



Conservation News

Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

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[facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD](https://www.facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD)

Volume 63 Issue 1

Coles County Conservationist of the Year: Urban Butterfly Initiative



UBI was chosen as the Coles County SWCD's Conservationist of the Year for 2022 due to their work beautifying the communities in Coles County via the creation of numerous butterfly-friendly habitats in existing public greenspaces around Charleston, Mattoon, and the surrounding areas. They have done a wonderful job coordinating with community, nonprofit, and grassroots groups such as the City of Charleston, Pheasants Forever, CCAR Industries, Camp

New Home, 5-Mile House, Eastern Illinois University, and more to identify sites for habitat projects, promote community involvement through educational and volunteer opportunities, and continually increase public knowledge about the natural flora and fauna of the Coles County area through their annual "Butterfly Blitz" event. To date, UBI has created and maintains approximately 20 "hotspots" in the area. These project sites are active demonstrations of conservation and stewardship, provide ongoing opportunities for educational programs, research, and promote the use of best management practices in public, urban green spaces.

The Urban Butterfly Initiative is a 501(c3)/509(a2) community service organization that provides expertise and guidance to public and private partners who seek to increase biodiversity, beauty, and scientific awareness in their communities. UBI encourages the modification of existing urban green spaces to create beautiful butterfly-friendly habitats, making them more ecologically functional, while also generating the benefits of urban beautification, tourism, education, and science. Their low-cost, low-maintenance butterfly landscapes beautify communities, increase biodiversity and conservation, create engagement and educational experiences, and provide science and research opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about UBI or becoming involved with future projects, visit their website at <http://www.urbanbutterflies.org>

The object of this award is to provide recognition to an outstanding conservationist in the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District that exemplifies Total Resource Management. Recipients are selected based on their use of best management practices, implementation of new and innovative technologies, demonstrations of commitment to conservation and stewardship, participation in educational programs and community involvement, and leadership in community, government, and non-profit or grassroots groups to further their work.



The UBI Lake Charleston Red Barn Hotspot is located at the entrance to Lake Charleston in Coles Co., IL. Planting was initiated in Fall 2018.

Upcoming Events:

January:

2nd—New Years Obs. (Office Closed)
6th—EQIP Application Deadline
10th—Board Meeting
16th—MLK Day (Office Closed)
31st—STAR 2022 Field Forms Due

February:

3rd—CSP Classic Application Deadline
9th—SWCD Board Election
14th—Board Meeting
20th—Presidents' Day (Office Closed)

March:

14th—Board Meeting
17th—Fish Sale Orders Due
24th—Tree Sale Orders Due

Sponsors Sought for Arbor Day

Although it may not feel like spring outside yet, we are anticipating warmer weather and that means gearing up to teach Coles County's third graders all about trees this Arbor Day! Every third grade classroom that we visit will be presented with the history of Arbor Day, a discussion of the importance of trees, and each student will take home their very own white pine seedling.

"It is amazing seeing the students' faces light up when they realize they are going to have a tree in their yard that they planted and that they get to be responsible for," says Terina Coffey, Coles Co. SWCD education coordinator.

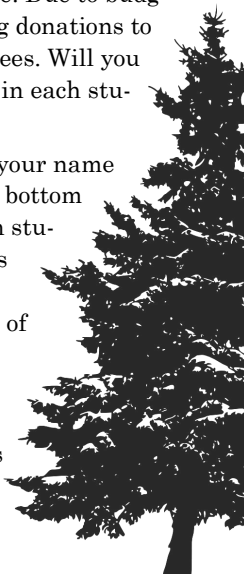
Each tree costs about \$0.75 and we would like every third grader in Coles County to receive a tree. Due to budgetary constraints, the SWCD is seeking donations to help provide the students with their trees. Will you help us meet our goal of placing a tree in each student's hand?

We will recognize your gift by putting your name or your business' name and logo at the bottom of the care instructions sheet that each student receives so they and their families will know it was you who invested in them. Here's an example of the impact of your gift.

- \$40 will purchase trees for one classroom

- \$1000 will purchase trees for all Coles County 3rd graders

Donations may be mailed or delivered in-person to the office.



Have You Submitted Your 2022 STAR Field Forms? They're due January 31st!



Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR) is a FREE nationwide tool to assist farm operators and landowners in evaluating their nutrient and soil loss management practices on individual fields. The goal of STAR is to encourage the continued adoption of conservation practices, and recognize farmers for their commitment to sustainability.

The STAR evaluation system assigns points for management activities on an annual basis. Participants answer a series of simple questions about their crop rotation, tillage, nutrient applications, and use of conservation practices to generate their overall field score. Scores are converted to a STAR rating of 1 to 5 STARS, with 5 STARS indicating commitment to a suite of practices proven to improve soil health and water quality.

There are several ways to complete a STAR evaluation— Complete and return the PDF form via email, mail, or in-person, or use the STAR Web App that launched in 2021. The web app has the ability to work on both large and small screen devices, and is the fastest option for tech-savvy folks. It provides users with immediate, clear, concise evaluations of their field management. Additionally, it automatically identifies practices to increase a field's STAR Rating, providing a clear path to improved STAR Ratings with resources and local technical assistance.

The Coles County SWCD is looking forward to increased participation in the free and confidential program for the 2022 crop year. If you're interested in participating, would like more information, or would like help filling out the form, please visit <https://starfreetool.com/> or give our office a call and schedule an appointment with Lauren.

Notice of Election of Directors

To All Owners and Occupiers of Lands Lying Within the Boundaries of Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held on the 9th day of February, 2023 from 7:00am to 5:30pm at 6021 Development Drive, Ste. 2, Charleston, IL 61920. Two (2) Directors will be elected to serve the Coles 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.



Charleston Field Office Staff and Directors

<u>Coles Co. SWCD Board of Directors</u>	<u>Coles Co. SWCD Employees</u>	<u>NRCS Employees</u>
Bill Janes: Chairman Justin Thomas: Vice Chairman Todd Easton: Secretary/Treasurer Pat Harrington William Tapella	Terina Coffey Administrative & Education Coordinator Lauren Spaniol Resource Conservationist	Andy Brantner: District Conservationist Stephen Head: Soil Conservationist Kent Macy: Technical Biology Specialist Matt Dasenbrock: Area Engineer Kerry Bushue: Civil Engineering Tech.

As a cooperator of NRCS, SWCD must provide reasonable accommodations to USDA customers with disabilities, where appropriate. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation for any NRCS or SWCD programs or services should contact Carzella Pritchett, Illinois NRCS' Disability Emphasis Program Manager, at (217) 353-6651 directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. USDA-NRCS/SWCD are an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Spring 2023 Sales

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____



New pond? Suggested stocking rates:

- Largemouth Bass: 30-50 per acre
- Bluegill: 150-250 per acre
- Redear Sunfish: 200-250 per acre
- Fathead minnows: 4-10lbs per acre
- Channel Catfish: 25-100 per acre

Recommendations are for new ponds 1/2 acre or more

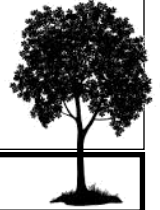
Call our office or the IDNR fisheries biologist for restocking guidelines!

Important Dates:

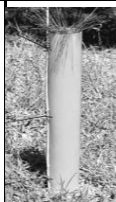
Fish Orders Due: Friday, March 17th
 Fish Pick Up: Wednesday, April 5th, 11:00am
 Tree Orders Due: Friday, March 24th
 Tree Pick Up: Friday, April 7th by appointment

Please remind me prior to pick up via:

- Phone Email



TREE SALE

Tree Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Sub-total
Conifers				
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	10-18" 2-1	10 for \$30		\$
Colorado Blue Spruce <i>Picea pungens 'glauca'</i>	10-18" 2-1	10 for \$30		\$
Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca</i>	10-20" 2-1	10 for \$30		\$
Deciduous				
American Chestnut* <i>Castanea dentata</i>	18-24" 1-0	5 for \$30		\$
Scarlet/Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	18-24" 2-0	5 for \$15		\$
Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	18-24" 1-0	5 for \$15		\$
Common Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	18-24" 1-0	5 for \$25		\$
American (Wild) Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	24-36" 1-0+	5 for \$20		\$
Shrubs				
Blackhaw Viburnum <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	12-18"	3 for \$15		\$
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	12-18"	3 for \$10		\$
Tree Guard 4" diameter x 36" tall tube. Includes a 48 inch wood stake. Note: Tubes should be buried a minimum of 2" into the soil. Recommended for deciduous trees only.		\$3 Each		\$
			Total	\$

FISH SALE				
Fish Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Sub-total
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$1 ea.		\$
	6-8"	\$1.25 ea.		\$
Largemouth Bass	3-4"	\$1.75 ea.		\$
Bluegill	1-3"	\$1 ea.		\$
	3-5"	\$1.50 ea.		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	1-3"	\$1 ea.		\$
	3-5"	\$1.50 ea.		\$
Red Ear Sunfish	3-4"	\$1.50 ea.		\$
Black Crappie	3-4"	\$1.75 ea.		\$
Fathead Minnows	1-3"	\$12/lb		\$
Triploid Grass Carp *See table below for info about pond location	8-11"	\$12.50 ea.		\$
			Total	\$

*Non-GMO variety of true American Chestnuts (not hybrids with Chinese Chestnut) and are sold as "Apparently Blight Free" with some natural resistance. Nursery does NOT guarantee full resistance to chestnut blight pathogenic fungus.

TABLE MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL GRASS CARP ORDERS:

County	Township	Range	Section	Pond Size (Surface Acres)	Water Name	# of Fish
Ex: Coles	T11N	R9E	16	12 ac.	Pond	4

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