



Conservation Buffer Program Still Available

There's still time to put conservation on the land and money in your pocket by participating in the USDA Continuous sign-up Conservation Program!

The program was used by several producers in Clark County last year to install filter strips along streams, grassed waterways and riparian forested buffers. It is still available and offers 90% reimbursement for costs of installation/construction, as well as annual payments (up to \$144/ac/year) for a maximum of 15 years on the acreage involved. This program is hard to beat!

More Backyard Conservation Workshops Planned

Backyard Conservation is a program, sponsored by the USDA National Resource Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and the Wildlife Habitat Council. It applies ten conservation practices, mirroring those used on farmland, to backyards. By applying these practices, homeowners make their yards more welcoming to wildlife, and more attractive and enjoyable, while improving the environment.

The Clark County SWCD held its' first Backyard Conservation Workshops in February and March. Over a series of three nights of seminars, participants learned how to apply conservation practices, much the same as a farmer would, to protect soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. Seminar speakers this Spring included Jeneen Wiche, local gardening celebrity, and Jack Perry of Wild Birds Unlimited. At the

end of the program, participants were given the opportunity to have their yards certified as "Backyard Habitats."



The Spring edition of the program was very successful. Plans for more Backyard Conservation workshops, as well as other related workshops, are being made. If you are interested in participating in a future workshop, or would like more information, please contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3. Calendar dates and Backyard Conservation information can also be found on our website at www.clarkswcd.org.

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Dates to Note

- 4/27/01—National Arbor Day
- 4/29-5/6/01—Soil & Water Stewardship Week
- 5/4/01—Marvin Wright Scholarship applications due
- 5/5/01—Clark County SWCD Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., office conference room



**WHIP
Funds Available**

*"In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—there are consequences."
- R.G. Ingersoll -*

Indiana's USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has received \$225,000 this year to assist rural landowners wishing to develop, improve, or restore wildlife habitat through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). The program provides technical planning assistance and up to 75% cost-share for the establishment of permanent wildlife habitat. All WHIP applications received prior to April 1, 2001 will be ranked according to state priorities and funded until the funding allocation has been reached. If funds are still available, applications received after April 1 will be pooled and ranked every two weeks until all funds have been obligated.

Practices that may be cost-shared through WHIP include:

Permanent wildlife habitats (including grassland and/or bottomland hardwood tree establishments);

Conversion of tall fescue grasslands to wildlife-friendly grasslands;

Management of grasslands for early successional wildlife

Contour buffers on cropland;

Fencing to exclude livestock from

streams, wetlands, woodlands, and other permanent wildlife habitats;

Windbreaks that will also provide wildlife habitat;

Field borders of trees, shrubs, or grasses;

Filter strips of trees, shrubs, or grasses;

Riparian forest buffers;

Pasture and hay plantings (some restrictions apply);

Wildlife watering ponds;

Wetland creation, enhancements, and restorations;

Plus more.

Any rural landowner may apply for WHIP funding, and all lands (not just cropland) are eligible for development provided they are not currently enrolled in an existing USDA program. Federal lands are also not eligible. Approved applicants must enter into a cost-share agreement with NRCS to protect the wildlife habitat for a period ranging from 5 to 10 years. Interested participants should contact their local NRCS office or IDNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife district wildlife biologist for more information.

Help Choose Our National Tree

If you could choose, which of America's many trees would you choose for our national symbol? The National Arbor Day Foundation wants to find out.

The United States is blessed with a wealth of tree species — more than twice as many as all of Europe. Yet while we have other national emblems, we have no national tree.

The National Arbor Day Foundation, wants to give Americans of all ages and all walks of life the chance to help select a tree to take its place alongside the bald eagle, the "Star Spangled Banner", and our country's other enduring national symbols. Help shape history and cast your vote at their web site—www.arborday.org. A list of candidates can also be found there.

Hurry! Votes will be taken until April 26th. The winner of the contest will be announced on April 27, National Arbor

Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are currently available for the Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship sponsored by the Clark County SWCD. The \$600 scholarship is awarded each year to a student from Clark County, pursuing a career in a natural resources related field.

Forms have been sent to all area high schools but are also available by contacting the SWCD by phone at 256-2330, ext. 3 or through our website at www.clarkswcd.org.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Tami Kruer, SWCD Education Coordinator.



Soil and Water Stewardship Week Celebrated

Habitat for Life” is the theme of the 2001 Soil & Water Stewardship Week, April 29 to May 6, 2001.

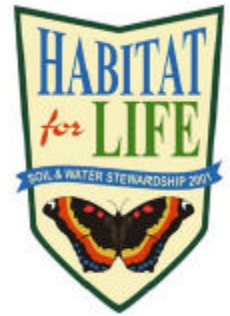
The focus of this year’s national observance is on the personal responsibility of each citizen has to be a good steward of the land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources that enhance our quality of life.

The concept of habitat, which most of us think of in terms of wildlife, has been expanded to include human and other living things around us that make up the place where we live. The basic elements of habitat are food, water and shelter.

It is common to think about people losing their homes and the quality of their living environ-

ments as being something that happens to someone else, or in some other place. That may not always be the case. As we see sprawling growth take valuable farmland, read about a town’s drinking water being polluted by a chemical spill, or watch helplessly as a flood wipes out farms and towns, we are witnessing a steady loss of the habitat for life that is needed by all people and other living things.

When an animal or plant species becomes extinct, we are all a little less because of that loss. If that extinction occurs as a result of human thoughtlessness, we bear the responsibility.



To learn more about how you can help protect your habitat, contact the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District

Are you familiar with the “Habitat for Life” Stewardship words listed below? Test your knowledge and match them with the definitions beneath them.



- 1) A collection of plants and animals that live together, react with each other, and may depend on each other for survival; a neighborhood, city, town.
- 2) The area along a stream covered by overflow.
- 3) Water found deep in the ground in cracks and spaces between rocks and soil particles.
- 4) An area that provides an animal or plant with adequate food, water, shelter, and living space in a suitable arrangement.
- 5) Located or living along or near a stream, river, or body of water.
- 6) Water that drains or flows off the surface of the land.
- 7) The land area that delivers run-off water and sediment of a major river or stream and its tributaries.
- 8) Areas that are regularly wet or flooded, and where the water table stands at or above the land surface for at least part of the year.
- 9) Agricultural methods which reduce soil erosion and retain soil moisture such as conservation tillage, crop rotation, contour farming, strip-cropping, terraces, diversions, and grassed waterways.

1) community, 2) floodplain, 3) groundwater, 4) habitat, 5) riparian, 6) runoff, 7) watershed, 8) wetlands, 9) conservation

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www.clarkswcd.org

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The Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The five-member board of supervisors, representing local interests, hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at our office. Please call for meeting start times. The public is encouraged to attend

Supervisors

Chairman: Sam Hagest
Vice-Chairman: Dana Coots
Member: Joe Madison
Member: Amil Kleinert
Member: Judy Martin

Nominations Accepted for Conservationist of the Year 2001

When many people think of conservation, their thoughts immediately focus on farmers and ranchers who produce much of our food and fiber. The Clark County SWCD realizes, however, that this term is far-reaching. There are individuals who promote and practice conservation without ever setting foot on a farm (i.e. reference the Backyard Conservation article in this issue).

Beginning in 2001, we would like to not only recognize agricultural producers, but other individuals or groups that have made significant contributions to the conservation of our Natural Resources. Categories of contribution are: Agricultural, Forestry & Wildlife, Urban, and Public Service.

We realize that many persons' efforts go unrecognized simply because we are not in contact with them, or the type of work they do, on a regular basis. Therefore, we are asking for your help in nominating persons you feel are deserving of this recognition. Nomination forms may be obtained from our office or on our website, www.clarkswcd.org.

Category winners will be announced at our Annual Meeting in January 2002.

