



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109
Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3
www.jenningsswcd.org Email: info@jenningsswcd.org

3rd Quarter Edition Newsletter September 2017

Meet Kameron Garlitch

Kameron is a High School Senior at Jennings County High School, and he loves the outdoors! Kameron is currently interning with the SWCD and NRCS this year. The reason he chose to intern with us is because he wants a better understanding of what we do on a daily basis. He has recently joined the Pollinator Committee because he likes to see things happen and he has his own pollinator plots along the outsides of his deer and turkey food plots. Kameron is a 4 year member of the FFA and current President of that organization at JCHS. He loves to hunt, fish and farm. Just recently, Kameron won District and State awards for his wildlife management activities and projects. He is also a member of many wildlife management organizations. Kameron is the son of Gina & Robert Galyen, and Mike Garlitch. He has a twin brother, but he says they look nothing alike. Kameron will further his education after high school and will go to college somewhere close to study in the field of agriculture. We welcome Kameron to our team!



Women's Learning Circle

The first Women's Conservation Learning Circle was held on September 12 at the Willow Lake Event Center with 17 participants. This unique opportunity is provided for female landowners and farmers interested in learning more about conservation. The women only participants had peer-to-peer informal discussion about conservation and individual stewardship goals. The morning session consisted of participant introductions and what expectations they have for their operations. The participants discussed soil health, no-till farming, cover crops, wildlife, controlling invasive species and pollinators. A demonstration showing what good healthy soil can do versus a soil with poor health. After a catered meal, the group went to the field to see conservation in action. The group visited with the landowner, Jerry St. John, and saw his waterways and pollinator plantings. Andy Ertel, SWCD Executive Director was also onsite to explain the pollinator plantings, monarchs and their importance. Participants were able to see a monarch caterpillar feeding on a common milkweed.

One of the participants stated "I never cared about pollinators, but now I do and want to do things on my land for them!" The event was sponsored by the Jennings County SWCD, the Jennings County Community Foundation and the Jennings County Women's Giving Circle.



Local Business Helping Pollinators

Bob and Tina Ellis, Ellis Gas & Oil are very happy with their Share Some Space area as the first of many businesses that donated \$100 for a 1000 sq. ft. Native Flower plot. This first year planting was very successful and people slow down to view the bright looking flowers feeding bees and butterflies.



Ellis Gas, Pollinator Garden off of 4th St.



Kevin Morin, Pollinator Committee Member, prepares the seed bed.



District provides technical support for New Tripton Park

Just recently, the city of North Vernon purchased the old Fords Crossing golf course to have land adjacent to the city wastewater plant for future growth. It will also provide an area for the future solar panels the city will install. And there is a planning committee directed from the city council to look at creating a public park.

Investing in our Children

The Jennings Co SWCD, teams up with Farm Bureau and Extension Home Makers to provide all the Kindergarteners of Jennings County with their own book to read.

Members of the Extension Home Makers take the books to the schools and read to the children and then each child receives their own book to take home. "The children really love it," says Bob Steiner, SWCD board member, "especially getting their own book to keep."



"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss



District hosts a SHARE SOMS SPACE tour for the Shelby County SWCD & parks and rec department.

Nine people from Shelby County, IN, came down August 23, 2017, to learn about the Share Some Space project. They visited nine different pollinator sites, ranging from the city park, industrial plots to farm fields. They are looking at what they can do in their county and city parks to improve habitat for the pollinators.



Reminders from FSA

Producers with CRP that have Mid Contract Management scheduled for this year have until December 31, 2017 to complete. Please contact the office with any questions.

Did you seed new hay or pasture this year? Do you have Alfalfa? **November 15, 2017**, is the deadline to report any new seeding of hay or pasture for 2018 crop year. Alfalfa is required to be reported yearly. Let's avoid unnecessary late file fees. Make sure you have all hay and pasture fields reported timely.

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Would you like to have your business card featured here? Contact the SWCD office for more info.

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**YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY
CONSERVATION TEAM**

SWCD Staff

*Andy Ertel, Executive Director
Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant*

SWCD Supervisors

*Brad Ponsler, Chairman
Dan Megel, Vice-Chairman*

Jerry St. John

Matt Branham

Tom Schneider

Associate Supervisor

Don Biehle

Rob McGriff

Bob Steiner

NRCS STAFF

Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist

Calendar of Events

**Sept. 26, 2017 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Oct. 5, 2017—Wildlife Food Plot Field
Day 5:30pm @ Tom Schneiders**

**Oct. 24, 2017 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Nov. 28, 2017 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Check out our website for added events
www.jenningswcd.org**

***Jennings County Soil and Water
Conservation District***

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Phone (812) 346-3411 ext. 3

Fax (855)496-7857

Website www.jenningswcd.org

Email info@jenningswcd.org