



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



**Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future**

March/April 2022  
Volume 24, Issue 2

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**What's Going On...**  
*Events hosted by the  
St. Joseph County SWCD  
& Our Partners in Conservation*

**March**

- 13th - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 15th - SWCD monthly board meeting. Location and time TBA. Open to the public.

**April**

- 15th - Good Friday— County Holiday.
- 19th - SWCD monthly board meeting. Location and time TBA. Open to the public.

**62nd Annual St. Joseph County SWCD Annual Meeting at St. Hedwig's**

The St Joseph County SWCD was joined by 117 residents, producers, landowners, and conservation partners.

Brian Capouch was our keynote speaker and gave a presentation on the history of the Grand Kankakee Marsh in our area . Capouch, along with one of the supervisors, Chris Matthys, engaged the crowd with historical research on regions where the Grand Kankakee Marsh used to be located in St. Joseph County and how it was impacted by the Settlement Period in Northwestern Indiana. Using historical maps and passages from "Tales of Kankakee Land" by Charles Bartlett, as well as their own histories with the area, Capouch and Matthys captivated attendees with new information on the county that we call home.

To view the presentation from the Annual Meeting, please go to [www.kankakee-history.org](http://www.kankakee-history.org).

**Thank you to our Sponsors and Affiliate Donors!**

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# SWCD Welcomes New Natural Resource Specialist

Hey there St. Joseph County residents,

My name is Jorge Armando Lozoya, and I am the new Natural Resources Specialist for the St. Joseph County NRCS office.

I graduated on May 2021 from the University of Texas at San Antonio where I received my Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Natural Resource & Wildlife Management. In the past I've worked on wetland restoration, native grassland restoration, and environmental consulting with both national and local organizations.

In my free time I enjoy hiking, biking, birdwatching, reading, playing guitar, and enjoying live music. I was born and raised in San Antonio, TX so prior to my assignment in Plymouth, I had never been to the Midwest (or seen a proper winter!). I'm looking forward to establishing myself as a member of your community and learning to call the South Bend area home. Can't wait to begin meeting and working with you all!

To contact Jorge, please email him at [Jorge.lozoya@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:Jorge.lozoya@in.nacdnet.net) or call at 574-936-024 ext. 4.



## SWCD Offers Adult Education and Public Programs

It's almost spring in Indiana. Join us in a few of our upcoming programs!

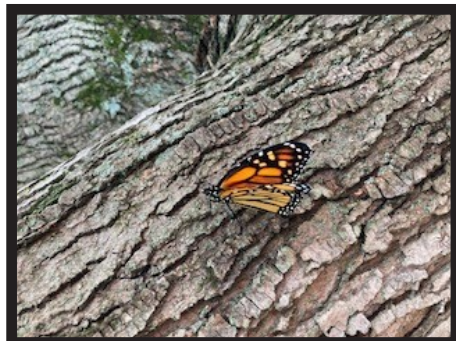
From now to March 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be at the North Liberty Library Branch every Thursday offering adult programs for senior citizens! Listed below is the current schedule:

Thursday, 3/3 @ 1:30pm EST: Composting 101  
Thursday, 3/10 @ 1:30pm EST: Indiana Wildlife and Habitats  
Thursday, 3/17 @ 1:30pm EDT: Backyard Birds  
Thursday, 3/24 @ 1:30pm EDT: Backyard Conservation

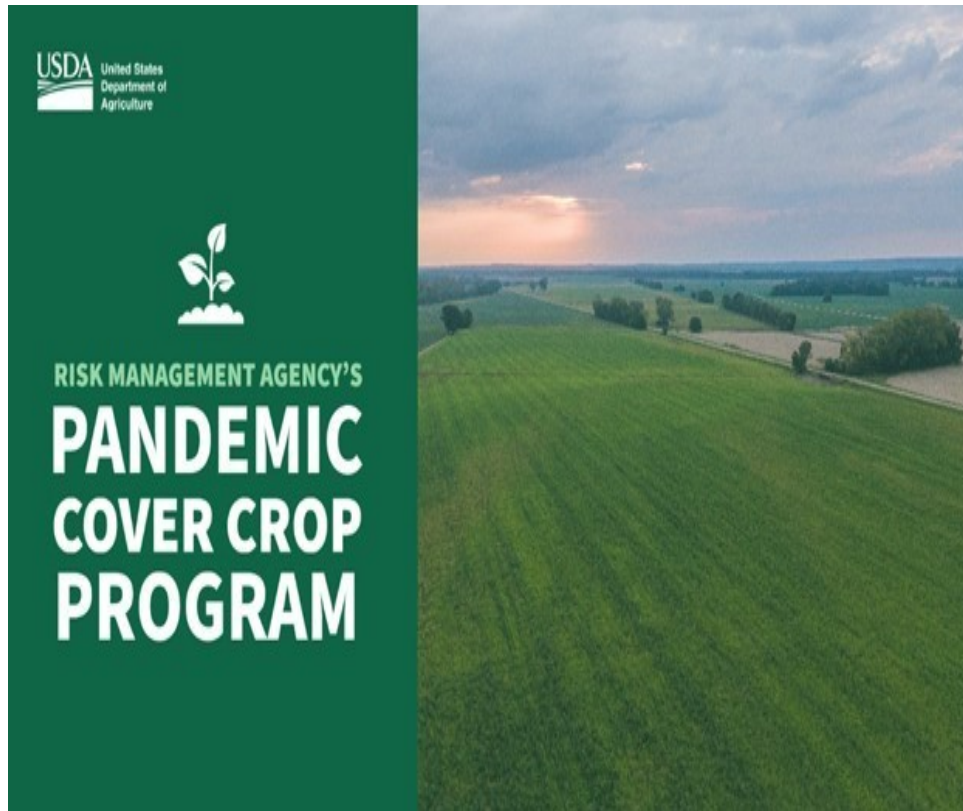
Registering for the library programs is recommended. Please contact Ally Pudlo at [Allison.pudlo@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:Allison.pudlo@in.nacdnet.net) to register.

We are also excited to be joining up with Beiger Elementary School for their Family STEM Night on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. From 5:30-7pm EDT, we will have our augmented reality sandbox for people to interact with and learn more about our local watershed.

Note: Dates and times for all of these programs are subject to change. Please look for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephSWCD>.



# Producers with Crop Insurance to Receive Premium Benefit for Cover Crops



Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they planted cover crops during the 2022 crop year. To receive the benefit from this year's Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), producers must report cover crop acreage by **March 15, 2022**. Find out more information by visiting: Pandemic Cover Crop Program at

**<https://www.farmers.gov/cover-crops>**

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## FREE WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT SEEDS

Free wildlife food plot seed will be available for St. Joseph and Marshall County residents. The seed comes in gallon sized bags, limited to two bags per household. We will have sunflowers, a pollinator friendly food plot mix, and a wildlife food plot mix. We will hold a pickup week in April with the seed available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. The exact week of pick up will be posted at a later date. Please check our website or our Facebook page for further updates.

(574) 936-2024 Ext 4

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## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation



“Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health,” offers education, technical assistance, and cost share to implement no-till, cover crops, pollinator habitat and filter strips to increase soil health and improve water quality. Cost share is based on practices implemented. Our cost-share program is made possible by the funding of a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant 2021-2023.

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana Division

of Soil Conservation under the direction of the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board.

If you have questions or would like an application please contact Sarah Longenecker, SWCD County Conservationist.



### SWCD Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chairman  
Dave Vandewalle, Vice Chairman  
Sam James  
Chris Matthys  
Marty Lappin

### SWCD Associate Supervisors:

Mike Burkholder  
Dave Craft  
Chuck Lehman  
Randy Matthys  
Richard Schmidt  
Dave Straughn  
Dru Wrasse

### SWCD Honorarv Members:

Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

### St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD  
Ally Pudlo, SWCD  
Debbie Knepp, NRCS  
Jorge Lozoya, NRCS

### Farm Service Agency Staff:

Gideon Nobbe, CED  
Devan Harrell  
Katie Leitch  
Aldona Martin  
Tara Wolfe

**Are you ready to “GO GREEN” and help us save money and natural resources? We can deliver your “Conservation Kaleidoscope” newsletter by email ... Give us a call or send us an email and tell us you’d like to “GO GREEN” THANK YOU!!!!**



Scan me to go Green!