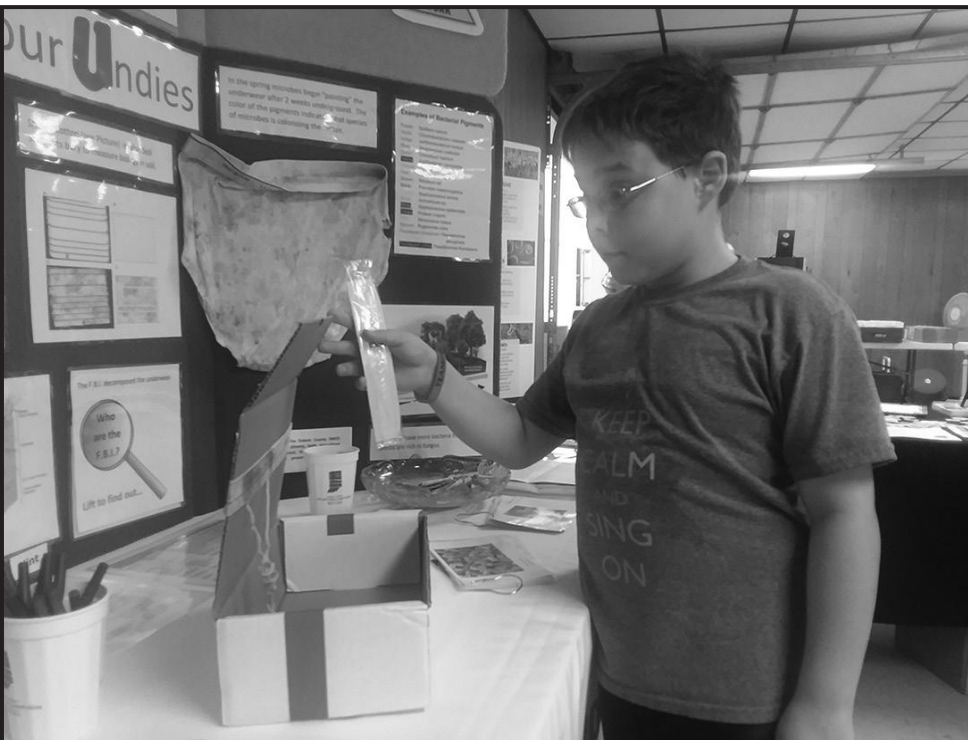


2017 Soil & Water Conservation Accomplishments



Checking out the SWCD booth at the Dubois County 4-H Fair

(Continued from page 1)

An exciting project for the SWCD in 2017 was the partnership created between the SWCD, the Dubois County Solid Waste District, the City of Jasper Stormwater Department, and the Rotary Club of Jasper. The Rotarians provided grant funds and volunteers, as the SWCD hosted the Second Annual Creek Sweep. Results: Middle Patoka Watershed, three hours, 38 volunteers, 4,580 pounds of junk collected.

Volunteers numbering 26 including fami-

lies, worked on the ground loading pickup trucks with trash collected from roadsides and waterways. Twelve volunteers in kayaks picked up trash directly from the Patoka River. All trash was taken to the Solid Waste Management District, weighed and sorted for proper disposal or recycling. Grant funds paid for disposal.

The volunteers ended their productive morning with a drawing for gift certificates donated by local sponsors. Prizes were awarded for the strangest items found, and all participants received a reusable water



Cara Birkschneider speaks to those attending the Twilight Compost workshop in September 2017.



Heavy lifting was required in the 2017 clean-up.

bottle and a goody bag.

Another exciting event for the SWCD was the Women 4 the Land Forestry Learning Circle. Dubois and Perry County SWCDs teamed up with Ferdinand State Forest to host a forestry roundtable for women. Traditional land managers are men, so this fresh approach to conservation empowers women land managers. Participants learned about proper forest management, including the use of professional foresters and written management plans to help them achieve their goals. Local professionals participated in the conversation, allowing the women to explore sources of State and Federal cost share funding for their operations.

The VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative is a five year old ongoing project of the SWCD. This partnership with Vincennes University,



Kayakers assist in picking up huge quantities of trash on Patoka River during 2017 Creek Sweep.

(Continued on page 3)