

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · WINTER 2024

CONSERVATION CORNER

Official Newsletter of the Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District

Amur Cork Tree Replacement

BY KRIS GERTZ

Replacing Invasive Amur Cork Trees with Natives at Battleground Golf Course

Thanks to the hard work of the Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District, DNR, Prophetstown State Park and the Battle Ground Golf Course, 19 female trees have been replaced with native trees. The park had already been actively treating invasive trees encroaching onto its land, and this project is a vital step in stopping the species from spreading throughout the county.



This issue:

Amur Cork Tree Replacement
PAGE 01

Annual Meeting
PAGE 02

2023 Plat Book
PAGE 02

Staff Highlight
PAGE 02

Farms of all sizes
PAGE 02

Supervisor Highlight
PAGE 03

Announcements,
Events, and Updates
PAGE 04

Invasive Insights

By Jordan Young

The winter season can be an ideal time to spot garlic mustard rosettes (shown on right). On the rare days with nice weather, I would recommend taking a walk in the woods to pull some out. Being proactive now gives you more time to enjoy spring ephemerals when they emerge rather than wading through bolted garlic mustard. Just make sure you get the roots!

For more information on invasives, check out the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) webpage: <https://tippecanoecountyswcd.org/tict-2>



Annual Meeting

BY KRIS GERTZ

Join Us for the Annual Meeting of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District! We would like to invite you to our annual meeting on February 21 at 9 am. You can enjoy a light breakfast before the event starts. This year's guest speaker is Dr. Marty Frisbee, an associate professor of hydrogeology and applied geology at Purdue University. Dr. Frisbee will discuss the impact of groundwater on agriculture and the environment. The event will be held at the John S. Wright Center at 1007 North 725 West in West Lafayette. There is no fee to attend this year, so make sure to come and join us!



Plat Books Now on Sale



\$25 tax included



Jordan Young

Meet Jordan, our Invasive Species Technician. Her passion for preserving native ecosystems is only matched by her love for destroying invasive plants. If she is not busy working, you can usually find her snuggled up with her dog, eating the unhealthiest of food and watching the stupidest of TV shows.



SHARE YOUR IDEAS
AND YOUR JOURNEY
TO IMPROVE SOIL AND
WATER HEALTH

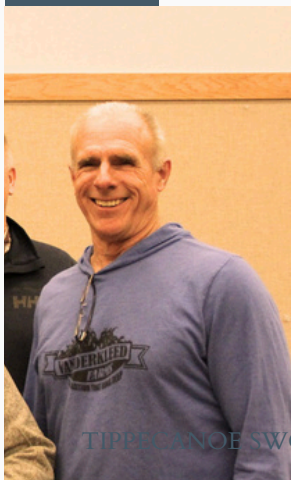
Conservation Farmer Network

The Tippecanoe SWCD will be hosting a networking and training course February through mid March. The Conservation Farmer Network is a network building and skill building program for farmers who want to exchange ideas about conservation and learn how they can encourage more farmers in their communities to adopt conservation practices.

The six-week program is designed to help farmers gain an expanded network of like-minded farmers and other professionals who can support their conservation journeys, skills that will help them educate and empower more farmers to adopt practices that will improve soil and water, and knowledge that can widen their perspectives on how farmers are part of the solution to soil and water resource challenges.

We are starting Conservation Farmer Networks in three regions within the Mississippi River Basin: southwest Wisconsin, western Indiana, and eastern Arkansas. Interested farmers can learn more and sign up at <http://conservationfarmernetwork.org/>.

Conservation Farmer Network is organized by a collaboration between the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Purdue University, and the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Curt Vanderkleed

Curt was elected to the SWCD Board in 2013. He farms in Union, Wayne, and Jackson townships in Tippecanoe County with his son Drew. He farms a variety of different soil types- from those needing subsurface drainage because they are too wet, to those that need irrigation because they tend to be too dry. Since his time on the Board, he has seen multiple SWCD personnel changes, had to deal with COVID protocols and Zoom meetings, and had to be Truax drill repairman several times. Curt has been a valuable leader and his philosophy on a multitude of trending topics will be missed. Since his supervisor term expires in 2024, he will be focusing on his family and becoming an even better steward of the land.



Native Plant Sale Launch

BY KRIS GERTZ

Annual Native Plant Sale: Save the Date!
Mark your calendars for February 1, 2024, when we will be launching our Annual Native Plant Sale. This year, we will be featuring both new species and our tried-and-true favorites. To ensure you don't miss out, please place your orders no later than May 1, 2024.
You can collect your plants from Ross Camp on Friday, May 17 or Saturday, May 18.
Don't forget to join us for Native Plant Fest on Saturday, where you can discover even more unique plant species. We'll have a variety of plants available at the festival, so be sure to stop by!

New Tool Loan Program



We offer a growing list of conservation tools and resources. You can find a full list of items and make reservations at the link below.

[View Conservation Resource Library](#)

Upcoming Events:

January 8, 2023
TICT Partner Meeting

January 17, 2023
SWCD Board Meeting

February 1, 2024
Native Plant Sale opens

February 6, 2023
Conservation Farmer Network series starts

February 21, 2024
SWCD Annual Meeting

March 13, 2023
SWCD Board Meeting

April 6, 2024
Landscaping for Wildlife

April 27, 2024
Garden Expo

Free Soil Sampling Opportunity

By Mike Smith

Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program to Reopen in January 2024.

Through the program, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, will provide free soil sampling and analysis along with lab recommendations for nutrient applications based on yield goals and soil test results. The program prioritizes fields that have not been sampled within the last 3 years.

[CLICK HERE for more information and to apply.](#)

