

VOL. 1 ISSUE 4 · FALL 2024

CONSERVATION CORNER

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District

WOMEN'S CONSERVATION LEARNING CIRCLE *Pasture Walk*

**OCTOBER, 16
5-7 PM**



Susannah Hinds,
NRCS Grazing Specialist
Susannah will lead a pasture walk
and informal discussion on practical
pasture management systems that
improve productivity and soil health.



Program Discussions
Sarah Vaughn, NRCS District Conservationist,
and Mike Smith, Tippecanoe County Rural
Conservationist, will answer questions about
technical and financial assistance available
to implement these systems.



Refreshments
The Tippecanoe SWCD will
provide snacks and drinks.
Please bring an outdoor chair.

**REGISTER
HERE**

📍 4707 SR 28 Lafayette, IN

☎ 1765-474-9992 ext.3

🌐 tippecanoecountyswcd.org



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Invasive Insights

By Jordan Young

Kill your invasive Burning Bush! There are plenty of native shrubs that produce red fall foliage comparable to that of Burning Bush. Try planting Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Flameleaf Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), or our native burning bush, Eastern Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) shown in the below pictures. Making the switch to a native shrub benefits the neighborhood wildlife and woodland owners facing burning bush infestations.

For more information on woody invasive control, check out the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) webpage:

<https://tippecanoecountyswcd.org/tict-2>



Burning Bush
(*Euonymus alatus*)



Red Chokeberry
(*Aronia arbutifolia*)



Eastern Wahoo
(*Euonymus atropurpureus*)



Flameleaf Sumac
(*Rhus copallinum*)

Email Robert (rsuseland@tippecanoe.in.gov) for more native options.



TIPPECANOE SWCD

District Staff Spotlight: Kris Gertz

Kris is the District Administrator. She manages the Native Plant Sale and Native Tree & Shrub Sale held each year, as well as pretty much anything administrative that you can think of. She lives in West Lafayette with her husband and enjoys spending time with her three daughters. They couldn't decide what type of animal to have as a pet, so they settled on 1 dog, 1 cat, and 1 horse.

Kris can be contacted at kgertz@tippecanoe.in.gov and 765-474-9992 x4006.

Habitat Happenings: Asters and Goldenrods

By Robert Suseland, Habitat Specialist
rsuseland@tippecanoe.in.gov | (765) 474-9992 ext. 4008

As autumn approaches, many wildflowers have gone dormant, leaving pollinating insects fewer options for food. Goldenrods (species in the genera *Euthamia*, *Oligoneuron*, & *Solidago*) and asters (species in the genus *Symphyotrichum*) bloom when many other plants have already gone to seed, providing a critical food source for pollinators that are busy preparing for winter. Goldenrods, with their vibrant yellow blooms, can support over many species of insects, while asters come in various colors and shapes, appealing to a broad range of bees, butterflies, and other insects. This diversity is crucial not only for the insects themselves but also for the ecosystems they inhabit, as healthy pollinator populations contribute to the pollination of many plants and the diet of many species of animals. While the exact numbers are debated, there are approximately 17 species of asters and 20 species of goldenrod native to Tippecanoe County. Consider adding goldenrod and asters to your property.

Goldenrods Native to Tippecanoe County

Carolina Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*)
Flat-top Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*)
Ohio Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron ohioensis*)
Riddell's Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron riddellii*)
Stiff Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum*)
Late Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*)
White Goldenrod (*Solidago bicolor*)
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)
Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
Giant Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*)
Hairy Goldenrod (*Solidago hispida*)
Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*)
Missouri Goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*)
Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)
Rough-leaved Goldenrod (*Solidago patula*)
Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*)
Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
Bog Goldenrod (*Solidago uliginosa*)
Elmleaf Goldenrod (*Solidago ulmifolia*)

Asters Native to Tippecanoe County

Blue Wood-Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)
Drummond's Aster (*Symphyotrichum drummondii*)
Bushy American-Aster (*Symphyotrichum dumosum*)
White Heath Aster (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*)
Smooth Aster (*Symphyotrichum leave*)
Panicked Aster (*Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*)
Calico Aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*)
New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
Aromatic Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)
Ontario Aster (*Symphyotrichum ontarionis*)
Sky Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*)
Frost Aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*)
Willowleaf Aster (*Symphyotrichum praealtum*)
Crooked-stemmed Aster (*Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*)
Glossy-Leaf Aster (*Symphyotrichum puniceum*)
Short's Aster (*Symphyotrichum shortii*)
Arrowleaf Aster (*Symphyotrichum urophyllum*)

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Conservation Equipment Grants Available

By Mike Smith, Rural Conservationist

Funding for conservation equipment modifications is currently available in multiple Tippecanoe County watersheds and are expected to expand. These watershed-based grants can fund improvements to existing equipment that enable an operation to improve soil health and water quality outcomes. Some of the most commonly approved equipment include no-till closing wheels and row cleaners for planters, air seeders for cover crops, and tool bar attachments to enhance precision nutrient management. These grants are especially flexible. If you have an idea for how an equipment modification could enable conservation on your operation, contact Mike Smith at mjsmith@tippecanoe.in.gov.

Supervisor Spotlight: Melody Clouser



Melody has been a board member since 2017. She is deeply engaged in 4-H activities, namely showing livestock. She enjoys spending time with her husband and their two daughters.



Free Soil Sampling Program for Indiana Farmers

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 23, 2024) — The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) to develop a no-cost program with a focus on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit farm operations. The program, titled Indiana's Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program, is open now for applicants through Nov. 1, 2024.

This program includes row crop, pasture, hay and specialty crop fields located within Indiana's portion of the Mississippi River Basin. Eligible landowners will be prioritized by acreage enrolled (i.e., 100 acres or less), fields that have never been soil sampled and fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., within the last 4 years). Further prioritization may be implemented based on ISDA's workload capacity. This program excludes hobby gardens and private lawns. Interested farmers can sign-up online at ISDA's website or by reaching out to soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

Sign-ups begin Monday, Sept. 23, 2024, and ISDA is accepting registrations until Friday, Nov. 1, 2024. To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Ophelia Davis at 317-232-0305 or soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

Upcoming Events:

October 12 – Weed Wrangle at Battlefield Park

October 14 – Office Closed

October 16 – Women's Learning Circle Pasture Walk

November 5 – Office Closed

November 11 – Office Closed

November 28 and 29 – Office closed

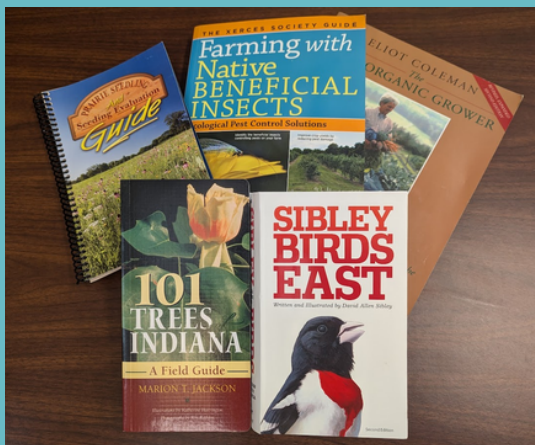
December 6 – EQIP application deadline

December 6 – CSP application deadline

December 24 and 25 – Office Closed

January 1 – Office Closed

Equipment Loans and Rentals



Colder weather leads to more time spent inside. Check out a book from our library to keep busy! We have books on birds, gardening, trees, and more.

Visit tippecanoecountyswcd.org to see what's available.