



Marshall County  
soil and water conservation  
DISTRICT

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



# CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

## A NEW CWI GRANT FOR 2024!

The District was awarded a Clean Water Indiana Grant for Invasive Plant Management in woodland areas in our county and we are excited to get started! Do you have any forested acres that are being overrun with invasive plants? We will be assisting landowners with 75% cost share to begin removal and management of damaging invasives and are taking applications for this program until May 15 for properties over 10 acres up to 20 acres. For properties less than 10 acres, applications will be taken up to and after that date and ranked according to date sub-

mitted. All applications will be assigned points based on requirements similar to those found on an application through NRCS for their EQIP program. Notification of award will be made and then upon acceptance of a contract, technical assistance will begin through the District Forester, the District Conservationist and the regional invasive plant specialist from the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM). Call the office for details 574-936-2024 ext. 3. We want to help you in the fight against invasive plants in your woodlands!



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.

SPRING 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EARTH DAY!!! April 20

We will be giving away **50 Free Trees for the Birds and the Bees** again this year for Earth Day! We will have 50 oak trees for homeowners to plant because oaks are a **KEYSTONE** plant for caterpillars that feed the young of our native bird populations in the spring. **Every** yard should have an oak tree and the MCSWCD wants to help that happen by participating in the Earth Day event at the Recycle Depot on Saturday April 20th from 8:00 am til noon. Come by and say hi and celebrate the Earth by planting a tree!

### LANDSCAPING W/ NATIVES!

Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday April 27th at the Marshall County Extension Office, 112 W. Jefferson Street. Jodie will be giving a presentation about how to use native plants in your home landscaping! **BEE there or BEE square!**

### SEED GIVE-AWAY!

As in past years, Marshall County SWCD will have free food plot and pollinator seed available, along with wildlife sunflowers. All will be available in gallon bags, 2 per customer. Distribution will be **April 13** starting at 8:00 a.m. at the north door of the office.

## SPRING WEED WRANGLE!

It's that time of year again, and our local invasive plant working group SMIPP (**St. Joseph Marshall County Invasive Plant Partnership**) is hosting another spring Weed Wrangle! We have held the event for three years at the Marshall County Memorial Forest but are moving to a new location that needs some help, the Greenways Trail in the Plymouth City Park. Wrangling weeds can be fun and educational, we urge you to join us for a few hours to learn why invasive plants cause so much damage to the local environment and wildlife and what you can do on your own properties to help. We will be at the Freyman Shelter on the north side of Plymouth's Centennial Park near the tennis courts on Saturday morning May 4th at 10:00 a.m. to begin our work (after having a donut and coffee, of course!) and then we'll venture out into the wooded area, looking for invasive plants and also learning about some of the beautiful native ephemerals, shrubs and trees that grow in that area. Wear long pants and boots, we'll have gloves and bug spray, and let's work together to clean up this beautiful city park! We hope to see you there!

### MARSHALL COUNTY SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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**Vice Chairman** - Joel Fisher

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**Troy Manges**

USDA NRCS

District Conservationist

**Jodie Overmyer** - District Coordinator

**Tim Kroeker** - Watershed Coordinator

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

### Marshall County SWCD

2903 Gary Drive

Plymouth IN 46563

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## 319 GRANT UPDATE

Interest in Marshall County's 319 Grant continues to grow as demand for the cost-share program has risen steadily over the past few months. Many conservation projects have been installed or are in the planning and engineering phases. Money is getting tight, but there may still be funds for additional projects. These projects include cover crops, stream bank stabilization, lakeshore erosion control, filter strips, native plantings, and equipment modifications for agricultural precision nutrient applications and conservation tillage. In addition, several free outreach and educational opportunities are being planned. The first is scheduled for April 27th and will be discussing landscaping with native plants. (see *Upcoming Events* on the front page). Other events in the planning phase include the following topics: Agricultural nutrient management, rain barrels and raingardens, and cover crops. Stay tuned for dates and times!

