



Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District

www.rockislandswcd.org

Rock Island County SWCD Spring-Summer 2025 Newsletter

Conservation Success Stories

Tri-County Conservation & Farming Workshop

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Mercer, Henry, and Rock Island Counties jointly hosted the Tri-County Conservation and Farming Workshop on January 15th at the Oxford Legion in Alpha, IL. There were 50 farmers and local stakeholders in attendance.

Dr. Sean Jenkins, a professor at Western Illinois University, served as the keynote speaker, addressing the importance of implementing conservation practices on agricultural lands to ensure the long-term health of our natural resources. The workshop also featured presentations from representatives of the University of Illinois Extension, Wetlands Initiative, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Recognizing the vital input from farmers, the event concluded with a farmer panel. Three farmers, one from each county, shared insights about their operations and the conservation practices they implement to maintain the health of their natural resources.



Tri-County Conservation & Farming Workshop in Alpha, IL.

Streambank Stabilization Project Completed

A Streambank stabilization project was recently completed on Mill Creek. Funding came from the State of Illinois SSRP program, which covered 75% of the cost of the rock and labor. Over 200 tons of RR5 rock was installed to treat an eroding bank, which threaten to affect the adjoining cropland. Besides reducing sediments from entering the stream, nitrates and phosphates were also reduced, resulting in improvement to water quality.



Streambank stabilization project on Mill Creek in Rock Island County.

Conservation Success Stories

The 11th Annual Stormwater Conference

The 11th Annual QC Stormwater Conference, organized by the QC Stormwater Committee was a great success, with over 150 attendees who came eager to learn from industry experts. The event featured a series of insightful presentations from distinguished speakers, who presented topics like the impacts of pollution on drinking water, bi-state stormwater permitting updates, drone usage for inspections and visualization, and many other captivating topics.



The panel discussion at the 2025 QC Stormwater Conference.

A highlight of this year's conference was the dynamic panel discussion, which brought together local engineers, inspectors, erosion and sediment control installers, developers, and project managers. The panel focused on constructive problem-solving and fostering a collaborative learning environment.



The conference room at Bally's Casino & Hotel during a morning presentation.

To end the event, attendees enjoyed a lively networking reception featuring live music, a beer tasting, and a fun prize drawing, creating a perfect blend of learning, networking, and entertainment. The QC Stormwater Committee even worked with Bent River Brewing Company to brew two beers, one I.P.A. and one blonde ale for the conference with special QC Stormwater Conference labels for the beer tasting.

U.S. Representative Sorensen Visits SWCD Farm Show Booth

Joey Deloian and Rich Stewart with Rock Island County SWCD, Jessica Grissom with Mercer County SWCD, and U.S. Representative Eric Sorensen, who serves on the Illinois Agricultural committee discussed USDA conservation programs and viewed the cover crop display at this year's QCCA Farm show on January 18th.



Pictured: Joey Deloian (left), Jessica Grissom, Rep. Eric Sorensen, Rich Stewart (right).

Conservation Success Stories

Illinois Representative Gregg Johnson Farm Visit



Pictured: Rich Stewart (left), Rep. Gregg Johnson, Tim Anderson, and Jerry Hamerlinck (right).

Illinois Representative Gregg Johnson recently made a visit to a farm in Rock Island County. Rich Stewart organized the farm visit to Tim Anderson's farm in Rural Township. There, Tim and his operator Jerry Hamerlinck explained all the conservation practices implemented on Tim's farm. These practices include no-till farming, cover crops, tree plantings, prairie and pollinator plantings, riparian buffers, dry dams and grassed waterways.

Clean River Advisory Council Tree Planting

The Clean River Advisory Council, known as C-RAC, planted 100 trees this fall on various locations in the City of Rock Island and at Loud thunder Forest Preserve.

Approximately 45 people gathered to learn how to plant and care for trees as well as why trees are important to the environment.

Part of the group met at the Martin Luther King Center in Rock Island and planted trees at two locations in the city. The rest traveled to Loud Thunder and met with

park staff to plant trees there as well. C-RAC works to promote conservation that reaches out to the BiPOC community in the Quad Cities. Resource Conservationist Rich Stewart helped coordinate the tree planting project with Living Lands & Waters.



C-RAC committee and volunteers planting trees in Rock Island.



Seeding Drill Rental

Our 7.5 foot Great Plains No-Till Seeding Drill is available for rent. It can be used for grain, small seed or native grasses.

Rent out drill for \$125/day + \$15/acre.

Call (309) 764-1486 to check rental availability.

Pick-Up at SWCD office in Milan, IL.

Signup period announced for County Cost – Share Program

There is a sign-up period for the state cost-share funds for conservation practices from now until May 30th at the Rock Island SWCD office in Milan. Funds are available to producers and landowners to address numerous resource concerns through a program called Partners for Conservation or P.F.C. Practices that landowners and farmers can apply for include:

- Grassed Waterways
- Denitrifying Bioreactors
- Water & Sediment Control Basins
- Saturated Buffers
- Grade Stabilization Structures
- Abandoned Well Sealing
- Cover Crops
- Rain gardens
- Pollinator Plantings



Cost-share is generally 75% with a few exceptions and limited to the average cost of any practice. For more information or see if you qualify, contact our office at (309) 764-1486 x3.

Bi-Can Networking Event



Local conservation professionals networking at one of the stations at the Rock Island Conservation Club.

The Bi-State Conservation Action Network, known as BiCAN, held a meeting for all interested conservationists at the Rock Island Conservation Club. The meeting was open to federal, state, county agencies, local conservation organizations, and anyone who considered themselves as conservationist.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce everyone to the various conservation agencies and organizations and develop ideas to collaborate conservation programs and messages. The meeting was well received by the group that attended.

Rock Island SWCD participated as one of the organizations.



Mark your calendars for the
2026 QC Stormwater Conference

Thursday, February 19th, 2026
at Bally's Quad Cities Casino & Hotel

About Us

RISWCD Staff & Leadership

Conservation Team:



Dayna Gillespie
Administrative Coordinator
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Rich Stewart
Outreach Coordinator
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Joey Deloian
Resource Conservationist
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Joe Gates
Conservation Specialist
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Lou Liva
PCM Specialist
lliva@precisionconservation.org

Board of Directors:

Nathan Oak - Chair
Chris Nordick - Vice-Chair
Bill Parchert III -
Treasurer/Secretary
Gary Blanchard - Director
Jason Flickinger - Director

NRCS Staff:

Jason Hessman
District Conservationist
Wyatt Junis
Soil Conservationist
Ben Ford
Soil Conservationist

RISWCD Spring Native Plant Sale

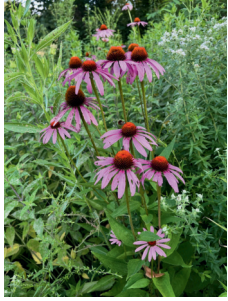
Plant Sales must be placed by: **May 15th**

Pick up Date: **May 21st and 22nd (Wednesday & Thursday)**

Pick up Location: **QCCA Expo Center North Hall, 2621 4th Ave. Rock Island, IL 61201**

Make checks payable to: RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave E. Milan, IL 61264

Order Online at: <https://rockislandswcd.org/shop/>



Pollinator Pack	Price	Plants in Pack (3.5 inch pots)	Qty.	Subtotal
High & Dry Pack (7 plants)	\$35	Rattlesnake Master (1), Spider Milkweed (1), Blue Grama (1), Goat's Rue (1), Large Flowered Beardtongue (1), Prairie Pussytoes (1), Pearly Everlasting (1)		\$
Host Plant Pack (7 plants)	\$35	Lead Plant (1), Stiff Goldenrod (1), Royal Catchfly (1), Cardinal Flower (1), Round Headed Bush Clover (1), Scarlet Bee Balm (1), Showy Milkweed (1)		\$
Mellow Yellow Butterfly Pack (7 plants)	\$35	Compass Plant (1), Golden Alexander (1), Showy Goldenrod (1), Shrubby St. John's Wort (1), Yellow Coneflower (1), Bebb's Oval Sedge (1), Cream Wild Indigo (1)		\$
Rain Garden Pack (7 plants)	\$35	Bog Goldenrod (1), Northern Blue Flag Iris (1), Prairie Blazing Star (1), Prairie Indian Plantain (1), Queen of the Prairie (1), Rose Milkweed (1), Blue Wild Indigo (1)		\$
Shady Shandy Pack (7 plants)	\$35	Jacob's Ladder (1), Short's Aster (1), Virginia Bluebells (1), Bog Goldenrod (1), Poke Milkweed (1), Calico Beardtongue (1), Columbine (1)		\$
Hellstrip Pollinator Pack (18 plants)	\$85	Little Bluestem (1), Prairie Pussytoes (2), Prairie Dropseed (2), Missouri Ironweed (2), Stiff Goldenrod (2), Orange Coneflower (1), Spider Milkweed (2), Whorled Milkweed (2), Tall Larkspur (2), Drummond's Aster (1), Aromatic Aster (1)		\$
Pollinator Palooza Pack (18 plants)	\$85	Butterfly Milkweed (2), Missouri Ironweed (2), Common Milkweed (1), Mountain Mint (1), Big Bluestem (2), Ozark Bluestar (2), Prairie Smoke (1), Purple Coneflower (2), Spotted Bee Balm (2), New Jersey Tea (1), New England Aster (2)		\$
Monarch Waystation Pack (36 plants)	\$200	Common Milkweed (3), Spider Milkweed (2), Butterfly Milkweed (2), Whorled Milkweed (2), Rose Milkweed (2), Showy Milkweed (2), Showy Goldenrod (2), Aromatic Aster (2), Pale Purple Coneflower (2), Spotted Bee Balm (2), Goat's Rue (2), Northern Blazing Star (2), Midland Shooting Star (2), Thimbleweed (2), Shrubby St. John's Wort (2), Lead Plant (2), Yellow Coneflower (2), Common Lilac (1-gallon) (1)		\$
Substitutes for plants may need to be made based on plant availability. There are more perennial flowers, grasses and annual flowers on our website!			Total:	\$



RISWCD 2025 Spring Fish Sale - Proceeds Support Conservation

Orders Due By: 4/23/25

Grass Carp Orders Due By: Saturday 4/9/25

Pick Up: 5/2/25 @ 9:00 AM at QCCA Expo Center Parking Lot

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 *Stocking Questions: IDNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Wyffels

Make checks payable to: RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave E. Milan, IL 61264

Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
Channel Catfish	6-8 in	\$70 Bag of 50		\$
Hybrid Bluegill	1-2 in	\$98 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$65 Bag of 50		\$
Largemouth Bass	3 in	\$84 Bag of 50		\$
	5-8 in	\$182 Bag of 50		\$
Bluegill	1-2 in	\$98 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$65 Bag of 50		\$
Redear Sunfish	1-2 in	\$102 Bag of 250		\$
Fathead Minnows	Avg. 200 per lbs	\$14.00 per lbs		\$
Triploid Grass Carp, Rec. 6/vegetated acre	10-14 in	\$16.00 each		\$
Black Crappie	2-4 in	\$130 Bag of 100		\$
HB Blue Dye	1 Quart	\$22		\$
HB Black Dye	1 Quart	\$22		\$
HB All Seasons Blend	1 lbs	\$11		\$
			Total:	\$

Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone ☐ Email ☐ Both ☐

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

You can also order online:

<https://rockislandswcd.org/product-category/fish/>



Our new fish supplier offers Electrofishing surveys which includes a fish survey, vegetation/algae analysis, water quality analysis, depth analysis among other things. If interested, please contact our office for more details. Cost is \$975.

** Required for Triploid Grass Carp Orders

County	Township, Range, Section	Pond Size	Water Name	# of fish
Ex: Rock Island	T16N R2W S16	2ac	Pond	4

Getting Your Fish Home Safely - Save this Portion of Form

- All fish, except catfish, will be pre-bagged and sealed in oxygenated water.
- Bring containers such as 5 gallon buckets, coolers, or totes, to secure the bags while traveling.
- 6-8" catfish: Due to their spines, you must provide a container with pond water. Pond water should be collected on pick-up day to ensure sufficient oxygen.
- Bagged fish should be kept out of sunlight on your trip home.
- After pickup, go directly to your pond and put your fish in.

RISWCD Spring Native Tree Sale



Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
Green Giant Arborvitae	1 gal	\$30		\$
Quaking Aspen	1 gal	\$15		\$
Paper Birch	1 gal	\$15		\$
River Birch	3 gal	\$26		\$
Prairie Crabapple	1 gal	\$20		\$
Bald Cypress	3 gal	\$26		\$
White Flowering Dogwood	3 gal	\$27		\$
Balsam Fir	1 gal	\$15		\$
Concolor Fir	1 gal	\$15		\$
Eastern Hemlock	1 gal	\$20		\$
Black Hickory	3 gal	\$27		\$
Shagbark Hickory	3 gal	\$27		\$
American Hornbeam	3 gal	\$27		\$
Red Maple	3 gal	\$27		\$
Sugar Maple	1 gal	\$15		\$
Bur Oak	3 gal	\$26		\$
Red Oak	3 gal	\$26		\$
Swamp Chestnut Oak	3 gal	\$26		\$
Swamp White Oak	3 gal	\$26		\$
White Oak	3 gal	\$27		\$
Pawpaw	3 gal	\$27		\$
Pecan	3 gal	\$27		\$
Shortleaf Pine	3 gal	\$28		\$
White Pine	3 gal	\$28		\$
Eastern Redbud	3 gal	\$26		\$
Saskatoon Serviceberry	1 gal	\$15		\$
Tulip Poplar	1 gal	\$20		\$
Eastern Black Walnut	3 gal	\$27		\$
There are additional shrubs on our website!			Total:	\$

Tree Sales must be placed by:
May 5th

Pick up Date: **May 15th and 16th (Thursday & Friday)**

Pick up Location: **QCCA Expo Center North Hall, 2621 4th Ave. Rock Island, IL 61201**

Make checks payable to:
RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave
E. Milan, IL 61264

Order Online at:
<https://rockislandswcd.org/shop/>

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486
or email
dgillespie@rockislandswcd.org



All 3-gallon trees are Conservation Grade



Precision Conservation Management

Increasing Farm Incomes & Environmental Outcomes

Making Conservation Easy

Precision Conservation Management (PCM) is a free farmer-first program that provides **one-on-one support** to qualifying farmers to help you understand the costs & benefits of conservation practices.

We seek to make conservation easy and effective, while reducing financial risk for farmers.

PCM Supply Chain Partnerships create a financial advantage for farmers who are using regenerative ag practices.



Cover Crops	No-Till/Strip Till	MRTN/10% N Reduction
\$15/acre 1 st and 2 nd year	\$10/acre 1 st and 2 nd year	\$10/acre 1 st year
\$10/acre 3 rd year and beyond	\$5/acre 3 rd year and beyond	

Ready to start seeing ROI from farm conservation?

PCM Specialist Lou Liva is your regional expert in conservation best practices and farm incentive programs. Reach out to him to discuss your farm goals and which opportunities are the best fit for your operation!

There is no cost to join PCM. In fact, we offer a \$750 payment just for enrolling!



LOU LIVA

PCM Specialist

lliva@precisionconservation.org

309-391-2346

WWW.PRECISIONCONSERVATION.ORG

Rock Island County SWCD Newsletter Sponsors

A big thank you to our current sponsors featured below! The printing of our bi-annual newsletter would not be possible without their support!

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Quad City Conservation Alliance

2621 4th Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

A Non-Profit Coalition of Conservation Clubs

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NATIVE GRASS AND WILDFLOWER SEEDS

A collage of five images: a deer in a field, a bee on a flower, a monarch butterfly, a bird in a nest, and a close-up of a flower. In the center is a circular logo with a plant and the text "PURE AIR NATIVES".

#PlantYourLegacy **636-357-6433**

RISWCD will transition to distributing our upcoming newsletter via email. If you would prefer to continue receiving the physical copy of the RISWCD newsletter, please call the office at (309) 764-1486 or mail a notice to 3020 1st Ave. E. Milan, IL 61264.