

Soil and Water Conservation

Rock Island County SWCD Spring 2017 Newsletter

www.RockIslandSWCD.org

Cost Share Funds Now Available For Landowners In Lower Rock River Watershed

The Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District has received limited cost share funding through the IDOA Partners For Conservation Fund Program to be used within Rock Island County. Due to a lack of state budget this cost share funding had been unavailable for nearly two years.

These cost share dollars must be used within the priority watersheds identified in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. The Lower Rock River Watershed is named as a priority in the strategy for both point source nitrates and phosphates as well as non-point source nitrates.

The RISWCD board of directors has designated the cost share money will be used to fund cover crops within the watershed area. More information to follow on our website. Interested landowners are encouraged to reach out to RISWCD office staff!

For More Information Or To Submit An Application Contact Rock Island County SWCD Staff

(309) 764-1486 Ext. 3 riswcd@rockislandswcd.org

2017 Election Results Thirty Years Of Service Mr. Jim Mueller

The Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual Election of Directors on Monday, February 27th, 2017 at the USDA Service Center in Milan, IL. Rock Island County landowners/occupiers re-elected Mr. Bill Parchert, for a two-year term and we are pleased to welcome on to the board for the first time Mr. Nathan Oak.

We would like to thank Mr. Jim Mueller, as he steps down from active duty on the RISWCD board, for his many many years of service to Rock Island County. The year 2017 was Mr. Mueller's 30th year as a director on our board and he will be greatly missed!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Tree Sale Deadline

Close Of Business Friday March 24th

QCCA Flower & Garden Show

March 24th-26th Come See Our Booth!

Fall Fish Sale Deadlines

Grass Carp— April 19th All Other— April 26th

Spring Eco Camp

April 27th-28th Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION- RISWCD PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4, 2016 – Starting in November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept and process applications for enrollment in the **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**, the nation's largest conservation program. Applications will be made available in local service centers.

NRCS has made several updates to the program this year to help producers better evaluate their conservation options and the benefits to their operations and natural resources. New methods and software for evaluating applications will help producers see up front why they are or are not meeting stewardship thresholds, and allow them to pick practices and enhancements that work for their conservation objectives. These new tools also allow producers to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and new soil amendments to improve water quality. (Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)



Contact Joe Gates District Conservationist For More Information

> Milan NRCS Field Office 3020 1st Avenue East (309) 764-1486 Ext. 3

University of Illinois Extension:

University of Illinois Extension has excellent resources for farm owners and operators.

When you support the University of Illinois Extension Commercial Agriculture program, the agriculture community is provided with access to cutting edge agricultural, food science and research information that can be used by local commercial, producers, agri-businesses, and small farms / urban farms. This information allows for cost savings, increased revenue, latest technology, and pest management best practices. Those benefits include increased economic activity and intangible benefits including sustainable environmental preservation and a venue for providing education about agriculture. Extending knowledge, changing lives.

Useful Information Available At http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/commag.html

- -Cash Rent Resources
- -Information On Upcoming Events & Workshops
- -Links for Certified Crop Advisors, Certified Livestock Manager Training, Pesticide Safety,
- -"Market Maker" and "Farmdoc" Software



www.RockIslandSWCD.org

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION- RISWCD PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Pheasants Forever:



In 2016, Pheasants Forever, Inc., including its quail division, Quail Forever, **improved habitat for pheasants, quail and other wildlife on more than 1.7 million acres.** These accomplishments are attributed to working with more than 31,000 individual landowners, and chapter affiliates completing more than 15,200 wildlife habitat projects across the United States and Canada.

Contact Information For Illinois Staff:

-http://www.ihuntil.com/team-illinois/

Local Rock Island/Henry County PF Chapter:

-http://www.qcapf.org/about/

Pheasants Forever Habitat Store:

-https://www.pfhabitatstore.com/

Farm Bureau:





Farm Service Agency:



USDA Announces New Conservation Opportunities to Improve Water Quality and Restore Wildlife Habitat.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 7, 2016 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will offer farmers and ranchers more opportunities to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Vilsack unveiled a new conservation initiative known as Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR), which will add new tools to CRP that can help to improve water quality. CLEAR will assist landowners with the cost of building bioreactors and saturated buffers that filter nitrates and other nutrients from tile-drained cropland. Early estimates indicate that CLEAR could help to reduce nitrate runoff by as much as 40 percent over traditional conservation methods. CLEAR may cover up to 90 percent of the cost to install these new practices through incentives and cost-share. These new methods are especially important in areas where traditional buffers have not been enough to prevent nutrients from reaching bodies of water.

USDA will also add an additional 1.1 million acres to a number of key CRP practices that are critically important to wildlife and conservation. These include 700,000 acres for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) efforts, which restore high-priority wildlife habitat tailored to a specific state's needs. In addition to SAFE, 300,000 acres will be added to target wetlands restoration that are nature's water filters and 100,000 acres for pollinator habitat that support 30 percent of agricultural production. (Source: U.S. Department Of Agriculture)

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

CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

Quad City Pollinator Planning Group Receives 2016 "Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award

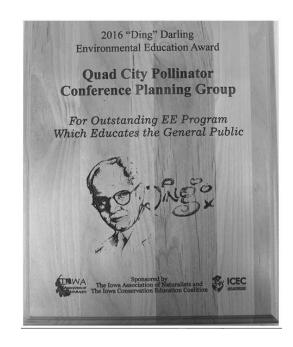
Coordinated by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District and Scott County Conservation Board, the 2016 Pollinator Conference was geared toward the agricultural community; municipal, state and federal government employees; landowners; homeowners and urban dwellers; beekeepers; students; and educators.

In total, 38 businesses and organizations sponsored the 2016 event, which saw over 275 people in attendance on Thursday, and 120 on Friday for the pollinator habitat tours. Attendees came from 11 states: Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin.

Planning is already underway for the 2017 Conference! The Third Annual Quad Cities Pollinator Conference will be held at the River Center in Davenport, Iowa on Wednesday and Thursday September 13-14, 2017. The 2017 Conference, Natural Areas for Native Species: The Art of Conservation is geared towards backyard enthusiasts, professionals and college students.

Those interested in attending or sponsoring the 2017 conference, please contact Lindsey Kennedy: lmkennedy@eicc.edu, 563.336.3374.

(Source: Nahant Marsh Education Center http://nahantmarsh.org/ qcpollinatorconference/)







CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

2017 Urban Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop

This year's Urban Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop was coordinated by a planning committee comprised of representatives of the Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District, the City of Rock Island, Moline, Rock Island County, and Christopher B. Burke Engineering. It was the intention of the planning committee to center this years workshop on the importance of compliance at all levels of planning, construction and monitoring when it comes to urban erosion and permitting.

The mayor of Rock Island, Dennis Pauley, began the workshop with an introduction highlighting the importance of controlling urban erosion throughout the quad city cities and surrounding municipalities. The rest of the morning included presentations educating the audience on NPDES permit functions and updates, the importance of preconstruction meetings, compliance issues and solutions experienced by the City of Rockford, as well as de-watering best management practices.

Afternoon sessions touched on compliance issues and solutions experiences by larger business's, and updates that are currently being made to the Illinois Urban Manual. With registration for the workshop reaching over 100, this years conference was seen as a great success and opportunity for Quad City businesses' and municipalities to work together to reduce urban erosion.







Wetland Restoration Site Tour & Summer Field Day Held Near Joslin

The Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted a summer field day on site at wetland restoration sites near Joslin Illinois August of 2016. Summer field days are coordinated each year by the RISWCD to highlight different conservation practices which have become important within the county. Past programs have presented topics such as pond management, timber stand improvement as well as pasture and grazing land management.

This past summer's field day was attended by over thirty landowners and individuals interested in learning more about wetland restoration sites and programs. Speakers included Scott James Pheasants Forever, Sarah Fitzgerald and Rich Stewart R.I. County Soil & Water, Scott Schaeffer Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Andrew DiAllesandro U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Joe Gates Natural Resources

Conservation Service.

Presentations given concentrated on management of active contracts and restored lands, plant identification, and a run-through of programs available through different agencies to accomplish these conservation goals. The attendees were then taken on a hay-rack tour of the two wetland restoration sites which were established through the NRCS WRP program. Thank you to all those who attended, planning is underway for a Summer 2017 Field Day/Site Tour!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

What Is Silvopasture?

Author: Sid Brantly, Grazing Land Specialist, Kentucky NRCS

Silvopasture is the deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land. These systems are intensively managed for both forest products and forage. Well managed silvopastures employ agronomic principals, typically including introduced or native pasture grasses, fertilization and nitrogen-fixing legumes, and rotational grazing systems that employ short grazing periods which maximize vegetative plant growth and harvest.

Potential Benefits of Silvopasture

- 1. Cooler summer environment for livestock.
- 2. Shorter timber rotations due to forage fertilization and competition control.
- 3. High value timber products resulting from pruning and management of tree density.
- 4. Shaded, cool season forage plants can be more nutritious for livestock.
- 5. Diversification of income streams spreads out market risk and increases income opportunities.



6. Greater plant nutrient uptake efficiencies - the deep tree roots coupled with pasture plant roots acquire nutrients from a greater range of soil depths.

(Source: USDA National Agroforestry Center)

Spring 2017 Transect Survey

RISWCD staff will once again be conducting a transect survey of agricultural fields and farming practices this spring as part of a data collection program run by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Please feel free to say hi as we zig-zag our way across the county!



Go Green Go Paperless!



Interested in receiving our newsletter and other correspondence electronically?

Contact RISWCD staff to be added to our electronic mailing list.

(309) 764-1486 Ext. 3

riswcd@rockislandswcd.org

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CHISLAND COUNTY

RISWCD 2017 Spring Fish Sale — Proceeds Support Conservation!

Grass Carp Orders Due: April 19th Payment & Other Orders Due: April 26th Pick Up: Friday May 5th 7:00 AM* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 *Stocking Questions: IDNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Wyffels Visit rockislandswcd.org for additional information and order forms.

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

Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
	4-6 in	\$0.85 each		\$
Channel Catfish	6-8 in	\$1.05 each		\$
	* 8-10 in	\$1.30 each		\$
Albino Catfish	4-6 in	\$1.45 each		\$
	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	3-5 in	\$1.00 each		\$
	5-7in	\$1.45 each		\$
Lanconsouth Page	2-3 in	\$1.05 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	5-8 in	\$3.50 each		\$
D1	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
Bluegill	3-5 in	\$1.00 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 reco	Total	\$		

**REQUIRED FOR TRIPLOID GRASS CARP ORDERS

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

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

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 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.

Spring Fish Sale-Commonly Asked Questions

Pond Stocking Recommendations

First Year:

2-3 Bags Bluegill

1 Bag Redear Sunfish (If there is water deeper than 12 ft.)

100 2-5 inch Channel Catfish

3-5 lbs. Fathead Minnows

Second Year:

100 2-3 inch Largemouth Bass

(Amounts Recommended Per Surface Acre)



Source: Ken Clodfelter Now Retired Fisheries Biologist Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Fish Species In Illinois

Sunfish & Bass

- -Bluegill
- -Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass
- -Black Crappie
- -Pumpkinseed
- -Warmouth
- -Crappie
- -Redear Sunfish
- -White Crappie
- -Green Sunfish
- -Rock Bass



Warmouth

Temperate Bass

-Striped, Hybrid Striped, Yellow & White Bass

Salmon & Trout

- -Chinook, Coho, & Pink Salmon
- -Lake & Rainbow Trout

(Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources http://www.ifishillinois.org/species/species.html)

Catfish & Bullheads

- -Black, Brown, & Yellow Bullhead
- -Blue Catfish
- -Channel Catfish
- -Flathead Catfish

Cool & Coldwater Species

- -Muskellunge
- -Sauger
- -Yellow Perch
- -Northern Pike
- -Walleye
- -Saugeye



Saugeye

Common Bowfishing Species

- -Longnose, Shortnose, & Spotted Gar
- -Carp
- -Bowfin
- -Bigmouth Buffalo
- -Freshwater Drum

BLAND COUNTY

RISWCD 2017 Spring Tree Sale- Proceeds Support Conservation!

Payment and Orders Due: March 24th 2017 – Early Orders Recommended Pick-Up April 20th-21st at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264.

*Pick Up: 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. Call 309-764-1486 x3 for more information.

Potted Native Prairie Plants Available Again This Year!

- Butterfly Milkweed
- Purple Coneflower
- Ox-Eye Sunflower
- Prairie Blazing Star
- Cardinal Flower
- Wild Bergamot
- Black Eyed Susan
- Prairie Dropseed

*Stock Availability Subject To Change, Earliest Orders Will Be Given Priority

	Flyest

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 2017 Spring Tree Sale – Proceeds Support Conservation!							
1 Gallon Potted Evergreens Approx. 12-18" in Height		Bare Root Seedlings—mainly 1-year-old Must order in multiples of 25 Quantities of Seedlings are Limited					
SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL	SPECIES	PRIC	1111	TOTAL
Canadian Hemlock	\$9.50		\$		for 2	5	
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$9.50		\$	Bur Oak	\$30		\$
Norway Spruce	\$9.50		\$	Red Oak	\$30		\$
Eastern White Pine	\$9.50		\$	Swamp White Oak	\$30		\$
American Arborvitae	\$9.50		\$	White Oak	\$30		\$
Douglas Fir	\$9.50		\$	Norway Spruce	\$30		\$
Black Hills Spruce	\$9.50		\$	White Pine	\$30		\$
Fraser Fir Mt. Rogers	\$9.50		\$	Persimmon	\$30		\$
Fraser Fir Roan Mountain	\$9.50		\$	Wild Plum	\$30		\$
Canaan Fir	\$9.50		\$	Gray Dogwood	\$30		\$
Subtotal:			\$	Black Cherry	\$30		\$
3 Gallon Potted RPM	(Root P	roductic	on Method)	Eastern Redbud	\$30		\$
3 Gallon Potted RPM (Root Production Method) Trees - Conservation Grade			Ψ90		"		
SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL	Subtotal: 1 Gallon Native	e Potted	Dlants.	\$
White Oak	\$18.00	V 11	\$	*Plants Range In Size			pecies
Bur Oak	\$18.00		\$		PRIC	E QTY	TOTAL
Red Oak	\$18.00		\$	Butterfly Milkweed	\$7.00		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$18.00		\$	Purple Coneflower	\$7.00		\$
Pin Oak	\$18.00		\$	Ox-Eye Sunflower	\$7.00		
Chinkapin Oak	\$18.00		\$	Prairie Blazing Star	\$7.00		
Paw Paw	\$18.00		\$		-		
Black Walnut	\$18.00		\$	Cardinal Flower	\$7.00		
Pecan	\$18.00		\$	Wild Bergamot	\$7.00		
Eastern Redbud	\$18.00		\$	Black-Eyed Susan	\$7.00		
Ohio Buckeye	\$18.00		\$]	"		
Downy Serviceberry	\$16.00		\$	Prairie Dropseed	\$7.00		
Flowering Dogwood	\$18.00		\$	Subtotal:			\$
American Hazelnut	\$16.00		\$	Tot	tals		
American Plum	\$16.00		\$	1 Gal. Potted Evergreens Subtotal \$			
Black Cherry	\$18.00		\$	3 Gal. Potted RPM Subtotal \$			
American Chestnut	\$18.00		\$				
Bucks Unlimited	\$20.00		\$	Bare Root Seedlings Subtotal \$			
Swamp White Oak			"	1 Gal. Native Plants Subtotal \$			
Subtotal			\$	Grand Total:		\$	

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This newsletter is mailed to 2000+ recipients. Mailings are timed to promote RISWCD events, sales, and conservation news. Sponsors are selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact RISWCD and Mail a \$200 check to sponsor three consecutive newsletters in 2017. RISWCD staff will work with you to format your sponsorship space.



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Quad City Conservation Alliance

2621 4th 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

Located in Rock Island, Illinois

Some of our services...

- · Ponds and Wetlands
- · Waterways and Streams
- · Prairie, Pasture, and Food Plots
- Tree and Brush Management
 Stormwater Management
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First Ten New Customers To Sign An Annual Maintenance Plan For Their Lake Or Pond Receives 20% Off With This Coupon

- Lake Aeration Engineering/Stocking
- Lake Treatment Consultation
- Shoreline Cleanup/Repair
- Water Hazard Removal/Marking

- Beach/Seawall Engineering
- Annual Maintenance Plans
- Eco-Friendly Products
- Free 1 Hour Consultation

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

Spring 2017 Newsletter

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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

Rock Island County District Directors:

Gary Blanchard: Chairman Bill Parchert: Director Twila Cederstrom: Director Brian Parkinson: Director Nathan Oak: Director

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. 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.

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

Donations

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