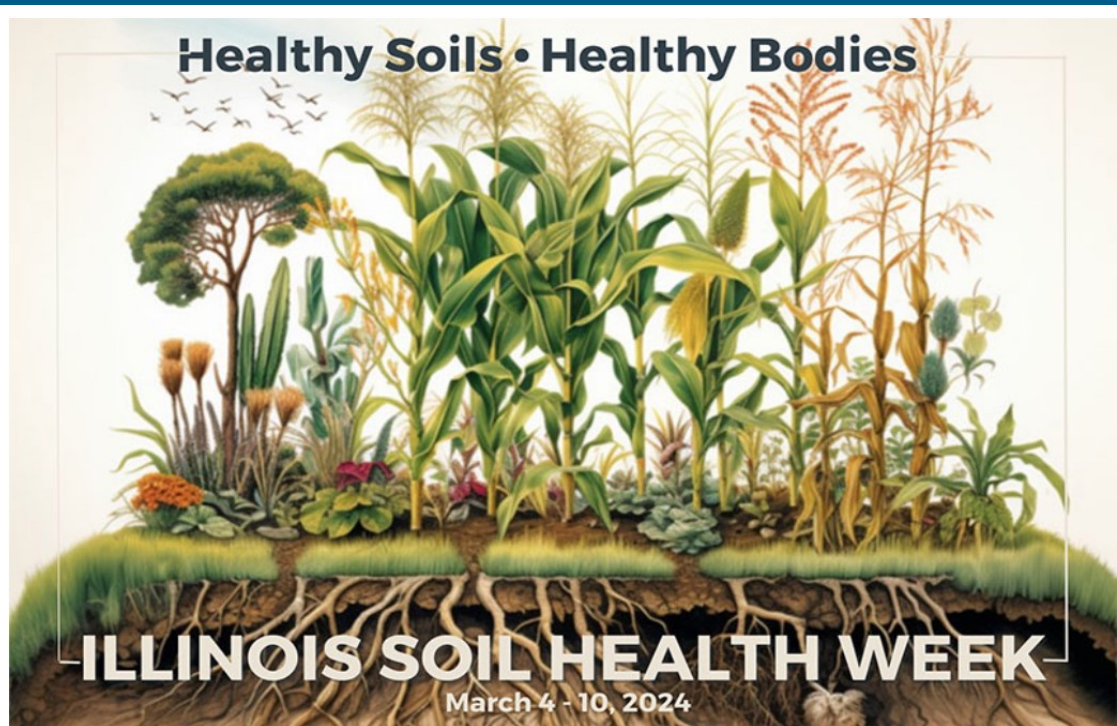


HORIZONS

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2024



Soil is the foundation of all life. It performs several vital functions in the natural environment:

- sustains diverse plant life, from crop ground and pasture to woodlands, prairies, savannah's and wetlands
- supports diverse wildlife habitat, fungi and bacteria, both above and below the ground surface
- regulates water flow through the soil, dependent on soil composition, soil structure and the plant community
- stores and cycles nutrients through cation exchange; and earthworms, nematodes and various microorganisms in the soil
- it is a natural filter of pollutants, providing microbes a home to perform the natural degradation and immobilization of pollutants before they can get into our groundwater resources
- provides support to homes, roads and other buildings and infrastructure

For more information about soil health week, or soil health in general, go to our Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District website at www.aiswcd.org, the USDA website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soils/soil-health> or the “Kids Corner” tab on our website www.winnebagoswcd.org.

Conserving Our Land Today For Tomorrow

The Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District is a locally operated unit of government functioning under Illinois Law. Our purpose is to promote the protection, maintenance, improvement and wise use of the soil, water and related resources within the District.
Est. 1940



Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), established in 1937 under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act, are local units of government. The Act gives SWCD'S the responsibility to provide technical information to individuals and groups on methods of soil and water conservation and to provide natural resource inventory information on properties slated for zoning changes. The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation was formed in 1940 and is a locally operated unit of government functioning under Illinois Law. Our purpose is to promote the protection, maintenance, improvement and wise use of the soil, water and related resources within the District.

Who develops the policies of the Winnebago County SWCD?

The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District is a public body made up of citizens concerned with the protection of our natural resources. It is governed by a five-member board of directors elected by District landowners and residents. This Board of Directors, along with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develop annual and long range plans that direct the activities of the District and NRCS.

Who funds the SWCD?

Districts have no taxing authority. Funding is provided by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA). Districts offer several programs and services which supplement IDOA funding. The additional funding is utilized for operation expenses and education programs.

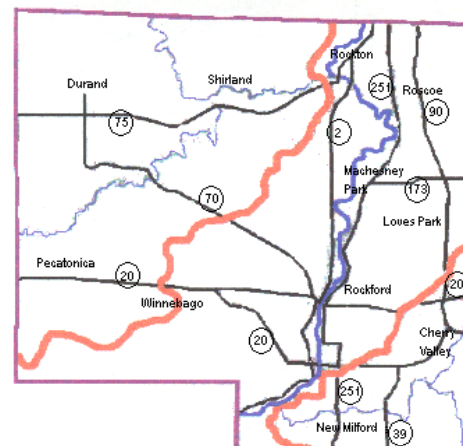
Melisa Long
Horizons Editor

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Director Election Results

On Tuesday, January 30, the Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District held its District Director election.

Paul Beuth of Leaf River, Justin Krohn of South Beloit and Mike Leick of Winnebago were on the ballot. Each were elected for a two-year term on our board of directors and will begin their term on March 4, 2024.



Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District FY 2023 Financial Report

ASSETS	
Cash	\$333,238
Accounts Receivable	\$24,057
Fixed (building, land & vehicles)	\$194,676
Total Assets	\$551,971

LIABILITIES	
Liabilities	\$4,386
Total Liabilities	\$4,386

RESTRICTED PROGRAMS	
Partners For Conservation (PFC) <i>(State cost-share program - FY23)</i>	\$53,964
WC Conservation Fund <i>(scholarships, education & easement protection)</i>	\$25,239
Total Restricted	\$79,203

GENERAL OPERATION INCOME	
State Government Support	\$81,959
Local Government Support	\$45,000
Interest	\$902
Sponsorship (Horizons)	\$1,750
Rentals (building)	\$65,823
Sales (trees, fish, PF seed & other sales)	\$61,603
Technical Service Agreements with other agencies	\$95,160
Reimbursements (pass-thru funds, trees)	\$580
Special Events	\$3,602
Other	\$791
Total Revenues	\$357,170

COST OF GOODS SOLD	
District Sales (trees, fish, PF seed & other sales)	\$44,255
Total of Cost of Goods	\$44,255
Gross Profit	\$312,915

GENERAL OPERATION EXPENSE	
Administration	\$208,773
Education & Promotion	\$6,913
Office Expenses	\$8,157
Professional Services	\$1,150
Membership Dues	\$4,653
Building Maintenance	\$31,606
Travel	\$2,220
Conferences/Training/Meals	\$2,824
Vehicle	\$3,265
Bank Charges	\$1,087
Insurance	\$4,432
Rent (copier)	\$4,166
Reimbursements	\$716
Program Expenses	\$4,624
Total Expenses	\$284,586
Net Income	\$28,329

SWCDs DELIVER



TRUSTED RESOURCES



SUSTAINERS



IMPLEMENTORS

SWCDs are local, trusted resources that provide a wide variety of services in rural and urban settings that include technical expertise and assistance towards natural resource management, conservation planning, outreach and education.

SWCDs work to protect Illinois' greatest assets - the rich, fertile soils and water resources of the state through strategic conservation efforts.

SWCDs implement conservation practices, project groundwater resources, conserve and restore wetlands/habitat and work with the other levels of government, homeowners and developers to manage Illinois' land in an environmentally sensitive manner.



AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP



Topics

Drones

Alternative Crops

Soil Tests

Integrated Pest Management



Thursday March 21, 2024
10 AM - 1 PM

RSVP BY 3/15

815-965-2392 ext. 3248
kwalshswcd@comcast.net

**Lunch
Provided**



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



SEED MIXES



- IL CRP Tallgrass (\$85/ac)
- IL CRP Shortgrass (\$84/ac)
- IL CRP Wet (\$118/ac)
- IL CRP HEL 5% Slope Shortgrass (\$113/ac)
- IL CRP HEL 5% Slope Tallgrass (\$114/ac)
- IL CRP Wildflowers Only (\$55/ac)
- IL CP43 Prairie Strip Tallgrass (\$79/ac) Shortgrass (\$78/ac)
- IL CP43 Prairie Strip HEL 5% Tallgrass (\$104/ac) Shortgrass (\$117/ac)
- IL CRP Plateau Tolerant (\$91/ac)
- IL CRP CP21 Native Filter Strip (\$74/ac)
- IL CRP CP1 (\$40/ac)
- IL Wildlife Firebreak Mix (\$40/ac)
- IL MCM Forb Only Inter-seeding (\$15/ac)
- IL MCM Grass and Forb Inter-seeding (\$37/ac)
- IL Basic Pollinator (\$116/ac)
- IL Pollinator Plus (\$162/ac)
- IL HEL Pollinator (\$196/ac)
- IL Wet Pollinator (\$249/ac)
- IL Monarch Pollinator (\$129/ac)
- IL MCM Pollinator Forb Only Inter-seeding (\$43/ac)

For additional seed mixes and a list of species in each mix visit www.PFHabitatStore.com.
To place an order, contact Katie Peterson at 815-965-2392 ext. 3248 or at kwalshswcd@comcast.net.



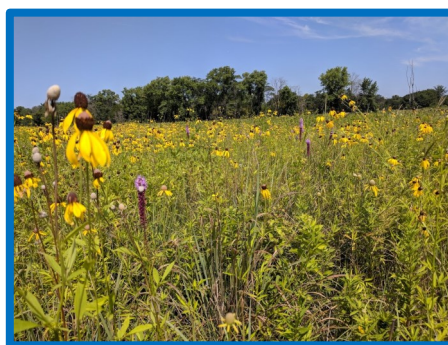
Cost Share Funds Available for YOUR Project



The Winnebago County SWCD is offering up to **75% cost-share assistance** to eligible county residents, organizations, and businesses to complete conservation project on their property.

Funding is limited and funding decision will be based on ranking criteria.
 (Filling out a S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources) form is also a requirement to receive funding)

Applications are available on our website or in the office.
Applications for spring projects are due April 12. Apply today!



All projects must be completed in Winnebago County to be eligible for cost share.
 For a complete list of eligible projects, please contact the office.

Popular Projects	Average Cost to Install
Grassed Waterways	\$3,308.87-\$6,362.14/ac
Pollinator/Monarch Planting	\$239.41-\$980.47/ac
Cover Crops	\$53.33/ac
No-Till/Strip-Till	\$40.00/ac
Well Sealing	\$7.26-\$64.37/ft



(Prices are subject to change and limitations to cost share may apply)

For questions or to learn more, contact Katie Peterson at (815) 965-2392, Ext. 3248
 or kwalshswcd@comcast.net.

Pond Stocking

Fish Sale



ORDER
DEADLINE
April 5

regular bluegill, hybrid bluegill, redear,
channel catfish, black crappie, largemouth
bass, fathead minnow & triploid grass carp

Call the office at (815) 965-2392, Ext. 3 or go to
www.winnebagoswcd.org for a brochure.

Order pick up will be April 26 at 8:00 a.m.

TREE SALE

Shade Trees, Evergreens and Shrubs
Tree Accessory Items
Edible, Pollinator & Nut Tree Packs
Rain Barrels



SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!
ORDER DEADLINE MARCH 8
(order pick up in April)

Brochures are available at
www.winnebagoswcd.org
or by calling (815) 965-2392, Ext. 3.

WOODLAND ADVENTURE

BATS

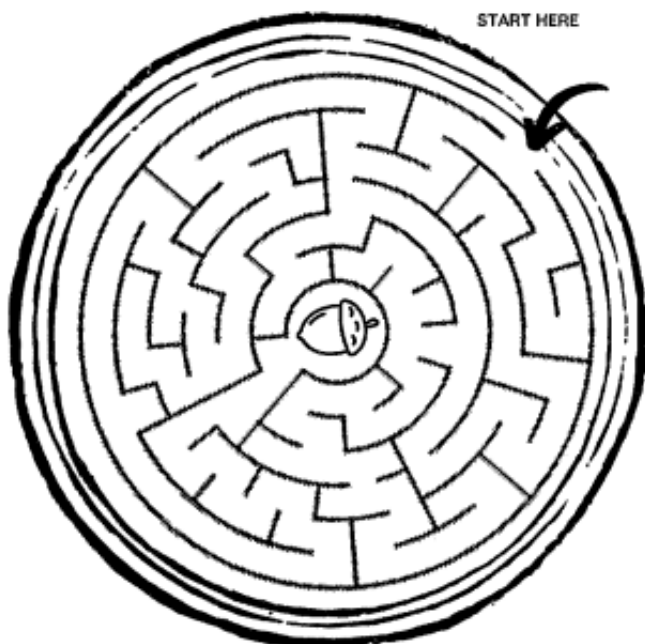
Little brown bats are one of the most common and widespread bat species in North America. They inhabit various forested areas, including deciduous forest, coniferous forests and mixed woodlands. These bats are known for their small size and brown fur. They play an important role in forest ecosystems by consuming insects, including mosquitos and agricultural pests.



SKUNKS

Skunks are small animals that have a unique way to protect themselves. They have a special smelly spray that they can release if they feel scared or in danger. This spray smells really bad and helps them keep away other animals that might want to harm them.

Skunks have black and white fur and they waddle when they walk. They are mostly active at night and like to dig for food, such as insects, small animals and even fruits. Skunks are interesting creatures, but it's important to give them their space and not scare them, so we don't have to experience their smelly spray!



Help this squirrel through the tree ring maze to the acorn!



HORIZON SPONSORS - 2024

The following businesses are sponsoring your Soil and Water Conservation District.



**WINNEBAGO-
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FARM
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Ann Marie Cain, FBCM
Farm Bureau Manager
(815) 962-0653

wbfbmanager@winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org
www.winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org

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NITE EQUIPMENT INC.



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www.niteequip.com

New & Used Tractors - Trucks - 300 Trailers



Crooked River
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Pecatonica, IL

Bison for Sale
Live or Processed

Craig and Cathy Dummer
craighedummer@gmail.com

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815-222-5700 Cell

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KENNETH C. LUDEWIG
Owner

12604 Haldane Rd.
Polo, Illinois 61064

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Res.: (815) 938-2543
Cell: (815) 266-4820



(815)247-8431



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A better idea. A better *Solution.*



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Direct: 815.650.2765
Mobile: 815.985.4518
Fax: 815.248.2972

Brett Frederick
Executive Vice President
- Lending

1005 Cameron Drive
Durand, IL 61024
bfrederick@solutions.bank

solutions.bank

**TO BECOME A
"HORIZONS" SPONSOR
CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE
(815) 965-2392, EXT. 3**



**PEARL CITY
ELEVATOR INC.**

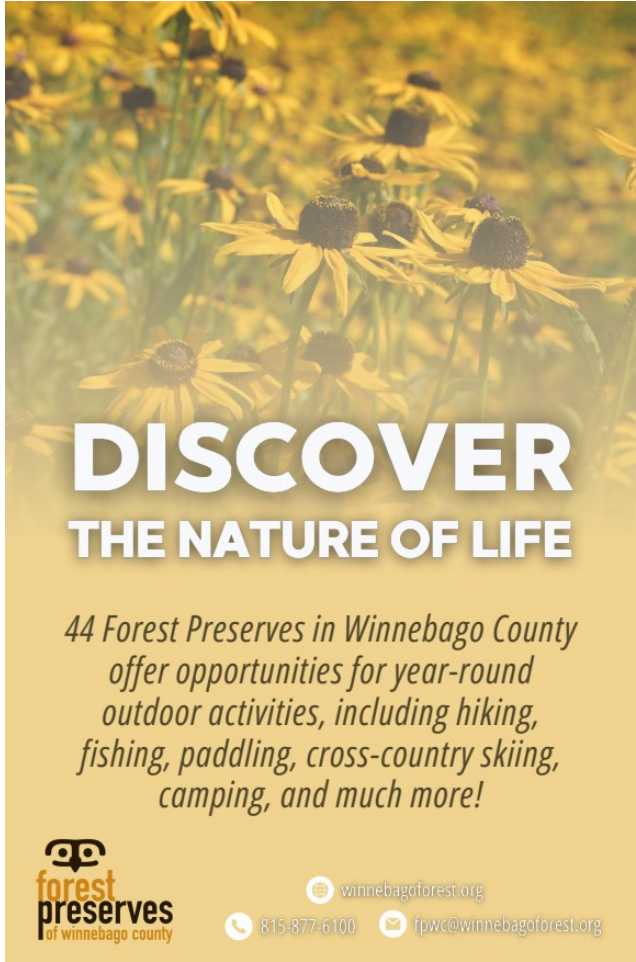
1918 *100 Years* 2018

1-800-851-8584

HORIZON SPONSORS - 2024




LILJA FARMS
PECATONICA, IL
815.543.1793



**DISCOVER
THE NATURE OF LIFE**

44 Forest Preserves in Winnebago County offer opportunities for year-round outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, paddling, cross-country skiing, camping, and much more!

 winnebagoforest.org
815-877-6100 fpwc@winnebagoforest.org

Pollinator Palooza

FREE
Saturday, May 4
10 AM - 3 PM

FOR ALL AGES

**Severson Dells Nature Center
8786 Montague Rd., Rockford**



*Visit a variety of booths.
Pollinator-themed games and craft stations will entertain visitors of all ages.*



WINNEBAGO COUNTY SWCD

2024 POSTER CONTEST

Must be a resident of Winnebago County and meet the following perimeters:

Digital Poster

Age Groups

- 7th-9th Grade
- 10th-12th Grade

The poster must be a digital design and can be created in any platform. The design should be 8.5 x 11 in size and at least 300DPI. Files should be in JPEG or PNG format.

Hand Drawn Poster

Age Groups:

- K-1st Grade
- 2nd-3rd Grade
- 4th-6th Grade
- 7th-9th Grade
- 10th-12th Grade

Any media can be used (paint, crayons, stickers, etc.) to create a flat poster. Hard copies can be dropped off or mailed to the office and digital pictures or scans should be PDF format.

Additional Assistance Poster

New this year, additional assistance posters follow the same guidelines as hand drawn posters with the same age groups. In this category students are permitted to have adult assistance but the art work should be the students original creation.

Braille Poster

New in 2024 are braille posters for K-12 age groups. Braille labels or elements can be used & can be added with Braille embosser or Braille typewriter.

Theme - May the forest be with you always



What makes a good poster?

- attracts attention
- is simple & concise - don't try to include too many ideas
- uses colors & white space effectively
- text is large enough to be easily read
- don't use all words or all illustrations
- research the theme topic & brainstorm ideas

Judging will be based on conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality and universal appeal.

For more information visit <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/stewardship-week/>

Submit by May 10, 2024

Winners will have a chance to compete in the state competition and possibly the national competition!

Each winner will receive a \$25 Amazon Gift Card


Respective release forms and applications must be filled out. Contact the Winnebago County SWCD for application forms and additional information at 815-965-2392 ext.3248 or email kwalshswcd@comcast.net.



Winnebago County SWCD

4833 Owen Center Rd.
Rockford, IL 61101-6007

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Follow us 

www.winnebagoswcd.org

SWCD STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Dennis Anthony
danthonyswcd@comcast.net

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR - Melisa Long
mlongswcd@comcast.net

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST - Katie Peterson
kwalshswcd@comcast.net

NRCS STAFF

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST - Josh Franks
josh.franks@usda.gov

SOIL CONSERVATIONIST - Colton Asche
colton.asche@usda.gov

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry McPheron - Chairman
Paul Beuth - Vice - Chairman
Jim Morrison - Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Leick
Justin Krohn

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Judy Barnard
George David Mullen
Dwayne Proctor
Harlan Tipton

Monthly board meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at the Soil & Water Conservation District Office. Call the office for meeting times and dates.

Meetings are open to the public and interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Additional details on the SWCD District can be found on our website www.winnebagoswcd.org.

PHEASANTS FOREVER STAFF

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST - Drake Propson
dpropson@pheasantsforever.org

Stay up to date with District news!



Find us on:
facebook®

[@winnebagoswcdil](https://www.facebook.com/winnebagoswcdil)