



Watershed Connection

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WATERSHED STAFF

Debra Ashack
Watershed Coordinator
debra-ashack@iaswcd.org

David Harrell
Conservation Resource
Specialist
david-harrell@iaswcd.org

550 East Jefferson Street
Suite 202
Franklin, IN 46131
(317) 346-6102

Martinsville Area
(317) 878-4064

www.swcd.org/watershed.htm

Johnson County Fair

The Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects were featured again this year at the Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District booth at the Johnson County Fair in July. A rain barrel display, pictured below, showcased the functionality and advantages of using rain barrels to capture and store stormwater runoff from rooftops. The display demonstrated how stormwater is diverted into the rain barrel from the existing downspout in a closed system that eliminates the worry of mosquito breeding grounds. Two oaken rain barrels, including the one used in the demonstration, were raffled off during the fair. The SWCD also offers recycled plastic rain barrels, including diverter kits, for sale at a price of \$100 each, with a \$75 rebate through the Cost-Share Program for Youngs Creek Watershed residents.

The theme of our booth was "Water is Life", with informative materials and free drinking water available to reinforce the theme. The booth also featured a stream table model, pictured on page 17, which demonstrated how moving water reshapes the surrounding landscape. The model demonstrated how riparian areas, the lands immediately adjacent to the stream bank, benefit water quality through prevention of erosion and trapping runoff from properties adjoining



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Johnson County Fair, cont.



waterways. The stream table model is a great way to illustrate how the addition of vegetation or rocks to a stream bank or change of stream bank slope can help reduce erosion.

The stream table is part of the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) program and is housed at the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District office. The table is available for loan free of charge. To use the table for your educational event or to have the district staff demonstrate it for your group, please contact the office at 317-346-6102 ext 106.



Rain Barrel Drawing Winners

The Johnson County SWCD, in conjunction with the Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects, gave away two oaken rain barrels at the Johnson County Fair. We received well over 100 entries for the drawing. Each barrel included a Garden Watersaver downspout diverter kit and soaker hose. The diverter eliminates problems with mosquitoes by utilizing a closed system to fill the barrel. A similar rain barrel system is available for purchase from the SWCD for \$100, with a \$75.00 rebate to residents of the Youngs Creek Watershed as part of the Cost-Share Program. For more information, please see pages 18-19.

We would like to congratulate our winners, Nancy Cole and Julie Dhondt.



Indian Creek Watershed Update

Work on the Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan is rolling forward with the submission of a third draft to IDEM in July 2008. The final draft is to be submitted in December 2008. The SWCD and watershed staff worked tirelessly in August to complete an application for the next Section 319 grant to continue work in the Indian Creek Watershed. Applications were due to IDEM by September 1st, with projects beginning on or after July 1, 2009.

The proposal for the next grant is for funds to implement the Watershed Management Plan with a cost-share component and funds to continue outreach and educational programs aimed at the water quality concerns identified by the Indian Creek Steering Committee. Cost-share would help landowners pay for Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed on the ground, such as grassed waterways, streamside fencing, riparian buffers and stream bank restoration. Outreach and education programs would be directed at educating homeowners with septic systems on proper maintenance of those systems, proper application of lawn chemicals and other behaviors and activities that impact water quality. School programs currently conducted by the SWCD in Johnson County would be extended to include the entire watershed and more funds would be available to enhance programs in Morgan County. Forest management programs through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources would also be more heavily promoted in the watershed.

We remain hopeful that IDEM will approve the grant application so we can continue our work in the Indian Creek Watershed.

Cost-share Update

The cost-share program continues to have increasing inquiries each month. We have now added two additional practices to the program. The most popular is the rain barrel cost-share. The Johnson County SWCD is selling recycled rain barrels for \$100.00, with a \$75 reimbursement for Youngs Creek Watershed residents through the Cost-Share Program. Each kit contains a recycled plastic rain barrel and a downspout diverter kit. The diverter kit fills the rain barrel and then allows the additional water to continue down the downspout. For purchasing information, please see pages 18-19.

We have also added a rain garden cost-share practice. The rain garden cost-share practice can be installed anywhere within the Youngs Creek Watershed. If you aren't sure if you are in the watershed, contact our office at 317-346-6102 ext. 106.

Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP) continues to see high demand after the June rains. If you have livestock and need a feeding or watering area, this would be an ideal practice for you. HUAP can also be installed in gated areas which tend to have problems in the wet weather.

If you have any questions about these or other practices please see our website at www.swcd.org or call David Harrell at 317-346-6102 ext. 106

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 will be \$100 and all money goes to support the educational programs offered by the SWCD. There is a **special rebate of \$75** offered for residents of the Youngs Creek Watershed.



Johnson County SWCD Rain Barrel Order Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____ - _____

Email _____ @ _____

Quantity _____