



Grass Roots for Conservation



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Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN 46517 ~ Phone: (574) 523-2030 – jhess@elkhartcounty.com

Elkhart County **PAY DIRT** 2024

Where cultivation & construction meet



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Machinery Pete

Greg Peterson, or "Machinery Pete" will be the keynote speaker on Tuesday, March 5th

Greg Peterson, known as Machinery Pete, has built a network of 1,100 auction firms, 600 ag lenders, 2,000 implement dealers and hundreds of thousands of farmers worldwide. Since 1989, Machinery Pete has compiled more than 1.5 million auction prices on all types of used farm and construction equipment sold throughout North America. MachineryPete.com is the fastest growing web site marketplace for buyers and sellers of used equipment with 6M+ page views/mo. and 130,000 equipment listings for sale from dealers, auction firms and private farmer sellers. Peterson is the multimedia expert on used equipment values for Farm Journal, including print and broadcast. He appears every Monday on AgriTalk radio and AgDay TV. In 2013, Machinery Pete launched a weekly 30-minute Machinery Pete TV show on RFD-TV. Now in its ninth season, Machinery Pete TV has a new show airing every Saturday at 12:30 p.m. CST and repeats each Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. CST on RFD-TV as well as more than 50+ affiliate TV stations across the country. Machinery Pete has more than 300,000 social media followers across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn. His YouTube videos were watched more than 66M minutes the past 2 years! A widely sought-out speaker, Peterson regularly presents to farmer, dealer, auctioneer and investor audiences. Listen to Greg speak on Tuesday, March 5th on various topics surrounding the equipment industry and the auctions that drive the secondary market so many farmers rely on for implements.



Luke Owen

Luke will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday, March 6th

Luke grew up in Colorado and currently resides in Georgia, a state plagued by centuries of erosion, stormwater mismanagement, and point source pollution. In the 1970s, during his service as a United States Marine overseas, Luke witnessed the severe and occasionally fatal health consequences endured by individuals compelled to consume untreated water contaminated by industrial and sewage pollutants. After his honorable discharge as a Sergeant, Luke pursued higher education at Colorado Mesa University, where he graduated with honors, earning a degree in Geology in 1985.

Luke's passion for the outdoors coupled with the experience gained throughout his over 30-year career in stormwater, wastewater, and groundwater environmental consulting was the driving force behind his launching the NPDES Stormwater Training Institute in 2005, a company that has educated thousands of stormwater treatment system professionals in both the private and public sectors across the country.

Luke is an active member of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA), Southeast Stormwater Association, Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and the American Sports Fishing Association. Listen to Luke speak on Wednesday, March 6th or attend one of Luke's NPDES Awareness Training courses that will be offered March 7th at 12pm.



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Agricultural Focus • March 5th



Jennifer Tank

Professor Jennifer Tank is the Director of the University of Notre Dame Environmental Change Initiative (ND-ECI). Tank has been actively involved at ND-ECI since its inception, previously serving as the principle investigator of the Land Use Program and the Director of the Notre Dame Linked Experimental Ecosystem Facility (ND-LEEF). Tank is the Ludmilla F., Stephen J., and Robert T. Galla Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses on nutrient and carbon cycling in streams and rivers and the influence of human activities on water quality and stream health. Jennifer will be speaking on the role that small streams play in removing nitrogen from the water and to prevent it from polluting downstream ecosystems.



Jason Mauck

Jason Mauck farms in Gaston, Indiana with his family. Jason is passionately curious when it comes to everything Ag. His company, Constant Canopy, is looking at agriculture through a different lens with the next generation in mind. He believes that the sharing economy will transform every industry, including agriculture in the next few years. He wants to create more regenerative solutions to produce and share food, energy and nutrients. Jason will be continuing his conversation that was started last year at this same event covering his successes and failures as he incorporates new practices into his operation.



Julia Wickard

Julia A. Wickard was appointed by the Biden Administration to serve as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana in April 2022. Wickard served as the Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Program Support and the Agricultural Liaison at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for the State of Indiana. Wickard previously served as the State Executive Director for FSA in Indiana from 2009-2017. Before her federal service, Wickard served as the Executive Vice President of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association. She also worked for Indiana Farm Bureau, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and served as Deputy Director in the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture for seven years. She has worked for two members of Congress in Washington D.C., and she serves on several agricultural and community boards. Julia will be speaking from years of experience on a variety of agricultural topics.



Gene Schmidt

Gene Schmidt, a member of the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District board since 1983, has recently been appointed by Governor Eric Holcomb to the Indiana State Soil and Water Conservation Board where he offers oversight of state dollars going to the local districts for programs and activities guiding the conservation movement throughout Indiana. Originally from Illinois, Schmidt eventually found his way to Indiana where he farms about 1,700 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat south of Hanna. Gene will be talking about the idea of thinking outside the box when approaching new methods of conservation and opportunities that local farmers have when considering the state dollars that are available.

Stormwater Focus • March 6th



Richard L. DeWitt

Richard L. DeWitt was a former Department Head and MS4 Coordinator; CISEC, CMS4S (CPMSM) for the City of Franklin, Indiana prior to his retirement in 2018. Richard was a founding member and Treasurer for the Indiana MS4 Partnership, to which an annual scholarship award is given in his name each year at the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting. He was also active in the Johnson County Partnership for Water Quality and INAFSM. He and his wife Connie now reside in South Carolina. Richard will be speaking on identifying Stormwater issues in everyday life and ways they can be mitigated on a smaller scale.



Joe Moore

Joe Moore is the Founder and Chief Brand Ambassador for Siltworm, Inc. and Erosion Construction Services; CPESC, MS4CECI and is an avid outdoorsmen with a strong belief in the Clean Water Clean World Initiative. He actively contributes to preserving waterways while indulging in his love for outdoor activities. Whether he is casting a line for fishing, perfecting his archery skills, or coaching CYO girls' basketball, he blends his enthusiasm for nature with a commitment to sustainability through his professional life and the companies he has founded. Joe will be speaking on construction budgeting for design, maintenance, and inspection with an additional focus on the "why" behind the regulatory authority, required permitting, etc.



Chad Montgomery

Chad Montgomery, serving as the Promotions Director at the Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRM-CA), brings a rich background in the concrete industry, starting with a four-year stint at Ozinga Ready Mix where he honed his skills in batching and testing concrete. In his 8 years at IRMCA, Chad has been pivotal in promoting concrete use across Indiana, engaging with a diverse audience including contractors, engineers, and local officials, to discuss concrete's various applications. Chad will be leading a panel discussion with leaders of some of the most recognizable names in ready-mix concrete, Ozinga, Kuert, and Smith. They will discuss the many ways concrete companies are working to improve the industry but cannot do it alone.



Donovan Wilczynski

Donovan Wilczynski, an Environmental Compliance Specialist KERAMIDA Inc., is a Certified Erosion, Sediment & Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI) and Geologist with over 15 years of experience in Environmental Inspections in construction & industry, Mr. Wilczynski holds a B.S. in Geology from Ball State University. As a consultant Mr. Wilczynski lead the eastern Indiana environmental inspection program for NIPSCO as the Environmental Compliance Specialist for the last year. Providing direct feedback to inspection field staff and functioning as a liaison between permitting, engineering, and construction field staff, as well as assisting with updating their Environmental Compliance documents to progress towards their goal of 100% compliance. Donovan will be speaking about the negative encountered by inspectors when a project is not designed appropriately.



Kate Barrett

Kate Barrett, PhD is an Aquatic Ecologist at the St. Joseph River Basin Commission and a professor of biology at Holy Cross College. In her SJRBC role, Kate manages the water quality monitoring program, analyzes historical water quality data, assists community partners with grant writing and data interpretation, gives watershed presentations at regional outreach events, and serves as the AmeriCorps member supervisor for the SJRBC. At Holy Cross College, Kate serves as part-time professor of biology, and has developed and taught a series of new courses at the college, including Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Aquatic Ecology, Environmental Sociology, and Human Ecology. Kate will be speaking on her data analysis of long term water sampling that has been done in Elkhart County and the impacts she has seen that are directly related to development in this region.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS • MARCH 6TH

Krystopher Yacks

– Aquascapes of Michiana

Krystopher will be discussing landscaping concepts that incorporate nature based solutions for Stormwater.

Rob Beck

– Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

Rob will be covering items that were recently added to the Indiana Stormwater Quality Manual

Aaron Kingsley

– City of Goshen Department of Environmental Resilience

Aaron will be presenting information on the City of Goshen's Flood Resilience Plan

Jenna Wait

– Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District

Jenna will be offering a Raingarden and Rain-Barrel workshop for workshop attendees.

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PAY DIRT
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March 5-7, 2024

82nd Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Martin Room, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds
17746 County Road 34, Goshen, Indiana

Make your reservations by calling, or online at our website.. There is no ticket fee, but please consider supporting the Elkhart County SWCD with a donation or an Affiliate Membership!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

19th SWCD Board Meeting: 5:30 PM,
SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN

March

5th-7th Pay Dirt 2024 Workshop: Elkhart County Fairgrounds, ECCC Bldg, go to our website to register: www.elkcoswcd.org or call in to the office to register.

7th 82nd SWCD Annual Meeting: *Save the Date* ~ 6:30 PM, in the ECCC Building/ Martin Room at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen. To register call the office at (574) 523-2030, or you can email Lora at: latkins@elkhartcounty.com. You can also go to our website to RSVP at www.elkcoswcd.org.

18th SWCD Board Meeting: 5:30 PM,
SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN

29th Good Friday Holiday: The SWCD Office will be closed for the *Holiday* observed.

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Lora L. Atkins, Secretary/Treasurer Jenna Wait, Conservationist

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ISDA Staff:

Sandra Hoffarth Heath Hurst
District Support Specialist Resource Specialist Manager

All programs and services of the Conservation Partnership and the Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.