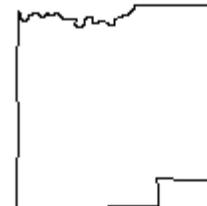




Dubois County Conservation News



Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

October 2009

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Dubois County



The Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that kills ash trees, has been detected in Columbia Township in Dubois County through the statewide EAB survey and trapping program.

The EAB survey through which the detection was made includes the hanging of purple panel traps in Ash

trees around the state, such as the one shown in the picture below. The survey is a joint effort of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The EAB, first found in Indiana in 2004, has now been identified in 26 Indiana counties.



How will this affect me?

As firewood cutting season is underway, Dubois County residents should be aware that Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director of the Indiana DNR, has declared Columbia Township to be under quarantine for regulated ash material and hardwood firewood that could spread the pest farther into Indiana.



The EAB naturally spreads less than one mile per year, however, people can spread the insects by hauling firewood. Because cut and split firewood may lose its species identity, all hardwood firewood is now regulated in Dubois County by the

DNR. DNR considers logs 48" or less to be cut firewood.

Because of the quarantine, all hardwood firewood from Columbia Township is prohibited from being moved into any other Township or County. All hardwood firewood in other Townships in Dubois County may move freely between one another, but are prohibited from moving out of the county. Firewood from other Townships may also move into Columbia Township, but once there may not be removed. This quarantine also effects the logging industry, as well as the wood products industry.

To learn more about the EAB and the quarantine, log on to: <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB>

To report an EAB sighting, call the DNR at 1-866-NO-EXOTIC



Forestry Field Day

Friday, October 30th
8:30am—4:30pm

Tour Area Forests and
Learn About:

- ◆ Regeneration through tree planting
- ◆ Wildlife and bird management
- ◆ Invasive species

\$30 family / \$15 individual

For more information
or to register:
765-583-3501

See page 2 for complete schedule

Inside This Issue:

Indiana Woodland Owners to Meet in Jasper	2
New Director Appointed to State Dept. of Agriculture	2
Dubois County Farmers See Value in Forestry Mgmt	3
We've Joined the Dubois Co. Community Foundation	3
Forest Stewardship Award Presented to Don Scherle	4
Six Tips to Better Forest Habitat for Fish & Wildlife	5
Geoweb Provides Innovative Solution to Stream Crossing	6
Dates of Interest	7
Conservation Items for Rent	7

Forestry Field Day Agenda

October 30, 2009

8:30 AM

Meet at Jasper Inn to Carpool

9:15 – 11:30 AM

Wood industry tour of Jasper Desk

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch cookout at Braun property

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Field program at Braun property

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Optional Reception – Meet exhibitors and fellow woodland owners while enjoying snacks, door prizes, and the silent auction

To register for the Field Day:

765-583-3501

Indiana Woodland Owners to Meet in Jasper



The Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association will hold its annual landowner conference at the Jasper Inn on October 30-31, 2009. Over 150 people are expected to visit for this thirty-third annual meeting. Anyone with an interest in woodlands is welcome. Optional field tours begin early Friday, October 30th with a visit to Jasper Desk Company to see office furniture manufactured out of fine hardwoods. General

Manager and member Philip Gramelspacher will lead that tour. In the afternoon visit a Dubois County landowner's woods to see how he manages his property for wildlife, timber, and recreation. This local landowner has found creative ways to attract a purple marten colony and rabbits to his land, at the same time making income from the timber. See the complete schedule to the right of this story.

Saturday's day program offers six sessions on forest management known as Woodland Owner University. Topics include "Bird Watching Basics" and "Forestry in the Farm Bill." The afternoon will end with a panel of landowners answering questions from the audience on woodland management. Keynote speaker and forester Dan Meisberger will lead off with "Should I Sell Timber Now or Hold onto It?" Dan will discuss weighing your personal financial needs, whether the timber is ready for harvest, and timber market conditions to help in that decision. Phil Wagner, Assistant State Forester with the Indiana Division of Forestry, will also speak, unveiling two new programs to help landowners sell and market timber.



Pre-registration is required to attend the Woodland Owner University. To view the complete schedule of Saturday's events and to register, log on to the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owner's Association website at www.ifwoa.org and download the registration form.

Are too many of your dollars literally going down the drain?



Visit wateruseitwisely.com today and get over 100 tips on how you can conserve water and save money. Take the Family Water Audit to see how wisely you're using water now!

New Director Appointed to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Last month, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced a transition in leadership at the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Joe Kelsay, a sixth generation dairy and crop farmer, has been selected to serve as the next Indiana Agriculture Director. Later this fall, Kelsay will succeed Anne Hazlett who will then serve as Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry under ranking member U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss.

Kelsay farms full-time with his father and brother in rural Johnson County. In addition to milk production, Joe and his wife Amy operate a farm tour business, Kelsay Farm Tours LLC, which teaches thousands of children and families each year about life on the farm. Kelsay will assume his responsibilities in early November upon completion of the 2009 harvest.

Dubois County Farmers See Value in Forest Management



Many people see the value in having good conservation practices implemented on their farming operations, but Clarence and Tony Buechler have taken conservation practices to a higher level. The Buechlers, primarily poultry and cattle farmers, have implemented several conservation practices on their 325 acre farm, including Cover Crops, the installation of multiple Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs), a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and the construction of a Waste Storage Facility. These are common practices implemented on a large number of farms in Dubois County.

However the Buechlers have a unique situation. Forests cover nearly 100 of their 325 acres and the Buechlers have taken a keen interest in maintaining their forests by using the services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Working with NRCS, the Buechlers were able to implement timber stand improvement measures to aid in the overall health of their forests.

In short, most anything done to improve or enhance a stand of trees to better meet landowner objectives is timber stand improvement, or TSI for short. Several types of TSI are commonly used. An improvement harvest occurs when low quality trees are harvested, as well as trees of any size or quality crowding out future crop trees. Other measures include grapevine control, cull tree removal and crop tree release. TSI can be customized to meet landowner objectives.

The Buechlers chose a combination of TSI measures to achieve their goals and in 2006, they also chose to allow a three acre area of cropland mostly surrounded by forest to become forest land. Working closely with a professional forester, the Buechlers chose to plant 1,600 seedlings, mostly comprised of white, black and red oak.

Because of their commitment to good stewardship of their forests, the Buechlers were selected as the 2008 recipient of the Kimball Forest Stewardship Award and were presented a sign and plaque at the Annual Meeting of the Dubois County SWCD, as shown in the picture above. Each year, Kimball presents the award to a Dubois County landowner who excels at managing forestland with a forest management plan, including harvests and timber stand improvement, as well as protecting the forest from livestock, insects and invasive species. The Dubois County SWCD congratulates the Buechlers for this achievement.

We've Joined the Community Foundation

You need not be a millionaire to make a significant gift to your community. The Soil and Water Conservation District has established an endowment with the Dubois County Community Foundation. The community foundation is a publicly supported nonprofit organization which accumulates funds through contributions or bequests. These funds are invested to produce income that is then distributed for the charitable needs of the community.

The SWCD's endowment will be used to fund special projects and programs of the SWCD. Your financial support in any amount to help meet our goals is greatly appreciated. Please utilize the coupon below to make a fully tax deductible donation to support your SWCD.

Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment
of the Dubois County Community Foundation, Inc.

Please accept my donation of

In memory of

In honor of

Name

Address

Please make checks payable to Dubois County Community Foundation, Inc.

OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award Presented to Don Scherle

Don Scherle, of Jasper, was selected as the 2009 recipient of the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award. Don manages 260 acres of woodland on his Crystal farm, which he has owned since 1973. 150 acres are enrolled in the IDNR's Classified Forest Program, and 30 acres are planted in Christmas Trees.



Don works with Steve Brandsasse, IDNR District Forester, for assistance with managing his forested ground. He has worked with the District Foresters for years, and said, "Steve is super! I highly recommend utilizing a forester for management assistance because they know what they are doing."

The foresters work with Don to create a management plan that suits his management objectives. He fences the cattle out of the forest, which improves the health of the understory. Since he purchased the farm, Don has had three selection harvests. He routinely does timber stand improvement, and eliminates the grapevines. Don also had a harvest to remove the wind damaged trees, as a result of the remnants of Hurricane Ike in 2008. Don actively reforests his land through tree plantings; since purchasing the farm, he has planted 5,000 oak and walnut seedlings, and planted 200,000 pine seedlings to be harvested as Christmas Trees.

Don is very hands-on in his approach to managing both the hardwoods and the Christmas trees. He monitors the forest for invasive species, such as multiflora rose, and eliminates them. Don said, "I am very protective of my woods. I keep it clean, and make sure there is no trash anywhere. I cut the vines, fence cattle out of the woods and also the ponds, to protect the water supply." He added, "I try to avoid using herbicides and pesticides, because I want to protect the water. I believe that using chemicals has a negative effect on the environment."

Managing the Christmas trees is very labor intensive, with tasks such as cutting stumps, planting, mowing, shearing, monitoring for disease, and harvesting completed each year. Don's wife and three children helped with the Christmas trees over the years. Don said, "I take a lot of pride in teaching my kids to work! They all put in a lot of hours on the Christmas trees, and grumbled while they did." "But they all thanked me afterwards", he added with a smile. "I really enjoy seeing the people bring their children out to the farm to cut their Christmas tree each year", he concluded.

Don was born and raised in Jasper. He is the fourth generation to live on the family farm on Jasper's west side. Besides working full time in Jasper and on the Crystal farm, he has been very involved with the local community. Over the years, he has been a member of the 4-H Council, Precious Blood School Board, Jasper Moose, Jasper Outdoor Rec, Jasper Knights of Columbus, and Sportsmen against Poaching, to name a few.

OFS Brands sponsors the annual Forest Stewardship award. The Board of Supervisors of the Soil and Water Conservation District annually recognizes forestland owners who carries out a wise forest stewardship program on their land.

Don Scherle is willing to have others learn from his experience. When he purchased the farm, the previous owners used to pasture the woods. There is an area still used as a cattle travel lane where a person can easily see the difference between a grazed and non-grazed woods. Don said in this area, the trees will never be worth anything; the trees are not growing and the area looks the same as in 1973. Don said, "If I could give other landowners advice, I would recommend grape vine control, cut the dead and bad trees, and use fencing to keep cattle from the woods. Do these three things and you'll have very valuable trees!"

Six Tips to Better Forest Habitat for Fish & Wildlife

Just as croplands can produce crops, yet yield habitat for wildlife, forestlands can be managed to produce wood products and at the same time benefit wildlife. Managing a forest with wildlife in mind is like shooting at a moving target. As the trees and other plants in a forest grow and change, the structure, size and species of trees and other plants changes. That shift in habitat also means there will be a shift in wildlife species that live in the forest at the time.

For example, the seeds and fruits of shrubs, grasses and forbs in the early successional stage, after a harvest or other major disturbance, are just what songbirds and small mammals want. On the other hand, woodpeckers, wood ducks, bats and other cavity nesters want the dead snags and den trees of a mature forest.



For the greatest diversity in wildlife, you want a diversity in the size, age and structure of the forest. That can be achieved with selective harvesting of single trees, to always leave a canopy, or by clearcutting small areas of a forest (15 acres or less) at different times, resulting in several succes-

sional stages of even-aged stands of trees within the forest. The flush of plant growth in clearcut areas lasts for several years.

Techniques to improve fish and wildlife habitat include:

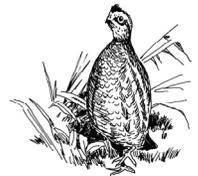
1. *Regenerate new growth in open spaces. This may be done by prescribed burning, using herbicides, or planting seedlings.*
2. *Thin stands; remove weak trees.*
3. *Plan carefully to carry out a prescribed burn; studies show most wildlife escape, and the new plant growth afterwards attracts wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, and more.*
4. *Maintain forested riparian zones along streams, to allow stream shading and for wood to fall into streams. The leaves, limbs, fruit and insects that fall from streamside forests into the stream build the food supply for fish.*
5. *Leave snags and den trees.*
6. *Follow a plan. A variety of federal, state, and private organizations give both technical and financial help in managing forests for profit and wildlife.*



Wild turkeys are among the species that like a mixture of mature forest, edge and open grassland and cropland near forested areas.

Wildlife Ways

Did you know...



National forests cover only 19% of forested land in the United States. Non-industrial private landowners own 59% of the forested land; their actions are critically important to birds, bears, ducks and other wildlife that depend on forestland habitat.

Healthy Forests. Yield Healthy Profits

Would you like to know how to implement these techniques on your forest land?

NRCS can assist you with several ways to maintain, protect and enhance your forest productivity through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

- ◆ Forest Stand Improvement
- ◆ Erosion and Sediment Concerns
 - ◆ Invasive Species Control
 - ◆ Pruning
 - ◆ Planting
 - ◆ Wildlife Habitat

Keep your forest growing healthy. Find out if EQIP is right for you.



Stop by the Conservation Office and talk with Bart Pitstick, our District Conservationist, today!
Or call us at 812-482-1171, Ext. 3 to set up an appointment.

Geoweb Provides Innovative Solution to Stream Crossings



Do you have a problem with livestock knee deep in mud as they cross a stream on your farm? Is your equipment being damaged because of a highly eroded crossing? If so, an improved stream crossing may be right for you.

Recently a landowner in Dubois County became the first in the state of Indiana to install an innovative new type of stream crossing. Before installation, the crossing was subject to erosion and poor crossing conditions, as shown by the top picture at left. Farm equipment would sink into the mud from the stream, making crossing difficult. A stable structure was needed.



A new type of stream crossing using the Geoweb system was installed. The Geoweb system provides a stable stream crossing, allowing for livestock and farm equipment to cross safely. The Geoweb is a plastic, honeycomb-like surface designed to hold aggregate in place, even in flowing water. An engineered hole pattern in the system's cells helps to lock aggregate in the cells and resist aggregate washout.



After preparing the site, geotextile fabric was laid down to act as a separation layer between the aggregate infill and the soft-bottomed streambed. With the fabric in place, the Geoweb system is stretched out, placed on top of the fabric and anchored into the streambed using rebar and clips which hook into the Geoweb. Limestone rock less than three inches is then used as the infill, as shown in the pictures to the left.

The end result shown in the picture below is a stream crossing that is both stable and safe for livestock and farm equipment to cross over.

Could a safer, more stable stream crossing benefit your farm? The Geoweb system costs more than other types of stream crossings and it may not be right for every situation. Other alternatives exist. To find out what might be right for you, contact our District Conservationist, Bart Pitstick, at 812-482-1171, Ext. 3.



Dates of Interest

Fri. & Sat., October 30th & 31st - Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association Annual Landowner Conference & Forestry Field Day

Thur., November 5th - SWCD Meeting 7:00pm; Public Welcome

Wed., November 11th - Veteran's Day; Office Closed

Thursday & Friday, November 26th & 27th - Thanksgiving; Office Closed

Thur., December 3rd - SWCD Meeting 7:00pm; Public Welcome

Thur. & Fri., December 25th & 26th - Christmas Holiday; Office Closed

Thur. & Fri., December 31st & January 1st - New Year's; Office Closed

Tue., January 28th - SWCD Annual Meeting at Jasper VFW 6:30pm

Thur., January 30th - SWCD Annual Meeting Snow Date

Tue., March 16th - SW Regional Envirothon, SW Purdue Ag Center

Office Hours:

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
8 AM TO 4:30 PM**

812-482-1171, Ext. 3

Due to the nature of the work performed by the Service Center Staff, occasionally there are times when no one will be in the office. Please call before making a special trip to the office.

SWCD Provides Conservation Items

No-Till Drill

Great Plains No-Till drill has a seeding width of 10 feet, and can be used to plant soybeans, wheat, legumes, grasses, etc. It can also be used to plant native, or warm season, grasses. Rental fee is \$7/acre.

Stapler

Installing erosion control blankets? This stapler makes completing the job easy! The plunger simply pushes the staples into the ground. No rental fee.

Spinning Jenny

Use to install high-tensile wire fences. Load with wire and set on the ground. Walk away pulling the end of the wire and it will spin, preventing your wire from tangling. Slow down gradually before stopping to prevent over-spinning and tangling. Can also be used to rewind wire in the field. No rental fee.

Tile Flags

Flags on 36" wire staff can be used to mark underground power lines, or surveying jobs. \$7.00/bundle of 100; various colors.

SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Alan Weyer, Chair

Glenn Menke, Vice Chair

Jack Welp, Member

Sam Oxley, Member

Brenda Sermersheim, Member

Contact one of these county officials with your conservation questions, comments, and concerns!

Associate Members: Duane Hopf, Donovan Brunsmann, Lee Schnell, Jim Hochgesang, Greg Hoffman

Service Center Staff:

Amanda Bough

SWCD Resource Specialist

Radius Weisman

SWCD Technical Specialist

Judi Brown,

SWCD Executive Director

Michael Wilhite,

SWCD Program Assistant

Bart Pitstick,

NRCS District Conservationist

SWCD BOARD MEETINGS

The Dubois County SWCD Board of Supervisors meets on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM Nov. through March, and 7:30 PM April through October, and are located in the in the USDA Service Center in Jasper IN. Anyone interested in local soil and water conservation issues is encouraged to attend.

The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District

promotes to all citizens - both agricultural and non-agricultural - the vital benefits of protecting and preserving natural resources, especially soil and water.

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

Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District
1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A
Jasper IN 47546
(812) 482-1171 Ext. 3
judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
JASPER IN 47546
PERMIT NO. 191

OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 8 AM TO 4:30 PM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NEWSLETTER

Visit our webpage at www.duboisswcd.org!

For address corrections or to be taken off the mailing list, please contact the office at judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net or call 812-482-1171, Ext. 3



Farm Energy Conservation Workshop

Thursday, November 5th

7:00 - 9:00pm

Crawford County Fairgrounds

Hwy. 66

Marengo, IN

FREE!

Includes all materials and light refreshments

Learn About:

- ◆ *Farm Energy Audits*
- ◆ *NRCS Cost-share Programs*
- ◆ *Renewable energy grants*

**Please register by November 3rd
by calling *Lincoln Hills RC&D* at 812-649-9136, Ext. 5
or online at www.lincolnhillsrkd.org**