

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
INDIANA SWCDs
JANUARY 14-15, 2016



INDIANA CONSERVATION:
Leading the Way



Welcome to Indianapolis!

We are looking forward to the 2016 Annual Conference of Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts! This year our conference focuses on the theme of "Leading the Way." Indiana is a leader in more ways than one when it comes to conservation, and I am proud of the work being done by all of the districts and our partners to move us forward. We are especially proud that our collective efforts have been recognized beyond the state level. This summer, Ray McCormick attended the NACD Summer Board Meeting in Spokane, Washington, where he heard from our peers around the country that Indiana is looked upon as a national leader in conservation.


Fellow conservationists admire Indiana for its partnership and cooperative spirit, and other states have asked for assistance in emulating the kind of partnership we have here. Our districts work together across county and agency lines to put on field days, implement practices, and spread our message. This year, IASWCD and NRCS entered into a contribution agreement for CRP status review work which will provide over \$180,000 in funding to those districts. Without this collaborative effort, we would not accomplish nearly as much as we do.

In the Indiana Statehouse and in the nation's capital, districts are making their voices heard as leaders as well. In March, a congressional delegation from the IASWCD board met with every senator and representative's office in Washington, DC. The long session in our own Statehouse ended with a full \$1 million general fund appropriation for the Clean Water Indiana program along with dedicated funding from

the cigarette tax. Our representatives on both the federal and state level know who we are and what we represent.

We are also leading the way on soil health, with over 1 million acres of cover crops planted this past winter. Just this summer, districts collaborated with CCSI and other partners to put on six workshops featuring national experts on soil health. As a result, we reached hundreds of farmers and crop advisers with important messages about the power of conservation cropping systems and soil health. In light of the flooding this year coupled with the prevented planting acres, our message of spreading the benefits and opportunities of cover crops was demonstrated at a critical time.

Let us take pride in what our districts and our partners have accomplished together this year. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities that the Annual Conference of SWCDs offers to strengthen your district's capabilities, to network with colleagues from around the state, and to reflect on how we can continue to lead the way!



Mike Starkey

IASWCD President

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Buz Kloot

Dr. Robin “Buz” Kloot started his professional life as a chemical engineer and spent 12 years in the mining and mineral processing industry in Namibia. In 1999, he joined the University of South Carolina and has been involved in various projects related to agriculture and environmental quality.

Buz is passionate about working directly with farmers on soil health projects and research and how they can leverage the cover crop to improve crop performance both in terms of yield and savings in inputs. Buz’s passion for soils has moved him into the roles of storytelling through video. His documentary “Under Cover Farmers” and his recent series on the “Science of Soil Health” and “The International Year of Soils” are examples of his work and passion.



Buz is currently an associate professor in the Environmental Health Sciences Department at USC’s Arnold School of Public Health and holds degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, and an MBA and PhD from the University of South Carolina.

Buz has traveled the country researching and filming about soil health. He’ll share his journey and lessons learned with us during our General Session this year at Annual Conference. This is one speaker you definitely don’t want to miss!



General Information

Hotel Information

The 2016 Annual Conference takes place at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Pages 14-15 of this brochure include a map of the conference meeting room layout.

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
350 W. Maryland St.
Indianapolis, IN 46225
317.822.3500



Check-in and Amenities

- Check-in is 4 pm
- Check-out is 11 am
- Wireless internet is complimentary in the lobby and public areas.

Registration Hours

Conference registration is located on the 2nd floor, at the west end of the building next to the elevator.

Wednesday	2 pm - 5:30 pm
Thursday	7 am - 7 pm
Friday	7 am - 1 pm

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, January 13

2 pm	Ballroom Foyer
Registration	

2 -4:30 pm	2nd Floor Registration Desk
Tour - TBA	
Meet at the 2nd floor registration desk between 2-2:15 pm. The tours will begin at 2:30 pm and will last about two hours.	

4:30-6 pm	Room location TBD
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting	

7 pm	Room location TBD
IDEA Meeting	

Thursday, January 14

7 am	Ballroom Foyer
Registration	

7:30 - 8:45 am	Ballroom Foyer
Trade Show Breakfast	

8:00 am - 4 pm	Ballroom Foyer
IASWCD Auxiliary Auction	

8:00 am - 5 pm	Ballroom Foyer
Trade Show Exhibits Open	

9:00 - 10:30 am	Marriott 1-6
Opening Welcome Session and General Session I	

10:30 - 11 am	Ballroom Foyer
Break	

11 am - 12 pm
Training Sessions

Room locations TBD

On the Ground
Monarchs and Plantings

This session will provide an introduction to monarch biology and conservation of these threatened pollinators. It will also include a section on pollinator plantings specifically for the monarch butterfly. Anne Stine, Pollinator Conservation Specialist for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and NRCs Partner Biologist will lead this session.

District Management
Leading the Community in Soil Health

How can you serve as a soil health leader in your own community? Why should your neighbors care about soil health and how can you get them excited about it? Rodney Rulon, Hamilton County Supervisor, and Gordon and Jeff Smiley of Decatur County will share their lessons in leadership during this session.

Outreach & Education
Advanced Social Media

Do you already know the basics of Facebook and Twitter, and want to learn how to take your District's social media to the next level? Join this session to delve into what content makes the most effective posts, how to optimize your post timing, and planning for trending topics. DyNishia Miller, Press Secretary for ISDA, will facilitate.

12 pm - 1:30 pm
Networking Luncheon with Legislators

1:30 pm -2:30 pm
Training Sessions

Room locations TBD

Conservation Implementation
Farm Bill Program Updates

Learn about the trends of the Farm Bill in Indiana and where monies have been spent. Hear about the different watershed initiatives and the outcomes from the conservation practices installed. Learn about the newest program, RCPP (Resource Conservation Partnership Project), and hear about a couple of Indiana's projects. Finally, learn why and how YOU can get involved in shaping the discussions of the next Farm Bill! State Conservationist Jane Hardisty and Assistant State Conservationist Jill Reinhart will present.

District Management
Watershed Planning Without 319 Funding

Learn about the process of watershed planning without 319 grant funding. Why should you do it? How do you get started? What does the process entail? Hear about two successful WMPs that were created without 319 funding: the Big Pine Creek WMP and the Middle Patoka River WMP. Jon Charlesworth of the Benton County SWCD, Toby Days of the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water, and Leanne Whitesell from the IDEM Office of Water Quality will participate in this panel discussion.

Outreach & Education
Working with the Media: Telling Your District's Story

We all know districts do great conservation work in local communities, but the general public doesn't always hear these stories. During this session you'll learn how to work with

local news media to get the good news out. Learn about what makes a good story, best practices for working with reporters, and how to garner press coverage for workshops, field days, and conservation projects. Beth Forbes of Purdue Agricultural Communications will lead this session.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm *Room locations TBD*
SWCD Region Meetings

3:05 pm - 3:30 pm Ballroom Foyer
Break

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm *Room locations TBD*
Roundtable Sessions
Approximately 4-8 topics, TBA

4:45 pm - 5 pm *Room location TBD*
SWCD Resolutions Review

Dinner on Own

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm *Room locations TBD*
Welcome Reception

Friday, January 15

7 am Ballroom Foyer
Registration

7:30 - 8:30 am *Room location TBD*
Breakfast
Hear updates from ICP Leaders

8:30- 9:00 am Ballroom Foyer
Break

7:30 am - 12 noon Ballroom Foyer
Trade Show Exhibits Open

9:00 - 10:30 am *Room location TBD*
IASWCD Business Meeting

9 am - 10:30 am *See descriptions for location*
Training Sessions

On the Ground
Initial Results from Soil Health & Water Quality Studies

Hear the results of studies that are quantifying the benefits of conservation practices for both water quality and soil health. A study in partnership with Notre Dame demonstrates the benefits of watershed scale cover crop planting in relation to algal blooms and hypoxic dead zones. A Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative study of 17 farm and research sites using various soil health measurements will also be discussed, summarizing the results from the studies and the usefulness of different soil health tests. Dr. Jennifer Tank of Notre Dame and Dr. Eileen Kladviko of Purdue will present.

District Management
Planning and Zoning 101

Becoming more involved in the planning and zoning process can seem daunting, but is beneficial for districts to do. Learn about the public hearing process and how your district can participate. Speakers to be announced.

Outreach and Education
Ag in the Classroom

What is it? Who does it? Why do it? Where do I start? How do I get new ideas? Learn all about it in this interactive session with take-away activities. Ann Ice, SWCD Education Coordinator at the Gibson County SWCD, and Martha Miller,

sensitivity to different cultural factors. Learn how your district can best approach working with your local Amish community and sharing technical assistance with them. Victor Shelton, USDA-NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist, and Jerry Perkins, USDA-NRCS retired, will present.

Ballroom Foyer

12 pm - 2 pm

Room location TBD

Room locations TBD

Training Sessions

Awards Luncheon

Safe Travels Back Home!

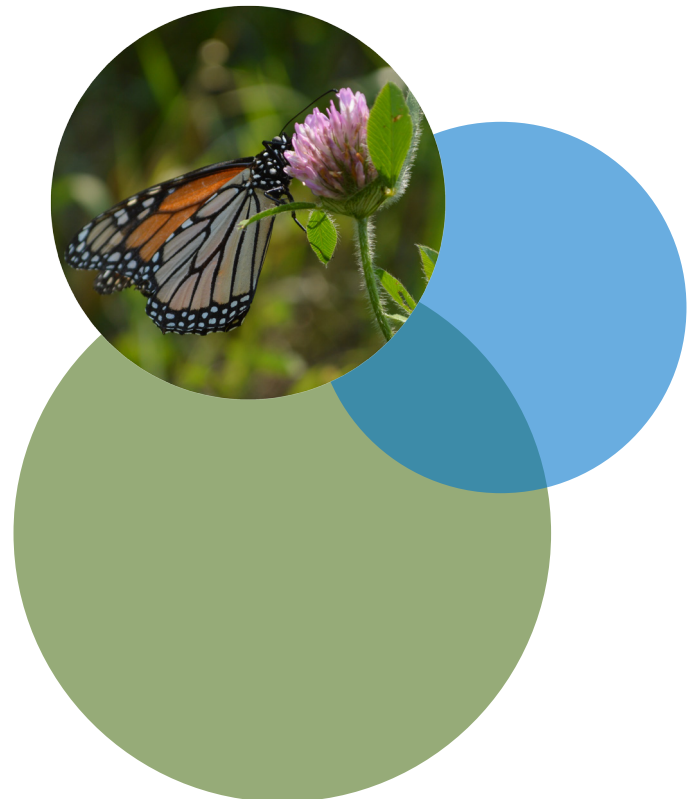
This presentation will cover two recent studies related to cover crop economics. The first is a modeling exercise to examine the economic value of changes in soil erosion, nitrate leaching, and soil organic carbon related to cover crop usage under different crop rotations and management practices. The second study examined the economic and environmental impacts of harvesting corn stover for animal feed. Wallace E. Tyner, Purdue University, will present.

Utilizing YouTube and Webinars to promote your SWCD

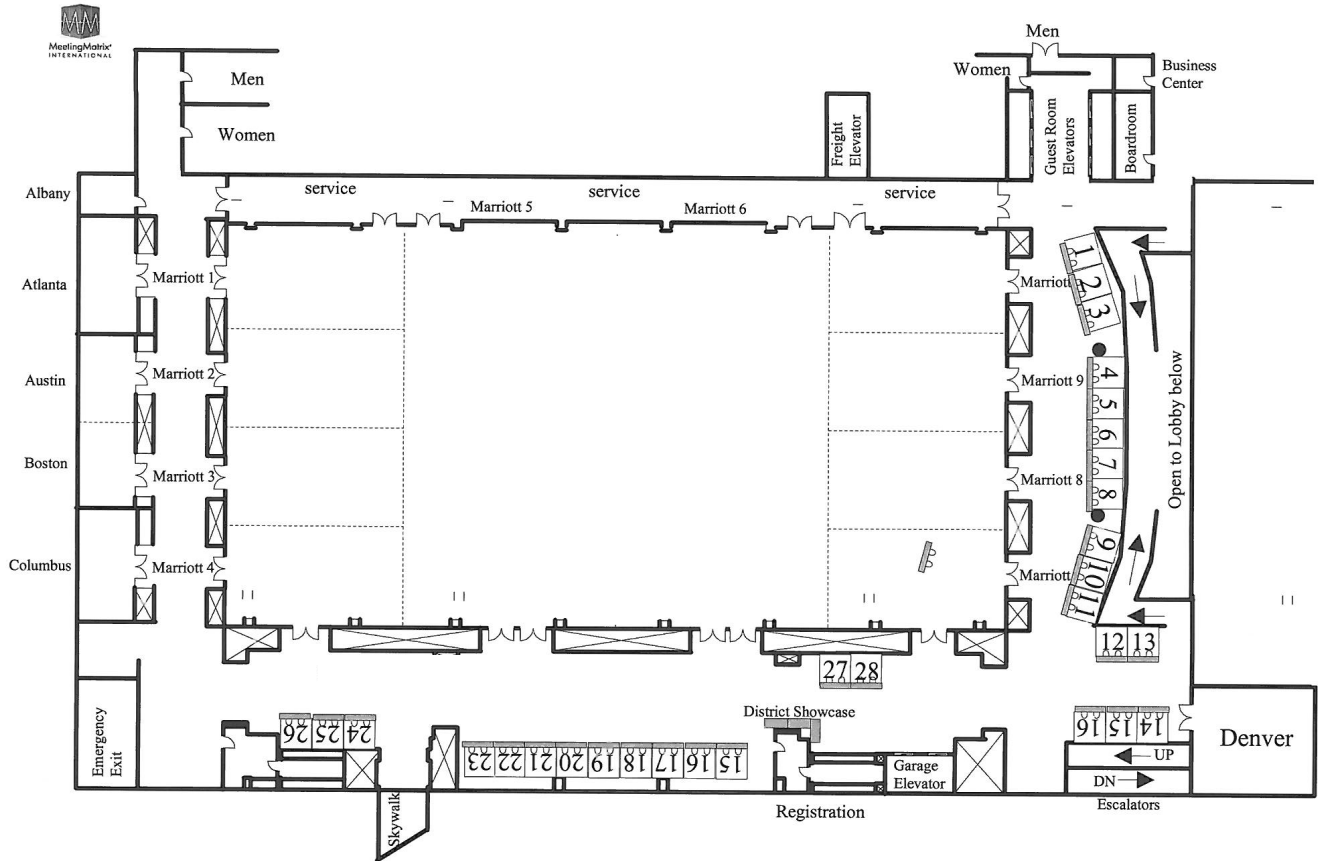
YouTube and Webinars are a great way for SWCDs to spread their message beyond a traditional audience. This session will introduce SWCDs to Google Hangouts on-air webinar software and its interaction with YouTube and discuss the ins and outs of utilizing webinars to promote your district's message. Leah Harmon, ISDA District Support Specialist, will present.

Challenges and Opportunities of Providing Technical Assistance to the Amish

Working with members of the Amish community successfully requires knowledge of and



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Conference registration will be open on the 2nd floor beginning at 2 pm on Wednesday and beginning at 7 am on Thursday and Friday mornings.

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Contributing

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