

www.stormwaterelkco.org Vol. 42 No. 3 March 2017 www.elkcoswcd.org

Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

17746-B County Rd. 34 ~ Goshen, IN 46528 ~ Phone: 574-533-4383 ext. 3 james.hess@in.nacdnet.net

75th Annual Meeting Summary

The 75th annual meeting of the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held in the Martin room of the ECCC Building, on the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, in Goshen on Feb 28, 2017. Following dinner there was a short business meeting. Alex Wait, SWCD Vice Chairman, conducted the supervisor election. Dale Leer of Goshen, was re-elected to serve a three-year term and Dean Rink was reappointed to serve a threeyear term on the SWCD board. Elkhart County Commissioner Suzanne Weirick administered the Oath of Office to both Leer and Rink. Those who made an outstanding contribution to conservation in Elkhart County in 2016 were recognized. Jane Hardisty USDA-NRCS State Conservationist, spoke about the history of conservation and importance of protecting our land for future generations. The meeting was concluded by the SWCD giving away a decorated rain barrel to an affiliate member. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us and share in all of Elkhart County's accomplishments.

Conservation Award winners (from left) are Reed Farms, represented by George and Carolyn Reed, and Brent and Ashley Reed (Conservation Farmer of the Year); Nancy Brown (Conservation Educator of the Year); Martin and Penny Stroup (River Friendly Farmer); Jim and Peggy Garber (Friend of the SWCD); and Bob Pettit (Urban Conservationist of the Year). (photo courtesy of The Farmer's Exchange)





Youth Award winners were Justin Slabaugh, Fairfield soil judging; Grant Sanchez, Fairfield soil judging; Nick Bowser, Fairfield soil judging; Greta Yoder, Fairfield soil judging; Taylar McKinley, 4-H soil and water science award; Alison Robinson, 4-H forestry award; (back, from left) Andrea Diaz, poster contest; Andrew Bailey, 4-H recycling award; Vanessa Murillo-Cruz, poster contest; Abygale Royce, poster contest (annual report cover); and Noah Troup, poster contest (photo courtesy of The Farmer's Exchange)

Species	Price
American Arborvitae*	\$10.00
American Plum*	\$14.00
Chinkapin Oak*	\$14.00
Eastern White Pine*	\$12.00
Eastern Redbud*#	\$16.00
Nannyberry*	\$22.00
Norway Spruce	\$16.00
Red Maple*	\$16.00
Redtwig Dogwood#	\$14.00
River Birch*	\$22.00
Shagbark Hickory*	\$22.00
Speckled Alder*	\$14.00
Thornless Honeylocust*	\$16.00
Tulip Poplar*#	\$16.00
# Variety Pack - 2 each	\$20.00
* Native to Indiana	



For more information call the Elkhart County SWCD at: 574-533-4383, ext 3

Build-A-Barrel Workshop

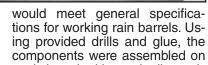
The Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District held its first ever rain barrel construction party, called appropriately enough the "Build-A-Barrel Workshop" on Saturday, January 14th, at the Sheep/ Swine arena in the Elkhart County fairgrounds.

Despite the name, some attendees were

surprised that this was really going to be hands-on, not just an informational meeting. The SWCD provided barrels (with a few extra pickles) and all necessary plumbing components to assemble them, with home owners supplying the elbow grease and the final design.

We limited the participants to 20 Elkhart County residents so that we would be able to complete all the barrels in a reasonable amount of time, and ended up with 21 barrels going out the door. Since this was the first time for this activity, we weren't sure how it would go. It ended up being very popular, so much that we had to turn down some aspiring builders.

After short presentations by the SWCD staff, our victims, er volunteers were off to build their barrels that



each barrel with much discussion, laughter, and some trial and error.

The new owners were then able to take their prizes home for decorating and installation. We look forward to the pictures of them once they have been placed under the downspouts.

Most barrels ended up being a collaborative effort, with a good time experienced by all that attended. The SWCD would like to do this activity again, so please watch Grass Roots or our website for the next opportunity.





Contact us **RAIN GARDEN AND** for details! RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP



WHEN

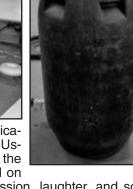
May 4th. 2017 WHERE 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Ox Bow Haus

TO REGISTER Or for more information Please call 574-533-4383 ext 3 or email Deb at debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net





If you live in Elkhart, Goshen, Bristol, or unincorporated areas of Elkhart County you may be eligible for reimbursement from the Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership up to \$250 for native rain garden plants and/or up to \$50 per rain barrel (maximum of two rain barrels per residence). Applications are available at stormwaterelkco.org



Make Your Soil Great Again – A Success

On Wednesday, March 1st about 150 area agriculturists attended our Make Your Soil Great Again cover crop meeting and tradeshow.

Opening remarks on the importance of conservation agriculture and the successes of Indiana farmers were made by our USDA-NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty.

Dave Brandt, a conservation farmer in central Ohio's Fairfield County, followed Jane with a keynote address. Dave discussed the cover crop options farmers have to implement on their farm, including cover crop species, ways to establish a cover crop, and management



practices in terminating the cover crop. He also stressed that before you start adding cover crops into your rotation, have a goal and then make a plan. If your goal is to promote organic matter with cover crops, you will choose different management options than if your goal is to break a plow layer or graze cattle.



During the breaks, attendees were able to have conversations with area agribusinesses, as well as enjoy a cup of ice cream from the ice cream machine.

To round out the day, there were three panel sessions – a cover crop establishment panel, a cover crop termination panel, and a panel explaining the programs offered by the SWCD, FSA, and NRCS to encourage implementation of conservation practices. The panels got everyone talking about cover crops!

Be sure to keep an eye out for our next event and thanks to everyone that made this meeting a success!



2017 NACD Poster Contest

The Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is excited to sponsor the 2017 Poster Contest themed:



The Elkhart County SWCD will be awarding prizes for each of the five age categories. SWCD Staff are available to visit classrooms to help students investigate questions about soil health as they complete their posters or to assist teachers in soil health lesson planning.

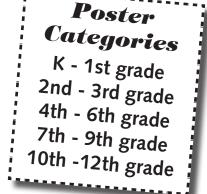
Call us with any questions at 574-533-4383 ext. 3!

Who Can Participate? All public, private and home-schooled students and classes in grades K-12 in Elkhart County

How to Enter:

Submit your poster (with label) to the Elkhart County SWCD office by 4:30 pm on May 5, 2017





SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

17746-B County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528-9261 Ph. 574-533-4383, ext. 3 • Fax: 855-408-4690 www.elkcoswcd.org www.stormwaterelkco.org

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All programs and services of the Conservation Partnership and the Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.