

Hoosier Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society

Fall Newsletter 2025

Mark Your Calendar!

Hoosier Chapter Fall Meeting

LOCATION:

Milford, Indiana

DATE/TIME:

Tuesday, November 18

TOPICS:

Sustainability in the IN Poultry Industry

History of Maple Leaf Farms duck production

Litter Management

Water Quality Management with Shatto Ditch (longest two-stage ditch in US)

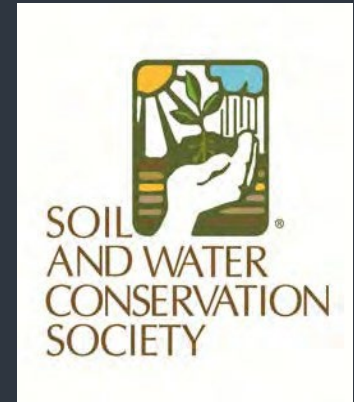
Lunch

Tour of Shatto Ditch

REGISTRATION:

Information coming soon!

Please check our website or Facebook page



Hoosier Chapter Attends 2025 SWCS International Annual Conference



Front row, from left - Jamie Davenport (IASWCD-RITA), Emily DeaKyne (Purdue University), Sara Reilly (TNC), Hanna Garriott (IASWCD-RITA), Danielle Randles (TNC), Brennan Radulski (Purdue University); Second row - Linda Prokopy (University of Vermont), Becky Fletcher (Retired), Meg Leader (IASWCD), Clare Lindahl (SWCS), Seth Harden (TNC), Emma Bodnarick (IASWCD-RITA), Jill Reinhart (NMPCT), Elsie Assan (Purdue University), Third row - Jacob Luken (Hamilton Co. SWCD); Not shown - Ismael De Lara, SWCS Summer Intern and Purdue University.

Join us in 2026 for the 81st SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place on July 26-29 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Connect with us!

Website:

[www.hoosierchapter
swcs.org](http://www.hoosierchapterswcs.org)

Facebook:

Hoosier Chapter-
Soil & Water
Conservation
Society

Twitter/X:

@HoosierSWCS

Upcoming SWCS Event:

Conservation on
Campus Virtual Event

September 30

[Conservation Voices:
Conservation on
Campus | Soil and
Water Conservation
Society](#)

Help Shape the Future of the Hoosier Chapter

Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to the Hoosier Chapter's growth, strengthen your leadership skills, and build lasting professional relationships? The Hoosier Chapter is actively seeking passionate, forward-thinking members to join our Board of Directors or serve on one of our vital committees.

Why Get Involved?

- **Make an Impact:** Help guide the direction of the chapter and influence the programs and services we provide.
- **Expand Your Network:** Collaborate with conservation peers and leaders, creating connections that can support your career.
- **Develop Leadership Skills:** Gain valuable experience in organizational leadership, strategic planning, and advocacy.
- **Give Back:** Contribute to the community and career that has supported your own development.

Committees You Can Join:

- **Chapter Development and Administration-** Help strengthen the foundation and sustainability of our chapter.

- **Membership Growth and Involvement-** Create and implement strategies to recruit and retain members.
- **Legislation, Public Policy, and Public Affairs-** Stay informed and advocate for issues and policies that impact conservation.
- **Professional Development-** Plan and promote educational events.
- **Public Information and Education-** Raise awareness and understanding of conservation within the community.

No matter what your level of experience, there's a place for you to contribute. Whether you can give a couple of hours every few months or want to take on a leadership role, your involvement is both welcomed and needed.

Ready to Make a Difference?

If you're interested in serving on the Board of Directors or joining a committee, reach out to Scott Wagner at scott.wags@gmail.com— Chair of the Chapter Development and Administration Committee or visit our website at <http://www.HoosierChapterswcs.org>.

Member Memorial: Byron R. Gough

Byron R. Gough, 85, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 19, surrounded by loved ones. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and man of faith, Byron lived a life marked by service, integrity, and kindness.

Byron was also a long-time leader in the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District. He served on the North Putnam School Board and was deeply engaged in many other county and community clubs and committees. His dedication to service and leadership reflected his deep commitment to faith, family, and the well-being of his community.

Byron graduated from Purdue University in 1961 with a degree in Animal Sciences. After college, he served as a U.S. Army officer. Farming was both his profession and passion. In addition to managing his own farm, he was a Beck's Hybrids dealer for 50 years. He was respected for his work ethic and dedication to agriculture.

Hoosier Chapter SWCS

Leadership:

President, Leslie Fisher

Secretary, Jamie Shonkwiler

Past President, Sara

Schellenberger-Jones

Administrative Secretary,

William Elliott

North Central Representative,

Krista Kirkham

Committee Chairs:

Chapter Development &

Administration, Scott Wagner

Legislation, Public Policy &

Public Affairs, Emily Usher

Membership Growth &

Involvement, Jill Reinhart

Professional Development,

Meg Leader

Public Information and

Education, Jamie Davenport and

Jacob Luken

At-Large Members:

Hannah Buckner

Seth Harden

Sara Reilly

Jill Reinhart

Sheila Schroeder

Trevor Winston

MaryJo Woodruff

Hoosier Chapter Summer Meeting

Our Summer Meeting was held on July 9 at Rulon Enterprises in Arcadia and Strawtown Koteewi Park in Noblesville. Over 30 people from more than a half-dozen Indiana organizations attended the event. We were also joined by Krista Kirkham, SWCS Board Member and North Central Region Representative, from the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The morning started with Rodney Rulon and Danielle Randles, TNC Regenerative Agriculture Manager, explaining why the operation was interested in edge-of-field practices and what The Nature Conservancy's goals are in supporting their installation and future installations elsewhere.



Then Rulon took the group out into his nearby fields to tour the two saturated buffers that were installed this spring. While in the fields, Rulon explained how the buffers are integrated into his tile system and discussed the technology that is used to adjust the water flow.

From there, the group moved to the Taylor Center for Natural History Museum Classroom at Strawtown Koteewi Park. In the standing room only, space, Emily Usher-DeaKyne, Diverse Corn Belt Project Manager, shared an update on the results of over three years of engaging stakeholders in discussions on how to diversify the Midwest's corn/soybean rotation.

As the final part of the formal meeting, Park staff joined us and introduced Strawtown Koteewi Park's history and current activities. The meeting then adjourned to the outside tables to socialize and enjoy the assortment of dishes that everyone contributed, including freshly grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.



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