

ST. JOSEPH RIVER REVIEW

A PUBLICATION BY THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE

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www.sjrwi.org

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2006 Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo - February 22

The fifth annual Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo is just around the corner. The Expo will be on February 22, 2006 at the Kruse World War II Victory Museum in Auburn.

"This year's conference will examine zone tillage options, auto guidance and GPS, and how farmers can make the most of high-tech farming options," said Jane Loomis, executive director of the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.

The keynote speaker for this year is Dr. Elwynn Taylor, Extension Climatologist, from Iowa State University. Taylor will discuss rust and flu, floods, droughts and hurricanes, El Nino, 90 and 19-year cycles and global warming and when grouped together, they seem to be destroying our farms and even the world's economy. Amid all the uncertainties there are risks. It is the risks we can manage. All persons concerned with climate associated risks will benefit from Dr. Taylor's clear and often humorous explanations.

Other speakers at the 2006 Expo include Ray Rawson, Rawson Operations and Rick Recker, Recker Farm Supply speaking on improving crop performance through zone tillage. Rawson and Recker were part of the Twilight Tour held in June, 2005 explaining the "Rawson technique." Additional presentations will include the latest developments in auto guidance and spray controller technologies presented by Andy Hill of Premier

Technologies; using yield monitoring data to evaluate field management decisions, by G. Kelly Robertson of Barton, Illinois, and two sessions with Fred Whitford, director of the Purdue Pesticide Program. Whitford's presentations will include dealing with spill emergencies, soybean rust, securing a load and DOT regulations.

Facilitated round robin sessions will give exhibitors an opportunity to show off their products and attendees a chance to ask questions. Back by popular demand is the sand track presented by Precision Planting. Tractor guidance system demonstrations will be on-going throughout the day, outside if weather permits.



Admission to the Expo is \$15 which includes lunch and refreshments. Continuing education credits are available for private applicators, commercial applicators and certified crop advisors for an additional \$10 processing fee. Tickets may be through your local Soil and Water Conservation District offices or by contacting the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (260-484-5848 x3). Registration forms are also available on-line at www.sjrwi.org. Early registration deadline is February 10. ■



Cedar Creek Implementation Grant Awarded

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative has received a \$464,678 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to improve water quality in Cedar Creek watershed in Allen, Noble and DeKalb counties.

This grant will help fund implementation of the Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan, which is of significant importance not only to Cedar Creek, but also to the St. Joseph River and the Great Lakes Basin. With help of citizens and professionals, the grant supported activities will improve the public's understanding of the watershed's role in the quality of Fort Wayne's drinking water and

better address some of the problems contributing to pollution in Cedar Creek.

The projects funded by the three-year grant will assist in

- Reducing the level of pesticides, nutrients, bacteria and sediment found in the creek and its tributaries.
- Replacing failing septic systems and demonstration of alternative on-site septic systems.
- Protecting wetlands and providing vegetated buffers to protect habitat diversity and filtering of runoff water.

See Grant on page 2

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Grant continued from page 1

- Continuing the water quality monitoring in the Cedar Creek and the St. Joseph River.

The plan will address agricultural, commercial and residential issues regarding water quality.

Educational efforts will focus on elementary and middle school curricula as well as adult educational opportunities.

Expansion of the corps of citizen volunteers who help to track water quality and habitat diversity will be supported by training opportunities and sampling supplies.

Educational workshops on topics such as wetlands, habitat diversity, septic system maintenance, drainage, buffers and filter strips, and landscaping will include cooperative efforts with local retailers.

Citizens in the Cedar Creek watershed are encouraged to take part in these activities. Quarterly stakeholder meetings will be announced on the SJRWI website (www.sjrwi.org), in local news outlets and by email. To add your name to our list, please call the Initiative office (260) 484-5848 x120 or email jane-loomis@sjrwi.org ■

SJRWI Water Quality Checks



Training the Trainers

Hoosier Riverwatch is offering a training session for Volunteer Instructors. If you have expressed an interest and meet the following requirements, please plan to attend the training on March 16-18. You must have experience with water monitoring and have practiced stream monitoring within the last year and submitted data to the Riverwatch online database. You will be trained to teach Riverwatch workshops and agree to remain active each year. The application deadline is February 17 so contact Lyn Creighton soon if you are interested at www.HoosierRiverwatch.com

Indiana's Freshwater Mussels

Come and explore the History and Mystery of Indiana's Freshwater Mussels on March 22 at the Natural Resources Education Center in Indianapolis. Some topics included in this workshop will include the mussel life cycle, status of mussels in Indiana, Native American use of the mussel, pearl button industry in Indiana and conservation efforts going on to propagate mussels. For more information or to register, contact Marie at nrec@dnr.in.gov or 317-562-1338. ■

2006 Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo
February 22, 2006
Early registration deadline-February 10

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Congratulations to the King of CRP or as many know him, Mark Jacoby, on his retirement from the NRCS after 33 years of service. As district conservationist for Williams County, Mark was part of the original group that worked together to find a solution to pollution problems on the St. Joseph River, an effort that eventually became the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.

“Mark Jacoby was one of the original

members of the Fish Creek Partnership. His vision of working across the state lines for conservation of Fish Creek was critical and he was the partner that helped introduce The Nature Conservancy to the watershed landowners and farmers in Ohio.” remarked Larry Clemens of The Nature Conservancy.

We'd like to thank Mark for his efforts over the years on behalf of the watershed and the Initiative, and wish him the best of good luck and good health in his retirement. ■

Conservation Tillage equipment kept busy during Fall '05

Great fall weather contributed to a busy fall tillage season for Jeremy Palmer and the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI) tillage equipment. A GPS auto-steer equipped John Deere 9520 tractor and Brillion Zone-Commander were rented under the extension of the grant contract with IDEM in order to jump-start phase II of the conservation tillage grant, expected to start in Spring of '06.

Seventeen farmers took advantage of the equipment program; the equipment was used on 1,771 acres. In spring, farmers will be able to locate the tilled 7-inch rows or "zones" by GPS and will be able to fertilize and plant directly into the rows, leaving the residue from last year's crop intact between the rows to help prevent soil erosion and increase water infiltration into the field.

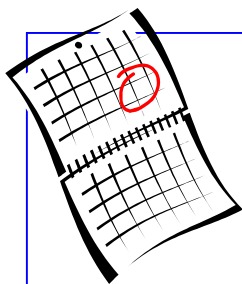
If you have an interest in renting conservation tillage

equipment for the spring planting season, contact Jeremy Palmer at the Initiative's office, 260-484-5848 x3, or email Jeremy-palmer@iaswcd.org ■



New!
on
SJRWI.org

Get your registration form and read about this year's 2006 Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo to be held on February 22 at the Kruse World War II Victory Museum in Auburn Indiana, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ■



Upcoming Events

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

- **February 22** 2006 *Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo* at the Kruse World War II Victory Museum, Auburn, IN. See related article, page 1.
- **February 6** *Board of Directors Meeting* for the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative at 6:30 p.m., DeKalb County Annex Building, Auburn, IN.

DeKalb County

- **February 25** *Northeast Indiana Chapter of Pheasants Forever* 14th annual meeting, ACD Museum in Auburn
- **March 16** *DeKalb County SWCD Annual Meeting*, DeKalb County Annex Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.
- **March 29** *Northeast Indiana Envirothon*, Merry Lea Environmental Center

Allen County

- **March 4** *Allen County SWCD Annual Meeting* with guest speaker Rep. Mark Souder

Williams County, Ohio

- **March 25** *Maple Syrup Day*, Williams County Fairgrounds in Montpelier, OH from 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Steuben County

- **March 9** *Steuben County SWCD Annual Meeting*, Steuben County Community Center, 7:00 p.m. Dinner tickets available at the county office for \$5.
- **April 29** *The Nature Conservancy* will host an open house at Douglas Woods Preserve. Please call 260-665-9141 for more information.

Other workshops to note

- **March 3** *Protecting Our Watershed* by Hoosier Riverwatch, NREC, Indianapolis. For more information contact Marie at 317-562-1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov
- **March 16-18** *Training the Trainers*, Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Instructor training session. See related article, page 2.
- **March 22** *The History and Mystery of the Indiana's Freshwater Mussels*. See related article, page 2.
- **April 8** *WOW! Wonder of the Wetlands* by Project WET, Columbus, IN, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Contact Marie at 317-562-1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov for more information.

There are several workshops being offered by the programs housed at the Natural Resources Education Center: Go FishIN, Hoosier Riverwatch, Project Learning Tree, Project WET and Project WILD. For more information, please call Marie at 317-562-1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov ■

Thanks

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their donations to the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.

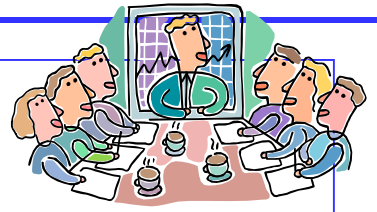
Pat Oppor • Marvin Dietsch • Archbold Equipment • And to all our volunteers and partners who help promote the work of the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.

I would like to help by volunteering.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone and/or e-mail _____



Board of Directors Meeting

The public is invited to attend the next Board of Directors meeting for the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative on February 6 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Annex Building, 215 E. 9th Street. ■

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to protect our
precious
water
resources

**Support the
St. Joseph River
Watershed
Initiative
TODAY!**

SJRWI is a non-profit organization formed by local citizens, agencies, and organizations. Our mission is to promote economically and environmentally compatible land uses that improve water quality throughout the St. Joseph River watershed.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ made payable to The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI).

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