

FALL 2024



Marshall County
soil and water conservation
DISTRICT

2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563
www.marshallcountyswcd.org
574-936-2024 x 3



STATE WIDE WEED WRANGLE!

Saturday October 12th will be a BIG day for Indiana parks and public spaces, over 30 Weed Wrangles will be held across the state. "Hoosiers Helping Habitat" events will be held locally at Potato Creek State Park and Rum Village Park, sponsored by our working group, SMIPP (St. Joseph/Marshall Invasive Plant Partnership.) from 10-12 p.m. EST at their nature centers!

CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

INVASIVES REMOVAL COST-SHARE

Last fall we announced that the District was awarded a CWI grant to help landowners with the cost of managing invasive plants in their woodlands. Monies are still available in this program and we are anxious to help you! Invasive plants are having a harmful affect on the health of the ecosystems in our state and actually, our entire country. Plants have been introduced accidentally by catching a ride with imported goods arriving by boat or air, or intentionally (yes, the state actually did that at one time, recommending non-

native Autumn Olive for wildlife cover!) Non-native invasive plants have also been introduced through gardening, such as Callery Pear and Burning Bush. Many are banned from sale now in our state, but sadly they are leaving a destructive legacy behind. By far the most damaging plants in our area are bush honeysuckle and oriental bittersweet. They can become so dense that it can be overwhelming for the average landowner to manage them. They are considered a serious resource concern, reducing the quality of our forest

products (timber) and our wildlife habitat. Our grant can help with up to 20 acres of woodland acres. It takes time and effort to help return our forests to a healthy state, but as responsible stewards of our lands, it's so important to make the effort! The application is on our website, or can be emailed to you. Just call us here at the office 574-936-2024 ext. 3 and we will explain how the grant works. It is a 75% cost share and follows NRCS guidelines. It's so very important to be good stewards of our lands, we hope we can help!



319 GRANT UPDATE

After nearly 3 years, the MC Headwaters Yellow River Watershed 319 Grant is almost complete! Streambank stabilization, filter strips, stone seawalls, equipment modifications and other important practices improved conservation on over 11,400 acres! There are still a few educational events in the works for this fall. On November 14 at 6:00 pm, an agricultural irrigation workshop will be held at the Marshall County Extension office. A pond workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 8th, and one on lake water-quality and citizen action is under development for the end of October. Stay tuned for details!

USDA and the Marshall County SWCD prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

ANOTHER YEAR FOR COST SHARE

Due to an increase in Clean Water Indiana funds, every conservation district in the state received additional funding for this past year and again for the coming year. In the past, the District's cost share for conservation practices such as no-till and strip-till, cover crops, and pollinator habitat have been covered specifically by a CWI grant. Putting "boots on the ground" conservation practices in place is the goal of all Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Funding these practices through the Districts is much less complicated and less of a commitment for a producer in that there are no long term contracts and strict requirements to deal with like there is with federal programs such as EQIP. This gives a producer the opportunity to see how these practices would work on his ground, how they can affect soil and crop health and ultimately how these practices can affect the bottom line of the operation. We will be able to accept a limited number of applications for cost share for 2025. If you or someone you know is a hard-working farmer that is looking to try conservation practices, please reach out to our office for more information!

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Conservation: the careful maintaining and protection of something valuable especially in its natural or original state

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2903 Gary Drive

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PLANT THIS, NOT THAT!!!

Since FALL IS FOR PLANTING, we want to help you decide what to purchase to replace an invasive plant you may have in your landscape! Hopefully most of you know that Burning Bush is causing SO much trouble in our woodlands but there are GREAT alterNatives to replace them! Honestly, the only thing that Burning Bush does in our landscaping is turn bright red in the fall, so this plant will do so much more. 'Autumn Magic' Black Chokeberry lives up to its name, adding that burst of color during the fall, but it will also lend some beauty to early summer with white blooms, followed by fruit that is beneficial for wild-life! This one gets 4-6' tall and wide, but there is a new compact cultivar called 'Low Scape' that will only grow to 2' tall and would be great for a smaller space. Consider replacing that invasive Burning Bush with a native Black Chokeberry, the birds and the bees will thank you!



'Autumn Magic' Black Chokeberry