SWCD, Youngs Creek Watershed, and Franklin Parks were able to partner on an educational demonstration site project in Province Park. As many people remember the flood of 2008, Province Park was hit especially hard as Youngs Creek and Hurricane Creek come together in this area. One of the main access roads was in danger of being washed out and the banks were unstable. Because this was a park, visual impact had to be taken into account when designing a streambank stabilization project. We tried to minimize the amount of hard armoring of the bank, while using other products such as turf reinforcing mat. This bank stabilization design allows for the largest amount of plant materials to be used. This project was made possible through a \$10,000 grant from the Youngs Creek Watershed Cost-share program.



Left: Before construction. Highly eroded and unstable banks

Right: Construction completed. This bank has been topped four times since construction has been completed with no damage sustained.



# Would you like to own a rain barrel?



The Johnson County SWCD is selling rain barrels. Each recycled rain barrel includes a downspout diverter kit. The diverter kit allows the rain barrel to be

filled, then the remaining water can continue through the downspout. This closed system eliminates any problems with mosquitoes. The selling price is \$100 and all money goes to support the educational programs offered by the SWCD.



## Johnson County SWCD Rain Barrel Order Form

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Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_



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We are located at 550 East Jefferson Street in Franklin, Indiana in the Alva B. Neal Building (old<sup>2</sup> Franklin High School Building) across from Franklin College.

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### Available at The SWCD

**2007 Plat Books** \$15.00 (+ \$2.00 if mailed)

Sponsored by the Johnson County Youth Conservation Board

**Marking Flags** \$10.00 per bundle (100 flags per bundle)

**Erosion Control Netting** \$0.25 per linear foot (includes staples)

**Geotextile Fabric**, 8 oz. non woven, 15 ft. wide  
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**Rain Barrels** \$100.00

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