



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

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4th Quarter Edition Newsletter March 2017

The “Share Some Space” Community Pollinator Project receives three Awards.

The 66th Annual meeting was full of spring like color and several awards of recognition. 115 people attended the meeting which involved a 2016 year-end review of district services, a pollinator project update, and an expert speaker about the life of different pollinators.

The “Friend of Conservation Award” was presented to the North Vernon Plain Dealer and Sun, under the leadership of Barb King, business owner. The

“Conservation Education Award” was presented to the Jennings County School Corporation, under the leadership of Amber Fields, business manager.

Then followed the USDA NRCS State Conservationist, Jane Hardisty, who presented three different awards

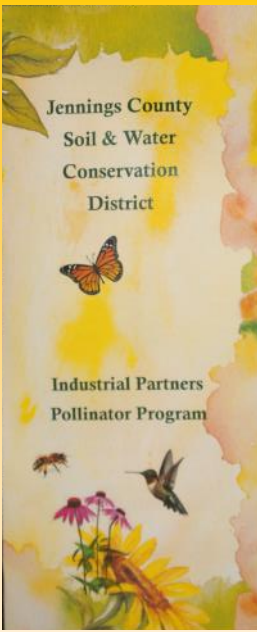
to the SWCD supervisors and the Jennings County Pollinator Committee for the SHARE SOME SPACE Project.

The first award was the *Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District’s Showcase Award*.

The second was the *Indiana NRCS State Earth Team Volunteer Award* for individuals and the third was the *NRCS National Earth Team Partnership Award*.

Dr. John Foster, of the Wessleman Nature Society in Evansville, IN, provided humor and education about pollinators, the process of pollination, and how significant the pollination industry is in America.





Local Business Owners find room to Share Some Space

Even though the area is only 1000 square feet there will be hundreds upon hundreds of different pollinators dining on those flowers from April until November. These local businesses gave a \$100 donation for a pollinator patch. The Pollinator Committee is going to spray the site, then prepare the seedbed and seed the site. A big thank you to Ellis Gas & Oil, Harmon Construction & Harmon Steel, Gasper Engineering, O'Mara Contractors, Lakeside Pizza and Decatur Mold.





Jennings County FFA Students

Built Blue Bird houses to be used at various pollinator areas throughout the county, such as Calli Nature Preserve, Eco Park, City Nature Park, etc.

The district is grateful for Brad Briggs, FFA Advisor and his students for helping in various ways throughout our Share Some Space project.



Cover Crop Seed sampling – By Matt Branham

Do you have an EQIP cover crop contract? Are you thinking about planting some of your own crop or some you purchased from your neighbor this fall, but not sure of the quality? The office of the Indiana State Chemist offers seed testing that meets the requirements to be used on EQUIP contracts. For \$10 they will test the germination purity & noxious weed content of your seed sample. There is a one page form that needs to be filled out and sent with the sample. Sample sizes range from one cup to one quart depending on the seed(s) to be tested. Results are usually returned by mail 2 -3 weeks after the lab receives the sample. The submission form and sample gathering instructions are online at https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/seed/pdf/seed_service_information_form.pdf Paper copies can also be picked up at the SWCD office.

Thanks to our Newsletter Sponsor



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YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM

SWCD Staff

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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

**Mar. 23, 2017 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Apr. 25, 2017 Board Meeting 7 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**May 23, 2017 Board Meeting 7 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

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