



Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District

Rock Island County SWCD Late Summer 2015 Newsletter

www.RockIslandSWCD.org

Pond Clinic & Dry Fire Hydrant Installation Demonstration Night

The Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a fall Pond Clinic and Dry Fire Hydrant Demonstration Wednesday September 9th from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

The pond is located at 5509 286th Street North Hillsdale, IL. RSVP to the R.I. SWCD office.

Ken Clodfelter, County Fish Biologist, will be conducting a pond shocking as well as discussing pond management techniques and concepts. Several product vendors will be present and available to answer questions.

Additionally, the Hillsdale Fire Department will be installing a dry fire hydrant donated by the R.I. SWCD immediately following the Pond Clinic. A meal will be provided, please bring your lawn chairs and any pond management questions you may have!



Funding Crisis For Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Springfield, IL, August 17, 2015— Soil and Water Conservation District's across the state will soon be without funding if a budget is not passed at the state level.

Due to a lack of funding critical conservation work, usually accomplished at the local level by SWCD staff, may not continue.

SWCDs, authorized in 1937 under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act (70 ILCS 405), receive operational and cost-share funds through the Partners for Conservation Program from the State of Illinois.

SWCD's are a major force in delivering local, state, and federal agency programs and dollars to both rural and urban citizens within the state of Illinois. The loss of those dollars will have a significant impact on the local economy as well as the state's ability to generate revenue in the long term.

Please support the 97 Soil and Water Conservation Districts by encouraging state legislators to work together to pass a FY16 budget with a line for SWCDs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Call for Contact and Registration Info

Pond Clinic & Dry Fire Hydrant Demonstration

September 9th 5:00-7:30, Hillsdale

U of I Extension AgXPerience Education Event

September 16th-18th, Rock Island

Fall Eco Camp Education Event

September 24th-25th, Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

Fall Tree Sale Deadline/Pick Up Dates

Deadline: Oct. 9th Pick Up Dates: Oct. 22-23

Fall Fish Sale Deadline/Pick Up Date

Deadline: Oct. 26th Pick Up Date: Nov. 2nd

NRCS Funds Available To Restore Wetlands

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Through the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) component of ACEP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. Eligible land includes farmed wetland and prior converted cropland. At least 50% of the area offered must be cropland with wet soils.

WRE enrollment options include permanent and 30 year conservation easements. Landowners can receive up to \$5,500 per acre for permanent conservation easements and up to 100% of the restoration costs. NRCS also pays all costs associated with recording the conservation easement. Applications for WRE are accepted at any time.



University of Illinois Extension Outdoor Adventure Camp

University of Illinois Extension ran a week long outdoor camp, at the Rock Island Conservation Club, June 29th-July 2nd. The last day of the camp was set aside as a day in which several outside partners including Rock Island SWCD would run interactive stations for the children ages 10+.

Administrative Coordinator, Sarah Fitzgerald, and SWCD Intern, Alyssa Clarida, ran a "Living Soils" Station in which they included information on both the physical and chemical properties of soil.

Additionally a worm composting bin was used to demonstrate the interactions between soil and organisms that live within it. Each child was then able to make their very own composter to take home out of a variety of recycled materials.

New Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist & Outreach Coordinators

We are excited to announce that a new Farm Bill Biologist, Scott James, and a new Outreach Coordinator, Katie Kauzlarich, have been hired in Northwest Illinois. Scott began Jul. 1st and works with area landowners and farmers to implement wildlife habitat conservation measures. Katie began Jul. 1st and works statewide to introduce youth and the public to nature and shooting sports.

Through a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and Pheasants Forever (PF), Scott and Katie aim to strengthen pheasant conservation in Illinois. Scott is located in the Galesburg NRCS Field Office and serves Knox, Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Warren Counties. Scott is a native of Rock Island County. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University. Since that time, Scott served overseas with the National Guard, worked as a waterfowl research technician on two projects, and worked for Quail Forever in Southeast Missouri.

He has been interested in wildlife conservation work since childhood and plans to conserve wildlife as much as possible in Illinois. Scott is one of five Illinois Farm Bill Biologists and they are employees of, and supervised by PF, with daily instruction and leadership provided by NRCS. Scott can be reached at (309) 660-3147 or sjames@pheasantsforever.org

Pheasants Forever Pollinator Workshop

Pheasants Forever and USDA/SWCD partners hosted a wildflower and pollinator workshop on August 18th. The workshop was held at a small prairie on private property near Sherrard.

Some of the primary topics discussed included: 1. Establishing, managing, and identifying wildflowers. 2. The importance of pollinators to nature and mankind. 3. How seed mixes can be wildlife-friendly and inexpensive.

There was a great turn-out for the workshop with many interested individuals in attendance, and a nice lively discussion followed by plant identification opportunities.

CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

Copperas Creek Watershed Committee Update: IL EPA 319 Grant Application

The Copperas Creek Planning Committee met this summer to review progress on conservation activities within the watershed.

Augustana student intern Alyssa Clarida was able to work three days a week this summer at the SWCD office to update the current IL EPA 319 Grant Application and Resource Plan for Copperas Creek. She developed the water monitoring plan that is a key component of the plan and collected water samples at six sites. The samples were taken to Augustana College for analysis. This will serve as a base line for future water samples.

The updated Resource Plan and the information that Doug Hessman collected last summer was submitted in a new 319 EPA grant for their consideration. Previous applications made the initial list from IL EPA for their consideration. But due to the large number of applications around Illinois, we have not been successful in winning approval. Persistence does play a part of the application pool. So we will keep trying.

One thing that has improved our chances is the support and commitments we have received from The Edgington Township board and Rock Island Co. Highway Department . Having in-kind and outside sources of funds does improve the application. We will keep landowners in Copperas Creek informed of future actions.



Quad City Pollinator Conference Update

The first annual Quad Cities Pollinator Conference titled “POLLINATOR’S – IN YOUR BACKYARD AND BACK FORTY”, was held June 10th-11th at Jumer’s Casino in Rock Island. Due to its great success the planning committee has decided to proceed with plans to hold a follow-up conference next summer.

Over 250 people attended the conference at Jumer’s Hotel and Casino last June. Two field tours were available for participants, one in Illinois and one in Iowa, to showcase conservation practices used to benefit pollinators. The program had three types of speakers available – one for bee-keepers, one for habitat restoration, and one for the Ag community.

The next conference will be held June 23 and 24, 2016 at the River Center in Davenport. The committee is working on obtaining potential speakers and field sites for the conference. Look for more information in the future.

News You Can Use: Irrigation Water Use Reporting

- In 2010, the Illinois Water Use Act was amended to make reporting for all high capacity wells or intakes mandatory in Illinois, including agricultural irrigation.
- Agricultural irrigation was given five years to comply, which means that starting in 2015, irrigators are required to report their water use from both wells and surface water intakes to the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS).
- A high capacity well/intake is defined as a single point of withdrawal or a series of points that together pump more than 70 gallons a minute.
- The Illinois Water Use Act states that irrigators can provide an actual number of gallons pumped, if using a flow meter, or estimate their water withdrawals using a method approved by the ISWS.
- Please visit the full website for more details:
<http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/gws/iwip/irrigation/>



RISWCD 2015 Fall Fish Sale — Proceeds Support Conservation!

Triploid Orders Due: October 16, 2015 Payment and Orders Due: October 26, 2015

Pick Up: Monday, November 2, 2015 at 8:00 AM* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E,

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 * Stocking Questions: IDNR fisheries biologist, ken.clodfelter@illinois.gov
 Visit rockislandswcd.org for additional information and order forms.

Make check payable to: RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264

Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
Channel Catfish	4-6 in	\$0.70 each		\$
	6-8 in	\$0.85 each		\$
	* 8-10 in	\$0.95 each		\$
Albino Catfish	4-6 in	\$1.20 each		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2 in	\$58.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$0.90 each		\$
	5-7in	\$1.15 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	2-3 in	\$0.90 each		\$
	5-8 in	\$2.75 each		\$
Bluegill	1-2 in	\$58.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$0.85 each		\$
Redear Sunfish	1-2 in	\$58.00 Bag of 250		\$
± Black Crappie	2-3 in	\$48.00 Bag of 100		\$
Fathead Minnows	Avg. 100 per lb.	\$9.50 per lb.		\$
**Triploid Grass Carp Rec: 6 /vegetated acre	8-11 in	\$10.00		\$
± Black crappie only recommended in ponds over 5 acres.			Total	\$

Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone Email Both

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email Preferences:

- All SWCD/NRCS Emails
- Newsletter
- NRCS News
- Ponds and Fish Sale
- Forestry and Tree Sale
- Wildlife
- Backyard & Urban Conservation
- Livestock and Forage
- Agricultural Conservation
- Conservation Education
- Copperas Creek Watershed

**REQUIRED FOR TRIPLOID GRASS CARP ORDERS

County	Township, Range, Section If unknown, Property Address	Pond Size (Acres)	Water Name	# of Fish
Ex: Rock Island	T16N R2W S16	2ac	Pond	4

Getting Your Fish Home Safely— Save This Portion of Form

- All fish, except 8-10” catfish, will be bagged at the time of pick up and sealed in oxygenated water.
- Bring containers such as 5 gallon buckets, coolers, or totes, to secure the bags while travelling.
- 8-10” catfish: Due to their spines, you must provide a container with pond water. Pond water should be collected on pick-up day to ensure sufficient oxygen.
- Bagged fish should be kept out of sunlight on your trip home.
- After pickup, go directly to your pond and put your fish in.

Pick Up is Monday, November 2, 2015 at 8:00 AM* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264

***Pick-up hours may be extended; you will be notified. This is NOT an All-Day Event; Please be On Time.**



RISWCD 2015 Fall Tree Sale— Proceeds Support Conservation!

Payment and Orders Due: October 9th, 2015— Early Orders Recommended

Pick-Up at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264.

***Pick Up: Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 and Friday, October, 23rd, 2015, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 * Visit rockislandswcd.org for planting tips, questions, and order forms.

Make check payable to: RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264

Special Orders

A wide selection of species and sizes are available from our nursery vendors. If you are interested in a special order, the sooner you call, the sooner we can reserve with the vendor. Special order deadline is October 1st. Call 309-764-1486 x3.

Species Spotlight

± Bucks Unlimited Swamp White Oak, \$20

- Forest Keeling has teamed up with University of Missouri to market a superior oak for Wildlife.
- The “Bucks Unlimited Oak” is a premium quality, fast growing Swamp White Oak selection proven to out-produce the mast production of other oaks by as much as two to one with a wildlife-preferred food source acorn.
- Acorns are a key component of the diets of nearly all wildlife, including deer, turkey, waterfowl, an upland game birds.

± Black Chokeberry, \$15.00

- Native Black Chokeberry is an adaptable small, multi-branched shrub often grown as for its showy flowers and fruit.
- Foliage turns wine red in fall. Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone Email Both

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email Preferences:

- All SWCD/NRCS Emails
- Newsletter
- NRCS News
- Ponds and Fish Sale
- Forestry and Tree Sale
- Wildlife
- Agricultural Conservation
- Backyard & Urban Conservation
- Livestock and Forage
- Conservation Education
- Copperas Creek Watershed

*Weather and planting conditions beyond the control of the nursery may affect the tree pick-up date. We cannot be responsible for trees after the specified pick-up date. Please make arrangements to pick them up on time.

Plants are for conservation purposes only, and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping. We make every effort to provide excellent quality stock, but we cannot provide any guarantees of survival or growth.

RISWCD 2015 Spring Tree Sale – Proceeds Support Conservation!

3 Gallon Potted RPM (Root Production Method) Trees - Conservation Grade				Accessories			
SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL	SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Bur Oak	\$16.50		\$	Tree Wrap 2'	\$2.50		\$
Red Oak	\$16.50		\$	Tree Tube 3' with Stake	\$5		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$16.50		\$	Tree Tube 4' with Stake	\$7.50		\$
Chinkapin Oak	\$16.50		\$	Tree Tube 5' with Stake	\$8.50		\$
White Oak	\$16.50		\$	Plantskydd Deer and Rabbit Repellant-1 lb Concentrate	\$25		\$
"Bucks Unlimited Oak"	\$20.00		\$	Seedling Planting Bar Rental	\$10/day		\$
Pecan	\$16.50		\$	Seedling Planter Rental	\$50/day		\$
Domestic Apple	\$16.50		\$	Subtotal:			\$
Black Chokeberry	\$15.00		\$	Totals			
American Hazelnut	\$15.00		\$	3 Gal. Potted RPM Subtotal			\$
Norway Spruce	\$16.50		\$	Accessories Subtotal			\$
Eastern White Pine	\$16.50		\$	Grand Total:			\$
Subtotal			\$	Please provide contact information on previous side before submitting.			

Additional Species Available For Order:

- Service Berry
- River Birch
- Shellbark Hickory
- Shagbark Hickory
- Flowering Dogwood

- Persimmon
- American Beech
- Black Walnut
- American Sycamore
- Wild Plum

RISWCD NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

In January 2015, Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District (RISWCD) began a newsletter mailing program. RISWCD is seeking sixteen sponsors to help offset the printing and mailing costs. A newsletter sponsorship costs \$200 per year, and you will be recognized in three or more newsletters for your support. In appreciation of your sponsorship, RISWCD will feature Your Recognition Stamp (3.875" by 1.25") on this page. Design your own stamp or work with RISWCD to design. Sketch your design in the blank stamps at the bottom. Double size spots are also available.

The newsletter is mailed to 1800+ recipients. Mailings are timed to promote RISWCD events, sales, and conservation news. Sponsors will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Mail a \$200 check to RISWCD to sponsor 2016 newsletters. Please consider sponsoring this important resource for conservation in Rock Island County!

<p style="text-align: center;">Efficient Pond Management Consultations - Aeration - Mapping</p> <p>We manage ponds for lasting improvements and long term enjoyment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.efficientpondmanagement.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Your resource and ally for soil and water stewardship</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Technical Assistance * No-Till Drill Rental * Tree Sales</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">309-764-1486 Ext. 3</p>
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<p><i>Sketch Your Recognition Stamp in the Space Below. Need more room? Try a double-size stamp to the right. Mail it to RISWCD and we will format it in the computer and work with you to make adjustments.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

Thank you to our RISWCD newsletter sponsors. Their support makes this publication possible.



Rock Island County
Soil and Water Conservation District
3020 1st Ave E
Milan, IL 61264

Early Summer 2015 Newsletter

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FOR SALE

Flags (multiple colors): \$.15 each or 100 for \$12
Specs: 36" Wire Staff. Flag measures 2.5" x 3.5"

Native Grass Seed and Pollinator Mixes
Call office at 309-764-1486, Ext. 3 for pricing.

5' Tile Probes: \$30

FOR RENT

7' Great Plains No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$12/acre
Pheasants Forever member rate: \$100/day & \$10/acre
Boxes: Grain, Small Seed, Native Grass
Pin Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist
2 way hydraulics
Great for Cover Crops and Native Grasses

6.5' Tye No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$12/acre
Boxes: Grain, Small Seed, Native Grass
Pin Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist
2 way hydraulics
Great for Waterways

ATV Broadcast Seeder \$25/day

Tree Planter (Seedlings): \$50/day
Ball Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist
Recommended for plantings over an acre

Dibble Bar/Tree Bar: \$10/day
Recommended for plantings over 50 seedlings

Rock Island County SWCD & NRCS
3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264 • 309-764-1486
www.RockIslandSWCD.org

Monday - Friday • 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • Closed Federal Holidays

The Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service work in a unique partnership to promote, protect, maintain, improve, and wisely use our county's irreplaceable soil, water, and related natural resources.

The Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District was established February 10, 1942 under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act of 1937. Each District is classified as a "local unit of government"; SWCDs are NOT a branch of federal, state, or county government. The Act gives SWCD's the responsibility to provide technical information to individuals and groups on methods of soil and water conservation. The District is governed by an elected five-member board of directors. Board meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday at the USDA Service Center. You are invited and encouraged to attend. Please call ahead to confirm meeting date and time.

Districts have no taxing authority. Funding is provided by grants from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and Rock Island County. Additional resources are provided by NRCS, based on a Memorandum of Understanding. Revenues from District programs, services and sales also support the district mission.

Rock Island County District Directors:

Gary Blanchard: Chairman
Bill Parchert: Vice-Chairman
Jim Mueller: Treasurer
Twila Cederstrom: Director
Brian Parkinson: Director
Bob Westpfahl: Associate

Staff:

Rich Stewart.....Resource Conservationist, SWCD
Sarah Fitzgerald.....Administrative Coordinator, SWCD
Joe Gates.....District Conservationist, NRCS
Wyatt Junis.....Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Ed Griffin.....Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250- 9410 or call (866) 632-9992. Rock Island County SWCD operates in accordance with the USDA policy.