

THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

ISSUE 40
QUARTER 1



@allen_swcd



@AllenSwcd

www.allenswcd.org

260.484.5848 ext. 3

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Watershed Project Manager

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Soil Conservationist

ISDA
Jennifer Thum
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Resource Specialist

ALLEN SWCD AND ITS PARTNERS PRESENT

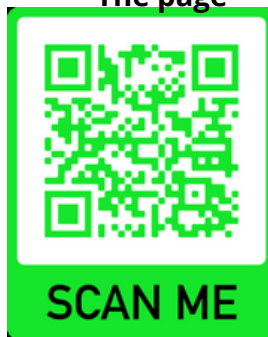
COFFEE AND...

THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Bring your morning beverage and join us virtually on the third Tuesday of every month to learn from experts on various agricultural topics. Scan the QR code in the bottom left corner to access to the Coffee and... page on the District's website.

The page



has information on future events such as each workshop's topic, speakers, and Zoom link. If you miss one of the webinars, don't worry, we're recording each one and posting it to the Coffee and... page.

If you have any question call the the Allen SWCD office at 260.484.5848 ext. 3 or visit the district webpage at allenswcd.org/coffee-and/

RIVER SUMMIT

The River Summit is a special event hosted virtually by Allen SWCD, Maumee Watershed Alliance, and Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS). The mission is to share the science of water quality, as well as the impacts and successes from Ag to Urban in the area. Experts in various fields will be presenting relevant information to all who attend. The virtual River Summit event is split into three parts, the first two events (February 17 and March 10) covering the state of the watershed while the final event (April 7) will discuss the challenges and successes. An in-person event is tentatively scheduled for September 2021. Contact our office for more information: 260-484-5848 ext. 3



partnerships for healthy rivers

Urban **AGRICULTURE**

The Allen Co. SWCD and its committed partners are working extensively under a Contribution Agreement with NRCS that focuses on urban and small farms in the Indiana portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). A small farm is considered a farm that produces less than \$250,000 of gross revenue annually.

The District has begun to offer community education through events and workshops like the Coffee and... Series and Live from Avilla. The project provides technical assistance and guidance to small and urban farms in the WLEB and community support for existing small farms and/or community gardens.

Subcommittee groups have been formed to execute smaller projects and begin to develop materials. The subcommittee on technical assistance is underway with discussion farmer to farmer mentoring and ways to reach small and urban farmers. The education committee is set to meet February 3rd.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to participate, please contact the Allen Co. SWCD office at 260-484-5848 ext. 3.

The District welcomes the input from small and urban farmers and their current needs. If interested, please contact us for a survey (electronically or via mail) to help focus our efforts. Our website offers the survey, meeting minutes, and all relevant information about the "Coffee and..." Series. Please go to: <https://allenswcd.org/urban-agriculture/>

AUGLAIZE-FLATROCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

We are in the process of selecting critical areas. Critical areas are defined as areas where watershed management plan implementation can remediate nonpoint source pollution sources in order to improve water quality.

Steering Committee members are processing research data to determine what areas of the Auglaize/Flatrock watershed should be identified as critical. They are considering land use, water quality, habitat, and flooding conditions to help them make their decisions.

This watershed management plan project ends in November 2021. For more information about this project, contact Sharon Partridge at: 260.484.5848 ext 8430.



EQUIPMENT RENTAL



**Contact our office to rent equipment:
260.484.5848 extension 3**

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Phillips Harrow: \$6/acre

Salford 522 Air Seeder: \$16/acre

Cover Crop Interseeder: \$6/acre + \$55/tach hr.

Great Plains Turbo Max with Valmar Seeder:

Implement only: \$11/acre; With tractor: \$16/acre

WHAT IS A PLAT BOOK?

A PLAT MAP, ALSO KNOWN AS A "PLAT," SHOWS YOU HOW A TRACT OF LAND IS DIVIDED INTO LOTS IN YOUR COUNTY. IT IS DRAWN TO SCALE AND RECORDS THE LAND'S SIZE, BOUNDARY LOCATIONS, NEARBY STREETS, FLOOD ZONES, AND ANY EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS OF WAY.

A PLAT BOOK IS A COLLECTION OF ALL OF THIS INFORMATION FOR A SPECIFIC COUNTY. OUR PLAT BOOKS COVER ALL OF ALLEN COUNTY.

You can also order online www.mapping.solutionsgis.com

Contact our office
to purchase the
just released 2021
Plat Book for \$25.

Don't let this opportunity swim away
ALLEN COUNTY SWCD & CLEAR
CREEK FISHERIES

**2021 FISH
SALES!**

Call our office for more details!
260.484.5858 extension 3

OUR NEW INTERNS

Luka Bowers

I am a senior at Leo High School. I'm looking for a career that deals with conservation of the environment, particularly forests and wildlife, which is why I decided to intern here. My father is an Eagle Scout so those values are very much instilled in me. I love all things math and science, and I believe I can be very valuable in those fields. I'm always on a quest for knowledge and understanding of the natural world. I'm usually very quiet, but always thinking about something deeper than what's at hand.

At school, I am the student director and the set builder of the drama department and a member of the math team. I work at Cracker Barrel on Maysville Rd on the weekends as a host. I take pride in working hard, and I get that from my father as well. I think I will excel in my career because of that.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the year looks like here, and so far, it has been a great start. I hope to learn a lot, and I'm going to try to absorb all the information I can.

Katelin Werling

I am a senior at Leo High School. I have always loved being outside, and have a passion for all things nature related. I spent most of my childhood playing outside, camping, or helping out on my grandpa's farm. All of those experiences helped spark my passion for the environment, and make me want to keep our Earth as beautiful as it always has been. It is important to me that we maintain a healthy environment, and develop more sustainable ways to live. I plan on continuing my education at Indiana University and majoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. I want to make a difference in the world and plan on pursuing a career in the environmental field.

I am very excited to have this internship opportunity so I can gain more experience in this field, and learn. I think that this experience will truly help prepare me for college, and give me a better understanding of my future career. I am looking forward to making new connections and furthering my knowledge of the environment! :)

Upcoming Events

SWCD Board Meetings:
February 24; 8am

Coffee and Erosion
February 16; 830-1030a

Event 1 of River Summit
February 17

Purdue Small Farms
Conference
March 4-6

Fort Wayne Farm Show
CANCELLED

Event 2 of River Summit
March 10

Coffee and Nutrient
Management
March 16; 830-1030a

Annual Meeting
March 17
VIRTUAL

Event 3 of River Summit
April 7

Live from Avilla
April 13; 9-10a

Coffee and Plant Science
April 20; 830-1030a

Coffee and Water Quality
May 18; 830-1030a

**All events pending the
current regulations related
to COVID-19. Contact our
office for updates.**

USGS-GLRI EDGE OF FIELD PROJECT

Currently, United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Allen SWCD work collaboratively to sample water in Harlan, Indiana. The systems are built on the land of cooperating landowners and farmers, at no cost to the farmer. This is funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant awarded to the USGS.

USGS hydrologists in Indiana are studying the Black Creek watershed in eastern Allen County, a tributary to the Maumee River and ultimately Lake Erie. The objective is to conduct intensive water quality sampling to monitor the effects of agricultural Best Management Practices in an effort to reduce nutrient and sediment loading into Lake Erie.

UPPER MAUMEE GLRI COST SHARE PROGRAM: MORE OPPORTUNITIES!

The Upper Maumee Implementation GLRI grant is now available to get cost share! If you have farm land in the Upper Maumee targeted watersheds of Black Creek, Marsh Ditch, Six-Mile Creek, Trier Ditch, and and **now the grant includes Bottern Ditch!** You may be eligible to participate. This grant is focused on implementing best management practices within the critical watersheds. This program provides a great opportunity to find small changes that could result in big improvements.

For More Information:

Contact us at: 260.484.5848 ext. 3



Soil Testing Near You!

Allen County SWCD

Free Soil Testing for small and urban farms on
Indiana side of the Western Lake Erie Basin*
260.484.5848 ext. 3



ISDA

Free Soil and Manure Testing for landowners on
Indiana side of the Western Lake Erie Basin*
Lindsey Bluhm: 260.210.2477



Purdue Extension

Low Cost Soil Sampling for landowners and
gardeners

<https://bit.ly/soilsamplesallen>



*Counties in the Western Lake Erie Basin include: Adams, Allen, Dekalb, Noble, Steuben, and Wells

UPDATES ON THE ANNUAL MEETING & GOING GREEN FOR AG

All Soil and Water Districts are required to hold an annual meeting, open to the public. Our annual meeting will be held virtually only, please see our website for the Zoom link. The meeting will be held March 17th from 8a to 9a.

The Going Green for Ag event is currently **postponed** until the event can be held in person and safely.



INDIANA
SMALL FARM
CONFERENCE

The Indiana Small Farm Conference is the premier annual event for Indiana's small- and diversified-farm community — helping them experience continuing education and enjoy farmer-to-farmer networking. The conference will be held from March 4-6, 2021; there will be live and on-demand content delivered virtually.

The conference will offer seven topic-areas: Advanced Livestock, Advanced Vegetable Production, Beginning Farmer, Farm Business & Marketing Plans, Regenerative Agriculture, Urban Agriculture, Youth Track: Careers in Agriculture / Small Farms

Keynote speakers:

Richard Perkins and Dan and Julie Perkins

For more information and to register:

purdue.ag/sfc



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY®

Extension

LIVE FROM AVILLA

WITH DEREK THOMPSON

Join us for a live farm event **April 13 from 9a-10a**
Learn about converting equipment to low/no till.

And ask an expert all of your questions.

For more information:

allenswcd.org :: 260.484.5848 ext. 3



STAY UP TO DATE:



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