



Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District

www.rockislandswcd.org

Rock Island County SWCD Spring/Summer 2026 Newsletter

Conservation Success Stories

Tri-County Winter Conservation Workshop

Rock Island, Mercer and Henry county's SWCD's held their winter conservation workshop on January 28th, 2026 at the Oxford Legion in Alpha, IL. Farmers and landowners from all three counties were invited to attend.

Representatives from AgriBio came to discuss soil health, reducing fertilizer by utilizing soil and plant biology, and the Haney test vs the Mehlich 3 soil test. Rock Island County SWCD's Resource Conservationist, Joey Deloian gave a short presentation on current SWCD and NRCS cost-share programs available to landowners and farmers in Illinois. Precision Conservation Management's (PCM) Specialist Louis Liva also gave a presentation on PCM's cost-share programs.

If you missed this workshop, but want to attend the next one, please email dgillespie@rockislandswcd.org to be added to the mailing list.



An AgriBio representative giving a presentation at the Tri-County Winter Conservation Workshop.

Upcoming Events

The Rock Island County SWCD will have a booth at the Plants, Pathways, and Pizza Symposium on Saturday, April 25th, 2026 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hauberg Estate in Rock Island, IL.

We will also have a booth at the Rock Island Public Library annual summer reading kickoff on Thursday, June 4, from 4 pm to 6:30 pm, at the Quad City Botanical Center. This summer's theme is Plant a Seed, READ!

Make sure you stop by our booths to say hi and chat about native plants/trees!

Celebrating Conservation Leadership: Rich Stewart

The Rock Island Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to recognize Rich Stewart for receiving the Oberholtzer Award for Conservation Leadership from Nahant Marsh. This honor highlights more than 40 years of dedication to conservation and service throughout the region.

Rich's passion for conservation began on a farm in Cumberland County. He earned a degree in Agronomy from the University of Illinois in 1976 and began his career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Over the next three decades, he served in multiple counties before becoming District Conservationist in Henry County, where he worked with landowners on conservation programs such as CRP, EQIP, WRP, and livestock waste management.

After retiring from NRCS in 2011, Rich continued his conservation work with Rock Island SWCD, becoming a full-time Resource Conservationist in 2012. In this role, he provides technical assistance to landowners and municipalities while also educating future conservationists through University of Illinois Extension and local college courses.

Rich has also made a lasting impact through regional initiatives. He helped establish the Quad Cities Stormwater Conference and has played a key role in watershed planning and implementation efforts, including significant work in the Copperas Creek watershed. His leadership has helped secure grant funding and achieve measurable improvements in water quality through reduced nutrient and sediment loss.



Joey Deloian presenting the 2026 Oberholtzer Award for Present Day Conservation Leadership to Rich Stewart.



Rich Stewart giving a speech at the 2026 Oberholtzer Award Ceremony.

Beyond his technical expertise, Rich is known for his willingness to help others and his commitment to building strong partnerships. Whether assisting a landowner, mentoring a student, or collaborating with colleagues, he brings experience, insight, and enthusiasm to every effort.

With more than four decades of service, Rich Stewart continues to be a trusted resource and leader within the district and the broader conservation community. We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition and congratulate him on receiving the Oberholtzer Award.

12th Annual Quad Cities Stormwater Conference

The 12th Annual QC Stormwater Conference, organized by the QC Stormwater Committee, was a strong success, with over 150 attendees who came eager to learn from industry experts. The conference featured a series of engaging presentations from knowledgeable speakers, covering topics such as Basin Inspections – Preserving Critical Function, Protecting Water Through Smarter Design – A Clean Water Freak’s Guide to Doing it Right, Evaluation of Various Perimeter Barrier Products, and many others.

A key highlight of this year’s conference was the Excellence in Stormwater Award Ceremony, where committee members recognized individuals and businesses demonstrating outstanding stormwater management practices in the Quad Cities. The conference also continues its panel discussion for a second year, bringing together engineers, inspectors, contractors, developers, and project managers for a collaborative conversation focused on practical problem-solving and shared learning.

The conference concluded with attendees enjoying a lively networking reception featuring live music, a beer tasting, and a fun raffle prize drawing, creating a perfect blend of learning, networking, and entertainment. In partnership with Bent River Brewing Company, the committee even debuted three custom beers: an IPA, a blonde ale, and an oatmeal stout. They were brewed for the conference and featured exclusive QC Stormwater Conference labels, adding a memorable and local touch to the conference.



The 12th Annual QC Stormwater Conference’s main conference room.



The QC Stormwater Conference Planning Committee at the 12th Annual QC Stormwater Conference.



The 12th Annual QC Stormwater Conference beer from Bent River Brewing Company.

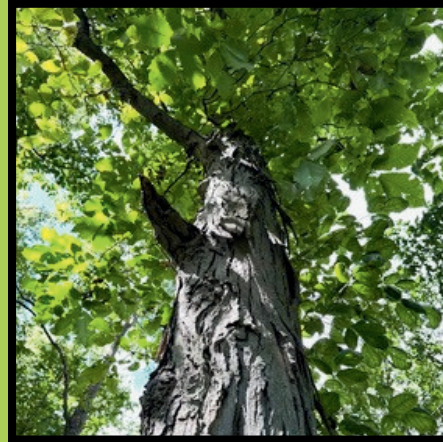
RISWCD 2026 Spring Sales



**Fish orders are due
April 29th**

**Pick Up Date:
May 8th at 9:00 AM**

**Pick Up Location:
QCCA Expo Center
parking lot, 2621 4th
Ave. Rock Island, IL,
61201**



**Tree orders are due
May 13th**

**Pick Up Date:
May 21st & May 22nd
from**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(Thursday & Friday)**

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



**Native plant orders are
due May 7th**

**Pick Up Date:
May 14th & 15th
from**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(Thursday & Friday)**

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



Order Online at:

<https://www.rockislandswcd.org/category/all-products>



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.

RISWCD 2026 Spring Native Tree Sale



Tree Sales must be placed by:
May 13th

Pick up Date: **May 21st & 22nd**
(Thursday & Friday) from
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

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

Remind me prior to pick up

by:

Phone Email

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Species	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
American Elm	\$28		\$
American Plum	\$26		\$
Arrowwood Viburnum	\$28		\$
Black Gum	\$29		\$
Bur Oak	\$27		\$
Deciduous Holly	\$26		\$
Eastern Black Walnut	\$28		\$
Eastern White Pine	\$29		\$
Green Giant Arborvitae	\$28		\$
Northern Red Oak	\$27		\$
Norway Spruce	\$29		\$
Pawpaw	\$29		\$
Pecan	\$28		\$
Post Oak	\$28		\$
Quaking Aspen	\$29		\$
Red Maple	\$28		\$
River Birch	\$27		\$
Sassafras	\$30		\$
Shagbark Hickory	\$28		\$
Smooth Rose	\$26		\$
Sugar Maple	\$29		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$27		\$
Tulip Poplar	\$29		\$
White Flowering Dogwood	\$29		\$
White Oak	\$28		\$
<u>All trees are 3-Gallon Conservation Grade</u>		Total:	\$

Order Online at:

rockislandswcd.org/category/trees



RISWCD 2026 Spring Fish Sale - Proceeds Support Conservation

Orders Due By: 4/29/26

**Pick Up: 5/8/26 @ 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 Channel	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
Catfish	6-8 in	\$70 Bag of 50		\$
Hybrid Bluegill	1-2 in	\$98 Bag of 25		\$
	3-5 in	\$65 Bag of 50		\$
Largemouth Bass	3 in	\$88 Bag of 50		\$
	5-8 in	\$200 Bag of 50		\$
Bluegill	1-2 in	\$98 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$65 Bag of 50		\$
Redear Sunfish	1-2 in	\$105 Bag of 250		\$
Fathead Minnows	Avg. 200 per lbs.	\$14.00 per lbs		\$
Black Crappie	3-5 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://www.rockislandswcd.org/
category/fish](https://www.rockislandswcd.org/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.

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 2026 Spring Native Plant Sale

Plant orders due **May 7th by 5:00 PM**

Plant sale pick-up is **May 14 & May 15, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm @ QCCA Expo Center**

Some substitutions may be made based on plant availability

Small Plant Packs - includes 7 - 3.5" native potted plants. Ideal for 10-20 sq. ft.



Prairie Gold Rush Plant Pack - \$35

- This pack will add a splash of vibrant yellows and creams to your garden!
 - 1 - Indian Grass (late - green)
 - 1 - Canada Milk Vetch (mid - yellow/cream)
 - 1 - Stiff Goldenrod (late - yellow)
 - 1 - Shrubby St. John's Wort (late - yellow)
 - 1 - Orange Coneflower (mid - yellow/orange)
 - 1 - Long Headed Coneflower (mid - yellow)
 - 1 - New Jersey Tea (mid - white)



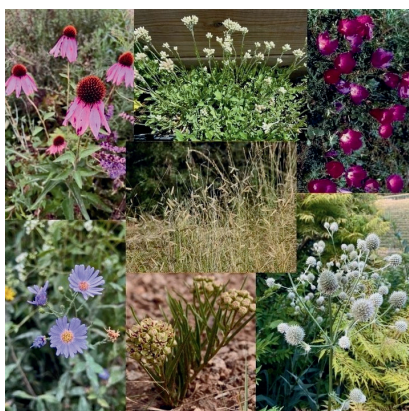
Wetland Wonders Plant Pack - \$35

- This pack loves wet conditions and are the perfect plants to go next to your pond or in a rain garden!
 - 1 - Bog Goldenrod (late - yellow)
 - 1 - Common Arrowhead (late - white)
 - 1 - Cardinal Flower (late - red)
 - 1 - Obedient Plant (late - pink/purple)
 - 1 - Marsh Marigold (early - yellow)
 - 1 - Rose Milkweed (mid - pink)
 - 1 - River Oats (mid - green/tan)



Insect Ally Plant Pack - \$35

- This pack includes host plants for different pollinating insects. Attract all the butterflies, bees, and beetles to your yard with these plants!
 - 1 - Silky Aster (late - purple)
 - 1 - Stiff Goldenrod (late - yellow)
 - 1 - Royal Catchfly (mid/late - red)
 - 1 - Cardinal Flower (mid - red)
 - 1 - Large-Flowered Beardtongue (early - pink/purple)
 - 1 - Scarlet Bee Balm (mid - red)
 - 1 - Common Milkweed (mid - pink)



Drought Defender Plant Pack - \$35

- This pack includes plants that are tolerant to dry conditions. These plants are perfect for any area that has dry soils and receives less rain.
 - 1 - Rattlesnake Master (mid - white)
 - 1 - Ground Plum (early - purple)
 - 1 - Blue Grama (Mid/late - blue/green)
 - 1 - Spotted Bee Balm (mid - pink/purple)
 - 1 - Silky Aster (late - purple)
 - 1 - Prairie Pussytoes (early - white)
 - 1 - Side-Oats Grama (mid - tan)



Canopy Companions Plant Pack - \$35

- This pack includes plants that prefer shady conditions. You can plant these where sunlight is limited!
 - 1 – Prairie Alumroot (mid - white/green)
 - 1 – Drummond’s Aster (late – purple)
 - 1 – Virginia Bluebells (early – blue)
 - 1 – Calico Beardtongue (early - pink/purple)
 - 1 – Blue Wild Indigo (early - blue)
 - 1 – River Oats (mid - green/tan)
 - 1 – Bottlebrush Grass (mid – green)

Medium Plant Packs - includes 18 - 3.5" native potted plants. Ideal for 20-50 sq. ft.



Pollinator Palooza Plant Pack - \$90

- This pack includes plants that attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators to your garden!
 - 2 – Butterfly Milkweed (mid – orange)
 - 2 – Blue Wild Indigo (early - blue)
 - 1 – Common Milkweed (mid – pink)
 - 1 – Clustered Mountain Mint (mid – white)
 - 2 – Big Bluestem (mid – green)
 - 2 – Ozark Bluestar (early – blue)
 - 1 – Obedient Plant (late – pink/purple)
 - 2 – Purple Coneflower (mid – purple)
 - 2 – Spotted Bee Balm (mid/late – purple)
 - 1 – New Jersey Tea (mid – white)
 - 2 – Drummond’s Aster (late – purple)



Hell Strip Plant Pack - \$90

- This pack includes plants that create habitat in the space between the sidewalk and the curb and help with stormwater runoff. This pack is a low-profile prairie mix for parkways durable to dry conditions, poor soil, and salt. Plants prefer 4-6 hours of sun per day and space 12 – 18" apart.
 - 1 – Little Bluestem (mid/late – green)
 - 2 – Silky Aster (late - purple)
 - 2 – Side-Oats Grama (mid - tan)
 - 2 – Western Ironweed (late – purple)
 - 2 – Stiff Goldenrod (late – yellow)
 - 1 – Orange Coneflower (mid/late – orange)
 - 2 – New Jersey Tea (mid - white)
 - 2 – Whorled Milkweed (mid – white)
 - 2 – Purple Coneflower (mid - purple)
 - 1 – Drummond’s Aster (late – white)
 - 1 – Prairie Pussytoes (early– white)

Large Plant Packs - includes 36 - 3.5" native potted plants. Ideal for 100 sq. ft.

SPECIAL - Monarch Waystation Plant Pack - \$200



- This pack provides a haven for the monarch butterfly population during their annual migration, which has been in decline in recent years due to habitat loss and the use of pesticides. By purchasing this pack, you can help protect this vital species and contribute to the conservation efforts aimed at restoring their populations. By creating a habitat for monarch butterflies, you'll be supporting a diverse range of plant species which can in turn attract other pollinators and beneficial insects. This can help create a healthier ecosystem overall while simultaneously adding beauty to your yard.
- When purchasing a Waystation from Rock Island SWCD, you will receive 36 plants including 4 varieties of milkweed, an official Monarch Waystation sign and certificate, and your waystation will be officially registered with Monarch Watch!
 - 3 – Common Milkweed (mid -pink)
 - 2 – Silky Aster (late - purple)
 - 2 – Butterfly Milkweed (mid – orange)
 - 2 – Whorled Milkweed (mid – white)
 - 2 – Rose Milkweed (mid – pink)
 - 2 – Long Headed Coneflower (mid - yellow)
 - 2 – Western Ironweed (late – purple)
 - 2 – Scarlet Bee Balm (mid – red)
 - 2 – Blue Wild Indigo (early - blue)
 - 2 – Blue Sage (late - blue)
 - 2 – Calico Beardtongue (early - pink/purple)
 - 2 – Rose Mallow (late - pink)
 - 2 – Royal Catchfly (mid - red)
 - 2 – Anise Hyssop (mid – purple)
 - 2 – Large-Flowered Beardtongue (early – pink)
 - 2 – Fireweed (mid – pink/purple)
 - 2 – Purple Coneflower (mid – purple)
 - 1 – Ozark Bluestar (early - blue)

Booster Mini Packs - Circle three plants from lists below - \$15

Host Plants

- Cardinal Flower
- Blue Wild Indigo
- Anise Hyssop
- Calico Beardtongue
- Large Flowered Beardtongue
- Rose Mallow
- Bradbury's Monarda
- Blue Sage
- Shrubby St. John's Wort

Bumblebee Boost

- Obedient Plant
- Bog Goldenrod
- Bradbury Monarda
- Scarlet Bee Balm
- Purple Coneflower
- Clustered Mountain Mint
- Spotted Bee Balm
- Blue Sage

Native Grasses

- Indian Grass
- Blue Grama
- Palm Sedge
- River Oats
- Side-Oats Grama
- Big Bluestem
- Little Bluestem
- Bottlebrush Grass

Mail In Order Form

**Individual native plants & all plant packs can be found on our website,
rockislandswcd.org**

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

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

	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
Small Plant Packs	\$35		
Medium Plant Packs	\$90		
Large Plant Packs	\$200		
Pick 3s	\$15		
Total:			

Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone Email Both

Name:

Phone number:

Mailing Address:

Email address:

Rock Island County Local Work Group Meeting

Rock Island County SWCD and NRCS hosted a Local Work Group meeting on March 26, 2026 at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau building. Rock Island county residents, farmers, and local organizations were encouraged to attend the meeting to discuss natural resource concerns in Rock Island County.

Local Work Groups are subcommittees of the State Technical Committee and their purpose is to provide NRCS, SWCD, and the state with local conservation needs, resource concerns, priority areas, and

recommendations regarding programs that can be used as tools to address those needs. The information gathered at these annual meetings help guide decision making and programs towards resource conservation at the local level. There is no one better than the farmers and residents who live in Rock Island County to make recommendations based on what they see and experience everyday in the field and at home.

The 2025 top natural resource concerns for Rock Island County included soil erosion, nutrients being transported to surface water, ponding and flooding, and plant pest pressure. Those specific resource concerns are not only important to this county, but as data shows, we see similar resource concerns across the state of Illinois. Recommendations include incentives for using conservation practices and cost-share programs for implementation. Recommended conservation practices included cover crops, prescribed burning, filter strips, nutrient management, no tilling/strip tilling, and grade stabilization structures.

If you are interested in being a part of this conversation and want to attend the next meeting or be added to the mailing list, please email dgillespie@rockislandswcd.org.



The 2026 Local Work Group meeting at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau building.



Cover crops on an agricultural field in Rock Island County.



A completed streambank stabilization project in Rock Island County on Copperas Creek.

RISWCD Oak Savannah Tree Planting

Illinois Extension 4-H and the AISWCD Forestry Committee partnered once again for a fifth year of statewide tree plantings for the Spring of 2026. This effort utilizes the strengths of the statewide network of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the educational and youth development of University of Illinois Extension programs to create an oak recovery and tree planting educational program.



Rock Island County 4-H kids planting an oak tree in Memorial Park Cemetery in Moline, IL.



A Rock Island County 4-H family planting an oak tree in Memorial Park Cemetery in Moline, IL.

This is the fifth year in a row that Rock Island County SWCD has been selected to participate in the tree planting program. RISWCD partnered with Illinois Extension 4-H and the City of Moline to plant 25 oak trees in Moline's Memorial Park Cemetery. We had many 4-H kids and families who participated in the tree planting.

Signup period announced for County Cost – Share Program

There is still time to sign-up for the state cost-share funds for conservation practices 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 to see if you qualify, contact our office at (309) 764-1486 x3.



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!



LOU LIVA

PCM Specialist

lliva@precisionconservation.org

309-391-2346

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