



March/April 2010

Volume 50 Issue 2

Conservation News

Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

6021 Development Drive , Suite 2
Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: 217/345-3901 ext 3
Fax: 217/345-9669

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS HELD

The Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District director election was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 in the SWCD office. Larry Coutant and Jim Bell were re-elected to fill two-year terms. Craig Clendening was newly elected as a director after serving as an associate director. Don Mapes is the retiring board member. The board wishes to thank Don Mapes for his valuable contributions as a board member.

An organization of the board was then held at the board meeting on March 2nd. Larry Coutant will serve as chairman, Jim Bell as vice-chairman, and Gary Kuhns will be the secretary/treasurer.

All board meetings are held at the USDA Service Center on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.



Sponsor of the Month

Fritts Fertilizer, Inc.
Complete Farm Service
Fertilizer, Limestone, Anhydrous
Ammonia
All Farm Chemicals
217-234-2726



SWCD WEBSITE NEWS

The Coles County SWCD has recently started a new initiative to improve communication to the residents of Coles County and other interested groups through our website. Over the next several months, you will see many additions and changes to the site. One goal is to have many important forms and documents available for download directly from the site. This includes sale order forms, newsletters, and informational brochures. We will also create a page that outlines cost share programs and other services available through the district. The K-12 Education, Adult Education, and Calendar pages will be updated to list all of the new offerings available. A Links page will also be created to help users find our partners and other relevant conservation and governmental organizations. If you have never visited our site, please visit www.colescountyswcd.org. If you have comments or suggestions about the site, please send them to Kristin Yager at kristin.yager@il.nacdnet.net.

COLES COUNTY SWCD EDUCATION PROGRAM

THANKS ITS RECENT DONORS

The Coles County SWCD ended 2009 with a donation campaign to raise funds to support our education programs in order to continue providing the highest-quality educational opportunities and materials to our Coles County schools at no-charge. We would like to thank the donors that contributed to our campaign: **Niemeyer Kubota** of Humboldt, IL; **Farm Credit Services** of Charleston, IL; **Fritz Fertilizer Inc** of Mattoon, IL, & **Reed's Fly-On Farming** of Mattoon. If you utilize the services of these organizations, please thank them for their support of environmental & agricultural education in Coles County!

SWCD was also awarded a mini-grant by the **Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI)** to fund the creation of an insect kit. Like many of our other educational kits that are available to teachers, day cares, & home school groups at no charge, the kit will contain books (fiction & non-fiction), DVDs, posters, activities, and lesson plans correlated to the Illinois State Learn Standards. This kit will also contain collection & examination equipment and field guides to give teachers the opportunity to conduct "mini-field trips" on their own school grounds. Many students are interested in insects and intrigued by them. This kit will feed their natural curiosity of insects, while also teaching students about their important roles in many ecosystems as vital pollinators.

Interested in supporting our educational programs? Funds, educational materials (books, DVDs, posters, construction paper, art supplies, etc), and volunteers are always welcome!

Contact Kristin at 345-3901, ext 3 or at

kristin.yager@il.nacdnet.net to find out how you can help!

On Facebook? Join our Coles County SWCD fan page to stay up to date with SWCD news and events!



The Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District offers all programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Board of Directors

Larry Coutant— Chairman

Jim Bell— Vice Chairman

Gary Kuhns— Secretary-Treasurer

Rollie Spaniol, Director

Craig Clendening— Director

Associate Directors

Judy Biggs, Darla Chouinard, Mike Gass

SWCD Employees

Nancy Pals, Resource Conservationist

Kristin Yager, Education Liaison

NRCS Employees

Andy Cerven, District Conservationist

Matt Sullivan, Soil Conservation Technician

Kenton Macy, Biologist

Troy Fehrenbacher, Soil Scientist

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Starting now: Orders for our Spring Prairie Plant Sale are being accepted

April 7: Last day to order trees for our Spring Tree Sale. Order forms are available in the office or online

April 14: Land Use Council 7 Envirothon Competition at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet

April 16: Tree Sale pick up will be at 7:00am thru 5:00pm

April 22: Earth Day 2010. See the article below for ideas on how to celebrate Earth Day with your family

April 30: Arbor Day 2010. Plant a tree or shrub to celebrate Arbor Day 2010!

May 3: International Migratory Bird Day. Get outside and enjoy our Feathered Friends!

May 4: May Board Meeting at the Field Office, time to be announced

May 26: Prairie Plant Sale pick up will begin at 7:00am thru 5:00pm. Because plants must be ordered in full flats, there will be extra plants available for purchase on the day of the sale.

Spring Reminders

Cool Season Plantings:

- * Seed early spring to May 15th

Warm Season Plantings:

- * Begin seed bed preparation now
- * Ideal planting time is now thru mid May

Water Ways:

- * Companion crop of 30 of oats/ acre and a fertilizer application of 1000 pounds/acre of 12-12-12

Prescribed Burns:

- * Last day for spring prairie burns is April 19th to prevent disruption to ground nesting birds
- * Clover burns can continue until May 1st

Tree Plantings:

- * Early spring is a great time of year to plant trees
- * Be sure to dig a hole that is twice as wide as the root ball of the tree and slightly shallower

Hummingbird Feeders:

- * Hang feeders up the last week of April as the typical arrival date for Central Illinois is around May 1st
- * To make nectar, combine 1 part sugar with 3 parts water. This mixture will last up to a month in the refrigerator making it possible to make a large batch at once
- * It is unnecessary to add red dye to the mixture—and possibly harmful to the hummingbirds
- * Clean the feeder once every 3-4 days and replace with fresh sugar water

Bird Houses:

- * Begin to clean out last year's nest and other debris from the house
- * Choose a house that is appropriate for the bird species that you wish to attract with the most important features being the size of the opening & location it is placed on your property



Conservation News
Coles County Soil & Water
Conservation District

6021 Development Drive, Suite 2
Charleston, IL 61920

**NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 32
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

Return Service Requested

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS!



Pro Tran Inc.

General Welding & Repair
Complete Tank & Trailer Repair
Fabrication of Stainless Steel Products

Pierre Chouinard 1671 Olive Ave
(217) 348-WELD (9353) Charleston, IL



SCHILLING BROS., INC.

Highway 45 South
Mattoon

217-234-6478



COLE FARM DRAINAGE

RR1 HUMBOLT, IL 61931

Dennis 217.856.2220 217.234.3896

Drainage Systems Designed
Terrace Tile Outlets Installed
Backhoe Work & Tile Repair

FARM CREDIT SERVICES of ILLINOIS -
We Understand

Scott A. Montgomery,

Assistant Vice President 661 A Castle Dr.
800.331.9824 Charleston, IL 61920

Fax: 217.345.3905
scott.montgomery@fcsillinois.com

CHRIS OVERTON EXCAVATING

Waterways, Terraces, Fence Rows
Free Estimates
all 217/235-4738

BATTERY SPECIALISTS

Batteries—Starters—Alternators
No Batteries Too Big or Small

1519 Madison Ave—Charleston, 217.345.8658

309 N 15th—Mattoon, 217.258.8658

Free
Testing

**RICHARD WILLIAMS
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

715 6th St. Charleston

217-345-4511