



Conservation News

Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

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<http://www.colescountyswcd.org>

facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD

Volume 63 Issue 3

Oak Savannah Planted by 4-H Youth and Community Volunteers

Water Tower Park in Oakland, Illinois is the new home of 25 four-foot-tall oak trees. The trees - a mix of White Oak, Red Oak, and Bur Oak - were planted by local 4-H members, Master Naturalists, and community volunteers as part of the Illinois Green Communities Tree Program on Monday, April 3rd.

The Illinois Green Communities Tree Program is a partnership between Illinois 4-H and the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) Forestry Committee to raise awareness of Illinois' diminishing oak forests and to educate youth and community members on the value of native oak trees and forests to Illinois. Funding for the first two years of tree planting was provided by Illinois Forestry Development Council, University of Illinois Extension Foundation, and AISWCD. The statewide initiative is coordinated at the local level by Coles County 4-H and the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Special thanks to the Oakland Park District for this year's planting site and for providing mulch for the trees. Last year's tree planting location in Coles County was the Lake Charleston Spillway Park, in Charleston, Illinois.

After a successful 2022 planting campaign across 31 Illinois counties, this spring's campaign expanded to 38 counties across the state - from Winnebago in the North to Massac in the South, and Adams in the West to Edgar in the East. Each participating district was supplied with 25 trees to be planted on a public site within the district. A total of 950 four-foot-tall potted oak trees supplied by Forrest Keeling Nursery of Elsberry, Missouri were planted this spring.

Throughout Illinois and the Midwest, oak-hickory forests are diminishing and being overtaken by less desirable forests of primarily beech and maple. It is projected that some Illinois oak-hickory forests, particularly in Southwestern Illinois, will be completely overtaken by beech and maple by 2050 if management practices aren't initiated soon.



On Monday, April 3, 2023, 4-H youth, 4-H Volunteers, the Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District, a Master Naturalist, and Community members of Coles County planted 25 Oak trees at Water Tower Park in Oakland, Illinois.

Upcoming Events:

<u>July:</u>	<u>August:</u>	<u>September:</u>
4th—Holiday (Office Closed)	8th—Board Meeting	4th—Holiday (Office Closed)
11th—Board Meeting	30th—Pond Seminar	12th—Board Meeting
17-18th—AISWCD Conference		15th—Fish Orders Due

Illinois Extension Announces Master Naturalist Training Dates for Fall

Illinois Extension, serving Coles-Cumberland-Douglas-Moultrie-Shelby Counties, will be offering Master Naturalist training from August 8-October 10, with the majority of classes every Tuesday from 5:30 PM-8:30 PM held at Douglas-Hart Nature Center in Mattoon. There will also be classes onsite at Warbler Woods and the Lake Shelbyville Visitor's Center.

The Master Naturalist Program is an educational volunteer training program offered by University of Illinois Extension. The program is designed to give participants an opportunity to experience nature, develop knowledge of and respect for the environment, and practice natural resource stewardship. The local Master Naturalist group, established in 2019, is coordinated by University of Illinois Extension serving Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. This local chapter, known as Prairie's Edge Master Naturalists, is sponsored by Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District, Douglas Hart Nature Center, and Grand Prairie Friends. Our local chapter shares the mission, vision, and goals of the statewide extension program.

For those wanting to become a Master Naturalist volunteer, the University of Illinois requires each applicant to complete an application, background screening paperwork, and schedule an interview with Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Coordinator Jenny Lee. The fee to participate is \$200 and covers classroom sessions, field training, handouts, and the Master Naturalist manual. Financial assistance is available. Applications, screening paperwork, interviews, and course fees must be received and completed by July 24, 2023. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Jenny Lee at 217-345-7034.

Registration is also open for the Field Day of Learning (see below). Learn more at go.illinois.edu/FLDay



Field Day of Learning

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 8:30 AM

DOUGLAS-HART NATURE CENTER & WARBLER RIDGE

TOPICS INCLUDE: BEES, BUTTERFLIES, & UNIQUE FLORA OF WARBLER RIDGE

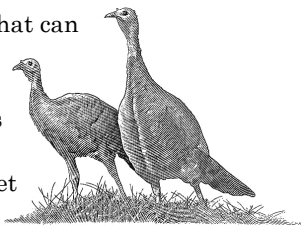


Planning on installing a food plot?

Illinois has a ban on the feeding of wild deer and other wildlife in areas where wild deer are present. The ban was enacted in 2002 in an effort to limit the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). One exception to the "feeding" rule is food plots! Illinois hunters and property owners are legally able to manage their property in a handful of ways that will result in the attraction of deer and other wildlife, including leaving some standing crops and/or installing food plots.

August is a great time of year to plant late-season food plots for winter cover and nutrients. The Coles County SWCD sells seed mixes developed for deer, turkey, and other wildlife.

We also rent out a no-till seed drill that can be operated by smaller tractors (just needs 80+ HP and hydraulics) and a broadcast seeder that attaches to a 4-wheeler or ATV. Stop by the office or give us a call, we can help get that food plot ready for fall.

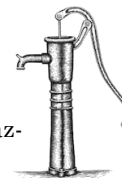


Financial Assistance Program For Sealing Abandoned Wells

An abandoned well can pose a health and safety hazard if it is improperly sealed or not sealed at all. In fact, the Illinois Water Well Construction Code requires the owner of a water well to properly seal the well within 30 days after it is abandoned and no longer used to supply water.

The Coles County SWCD is currently taking applications for financial assistance to help offset the cost of having a well sealed. All residents within the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District who have a well that is no longer in use on their property are eligible to apply. Maximum financial assistance available is up to 75% reimbursement of the total direct sealing costs, up to \$400 per well.

Additional information can be found on our website, <http://www.colescountyswcd.org>, or by contacting the Coles County SWCD office at 217-345-3901 ext. 3.



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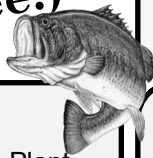
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As a cooperator of NRCS, SWCD must provide reasonable accommodations to USDA customers with disabilities, where appropriate. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation for any NRCS or SWCD programs or services should contact Illinois NRCS' Disability 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.

Pond Management Seminar (Free!)



***WHEN:** Wednesday, August 30th, 5:00pm
***WHERE:** Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site Pond
SPEAKERS: Jimmy Garavaglia, IDNR Fisheries Biologist

Topics will include:

Fish Management, Aquatic Plant Control, Fish Species Identification, Stocking Recommendations, Pond Construction, Pond Maintenance

Bring your questions and a lawnchair!

To RSVP for this **FREE** event or if you have questions, please call the Coles County SWCD (217) 345-3901 ext 3 or email info@colescountyswcd.org
 Refreshments will be provided.

A map to the location can be found at <https://goo.gl/maps/pCZ2CJGc5pNLM8yY8>

Coles County SWCD Fall 2023 Fish Sale

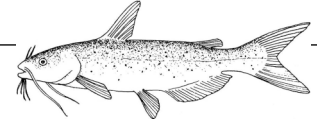
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____

Return order form with payment to:
 Coles County SWCD
 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2
 Charleston, IL 61920



Important Dates:

Fish Orders Due: Friday, September 15th
 Fish Pick Up: Wednesday, October 4th
 11:00am at Coles Co SWCD Office
 Please remind me prior to pick up via:
 Phone Email



Fish Species	Size	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$1 each		\$
	6-8"	\$1.25 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	3-4"	\$1.50 each		\$
Bluegill	1-3"	\$1 each		\$
	3-5"	\$1.25 each		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	2-4"	\$1 each		\$
Red Ear Sunfish	3-4"	\$1.25 each		\$
Fathead Minnows	1-3"	\$12 per lb		\$
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11"	\$12.00 each		\$
<i>See below</i>				
			Total	\$

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

For Office Use: Date Paid: _____ **Amount:** _____ **Check#/Cash:** _____

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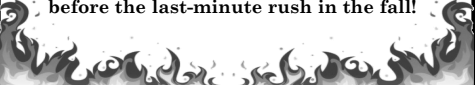
Auto Home Farm Business

217-345-6750
 TomcoAgency.com

Are Your Fall Burn Plans Ready? 

Many programs require a burn plan and permit to be on file prior to a controlled burn. Coles County SWCD staff can help landowners obtain a burn plan and can assist with the application for an Illinois EPA open burning permit.

Give us a call today to get the process started, before the last-minute rush in the fall!



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