



Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District

2011 Annual Report

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to provide quality technical, educational, and informational resources for the community through leadership, service, and citizen involvement to foster natural resource conservation and environmental stewardship.

2011 SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Randy Geswein, Chairman

Gene Kroeschen, Vice Chairman

Josh Cox, Supervisor

Jim King, Supervisor

Roger Strasburger, Supervisor

Natalie Gilbert, Supervisor

2011 SWCD STAFF

Chris Remley, District Administrator

Megan Benage, Rural Conservationist

Robert Staton, Urban Conservation Technician

Dan Dunten, Urban Conservationist

2011 PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Mark Eastman, District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

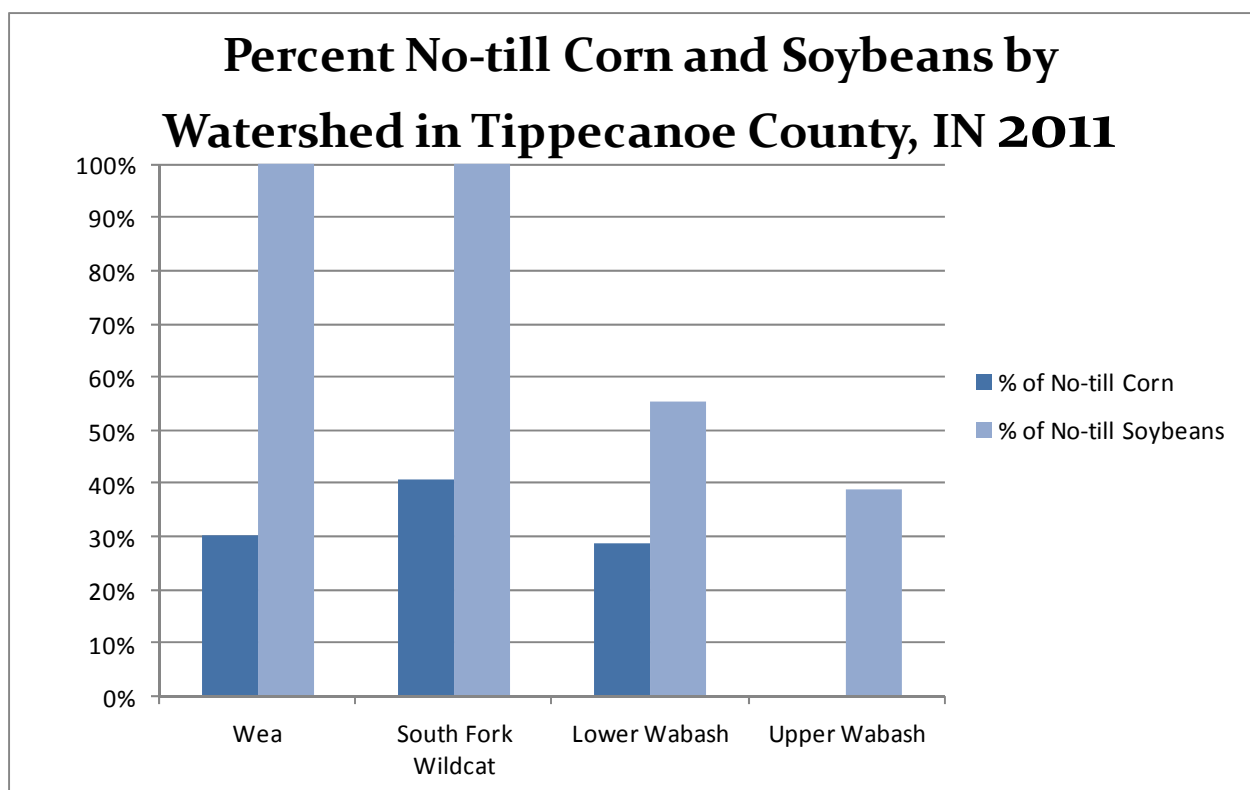
Sue Gerlach, Resource Specialist
ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation

STABLE SOILS & SOIL QUALITY

RESOURCE CONCERN — SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION:

GOAL 1: NO TILL PRACTICES SHALL BE INCREASED BY 2,500 ACRES IN THE UPPER WABASH AND WILDCAT CREEK WATERSHEDS BY 2014.

- Hosted a biannual no-till workshop in 2010 partnering with the Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Hosted no-till/cover crop breakfast February 2011 partnering with the Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Performed annual tillage transect 2010 & 2011
- The Greater Wabash River RC&D was awarded a 2.25 million dollar Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) grant in 2010 with \$905,203 spent on best management practices within the Wildcat Creek watershed in 2011
- Conducted site visits with landowners promoting conservation systems on an ongoing basis



To account for crop rotation as well as seasonal differences during planting seasons (wet vs. dry spring), an overall trend is being calculated through the end of our long-range plan.

Upper Wabash Watershed No-Till Acres: Corn Increased 1,459 from 2009

Upper Wabash Watershed No-Till Acres: Beans Increased 3,151 from 2009

Wildcat Creek Watershed No-Till Acres: Corn Increased 12,184 from 2009

Wildcat Creek Watershed No-Till Acres: Beans Increased 13,477 Acres from 2009

STABLE SOILS & SOIL QUALITY

RESOURCE CONCERN — NUTRIENT AND PESTICIDE APPLICATION:

GOAL 1: THE SWCD WILL EDUCATE 20 LANDOWNERS IN HIGH MANURE APPLICATION AREAS ON BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MANURE APPLICATION BY 2014.

- Educated 7 landowners on manure application through Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) in 2010 and 2011
- Partnering with various entities to identify water courses where pesticide and nutrient levels are high on an ongoing basis by using ArcGIS to create a comprehensive map of all practices that will aid in water quality improvements

GOAL 2: COVER CROPS SHALL BE INCREASED BY 2,500 ACRES IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY BY 2014.

- Installed 223 acres of cover crops in 2010
- Installed 1,456 acres of cover crops in 2011
- Hosted biannual cover crop workshop 2010 in partnership with the Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Hosted no-till/cover crop breakfast February 2011 in partnership with the Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Installed a cover crop demonstration area approximately one acre in size utilizing nine different species and two different planting methods in 2011
- Partnering with the Greater Wabash River RC&D (includes Tippecanoe, Howard, Tipton, Clinton and Carroll County SWCDs), received a USDA MRBI Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) grant that included cover crop as a best management practice for the Wildcat Creek watershed in 2010
- Created a contractors list August 2010 specific to cover crop seeding
- Currently developing inventory of acres utilizing cover crops in rotation. Including and defining highest nutrient loading areas.



RESOURCE CONCERN — STREAMBANK STABILIZATION:

GOAL 1: THE SWCD WILL INCREASE STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AWARENESS/EDUCATION THROUGH TEN PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES BY 2014.

- Improved working relationships with the County Drainage Board and city engineers through SWCD representation at County Drainage Board meetings and discussions relative to ditch banks in 2010
- Staffed a display at “Discover the Wildcat” event in 2011
- Developing a resource Homeowners Guide to advise individuals about streambank stabilization among other conservation best management practices

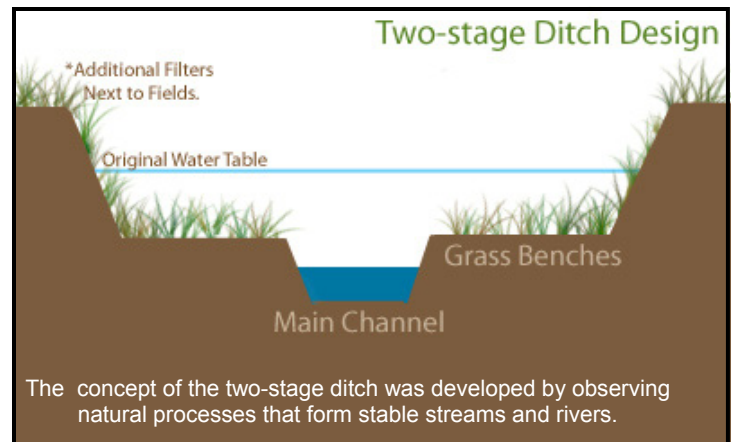
CLEAN STREAMS & WATER RESOURCES

RESOURCE CONCERN — NEED FOR BUFFERS AND WATERWAY PROTECTION:

GOAL 1: 125 ACRES OF BUFFERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE WEA CREEK AND WILDCAT CREEK WATERSHEDS BY 2014.

- Installed 88.5 acres of buffers in 2010
- Installed 21.5 acres of buffers in 2011
- Currently identifying & mapping areas using ArcGIS a for comprehensive inventory of conservation practices
- Encouraging buffer installation as part of a conservation system on an ongoing basis

GOAL 2: THE SWCD WILL EDUCATE 150 LANDOWNERS ABOUT THE BENEFITS AND INSTALLATION OF TWO-STAGE DITCHES BY 2014.



- Currently partnering with the Tippecanoe County Surveyor to install a two-stage ditch and to host a workshop on benefits of two-stage ditches

RESOURCE CONCERN — LAWN FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION:

GOAL 1: THE SWCD WILL PROVIDE 10 EDUCATIONAL AND/OR OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENTALLY WISE USE OF LAWN FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES BY 2014.

- Prepared and distributed a letter in 2010 to 15 retail garden centers specific to the sale and use of no/low phosphate lawn fertilizers



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ~ LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCE CONCERN — WILDLIFE HABITAT LOSS & FRAGMENTATION:

GOAL 1: THE SWCD WILL EDUCATE 750 LANDOWNERS ABOUT BENEFICIAL NATIVE PLANTS AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PLANTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT BY 2014.

- Educated approximately 800 landowners through workshops, group/civic presentations, and the 4-H Fair in 2010 and 2011
- Partnered with NICHES Land Trust to host two Natural Area Field Days in 2010 about the benefits of native plants and invasive plant control
- Co-Sponsored three Forest Management/Forest Biology Field Days in 2011
- Distributed information and 1400 tree saplings at Ag Days event in 2011
- Hosted/Participated in two Invasive Plant Workdays in 2011 ~ attendance of approximately 40

GOAL 2: 350 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT WILL BE INSTALLED IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY BY 2014.

- Installed 142 acres of upland and wetland wildlife habitat in 2010
- Installed 137 acres of upland and wetland wildlife habitat in 2011
- Received an USDA MRBI-CCPI grant funding in 2011 that included a native plant buffer component
- Continued Mid-Contract Management Research Plot in 2011
- Partnered with specific wildlife groups to install habitat to increase connectivity on an ongoing basis

RESOURCE CONCERN — STORMWATER RUNOFF:

GOAL 1: THE SWCD WILL WORK TO REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF BY FACILITATING PROGRAMS TO ESTABLISH 250 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES BY 2014.

- Worked with Lafayette & West Lafayette to establish a rain garden cost-share program in 2010
- Installed two rain garden demonstration sites at Regency Place and the Lilly Nature Center in 2010
- Conducted 12 rain garden and 13 rain barrel workshops for homeowners and businesses in 2010 & 2011
- Sold 119 rain barrels in 2010 & 2011 to encourage water conservation
- Staff hosted Master Naturalist classes for the Greater Wabash River RC&D in 2011
- Promoted and sold native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and sedges to encourage water absorption in the natural landscape in 2010 & 2011
- Reviewed submitted Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for Rule 5 compliance and provided recommendations in 2010 & 2011
- Improved working relationships with the County Drainage Board, Area Plan Commission, and city engineers through early involvement in proposed construction/development projects and SWCD representation at County Drainage Board meetings in 2010

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES Provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service TIPPECANOE COUNTY - FY 2011 10/01/10 - 09/30/11

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Access Road (560) (ft)	1250	0
Animal Mortality Facility (316) (no)	1	1
Brush Management (314) (ac)	123	33
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - Applied (103) (no)	1	1
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	53	87
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	5,212	3,119
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	1,378	1,456
Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)	2	10
Denitrifying Bioreactor (747) (ac)	1	0
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647) (ac)	4	1
Fence (382) (ft)	2275	2,275
Field Border (386) (ac)	6	2
Filter Strip (393) (ac)	6	2
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (ac)	3	71
Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)	65	132
Forest Stand Improvement (666) (ac)	18	2
Grade Stabilization Structure (410) (no)	3	5
Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)	35	53
Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (ac)	1	1
Hedgerow Planting (422) (ft)	123	560
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595) (ac)	904	757
Lined Waterway or Outlet (468) (ft)	226	120
Mulching (484) (ac)	15	6
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	1,184	702
Pipeline (516) (ft)	200	203
Pond (378) (no)	1	0
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	25	25
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) (ac)	1,777	1,711
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329) (ac)	3,783	2,282
Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643) (ac)	0	2
Subsurface Drain (606) (ft)	5,274	7,695
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	30	5
Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) (ac)	0	108
Underground Outlet (620) (ft)	60	45
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	137	87
Waste Facility Closure (360) (no)	1	1
Waste Recycling (633) (ac)	0	224
Wetland Enhancement (659) (ac)	0	2
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	89	143
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)	17	22
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) (ft)	383	216

FINANCIAL

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Balance Brought Forward	\$ 18,174.94	\$ 18,174.94
RECEIPTS		
State for District Operations	10,000.00	
Clean Water Indiana Grant	5,500.00	
County for District Operations	15,000.00	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts		30,500.00
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	6,568.00	
Donations & Memberships	5.00	
Other Charges for Services - NPDES Phase II	497.31	
Total Charges for Services		7,070.31
Interest from Checking, CDs, Savings, Etc.	0.00	
Reimbursements & Refunds	1,093.67	
Sales Income	42,876.76	
Sales Tax Collected & Finance Charges	1,505.24	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue		45,475.67
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	83,045.98	\$ 83,045.98
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	\$ 101,220.92	\$ 101,220.92
DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	547.94	547.94
Annual Meeting Expenses	1,054.79	
Audit Expense	244.00	
Clean Water Indiana Projects	4,645.12	
Conservation Education Programs	3,068.15	
Contractual Services	4,500.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	4,270.00	
Office Supplies	895.90	
Other Services & Charges	945.67	
Postage & Delivery Expenses	333.92	
Rent	3,047.46	
Repair Expenses	1,673.52	
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept. of Revenue	1,455.97	
Supplies for Resale	39,774.15	
Telephone or Other Utilities	1,213.04	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	1,700.65	
Other Disbursements - Awards	825.32	
Other Disbursements - Advertising & Marketing	612.75	
Other Disbursements - Insurance	1,683.00	
Other Disbursements - Training	394.00	
Total General Government Disbursements		\$ 72,337.41
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$ 72,885.35	\$ 72,885.35
Purchase of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	0.00	0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	\$ 72,885.35	\$ 72,885.35
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31	\$ 28,335.57	\$ 28,335.57
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY	Salaries + Fringe	Other
Totals Only	\$ 134,721.22	\$0.00

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2011

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Tippecanoe County Office Building in downtown Lafayette, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Randy Geswein. Participants were provided information on the meeting's agenda, and supervisor and staff introductions were made.

Following introductions, the business meeting was called to order. Geswein recommended that in the interest of time, the actual reading of the 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Report be foregone and requested a motion to accept both as presented. Said motion was made and seconded, carrying unanimously. At this time, the Election Committee was recognized along with nominee, Roger Strasburger, who was not in attendance. Dan Dunten, SWCD employee, serving on the Election Committee, then presided over the supervisor election calling for other nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed, carrying unanimously, and the election committee collected the ballots.

At this time, SWCD District Administrator, Chris Remley provided an update on the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan and a progress report of 2010 accomplishments.

Conservation awards were then presented, beginning with the 2010 River Friendly Farmer awards being presented to Roger Verhey and Lee & Scott Brand. The Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Carl Cox. Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award for 2010 was next presented to Chuck Shelby. Northern Indiana Citizens Helping Ecosystems Survive (NICHES) Land Trust received the Community Conservation award, and student, Chezni Knight, of Beacon Academy was presented with an Earth Team Volunteer award.

The election results were then announced, with Roger Strasburger being elected to serve a three-year term, expiring in 2014. Jerod Chew, of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil Conservation then came forward to assist with swearing in newly reappointed supervisor, Gene Kroeschen.

With no further business, a motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and lunch was served.

Meeting attendance – 82

Minutes recorded by Chris Remley.

AWARDS



Dean Craig is Tippecanoe County's 2011 Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Also selected as the Overall Winner of the State of Indiana !!!

This award is a lifetime achievement honor for individuals who have dedicated their farming careers to preserving and protecting Indiana's natural resources.

Dean Craig began farming after he graduated high-school in 1975. Dean never wanted to do anything different. He helped on the farm as a kid and was the youngest of 4 boys so he was left at home to help with the running of the farm while his brothers played football. Dean stated that he was lucky because he learned how to farm from his father, "Oh, he [my father] already won all of these awards before me." Because of this, the farm was in great shape when Dean took over. Nevertheless he stated in reference to conservation farming: "It just changes your whole attitude" the sediment retention and aesthetics of having the wildlife around make a huge difference [to him]. The Craig Farms have only improved over the years. Over 3000 acres are 100% no-till for corn and soybeans and over 850 acres have been improved or restored for wildlife habitat. Dean stated that the soil loss is at T levels and the soil may have improved over the years.. He credits this to his father's excellent stewardship. The biggest return on his conservation investments have little to do with money-the joy his family gets from watching all of the new wildlife on the farm are what Dean talks about most when you ask him a question about benefits. **We are proud to recognize Dean Craig as Tippecanoe County's and the State of Indiana's Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award winner!**

Roger Strasburger is Tippecanoe County's 2011 Conservation Farmer of the Year!

This award is given to one producer in the county who exhibits an outstanding dedication to conservation through consistent implementation of conservation practices.

Roger Strasburger and his wife, Laurel, have been farming since 1983, after graduating from Purdue University with a degree in Agriculture. His farm consists of 2,300 acres (1,300 acres of corn; 1,000 acres of soybeans), primarily in northwest Tippecanoe County, with other farms in Benton and White counties. He has been no-tilling soybeans since the early 1990s and no-tilling about 20% of his corn for the last five years. He has several acres in CRP, including filter strips and waterways. He is also pattern tiling some of my highly erodible ground to help with erosion and plan to implement cover crops in the near future.



The biggest change to his farm has been transitioning from moldboard plowing to the use of a chisel plow, and then converting to predominantly minimum-till or no-till. How did he do it? He used conservation program incentives, which required placing a farm into a continuous no-till cycle. He was then able to upgrade equipment on my planter to make no-till more successful. Now, we get to the good part: he has continued this practice even after incentives ended and he even expanded the amount of no-till in his entire operation. He didn't just stop there. The implementation of CRP waterways has made his farms easier to farm, as well as controlled erosion due to the removal of deep washes.

Thank you, Roger, for all you've done on your farms to show others that conservation doesn't have to be hard.

Congratulations, Roger, our 2011 Tippecanoe County Conservation Farmer of the Year!

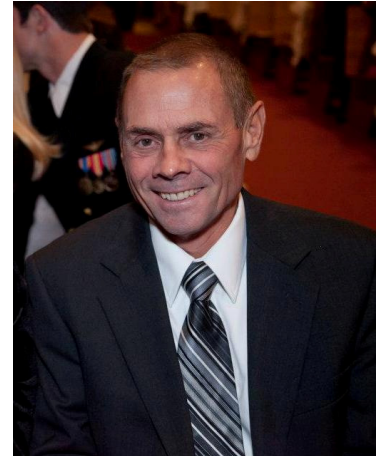
AWARDS

John Hack...our 2011 River Friendly Farmer!

The River Friendly Farmer (RFF) Program is designed to recognize farmers who protect and enhance Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams by using sound cropping and livestock management practices in their operations.

John Hack is in a partnership farming operation covering 310 Acres in both Tippecanoe and Fountain Counties. The operation is principally a corn-soybean rotation, with some pasture-land that is used for a 6 head feeder calf operation. The operation is 100% no-till. John has improved the quality of water through the installation of filterstrips, habitat buffers (he has one that has been in existence for 20 years and was installed without USDA assistance), grassed waterways (these are maintained annually with mowing to help improve flow and infiltration), and rock riprap terrace to slow water runoff on HEL ground. In addition, John has an excavating business where he does contract work on grassed waterways and other conservation practices. He is a widely respected contractor that is known for quality and efficient work. "I tell John all the time that this is great-I can always leave you to your work and know that I will end up with a quality product to review." - Sue Gerlach, ISDA, Resource Specialist

Thank you, John, for your efforts as a Tippecanoe County River Friendly Farmer!



Susan Ulrich

What a Friend of Conservation!



The Friend of Conservation award promotes & recognize conservation efforts by community or civic leaders, homeowners, businesses, volunteers, teachers, students, and student organizations.

Susan Ulrich does not just have one program or project that makes her worthy of this award-she has many. Every conservation event I have attended since I began working at the SWCD, has had one thing in common, Susan. She has made conservation a lifestyle instead of a past-time. She is a founding member of NICHES land trust, a local group that strives to restore habitats through the purchase of permanent easements and stewardship of multiple properties. She has served as stewardship chair and either organized or attended almost all work days to help remove invasive species, plant native plants, and harvest seed to aid in the establishment of new plantings. She is a member of the Sycamore Audubon Society, Master Gardeners, and INPAWS. Through these organizations, she has attended almost every major conservation event in our area including Wabash Riverfest, Home and Garden Expo, 4-H Fair, Discover the Wildcat, and Wednesdays in the Wild through the Tippecanoe County Parks Department. But wait...there's more!

All of these projects and efforts combined have led to a stand-alone organization, NICHES, that to date is protecting 2,469 acres of land; the improvement of the Wildcat Creek, Wea Creek, and Wabash River through native plantings and a concerted effort to eradicate invasive species from these fragile ecosystems; and the accessibility to a single person who has more knowledge about our native habitats than most scholars.

You're a real treasure, Susan, and we could use a lot more *friends* like you!



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*Monthly Business Meeting
Calendar 2012*

<i>January 18, 2012</i>	<i>July 11, 2012</i>
<i>February 8, 2012</i>	<i>August 8, 2012</i>
<i>March 14, 2012</i>	<i>September 12, 2012</i>
<i>April 11, 2012</i>	<i>October 10, 2012</i>
<i>May 9, 2012</i>	<i>November 14, 2012</i>
<i>June 13, 2012</i>	<i>December 12, 2012</i>

All business meetings are held at the USDA Service Center, are open to the public, and begin at 7:30 a.m. All programs and services of the SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, or handicap.