

Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District
1201 A Bear Lane
Monticello, IL 61856

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Monticello, IL 61856
Permit # 14



THE BOARD MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE SWCD OFFICE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SWCD Board Members

Bruce Stoddard, Chairman
John Beckhart, Vice-Chairman
Derrick Bruhn, Secretary-Treasurer
Loyd Wax, Director
Bill Meyer, Director
Kurt Robson, Associate Director
Dylan Gallagher, Associate Director
Doug Gucker, Associate Director

SWCD Staff: Jonathon Manuel, R.C.
Phyllis Muse, A.C. Terre Zeigler CREP



What is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program?
Who is Eligible?
What are the enrollment options?
These questions and many more will be answered at a CREP informational meeting on February 3rd. The Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting the informational meeting in the FS meeting room at 6:00 pm. A light chili dinner will be available.
To RSVP please call 217-762-2146 ext.3

NRCS Staff:

Michelle Lewis, D.C.



Allen Williams
Mr. Williams has been a huge supporter of Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District. He has attended countless meetings, assisted the staff with reports, book-keeping and general guidance, over his 14 years on the Board. With Mr. Williams guidance the Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District was able to get a scraper for farmers to use to clean out old terrace and waterways. Another big accomplishment was bringing Piatt County into the goals of the Illinois Department of Agriculture with the "T by 2000" program. The Board and the Staff truly wish to say "Thank you for all of your dedication over the last 14 years!"
Allen Williams served on the Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District Board from 1997 to 2010. He was Chairman from 2000 to 2005.

Notice of Elections of Directors

To all Owners and Occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of The Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 10th day of February, 2011, from 7:00am to 5:30 pm at The USDA Building, 1201 A Bear Lane, Monticello, IL 61856. Two Directors will be elected to serve the Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons and entities are eligible to vote.

Bruce Stoddard, Chairman



Inside: Fish, & Tree order forms!!!!

Seifert Tree Farm LLC



Large trees available for shelter belt or windbreak plantings: Austrian and White Pine, nominal 5' tall or more in wire baskets -\$55 each down the row pricing, 10 tree minimum. Delivery and planting available. Colorado Spruce, Norway Spruce, and other evergreens, as well as a variety of shade trees are also available in wire baskets or planted. Contact:



Wayne at Seifert Tree Farm LLC, White Heath, IL. 217-586-3844

Stay up to date!

**Check out our website at :
www.PiattCountySWCD.com**

Special Projects Program

A special projects program is designed much like a small grant. The goal of the program is to protect soil & water. The only limits to this program is that you must be able to show a benefit to soil & water. If you have an idea for a project call 1-217-762-2146 ext.3.



Well Sealing Program

The Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District is able to help cost share 60% up to \$400 on sealing wells.

Calendar of Events

- January 17th Martin Luther King Day (office Closed)
- January 18th SWCD Board Meeting
- January 25th 2011 Illinois Tillage Seminar
- January 27th Heart of The Sangamon Meeting
- February 3rd CREP & Local Work Group meeting
- February 10th Board Elections at USDA office
- February 15th Piatt County SWCD Board Meeting
- February 21st Presidents Day (office Closed)
- February 26th Pheasants Forever Banquet
- March 15th SWCD Board Meeting
- March 17th RC&D Meeting

The Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, veteran's status or disability. This policy covers all programs, services and procedures of the District, including employees.



Just a quick reminder ...

Farmers and forest landowners can apply for assistance to protect your land resources with programs provided by the 2011 Farm Bill and administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

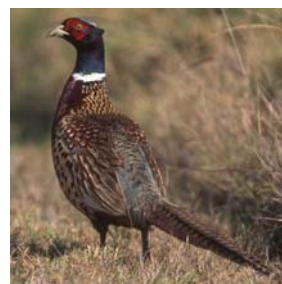
Landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on their land can apply for funding through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to restore grassland habitat or riparian areas.

Interested landowners can apply now for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Applications are accepted continuously throughout the year. Landowners are encouraged to apply now so their applications can be processed and eligible as batching periods for approval open up. The funding groups include comprehensive nutrient management, forest management implementation, grazing land and confined livestock operations, and organic operations. Payments are available for a wide variety of conservation practices. Higher payment rates are offered for beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers.

Statewide applications for the 2011 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are also being accepted. The CSP program offers payments for those producers who are applying sound conservation practices on their own, and also offers additional incentive payments to enhance or try other practices.

For assistance with any soil, water or wildlife objectives on the farm, call or visit the NRCS office.

General program information is available for review on the NRCS Illinois website at www.il.nrcs.usda.gov



6 Reasons to say YES to Filter Strips:

- Receive a tax break on the filter strip area
- An annual rental payment from the FSA office.
- Help to filter out any excess nutrients that might be leaving the surface of your field.
- By helping to keep the ditches more open, you will find that your fields drain better giving you a more timely entrance into your fields.
- Slow down the water allowing for any silt to drop out of the water.
- Help local drainage districts by reducing the number of times that they need to dredge a ditch.

They are not to be used for a drive to check on ditches and fields. The filter strip is for wildlife nesting from spring until August. You may use the filter strip for travel after August but you need to remember that it must be returned to wildlife by spring. You control the filter strip even though the government is renting the ground.

Last day to order Trees is March 11th 2011.

Pick up is on March 31st or April 1st 2011.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 Daytime phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Tree species in 3 inch pots!!!	Size	Pricing	Quantity	Subtotal \$
Deciduous				
Black Walnut	6"-12"	\$3.50 each		
Pin Oak	8"-10"	\$3.50 each		
Red Maple	6"-12"	\$3.50 each		
Sugar Maple	3"-6"	\$3.50 each		
Swamp White Oak	10"-15"	\$3.50 each		
Red Bud	3"-6"	\$3.50 each		
Evergreens				
Austrian Pine	8"-10"	\$3.50 each		
Eastern White Pine	8"-10"	\$3.50 each		
Blue Spruce	8"-10"	\$3.50 each		
Norway Spruce	8"-12"	\$3.50 each		
Douglas Fir	10"-12"	\$3.50 each		
Shrubs				
White Flowering Dogwood	8"-10"	\$3.50 each		
American Cranberry Bush	12"-36"	\$3.50 each		
Old Fashion Lilac	6"-12"	\$3.50 each		

	Pricing	Quantity	Subtotal \$
Blue Spruce, one gallon pot	\$7.00 each		
Norway Spruce, one gallon pot	\$7.00 each		
White Pine, one gallon pot	\$7.00 each		

Total Cost \$ _____

Complete form and mail along with your check to: Piatt County SWCD
 1201 A Bear lane

(Make check payable to: Piatt County SWCD) Monticello, IL 61856
 Phone: (217)-762-2146

These trees are for conservation purposes and carry NO warranty, expressed or implied, as to the live ability of the seedlings after pick up. All orders taken with the understanding that the Piatt County SWCD shall not be liable in the event of crop loss or damage from other natural causes which we have no control. The Piatt County SWCD is not responsible for the condition of trees not picked up on scheduled date or delays from the grower.



2011 Envirothon Planning for the 2011 Land Use Council 6 Envirothon

This year the Envirothon is planned to be held at Weldon Springs outside of Clinton Illinois. This is a wonderful site to help show students real live plants. The date set for the competition is **April 6th**. Envirothon is a natural resource education program sponsored by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts for High School students. The Envirothon emphasizes hands-on, team oriented problem-solving skills. The team is tested on their knowledge in the areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife.

Five member teams representing a High School are formed. Long before the competition starts teams begin by studying resource material to learn the fundamentals of each category. At the competition students visit in-the-field test stations where presentations are given by resource professionals. They are challenged to work as teams to answer written questions and conduct hands-on problem solving situations focusing on each of the four environmental areas. The program is competitive but learning is the bottom line!

Would you like to be a sponsor? We are looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of speakers and trophies for the participants. If you would like to be one please contact the office.

2011 Annual Spring Tree Sale

EVERGREENS:

Austrian Pine Fast growing, cone bearing pine with long dark green needles, height 60', well suited for almost any area. Very good windbreak tree.

Eastern White Pine Largest northeastern conifer, long soft needles, height 100', prefers well drained sandy soils. Good windbreak tree

Blue Spruce Has silvery blue to blue green needles, grows well in most soils except very wet areas. height 80', used as Christmas trees and windbreaks

Norway Spruce Large, cone bearing tree with straight trunk and cone shaped crown of branches, height 80', Used as Christmas trees and windbreaks.

Douglas Fir Soft medium length needles, fast growing, height 30'-50', Prefers better soil and good drainage.

DECIDUOUS:

Black Walnut Large tree with open, rounded crown of dark green aromatic foliage, height 70'-90', prefers moist well drained soils along streams, scattered in mixed forests.

Pin Oak straight trunk with spreading horizontal branches with slender pin like branches, height 50'-90', prefers poorly drained wet sites, easily transplanted because shallow root system lacks a tap root.

Red Maple New USDA cultivar selected for its fiery red autumn leaf color, large tree with narrow or rounded compact crown, height 50'-80', wet or moist soils of stream banks, valleys and uplands.

Sugar Maple Unrivaled hard-wooded tree. Stately, long-lived. Rich autumn foliage coloring.

Swamp White Oak Large Tree with a narrow, rounded open crown of often-drooping branches. 60 to 115 feet tall, wet or moist soils of stream banks, valleys and uplands.

Eastern (Northern) Red Bud A large shrub or small tree up to 30 feet. Flowers a very showy, pea-like pink to light purple in color.

SHRUBS:

White Flowering Dogwood Dense green foliage turns bright scarlet in fall, attractive white flowers followed by red berry clusters, height up to 40', Grows best in moist and wet soils.

American Cranberry Bush deciduous shrub, white flowers in clusters in May, Scarlet berries midsummer through winter, height 8'-12', good plant for wildlife and wet areas.

Old Fashion Lilac Strong-growing, very hardy, tall-growing shrub bearing large trusses or fragrant-scented lilac blooms. Thick, dark, attractive foliage.



United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a significant expansion of Illinois' Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a federal, state, and local conservation program that addresses targeted agriculture-related environmental concerns. CREP is part of the Conservation Reserve Program, a private land conservation program with more than 31 million acres enrolled nationwide.

Through Illinois' CREP, producers voluntarily restore riparian buffers, native grasses and wetland areas through financial aid and technical assistance. This restoration reduces sediment and nutrient run-off and enhances wildlife habitat. Producers also have the opportunity to provide for longer term habitat protection through state conservation easements.

The original goal of Illinois' CREP was to enroll 232,000 acres in the Illinois River watershed. Since 1998, landowners have voluntarily enrolled 126,500 acres. This expansion announced today will allow enrollment of the remaining 105,500 acres in both the Illinois River and Kaskaskia River watersheds. The Kaskaskia River watershed is the second largest river system in Illinois, flowing for 292 miles in a southwesterly direction where it flows into the Mississippi River. The diverse habitats in the Kaskaskia River watershed, including the largest contiguous hardwood bottomland forest in Illinois and two of the most significant grasslands in the state, play a major role in the Mississippi River flyway.

CREP will now be available to landowners in 68 counties within the two watersheds. Illinois' CREP is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), and 66 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In addition, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plays a key technical assistance role and has established a CREP Advisory Committee under the State Technical Committee comprised of government agencies, agricultural, environmental and conservation organizations that provide policy guidance for the program.

Conservation practices that are available under CREP include:

- Permanent Native Grasses
- Tree Planting
- Hardwood Tree Planting
- Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-Easement
- Wildlife Food Plot
- Riparian Buffer
- Wetland Restoration
- Rare and Declining Habitat
- Filter Strips

What is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program?

CREP participants receive incentive payments, annual rental payments and cost-share assistance from FSA, and participants who choose one of the State Conservation easement options receive additional cost-share assistance and a one-time lump sum payment based on soil rental rates and the duration of the easement. The CREP expansion does not increase the total CREP cost estimated at \$700 Million, with USDA contributing \$580 Million (\$161/acre SSR + incentive and \$121/acre cost-share) and Illinois contributing \$120 Million. Sign-up for enrollment under the expanded CREP agreement will began December 1st 2010, and is scheduled to continue until the goal of 232,000 acres is complete. Enrolled lands remain under a CREP contract for up to 15 years.

Who is Eligible?

Private landowners who have land in the 100 year floodplain, highly erodible land (HEL) with an erodibility index of 12 or greater (EI >12) adjacent to a riparian area, or land that qualifies as wetlands, wetlands farmed under natural conditions, or prior converted wetlands would be eligible. The eligible area is the **Illinois River Basin** (Sangamon River) and the **Kaskaskia River Basin**.

The Piatt County Pheasants Forever banquet is scheduled for Saturday, February 26th, at the Trail Blazers Rodeo Club out side of Monticello. The Doors will open at 5:30 pm and Dinner will be served at 7 pm. For information you can contact, Mike Raycraft 669-2356, Fred Amdor 417-1678 or Jonathon Manuel 722-5399, Jonathon.Manuel@gmail.com



The Piatt Co. Double Beards NWTF banquet is scheduled for Friday, March 11th, at the Best Western in Monticello. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. For tickets or information, folks can contact either Tom Bates, President, at (217) 762-4067 or e-mail oak672@yahoo.com or contact the Banquet Chairman, Bruce Manuel, at (217) 202-8059 or e-mail: chevy4x494@yahoo.com. To find out more about our organization, visit our website at www.nwtf.org.



Fish Descriptions



Straight Bluegill: are an excellent sport and pond fish that grows a little slower than sunfish.

Redear: Are recommended for deeper ponds and can be stocked along with Bluegill or Hybrid Sunfish.

Hybrid Sunfish: Are a good choice for smaller ponds. This hybrid cross between a male Bluegill and a female Green Sunfish results in a 90% male population, which limits population growth. Hybrid Sunfish can reproduce if Bluegills are also present.

Largemouth Bass: Are one of the most popular fish in America. They are predators and work well to help control Bluegill and Crappies populations.

Channel Catfish: Are compatible with all species in lakes and ponds, and work especially well with Hybrid Sunfish and Largemouth Bass.

Black Crappie: Black Crappie is a Schooling fish that like water with lots of structures and hiding places. They do an excellent job controlling insects. Crappie average 8 to 16 inches long.

Fathead Minnows: are especially important when stocking new ponds as a forage crop for other game fish. You should stock at a rate of 1000 per surface acre.

Triploid Carp: They eat many weeds, but not algae, and do not reproduce



Last day to order fish is March 4th 2011. Pick up is at 1:00 pm on March 18th 2011.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 Daytime phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Pond Location, Township: _____ Section: _____ Pond acreage: _____

Fish species	Size	Pricing	Quantity	Subtotal \$
Straight Bluegill	1"- 2"	\$55 / 250 (bag)		
	3"- 5"	\$0.75 each		
Redear	1"- 2"	\$55 / 250 (bag)		
Hybrid Sunfish	1"- 2"	\$55 / 250 (bag)		
	3"- 5"	\$0.65 each		
	5"- 7"	\$1.00 each		
Largemouth Bass	2"- 3"	\$0.75 each		
	5"- 8"	\$1.50 each		
Channel Catfish	4"-6"	\$0.60 each		
	6"-8"	\$0.75 each		
	* 8"-10"	\$0.90 each		
Black Crappie	2"- 3"	\$45 / 100 each		
Fathead Minnows	100/Lb	\$9.50 / pound		
Triploid Grass Carp	8"- 11"	\$9.50 each		

Last day to order Triploid Grass Carp is February 25th 2011.

Total Cost \$ _____

Pond delivers available on orders over 1,000 fish (\$100.00 charge) Yes ___ No ___

* = Channel Catfish **CAN NOT** be bagged. Please bring a clean container with pond water.

Plastic trash cans and small horse troughs work well.

Complete form and mail along with your check to:

Piatt County SWCD
 1201 A Bear lane
 Monticello, IL 61856

(Make check payable to: Piatt County SWCD)

Phone: (217)-762-2146