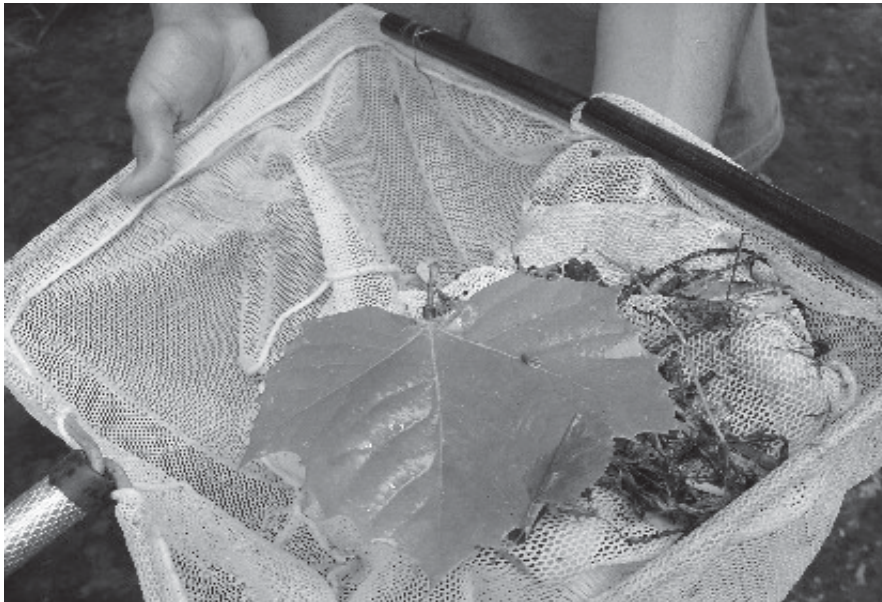


Education News

Volume 1
Number 1

Spring, 2005
Lafayette, Indiana

New Educator Seeks to Meet Goals in First Year



A student holds a D-net used to sample for macroinvertebrates. The District can loan classes and organizations biological and chemical monitoring equipment.

A New Approach to Education in the Schools

The Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District is taking a new approach to teach children in the county the importance of conservation. The Water Quality Educator, Don Emmert, has restructured the position to accommodate more target audiences during the school year while organizing his efforts to reduce the amount of overlap within the schools. Don has taken input from his education committee and Board of Supervisors to conduct the program so that specific grade levels are taught at certain time of the year. This reduces the amount of time spent preparing different programs for an array of age levels. Since he can concentrate on a set grade level, the time saved on organization and preparation can be used to further other programs. The Long Range Plan set forth by the

Board of Supervisors includes a goal for soil and water education to increase by 25% to the following audiences: youth, adult, local businesses/government, and industry by 2010. To meet these goals, the Water Quality Educator position was reassessed and changes were made. Don feels he can meet and exceed these numbers.

“In time, I feel this position will grow as the District addresses untapped resources in the county. Reaching out to people in the community and making the District available is essential to meeting our goals,” replies Don when asked about the Long Range Plan. Don’s first adjustment to the program was to streamline his efforts outside the classroom. After discussing the situation with principals and teachers in the county, he designed a plan that will allow programs to be taught to specific grade levels in corresponding months. The school year will begin in

A Message From the Chair.

SWCD Develops Priorities for 2005-2010

The next five years will prove to be a very exciting and productive time for the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District! In 2004, District Leadership and Staff spent a significant amount of time in determining key environmental issues for our county as well as developing a Strategic Plan to address these issues. The ultimate goal is to protect, preserve, and improve the quality of natural resources we have available to us. During 2005, the key areas of focus for the SWCD will be:

1. Increase the amount of riparian buffer strips along rivers and streams
2. Increase the use of conservation tillage on highly erosive soils
3. Provide a full-time staff member to provide technical assistance to urban developments
4. Increase the quantity and quality of environmental education for all age groups
5. Increase the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat

In order to efficiently address these areas of focus, 6 committees have been established. Each committee consists of SWCD Staff Members, District Supervisors, and concerned citizens, providing a diverse planning base. The committees are: **Rural Conservation, Urban Conservation, Education, Marketing, Finance, and Marketing.**

We look forward to the opportunities that 2005 will provide and invite you to join one of the committees that interest you.

-Jim King, SWCD Chair

Continued on Page 3...

Water Quality Educator 2005-06 School Year Agenda

Kindergarten, First Grade

FREDDIE THE FISH: (K-1) SEPTEMBER

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

Second, Third Grade

INCREDIBLE JOURNEY: (2-3) OCTOBER

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 through the water cycle.

Fourth Grade

SUM OF THE PARTS: (4) FEBRUARY

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 and nonpoint source pollution and recognize everyone contributes to and is responsible for water quality.

Fifth, Sixth Grade

ENVIROSCAPE: (5-6) MARCH

Using the Enviroscape 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 model can also be used to emphasize pollution prevention with a follow-up demonstration on best management practices.

Seventh, Eighth Grade

H₂OLYMPICS: (7-8) NOVEMBER

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 using simple household items. Students will be able to demonstrate cohesive and adhesive properties of water while also relating these properties to daily activities.

Ninth, Tenth Grade

Water Monitoring: (9-10) APRIL

BIOLOGICAL: 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, Twelveth

Water Monitoring: (11-12) MAY

CHEMICAL: 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.

Soil and Water Education



Don Emmert presenting information at the 2005 District Annual Meeting.

...Continued from Page 1

September and Don will focus on Kindergarten and first graders while bringing the program "Freddie the Fish" into the classroom. Students listen to a story while watching a demonstration about Freddie the Fish and his journey down the Wabash River. Students see first hand what happens to the river when Freddie encounters water pollution and learn how their actions along with those of others affect water quality. Upon a new month, Don will shift his focus to a new program and other grade levels. Please see page 2 for a full schedule of programs and when the SWCD can be scheduled for a demonstration in the classroom or outdoor event.

Conservation Buffers Protect the Environment and Improve Wildlife Habitat

Across Tippecanoe County, agricultural producers are doing their part to help reduce erosion, protect air and water quality, and improve habitat for fish and wildlife by installing conservation buffers on their farms.

Research has shown that filter strips and riparian buffers along streams will remove up to 90% or more of the sediment in storm water runoff. These same buffer practices also can remove well over half the nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers in runoff and large portions of certain pesticides and pathogens from animal manure.

Education Committee looking for assistance

The Tippecanoe SWCD Education Committee is meeting monthly to discuss soil and water education opportunities in the county. Lorraine Lund, chairperson, is excited to be on board and lead the meetings that are held at the District. There are many new faces to the committee and we are learning together on topics such as Phase II of the Clean Water Act and how it will affect landowners, what resources are currently available in the county concerning soil and water education, and where the committee can assist in educating the public. If you would like to attend a meeting, please contact Don Emmert, Water Quality Educator, (765) 474-9992, ext 111. Your input is appreciated.

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30am-4:30pm

Do you know where we are located?
 Near the intersection of 350 South and South 18th Street behind the Frozen Custard Igloo restaurant.

Detrash the Wabash
Come out to Myers Footbridge on May 21st starting at 9:00am to help the Banks of the Wabash watershed group beautify the river. Refreshments will be provided. Rain or shine. Join us!



The next time you are in the county and see a conservation buffer, say "thank you" to a farmer who obviously cares about clean water, soil conservation and healthy wildlife populations.

-Linda Eastman,
 Rural Conservation News

Thank You...

to the individuals who volunteer their time and effort to serve on a SWCD committee.

Rural Conservation Committee

Jim King, Chair

Linda Eastman, Staff Rep
 Mark Eastman
 Sue Gerlach
 Roger McClellan
 Chuck Shelby
 Evaro Krause
 Jerry Risk
 Jennifer Simons
 Lorraine Rund
 Joe Rund
 Tom Applegate
 Jack Lahrman
 Dean Zimmerman

Urban Conservation Committee

Dave Kovich, Chair

Sue Gerlach, Staff Rep
 Tom Osborn
 Krista Trout
 Tom Ziegler
 Pat Jarboe
 Opal Kuhl
 Steve Murray
 Steve Roy
 Sarah Baxter

Education Committee

Lorraine Rund, Chair

Don Emmert, Staff Rep
 Dawn Boston
 Roberta Crabtree
 Mary Cutler
 Sherry Fulk-Bringman
 Brent Ladd
 Karen Miller
 Mickey Penrod
 Dan Shepherdson

Marketing

KD Benson, Chair

Linda Eastman, Staff Rep
 Ernie Wilkinson
 Dan Dunten
 Karen Scanlon
 Jennifer McGarvey
 Jennifer Boss
 Bob McCormick

Finance Committee

Steve Roy, Chair

Chris Remley, Staff Rep
 David Byers
 Susan Ulrich
 Bernie Dahl
 Steve Qualkinbush
 Scott Rumble
 Bob Eddleman
 Phil Sterner
 Jan Myers

Personnel Committee

Roger Verhey, Chair

Chris Remley, Staff Rep
 Frank Cederquist
 Miriam Osborn
 Bryan Metzger
 Steve Qualkinbush
 Scott Rumble
 Dan Dunten



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Board of Supervisors**

Jim King, Chair
Roger McClellan
Dale Workman
Chuck Shelby
Roger Verhey

SWCD Office Staff

Chris Remley (ext. 101)
Office Administrator
Linda Eastman (ext. 110)
Environmental Coordinator
Don Emmert (ext. 111)
Water Quality Educator
Jennifer Boss (ext. 119)

NRCS Office Staff

Mark Eastman
District Conservationist

ISDA Staff

Sue Gerlach (ext. 115)
Resource Specialist
Waneta Lowe (ext. 112)
Administrative Assistant

SWCD Committee Chairs

Rural Conservation - Jim King
Urban Conservation - Dave Kovich
Education - Lorraine Rund
Personnel - Roger Verhey
Finance - Steve Roy
Marketing - KD Benson

To Better Serve You...

After reading the enclosed article from our chairperson, I'm sure you can see that the SWCD staff and conservation partnership employees have more than enough to do, and like all of you...not enough time to do it. In an effort to better serve you, we would like to provide you with information on how we are addressing a specific office concern, and ask for your cooperation.

Issue: The SWCD does not have an "official" receptionist on staff that greets the customer at the front desk and answers incoming phone calls. As a result, phone calls are answered by whichever staff member is available. Often the call is not specifically for the person answering, and requires that a message be taken and given to the correct individual. This can be time-consuming, and in an attempt to make the best use of our full-time staff, we are implementing a new system to address the issue of incoming phone calls.

Solution: All calls for NRCS staff should continue to be placed to the general extension (3). All others calls should be placed to specific staff members' direct extension numbers. If the individual is in their office, they will answer the call, eliminating the need for a message to be taken. If not, these calls, in addition to others placed to the general extension, will be forwarded to the answering machine for retrieval by part-time employees. The part-time employees are available in the afternoon to answer incoming calls to the general extension and will relay the answering machine messages to the appropriate staff members at that time.

We appreciate your patience as we attempt to address our staffing issues, and encourage you to contact our staff members directly. (Extension numbers are listed next to staff person's name.)

-Chris Remley
Office Administrator