

## **Locally Led Conservation How can YOU be involved?**

The Winnebago County SWCD is looking for candidates to serve as District Directors. Concerned citizens in Winnebago County can help conserve natural resources by serving on the District Board. The District provides landowners and operators with technical and financial assistance through multiple Federal and State programs to address local natural resource concerns and provides educational information.

Directors are responsible for establishing and supervising district policies and programs, including assessing resource needs, and providing guidance and developing strategies to address these needs. Some of the major programs and activities involving board input currently include:

- Develop programs and workshops that will encourage landowners and operators to address soil erosion, residue management and nutrient management, as it relates to the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) and the associated IDOA Soil Health Assessment
- Provide landowners with the tools to manage and enhance their natural resources through planning and participation in local, state and federal programs
- Participate in the promotion and administration of USDA programs - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Participate in the promotion and administration of the IDOA Partners for Conservation (PFC) Program
- Provide natural resource information (NRI's) to planners, developers and public officials for sound land-use management decisions and future land use planning
- Prepare an annual plan of work for resource management within district boundaries
- Collaborate with other organizations as part of a Local Work Group, to identify priority areas and local natural resource concerns and identify action items and provide recommendations to State agencies
- Provide education programs, such as the Envirothon, to schools
- Partner with other organizations on programs and field days

(continued on page 4)

*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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The advertisement features the text "Paint Party with a Purpose" in a mix of fonts and colors. It includes an illustration of a paint palette, a reindeer on a canvas, and a mug of hot chocolate. The text describes a holiday-themed painting event where participants create a 12"x16" canvas. It mentions that local artist Angie Scordato will provide step-by-step instruction. The event is on Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, from 9 am to 11 am at the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau in Rockford, IL. All supplies, snacks, and hot chocolate are included for \$40 per person. A QR code is provided for reservations, which are required by Monday, November 17th. The logo for the Foundation of the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau is also present.

# Scholarship Opportunities for those pursuing degrees in the Environmental, Natural Resources or related fields

There are two scholarship opportunities available to residents of Winnebago County that are pursuing a degree in soil and water conservation, or a related natural resource field.



## WINNEBAGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP

The **Winnebago County SWCD** has a scholarship available in the amount of **\$1,000** for any resident in the County pursuing a degree in an **Agricultural or Natural Resource field**.

Soil and  
Water  
Stewardship  
Scholarship  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE



The **Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Northeast Illinois** have a scholarship available, the **“Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship.”** This scholarship is available to residents of Winnebago County and Counties to the east, including Boone and DeKalb County’s. This scholarship is in the amount of a minimum of **\$1,000** for someone pursuing a degree in a **Natural Resource field**.

The deadline for both scholarships is February 15. For more information regarding these scholarships, e-mail [danthonywcd@comcast.net](mailto:danthonywcd@comcast.net) or [NEILStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:NEILStewardship@gmail.com).

- Ensure the District has the resources to fulfill Federal, State and local agreements, including:
  - USDA-NRCS - Administrative Assistance agreement for the EQIP and CSP Programs
  - USDA-NRCS/FSA - Technical Assistance agreement for the CRP Program
  - Illinois EPA - construction site inspections and contractor training
  - Winnebago County Health Dept. - soil borings for septic suitability and/or subdivision development
  - Winnebago County Highway Dept. - construction site plan reviews and site inspections

Board Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings which are currently held on the last Tuesday of every month (subject to change). Board Directors are paid a \$20 stipend for each board meeting they attend. They are expected to participate in district programs and activities, and promote them in the community.

There are local and state meetings that you may be asked to attend. We have Land Use Councils (LUC's) that meet quarterly in Dekalb, with the attendance of one Director per district requested. The State Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) have a Summer Conference in Springfield in July where a delegate from each District is requested. There are educational sessions, awards banquet, and a business meeting where policies and directives are discussed and voted on.

Board Directors are elected to a two-year term. This year we have three Director positions up for election. The election will take place on January 20, with the terms starting the first Monday in March. If you don't want to dive right into a Director position, we also have Associate Directors positions where you can "learn the ropes." These positions are appointed at the March meeting.

If these issues and programs interest you, and you would like to consider running as a Director candidate, or serve as an Associate Director, contact one of our current Directors or Associates (listed on the back of the newsletter), or the Executive Director Dennis Anthony at 965-2392, x3247 or at [danthonyswcd@comcast.net](mailto:danthonyswcd@comcast.net).

## NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATIONS

To all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; beginning on Friday, November 21, 2025 nominations will be accepted for a two-year term of the office of Director of the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District at the District's Office at 4833 Owen Center Rd., Rockford, IL, during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call the office for details at (815) 965-2392, Ext. 3. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 31, 2025.



# Tree Sale



Tree brochures will be available in December.  
If you are on our email list you will be sent one when available.

To be added to the email list call (815) 965-2392, Ext, 3  
or email [winnebago.co.swcd@gmail.com](mailto:winnebago.co.swcd@gmail.com).

**Place orders early. Supplies are limited. Pick up in April.**

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# Fish Sale

Fish sale brochures will be available in February.  
If you are on our email list you will be sent one when available.

To be added to the email list call (815) 965-2392, Ext, 3  
or email [winnebago.co.swcd@gmail.com](mailto:winnebago.co.swcd@gmail.com).

**Order pick up will be in April.**



# Cover Crop Field Day Recap

The cover crop field day was held on September 10. The field day started with a highlight from Precision Conservation Management (PCM) followed by an overview of cover crops, cover crop seed selection and drone use with cover crops. Attendees ended the day with open discussion on their own cover crop experiences.



DJI T50 Drone

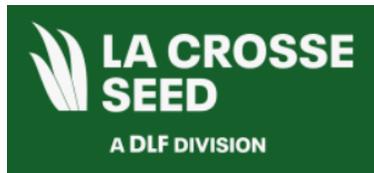


Cover Crop Test Plots



Lou Liva - presenting a PCM Update

## Thank you to our sponsors:



# Raising Awareness on Invasive Species

## Background:

Common buckhorn was introduced to North America from Eurasia in the mid 1800s as an ornamental shrub often used in hedges. Common buckhorn grows in full sun and dense shade, allowing it to invade woodland, savannas, prairies, abandoned fields, pastures and roadsides.



Common Buckthorn Tree

## Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

### Impact on Native Habitat:

Common buckthorn readily invades natural communities, including woodlands, savannas and prairies. It produces dense shade, which helps it to outcompete many native herbs. Once established, common buckthorn displaces native shrubs and trees in the mid-layer of the woodland where many bird species nest. It forms an impenetrable layer of vegetation that further degrades wildlife habitat.

## Identification

### Leaves:

Egg-shaped, pointed at the tip, smooth, dark, glossy and finely-toothed. 3-5 pair of curved leaf veins. Leaves lay green late into fall..



### Stems:

Buds and leaves are sub-opposite, opposite, or alternate. Twigs often end in small (<1/4") sharp, stout thorns.



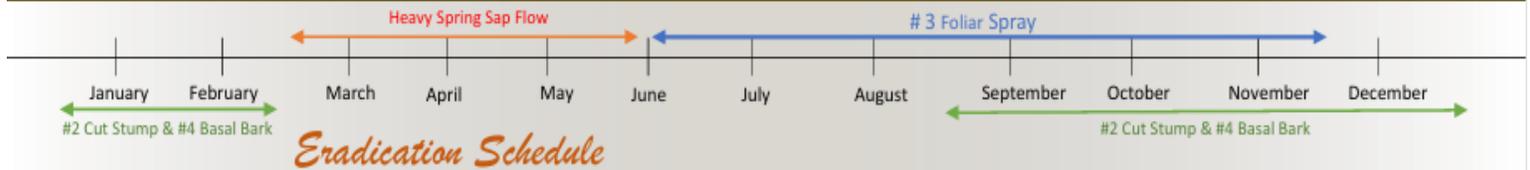
### Flowers:

In spring, fragrant paired tubular 1 inch long flowers with narrow petals appear. These flowers are white or sometimes pink but become yellowish as the flowers age



### Fruit:

Small clusters of berry-like, 1/4" fruit. Ripens progressively from a distinctive red-brown to a dark purple in August and September. Each berry has 2 to 3 seeds.



## How to Kill: Eradication

- 1. Hand pulling-** When the plant is small and the soil is moist, hand pulling is an option if the entire plant can be removed, including the roots. This is a very labor intensive method, requiring surveying the same acreage year after year to pull the re-sprouts.
- 2. Cut Stump method-** This involves cutting the stem(s) off near ground level and applying (painting) a 50% concentration, by volume, of Glyphosate solution with a brush to thoroughly cover the freshly cut area.

**3. Foliar spray-** This involves spraying the leaves with a solution of properly labeled herbicide plus a non-ionic surfactant, which improves the chemicals ability to adhere and absorb into the plant. This method should be used during the active growing season so care should be taken to avoid spraying non-target species.

**4. Basal Bark Method-** This consists of spraying a mixture of properly labeled herbicide plus basal oil to the bush's stems to a height of 12 to 15 inches from ground level. Thorough wetting is necessary for good control. (This method is effective but shouldn't be used in the spring while the leaves are emerging and sap is flowing upward in stems.)



Cut stump method applied to common buckthorn



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Managing invasive species is an all-season activity. Additional resources on Bush Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose and many others are available on the IL CREP Easement Management for Landowners website:

<http://dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/crep/easementmanagement.html>.



North American Invasive Species Management (NAISMA)

<http://naisma.org>

## Winnebago County Contractors List

A listing in the director does NOT constitute a recommendation or endorsement

Business Name	Contact	City	Business Phone	Cell Phone
<b>Land Improvement Contractors – Earthwork, Tiling</b>				
Alber & Sons Earthworks	Tom & Josh Alber	Freeport		815-821-2514
Charles Lee & Sons Inc	Charles Lee	Kirkland	815-547-7141	
Dewey Heslop	Dewey Heslop	Pecatonica	815-968-8546	
Drew Excavating	Francis & Tim Drew	Oregon	815-952-4592	815-973-4593
Faulkner Excavating	Gary Faulkner	Shirland		815-289-8551
Fischer Excavating	Wayne Fischer	Freeport	815-233-3232	
G&G Construction	Gerald Smith	Winnebago	815-335-7643	815-979-6413
Heslop Excavating	Dean Heslop	Leaf River	815-737-2362	815-222-4589
Hermann Landscape Construction	Gene Hermann	Rockton		815-979-3085
Kaeding Bros. Excavating	Gene Kaeding	Rockton	815-629-2363	
McCray Excavating	Chris McCray	Rockford		815-543-4497
Kim Steward Excavating	Kim Steward	Durand	815-248-2575	
Mike Lee Excavating	Mike Lee	Kirkland	815-522-6626	
Strohacker & Son	Larry Strohacker	Leaf River	815-362-5061	
Tipton Excavating	Wendell Tipton	Ridott		815-239-1076
Grade Solutions	Laverne Weber	Davis	815-599-3216	847-489-1457
Kelsey Excavating Inc	Mark Kelsey	Davis	815-239-2801	
M.C. Excavating Services, LLC	Eric Carlson	Sycamore	815-514-3185	815 514-3185
United Sportsman Club	Brendan Walsh	Freeport	815-599-5690	
Farmland Fencing LLC		Loves Park	779-348-5477	
Tri-State Ag Associates		Freeport	815-233-9980	
Ayer Excavating	Brian Ayer	Clinton	608-208-0012	
AccuDrain LLC	Ryan Point Jeremy Stienmetz	Oregon	815-716-0656 815-978-0413	
Advanced Drainage System	Michael Maierhofer	Mendota	800-733-9554	815-510-1512
B & H Trenching & tiling	Butch Kuberski	Pearl City		815-291-3636
Countryside Drainage	Dan Casey	Rochelle	815-562-7942	815-970-7358
Double A Drainage & Exc	Adam Book	Forreston		815-541-2423
Ludwig Drainage	Ken Ludwig	Polo	815-938-2543	
Rockford Land Works	Stephen Seddon	Rockford	815-985-0354	
Muller Drainage	Brian Muller	Garden Prairie	815-242-9839	
Tyler Williams Drainage	Tyler Williams	Rockton	815-543-7404	
Wishop Drainage	Jeff Wishop	Rockton	815-629-2688	815-218-2116
<b>Habitat – Ecological, Seeding, Tree/Brush Removal</b>				
A3 Environmental Consulting	Rebecca Olson	Lisle	815-985-2689	
Bluestem Ecological Services	Dalton Morris	Marengo	815-568-2927	
Encap, Inc.	Jonathon Koepke	Dekalb	815-745-4500	
Highland Pheasants Forever burning	Mike O-Grady	Freeport	815-233-1550	
Dekalb County SWCD - seeding	Dean/Jeff	Dekalb	815-756-3234 x3	
Ogle County SWCD - seeding	Brian Lindquist	Oregon	815-732-6127 x3	
Wise Drone Service LLC - seeding	Eric Wise	Dakota	815-239-0036	
United Sportsman Club grass, timber	Brendan Walsh	Freeport		815-599-5690
Deckard Tree Trimming & Removal	Zach Deckard	Rockton		815-703-2850
Hermann Landscape Construction	Andrew Hermann	Rockton		815-979-2057
Todd Henry Tree/Brush Removal	Todd Henry	Davis Junction		815-997-2256

If you would like to be added or removed from the list, please call 815-965-2392, Ext. 3.

This list can be picked up at our office as well.

# HORIZON SPONSORS - 2025

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



**Ann Marie Cain, FBCM**  
Farm Bureau Manager  
(815) 962-0653  
wfbmanager@winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org  
www.winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org  
Like us on Facebook!



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A better idea. A better *Solution.*

**Brett Frederick**  
Executive Vice President  
- Lending

Phone: 815.248.2101  
Direct: 815.650.2765  
Mobile: 815.985.4518  
Fax: 815.248.2972

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

solutions.bank

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

## Geotextile Fabric Available

The Winnebago County SWCD has geotextile fabric. This fabric could be used for fabric checks for waterways, for the use with block structures, or used with any project needing rock or stone. The fabric should meet all NRCS standards and specifications. The specification sheet is available upon request. The roll is 15' wide. The price is \$3.00/running foot (which equates to \$1.80/square yard).





## 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](http://www.winnebagoswcd.org)

### SWCD STAFF

Soil & Water Conservation District

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** - Dennis Anthony  
[danthonyswcd@comcast.net](mailto:danthonyswcd@comcast.net)

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR** - Melisa Long  
[mlongswcd@comcast.net](mailto:mlongswcd@comcast.net)

**RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST** - Katie Peterson  
[kwalshswcd@comcast.net](mailto:kwalshswcd@comcast.net)

### NRCS STAFF

Natural Resource Conservation Service

**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST**- Josh Franks  
[josh.franks@usda.gov](mailto:josh.franks@usda.gov)

**SOIL CONSERVATIONIST** - Colton Asche  
[colton.asche@usda.gov](mailto:colton.asche@usda.gov)

### IDOA STAFF

Illinois Department of Agriculture

**CONSERVATION PLANNER** - Hunter Cejka  
[hunter.cejka@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:hunter.cejka@il.nacdnet.net)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justin Krohn - Chairman  
Paul Beuth - Vice Chairman  
Jim Morrison - Secretary/Treasurer  
Sue Bates  
Mike Leick

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Judy Barnard  
George David Mullen  
Larry McPheron  
Dwayne Proctor  
Harlan Tipton  
Tom Walsh

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.

### NWTF STAFF

**FORESTER** - Connor Evans  
[cevans@nwtf.net](mailto:cevans@nwtf.net)

### NGRREC STAFF

**LAND CONSERVATION SPC.** - Heather Herakovich  
[hherakovich@lc.edu](mailto:hherakovich@lc.edu)

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