

# **Backyard Conservation Workshop on October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**The SWCD will be conducting a Backyard Conservation Workshop at Stream Cliff Herb Farm near Commiskey on October 1. The program will start at 9:30 AM and conclude with a lunch around noon.**

**Topics for the event include rain gardens, rain barrels and composting. Those attending will learn how rain gardens can be developed to manage runoff water and enhance the beauty of a yard. They will also learn about using rain barrels to store rain water which can be later used for watering plants and other uses. Composting will be discussed as a method to break down table scraps, leaves and lawn clippings to produce rich soil for plants.**

**The workshop will also feature information on the rain barrels and composters now being sold by the SWCD. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase these products at a special rate.**

**Cost for attending the workshop is \$10, which includes the lunch. Reservations can be made by calling the SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X3. Reservations will be limited to the first 50 people and should be paid in advance.**

**For information about Stream Cliff Herb Farm, check their web site at [www.streamclifffarm.com](http://www.streamclifffarm.com).**

## **SWCD is Selling Rain Barrels, Composters**

Collecting rain water for plants or gardens is easy with a rain barrel and the SWCD is selling high quality rain barrels made by Upcycle Products. In addition to the barrels, we will have all fittings needed to hook up the barrels under various conditions. These barrels are 55 gallon plastic that were previously used for food products. Examples of the barrels can be seen at the Upcycle web site, <http://www.upcycle-products.com>.

In addition, we will have tumbling composters made by the same company. These will be in two sizes, a regular 55 gallon size and a mini 5 gallon composter. These can also be seen on the Upcycle web site. We have a price list and more information available at [http://www.jenningswcd.org/rain\\_barrel\\_composter.pdf](http://www.jenningswcd.org/rain_barrel_composter.pdf).

We have some of these on display in our office, so stop in to see them and discuss pricing of these items. We will also be cooperating with the Jennings County Master Gardeners in the sale of these.

## **2010 Jennings County Plat Books Now Available**

We just received the 2010 version of the Jennings County Plat books. These books are the nicest ones we have had and include color aerial photos of each township in addition to the usual plat maps.

You can get these books at our office at 2600 N State Highway 7 just north of North Vernon or call us at 812-346-3411 X3 to arrange to have one mailed to you.

## **SWCD Cost-Share for Soil Sampling, Grid Sampling**

**The SWCD Board of Supervisors has decided to continue its cost share program for assisting farmers with soil sampling on crop or pasture land with an emphasis on grid sampling cropland. Those who are doing grid sampling for the first time are eligible to receive \$5.00 per acre, up to a maximum of \$750.00 per producer. For those who have done grid sampling in the past, cost-share of \$4.00 per acre is available with a maximum payment of \$500.00.**

**Farmers may bring in bills from fertilizer retailers and collect the cost-share. The SWCD has set aside \$10,000.00 for this cost-share program which began on May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Conventional soil samples for crop or pasture land will continue to be cost-shared at \$4.00 per sample. Bills from fertilizer vendors may be submitted or samples can be brought to the SWCD office for submission to A&L Great Lakes Lab.**

**For more information, call the SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X3.**

## **SWCD Cost-Share for Hay Testing**

**The value of hay for livestock feed is determined by its nutrient value. Whether you are feeding hay to your livestock, selling hay, or buying hay, it is important to know how much feed value is in your hay.**

**To encourage more testing, the SWCD will cost-share with farmers to have their hay tested. The testing will be done in cooperation with Schneider Feed and Seed of North Vernon. Tom Schneider, owner of the company, is providing testing of hay (wet or dry hay) and silage at his cost. The basic test costs \$13.75. To get reimbursed, farmers may bring their receipt from Schneider Feed and Seed to the SWCD office and get reimbursed in the amount of \$6.00 per sample. In order to help with the testing, Schneider will loan equipment to take samples from hay bales.**

**In the future, the SWCD will provide more information on ways to improve nutrient values of hay crops, but it all starts with testing to find out where you are now. For more information, call the SWCD office or Schneider Feed and Seed at 812-346-3760.**

# **Soil Testing Available Through SWCD**

**The Soil and Water Conservation District has made arrangements with A & L Great Lakes Lab at Fort Wayne to accept soil samples for nutrient testing. Landowners may bring samples to the SWCD office, where they will be forwarded to the lab. Test results and fertilizer recommendations will be sent back to the SWCD for review with landowners.**

**Soil nutrient recommendations are available for most crops, pasture and hay, lawn and garden and other uses. Test results are stored at the SWCD office and can be accessed later if more information is needed or cropping practices change on the tested fields.**

**For more information, contact the SWCD by calling 812-346-3411 X3.**

## **SWCD Equipment For Rent**

**The SWCD has a Great Plains model 1006NT drill which is available for rent. This drill is equipped to plant conventional seeds as well as native grass seeds and clover seeds. It is 10 feet wide and will rent for \$8.00 per acre with a minimum of \$75.00. This is the only drill which the SWCD will have available this year.**

**In addition, the SWCD has a Frontier Plotmaster which can be used for planting wildlife food plots. This machine is sold by John Deere and can be pulled by a small tractor or a heavy ATV. It is 4 ft. wide and will be transported using a trailer supplied by the SWCD. Rental fee for the Plotmaster is \$50.00 for a 24 hour period.**

**Also available is a Brillion seeder which does an excellent job of planting grasses and/or legumes in a prepared seedbed. This seeder is 10 ft. in width and rents for \$8 per acre.**

## **Controlling Kudzu in Jennings County**

If you have traveled in the southeastern United States, you have probably seen kudzu, a vining plant that overtops trees, utility poles, and anything else that gets in its way. This plant is not common in Indiana but there are areas where it grows and it is invasive because it will spread, especially in wooded areas. Jennings County is on the northernmost edge of the range for this plant and there are presently ten known places where it is growing in the county.

In addition to its invasive nature, it is a host plant for soybean rust, a disease of soybeans. This makes two good reasons for getting rid of the plants.

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) board is working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to help locate and eradicate the pest. Since we are on the northern edge of the range, it is important to stop it here so it does not spread farther. At this time IDNR has funds to pay for the cost of herbicides to eliminate kudzu. The SWCD will work with landowners to help re-seed the areas if that is needed after getting rid of the kudzu. At present there are ten known locations where kudzu grows in Jennings County

Anyone who knows where kudzu is growing in the county should contact the SWCD as soon as possible. We will assist with positive identification and get in touch with IDNR specialists to assist with eradication of the plants. To see more information and learn to identify the plants, there are several web sites where you can learn more. One good one is:  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/pdfs/kudzufactsheet.pdf>.