



# Hoosier Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society

## Newsletter

Spring Issue

May 2016



### From the President - Rafael Vega

To foster the science and art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability.

I am very happy to have the chance to communicate with you again! 2016 came full of expectations and opportunities. Your Hoosier chapter leadership is fully engaged in developing activities and opportunities that will benefit you. Last fall we had a very successful meeting in which we focused on planning for pollinator habitat. This still is a very hot topic that have nationwide interest. We decided it is necessary to visit different areas of the state. So we hosted our 2015 fall meeting in Angel Mounds down in Evansville. While there, we listened to a group of US Fish and Wildlife Service professionals from the Patoka National Wildlife Refuge, professors from University of Evansville, scientist from Wesselman Woods and Educators from Oaklyn Library. This group of professionals specialized on the development of pollinator habitat. We were very pleased that the amount of people within the crowd exceeded our expectations.

Now is time to look at the future, this next June 3rd we will be hosting our summer workshop in Bloomington Indiana. This workshop will focus on permaculture based agriculture. We had lined up several farms that follow a locally-grown-organic principles with a focus on permaculture. This will allow you the opportunity to understand how these agricultural systems are established while considering local ordinances and regulations. Registrations are now open through Eventbrite website, contact Curtis Knueven for more details.

As one of your leaders, I see the need to reflect on our organization goals, purpose and future. Each of those times of reflection, I always felt proud of all the things that we continuously achieve. Your Hoosier Chapter is a key player on the development of professionals within one of the strongest conservation partnerships in the nation. The SWCS headquarters assist U.S. Senators and Representatives formulating adequate alternatives for law that will ensure productive lands, healthy soil and clean water for our next generation. Your Hoosier chapter ensure that our goals and efforts coincide with the advances in technology and on the forefront of environmental issues. Just last year we developed a strategic plan that will provide you with an insight how we see your chapter in the next five years. I highly recommend you take the time to take a look at this document so you can identify were you fit within this great organization.

### Mark Your Calendar

**Hoosier Chapter  
Summer  
Meeting  
Friday, June 3,  
2015 in  
Bloomington, IN**

## From the President Continued

I cherish the opportunities that the Hoosier chapter had provided me to develop my skillset, but for me is far more important to assist in the development of young professionals across the state. Talking with our more senior chapter leaders, I had found an equal desire to help the next generation of conservationist. I am amazed that our chapter had been consistently impacting careers for close to 75 years! The Hoosier Chapter of the SWCS a unique platform to set up and develop the next generation Indiana Conservation Partnership leaders. This part of my message is directed to our younger generation. Please allow me to provide you with some advice, if you want to aspire to be recognized as a highly technical and effective professional, it is critical that you invest energy in developing a network within your area of expertise. For doing that you will have to stretch beyond the parameters and opportunities that your regular job allows you to do. This step is critical for your peers know who you are as well as recognize your caliber as a conservationist. I assure you that the Hoosier chapter of the SWCS is providing you with these developmental opportunities.

Now I would like to address to the more seasoned of our members. Through the years I had seen with great concern the impact that massive retirements have in an organization. I think is critical to maintain that connection. The group of conservationist that is raising now needs you. Furthermore, me as your chapter president still need your experience, expertise and leadership if we want to keep on developing our membership. This chapter is providing the opportunity to allow for mentoring and coaching opportunities. When you think about it, we are giving you the opportunity to impact on a young person's career.

Members, I highly encourage you to develop a relationship with your Council members and Committee Chairs. Feel free to contact us with questions or communicate your expectations, we are here because of you and for you!

Rafael Vega

President of the Hoosier Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## **Here is Your Chance to get Involved with the Hoosier Chapter - Join a Committee !!!**

- **Chapter Development and Administration** - Scott Wagner, Chair  
scott.wags@gmail.com

- **Legislation, Public Policy and Public Affairs** - Chris Torp, Chair  
christorp@hoosierchapterswcs.org

- **Membership Growth and Involvement** - Tammy Swihart, Chair  
tnkswihart@minerbroadband.com

- **Professional Development** - Curtis Knueven, Co-Chair  
curtisknueven@hoosierchapterswcs.org Bob Clark, Co-Chair, bob3@clarkfarmdrainage.com

- **Public Information and Education** - Mark Cambron and Tim Schipps, Co-Chairs

*Information on Committee Duties can be found at [www.hoosierchapterswcs.org](http://www.hoosierchapterswcs.org)*



HOOSIER  
CHAPTER

# Professional Development Workshop Friday, June 3 – Bloomington, Indiana



# permaculture

noun \ per·ma·cul·ture \ 'pər-mə-, kəl-chər\

**Definition of *permaculture*** : an agricultural system or method that seeks to integrate human activity with natural surroundings so as to create highly efficient self-sustaining ecosystems

*"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." - Aldo Leopold*

Join us as we hear the tale two pieces of land. Learn of the extraordinary visions for two uniquely different pieces of land. Each one with a dream to become a working farm, full of life and welcoming to all that would visit them. These pioneers of the modern age, have taken one common theme permaculture and created two diverse locations in Monroe County. In addition you will learn from one of the leaders in the permaculture world about where and how to begin a permaculture site of your own. In addition there will be an Urban Agricultural speaker so you can assess the similarities and differences between these two terms. Then in the afternoon soak in the beauty of one of these amazing farms you will have your choice of one to visit – transportation will be provided to the farms.

## Registration Information

Registration Deadline is – Friday, May 27 at 4:00pm EST.

Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-swcs-summer-meeting-tickets-24459639440?aff=eac2>

Or call Monroe Co SWCD at 812-334-4325 x115 (leave a message if no answer)

- \$30 SWCS Members
- \$45 Non SWCS Members
- \$5 Students
- \$15 Retirees/Spouses



WORKING WITH NATURE

## The Event

Held at Harrodsburg Community Center, 1002 W Popcorn Rd; Harrodsburg, Indiana 47434  
8:30am - Registration



**The term *permaculture*** (as a systematic method) was first coined by Australians David Holmgren, then a graduate student, and his professor, Bill Mollison, in 1978. The word *permaculture* originally referred to "permanent agriculture",<sup>[1]</sup> but was expanded to stand also for "permanent culture", as it was understood that social aspects were integral to a truly sustainable system as inspired by Masanobu Fukuoka's natural farming philosophy.

## Join SWCS

Your support can make a difference! It's individuals like you who make healthy land and clean water for life possible.

How can you benefit?

- Support local, national, and international conservation and land stewardship
- Be a part of the conservation community
- Share your work and be informed on other advances in the industry
- Enjoy professional development opportunities on current and emerging interdisciplinary topics
- Network with professionals from many disciplines through local, regional and international meetings
- Be eligible for awards and scholarships only available to SWCS members
- Effective representation in policy circles on environmental, agricultural and conservation issues
- Interaction and education through local chapter membership in US and Canada

All members receive:

- One year Subscription to the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation
- Monthly e-newsletter Conservogram
- Discount to the SWCS annual conference
- Discount on SWCS publications
- Discounts on page charges
- Free book: Aldo Leopold: The Man and His Legacy

Membership levels

Presidents Club*	\$220 annually
Leader†	\$145 annually
Conservationist	\$90 annually
Student‡	\$30 annually

† Leaders also receive

- Special recognition in our annual report
- A gift from the Society and Membership Lapel pin

\* President's Club Members also receive

- Special recognition in our annual report
- A gift from the Society and Membership Lapel pin
- Invitation to the VIP reception during our annual conference

‡ Student members must be full-time students taking 12 credits/semester


Contact Tammy Swihart with the Hoosier Chapter SWCS for more information – [tnkswihart@minerbroadband.com](mailto:tnkswihart@minerbroadband.com) or 812-699-7296



Hoosier Chapter SWCS  
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Connect with us!  
[www.hoosierchapterswcs.org](http://www.hoosierchapterswcs.org)

Facebook: Hoosier Chapter-  
Soil & Water Conservation  
Society

 Follow @HoosierSWCS



**Register on-line at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)**

**Registration Now OPEN!**

**Newsletter Editor**

Tammy Swihart

For more information, contact Tammy Swihart  
at [tnkswihart@minerbroadband.com](mailto:tnkswihart@minerbroadband.com).