

WHITESIDE CO. SWCD NEWSLETTER



Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District · 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270
www.whitesidecountyswcd.com · whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com · 815.772.2124 ext. 3



Welcome to the Whiteside County Newsletter.

The 2024 spring tree and fish sales are underway, the order forms are near the end of the newsletter.

Please keep the order deadlines in mind and get your order in sooner rather than later. If you are placing a tree order, you may want to call the office to check availability before sending in your order and payment. If there is a native tree/shrub you'd like, that is not on the order form, let us know and we will see if we can get it for you. Unfortunately, as like other things, there may be a cost increase on some sale items, but for the most part the prices have remained comparable to the past few years. Thank you for understanding.

The Whiteside County office, has recently had some staff changes. Heather Luckritz has transitioned from the SWCD Resource Conservationist, to the new NRCS Soil Conservation Technician.

Congratulations Heather!!

We hope to put together more workshops in the future. If there is a conservation related topic you would like to suggest for a workshop/seminar, please contact the office.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions please let us know by emailing—whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com or by calling 815-772-2124 ext. 3. We would once again like to say: thank you to everyone that has helped support the SWCD. Every little bit helps and with support from you, we hope to be around for years to come!!! Thank you!!!

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Disclaimer: The Whiteside County Soil and Water District does not endorse or necessarily condone the goods and services advertised herein and in no event shall it be liable for any special, direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages arising in connection with the goods and or services provided by any advertiser contained herein. Also, the district reserves the right not to accept an advertisers order, only publication of an advertisers order shall constitute final acceptance of advertisers order.

Envirothon

The Northwest Illinois Land Use Council #1, Envirothon is an annual natural resources education program. The event is for high school students and emphasizes hands-on and team oriented problem-solving skills. Teams test their knowledge in forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and a 5th category topic that changes every year. Each of the five members from the first place team is eligible to receive scholarship funding to go toward their post-secondary education.

Land Use Council #2 had graciously allowed us to partner with them again for the 2024 Envirothon event. The event will be held March 13, 2024 at Black Hawk College East Campus, Galva, IL.

Thank you to LUC #2 for allowing us this opportunity. Without this opportunity, we would not be able to give the students the chance to participate in such a great event. Thank you.

4th Grade Conservation Day

The 4th Grade Conservation Day is put together by JoDaviess, Carroll and Whiteside County SWCD's. The 2023 4th Grade Conservation Field Day was held Thursday, September 28, 2023. We will once again like to thank the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and other organizations for the donations of Every Kid Outdoors Passes. In the 2023 event, we distributed 652 passes throughout all 3 counties. I hope the students and their families are able to use them, it is a great opportunity provided to us at no cost.

The conservation day is typically held at the Palisades State Park, Savanna, IL. Students participate in different instructional stations with topics of Wildlife, Water Quality, Recycling, Geology, Forestry, Conservation Laws, Agriculture, Ecology, Nature Walk, Soil Conservation and many more.

I think all the students, teachers and volunteers really enjoy the day. We can't thank all the different organizations and individual volunteers enough for helping us. The organizations or individuals that volunteered their time last year, are: Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, Lawfer's Willow Valley Dairy Farm, IL Dept. of Natural Resources, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, Northern IL Raptor Rehab & Education, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Forrest Keeling Nursery (Missouri), Whiteside County SWCD—current and retired staff, Univ. of IL Extension—JoDaviess & Whiteside Counties, Woodland Forestry Consulting LLC (Iowa), Farm Bureau - Ag in the Classroom, Whiteside Co. Natural Area Guardians (NAGS), and JoDaviess County Conservation Fund. I apologized if I may have accidentally missed anyone. Without them, this event would not be possible. We are always looking for more volunteers. **If you have a conservation topic you'd like to do a presentation on and would like to volunteer at this great event, let us know. Thank you.**

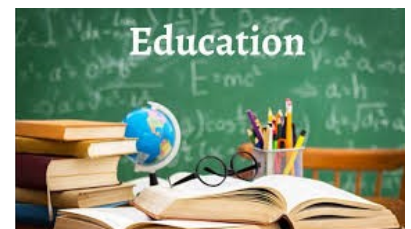
Photo & Poster Contests

The contests are an annual contest for any K-12th grader in Whiteside County. For more details see pages 13-19.

Education Grants

As always, the Whiteside County SWCD Education Fund offers education grants to all schools, whether private, public or homeschooled. Grant funding requests may include, but are not limited to: tools, books, software, lab equipment, and field trips. Costs of development of natural resource areas will be considered, such as: wildlife habitat garden, nature trail, or prairie site.

In the past 11 years, we have awarded a little over \$31,000 in grants, for various projects. We hope to be able to help many more schools/educators in the future. Look at page 3 for grant application criteria. If you have received a grant in the past, you may still apply for more grants as well.



Whiteside County SWCD Education Foundation Environmental Education Grant

The Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District's Education Program is sponsoring an education grant available all school year, to all schools in Whiteside County, grade levels Pre-K thru 12th.

Grant Criteria:

- Grant requests are to promote and support natural resource or environmental education.
- Grant funding requests may include, but are not limited to: tools, books, software, lab equipment, and field trips. Costs of development of natural resource areas will be considered, such as: wildlife habitat garden, nature trail, or prairie site.
- Previous recipients of SWCD grants do qualify for this educational funding and may apply again.
- Grantees are required to submit a follow-up report to the Whiteside County SWCD's Education Program Board within 3 months of receiving the grant money or notification if the money is not used within that time period.

Proposal Format:

- Typed, double spaced, single sided 8-1/2" x 11" stationary.

Proposal Content:

- Outline of Age-Level Activity or Purchase, Learning Objectives, Dates of Funding Use, Grade Level, Total # of Students and Budget.

Please send grant requests to:

Whiteside SWCD Education Program
Attention: Tricia Paxson
400 Wilkens Drive
Morrison, IL 61270

Please contact 815.772.2124 ext. 3 or whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com for any questions concerning the use of our Whiteside County SWCD Education Foundation Grants.

The Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District reserves the right to reject applications.

2024**NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS****To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Whiteside County Soil And Water Conservation District:**

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 7th day of February, 2024 at the USDA Building, 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270, between the hours of 6:30am to 5:00pm. Three (3) Directors will be elected to serve the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.



Jeffrey Deets

Chairman

Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District

The SWCD / WQUD 107.7FM / KROS 1340AM-105.9FM Radio Shows

Our radio shows are on WQUD Vintage Radio, 107.7-FM, Erie IL., hosted by Aaron Dail and retired SWCD RC - Dave Harrison and KROS 1340AM/105.9FM, Clinton IA, hosted by Gary Determan and retired SWCD RC - Dave Harrison. These radio shows are a way for our office to educate the public about different conservation subjects. If you have a subject that you would like to hear, please let our office know. If you have any questions during the shows please call in. The contact info for WQUD 107.7FM is 1-309-659-7608, website is www.wqudfm.com, and their Facebook page is WQUD 107.7 Vintage Radio. The contact info for KROS 1390AM/105.9FM is 1-563-242-1252, fax - 563-242-4825, email contactus@krosradio.com and the website is www.krosradio.com

The WQUD Vintage radio show is currently being sponsored by: Jason DeSplinter, owner of Legacy Land Services.

Thank you Mr. DeSplinter!!

If you would like to send in donations to cover the cost of the shows, we would greatly appreciate it..
You may mail your donations to: WCSWCD 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270.

WQUD radio show will be held the 1st Monday of each month at 2:00PM, unless otherwise noted.
KROS radio show will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:15AM, unless otherwise noted.

Thank you!!!

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PROPHETSTOWN
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(815) 537-2348

GENESEO
700 US Highway 6 East
(309) 944-0580

MORRISON
1100 East Lincolnway
(815) 772-3700

TREE SALES

The 2024 spring tree sale is underway, with a variety of species available. If you are interested in trees this spring, the order forms are near the end of the newsletter. Reminder: the bareroot seedlings are sold in bundles of 25, the RPM (potted) trees are sold individually. The deadline to order trees and the pick up timeframe, are listed on the order form. The pick up will be at our office location of 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270.

FISH SALES

The 2024 spring fish sale is underway, with a variety of species available. We are offering a few new items this year including fish food, fish feeders and electrofishing surveys. Channel catfish can not be bagged, you will need to bring containers of water with you for those, see the order form for details. The fish sale order deadline and pick up date are listed on the order form. The delivery will be at our office location of 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

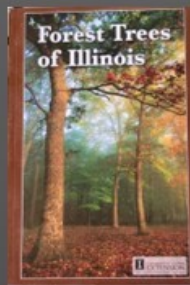
The Whiteside County SWCD has 2 Bag a Nuts for rent. There is no rental fee but we do ask for a \$25.00 deposit. We also have 2 tree planters. One planter is a 3-point hitch planter and one is a hydraulic pull behind planter. There is a charge of \$50 for the first 1000 trees and \$25 for every 1000 trees after that. If you purchase 2,000 trees or more from the district, rental is free. A 1-7/8" ball hitch is needed to pull the tree planters. Call our office if you need to rent any equipment.



NAGS ITEMS FOR SALE:

Self Guided Tour Book—\$5.00, Mae's Note Cards \$5.00, Sand County Almanac \$6.00, Cedar Bluebird House \$20.00 with pole is \$25.00, Prairie Plants of Whiteside County \$8.00. Stop by or call the office for more details.

SWCD Sale Items



- 60" White Miracle Tubes 0-50pcs - \$3.75 each
- 60" White Miracle Tubes 50+pcs - \$3.50 each
- 60" Oak Stake - \$2.00 each
- 24" Yellow Mesh Shelter - \$0.45 each
- 36" Yellow Mesh Shelter - \$0.60 each
- Bamboo Stake - \$0.15 each
- Orange Marking Flags - \$0.15/each - 100 flags for \$15.00 or a box of flags for \$125.00
- Tree Mats w/ 5 staples - \$1.50 each
- Filter Fabric (15ft wide / 300ft per roll) - \$3.85 / running foot
- Straw Netting (4ft wide / 112ft long - staples included) \$0.40 / running foot
- Finder Books - \$3.50 each
- Conservation Trees and Shrubs Booklet - \$10.00 each
- Forest Trees of Illinois Book - \$14.75
- Wood Duck House - \$55.00 each
- Fertilizer Packets - \$0.20 each
- Rain Barrels - \$70.00 - call for availability

Plantskydd Repellent:

- 1 quart - Pre Mixed Spray - \$19.00 each
- 1.3 gallon - Pre Mixed Jug - \$58.00 each
- 1 pound Powder Concentrate - \$28.00 each
- 2.2 pound Powder Concentrate - \$47.00

To purchase any of these items, or for more information, stop in the office or call 815-772-2124 ext 3. Thank you.



Rain Barrels....

What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams. These rain barrels are recycled 55 gallon drums with a vinyl hose, PVC couplings, and a screen grate to keep debris and insects out.

Why Would I Want a Rain Barrel?

Conserve water – A half inch of rain can fill a typical 50-55 gallon rain barrel, allowing homeowners to save hundreds of gallons of water during the growing season.

Save money and energy – Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer months. This decreased demand for treated tap water not only helps protect the environment, but also saves money and energy.

Reduce water pollution – Rain barrels reduce storm water runoff, which can contain pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria, and nutrients.

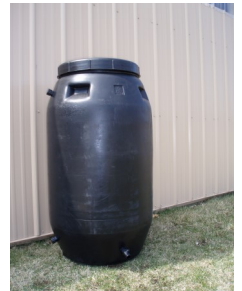
Improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees by using a natural water source - Provides an ample supply of free “soft water” to homeowners, providing no chlorine, lime, or calcium making it ideal for gardens, flower beds, and car and window washing. Using harvested rain water offers a natural alternative to the chemicals and hard water that many of our municipal water systems can produce.

To teach and encourage others – You will help to spread the culture of rainwater collection and in turn, help our larger community and the environment.

The Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District sells rain barrels for \$70.00 each.

Call the office at 815-772-2124 ext 3, to check on availability or stop by the office for more details.


Thank you!!



Pheasants Forever Illinois Seed Program

Partnering with Illinois Pheasants Forever, we are a habitat seed dealer. We offer food plot, prairie grass, cool season, fire break and pollinator seed mixes. We are here to help you decide what mixes work for you and your habitats. If you have any questions, call the office at 815-772-2124 ext. 3.





We offer food plot, prairie grass, cool season, fire break and pollinator seed mixes through the Quail & Upland Game Alliance. The mixes are comparable to those of Pheasants Forever. We are here to help you decide what mixes work for you and your habitats. If you have any questions, call the office at 815-772-2124 ext. 3.





2024 NATIONAL PHEASANT FEST & QUAIL CLASSIC

MARCH 1—3, 2024 | DENNY SANFORD PREMIER CENTER | SIOUX FALLS, SD

WHAT IS PHEASANT FEST & QUAIL CLASSIC? Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic is a trade show that will focus on wildlife conservation, upland game bird hunting (pheasant and quail), dog training, and wildlife habitat management and restoration. In connection with the trade show, Pheasants Forever will hold seminars on habitat improvement, pheasant hunting, shooting sports, wild game cooking, dog training, and conservation and lots more!

For more information on Pheasant Fest, including ticket prices, visit— <https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Pheasant-Fest.aspx>
(Image and information courtesy of [pheasantsforever.org](https://www.pheasantsforever.org))

CRP Assistance:

CRP is a conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Sign-ups and contracts are handled through FSA staff, the technical aspects of CRP are handled through NRCS and associated contracted staff (SWCD's, Pheasants Forever, NWTF etc). NRCS and associated partners develop the conservation plans and job sheets, in addition to certifications and status reviews. Participants with questions regarding CRP and associated eligibility should be directed to FSA however, if the question is technical in nature, it will then be forwarded to NRCS.

NRCS and partner staff with delegated authority as an apprentice planner or certified conservation planner, will have the ability to develop plans, job sheets and complete reviews. Planners involved in the development of a plan or review of a plans implementation, or status will have to provide information as needed, pertinent to contracting issues involved with compliance or implementing a practice. Issues that could arise with the compliance of a CRP contract need to be discussed with FSA and the technical staff or could be appealed to the County Committee.



AmeriCorps Seniors



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Call 815.490.1124 or visit
www.lifescapeservices.org



Whiteside Co. SWCD 2024 Spring RPM Tree Order

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Species	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Deer Apple Trees	\$23.00		
American Plum	\$19.00		
Common Ninebark	\$18.00		
Buttonbush	\$18.00		
American Hazelnut	\$18.00		
Fragrant Sumac	\$18.00		
American Chestnut	\$23.00		
Native Pecan	\$22.00		
Hackberry	\$22.00		
Persimmon	\$23.00		
Black Walnut	\$22.00		
Eastern Red Cedar	\$23.00		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	\$25.00		
Sycamore	\$22.00		
Swamp White Oak	\$22.00		
Bur Oak	\$22.00		
Chinkapin Oak	\$23.00		
Pin Oak	\$22.00		
White Oak	\$23.00		
Northern Red Oak	\$22.00		
Black Oak	\$22.00		
White Pine	\$23.00		
Bald Cypress	\$25.00		
Chinese Chestnut	\$23.00		
All trees are priced and sold individually.		Total Payment Due \$	

- All species are Potted RPM (Root Production Method). Prices and supply are subject to change due to stock availability.
 - Trees are to be used for Conservation Purposes Only, no landscaping or ornamental use.**
- Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to Whiteside Co. SWCD. Mail or bring your order to the office at 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270. Sorry, No Debit/Credit Cards accepted—cash or check only.
- Order Deadline is Friday February 23, 2024 (No Orders Accepted After This Date) Stock may be limited, order early.**
 - Order pick-up is tentatively planned for April 18th & April 19th from 8am—3pm both days, at our office.
- The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival of the trees. All tree sales are Final—No refunds or replacements.**
 - The sale proceeds support the local conservation efforts of the SWCD.....THANK YOU!!

Whiteside Co. SWCD 2024 Spring Tree Order Form

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Species	Size	Price Per Bundle (25)	Quantity of Bundles	Total
White Pine	18-30"	\$86.00		
Douglas Fir	18-24"	\$35.00		
American Arborvitae	18-24"	\$98.00		
Bald Cypress	18-24"	\$60.00		
Red Cedar	18-30"	\$61.00		
Black Walnut	18-24"	\$47.00		
Black Walnut	2-3'	\$68.00		
Black Walnut	3-4'	\$131.00		
White Oak	18-24"	\$44.00		
Bur Oak	18-24"	\$40.00		
Black Oak	12-18"	\$33.00		
Red Oak	18-24"	\$45.00		
Swamp White Oak	18-24"	\$42.00		
Pin Oak	18-24"	\$40.00		
River Birch	18-24"	\$42.00		
Shagbark Hickory	18-24"	\$94.00		
Northern Pecan	18-24"	\$50.00		
Persimmon	18-24"	\$47.00		
Sycamore	18-24"	\$46.00		
Gray Dogwood	18-24"	\$41.00		
Red Dogwood	18-24"	\$41.00		
Silky Dogwood	18-24"	\$40.00		
American Plum	18-24"	\$41.00		
Highbush Cranberry	18-24"	\$53.00		
Black Chokeberry	18-24"	\$45.00		
Fragrant Sumac	18-24"	\$46.00		
Ninebark	18-24"	\$45.00		
American Hazelnut	18-24"	\$45.00		
Buttonbush	18-24"	\$45.00		

Additional Items	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Marking Flags (bundle of 100)	\$15.00		
60" White Tree Tubes (0-50pcs)	\$3.75		
60" White Tree Tubes (50+ pcs)	\$3.50		
60" Oak Stakes	\$2.00		
Tree Mats w/ staples	\$1.50		
All bareroot seedlings are sold in bundles of 25.		Total Payment Due \$	

- All Stock are Bareroot Seedlings. Prices and supply are subject to change due to stock availability.
- **Trees are to be used for Conservation Purposes Only, no landscaping or ornamental use.**
- Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to Whiteside Co. SWCD. Mail or bring to the office at 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270. Sorry, No Credit Cards accepted—cash or check only.
- **Order Deadline is Friday February 23, 2024 (No Orders Accepted After This Date) Stock may be limited, order early.**
 - **Order pick-up is tentatively planned for April 18th & April 19th from 8am—3pm both days, at our office.**
- **The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival of the trees. All tree sales are Final— No refunds or replacements.**
 - The sale proceeds support the local conservation efforts of the SWCD.....THANK YOU!!



WHITESIDE CO. SWCD 2024 SPRING FISH ORDER FORM

SPECIES	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Bluegill	1-2" Bag of approx. 250	\$100.00/Bag		
Bluegill	3-5"	\$1.50/Each		
Hybrid Bluegill	1-2" Bag of approx. 250	\$100.00/Bag		
Hybrid Bluegill	3-5"	\$1.50/Each		
Redear Sunfish	1-2" Bag of approx. 250	\$95.00/Bag		
Black Crappie	2-4" Bag of approx. 100	\$100.00/Bag		
Largemouth Bass	3"	\$1.50/Each		
Largemouth Bass	5-8"	\$3.75/Each		
Channel Catfish	6-8"	\$1.50/Each		
Albino Catfish	5-8"	\$3.25/Each		
Triploid Grass Carp	10-14"	\$12.50/Each		
Fathead Minnows	Pound	\$10.00/Pound		
HB Blue Dye	Quart	\$20.00/Quart		
HB Black Dye	Quart	\$20.00/Quart		
HB All Seasons Blend Bacteria	Pound	\$11.00/Pound		
Triton High Protein Fish Food	50lb Bag	\$50.00/Bag		
Texas Hunter Automatic Fish Feeder	—	\$1,070.00 each		
Electrofishing Surveys	—	\$975.00 each		
*Triploid Grass Carp orders are due by 3:30pm on March 1, 2024. All other fish orders are due by 3:30pm on March 15, 2024.			TOTAL	

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Day Phone: _____

Email: _____

If ordering Triploid Grass Carp - please complete the spaces below

County: _____ Range: _____ Township: _____ Section: _____ Wholly Owned: Yes or No

Water Name: _____ Acres: _____ Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER!

Please make checks payable to: Whiteside County SWCD - mail to: 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270

Questions? Call 815-772-2124 x 3

2024 Spring Fish Pick-Up will be Friday, April 26, 2024 at 9:00am, at our office.

****Important: Channel Catfish - CANNOT be bagged. You must bring a container with pond water for them. Plastic trash cans or coolers work well to transport fish in.****

****ALL SALES ARE FINAL- NO REFUNDS OR REPLACEMENTS****



ELECTROFISHING SURVEYS

Benefits of Electrofishing

We travel across the Midwest to electrofish lakes and ponds for campgrounds, sportsmen's clubs, lake associations, and private recreational lake owners. We create management plans to establish daily creel limits, forage stockings, game fish stockings, habitat enhancements, vegetation control, and address any aeration or water quality needs.

Electrofishing is perhaps our greatest Lake Management Tool! Electrofishing or shocking your lake/pond gives us a great snapshot of your current fish population. In order to create the perfect management plan, you need to take an inventory of what you already have.

How it Works

COLLECT:

We use a specialized boat to temporarily stun fish in a lake or pond. All fish collected are analyzed and then returned safely back to their home.

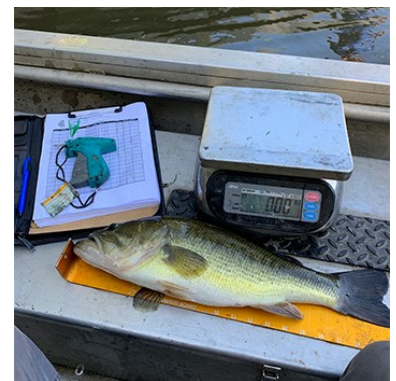
INSPECT:

While on the water, we visually inspect the fish for diseases and parasites; inspect the dam, spillway, and watershed; carefully observe predator to prey ratios and calculate relative weights; monitor undesirable species or over-abundant year classes; and study the overall habitat and water quality.

MAINTAIN:

For Lake and Pond Owners who create specialized or trophy fisheries, we often electrofish annually to keep on top of spawning success and overall fish health. For most lakes and ponds, we recommend electrofishing every 2-3 years to make sure everything is staying balanced and healthy.

"The information above, and the photos below were taken from the Herman Brothers Fisheries website.





NAGS News:

The Whiteside Natural Area Guardians finished out 2023 with several events.

A work day was held on 10/22 at Sandytown cemetery. The focus was on cutting and treating sumac.

Our last meeting of the year was held on 11/9 at the Lincoln Learning Center in Sterling. The group enjoyed a potluck meal and a presentation by Wolf & Linnea Koch on Sandhill Cranes. The group really enjoyed the presentation which showcased the unique photography skills of Wolf & Linnea.

The last event involved a work day where several NAG members assisted East Coloma School with their prairie in Rock Falls. The prairie had become overrun with many invasive trees. A teacher had reached out to our group for assistance. A couple of members cut and treated the stumps of the trees for the school. Additional members followed up on second day to assist with removing the cut trees from the prairie and stacking them up into burn piles. NAG Chair Randy Nyboer led a group of students on an educational tour of the prairie, which the kids all seemed to enjoy very much.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Odell Public Library in Morrison. Our group has seen a wonderful reinvigoration amongst our previous members as well as enjoyed gaining some wonderful newcomers to the group in 2023. We look forward to a continuation of both in 2024. New members are always welcome!

We have especially enjoyed seeing some new faces, as well as some members return that we hadn't seen for a while and had missed. Members and guests have enjoyed learning through others sharing about their own trials and errors while we continue to work both individually and collectively to preserve, protect, plant, restore and maintain natural areas. For more information about the Whiteside County Natural Area Guardians and upcoming events, visit the groups Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WhitesideNAGs/>.



East Coloma School work day. Photo courtesy of Heather Dauen



Whiteside County SWCD Education Fund 2024 Poster Contest

Attention Whiteside County Teachers and Students!!! The Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District is again sponsoring a poster contest. The 2024 theme is: **"May the Forest Be With You Always"**.

The poster contest is grouped by grade level: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 & 10-12. One poster will be chosen from each group to be sent to the Illinois State Soil & Water Conservation District Office in Springfield. State winning entries will advance to the national contest.

Contest Rules: Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters (no computer only special category).

- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Poster submissions can be digital (Electronic Picture (JPEG) or scanned in) or a physical poster and turned into the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District by March 29, 2024 with the entry form. The entry form attached **MUST** be submitted for each poster, whether electronic or physical. The 2024 Stewardship title **"May the Forest Be With You Always"** must be on the front of the posters. This is the only title eligible for the national poster contest. Therefore, please do not put names on the front of the poster.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teacher, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their hand writing and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.

Prizes: We will have five category winners: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12. Prizes are to be determined.

The contest runs from February 1, 2024 until March 29, 2024. Email electronic poster entries and forms to us at whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com. Mail or drop off physical poster and forms to the address below. For any further information please feel free to contact:

Tricia Paxson,
400 Wilkens Drive
Morrison, IL 61270
Phone: 815.772.2124 ext. 3



National Association of Conservation Districts

Please check appropriate category:

☐ K-1 ☐ 2-3 ☐ 4-6 ☐ 7-9 ☐ 10-12

PLEASE PLACE THIS DOCUMENT/FORM ON THE BACK OF THE POSTER OR EMAIL IT FOR EACH SUBMITTED POSTER

STUDENT

Name First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____ Address: _____
 _____ Students Age: _____ Grade level: _____

(Address Optional)

Please circle one:

Yes or No: This poster is the original work of the student named above.

Yes or No: The student received assistance from another person or materials/ideas from another source. If answered "yes," please include a brief explanation.

PARENT/GUARDIANS SIGNATURE ☒ _____ DATE _____

Printed name of parent or guardian name: _____

Parent/Guardians signature will allow the NACD/the Conservation District listed below to utilize postersubmission for educational or promotional purposes.

Email Address _____ Phone Number: () _____

SCHOOL/GROUP/ORGANIZATIONPlease choose: ☐ Public School ☐ Private School ☐ Home School ☐ Organization ☐ Other

Name: _____

Contact: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: () _____

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Name: Whiteside County SWCD - email: whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com

Contact: Tricia Paxson Email Address: _____

Address: 400 Wilkens Drive City: Morrison State: IL Zip: 61270

Phone Number: (815) 772 - 2124 ext 3



Whiteside County SWCD Education Fund 2024 Photo Contest

The Whiteside County SWCD Education Fund is once again holding its annual Photo Contest.

Photo Contest Rules/Guidelines are as follows:

- ❖ The photo contest is open to all Whiteside County students in K-12th grade levels.
- ❖ All photos must be taken by the student, no commercial entries accepted.
- ❖ Entries will be accepted between February 1, 2024 and March 29, 2024 at the Whiteside County SWCD office by emailing: whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com. Any entries submitted after this date and time will not be judged. We are once again, only accepting electronic (jpeg) images of photos for this year's contest.
- ❖ Photo contest categories are on the following page. Photos of hunting/fishing activities and conservation practices will be accepted. No photos of domesticated animals or plants allowed.
- ❖ The grade categories of entries are K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. (Grade level at Fall of 2023 school registration)
- ❖ Photos can be color or black and white.
- ❖ All photos must be taken in Whiteside County. Not more than two (2) entries per student.
- ❖ All entries must have the following information included when submitted: the student's school name - unless homeschooled, the student's name, grade level, date and location of photo, address, phone number, and e-mail if applicable. Missing information will be grounds for disqualification.
- ❖ The photos will be judged by the Whiteside County Education Fund Board. The Fund Board reserves the right to reject any or all entries.
- ❖ We will have three category winners. Prizes are to be determined.
- ❖ The Education Fund Board reserves the right to use the winning photos for news release purposes.
- ❖ Complete and submit the entry and photo release form for each photo you would like to enter into the contest. If you are submitting a photo in which a subject or model's face is recognizable, you must also complete and attach the subject and model release form with your photo/s.

If you have any questions please contact:

Tricia Paxson
Whiteside County SWCD
Education Coordinator
400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270
Phone: 815.772.2124 ext. 3 – email: whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com



National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD • 509 Capitol Ct, NE • Washington, DC 20002 • (202) 547-6223 • www.nacdnet.org

Photo Contest Categories

Before submitting your photo/s, please review the following examples of the four contest categories. NOTE: Your submissions may be used in NACD publications or on NACD's website, so please be sure to include a photo release form signed by the individuals featured in your photos with your submission. Also note that judges reserve the right to determine if a photograph is appropriately categorized and may change a photograph's category.

Category One:

CONSERVATION PRACTICES - Contour Buffer Strips, Contour Farming and Strip Cropping, Cover Crops, Critical Area Planting, Crop Residue Management, Crop Rotation, Diversions, Field Borders, Grade Stabilization Structures (dam/embankment), Grass Waterways, Livestock Management, Manure Storage and Runoff Control, Nutrient Management, Pasture Planting, Pest Management, Riparian Buffer, Rotational Grazing, Stream Bank and Shoreline Stabilization, Terraces, Tree Planting, Upland Wildlife Habitat, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well Abandonment, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Food Plot, Windbreaks, and Woodlot Management.

Category Two:

CLOSE UP CONSERVATION - Aquatic Insects, Water, Crops, Plants, Soil, Sediment, Farm Animals, Irrigation, Flowers, Worms, Roots, Compost.

Category Three:

CONSERVATION IN ACTION - Conservation districts in action; conservation planning; district events (community meetings, field days, fairs, exhibits); farmers or landowners (conservation-related events, etc.); interaction with landowners; irrigating crops or watering flowers; office staff at work; supervisors or board members at meetings; technical staff at work; youth (school programs, speech, poster contests, Envirothon, on-farm, conservation-related events, etc.)

Category Four:

AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION ACROSS AMERICA - Barns, Crops, Farm Practices, Farmers or landowners, Fence Rows, Grazing, Implements and Tools, Livestock, Pasture, Ponds, Ranching, Tree Farm, Youth



National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD Photo Contest Entry and Photo Release Form

Entry Form: *(required for each photo submitted)*

Photographer's name

Age

Grade (if 18 years old or younger)

Home address

()
 Phone number

City
 State
 County
 Zip

Email

Organization/School represented

Whiteside Co SWCD

(815) 772-2124 ext 3.
 Name of the local conservation district
 Phone number of local district

Select category and division for photo:

Conservation Practices	Adult <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth <input type="checkbox"/>
Close Up Conservation	Adult <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth <input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation in Action	Adult <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth <input type="checkbox"/>
Ag/Conservation Across America	Adult <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth <input type="checkbox"/>

Photo title

Where the photo was taken (Please print the city, state and county)

Description of photo (Example: Red barn with two sheep)



National Association of Conservation Districts

Photo Release Form: *(required for each photo submitted)*

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Photographer's name	State
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone number	Email

Minors (under the age of 18) who appear in photographs must have a parent/legal guardian sign their release; subjects 18 years and older can sign their own release form.

I hereby grant the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) permission to use my likeness, name or images I have photographed in any and all publications: including web site entries, without payment or any other consideration in perpetuity. I understand and agree that these photos can be used National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) as stated above. My photos can also be used for my personal or professional use. I hereby irrevocably authorize NACD to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing NACD's programs or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph. I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge NACD from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization. I am 18 years of age or older and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release. If under the age of 18 I will have consent signed by parent or guardian.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature of photographer	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature of photographer's parent or legal guardian	Date
<input type="text"/>	
Printed name of parent or legal guardian	



National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD Photo Contest Subject and Model Release Form

Photographer's name

Age

State

Release of information: By signing below, I certify that I have read and fully understand the conditions of NACD's photo release as provided by the photographer.

Name of subject or model

Age (if a minor)

Home address

Phone number

City

State

County

Zip

Signature of subject or model
(or signature of subject or model's parent or legal guardian)

Date

Printed name of subject or model's parent or guardian if a minor