

# CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
MARSHALL COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
2903 GARY DRIVE PLYMOUTH IN 46563  
574-936-2024 X 3



October 2018

[www.marshallcountyswcd.org](http://www.marshallcountyswcd.org)

Fall

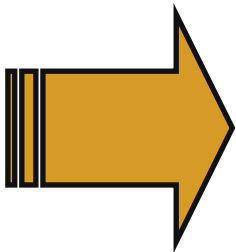
## What Goes Down Comes Back Around

*Maintain Your Septic System  
For your health and the health of your community!*

If you are like most homeowners, you probably never give much thought to what happens when waste goes down your drain. But if you rely on a septic system to treat and dispose of your household wastewater, what you don't know CAN hurt you!

Proper operation and maintenance of your septic system can have a significant impact on how well it works and how long it lasts. With proper maintenance, you could save yourself thousands of dollars.

When a septic system fails, inadequately treated domestic waste can reach the groundwater. Bacteria and viruses from human waste can cause a variety of illnesses. Nitrates and phosphates can cause excessive algae growth in lakes and streams. In addition, a failing septic system can lead to unpleasant odors and soggy lawns.



Take a Septic Pledge at  
[Indiana.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org](http://Indiana.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org)

### Marshall County SWCD recognizes the impact of septic systems on water quality in our community.

In partnership with Marshall County Health Department, we are offering a 50% Cost Share (up to \$200) to Marshall County residents for installation of an Effluent Filter on your septic tank.

Please contact a licensed contractor for this installation and present your invoice at the SWCD office for reimbursement. This is on a first come, first serve basis and once the funds are depleted, the program will end.

For more information, contact the SWCD office.

### How Do I Help Maintain My System?

- Protect it and Inspect It
- Think at the Sink
- Don't Overload the Commode
- Don't Strain Your Drain
- Shield Your Field

For more information visit [www.epa.gov/septicmart](http://www.epa.gov/septicmart)

### Do YOU Want a Seat at the Table?

*Because each Conservation District develops its own programs to suit the needs of the people in its county, local citizens play an important role. Marshall County SWCD wants to make sure we are including everyone interested in working together for natural resource conservation and development. If you would like to have a say in local conservation programming, please contact the SWCD office. **We want to hear from you.***



**GO GREEN!**

By scanning the QR code to the left with your smart phone you can send us an email letting us know you would like to help us save money on printing costs and postage by receiving your newsletter via email.

# River Rafting



Arrow Head Country RC&D Education Committee completed another successful year of river rafting. For 6 days in September the Education Committee, made up of District employees from 10 counties, takes to the Tippecanoe River to teach high school students about water quality. Different schools attend each day bringing between 80 and 100 students. This is a huge task that requires about 30 adult volunteers each day and the cooperation of multiple agencies. Marshall County SWCD is proud to serve on this committee. *We are always accepting adult volunteers!*

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# Did You Know.....?



During autumn, as air temperature drops, the upper layer of a lake's water cools until it approaches the same temperature as the bottom water layer. As a result, a difference in water density between the two layers no longer exists, as cold water is denser than warm water. When wind blows across the surface of the lake, water near the surface begins to move with the wind direction. Water will also run up against a lake's shoreline, be forced downward, and begin flowing back along the bottom of the lake. Eventually, this water will run up against the shoreline on the other side of the lake and get forced to the lake surface to complete the cycle, resulting in an underwater Ferris wheel of sorts.

This cycling of the lake from top to bottom and back again is called "fall turnover." And rather than carrying people, this Ferris wheel carries oxygen from the surface of the lake down to the bottom, where it has been lacking for months. This is great for fish and other organisms that live near the bottom of the lake which need oxygen to breathe. This turnover also cycles some substances from the bottom of the lake to the top. One of these substances is hydrogen sulfide gas, which has the distinctive aroma of rotten eggs. This hydrogen sulfide accumulates in the water on the lake bottom and is composed of bacteria while oxygen is absent; its fleeting smell may tip off lake residents that fall turnover has begun.

*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.*

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

**Marshall County SWCD**  
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