The Power of Conservation: A Living History

Celebrating 75 Years of Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts

January 11-13, 2015
Welcome to Indianapolis!

I am excited to welcome you to the 2015 annual conference of Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts for our “Diamond Jubilee” commemorating 75 years of Soil and Water Conservation in Indiana!

The “black blizzards” of the dust bowl era in the Great Plains of the United States spurred the nation to action with the creation of the Soil Conservation Service in 1935. However, to better get farmers involved, President Franklin Roosevelt appealed to every state governor to establish Soil Conservation Districts. He provided a model legislative act to help provide consistency which stressed local involvement and personal leadership by citizens in every county in the nation. The goal was to recruit local “Supervisors” to be both role models and leaders in enabling land users to institute measures to conserve the precious topsoil. This legacy would help future generations of Americans feed the nation and the world with an amazing level of productivity.

Indiana passed the Soil Conservation Districts act in 1937, and Vanderburgh became the very first District in 1940. New districts were formed over the years until the 92nd district was established in Tipton County in 1974.

Since 1944, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has been a partner with state, federal, and county agencies, advocating and publicizing programs including the accelerated soil survey program of 1974-1986, the Soil Resources Study Commission of 1983-1985 and subsequent “T by 2000” program of 1986-2000, Clean Water Indiana legislation starting in 1999, the Pathway to Water Quality starting in 1993, the creation of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in 2005, and the new emphasis on soil health.

In January of 2015, we will gather to commemorate the first 75 years of Soil and Water Conservation efforts in Indiana....but the best is yet to come, so plan to be a part of the celebration!

Jeff Meinders
IASWCD President
Conference Agenda

Sunday, January 11

2 pm
Registration

2:30 - 5 pm
Tours - TBA

3-5 pm
New Supervisor and New Staff Trainings

Monday, January 12

7 am
Registration

7:30 - 8:45 am
Continental Breakfast

8:00 am - 5 pm
Trade Show Exhibits Open

9:00 - 10:30 am
Opening Welcome Session
- Welcome & Updates
- “Celebrating the History of Soil and Water Conservation” with Bob Eddleman, retired NRCS; Jim Lake, retired ISDA; and Greg Biberdorf, IDNR

10:30 - 11 am
Break

11 am - 12 pm
Hands-on Training Sessions

General Information

Hotel Information
The 2015 Annual Conference will take place at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Pages 12-13 of this brochure include a map of the conference meeting room layout.

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
350 W. Maryland St.
Indianapolis, IN 46225
317.822.3500

Check-in and Amenities
- Check-in is 4 pm
- Check-out is 11 am
- Wireless internet is complimentary in the lobby and public areas.
- NEW - Internet access is available in your room for FREE

Registration Hours
Conference registration is located on the 2nd floor, at the west end of the building next to the elevator.

Sunday 2 pm - 5:30 pm
Monday 7 am - 7 pm
Tuesday 7 am - 3:30 pm

Reserve Your Room:

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Reserve Your Room:
Conservation Implementation

Cooperative Weed Management Areas
Hear updates from the various groups in Indiana working on invasive species control and learn about a program in the northern part of the state called the Stewardship Network. Speakers include: Lisa Brush, Stewardship Network; Troy Hinkle, Knox Co. SWCD; Bob Eddleman, and Harold Thompson.

Technical

Using Gypsum in Agriculture for Healthy Soils & Healthy Waters
This session will cover the use of gypsum for agriculture, including soil health advancement, phosphorus sequestration within the field, and as a much needed source of sulfate. Joe Nester of Nester Ag, LLC will present.

Capacity Building

How to Lead an Effective Board Meeting
Effective board meetings allow participants to contribute to the direction of the organization and give stakeholders a chance to see how the board functions as a team. In this session we will talk about techniques used to keep board meetings fun and effective. Matt Meersman, President of the Friends of the St. Joe River Association, will present.

Outreach & Education

Engaging Non-Operating Landowners in Conservation
Establishing contact with non-operator landowners is crucial in addressing conservation concerns, as over 50% of farmland in Indiana is rented. We’ll discuss outreach strategies, conservation addendums to leases, and other opportunities to work with this important group. Tony Bailey of NRCS will present.

12 pm - 2 pm
Awards Luncheon

2 pm - 2:30 pm
Break

2:30 pm -3:30 pm
Hands-on Training Sessions

Conservation Implementation
A Small Farmer & Conservation Partnership Success Story
Positive relationships between producers and agency staff can produce great benefits for livestock operations. Hear a success story and why one farmer says that technical assistance from NRCS, Extension and the SWCD helped him avoid making several mistakes in establishing new pastures and forages on his farm. Speakers include: NRCS Grazing Land Specialist Robert Zupancic and Redbud Llama Farm Owner Mike Hoopengardner.

Technical

Soil Health & Climate Change
Climate and weather affect agricultural production directly. An aspect of this which is often overlooked is the role that weather extremes have on the soil resource. Learn about improving soils as a method to offset the effect of climate change. Jerry Hatfield, director of the Midwest Climate Hub and the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, will present via Skype.

Capacity Building

Districts’ Role in Local Economic Development
With local and regional communities increasing their focus on quality of life opportunities to boost economic development, the time is
right for Districts to partner effectively with other local organizations to maximize conservation projects that impact local economies. Dan Wire, Executive Director of the Tri-State Watershed Alliance, will present.

**Outreach & Education**

**Youth Education Roundtable**
How can your district increase and improve your impact in local youth education? Come ready to share your district’s experiences and participate! Susan Schultz of NACD will lead this session.

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

**State House Tour**  
*limited to 30 participants*

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

**Break**

4 pm - 5 pm

**Hands-on Training Sessions**

**Conservation Implementation**

**Ohio Water Quality Trading Program**
Learn about Indiana’s (and the local SWCDs) involvement in the Ohio Water Quality Trading program, an innovative market-based approach to achieving water quality goals for nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen through programs that allow permitted emitters to purchase nutrient reductions from another source. Speakers include: Jessica Fox (via Skype) of the Electric Power Research Institute and Tara Wesseler of ISDA.

**Technical**

**Vertical Tillage & Soil Health**
Join Barry Fisher and Hans Kok in a roundtable discussion of vertical tillage and soil health.

Come prepared to share, learn, and discuss one of the hottest topics today!

**Capacity Building**

**Engaging Non-Conservation Farmers**
We will examine how we interact with farmers and producers who do not actively participate in conservation efforts. How do we work more effectively alongside conventional farmers? A representative of the American Farmland Trust will present.

**Outreach & Education**

**Working with Urban Farms**
Urban farms come in various shapes and sizes with different objectives. Urban residential gardens and backyards also play an important role in collective conservation efforts. Learn about effective outreach to urban farmers and residential gardeners, the resources that interest them, and the unique challenges and opportunities of urban agriculture. Speakers include: two Indianapolis conservation farmers, Maggie Goeglein Hanna and Joyce Moore, and Leslie White of Marion Co. SWCD/Fall Creek Watershed Partnership.

5 pm - 5:30 pm

**SWCD Resolutions Review and Legislative Breakfast Updates**

**Dinner on Own**

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

**Welcome Reception and 75th Anniversary Celebration**
Tuesday, January 13

Registration

7 am 2nd floor

Legislative Breakfast

7:30 - 8:45 am

Trade Show Exhibits Open

8:45 am - 2:30 pm

IASWCD Business Meeting

9:00 - 10:30 am

Hands-on Training Sessions

Conservation Implementation

Local Staff Role in the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP)

An overview of the ICP, accomplishments, collaboration of projects, and special initiatives. Learn how you can play a role at the local level and why you should be involved! Speakers include: Ben Lambeck, NRCS; Dan Perkins, Jasper Co. SWCD; Lisa Holscher, IASWCD; Laura Fribley, ISDA; Meg Leader, ISDA; Becky Fletcher, PWQ/NRCS; and Angela Brown, IDEM.

Capacity Building

Build a Better Newsletter Roundtable

Newsletters and social media can be tools for letting your community know about your District’s events and projects. Come prepared with examples of your past newsletters and/or social media to discuss what works, what doesn’t, and what you’d like to improve in your District’s communications. Moderators TBD.

Outreach and Education

Districts and CAFOs

Learn how your district can help CAFO owners keep conservation in mind, stay ahead of the regulatory curve, and work with environmental groups in the community. Speakers include: producer Leon Weaver, Martin Franke of LaGrange SWCD, Janet Bohney of Steuben County Lakes Council, and a representative of Indiana Farm Bureau.

10:30- 11 am

Break

11 am - 12 pm

Hands-on Training Sessions

Conservation Implementation

Costs & Benefits of Neonicotinoid-Treated Seed: Protecting Pollinators Versus Managing Pests?

Pollinator declines have been the focus of extensive research in recent years. One key stressor for pollinators are neonicotinoid insecticides, which are currently the most widely-used pesticides worldwide. This session will address the latest research on intersections between seed treatment neonicotinoids and pollinators. Dr. Krupke of Purdue University will present.
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Technical

**Integrating Soil Health with Specialty Crop Growers**

How do we get past all the “I can’t incorporate no-till, cover crops, or soil health because...“? Join a panel of speakers who will describe how soil health is being incorporated into the specialty crop sector. Speakers include: Katie Robertson, Pioneer and Steve Smith, Red Gold.

Capacity Building

**Role of NRCS District Conservationists with SWCDs**

In this session we will feature districts that are collaborating well with their NRCS District Conservationist on projects and events. Learn what they are doing and how they work together for success. Speakers include: Roger Kult and Jane Hardisty, NRCS; Shalyn Sargent, Knox SWCD; Kim Jolly, Ripley SWCD and Troy Hinkle, Knox SWCD.

Outreach & Education

**Working with Hobby & Small Acreage Farmers**

Small farms look and operate differently around the state, but they can all benefit from working with their local SWCD and other partners. Find out what assistance small farmers are interested in, what resources are available, and how best to reach them. Speakers include: Martin Frank, LaGrange SWCD; Michael O’Donnell, Purdue Extension - Delaware County and Jerod Chew, NRCS.

Extra Session

**Roundtable with State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)**

Come and discuss Clean Water Indiana funding, programs, grants, and any other SWCD issues with members of the SSCB.
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