

3/27/2021

## APRIL Update/Corrections 2021 Needle Newsletter (3/18/21) Iowa White Pine Group Sierra Club

CORRECTIONS: 2021 Needle Newsletter

1. Page 5: Sinsinawa Mound Center Events. The link to the events has a comma instead of a dot so will not work. Try this: www.sinsinawa.org/moundcenter/events

March 30, Tues., 7-8 PM: "Cover Crops for Soil Health & Increased Profits."

April 7, Wed., 7-8 PM: "Black and Green Spiritual Ecology & Ecowomanism" (ZOOM)

- 2. Page 4: "Kiss the Ground": Two incorrect references were to "Kiss the Earth." So, google "Kiss the Ground" to locate a link to watch the movie about regenerative agriculture. U.S. and international examples.
- 3. Page 4: Solved the inability to locate the "One lowan in northeast lowa found a solution!" Des Moines Register article. Here it is (sorry about the one rather fuzzy blow-up.): You may be able to zoom in to enlarge the type.

## It's time for Iowa to act on soil health

3/3/21 Your Turn Wayne Fredericks DMR

It all started in late 1991, when winter came early to Osage, lowa. That year, the ground froze before I could plow as I always had, and my farm hasn't been the same since. From that moment on, my farm saw the adoption of no-till soybeans, strip-till corn and, in the past five years, win-ter back accurate access on DOGe of mu

the corn and, in the past new years, win-ter-hardy cover crops on 100% of my farm. What I've seen from this change-keeping my soil covered year-round and disturbed as little as possible — is a huge improvement in soil health. And that has come with real, measurable bene-

For starters, I am now seeing, in some

cases, up to a 70% reduction in nitrates leaving my farm, and in most instances tile drainage water cleaner than the stream we drain into. But I've also seen a substantial improvement in my bottom line. First, no-till and strip-till save me The. First, no-till and stip-till save me \$44 per acre in equipment costs and \$27 per acre in leadbo costs. The organic mat-ter my system has added to my soil (im-proved soil health) has produced bene-tis, including increased nutrients and water availability for my corpos and other benefits worth a total of \$72 per acre. And there are still more benefits, includ-ing less soil erosion, better weed control and overall improved resiliency worth another \$22 per acre. acroding to the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Re-search and Education program. So even though the cover crop costs me \$27 per acre to plant, the balance sheet comes out in my favor — to the tune of \$138 per acre in my pocket.

No-till/strip-till and continuous cover farming practices have improved my cash earnings and enhanced the land and water around me. With less niand water around me. With less ni-trates, phosphates and soil exiting my fields, mylocal stream is cleaner when it leaves my farm, and that means cleaner water for communities downstream. My fields are also more absorbent, help-ing to reduce downstream flooding. If farming this way is more profitable and better for our environment, why isn't everyone doing it? Well, if farmers today are like me 30 years ago, it's probably too scary for them to make that leap into the un-known when farming is already so risky. At least, that's what I would have said before that early freeze forced me to re-tire my tillage tools and look for another way.

way. Scary or not, it's time for more Iowa farmers to make this change, and for our

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Your Turn Wayne Fredericks DM **Guest** columnist

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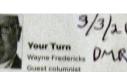
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Well, if farmers today are like me 30 years ago, it's probably too scary for them to make that leap into the unknown when farming is already so risky. At least, that's what I would have said before that early freeze forced me to retire my tillage tools and look for another way

Scary or not, it's time for more Iowa

elected leaders in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., to help us with research, technical support and incentives. State legislators can take a step in the right direction by supporting House File 646 this session, a bill that would lay the groundwork for helping farmers adopt the practices that have worked so well for me. As Iowa farmers struggle with the effects of coronavirus, extreme weather and the aftermath of a trade war, bankruptcies will continue to rise. There is a solution that can help solve these problems and more. My farm is living proof.

Wayne Fredericks, a farmer from Osage, has been on the American Soybean Association's Board of Directors since 2015. He served on the Iowa Soybean Association board from 2008 to 2017 and held positions as secretary, treasurer and president. Contact: wrfredericks@osage.net.



- 4. You are on your own to deal with **the typos**. Line off-sets were a glitch.
- But, page 7's "Pan" should have been "Plan" not developed yet for an August, Class 2, 14'er climbing trip to Colorado. 5.
- Page 7: The knee issue may be resolved with a left knee "replacement" by the end of April, with luck. Pain may go away. 6. John Muir: "...going to the mountains is going home; ... wildness is a necessity..."



Scenes from the 2020 climbs.

## April Updates related to items in the 2021 White Pine Needle Newsletter:

1. Page 3: The Swiss Valley Road Clean-Up is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 9-11 AM. (Rain date: Friday, April 9, 9-11 AM.) Or, help with recyclable sorting, 10-12. Swiss Valley Nature Center. There is always the thought (hope) that just maybe there will be no roadside trash to be found!!



Brian: "Go hit the road."







Dr. Pepper Diet Party??

2. Page 8 (Address page): Catfish Creek Clean-Up. Saturday, May 1 (Rain Date, Sat., May 8.) The Clean-Up has morphed into a county-wide Clean-Up coordinated by Bev Wagner (DMASWA), Kaytlan at Swiss Valley Nature Center, and Eli at EB Lyons. Several locations including Swiss Valley, the Landfill, Mines of Spain, behind Hempstead, and a couple of others will be included. Details are still being worked out. Registrations will be through the Dubuque County Conservation Board. With luck, maybe the White Pine Group could be given Catfish Creek and the Mines of Spain responsibilities. Bev Wagner (563-588-7933); Swiss Valley (563-556-6745); Dick Worm (563-582-2580)







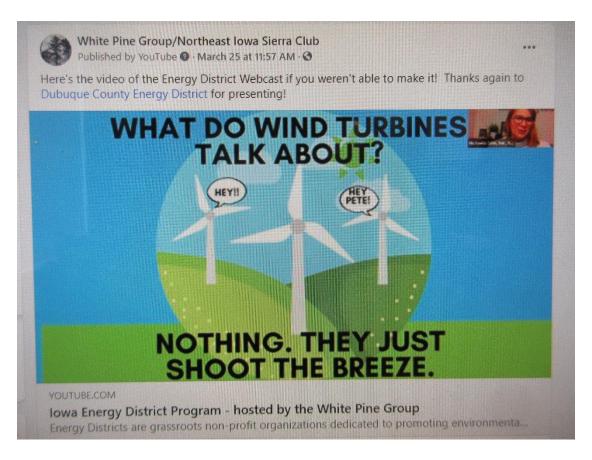


May, 2019: Catfish Creek Clean-Up.

Lunch, anyone??

- 3. New Addition: April 24, Saturday, "Party for the Planet" 10-3 National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. White Pine Group intends to be represented – Party at a campsite.... Explore, ENJOY, Protect
- 4. Project AWARE 2021: Details are ready: <u>www.iowaprojectaware.org</u> Middle & South Raccoon River: 63.2 miles.
- 5. April 27, 7 PM. EXCOM ZOOM Discussion. White Pine Group: Past, Present, FUTURE. If you would PLEASE care to join the discussion as we plan for & take on this new decade, contact Ben Biver: <a href="mailto:biverb@gmail.com">biverb@gmail.com</a> 563-587-9821.

6. To watch the "County Energy Districts ZOOM program, March 23, 2021, go to <u>www.Facebook.com/whitepinegroup</u>.



Or, contact Ben Biver (<u>biverb@gmail.com</u>) or Dick Worm (<u>raworm@msn.com</u>) for a link to the program.

