



CONSERVATION FOCUS

Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.waynecountyswcd.org

December 2016

VOLUME XLIX ISSUE 3

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:

Eric Snyder, Chairman
Cathy Becker, Vice Chairwoman
Steve Hayes, Jr., Secretary
Pam Earlywine, Member
Scott McCarty, Member

OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Mindy Jordan
District Coordinator/Treasurer
(SWCD)

Raquel Baker,
District Technician (SWCD)

LuAnne Holeva,
Conservation Education Coordinator
(SWCD, SWMD, & City of Richmond
Sanitary District)

Zachary Lee,
Watershed Coordinator (SWCD)

Mike Birchler,
District Conservationist (NRCS)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 23 and 26, Holiday, Office Closed

Jan. 2, Holiday, Office Closed

Jan. 10, Board Mtg. 8:00 a.m.

Jan. 16, Holiday, Office Closed

Jan. 23-24, IASWCD Annual Conference, SWCD staff out of office

Feb. 6, Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 7, Board Mtg. 8:00 a.m.

Feb. 20, Holiday, Office Closed
March 9, Conservation Farming Workshop

March 15, East-Central Regional Envirothon

SWCD MISSION

Dedicated to assisting and educating our citizens in conservation management through proper use of the soil, water, and natural resources of Wayne County for all generations.

Wayne County SWCD's 69th Annual Meeting

The Wayne County SWCD invites you to come enjoy dinner and an evening of fellowship and fun at the 69th annual meeting. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017, at the Kuhlman Center, located on the Wayne County 4-H Fairgrounds. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a buffet-style dinner catered by Rihm's Catering of Cambridge City. Conservation award presentations and the election of supervisor will be held following the meal.



The Wayne County SWCD is excited to announce that local FFA chapters will be joining us as our speakers for the evening. FFA chapters from Hagerstown, Northeastern, and Western Wayne will present to us on their chapter activities, community involvements, and chapter highlights.

Tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 by mailing in the form on the back page or stopping by the district office Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 823 South Round Barn Road, Richmond, IN. Tickets can also be purchased from any of the following supervisors: Scott McCarty, Eric Snyder, Steve Hayes, Jr., Cathy Becker, or Pam Earlywine.



Local FFA members volunteer during Conservation Days

Election of Supervisor

The election of a District Supervisor for a three-year term will be conducted at the SWCD Annual Meeting, February 6th at the Kuhlman Center, located on the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Anyone attending the meeting who is of voting age and a resident of Wayne County may cast a vote for the supervisor of their choice. The Board of Supervisors is made up of two appointed and three elected individuals who are willing to help promote conservation through activities of the district. The term of Pam Earlywine, elected supervisor, is expiring. Pam has chosen to not run for a third term. On the ballot for elected supervisor will be Brad Bihl and Clark Jordan. Cathy Becker of Dalton Township has chosen to serve a third term as appointed supervisor. She will take the oath of supervisor at the annual meeting, along with the newly elected supervisor. Cathy is a realtor with Lingle Realty.

Candidate Brad Bihl has operated his family's 420 acre farm in New Garden township for the past four years. Conservation practices include no-till and cover crops. Brad is a graduate of Northeastern High School and has a degree in Forestry from Purdue University. He is a member of St. Andrews Church in Richmond, IN. He is married to Lisa Bihl, who works for an environmental consulting firm that does water quality work, among other things. They have two children, Aubrey, age seven, and Ethan, age six. When Brad can find spare time he enjoys wood working. He also volunteers his time at Conservation Days as a presenter at the Combine learning station.



Brad Bihl

Candidate Clark Jordan is a farmer in southeastern Wayne County. Clark is involved in his family's farm partnership producing farrow to finish hogs, along with 3,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat. Clark is a graduate of Richmond High School, and holds a B.S. in Ag Economics, as well as Associates degrees in Agronomy and Ag Systems Management, from Purdue University. Clark is the vice president of the Wayne County Farm Bureau and is also active with committees for the Ivy Tech Agriculture Department, Wayne County Foundation, and the Preble County Pork Festival. Clark is a graduate of the Indiana AgriInstitute's Ag Leadership program, and has had opportunities to lobby in Washington DC as well as travel to The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, and Liberia (Africa) through Farm Bureau and AgriInstitute functions. Clark is the son of Phil and Debbie Jordan of Boston, and is engaged to Mallory Chambers from Liberty. Clark would like to serve on the board if his experience can be of use to make things better in Wayne County.



Clark Jordan



A few scenes from Conservation Days 2016. Our wonderful volunteers make it all run smoothly, and we appreciate each and every one!

Introducing Mike Birchler, NRCS District Conservationist

I grew up on a dairy farm near a small town in Southern Illinois called Sparta. As a kid that farm was my kingdom. My cousins and I would spend our days in the woods or in the pasture having the time of our lives. I remember being about 8 or maybe 10 years old telling my cousins “when I grow up I want a job where I can play outside all day everyday”. Unfortunately little did I know no such job actually existed and the older I got the more I came to realize that. I worked on the farm for about 2 years after high school with my dad and then I decided to join the U.S. Army in February 2001. I figured since I liked spending so much time outdoors as a kid why not become a U.S. Army Infantryman. Needless to say I got what I wished for. Sometimes I remember being tired of being outside wishing I could go inside. I served 2 tours in Iraq and 1 tour in Afghanistan during the 7 years I spent in the U.S. Army. About 4 years after I was in the Army I met and married the love of my life while I was stationed in Germany. Shortly after being married we were sent to Fort Bragg, NC where I spent 2 years as an Airborne (parachute assault) Infantryman in the 82nd Airborne Division. After finishing my deployment to Afghanistan my wife and I decided to get out of the Army in April 2008. From there we went back home to Southern Illinois where we both attended college at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. Four years later we graduated. I received a B.S. in Forest Resource Management and my wife finished her B.S. in Education and later received a M.S. in Education there. My wife and I then decided we should go back to Germany and that I should apply to a M.S. program at the Technical University of Munich in Munich Germany. I was accepted that summer to the program and back to Germany we went that fall. We spent the next two years hanging out with and enjoying being near her family. I studied and she worked as a 5th grade teacher in the wonderful and historic city of Munich. After I received my M.S. in Sustainable Natural Resources Management from the university, the USDA Forest Service hired me. We then moved back to the U.S. and I spent the next two years working as a timber management specialist and the crew leader for a wildlife habitat management team in Jonesboro, IL while she taught in a local school. On December 9, 2015, we were blessed with our first child. I then decided to look for a promotion, so my wife could stay home and care for our daughter. That’s when I found the job advertisement with the NRCS for the DC position here in Richmond, IN, which I accepted about 2 months ago. We are very happy to be here in Richmond and I think I have finally found the perfect indoor/outdoor job that I wanted as a kid. Here I think my childhood dream of having a job where I can play outside all day everyday is about as close to being a reality as it can be. My new job as the DC here in Richmond is challenging and a perfect fit, I really like it and I like working with the folks in the Richmond Field Office. We also really enjoy living in Greenfield; the people are great there and have really made us feel at home. We look forward to having a long future here and to the spending time with the friends we have met and will meet in the future. To contact Mike, please call 765-966-0191 ext. 3 or michael.birchler@in.usda.gov.



Introducing Mindy Jordan, SWCD District Coordinator/Treasurer



Mindy and Gunner

Having called Wayne County home my whole life, I am excited to give back to this community through my new role here at the SWCD. I am bringing with me nine years of county service to the SWCD and I am excited for what the future will hold.

Ten years ago, David and I bought our "diamond in the rough" located in Centerville. Steadily over the years we have polished it and made that old house our home that we and our girls, Lauren & Maggie, have grown to love and have learned many of life's valuable lessons through.

To contact Mindy, please call the office at 765-966-0191 ext. 3, or email at mindyj@co.wayne.in.us.

Tox-A-Way Day

When people think about pollution they visualize a big oil spill off the coast of the United States or dangerous chemicals flowing down the river. These type of events are covered by the news because of the extreme impact it has in an area, but people are not aware that they might be having the same impact on the environment as one of these big environmental catastrophes, by dumping or accidentally spilling their Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) on their streets or backyards. Here is a list of possible HHWs that you might have in your house: solvents (paint thinners, wood finish, water seal, and paint), pesticides, cleaners, aerosol cans, car fluids, and batteries. All of these HHWs can cause harm to not only your local environment but also to the environment downstream.

There are many places where you can get rid of your HHWs. If you do not know how or where to get rid of an HHW use the internet as a resource. Used oil is one of the hardest things to get rid of. You can take your used oil to most automotive stores where they will recycle it and be used in many different ways. During our past Tox-A-Way Day paint was a popular item that people wanted to get rid of properly. You can safely get rid of paint by mixing cat litter into it and once it solidifies you will be able to safely dispose it into a trash can. Some people, like Richmond residents can get rid of HHWs for free by taking it to the New Paris Landfill. The SWCD and other organizations also hold Tox-A-Way Days to help landowners get rid of their HHWs for free.

In October, the Wayne County SWCD and other partners held a Tox-A-Way Day at the New Paris Pike Landfill. The purpose of this event is to limit the amount of pollutants being accidentally spilled or dumped in Wayne County or the Mississippi Watershed. In this event, we were able to collect 3 barrels of oil based material, 3 barrels of aerosol cans, 4 containers of unknown material, half a bucket of batteries, and half a truck load of oil. These potential pollutants are now being safely destroyed or recycled thanks to our partners and our volunteers.



Best Wishes to Dick, Zac, and Brett!



Dick Best, Wayne County Farm Service Agency's County Executive Director, is retiring after 30 years with the agency. Dick will certainly be missed, from his famous root beer floats, to being the general handyman and Mr. Fix-It of the office. The SWCD staff and supervisors would like to thank Dick for his assistance through the years- speaking at field days, serving on supervisor election committees, supporting the Conservation Tour and other SWCD activities. Dick was the SWCD's recipient for the Conservation Merit Award in 2014 for his dedication. We wish Dick all the best!



Brett Stewart resigned as the SWCD District Coordinator/ Treasurer in October to pursue other opportunities.



Zac Burgess, a junior at IU East, has been working as an intern at the office this fall as part of one of his class requirements. Zac has helped out in many areas of the office. Our watershed coordinator Zach Lee, had him out in the field helping with stream monitoring and marking storm drains. This fall Zac accompanied LuAnne to an Educators' Roundtable field trip to see the Dayton/Montgomery County SWMD Education Center and the Rumpke MRF (Material Recycling Facility) in Cincinnati. Zac has been a big help with Conservation Days, including much of the preparation work beforehand, helping with set up and stuffing the goodie bags, to working the lunch line as well. He has also had his share of office work, which is part of the job that we all do here in the office.

Zac is working toward his Biology degree and we wish him all the best in whatever field of biology he decides to pursue! Thanks Zac for doing such great work here in the office!

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Wayne County SWCD Annual Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2017

(Reservations Due by: Thursday, February 2, 2017)

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