**Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship**

Marvin Wright was a longtime farmer and implement dealer in the Borden, IN area. He served on the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors from 1963-1988. Marvin was dedicated to farming, the farm community and the protection of our natural resources. An endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana was established through the generous donations of the Marvin Wright, Harold Armstrong, and John Woehrle families to provide an annual scholarship to a student pursuing a natural resources conservation course of study in honor of Mr. Wright.

Applications will soon be available for the Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship. The $1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to a current high school senior or current college student from Clark County, pursuing a career in a natural resources related field. Forms may also be obtained by contacting Tami Kruer, SWCD Executive Director, at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3462.

**Watershed Improvement Project Update**

The first year of the 3-year Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watersheds Improvement Project has been very popular in terms of landowners taking advantage of the cost-share component of the project. In 2019, over 400 acres of crop ground was seeded to winter cover crops, five heavy use areas were approved, as were five alternative livestock watering sites, a waterway, over 180 acres of new forage seeding, and about 0.4 miles of interior livestock fencing.

With all this activity, new qualified applications are being put on a waiting list. Applications on this waiting list will be funded once additional funds are secured, or excess funds are available from current approved projects once their actual costs are submitted.

This isn’t to say that landowners shouldn’t apply for cost share assistance through this project; quite the contrary. Landowners are encouraged to get applications in as quickly as possible. Having a wait list of significant projects that are highly ranked for improving water quality gives us reason to request, and may improve our chances of obtaining, additional funds from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, our grantor.

For more information and applications, please contact David Trotter, Watershed Coordinator, at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3465.
Soil Testing Service Offered

The Clark County SWCD is now offering soil testing services for homeowners seeking fertilizer recommendations for their lawn and gardens.

Soil samples may be brought to the SWCD office at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown. Soil sample bags are available at no charge from the SWCD.

Cost of a basic test is $22; a more extensive test is $32. Both tests provide suggested fertilizer recommendations for up to three crops (i.e. lawn, flowers, trees). It normally takes 4-5 working days for samples to be analyzed and recommendations returned.

SWCD Spring Tree Sale Underway

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District’s (SWCD) annual Spring Tree Sale is now in progress. Trees offered in this sale are supplied by Woody Warehouse, Lizton, IN. These trees are 3-gallon, Grade 1 (nursery stock) container trees. Trees can be easily removed from their containers and directly planted.

Some of the species offered are: Red Maple, Speckled Alder, Sweetgum, Persimmon, Tulip Poplar, Black Walnut, Yellow Birch, Red Chokeberry, Hackberry, Norway Spruce, Quaking Aspen, and Red Osier Dogwood. Trees are $28.00 each plus tax.

Deadline for orders is 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Trees may be picked up on Tuesday, April 14; Wednesday, April 15; and Thursday, April 16, between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the SWCD office. For order forms or more information, contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or visit us at www.clarkswcd.org.

Choose Your Conservation Program Now

Spring planting season is an excellent time to assess your fields for problem areas. While you’re planting, make note of areas that are eroding, need to be renovated, or need to be taken out of production. Then, at your next opportunity, give our District Conservationist, Jennifer Kipper, a call. She can explain the farming and environmental assistance programs that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers that can help pay for installing conservation practices on your land. Jennifer may be contacted at 256-2330, ext. 3463.

Mow Less — Mo’ Green

Spring is in the air, and so are the fumes from lawn mowers, weed eaters, and other lawn care equipment. Gasoline-powered lawn mowers and string trimmers are major producers of carbon dioxide. Cutting down on their use is one way we can help improve our environment.

The Clark County SWCD encourages you to reduce harmful emissions, and “Mow Less—Mo’ Green” by using environmentally friendly electric mowers and trimmers, and by planting landscape projects with low maintenance, native plants.

Stewardship Week Celebrated

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship Week is one of the largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, NACD has sponsored the national Stewardship Week program by selecting a theme and developing materials for schools, communities and churches of all denominations. Stewardship Week, celebrated annually between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May (April 26 - May 3, 2020), reminds us of our personal responsibility to care for the natural resources which we all depend upon.

This year’s theme is “Where would we BEE without Pollinators?” Pollinators are needed to provide one in every three bites of food and to maintain our environment. Without the pollinators process we would notice a decline in food and many of the products we use every day. Pollinators are responsible for about $16 billion in U.S. agricultural production, and $1000 billion in human food production worldwide. About 75% of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for fertilization, and over 200,000 species of animals act as pollinators. Of those, about 1,000 are hummingbirds, bats, and small mammals such as mice. The rest are insects, including beetles, bees, ants, wasps, butterflies, and moths.

For more information about Stewardship Week, and where we would BEE without Pollinators, visit the NACD website at https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-program/.
Wood Management in Indiana Rivers and Streams—*Best Practices and Methods*

Robert Barr (IUPUI - CEES) and Siavash Beik, September 2017 (CBBEL) - Wood is a natural component of Indiana rivers and streams and plays an important role in maintaining healthy streams by increasing bank stability, habitat formation, and even reducing flow velocities. But how much wood should be in the river is a continuing question, and a question that will have different answers depending on the river - and the nature of the wood.

A severe storm, or a tornado, can uproot hundreds of trees that may disrupt stream flow for years after the event. Or trees that might naturally float downstream can lodge under bridge, and put additional stress on the structure. In cases like this "wood management" may be necessary. Fortunately there is guidance on when management is necessary, and on what type of activities might require a permit.

Based on Indiana Code IC-14-28-1-22(b)(6), most logjams along Indiana rivers and streams may be removed without a permit if certain conditions are met ([https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/wa-Logjam_Removal_Guide.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/wa-Logjam_Removal_Guide.pdf)).

The Indiana Drainage Handbook provides information on log jam removal using hand tools or heavy machinery. That document is available at [www.in.gov/dnr/water/4893.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/4893.htm).

One method that is increasingly popular is the "clean and clear method" (Figure 1), in this method collected trash and debris is removed, the center of a log jam is cut away to allow better flow, and logs embedded in the stream banks and bed are left in place.

Another preferred wood maintenance method is to mimic a naturally occurring tree orientation and to move logs that are completely across a channel to a position against the bank. That position will both reduce erosion and provide shelter to fish (Figure 2).

The Wood Material Management Flowchart (MDEQ) provided in Figure 3 may be used to help determine how or when a log jam needs to be removed. In addition to working with existing wood in streams, we also need to think about management of the entire stream corridor. Many times, a large number of trees falling into the channel is an indicator of an even larger problem with channel stability. In those cases we need to find the cause of the instability to properly address the problem.
Living With Wildlife: Canadian Geese

Canada geese begin scouting for nesting areas in February and this is when goose management techniques should begin. Canada geese prefer to nest near water bodies that are surrounded by short, mowed grass and have a clear line of sight to look for potential predators.

Fortunately, implementing harassment techniques, installing fencing or other barriers, and the avoidance of feeding geese can prevent unwanted nesting on your property. For more information on these practices and how to do them, visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2996.htm.

A permit is not required to harass geese if they are not physically harmed. If necessary, nests without eggs or birds can be removed at any time without a permit.

Enter your trophy fish into Fish of the Year

Indiana DNR’s Fish of the Year Program awards anglers who have submitted the largest fish from Hoosier waters of each species. Winners receive a certificate, patch, and bragging rights for the entire year.

If your fish is a potential state record, follow the instructions on our website to submit a state record. Current state record fish, Fish of the Year winners, and instructions for submitting Fish of the Year entries are also available at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3577.htm.

Mark your calendar for 2020 Free Fishing Days

This year’s four free fishing days are May 3, June 6-7, and Sept. 26. Indiana residents do not need a fishing license or a trout stamp to fish in public waters on these days. Learn more at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3598.htm.

District activities and programs will be made available to all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status or disability.