



# Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation

Rock Island County SWCD Winter 2016 Newsletter

[www.RockIslandSWCD.org](http://www.RockIslandSWCD.org)

## Second Annual Quad Cities Pollinator Conference To Be Held June 23rd-24th 2016

We are excited to announce our **Second Annual Quad Cities Pollinator Conference!** This collaborative conference is geared toward the agricultural community, municipal, state and federal government employees, landowners, homeowners, urban dwellers, beekeepers, and educators.

The first day will take place at the **River Center located in downtown Davenport, Iowa**, and will consist of nearly 20 experts speaking on current pollinator issues, challenges, and opportunities. The first day of the event will feature a luncheon with a keynote speaker. The second day will consist of a morning of scheduled tours around the Quad City area, visiting successful pollinator habitat projects. We had an excellent turnout last year and welcome anyone interested to register and attend.

Pollinators are a critical natural resource in agriculture and healthy ecosystems, but there has been significant pollinator decline over the past few decades. Because of this, many different groups, organizations, and individuals are working towards pollinator protection and sustainability.

This year, we focus on action! We are inviting homeowners, landowners, beekeepers, educators, the general public, and local/state/federal government employees to take part in this event. The goal for the conference is to provide a platform for knowledge-sharing, open dialogue, networking opportunities, and related goods and services.

Registration is now open at:  
<http://nahantmarsh.org/event/qc-pollinator/>



### Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts Funding Update

**Many Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts are on the brink of closure, have closed, or are among others who will have to reduce their programming significantly if a FY16 State Budget is not reached by state legislators soon.**

**SWCDs return to the local economy an average of \$23.57 for every \$1 spent for their operation.** SWCD programs are capable of adding more than \$400 million to the State's economy every year, but if SWCDs are forced to close due to a lack of funding, the valuable services they provide to the residents of Illinois will disappear completely. Please contact your local legislators and inform them of the importance of your local Soil & Water Conservation District!

### UPCOMING EVENTS Call for Contact and Registration Info

#### Urban Erosion and Sediment Control Seminar

*March 3rd Jumers Hotel & Casino*

#### Envirothon Competition Land Use Council 2

*March 17th Blackhawk East Campus*

#### Tree Sale Order Deadline

*March 18th Send to RISWCD Office*

#### Women In Agriculture Conference

*March 22nd Jumers Hotel & Casino*

#### QCCA Flower and Garden Show

*April 1st-3rd Quad City Expo Center*

#### Tree Sale Pick Up

*April 14th-15th RISWCD Office*

#### Spring Eco Camp Event

*April 28th-29th Loud Thunder Forest Preserve*

#### Fish Sale Order Deadline

*April 29th Send To RISWCD Office*

### NRCS Conservation Client Gateway: Online Access To Conservation

Conservation Client Gateway is a secure online web application that gives landowners and land managers, operating as individuals, the ability to track their payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents anytime, anywhere.

Conservation Client Gateway provides users the flexibility to determine when they want to engage with NRCS online and when they prefer in-person conservation planning assistance.

The signup process for Conservation Client Gateway involves several steps that may be completed online or in person at a local USDA Service Center office. The process involves:

1. Creating a USDA eAuthentication account to access Client Gateway
2. Validating your identity (either in-person or online). This secure, two-part process is necessary to ensure that you, and only you, can access your account information through Conservation Client Gateway.

### Pheasants Forever: Adding Diversity To Benefit Wildlife

**Aside from having more diverse pollinator seed mixes, here are three simple tips to enhance pollinator plots for all wildlife:**

1. Plan a cool-season legume firebreak. The firebreak will provide brood-rearing areas for pheasants, turkeys, and quail.

2. Plant shrub thickets in clumps along the edge or in the middle. Flowering shrubs will provide additional and diverse habitat to pollinators, rabbits, quail, and other upland wildlife using the thickets for cover.

3. Place downed tree structures in the pollinator plot. The decaying wood is ideal nesting habitat for many native bees. The structures, similar to loose brush piles, will also be used as hiding cover for rabbit, quail, and deer, and as nesting habitat for turkey.



### U of I Extension: 2016 Small Farms Winter Webinar Series

January 14 - March 31, 2016 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM )

University of Illinois Extension presents a weekly educational series for the small farm community, providing practical knowledge on emerging topics which advance local food production in Illinois. The webinars can be accessed on-line from your personal computer. They will also be recorded, so you can tune in later to any you miss.

Register online:

[web.extension.illinois.edu/smallfarm/webinar.html](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/smallfarm/webinar.html)

- March 3 - Getting Your Beehives Ready for Spring
- March 10 - Raising Meat Birds on Pasture
- March 17 - Using Cover Crops on Small Farms
- March 24 - Growing Great Blackberries
- March 31 - Setting Up a Grazing System on a Small Farm

### Farm Service Agency: CRP National Enrollment

As of January 2016, 23.6 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with contracts for more than 1.6 million acres set to expire this fall. The statutory cap on acres that can be enrolled is 24 million acres. Submissions will be ranked according to environmental benefits in comparison to all other offers nationwide.

**Contact the Aledo FSA office for more information  
(309) 582-5153 Ext. 2**

# CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

## RISWCD Conservation Highlights for 2015

This past year has been busy for the Rock Island Co SWCD. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our efforts for the year.

### Highlights for 2015 include:

- 54 acres of new pollinator habitat
- 7 acres of new Filterstrips
- 48 acres of wetland restoration
- 22 CRP re-offer contracts
- 14 new CRP contracts
- 15 Construction site reviews for NPDES permitted sites

### Participating in the following events:

- Bald Eagle Day
- QC Farm Show
- Flower and Garden show
- Urban Erosion Control Workshop
- Assist Pheasants Forever with two Farm Bill meetings for landowners
- 1<sup>st</sup> ever Pollinator Conference
- Conduct demo field day events at two cover crop plots
- Pond Clinic near Joslin
- Fall and Spring EcoCamp at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve
- Envirothon at Blackhawk College East campus
- AgExperience with Farm Bureau

### Other items noteworthy include:

- Intern from Augustana College
- Re-submitted Copperas Creek for 319 EPA grant
- Outdoor classroom dedication at Jefferson Early Child School in Moline
- Long-term strategy meeting
- Hired new Administrative Coordinator – Sarah Fitzgerald



### SWCD's To Partner With County Farm Bureau's On IFB Nutrient Stewardship Grant

The Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, and Whiteside County Farm Bureau's were selected for a portion of the Illinois Farm Bureau's Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program December 2015. The IFB board of directors voted to commit \$100,000 statewide in order to develop and implement local projects to address water quality issues.

The available dollars were awarded to collaborative projects that involve partners, in this case the Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer County Soil & Water Conservation Districts. **Together the Farm Bureau's and Soil & Water Conservation Districts will work to create informational video episodes.** These videos will incorporate both drone footage as well as interviews with county producers already utilizing Nutrient Stewardship practices in their operations.

**Mark Your Calendars For July 28th!!**

### News You Can Use: Updating Contact Information

Personnel from agencies such as Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation, The Farm Service Agency, as well as The Natural Resources Conservation Service have noticed an increased number of landowners, within Rock Island County, with incorrect or outdated contact information. Vital information concerning programs landowners may be enrolled in cannot be communicated when the phone numbers are no longer valid or addresses are out of date.

**The FSA form AD-2047 also titled "Customer Data Worksheet Request For Business Partner Record Change"** is available at any USDA office and should be used to solve this problem. Once this form is filled out by the landowner, it should be returned to the Farm Service Agency in Aledo (308 S.E. 8th Avenue) and the information will be updated within the system.

**Follow this link to access the form online:**

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>



# RISWCD 2016 Spring Fish Sale — Proceeds Support Conservation!

**Triploid Orders Due: April 20th, 2016 Payment and Orders Due: April 29th, 2016**

**Pick Up: Friday May 6th at 7:00 AM\* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL**

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 \* Stocking Questions: IDNR fisheries biologist  
 Visit [rockislandswcd.org](http://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	\$0.80 each		\$
	6-8 in	\$1.05 each		\$
	* 8-10 in	\$1.25 each		\$
Albino Catfish	4-6 in	\$1.40 each		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$0.95 each		\$
	5-7in	\$1.40 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	2-3 in	\$1.05 each		\$
	5-8 in	\$3.00 each		\$
Bluegill	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$0.95 each		\$
Redear Sunfish	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
± Black Crappie	2-3 in	\$55.00 Bag of 100		\$
Fathead Minnows	Avg. 100 per lb.	\$13.50 per lb.		\$
**Triploid Grass Carp Rec: 6 /vegetated acre	8-11 in	\$13.50		\$
± Black crappie only recommended in ponds over 5 acres.			<b>Total</b>	\$

## 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 Friday May 6th at 7:00 AM\* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264**

**\*This is NOT an All-Day Event; Please be On Time.**



# RISWCD 2016 Spring Tree Sale— Proceeds Support Conservation!

Payment and Orders Due: March 18th, 2016– Early Orders Recommended

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

**\*Pick Up: Thursday, April 14th, 2016 and Friday, April 15th, 2016, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 \* Visit [rockislandswcd.org](http://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. Call 309-764-1486 x3 for more information.

## Species Spotlight

### ± “Monarch” Native Potted Plant Mix

- Butterfly Milkweed (Red Orange)
- Ox-Eye Sunflower (Yellow)
- Prairie Blazing Star (Purple)
- Wild Bergamot (Purple)
- Stiff Goldenrod (Yellow)

### ± “Pollinator Garden” Native Potted Plant Mix

- Purple Prairie Clover (Purple)
- Slender Mountain Mint (White)
- Black Eyed Susan (Yellow)
- Cardinal Flower (Red)
- Columbine (Red/Yellow)

## 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
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- 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!

1 Gallon Potted Evergreens Approx. 12-18" in Height *Conservation Grade / Christmas Tree Grade			
SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Canadian Hemlock	\$9.50		\$
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$9.50		\$
Norway Spruce	\$9.50		\$
Eastern White Pine	\$9.50		\$
American Arborvitae	\$9.50		\$
*Douglas Fir	\$5.50		\$
*Black Hills Spruce	\$5.50		\$
*Fraser Fir Mt. Rogers	\$5.50		\$
*Fraser Fir Roan Mountain	\$5.50		\$
*Canaan Fir	\$5.50		\$
Subtotal:			\$

3 Gallon Potted RPM (Root Production Method) Trees - Conservation Grade			
SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
White Oak	\$18.00		\$
Bur Oak	\$18.00		\$
Red Oak	\$18.00		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$18.00		\$
Pin Oak	\$18.00		\$
Chinkapin Oak	\$18.00		\$
Paw Paw	\$18.00		\$
Black Walnut	\$18.00		\$
Pecan	\$18.00		\$
Eastern Redbud	\$18.00		\$
Ohio Buckeye	\$18.00		\$
Downy Serviceberry	\$16.00		\$
Flowering Dogwood	\$18.00		\$
American Hazelnut	\$16.00		\$
American Plum	\$16.00		\$
Black Cherry	\$18.00		\$
American Chestnut ±	\$18.00		\$
Bucks Unlimited Swamp White Oak ±	\$20.00		\$
Subtotal			\$

Bare Root Seedlings—mainly 1-year-old Must order in multiples of 25 Quantities of Seedlings are Limited			
SPECIES	PRICE for 25	QTY	TOTAL
Bur Oak	\$30		\$
Red Oak	\$30		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$30		\$
White Oak	\$30		\$
Pecan	\$30		\$
Norway Spruce	\$30		\$
White Pine	\$30		\$
Persimmon	\$30		\$
Wild Plum	\$30		\$
Gray Dogwood	\$30		\$
American Hazelnut	\$30		\$
Eastern Redbud	\$30		\$
Subtotal:			\$

NEW Native Potted Plant Mixes			
	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
*Monarch Mix	\$40.00		\$
*Pollinator Garden Mix	\$40.00		\$
Subtotal:			\$

Accessories			
SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Tree Wrap 2'	\$2.50		\$
Tree Tube 3' with Stake	\$5		\$
Tree Tube 4' with Stake	\$7.50		\$
Tree Tube 5' with Stake	\$8.50		\$
Subtotal:			\$

Totals	
Bare Root Seedlings Subtotal	\$
1 Gal. Potted Evergreens Subtotal	\$
3 Gal. Potted RPM Subtotal	\$
Native Pollinator Subtotal	\$
Accessories Subtotal	\$
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>

## 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 and beyond. Please consider sponsoring this important resource for conservation in Rock Island County!



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### Quad City Conservation Alliance

2621 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

A Non-Profit Coalition of Conservation Clubs



Ecological Consulting and Construction  
Est. 2012

Phone: 309-314-5242  
Email: [mholgersson@vildmarkinc.com](mailto:mholgersson@vildmarkinc.com)  
Located in Rock Island, Illinois

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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.*

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

**Winter 2016 Newsletter**

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**Rock Island County SWCD & NRCS**  
 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264 • 309-764-1486  
[www.RockIslandSWCD.org](http://www.RockIslandSWCD.org)

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

Rock Island County District Directors:

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 Bill Parchert: Vice-Chairman  
 Jim Mueller: Treasurer  
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 Brian Parkinson: Director  
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 Sarah Fitzgerald..... Administrative Coordinator,  
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 NRCS  
 Wyatt Junis..... Soil Conservationist,  
 NRCS  
 Ed Griffin ..... Soil Conservation Technician,  
 NRCS

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**FOR SALE**

**Flags (multiple colors): \$.15 each or 100 for \$12**

**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

**6.5' Tye No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$12/acre**

**Boxes:** Grain, Small Seed, Native Grass

**ATV Broadcast Seeder \$25/day**

**Tree Planter (Seedlings): \$50/day**

**Dibble Bar/Tree Bar: \$10/day**

**Donations**

**Cash or property donations to RISWCD are tax deductible under IRS Code 170(c)(1).**