

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 SWCD 2022/2023 Winter newsletter

The 2022 fall sales wrapped up in late October. We are very grateful to all the customers and vendors that make our sales possible. The 2023 spring sale order forms are toward 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. 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.

Big News—Our website has been updated and is back up and running. You can view it by going to: whitesidecountyswcd.com. The newsletter also contains big news for the Education Fund, located on pages 3-5.

The Whiteside County field office, has recently had some changes in NRCS staff. Please be patient through the transition.

We hope to put together more workshops/seminars this year. 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!!!

Sincerely, Tricia—AC

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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 has graciously allowed us to partner with them for the 2023 Envirothon event. The event is being planned for March 15, 2023 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 2022 4th Grade Conservation Field Day was held Thursday, September 29, 2022. 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. We distributed 681 passes throughout all 3 counties, 80 more students registered this year, than last year. 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 more.

We were excited to be able to hold this event again. 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, are: Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, Galena High School Students, 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, Clinton Co. Conservation—AmeriCorps (Iowa), Whiteside Co. Natural Area Guardians (NAGS), Melton Wildlife Control, Shevawn Yochem, Denise Garcia, Brian Bielema and anyone I may have accidentally missed. With out 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.

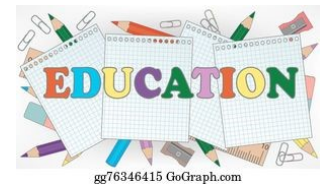


Photo & Poster Contests

The contests are an annual contest for any K-12th grader in Whiteside County. For more details call our office at 815-772-2124 ext. 3.

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.

Over past several years we have awarded, \$8,554 in grants. In 2022 we awarded grants to Fulton Elementary 4th grade class, for a growing in the classroom project, St. Mary's School in Sterling, 3rd-5th grade classes for a field trip to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, IA, and a grant to Fulton High School for their Garden Produce Garden Program. We hope to be able to help out many more schools/educators in the future. Look at page 6 for grant application criteria.

For more information on the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District Education Foundation and upcoming educational events, call our office at 815-772-2124 ext. 3. THANK YOU!!

Whiteside County Conservation Education Center: Logo Competition Guidelines and Contest Rules

Overview

The new and upcoming Whiteside County Conservation Education Center (WCCEC) is looking for a new logo that will better identify the organization. To engage our current members, and attract new members, WCCEC announces a competition to design a new logo. The new logo may be used on the WCCEC website, social media sites, business cards, letterhead, posters, souvenirs, and gifts, or anywhere else WCCEC chooses.

By entering, participants agree to be bound by these contest rules. Violating any rule or not following instructions may eliminate participants' eligibility. WCCEC has the right to disqualify any entrant at any time at its sole discretion.

Eligibility

1. The contest is open to the public, at all age levels.
2. The contest is not open to board members and employees of WCCEC or their immediate family members.
3. Contestants are permitted to work in groups; however, only one (1) prize will be awarded regardless of group size.

Submission Guidelines and How to Enter

1. The contest is open from 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2023, Central Standard Time (CST) and closes at **11:59 p.m. February 28, 2023. Late submissions will not be considered.** The board of WCCEC will select the finalists by March 8, 2023. WCCEC board members will vote, and a winner will be selected and notified mid-March 2023.
2. All entries must be submitted electronically to the WCCEC board at whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com. Submissions must include the full name(s) of the person(s) who designed the logo, email address, postal address, and telephone number.
3. One submission per person must be sent in by email, with "Logo Contest", in the subject line.
4. There is no fee to enter the contest.

Logo Design Guidelines and Parameters

1. The purpose of this contest is to design a logo to be used by the WCCEC.
2. The logo's design should reflect the values of the WCCEC. This includes providing a public facility welcoming individuals and groups to promote research, education, and inspiration regarding the importance of conservation and restoration of the environment.
3. The logo should incorporate the WCCEC name (abbreviated or spelled out). The logo must be appropriate for a professional business setting.
4. Entries must be submitted as JPEG files. For quality reproduction purposes, the winning entry must later be submitted in scalable vector graphic format (EPS). Submissions entered, can be produced in color or black and white. Contestants are advised to avoid gradients and half-tones. The logo must be easy to use, handle, resize, and manipulate for all reproduction purposes. It should be visually appealing on both small (as small as 2 cm x 2 cm) and large scales.

Whiteside County Conservation Education Center: Logo Competition Guidelines and Contest Rules

Continued from previous page

Intellectual Property

1. Entrants affirm their submissions are their own original work, have not been copied from others or from previous designs, including their own, and do not violate the intellectual property rights of any other person or entity.
2. Submissions become the sole property of WCCEC and may be used for any WCCEC purposes, including, but not limited to, display on websites, business cards, letterhead, posters, and other materials.
3. WCCEC shall have the right to adapt, edit, modify, or otherwise use the winning submission in part or in its entirety in whatever manner it deems appropriate.
4. WCCEC reserves the right not to use the winning entry as described in these contest guidelines.
5. WCCEC reserves the right to use any other entry for promotional purposes in the future.
6. If the winner is determined to have violated any rules, he/she will be required to forfeit or return the prize, even if the determination is made after the prize has been awarded.

Determination of Winner and Prize

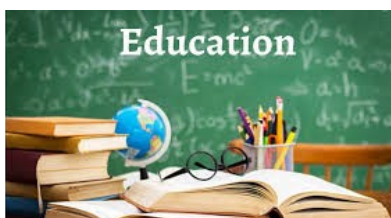
1. The winning entry will be selected by comprised board members of the Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District Ed Fund, Inc. Their decision will be final, and no further correspondence shall be entered into.
2. Entries will be judged on their visual appeal, adherence to the concept prompting the contest, quality of design, and ease of reproduction for the purposes stated above.
3. **The prize for the winning entry is \$350.00.** This prize remains the same regardless of the size of the team submitting the winning entry.
4. The winner will be notified via email and announced on the Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District's website: <https://whitesidecountyswcd.com/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/whiteside.swcd>

Disclaimer

1. WCCEC is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete, illegible, or otherwise unusable entries, including entries that are lost or unusable due to computer, internet, or electronic problems.
2. WCCEC reserves the right to cancel or modify the contest and award the prize by alternate means if fraud or technical failure is determined at any time by WCCEC, including after the submission window has closed.
3. WCCEC is not liable, for the purpose of winner and prize notification and delivery, in the event the contest winner has provided incorrect, outdated, or otherwise invalid contact information.

Please feel free to share the logo competition rules and regulations with all your friends and family.

Thank you!



Whiteside County Conservation Education Center The Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation Education Fund has begun Phase 1 in the planning stages of the Whiteside County Conservation Education Center.

We are very excited to bring this opportunity to Whiteside County. The Education Center will offer tours, field trips, workshops, seminars, prairie acreage with hands-on experience, and more.

Our mission of the center is to provide a public facility that will welcome all ages of individuals and groups, promoting research, education, and inspiration, regarding the importance of conservation and restoration of the environment.

The location of the Education Center and prairie will be in the northwest corner of Whiteside County, on Elston Road. We are currently seeking donations. We are a non-profit organization, so all donations made are tax deductible.

For more information call: 815.772.2124 (ext 3.) or to donate:

Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation

Attn: Education Fund

400 Wilkens Drive

Morrison, IL 61270



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.

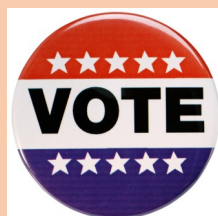
The Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District reserves the right to reject applications.

2023 Whiteside Co. SWCD: 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 1st day of February, 2023 from 6:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. at the USDA Building, 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270. Two (2) 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.

Chairman – Jeff Deets



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 Meghan Pettit of the SWCD and KROS 1340AM/105.9FM, Clinton IA, hosted by Greg Naftzger and Meghan Pettit of the SWCD. 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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GENESEO

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(309) 944-0580

MORRISON

1100 E Lincolnway
(815) 772-3700



TREE SALES

We will once again be holding our spring tree sale, with a variety of species available. If you think you will want/need trees in the 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.



Please note, 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

We will once again be holding our spring fish sale, with a variety of species available. The fish sale is for stocking ponds.

Species of fish available include Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Fathead Minnows and Triploid Grass Carp. We will also offer pond products again, including: Blue Dye, Black Dye and All Seasons Blend Bacteria.



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, which is located near the end of the newsletter. The delivery will be at our office location of 400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

The Whiteside County SWCD no longer has no-till drills for rent. We have contact information for people that do have drills, they are willing to rent. We have 2 tree planters. 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 planter.

SWCD ITEMS FOR SALE: Call the office for pricing.

- 60" White Miracle Tubes 0-50pcs
- 60" White Miracle Tubes 50+pcs
- 60" Oak Stake
- 24" Yellow Mesh Shelter
- 36" Yellow Mesh Shelter
- Bamboo Stake
- Orange Marking Flags - Sold individually, by the bundle or by the box.
- Tree Mats w/ 5 staples
- Filter Fabric (15ft wide / 300ft per roll)
- Straw Netting (4ft wide / 112ft long – staples included)
- Finder Books
- Conservation Trees and Shrubs Booklet
- Forest Trees of Illinois Book
- Wood Duck House
- Fertilizer Packets
- Rain barrels

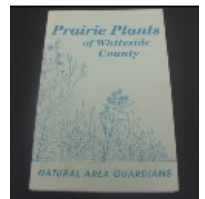
Plantskydd Repellent:

- 1 quart – Pre-mixed Spray Bottle
- 1.3 gallon – Pre-mixed Jug
- 1lb – Powder Concentrate
- 2.2lb – Powder Concentrate

To purchase any of these items, or for more information, stop in our office or call 815-772-2124 ext 3. If there are any items you would like us to carry, please let us know and we will check in to getting them for you. Thank you.

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.





**REPRESENTATIVE
TONY MCCOMBIE**

Whiteside County Office
301 First Ave
Rock Falls, IL 61071
(815) 632-7384
mccombie@ilhousegop.org

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!!



AmazonSmile and Whiteside County SWCD Education Fund

Notice from AmazonSmile:

“We are writing to let you know that we have made plans to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. Until this date, customer purchases made via AmazonSmile will continue to accrue funds for your charity as normal.” “We will keep supporting thousands of charities across the U.S. in many ways, and focus on the areas we believe can help create an even greater impact. Our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same: We are determined to help create a better world for our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve across the country.”

While we are sad to see this end, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Whiteside Co. SWCD Education Fund.

Sincerely,
Whiteside Co SWCD Education Fund Directors



2023 NATIONAL PHEASANT FEST & QUAIL CLASSIC

FEBRUARY 17-19 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

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)

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.

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NAGs News:

*Now I possess and am possessed of the land where I would be,
And the curve of half Earth's generous breast shall soothe and ravish me!*
- excerpt from "The Prairie" by Rudyard Kipling

The Natural Area Guardians celebrate the end of 2022 with growth and change. This collection of nature enthusiasts explored the prairies under their care with renewed interest. Visits were made to Heaton, Clyde, Union Grove, Spring Slough and Sandy Town. Members gathered on work days to cut back trees and sumac, perform visual reconnaissance and help with burn prep and prescribed burn days.

In the coming year of 2023, we hope to continue remnant prairie care with prescribed burns on Union Grove, Heaton and Clyde cemeteries. When we meet in person again, in March, anyone interested in the local, Whiteside County prairies is welcome to attend. Some future meetings will be held in a prairie, among the diverse plants this group is here to appreciate and protect.

Thank you to everyone who is a member, a volunteer, an advocate or a supporter. May your life be as beautiful and beneficial as the prairies that surround us.

Nette Young, NAG co-chair

Other NAGs News:

In Memoriam:

2022 proved to be a difficult year for our Natural Area Guardian group, losing five outstanding people who contributed so much valuable time and effort to the group.

Mike Hayes, Bob Nowak, Mark Young, Tim Keller, and Elisa Rideout were all folks who stepped up in so many ways throughout the years, some going back as far as the beginning of our group in 1988. They will be dearly missed.

Those of us remaining owe it to their memories to help fill the void left by their deaths. We must step up to see that their many and varied efforts are continued. May they rest in peace.

Upcoming events:

4/13/2023- Linnea and Wolf Koch will be presenting at our April meeting: 6:30 p.m. at Odell Public Library in Morrison. The presentation will be on their trips to photograph Sandhill Cranes and a variety of ducks and geese that call the Bosque del Apache area their winter home.

6/3/2023- Celebrate National Prairie Day with NAGs and Sterling Main Street, at a lawn chair lecture style at the Sterling Marketplace pavilion, next to the Twin City Farmers Market: 106 Avenue A in Sterling at 1:00p.m. The presentation will be, The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction by Cindy Crosby. Cindy, is the author, compiler, or contributor to more than 20 books. She teaches prairie ecology, nature writing, and natural history classes, and is a prairie steward who has volunteered countless hours in prairie restoration. A walking tour of the prairie along Sterling's riverfront will follow the presentation.

Scholarship:

NAGS will offer a scholarship to college students who are pursuing a degree in the area of conservation and/or environmental science. The scholarships are available for the student's junior year and will be subject for renewal for the student's senior year at an institution of higher learning. First consideration is given to students who reside in Whiteside County. Scholarships will be paid directly to the educational institution and will be renewable on a one-time basis at the discretion of the scholarship committee. For more information or an application, please contact the SWCD office at 815-772-2124 ext 3.



FSA News:

Whiteside County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Whiteside County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over, and the ballots have been counted.

Jerry Norman of Erie was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) #1. Craig Vroman also of Erie will serve as the alternate.

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2023 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA county committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Whiteside County FSA office at 815-772-2124, extension 2.

USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Farmers can use USDA farm ownership microloans to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013.

Microloans can also help with farmland and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program, please contact Rachel Eissens, Farm Loan Manager, at 815-772-2124, extension 2, or visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your Whiteside County USDA Service Center at 815-772-2124, extension 2, or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.



**Whiteside County
Soil and Water Conservation District**

**400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270
Phone (815) 772-2124 Ext. 3**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Would you like some additional publicity for your business? Would you like your ad to go in our bi-annual newsletter? The Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District has come up with a way to make this happen. You can make that happen by participating in our newsletter sponsorship event. It will benefit you as well as the SWCD.

We are asking you, the public, if you would like to pay a onetime sponsorship fee to advertise in our bi-annual newsletter. You pay the onetime fee, and in return, get your ad placed in both the summer and winter editions of our newsletter. You pick the ad size you want, send your digital ad (jpeg) with the payment and we will then place it in our newsletter, during the appropriate times of the year. The ad sizes and prices are: 1/8 page (3.75" x 2.5") = \$75.00, 1/4 page (3.75" x 5") = \$125.00, and 1/2 page (7.5" x 5") = \$200.00. To send your digital ad, please send it to: whitesidecountyswcd@hotmail.com.

We believe this newsletter is an informational and educational tool not only to the farmers/landowners, but to every resident it reaches. We have enclosed a form for you to fill out and return no later than April 3, 2023. to get your ad in the Summer edition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 815-772-2124 ext. 3.

Sincerely,

Whiteside Co. SWCD Board of Directors

Jay Dirks

Director

Michael Jacobsen

Secretary-Treasurer

Jeff Deets

Chairman

Dan Exner

Vice-Chairman

Brian Langloss

Director



Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District

400 Wilkens Drive, Morrison, IL 61270
Phone (815) 772-2124 Ext. 3

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

One eighth page = \$75.00

☐

One quarter page = \$125.00

☐

Half page = \$200.00

☐

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District

400 Wilkens Drive

Morrison, Illinois 61270

Make checks payable to: Whiteside County SWCD

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT - THANK YOU!!!



Whiteside Co. SWCD 2023 Spring Tree Order Form

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Conifers	Size	Price Per Bundle (25)	Quantity of Bundles	Total
White Pine	18-30"	\$120.00		
Douglas Fir	18-24"	\$36.00		
American Arborvitae	18-24"	\$86.75		
Bald Cypress	18-24"	\$67.75		
Red Cedar	18-30"	\$74.00		

Hardwoods	Size	Price Per Bundle (25)	Quantity of Bundles	Total
Black Walnut	18-24"	\$40.00		
Black Walnut	3-4'	\$127.50		
White Oak	18-30"	\$44.50		
Bur Oak	18-24"	\$39.25		
Black Oak	18-24"	\$40.00		
Red Oak	18-24"	\$37.75		
Swamp White Oak	18-24"	\$43.00		
Pin Oak	18-24"	\$38.25		
River Birch	18-24"	\$36.00		
Shagbark Hickory	18-24"	\$80.50		
Sycamore	18-24"	\$39.25		

Shrubs	Size	Price Per Bundle (25)	Quantity of Bundles	Total
Gray Dogwood	18-24"	\$36.00		
Red Dogwood	18-24"	\$36.25		
Silky Dogwood	18-24"	\$35.50		
American Plum	18-24"	\$41.50		
American Hazelnut	18-24"	\$46.75		
Buttonbush	18-24"	\$37.75		

Additional Items	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Marking Flags (bundle of 100)	\$10.00		
60" White Tree Tubes (0-50pcs)	\$3.50		
60" White Tree Tubes (50+ pcs)	\$3.25		
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.

The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival of the trees. Quantities may be limited, order early.

- 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 Wednesday, March 1, 2023 **(No Orders Accepted After This Date)**
- Order pick-up will be the 3rd week in April. You will be notified when your trees are ready for pick up.

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

The sale proceeds support the local conservation efforts of the SWCD.....THANK YOU!!

Whiteside Co. SWCD 2023 RPM Spring Tree Order

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Species	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Black Chokeberry	\$18.00		
American Plum	\$19.00		
Common Ninebark	\$18.00		
Buttonbush	\$18.00		
Silky Dogwood	\$18.00		
Gray Dogwood	\$18.00		
American Hazelnut	\$20.00		
Fragrant Sumac	\$18.00		
Species	Price Each	Quantity	Total
River Birch	\$22.00		
Native Pecan	\$22.00		
Hackberry	\$22.00		
Persimmon	\$25.00		
Black Walnut	\$22.00		
Eastern Red Cedar	\$23.00		
Tulip Poplar	\$23.00		
Sycamore	\$22.00		
Swamp White Oak	\$22.00		
Bur Oak	\$22.00		
Chinkapin Oak	\$23.00		
Pin Oak	\$22.00		
Northern Red Oak	\$22.00		
Bald Cypress	\$22.00		
Chinese Chestnut	\$23.00		
Domestic Apple Tree (for wildlife)	\$20.00		
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.

The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival of the trees. Quantities may be limited, order early.

- 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 Credit Cards accepted—cash or check only.
 - Order Deadline is Wednesday, March 1, 2023 **(No Orders Accepted After This Date)**
 - Order pick-up will be the 3rd week in April. You will be notified when your trees are ready for pick up.

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The sale proceeds support the local conservation efforts of the SWCD.....THANK YOU!!



WHITESIDE CO. SWCD 2023 SPRING FISH ORDER FORM

SPECIES	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Bluegill	1-2" Bag of approx. 250	\$95.00/Bag		
Bluegill	3-5"	\$1.50/Each		
Hybrid Bluegill	1-2" Bag of approx. 250	\$95.00/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	\$95.00/Bag		
Largemouth Bass	3"	\$1.50/Each		
Largemouth Bass	5-8"	\$3.75/Each		
Channel Catfish	6-8"	\$1.25/Each		
Triploid Grass Carp	10-14"	\$12.00 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	\$10.65/Pound		
*Triploid Grass Carp orders are due by 3:30pm on <u>March 6, 2023</u>. All other fish orders are due by 3:30pm on <u>March 20, 2023</u>.			TOTAL	

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Email: _____

If ordering Triploid Grass Carp - please complete the section below

County: _____ Range: _____ Township: _____

Section: _____ Water Name: _____ Acres: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ Wholly Owned: Yes or No

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

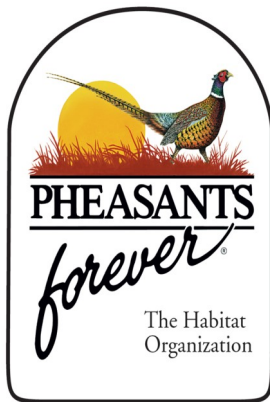

2023 Spring Fish Pick-Up will be Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 9:00am, at our office.

****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****

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.



Matt Hermes
Designated Managing Broker

Specializing in Farm Sales & Management

1254 N. Galena, Dixon
815-288-4648

Lee Co:

445 +/- Acres. Palmyra Twp. 429 +/- tillable. **Price Reduced!**
137 +/- Acres. Excellent location bordering Rt 2 & Sink Hollow Rd.
138 +/- Acres. Wonderful riverfront farm next to SVCC w/buildings.

Whiteside Co:

143 +/- acres Clyde Twp. 138 +/- tillable. **Price Reduced!**
118 +/- acres Jordan Twp. 103.5 +/- tillable. **Sale Pending!**
25 +/- acres S16 Sterling Twp next to Sacred Heart, approx 19 ac tillable
715,000 bushel grain storage setup in fantastic Sterling location!

Andresen Nature Center Update

The year 2022 is now in the history books and as for the Andresen Nature Center, upon looking back, it should definitely be described as the year where the Center once again bloomed, emerging after several years of pandemic restrictions and precautions.

Visitors returned to see a number of enhancements, including:

- The completion of two floor-to-ceiling display cases, including backlighting.
- The addition of a Great Horned Owl taxidermy.
- The capture of two honeybee swarms, one of which is currently on display in the observation nuc located on the front porch.
- Grading of the area surrounding the Picnic Shelter, including the creation of steps heading up from the West (river) side of the shelter.
- Enhancements along the woodland trail, including displays of native woodland plants with plant ID signage.
- Expansion of the prairie, both in size and in the diversity of native species.
- Handed out over a hundred packets of prairie seeds to visitors who were interested in starting their own backyard prairies.
- Performed a prescribed burn on a third of the prairie while introducing several high school students, new NAG members, and senior citizens to the process.
- Set up a website and YouTube account for posting short nature videos specifically relating to items at the Center. The videos are being tagged with QR codes so that visitors will be able to use their phones - or borrow one of the Center's ipads - to view the videos as they tour the Center.
- ...and hundreds of additional small enhancements too numerous to mention.

The capture of one of the honeybee swarms was particularly memorable. A retired beekeeper called the Center asking if we could come out and remove a bee colony from an old beehive. The bees had set up residence in an abandoned beehive where the frames were not anywhere near to being in proper alignment or spacing. As there was some brood developing in the frames, and honey – both old and fresh – in some of the comb, we were motivated to salvage as many of those frames as possible, to help the bees successfully re-establish themselves in their new home. However, only six frames were salvageable, one of which was a shorter (super) frame with comb extending underneath. It was roughly estimated that the colony had between 20,000 and 25,000 bees.

None of what we found at the point of our transferring the colony into our observation nucs was out of the normal range of expectations. However, what did surprise us was, upon attempting to seat the salvaged frames, it was discovered that the frames had longer tabs on the ends that simply would not fit into our standard size boxes. So what did we do? Grab a hand saw and lop off a quarter inch on each of the frame's tabs, all the while the bees were letting us know that they weren't particularly happy with the apparent destruction of their home. Luckily, the bees were relatively docile considering the extenuating circumstances of us hacking away at their stores of honey and brood, and they settled in fairly quickly once the frames were seated. Just wish we had gotten video of us sawing away in that cloud of bees though.

The colony (including the sawed off frames and super frame with comb extending underneath) appears to be doing well and can still be observed out on our front porch. Currently, the bees are huddled into their winter ball (about a 9" diameter) in one corner of an observation nuc. Come on out and see them shivering to stay warm through the winter!

The turkeys were back this Fall, after not seeing a single bird last season. And this year there were four Toms hanging out for a week or two. Normally, we only see hens – along with their almost fully grown chicks – foraging around the Center for a few weeks in the Fall, with perhaps a couple of Toms coming by for just a day or two to convince the hens to come back with them to their winter feeding grounds.

Continued from previous page....

One morning in late October three of the four Toms discovered the picture windows where they could see into the Nature Center, and directly in front of them were the cougar, bobcat, and two coyote taxidermy. While peering in at those predators, two of the Toms fanned at the taxidermy. Were they showing aggression, or perhaps they were seeing their own images in the glass and fanning at themselves, thinking they were competition? Again, I wish I had a video of that encounter, but my phone camera wasn't working.

Many of this year's projects were accomplished by high school students and senior citizens through two volunteer programs that we were able to tap into this year: the Sauk Valley Community College Impact program and the Lifescape AmeriCorps Senior RSVP program. In addition, a grant from the Soil & Water Conservation District allowed us to hire a recent college student as an intern during the Fall season, which will extend for a short time into Winter.

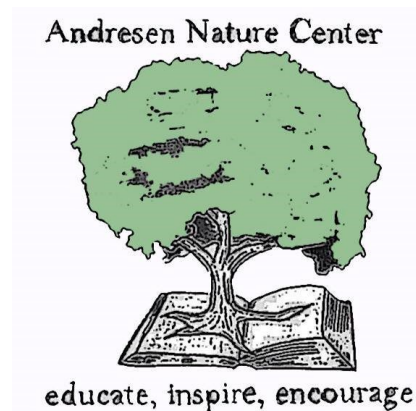
The intern has been overseeing our student volunteer events, repairing and improving displays, creating short educational videos, and developing - and providing - children's programs on select weekends. We hope to continue the intern grant program in 2023.

Overall in 2022 we achieved a record of almost 50 high school student volunteer days, and close to an equal number of adult /senior citizen volunteer days.

Certainly a lot has been accomplished, but our wish list for future expansions and endeavors keeps growing as well. Our Spring outdoor project focus will be on completing a pathway that will connect the Heritage Canyon entrance to the front door of the Center. The path will create an inviting connection between the two attractions. We are also expecting to obtain a newborn fawn taxidermy by the end of Winter. The fawn was a stillborn, so it will be incredibly tiny relative to most people's expectations for what would be the size of a fawn.

Although the slower winter season is upon us, our intern does have at least one children's program already scheduled for mid-January. Updates on activities can be found on the AndresenNatureCenter Facebook page and the City of Fulton website. Or, contact the Center (at 815 208 7059, or AndresenNatureCenter@gmail.com) if you are interested in stopping by.

Lastly, we are always looking for more participation from the community. If you are interested in being on our committee or volunteering at events or on specific projects, please give us a call.



Thank you for reading our newsletter, we hope you enjoyed it. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to share them with us.

Thank you for your continuous support of conservation.

Sincerely, Whiteside Co. SWCD Directors and Staff