



2025 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Order now through April 21

Pick up May 9 & 10
@ Ross Camp

www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org



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Invasive Insights

By Robert Suseland, Habitat Specialist

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Thanks to another generous grant from the Duke Energy Foundation, the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) is conducting another invasive plant swap! For more information on the swap and to participate visit tippecanoecountyswcd.org/2025-invasive-plant-swap. Please email tictaboutinvasives@gmail.com if you have any questions. To learn more about TICT, visit tippecanoecountyswcd.org/tict.



INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

Get **FREE** native trees and shrubs when you remove any of the following invasive plants:

- Callery (Bradford) Pear
- Burning Bush
- Japanese Barberry
- Chinese Silvergrass
- Privet

Deadline to apply
AUGUST 1



Learn more and apply at:
tinyurl.com/swap2025



*This program is generously funded by
the Duke Energy Foundation.*





LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVES

PRESENTED BY:

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FRIDAY | APRIL 11 2025 | 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

JOS N. HOLMAN BRANCH OF THE
TIPPECANOE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
THE ALFRED J. AND DOROTHY N. MCALLISTER MEETING ROOM B
627 SOUTH STREET | LAFAYETTE, IN 47901

TOPICS AT THIS FREE EVENT WILL INCLUDE

WHY LANDSCAPE WITH NATIVES
INVASIVE LANDSCAPING PLANTS
SITE PREPARATION METHODS
PLANT SELECTION
PLANTING AND DESIGN TIPS
MAINTENANCE OF NATIVE LANDSCAPING
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SPACE IS LIMITED.
REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY!



tippecanoecountyswcd.org/landscaping-with-natives

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

ROBERT SUSELAND
soil.water@tippecanoe.in.gov
(765) 474-9992 ext. 3



Tippecanoe County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

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NRCS Update

By Sarah Vaughn, NRCS District Conservationist
sarah.vaughn@usda.gov | (765) 474-9992 ext. 3

Farmers and ranchers, and many homeowners, are making progress in natural resource protection. You can join their conservation tradition, right in your own backyard. There are nearly 2 billion acres of land in the conterminous United States. About 70 percent of that land is privately owned and its care is in the hands of those who live and work on it. Most of that land, 1.4 billion acres, is managed by farmers and ranchers. More than 92 million acres of land—an area the size of California—is privately developed and much of it is tended by homeowners. Farmers and ranchers use conservation plans to help them apply practices that meet their production objectives and protect soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. Backyard Conservation shows you how conservation practices that help conserve and improve natural resources on agricultural land across the country can be adapted for use around your home. Ten conservation practices have been scaled down for homeowners in the Backyard Conservation publication. These practices help the environment and can make your yard more attractive and enjoyable. Most backyard conservation practices are easy to use. America's farmers and ranchers have been using these practices successfully for decades. Whether you have rural acreage, a suburban yard, or a city lot, you can help protect the environment and add beauty and interest to your surroundings.

You may want to develop a plan for your own backyard to help you apply conservation measures that fit your needs. NRCS offers free technical assistance and conservation planning to landowners and agricultural producers. Contact your local District Conservationist, Sarah Vaughn, at sarah.vaughn@usda.gov to discuss your vision and schedule an appointment.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NATIVE PLANT FEST

NATIVE PLANTS ARE FOR THE BIRDS!

SATURDAY

MAY
10
2025

9:00 A.M.
TO
2:00 P.M.

ROSS CAMP
9225 W 75 S
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47906

NATIVE PLANT SALE

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

The native plant sale will be on going throughout the event. Supply is limited and there are no guarantees that plants will remain available. For a list of plants, please visit tippecanoecountyswcd.org/native-plant-sale.

GLOBAL BIG DAY BIRD HIKE

9:00 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.

May 10, 2025 is Global Big Day. Global Big Day is an annual birding event in mid-May, timed for peak spring migration in the Northern Hemisphere. Join us for this 45 minute hike where we will search for birds!

NATIVE PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE WITH JESSICA OUTCALT

10:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

Jessica Outcalt is the Natural Resources Training Specialist with Purdue Extension, in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, and is passionate about equipping conservation professionals to serve their communities well. She earned her PhD from Purdue University in 2020, studying migratory bird ecology. In the years since finishing her degree, she worked with The Nature Conservancy in Indiana and Purdue Extension in Grant and Cass Counties, focusing on helping landowners and backyard gardeners protect wildlife through programs such as Forestry for the Birds. She has been in her current role with Purdue FNR since 2024, and enjoys birding, gardening, and raising poultry in her spare time. Jessica will provide information and tools for landowners and gardeners to create wildlife habitat, whether their wild space is 100 acres or a single pot. She will discuss native plant selection, habitat needs for songbirds, and tips and tricks to enhance gardens for wildlife. The presentation will also provide education in introductory bird identification, so that you can identify all the birds that will benefit from your native plantings!

NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

West Lafayette AmeriCorps Park Allies Conservation Members will be leading nature-themed activities.

FORK TRUCK SERVING LUNCH

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Fork Truck will be serving lunch from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. See the menu below!

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME, HISTORY OF THE LYE CREEK PRAIRIE BURN WITH SHARI MCCOLLOUGH

11:15 A.M. - NOON

Shari McCollough proudly serves as the owner and caretaker of the Lye Creek Prairie Burn, located in northeastern Montgomery County. This remarkable 83-acre sanctuary is a haven for both migratory and nesting birds, offering a rich tapestry of wetlands and prairie grasses. It serves as an ideal stopover for weary travelers, where birds can forage, preen, bathe, and find much-needed respite before continuing their arduous journeys. Since its establishment in 2008, this thriving habitat has welcomed an impressive 237 documented species of birds. Among these winged visitors, we've had some amazing rarities such as the Yellow Rail, Cinnamon Teal, and, most recently, two Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Each day at Lye Creek Prairie Burn unfolds like a captivating chapter in nature's story, where the beauty of flight and the symphony of singing birds create an unforgettable experience for all who venture there.

WILDFLOWER HIKE

12:30 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

Enjoy a 45 minute stroll in the woods in search of native spring wildflowers.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

ROBERT SUSELAND

soilwater@tippecanoe.in.gov

(765) 474-9992 ext. 3

 		
MAIN	SIDE	COMBO
SMASHBURGER \$8	MAC N CHEESE ★ \$5	BURGER/PATTY MELT
CONEY DOG \$5	POTATO SALAD ★ \$5	CHIPS + DRINK \$11
HOT DOG \$3	COLE SLAW ★ \$5	BURGER/PATTY MELT
PATTY MELT \$8	CHIPS \$1	★ SIDE + DRINK \$14
GRILLED CHEESE \$3		
SLOPPY JOE \$5		
	DRINKS MOUNTAIN DEW, SPRITE, PEPSI, DIET PEPSI, OR PEPPER, WATER	



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Soil Sampling for Small Farms

By Mike Smith, Conservation Ag Specialist

Together with our partners at Urban Soil Health, the district is offering soil samples for small farms and gardens. Soil sampling provides critical insights into managing fertility to deliver healthy vegetable crops and protect water quality.

Through Urban Soil Health, soil sampling is available to Indiana residents at no cost. Urban Soil Health and SWCD staff will also assist in interpreting results and in developing a fertility plan. For more information, contact mjsmith@tippecanoe.in.gov or tanvi-lad@iaswcd.org



Supervisor Spotlight: Mark Eastman



I grew up on a small grain and livestock farm in Allen County, Indiana. I attended Purdue University- West Lafayette. Graduated with a BS degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science, with a concentration in soils and land use. During school in summer I was a Project Leader/Group Living Aid for the Youth Conservation Corps for U.S. Forest Service/ Purdue University in the Hoosier National Forest (Branchville). After graduation, I was employed as a Soil Scientist for 3 years with IDNR in Lawrence and Jackson Counties; mapping, describing, and developing interpretations for local soil types using USDA standards.

After the accelerated soil survey program was completed in those 2 counties, I transitioned to a Soil Conservationist position with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service position in Jennings County. I was in a training position there for about 14 months, then took a District Conservationist position in Warrick County, assisting landowners with federal, state, and local conservation programs and support. I was there for about 3 years. I then took a District Conservationist position in Tippecanoe County, with the newly named Natural Resources Conservation Service, and was there for about 32 years, delivering the same type of assistance, including implementing a wide variety of conservation easement programs. During all of my professional career, major emphasis was placed on addressing resource concerns that dealt with the soil, water, air, plants, and animals in any given area, and at a variety of scales. It is best summarized by “helping people help the land”. I retired in early 2021, and still reside in Tippecanoe County. I am also President of the Tippecanoe County Extension Board and volunteer in a variety of local organizations.

BENEFICIAL INSECTS ON SMALL FARMS FIELD DAY

The Tippecanoe SWCD will host a field day where attendees will learn how and why to establish perennial insect habitat near vegetable farms and gardens.

Speakers will include:

- James Marulli, the host farm's owner/operator
- Laura Ingwell, Extension Specialist Entomology, Purdue University
- Robert Suseland, Habitat Specialist, Tippecanoe SWCD
- Tanvi Lad, Urban Soil Health Specialist, Urban Soil Health

June 10th from 9 to Noon,
in West Central
Tippecanoe County
(address will be shared
when registering)

To register contact:
mjsmith@tippecanoe.in.gov
765-474-9992 x4006



Equipment Loans and Rentals



Reservations for Truax drills, broadcast seeder, and many more tools can be made online. Visit tippecanoe-county-swcd.org for more information

Upcoming Events:

April 9 - SWCD Board Meeting

April 11 - Landscaping With Natives

May 9 & May 10 - Native Plant Sale

May 10 - Native Plant Fest

June 10 - Beneficial Insects on Small Farms Field Day

June 11 - SWCD Board Meeting

June 14 - Outdoor Explore!

July 9 - SWCD Board Meeting

July 12 - Riverfest

July 18 - 26 - 4-H Fair

August 1 - TICT Plant Swap Application Due



◆ Help us pull GARLIC MUSTARD!

From April 11th to May 11th, NICHES will host our 6th annual spring volunteer effort to improve native plant diversity in woodlands.

Every spring, the invasive plant garlic mustard emerges across our preserves in large numbers. If left unchecked, this weed can change soil chemistry, overtake the forest's understory, and diminish the beautiful display of native ephemeral wildflowers. With your help, the forest understory will be filled with a diverse mix of plants that provide food and shelter to abundant wildlife.

For this year's effort, we will be hosting 30 garlic mustard pulling shifts at local nature preserves within a 10-50 minute drive of Lafayette. This is our organization's single biggest annual volunteer push; if we can manage to fill every volunteer shift it will provide over a thousand volunteer hours during a critically important stewardship window. Please check out our shift dates/locations and sign-up.



All volunteers who register for 2 or more pulling shifts before the end of March will receive this years 'War of the Weeds' garlic mustard identification bandanna (design above)

**Please check out our
shift dates / locations
and sign-up at:**

*[nicheslandtrust.org/
war-of-the-weeds](https://nicheslandtrust.org/war-of-the-weeds)*