

HORIZONS

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2024

DISTRICT SPRING SALES

TREE SALE

- ✓ 150+ customers
- ✓ 3,700+ trees sold
- ✓ variety of evergreens, shade trees & shrubs

POND STOCKING FISH SALE

- ✓ 25 customers
- ✓ 2,466 fish sold + 80 fathead minnows
- ✓ regular bluegill, hybrid bluegill, redear, channel catfish, black crappie, largemouth bass & fathead minnows



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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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!

forest preserves at winnebago county

winbagoforest.org

815-877-6100

fpwc@winbagoforest.org

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR · JERRY COSTELLO II, DIRECTOR

**IDOA SCHEDULES CLEAN SWEEP COLLECTION IN
NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS**
Program will safely dispose of unwanted agricultural pesticides

Residents of 11 Illinois counties can dispose of unwanted agrichemicals for free this year through the Illinois Department of Agriculture’s (IDOA) agricultural pesticide “Clean Sweep” program.

A “Clean Sweep” collection has been scheduled in late summer for Bureau, Carroll, Henry, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties, IDOA announced today. The collection, which rotates among Illinois counties, is open to farmers, retired farmers, nursery owners, private pesticide applicators, structural pest control applicators and landowners who inherited unwanted agricultural pesticides with their property.

“There are two main reasons to take advantage of this program,” said Brad Beaver, Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs. “The Department is able to provide the service free of charge thanks to a grant obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If individuals were to properly dispose of agrichemicals on their own, it could be expensive. Secondly, the state of Illinois, not the program participant, will assume liability for the proper disposal of all materials collected.”

Participants must register the products they plan to dispose of by July 26. Registration is required to give the waste disposal contractor time to prepare for the different kinds of materials being collected. Forms can be obtained by calling the IDOA Pesticide Hotline at 1-800-641-3934, by visiting one of the program sponsors listed below, by or going online at <https://agr.illinois.gov/pesticides/pesticide-clean-sweep-program.html>.

Completed forms should be mailed or faxed to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The mailing address is: Clean Sweep Program, Illinois Department of Agriculture, State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL, 62794-9281. The fax number is (217) 524-4882. Participants then will be sent a reservation card indicating the date, time and location of their collection.

Clean Sweep Sponsors		
Ogle Farm Bureau 421 W. Pines Rd., Ste. 8 Oregon, IL 61061	Ogle - U of I Ext. 421 W. Pines Rd., Ste. 10 Oregon, IL 61061	Ogle County SWCD 213 W. Pines Rd. Oregon, IL 61061
Stephenson County SWCD 1620 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL 61032	Stephenson Farm Bureau 210 W. Spring St. Freeport, IL 61032	Stephenson - U of I 2998 W. Pearl City Rd. Freeport, IL 61032
Winnebago Farm Bureau 1925 S. Meridian Rd. Rockford, IL 61102	Winnebago - U of I Ext. 1040 North Second St. Rockford, IL 61107	Winnebago County SWCD 4833 Owen Center Rd. Rockford, IL 61101

Oak Savannah Restoration Project

On April 13, we had wonderful weather to plant some Oak trees as part of a Oak Savannah restoration project. This is the 3rd year that the District has participated in this program, which is a collaboration between the District, the State Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Illinois Extension Winnebago unit and local 4-H groups to restore oak trees to the Ecosystem.

In the 1800s, Illinois' oak forests once accounted for 60% of the state's tree population. Today, they comprise only 5%, and are being supplanted by native maple trees and several invasive species. Oak trees are known as a keystone species, which are species that alter the environment in ways that make their surroundings more habitable for other living things around them.

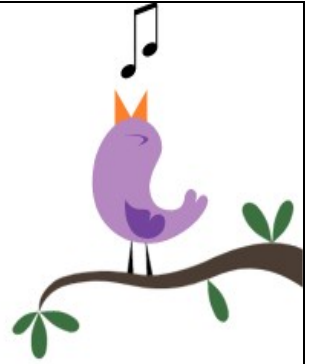
The planting took place at Founders Park off of Hononegah Road, where Roscoe Township is restoring the original township homestead, has constructed a Community Center for public use, and is adding an outside pavilion area. Last year, the adjacent land to the west was restored a native prairie and pollinator seed mix, with the help of the Pheasants Forever organization. To complement that, a mix of 25 Red Oak, White Oak and Burr Oak potted trees were planted on the eastern portion of the recently established prairie. About 25, 4-H members and families helped to plant the trees, mulch around them, and water them. Thanks to Roscoe Township for pre-digging the holes, providing mulch and some refreshments for the participants.



October is Oak Awareness Month - “Oaktober”



Rain Barrel Sale



55 gallon (recycled) - plastic rain barrels
colors available: terra cotta, black & grey



ORDER TODAY

\$75 each or 2+ for \$70 each
(815) 965-2392, Ext. 3246



Save money & precious groundwater supplies!

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on facebook @winnebagoawcdil



webpage: winnebagoawcd.org





AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP HELD BY SWCD

March 21, 2024

TOPICS COVERED

- Drone Use in Agriculture - IL Extension
- Alternative Crops/Small Grains - Solution in the Land
- Soil Tests & Micronutrients - Rock River Laboratory
- Integrated Pest Management - IL Extension



Let us know of any potential topics or speaker ideas for future workshops!



Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:

The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:



Protect It and Inspect It:

Do:

- Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

Think at the Sink:

Don't:

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

Do:

- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.

Don't Overload the Commode:

Don't:

- Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.

Do:

- Dispose of these items in the trash can!

Shield Your Field:

Don't:

- Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
- Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drainfield, roots can grow into your system and clog it.

Do:

- Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

Don't Strain Your Drain:


Don't

- Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.

Do:

- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
- Become more [water efficient](#) by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products.

For more SepticSmart tips, visit: www.epa.gov/septicSMART

 832-R-13-002 • September 2013

PARTNER PAGES



Join Severson Dells and the Natural Land Institute staff and volunteers on an exploration of many of the local wildflower hotspots. Wildflower Walks showcase what is currently in bloom at various woodland and prairie preserves around Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties. All walks will begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no fee for the walks, but membership in Severson Dells and/or the Natural Land Institute is encouraged.

Registration for all of the walks will be required through EventBrite. Each walk has two leaders, and each group will allow reservations for 20 people. Please register for a maximum of five walks at www.naturalland.org. For more information, please call 815/335-2915 (SD) or 815/964-6666 (NLI).

- * Tuesday, May 7 - Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve
- * Wednesday, May 15 - Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area
- * Tuesday, May 21 - Burr Oak Valley Nature Preserve
- * Wednesday, May 29 - Bald Hill Prairie Preserve
- * Tuesday, June 4 - Colored Sands Nature Preserve
- * Wednesday, June 12 - Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve
- * Wednesday, June 26 - Harlem Hills Prairie Nature Preserve

Science SATURDAY
SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

Pollinator Palooza

May 4th 10am-2pm

Birds, bats, butterflies, bees...
it's a Pollinator Palooza!

Join us to celebration our pollinating friends, and engage in crafts, games, "Buzz Bus" walks, and hands-on activities all surrounding pollination!

FREE EVENT!

LIVE BUTTERFLIES!

GIVEAWAYS!

Big Jon's FOOD TRUCK!

Severson Dells Nature Center
8786 Montague Rd, Rockford

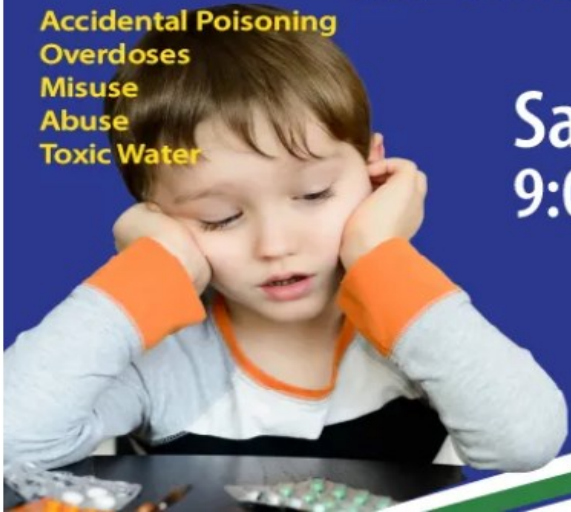
For more information, visit
SeversonDells.org/Science-Saturdays

EVENT MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDING FROM
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Nicor Gas

PARTNER PAGES

PREVENT

Accidental Poisoning
Overdoses
Misuse
Abuse
Toxic Water



MEDICATION COLLECTION

Saturday, June 8, 2024
9:00 am - Noon



DROP OFF LOCATION:

Loves Park City Hall
100 Heart Blvd., Loves Park

CLOTHING DRIVE

Saturday, May 11, 2024
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

We accept clean clothing (wearable or not), pillows, bedding, fabric, purses, shoes, belts, soft-sided luggage and stuffed toys.

Locations:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
3300 Rural St., Rockford

Blain's Farm & Fleet
4725 W. State St., Rockford
4567 E. Rockton Rd., Roscoe
7300 E. Riverside, Loves Park

www.knib.org



PARTNER PAGES

CULVER'S OF WINNEBAGO

DONATE WHILE YOU DINE!



10% of all sales will be donated to the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Young Leaders' Harvest for All efforts to help our local food pantries.

- Touch a Tractor
- Meet our Barnyard Friends
- Games and Activities

TUESDAY, JUNE 4
5-8 PM



TO BENEFIT:
Scholarships and



ACTIVITIES

JUNE 22, 2024
6:30-11:00 A.M.

BOONE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

8847 IL 76 Belvidere, IL

MENU

Sausage | Pancakes | Coffee
Applesauce | Milk | Ice Cream

Horse-drawn Wagon Rides

Antique Tractor & Implement Display

Children's Activities, Games

See Farm Animals

Ag In The Classroom Activities

Turtle TEK Robotics

Discovery Center Museum

Lindberg Pumpkin Patch Barrel Train

The Matthew Wundrow Band

50/50 Raffle

Exhibitors & More!

\$10 ADULT

\$5 CHILDREN AGES 6-10

Children 5 and under are **Free**
(cash only)

WINNEBAGOBOONEFARM BREAKFAST



HORIZON SPONSORS - 2024

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



WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU

Ann Marie Cain, FBCM
Farm Bureau Manager
(815) 962-0653
wbfbmanager@winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org
www.winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org
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NITE EQUIPMENT INC.



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Pecatonica, IL 61063
Phone: 815-239-9096
www.niteequip.com

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Crooked River
Bison
Pecatonica, IL

Bison for Sale
Live or Processed

Craig and Cathy Dummer
craighedummer@gmail.com

815-239-2331 Farm
815-222-5700 Cell

LUDEWIG DRAINAGE

KENNETH C. LUDEWIG

Owner

12604 Haldane Rd.
Polo, Illinois 61064

Bus.: (815) 938-3304
Res.: (815) 938-2543
Cell: (815) 266-4820



Seward Ag Supply



(815)247-8431




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Mobile: 815.985.4518
Fax: 815.248.2972

solutions.bank

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



1-800-851-8584



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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.

All Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Natural Resource Conservation Service programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. The Winnebago County SWCD operates in accordance with the USDA policy. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250.

SWCD STAFF

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mlongswcd@comcast.net

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kwalshswcd@comcast.net

NRCS STAFF

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josh.franks@usda.gov

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

PHEASANTS FOREVER STAFF

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dpropson@pheasantsforever.org