

Conservation Today For Tomorrow

Education Edition

Spring, 2008
Lafayette, Indiana

Tippecanoe Home of IDEA Educator of the Year for 2007



Don Emmert (far right) holds his plaque as he stands with other recognized Indiana District Employees Association award winners.

Four Soil and Water Conservation District staff were honored recently as District Employees of the Year for their outstanding service to landowners, the public at large, and the conservation community. The recognition took place at the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Conference. The Conservation Awards Banquet was held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown as part of the conference on Tuesday, January 15.

The 2007 Employee of the Year in the Educational category is Don Emmert of the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Selection of the 2007 District Employee of the Year recipients was based on service to the public, willingness to participate "above and beyond the call of duty," professional ethics, attitude towards responsibility, dedication to the principles of natural resource conservation, and measurable accomplishments. Letters of support and each District's last annual report also was requested and reviewed. The award is presented in four categories: Administrative/Secretarial, Educational, Technical, and

Multi-task. Each of the four recipients received an award from the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a plaque from the Indiana District Employees Association.

Don serves as the Water Quality Educator for the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality (TCPWQ) and the Tippecanoe SWCD. He takes the position very seriously and makes every effort to provide the necessary programs to fulfill Phase II education requirements and the goals of the SWCD Long Range Plan. He prepares an education budget and develops an annual plan of work designed to meet the requirements of both the partnership and SWCD. He works cooperatively with diverse individuals, groups, and organizations to address the natural resource conservation education needs of the community. Don has been with the SWCD for three years and looks forward to continuing education efforts with more members of the community in the future.

-Chris Remley, IDEA President

20% More Participants Bring Hazardous Products to Wildcat Creek Waste District in 2007

More people are taking time to bring their leftover oil based paint, thinner, gasoline, mercury thermometers, antifreeze, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, acids, pool chemicals, pesticides and poisons to Wildcat Creek Waste District than ever before. The materials are sent for fuel recovery, treatment, or incineration so they don't end up in our groundwater, wells or surface water. Residents and small businesses brought **over 80,000 pounds** last year, rather than dumping products on the ground, down a storm sewer or hiding it in the trash. If you or someone you know needs help with disposal of hazardous leftovers call **Wildcat Creek Waste District at 423-2858** to describe materials you have and to get directions on safe packing and to the facility on North 9th St. Hazardous waste is taken every Monday from 9am-6pm (including the noon hour) and during the week by appointment.

Examples of home and farm hazardous wastes: solvents, spot removers, ash from burned trash, pesticides, dry cleaning fluids, car batteries, oil based paint and varnish, used motor oil & filters, gasoline, lead based paint, shoe and leather polish, computers, stains and finishes, flea spray, furniture polish and wax paint stripper, photography chemicals, bleach, antifreeze, wood preservatives, bug spray, pool chemicals, turpentine, TVs, tires, mole bait, and NiCad batteries.

-Dawn Boston, Director, WCWD

Ravine Workshop Coming To Ivy Tech



As a valued landowner and taxpayer, the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality invites you to attend a workshop that could increase the value of your property and knowledge of the environment. You may live along a ravine or steep bank that is washing out during seasonal rains or heavy storms.

We are as concerned as you are about the property you are losing. Not only is your land being lost but the soils may be washing into a river system that is becoming more polluted with muddy water, thus choking out fish and disturbing wildlife in our beautiful county.

To assist the local landowner, like yourself, the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality is offering a free public “**Ravine Workshop**” to help you identify what is causing this problem and what you can do to help protect your land from being washed away.

Experts in the fields of forestry and soil and water will be on hand to give two presentations on the importance of saving

your land, don't let it fall out of sight. You will learn how to stabilize your land, what types of vegetation can be planted to slow erosion, alternatives to slow the water. You will learn how to stabilize your land, what types of vegetation can be planted to slow erosion, alternatives to slow the water from moving off your land, and many more ideas to save your soil.

Please consider attending the workshop on **Thursday, March 13, 2008** in the Main Auditorium at **Ivy Tech** from **6:30pm-8:30pm**. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and take home valuable information about conserving your land. For more information, please visit www.tippecanoesw.org or contact:

Don Emmert, Water Quality Educator, at (765) 474-9992, ext 3 or e-mail don.emmert@in.nacdn.net

Michelle Dillon (Markovich), Natural Resources Consultant, michellem@tbirddesign.com

SWCD Annual Meeting to be held March 20th – Join us for Breakfast!

The Tippecanoe County SWCD 68th Annual Meeting will be held **Thursday, March 20, 2008** in the **Beck Agricultural Center Building** at the Purdue Agronomy Center for Research and Education in rural West Lafayette.

Breakfast will be served beginning at **7:30 a.m.**, with omelets being made to order by the Indiana State Egg Board. Following breakfast will be the SWCD supervisor election and business meeting, including our Long Range Plan progress report and conservation awards.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there will be workshops available to both rural and urban audiences. The concurrent sessions will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. and will be focused on urban forestry and precision agriculture.

Immediately following the workshops, committee meetings (Urban Conservation and Rural Conservation) will be held and anyone interested in serving on a committee is welcome to participate.

There is no cost to attend, however, **reservations are required**. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact the SWCD office at 765-474-9992.

~ **Chris Remley, District Administrator**

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARDS!

Last year, for the first time in SWCD history, we presented conservation awards to our urban and suburban community. We would ask that you nominate a worthy individual for one of the two following awards:

The Urban Development Award is an award designed to promote and recognize conservation efforts by developers, **e n g i n e e r s , a r c h i t e c t s ,** landscapers, builders, general contractors, and specialty contractors. In addition, the Community Conservation Award was developed to promote and recognize

urban conservation efforts by community or civic leaders, homeowners, businesses, volunteers, teachers or educators, students, and student organizations.

Examples of criteria you may want to consider in your nomination include: creates a place for wildlife by providing water, food, and shelter; takes a special interest in soil, air and water conservation and/or preservation by volunteering his or her time in clean-ups, invasive pullings, stenciling, education, installs best management practices correctly,

submits pollution prevention plans with no or minor revisions regularly, or certified in pollution prevention or similar course.

Please submit written nominations to:

Steve Nelson, Tippecanoe SWCD, 1812 Troxel Drive, Suite C3, Lafayette, Indiana, 47909

or by e-mail to steve.nelson@in.nacdn.net before **March 10, 2008**.

Soil and Water Conservation Programs in the Classroom

Do you have a need for a soil and water conservation program in your curriculum this year? The District can alter programs to meet your specific grade level. Below are good examples of grade specific programs. Water is used everyday by everyone and learning how to respect and conserve it is a major priority of the Soil and Water Conservation District. With many opportunities for both indoor and outdoor hands-on activities, the District seeks your interest throughout the year. For a full listing of available programs including Soil Pizza, Wetland in a Pan, It's Raining Cats & Dogs, and more please visit our website. Here are a few of our most popular programs:

Kindergarten, First, Second Grade: WATER MATCH, FREDDIE THE FISH:

Students listen to a story while watching a demonstration about Freddie the Fish and his journey down the Wabash River. Students learn first hand what happens to the river when Freddie encounters water pollution. Students learn how their actions along with those of others affect water quality and ways they can help prevent water pollution.

Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth: INCREDIBLE JOURNEY:

Students become water molecules and simulate the movement of water within the water cycle. By rolling a cube, students visit places water can move throughout the Earth. Students will also identify the physical states of water as it moves through the water cycle. A beaded water cycle bracelet records each student's journey.

Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth Grade: SUM OF THE PARTS:

Students demonstrate how everyone contributes to the pollution of a river as it flows through a watershed. Through a hands-on activity, students will learn how to distinguish between point source and nonpoint source and recognize everyone contributes to and is responsible for the water quality of a river or lake.

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, HS Grade: ENVIROSCAPE:

Using the EnviroScape's Nonpoint Source Pollution Model, students learn about watersheds and water pollution. The three dimensional model landscape illustrates residential, recreational, agricultural, and industrial areas and how they represent possible sources of water pollution. Students see first hand how their actions and those of others may affect our water quality. The EnviroScape uses water in the demonstration so prepare to have fun.

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth Grade: H₂OLYMPICS:

Students compete in "Water Olympics" to investigate the properties of water. Students participate in three events by performing simple experiments that demonstrate adhesion and cohesion. Events include the pole vault, balance beam and backstroke. Students will be able to demonstrate the chemical bonding properties of water while also relating these properties to daily activities.

Ninth, Tenth Grade: BIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING:

Students are introduced to water quality by performing biological water monitoring. Students learn about various macroinvertebrates and how scientists use these aquatic insects to test our waterways. By examining and identifying these insects, students decide if the water quality is excellent, good, fair or poor.

Eleventh, Twelfth Grade: CHEMICAL WATER MONITORING:

Students are introduced to water quality by performing simple chemical water monitoring procedures. Students use the LaMotte Standard GREEN kits in order to perform chemical tests of a waterway. These chemical tests include dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, turbidity, phosphates, and nitrates. By examining the chemical test results, students decide if the water quality is excellent, good, fair, or poor.

ALL: STORM DRAIN MARKING AND STENCILING:

Students learn about nonpoint source pollution and watersheds by marking storm drains in their communities. This activity reminds the community not to dump waste into our storm drains, as it eventually drains to our waterways. Students use either round, plastic markers that are applied with glue or stencils that read "Dump No Waste, Drains to River" to paint this permanent reminder to the community. This is a great community service activity for afterschool clubs!

Contact Don Emmert, don.emmert@in.nacdn.net, for more information about having a presentation in your classroom. Please do not hesitate to e-mail or call the office if you have any questions about the available programs. I look forward to hearing from school teachers, home school teachers, scout troop leaders, after-school program directors, and more.



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 1812 Troxel Drive, Ste C3
 Lafayette, IN 47909
 phone 474-9992, ext. 3
www.tippecanoeswcd.org

**Workshop Specially for Middle School Educators
 Sponsored by Lilly Partners in Education**

Contemporary Issues for Educators: Climate Change and Water Conservation

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (lunch provided)
Location: Lilly Nature Center at the Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette

Summary: The morning topic is "Climate Change" which will be facilitated by researchers at Purdue University. Pilot climate change curriculum materials will be provided. The afternoon topic "Water Conservation" will be facilitated by Angie Tilton, Project WET Coordinator. The "Conserve Water" curriculum guide will be provided. Curricular materials are correlated to national science standards. Correlations to Indiana's science, math, social studies and language arts standards will be provided.

Cost: FREE! Lunch, snacks, curricular manuals and all classroom materials will be provided by Lilly Tippecanoe Labs. One hour of Purdue graduate credit is available if minimum enrollment of 6 is met. Cost paid by participant.

Registration: Space is limited. Register one of three easy ways:
 1) Call Mary Cutler at (765) 567-2993
 2) E-mail Pam Luenz at pmluenz@nlci.com
 3) Return the registration form below to: Mary Cutler, Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center, PO Box 213, Battle Ground, IN 47920

Tippecanoe County SWCD Board of Supervisors
 Roger Verhey, Chair
 Jim King
 Chuck Shelby
 Randy Geswein
 Gene Kroeschen

SWCD Office Staff
 Chris Remley (ext. 101)
 District Administrator
 Don Emmert (ext. 111)
 Water Quality Educator
 Steve Nelson (ext. 113)
 Urban Conservation Technician

NRCS Office Staff
 Mark Eastman
 District Conservationist

ISDA Staff
 Sue Gerlach (ext. 115)
 Resource Specialist

SWCD Committee Chairs
 Rural Conservation - Jim King
 Urban Conservation - Dave Kovich

Name: _____
 SchoolName: _____
 Grade Taught: _____
 School Address: _____
 School Phone: _____
 Home Address: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Purdue Graduate Credit: _____ Yes _____ No

**Workshop for K-12 Educators
 Energy: Sources, Alternatives, and Conservation**

Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (lunch provided)
Location: Lilly Nature Center at the Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette
 Registration is due by June 3, 2008. For more information please contact:

- 1) Call Mary Cutler at (765) 567-2993
- 2) E-mail Pam Luenz at pmluenz@nlci.com