

Conservation Connection



CCSWCD Annual Dinner Meeting– *YOU* are invited!

The public is invited to attend the Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation Districts' 55th Annual Dinner Meeting on **Tuesday, March 1, 2022 beginning at 6 PM.** The meeting will be held at Arborwood, 100 N. Park Road, Frankfort, IN and will include a complimentary catered dinner. The meeting will include a brief business

meeting, an election of supervisors, presentation of conservation awards and updates on the South Fork Wildcat Creek, Brown's Wonder – Sugar Creek and Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Initiatives.

The CCSWCD is pleased to announce that Cassie Hauswald, Freshwater Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy will be the guest speaker for the

evening. Her program is titled: "Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers." The history of people and mussels has left a mark on the health of our rivers; learn about positive choices for water that can keep the story of mussels in Indiana alive and well.

Reservations are required and space is limited. Please contact the CCSWCD at 765-659-1223 extension 3 or email clinton-swcd@iaswcd.org prior to February 23rd to register.

Sponsor Appreciation

Sponsor support provides valuable financial assistance to the Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District to fulfill its mission of providing services and educational programs to protect and enhance the natural resources of Clinton County.

If you or your business are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net. The CCSWCD would like to acknowledge our current sponsors for their ongoing support.



Inside this issue:

SFW/BWSC—Focus on Equipment Modifications	2
Clean Water IN - Focus on Soil Testing	2
Upper Sugar Creek Public Meeting	3
DNR Floodplain Information Portal	3
BWSC Stewardship Initiative	5
Tales from the Sugar Creek	6
Soil Health Demonstration Area at Fairgrounds	6

Special points of interest:

- *SWCD Annual Meeting and Election*
- *Upper Sugar Creek Public Mtg.*
- *SFW and BWSC Section 319 cost-share—focus on equipment modifications*
- *DNR, Division of Water Launches Floodplain Information Portal*
- *Sugar Creek Adventures—reflections of our time at the Sugar Creek*

Section 319 Programs—Focus on Equipment Modifications

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District have been awarded grant funds through the Section 319 Program of the Clean Water Act. Funds are designated to implement cost-share programs to provide funding for best management practices such as filter strips, blind inlets, cover crops, no-till conversion, forage and biomass, fencing, and much more. Unlike other cost-share programs, funds may be available to provide funding for the modification of equipment needed to implement these practices. While the funding amount varies by grant, an individual may be eligible to receive up to 60% of the total cost to modify their equipment.

Examples of equipment modifications that have been approved in the past include:

- ⇒ Auto Steer/Auto Trac
- ⇒ GPS systems and displays/monitors in conjunction with NM* & VRT**
- ⇒ Exact rate planter attachment
- ⇒ Soil probe and software – only in conjunction with VRT**
- ⇒ Cover Crop related modification such as seeder boxes or air seeder carts.

- ⇒ No-till drill modifications to improve planting with certain cover crop species
 - ⇒ No-till, Strip-Till, or Reduced-Till Equipment Modifications
 - ⇒ No-till; no-till coulters
 - ⇒ Row cleaners/upgrades
 - ⇒ Closing wheel upgrades
 - ⇒ Spiked Closing Wheel
- *Nutrient Management (NM)
**Variable Rate Technology (VRT)

This list does not contain all the possible equipment modifications that are eligible for funding through Section 319 grant programs. However, it does incorporate many of the types of practices that involved equipment modifications have funded or approved in the past. A portion of the cost difference between conventional tillage equipment traded in on no-till equipment may also be eligible. Eligibility for reimbursement is dependent on approval by IDEM and the Clinton County Board of Supervisors. **Be sure to note that reimbursement cannot be made to practices or equipment modifications purchased/completed prior to approval of submitted application.**

For more information, contact the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to schedule an appointment!

**Clinton County SWCD
860 S. Prairie Ave., Suite 1
Frankfort, IN 46041
leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net**

765-659-1223 Ext. 3

<https://www.clintonswcd.org/conservation-programs>



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 37907 and 58552 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Clean Water Indiana— funds available for soil testing and cover crops

The purpose of a Soil and Water Conservation District, or SWCD, is to provide information about soil, water, and related natural resources conservation; identify and prioritize **LOCAL** soil and water resource concerns; and connect landusers to sources of education, technical and financial assistance from local, state and federal sources to assist them in implementing conservation practice and technologies. Funding Assistance updates: **Clean Water Indiana:** limited funding available. Grant expires

12/2022. The cost-share program focuses on practices consistent with conservation cropping systems. In addition, cost-share funds are available

for soil testing/basic fertility to agricultural producers who have no previous history of soil testing. The fertility information will help the

producer to develop a plan for nutrient management using the 4R principles—right source, rate, time and place. This program was recently expanded to include specialty crop producers, small farm acreage, pasture and community gardens.



The Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project—Public Meeting



**Upper Sugar Creek
Public Meeting,
March 16**

Join us for light refreshments as we discuss the focus of this project and ways you can get involved with improving the quality of our watershed.

MARCH 16, 6 PM

Hoosier Heartland Success Center
1623 US-231, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Contact Us!
765-362-0405, ext. 3
klatzke@montgomerycoswcd.com

RSVP NOW: montgomerycoswcd.com/sugarcreek/

The Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project is underway, and we are looking for input and participation from ALL community members! Whether you live, work, farm or play in the Upper Sugar Creek drainage - we value and request your participation in our meeting on March 16th, at 6 PM at the Hoosier

Heartland Success Center at 1623 US-231, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. With over \$131,000 provided through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) section 319 grant, efforts are being made to protect and improve water quality in your community. Now is the perfect time to get involved and share your opinions and knowledge about Sugar Creek, its tributaries and the land that drains into the basin!

At this meeting, facilitated by Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse students you can expect to learn more about the project and our goals as well as the various ways to get involved. Whether you prefer to learn online or outside, there is an opportunity for every individual with all levels of time commitment to make their impact

on the Upper Sugar Creek Watershed project. From volunteering for stream clean-ups and water monitoring, to sitting in on an educational listening session - there is something for everyone.

We will be covering all of this and more at our first public meeting, on March 16th at 6 PM at the Hoosier Heartland Success Center at 1623 US-231, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Your RSVP is requested, at bit.ly/UpperSugarMarch16. For questions on the public meeting or other ways to get involved prior to the meeting, contact the Montgomery County SWCD..

Additional information about the project's progress and the upcoming public meeting can be found at <https://montgomerycoswcd.com/sugarcreek/>.

DNR, Division of Water Launches Indiana Floodplain Information Portal

A new Indiana Floodplain Information Portal (INFIP) is available that will save users valuable time.

INFIP is designed to show flood risk associated with Indiana water bodies and provide information specifically for local and state floodplain permitting. The information is based on the regulatory floodplain limits, as floods exceeding the regulatory floodplain can and do occur.

With this new tool, the user can download a Floodplain Analysis and Regulatory Assessment (FARA) directly from the app. The tool reduces FARA wait times from 30-60 days to a matter of minutes. The user also has an option to file for staff review of their site but should only do so if:

- the nearest stream's drainage area is greater than one square mile and there is no mapped floodway;
- there is not a mapped floodplain on



the nearest stream to the point of interest;

- there is no mapped floodway for the stream nearest the point of interest;
- or,

- the point of interest is in a floodplain of another stream, but the

stream nearest the point of interest does not have a mapped floodplain with a floodway of its own.

The new site is at infip.dnr.IN.gov

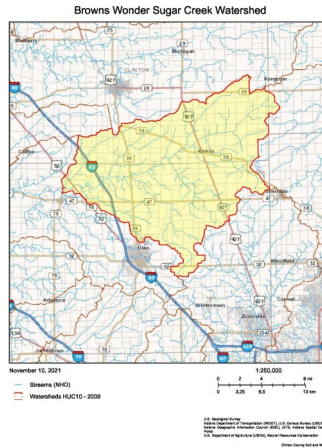
Investing in the Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek Watershed

The Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek Watershed Stewardship Initiative is helping landowners and operators to implement conservation practices in priority areas, as determined by the completed Watershed Management Plan, of the watershed.

What is a Watershed? It is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river or lake.

How Do Watersheds Work? The landscape is made up of many interconnected basins or watersheds. Within each watershed, all water runs to the lowest point—a stream, river, or lake. On its way, water travels over the surface and across farm fields, forest land, suburban lawns and city streets. Or it seeps into the soil and travels as groundwater. Large watersheds like the Wabash River, Ohio River or Mississippi River are made up of many smaller watersheds across several states.

Your Watershed Community—Everyone lives in a watershed and is part of the watershed community. The animals, birds and fish are also part of the watershed community. Members of the watershed



community influence what happens in the watershed, good or bad, by how the watershed community treats the natural resources—the soil, water, air, plants and animals. What happens in the smaller watershed also affects the larger watershed. For example tributaries in the Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek watershed flows to the Wabash River, then to the Ohio, then to the Mississippi and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico.

Why it Matters? Water quality monitoring completed as part of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) statewide Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment program indicate that 17 stream segments equating to approximately 75 miles of waterways in the BWSC watershed have been identified as not meeting one or more of its "designated uses". The primary purpose of the sampling effort is to identify which Indiana Waters meet state and federal water quality standards. These designated requirements have been established to protect recreational, human health and environmental benefits of the public. In response, stakeholders groups completed a baseline study to better understand the impairments which resulted in a Watershed Management Plan used to guide efforts for future implementation of conservation practices.

To learn more about the BWSC Stewardship Initiative and the cost-share program available to landowners for voluntary conservation efforts please visit www.clintonswcd.org.

The Sugar Creek Gang—Tracing Their Steps

Paul Hutchens is the author of the Sugar Creek Gang Books. His memories of childhood adventures around the fishing hole, the swimming hole, the island and the woods that surround Indiana's Sugar Creek near his Thorntown home inspired the beloved tales that he wrote.

Recently, Richard and Grace Moore shared that their son and daughter-in-law, Texas residents had been reading the tales of the Sugar Creek Gang to their children

and the Moore's grandchildren. They were surprised to learn that the books were based on a real place in Indiana. A place where their grandfather and grandmother lived!

This set into motion a visit to the Sugar Creek of the beloved books that they were reading.

They shared some memories of the day of exploration on the Sugar Creek with the CCSWCD staff so that what they

experienced could be shared with the community.

The Sugar Creek, its headwaters originating on the far eastside of the county is a precious resource past, present and future—and is deserving of the communities protection and restoration for future generations.

This is the second in a series of the families thoughts and insights from their adventure.....

Sugar Creek Experience by Richard Moore

This past April, our son and his family came to visit us from Texas. Their family had been reading the Sugar Creek Gang books by Paul Hutchens who was born in Sugar Creek Township, in Thorntown, Indiana in 1902. Paul lived there for 10 years and later wrote 36 books about what he had enjoyed while living in Boone County, around Sugar Creek. Of course, the books were called the Sugar Creek Gang books!

Eric, April Addie and Corrina wanted to

see the Sugar Creek. We did some research and found that the creek was close to us. Then we realized that the creek started quite close to where some friends live near Kirklintown, Indiana. We called the friends and Matt offered us a guided tour because he had grown up around Sugar Creek and was familiar with the area. We gladly accepted!

The first couple of places we stopped were where the county road crossed over Sugar Creek using just a large culvert

pipe (headwaters where the stream originates). The creek was clear and nice, but nothing to write a book about. Then we stopped by a field and walked back into a wooded area where an old hidden bridge actually crossed the creek. You could climb down the bank and wade in the water! Our granddaughters were delighted! This was more like what the characters in the stories did. The girls and their parents climbed down the banks immediately. Grandma and Grandpa (cont. on page 5)

Sugar Creek Experience cont.

couldn't quite accomplish that, so we watched through the slits along the edge of the bridge and leaned over the rails to watch and listen to the excited comments!

They walked a but upstream and downstream. The 7-year old commented on how clean the water was and about the soft sandy bottom. The two-year old just happily squealed. Mom and Dad related the creek to some of the stories in the books. We totally enjoyed ourselves and our surroundings!

Matt regaled us with stories about his childhood near the creek. He and his friends spent lots of time there as children and then teenagers. He talked about carving his initials in one of the trees, searching for caves, and generally, just enjoying the Sugar Creek area.

This was the best day that we have had in a long time. Natural beauty, history, and personal involvement.

My Day at Sugar Creek by Addie (7 years old)

We went to Sugar Creek, and it was really beautiful. I got to put my feet in the water because it was so clear, and it

didn't have any things in it because we could see the bottom of it. I really liked it. We got to go under the bridge. We got to get in the water. When we first got in, there was quicksand, and it was hard to get out of. The bridge we went on was an old bridge. There is a story called, "The Sugar Creek Gang," that talks about a bridge on top of Sugar Creek. It felt like we were in the books!



Interested in helping to promote the efforts of the Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek Stewardship Initiative? The CCSWCD has t-shirts and decals with the BWSC logo/Ours to Protect available to purchase. T-shirts are available in S-M-L size, color choice Lt. Blue, Navy Blue, Heather Blue or Dark Green and are \$10.00 each. Decals are \$1.00 ea. Contact the office to place your order and to arrange a pick-up time. Shipping is not available.



Demonstration Area To Promote Soil Health Practices

The CCSWCD recently completed a soil health/cover crop demonstration area at the Clinton County Fairgrounds.

The raised bed demonstration area and informational signage will provide a visual educational platform in which to educate crop producers, landowners, and others about the benefits of adopting a soil health system of practices and to be successful in their efforts to improve soil health and improve water quality.

We would like to recognize and thank the many partners involved in making this project a success.

Purdue Extension, South Fork Wildcat Stewardship Initiative, Browns-Wonder-Sugar Creek Stewardship Initiative, Ceres Solutions, Indiana Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Urban Soil Health Program, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Clinton Prairie Building Trades class, Clinton County Farm Bureau, Inc. Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative and the Clinton County Highway Department.



Thanks to Rick Campbell and the County Highway staff for assisting with placement of informational signage.



860 S. Prairie Ave., Suite 1
Frankfort, IN 46041

Supervisors

Clint Orr, Chairman
Dustin Johnson, V. Chairman
Jerry Batts
Matt Kelley
Ty Brown

Associate Supervisors

Richard Moore
Harold Marshall
Devin Bell
David Beard

Staff

Leah Harden, District Administrator, SWCD
Meghan Rose, Resource Conservation Specialist, SWCD
Katelyn Fagan, District Conservationist, USDA, NRCS
George Reger/Austin Green, Resource Specialist, ISDA

PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 48

Frankfort, IN 46041

Return Service Requested

www.clintonswcd.org

**Sign-up to receive e-newsletters! Or
check the website for latest updates!**

CCSWCD ANNUAL DINNER MEETING—PUBLIC INVITED!

PLEASE JOIN THE CLINTON COUNTY SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE 55TH
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING!

CELEBRATE THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF YOUR COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT!

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022
BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM
ARBORWOOD, 100 N. PARK RD., FRANKFORT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CASSIE HAUSWALD, FRESHWATER
ECOLOGIST, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

"Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers" - The history of
people and mussels has left a mark on the health of our
rivers; learn about positive choices for water that can keep
the story of mussels in Indiana alive and well.

There is no cost to attend, however space is
limited and reservations are **required**. Please RSVP prior
to February 23rd by calling 765659-1223 ext. 3 (leave a
message) or email leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net.



Equal opportunity employer and provider



The Clinton County SWCD and its partners are equal opportunity employers and providers.