

## Conservation News

### Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District



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### DISCOVER ILLINOIS OUTDOORS

In the natural course of events, everything in our environment and everything we know about our earth and its resources will be left to the children who will come after us. We are counting on them to appreciate earth's resources that are passed on to their care and expecting them to take responsibility for protecting, preserving, and enhancing all life on earth.

Observing young children learn while they play helps us understand that children learn from "hands on" activities, make discoveries about life from experiences, and grow in creative problem solving ability by exploring on their own. They need to learn about their environment. But, more importantly, they need to experience nature for themselves.

Director Marc Miller of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources presents a "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights" in his message in *Outdoor Illinois, May 2009*.

"Make it a point this summer to provide opportunities for the children in your life to experience each of the ten points identified in the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights," urges Director Miller. "Not comfortable tackling this yourself? Do a little research and you'll find a wealth of agencies, conservation organizations, and civic organizations offering classes, guided trail hikes, summer camps, fishing clinics, campfire programs and organized bike hikes.

"Illinois' natural and cultural resources are priceless treasures, deserving our respect and stewardship. It also is our duty to lead by example and share the importance of this responsibility with our children.

"Your outdoor adventure may be only in your own yard or neighborhood, a nearby school ground, the landscaping around a familiar building, or the stream that runs off after a rain-storm. You might travel beyond your neighborhood in the area where you live.

Nature abounds in Illinois. State parks, recreational sites, and outdoor programs can be found on the website for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us). Take Director Miller's advice: "Unplug yourself and make time to rediscover Illinois' rich resources."

Quotes from *Outdoor Illinois, May 2009* used with permission. Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer, NRCS/Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District, an equal opportunity provider and employer, 05/14/09 (for publication on 05/23/09 in the Journal-Standard

### CHILDRENS OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS

- \* Discover wilderness - prairies, dunes, forests, savannas, and wetlands \*
- \* Camp under the stars \*
- \* Follow a trail \*
- \* Climb a tree \*
- \* Catch and release fish, frogs, and insects \*
- \* Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities \*
- \* Celebrate heritage \*
- \* Plant a flower \*
- \* Play in the mud or a stream \*
- \* Learn to swim \*



Coles County has many places to enjoy the great outdoors that provide the opportunity to experience the ten activities above. Some spots you might want to visit this summer are: Lincoln Log Cabin State Historical Site, Fox Ridge & Walnut Point State Parks, Douglas-Hart Nature Center, the bike trail from Charleston to Mattoon, Lake Mattoon, Lake Charleston, and all the area parks and pools.

### Pro Tran Inc.

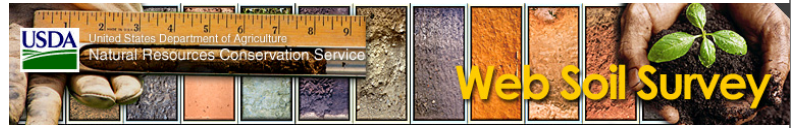
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# Welcome to Web Soil Survey



The Web Soil Survey provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey and can be accessed at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95% of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100% in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. WSS provides the user the capability to download the raw soil data clipped to the geographic extent of the defined area of interest (AOI). This data can then be used in the user's local geographic information system (GIS).

There are three basic step to using WSS:

1. Define the area of interest (AOI) by address, soil survey area, latitude and longitude, public land survey system( section, township, range) or several other methods.
2. View/Explore an interactive soils map. Click the Soil Map tab to view or print a soil map, or click the Soil Data Explorer tab to access soil date from your area and determine the suitability of the soils for a particular use. The items you want saved in a report can be added to your shopping cart.
3. Check Out. Use the Shopping Cart tab to get your custom printable report immediately, or download it later.

The purpose of the WSS is to allow customers electronic access to the information they want such as map units for their geographic area and information relevant to their land use concerns—e.g. cropland, building site. WSS provides customers to relevant soil and related information needed to make wise land use and management decisions. WSS provides an alternative to traditional hardcopy publications and allows quicker delivery of the most current data.

Since its beginning, the Web Soil Survey has attracted a wide array of online visitors from all over the world. During the first few months of its existence, the site averaged about 1000 users per day, but now the site has seen that number increase dramatically to about 4000 per day.

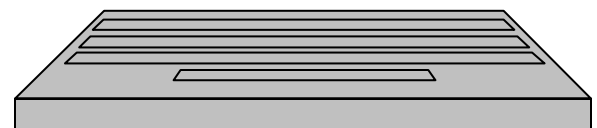
Making soils information available on the web has been a major achievement for NRCS and with the agency's ongoing commitment to make the process better and easier for the customer, the important information can find its way into the hands of those making natural resource decisions. NRCS is a science-based USDA federal agency committed to the preservation of the nation's natural resources through the use of conservation.



*"Dragonfly", a photo by Richard Funk of Mattoon won 1st place in the "Close Up Conservation" Category of the AISWCD state photo contest and will now go on to compete in the nation contest later this fall. Although shown in black & white the submitted photo was in color.*



**FIND US ON THE  
WEB:**  
[www.colescountyswcd.org](http://www.colescountyswcd.org)



"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful~ e.e. cummings

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## Alternatives to Pesticides and Chemicals

When used incorrectly, pesticides can pollute water. They also kill beneficial as well as harmful insects. Natural alternatives prevent both of these events from occurring and save you money. Consider using natural alternatives for chemical pesticides: Non-detergent insecticidal soaps, garlic, hot pepper sprays, 1 tea-spoon of liquid soap in a gallon of water, used dishwater, or forceful stream of water to dislodge insects.

Also consider using plants that naturally repel insects. These plants have their own chemical defense systems, and when planted among flowers and vegetables, they help keep unwanted insects away. Here is a partial list of nature's alternatives:

### PEST

Ant

Aphids

Bean Leaf Beetle

Codling Moth

Colorado Potato Bug

Cucumber Beetle

Flea Beetle

Imported Cabbage Worm

Japanese Beetle

Leaf Hopper

Mexican Bean Beetle

Mice

Root Knot Nematodes

Slugs

Spider Mites

Squash Bug

Stink Bug

Thrips

Tomato Hornworm

Whitefly

### Plant Repellent

mint, tansy, pennyroyal

mint, garlic, chives, coriander, anise

potato, onion, turnip

common oleander

green beans, coriander, nasturtium

radish, tansy

garlic, onion, mint

mint, sage, rosemary, hyssop

garlic, larkspur, tansy, rue, geranium

geranium, petunia

potato, onion, garlic, radish, petunia, marigolds

onion

French marigolds

prostate rosemary, wormwood

onion, garlic, cloves, chives

radish, marigolds, tansy, nasturtium

radish

marigolds

marigolds, sage, borage

marigolds, nasturtium



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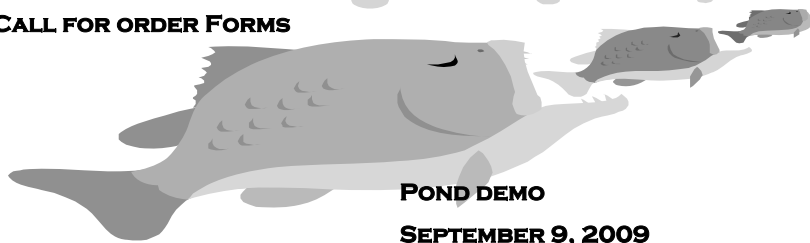
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The Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District, along with 98 other SWCDs statewide, will be running the Transect Survey in 2009 as soon as spring crop planting is completed. This survey was first ran in 1994 and consists of a route that encompasses the county's cropland acres. Data to be collected includes previous and current year crops, residue amounts, and tillage practices. This data is used with other information such as soil type, slope length and percent, and other factors to calculate soil conservation trends.

A data summary of the 2009 Transect Survey will be published later this year.

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