



# Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Winter 2019

## General Election

To all owners and occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District, notice is hereby given that an Annual Election of Directors will be held on February 7, 2019 from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm at the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Office within the USDA Service Center, 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL. Two directors will be elected to each serve a two-year term on the Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms, or corporations who hold legal title or who 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 person, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.

Absentee balloting will be available to those who are unable to attend the Election of Directors. Absentee ballots can be requested beginning January 16, 2019. All Absentee ballots must be completed by February 4, 2019. For additional information or to request an absentee ballot please contact the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District, located at 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL or by phone 815-235-2141 ext. 3.

## Meet the Board Candidates...



**Barb Klinger** seeks another two year term. She has served on the Board for five terms and currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer. She and her husband, Mark, farm 500 acres and milk 150 cows in the Pecatonica area. They raise all their heifers and grow corn, soybeans and hay to feed the animals. Barb and Mark have two daughters, Rachel and Stephanie and one grandson, Wyatt.



**Jim Hutchison** seeks his third two year term. Jim and his wife, Connie, have a small farm near Rock City where they raise rotationally grazed, grass fed cattle. A lifelong resident of Stephenson County, Jim grew up working on his family's farm, grain elevator, and fertilizer operation in Lancaster Township. Other pursuits include excavating work, natural building materials, specifically straw clay walls, and using renewable energy.

# Accomplishments for Calendar Year 2018

The stated goal of the Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District is to be a dedicated partner in the conservation protection, and enhancement of all natural resources for our society through education and technical services.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

From 1988 - 2014 a total of \$555,767.70 has been spent on conservation projects in Stephenson County through the Partners for Conservation Fund Program. From FY15 to FY17 no money had been allocated by the State for this program. Beginning in FY18 money was allocated and we have funds available for projects.

### **During the past year:**

- Assisted in conservation contracts generating over \$3.5 million of income into the local economy
- SWCD sold 10,500 tree seedlings and shrubs for reforestation.
- SWCD helped to protect 9,500 acres of cropland with detailed land conservation plans provided by the District to landowners
- A total of 6,700 acres of conservation practices were applied to improve soil quality, saving 31,000 tons of soil.
- 6,100 acres of conservation practices were applied to improve water quality.
- The District's fish sale stocked private ponds with over 7,532 healthy fingerlings and 86 pounds of minnows.
- SWCD quarterly newsletter is sent to 2,400 landowners.
- Annual \$500.00 scholarship awarded to three county residents studying natural resources or soil/water conservation related field.
- Transect Survey was completed providing a snapshot of current status of soil conservation efforts in Stephenson County.
- Stephenson Co. SWCD hired a Resource Conservationist; that position had been vacant since 2015.

The staff works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide free technical assistance to interested urban and rural individuals and groups. The work of the District in local agriculture is so widespread that there is scarcely a farmer or landowner in the county, who over the years, has not benefited from District assistance.

## **WELL WATER ABANDONMENT PROGRAM**

This state program was created in part by the efforts of the Stephenson SWCD which originally introduced and strongly lobbied for this program; since it began over 100 wells throughout the county have been decommissioned. Sadly this program had been impacted by the lack of grant funding. Funds were received in FY18 and 2 additional wells have been sealed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

- The District distributed 850 trees to every 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student in Freeport & rural Stephenson County through the Conservation Ag Program (CAP) and SWCD poster contest.
- SWCD Administrative Coordinator assists Ogle County SWCD and Lee County SWCD with their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education day reaching over 500 students.
- Stephenson County SWCD along with 5 neighboring county Soil and Water Conservation Districts organize a competition for high school students from various schools in Northwest Illinois. Five member teams compete for scholarship money by testing their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and an environmental issue that changes each year.
- SWCD Administrative Coordinator assists with "Keepers of the Land"; an outdoor stewardship day for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. One event was planned for September; sadly this was postponed due to the terrible mosquito problem and has been rescheduled for April 2019.

## **SERVICES TO STEPHENSON COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

The District continues to provide vital services to the county Health Department and Zoning Administration. During the past year, 36 private rural wells were tested for pesticides, nitrates and metals. The SWCD's annual well testing program has been in existence since 1997 insuring rural residents of the safety of their drinking water.

The District also assisted zoning officials by completing 41 Natural Resources Inventory reports for proposed community solar energy farms.

## **WILDLIFE HABITAT AND IMPROVED WATER QUALITY**

In cooperation with federal agencies during this past year, the District has helped enroll or re-enroll 55 contracts on over 1,300 acres in Stephenson County into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This program generates over \$2,750,000 annually for local farmers and landowners in Stephenson County. The District plays a critical role in applying this federal program to the land.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Livestock production is one of the largest sectors of agriculture in Stephenson County. To raise livestock in a way that is healthy for the animals and for the environment at the same time can be difficult. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a USDA program that helps farmers reduce and/or eliminate animal waste runoff from their operations.

During this past year, nearly \$300,000 in EQIP funds were allocated to Stephenson County landowners and producers. Animal waste issues are very complex and difficult to solve. EQIP provides funds to help farmers solve these problems.

EQIP is a program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners with resource concerns. The result is that local contractors and suppliers have completed over \$500,000 worth of work over the past few years. EQIP has had a positive impact on the economics and environment of Stephenson County.

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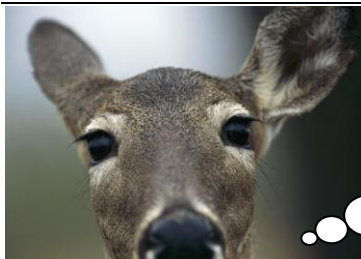
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SWCD offers Plantskydd in 3 different application methods, stop by the office for additional information or to purchase.

## Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District FY 2017-2018 Financial Report

### ASSETS AS OF 6/30/18

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$338,494.00
Capital Assets	\$ .00
Current Liabilities	\$ 970.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$339,464.00</b>

### FUND BALANCES AS OF 6/30/18

General Operations	\$ 282,909.98
Reserved (CPP & SSRP)	\$ 14,801.22
Reserved (Scholarship/Grant)	\$ 16,866.00

### RESTRICTED PROGRAMS Revenue Expense

CPP & SSRP	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 0.00
IDNR Habitat Grants	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SWCD Scholarships	\$ 0.00	\$ 750.00
Other Grants	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>\$ 11,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 750.00</b>

### GENERAL OPERATION INCOME

Grants	\$ 0.00
Sales Program	\$ 27,579.16
Interest Income	\$ 743.60
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00
LESA	\$ 100.00
NRI (Solar Farms)	\$ 28,999.30
Local Government Support	\$ 5,000.00
NRCS Cooperative Agreement	\$ 11,813.00
NRCS Administrative Agreement	\$ 12,833.80
Other Support	\$ 800.00
Publicity	\$ 3,445.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 91,313.86</b>

### COST OF GOODS SOLD

Cost of District Sales	\$ 16,330.03
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$ 16,330.03</b>

### GROSS PROFIT \$74,983.83

### GENERAL OPERATION EXPENSE

Administration	\$ 50,655.84
Publicity	\$ 5,004.78
Reimbursements	\$ 174.42
Profession Services	\$ 11,602.50
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 141.95
<b>Total General Operations</b>	<b>\$ 67,579.49</b>

### NET OPERATION REVENUE \$23,734.37





NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Illinois Cover Crop Success Story

# Small Acres, Big Changes



Dan Diaz lives in Lena, Illinois, a small rural community in picturesque Stephenson County. But Dan is a full-time plant manager at an industrial automation manufacturing plant located just south of Chicago. He spends his work week in Will County but spends weekends back home about 160 miles west. Although he works in the city, Dan and wife Kathy still enjoy rural life. In fact, Diaz owns 52 acres of farmland near Freeport, Illinois. All acres are highly erodible ground. Twenty-five are farmable but all of it is a beautiful, rolling landscape. Over the last 18 years Dan has restored this land into a tranquil getaway he calls his “sanity place.”

Diaz purchased the land—initially enrolled in CRP and a permanent pasture—back in 2000. Dan’s father and grandfather had both owned land, but not farmed and Kathy grew up on a working grain and dairy operation in Stockton, Illinois. While they both had land ownership and

agriculture in their past, for Dan, these acres were meant for something special; something different.

Is Diaz a farmer? An outdoorsman? A wildlife enthusiast? A conservationist? Yes. In all his “spare time” Dan is enjoying this land, trying new things, and learning a lot.

Diaz knew a portion of the farm could still grow commodity crops, but he was concerned about how those crops would be grown. For the other acres, Dan wanted to diversify things. Just a bit. There were so many options. Dan wanted to do it all, but he needed to do it right. Kathy supported Dan and his diverse plan. *“Her only requirement was that she’d never have to milk another cow,”* Dan laughs.

Dan began his ownership, farming on halves with a neighbor who used a no-till corn and soybean rotation. The farm already had a history of no-till and Dan has maintained no-till on the operation for 18 years. But he has taken the conservation side of things even further. With all the recent talk about soil health, he wanted to try cover crops and conduct tests and experiments to see just what different plants would do to improve his soils and his crop yields. *“I don’t have a lot of acres, but I had enough to try things out. I figured science could show me what works, what doesn’t, and I could learn by experimenting,”* Dan says.

After working with other local cover crop enthusiasts, Dan joined ProHarvest Seeds as a sales representative (like he needed one more job, right?). This new alliance provided a way to try many different cover crop species, conduct small-scale on-farm research, and motivate others to try this ‘old fashioned’ technique with a 21st Century twist. He was later asked

to join the NACD, National Association of Conservation Districts as a “Soil Health Champion” and then was later nominated to join the local Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District as an elected Director. These roles introduced Dan to a wealth of information, valuable farmer contacts, and conservation professionals.



*“I drive across northern Illinois every week and see thousands of acres of farmland that is tilled and chiseled unnecessarily. I don’t see many cover crops being planted. My observations are that there doesn’t appear to be much use of these important conservation options. It concerns me,”* Dan explains. He has seen cover cropping and soil health practices being adopted by small-scale producers but would like to see more widespread use of a proven technique that sequesters nutrients and enriches Illinois’ soils on a wider scale across the state.







Dan Diaz doesn't farm for a living. He doesn't farm thousands or even hundreds of acres. But for the land he does own, he uses time-tested conservation practices that work. He's joined forces with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to tap into two things: technical and financial assistance. Why? Because NRCS helps him make wise land decisions that secure his profitability and ensure that conservation indeed PAYS.

Recently the Diaz farm was part of a Conservation Innovation Grant project organized with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and NRCS. Dan documented and tracked his activities, inputs, expenses, and time invested with cover crops over a five-year period (2012 – 2016). The data, compiled and analyzed by DATUresearch, confirms cover crops had a positive budget impact on his operation.

Data from Diaz's farm prove that steady use of cover crops reduced soil compaction and runoff, increased water infiltration, and promoted biodiversity and overall farm resilience. To see the report and specific cost and profit data, visit [www.daturesearch.com](http://www.daturesearch.com).

While in the research process, Dan also signed up for NRCS' Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The program paid him a stipend to experiment with different crops and open up his land

for field days so other local farmers and landowners could see how they look and how they work first-hand.

According to Dan, *"I still couldn't believe the number of worms that found their way to my fields once I added cover crops. Amazing!"* Diaz also leaves old timber where it falls to create natural areas for local deer and wildlife. He's also got a small spot where he's growing popcorn. Basically, Dan's got a place for nearly everybody on his little piece of Planet Earth.

Other practices sprinkled across Diaz's 52 acres include:

- Forested land, managed for wildlife food, cover
- Contour farming, contour buffer strips
- Grassed waterways
- Pollinator plantings
- Wildlife food plots
- Riparian forest buffer
- Fruit-bearing trees for wildlife
- Habitat for wildlife
- Dry dams to control runoff

These days, Dan enjoys offering his fields, data, and research to teach other farmers the benefits conservation offers on any scale—large or small. Field days are a great way to show others what works here in northern Illinois and what the practice and plantings will look like. Pollinator acres are full of Monarch Butterflies. Song birds are back, deer and wild turkey regularly use his food plots, and his corn is approaching 9' tall.

*"I'm working hard to do things right. I've created a sustainable environment that combines ag production with wildlife. The incentive programs help me keep it profitable and nature and science keep it all healthy. Plus, I'm in very northern Illinois and am using cover crops successfully,"* Diaz smiles.



Dan's son recently graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Environmental Science. No doubt exposure to Dad's farm landscapes and ecosystems played a role in developing his interest and commitment to whatever future career he pursues.

*"Am I a farmer or an Engineer? I'm both. In both environments, I'm building something special, something awesome. But I have to admit... the long strolls I take at the farm are much quieter than those at the plant."*

To learn more about how NRCS can help you address resource concerns on your land, visit [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov).



## **Stephenson SWCD; NRCS and Pheasants Forever to Hold Burn Workshop**

**On Saturday, March 16, 2019** at 9:00 A.M. a Burn Workshop is being planned in the Lincoln-Douglas room at the Stephenson Co. Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport, IL (enter off of Walnut Street).

We will be learning the proper steps to preform a controlled burn. The workshop will be held for CRP participants; Highland Chapter Pheasant Forever members and anyone interested in learning about controlled burns.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is one of the most successful programs ever run by USDA. One of the goals of this program is to provide the very best wildlife habitat possible. One of the ways to ensure the most diverse and successful seeding is by doing mid-contract management to help establish and maintain the seeding.

FSA has to make sure that all of the CRP contract holders are doing the agreed to mid-contract management. There are four options for these practices.

1. Interseeding of legumes/forbs into existing seeding
2. Spraying herbicides
3. Light disking
4. Prescribed burning.

In your Conservation Plan of Operations, there is cost share money available to cover the cost of doing the mid-contract practices; like prescribed burning. To receive that money, USDA requires that you do the prescribed burn according to all of the appropriate laws. You are required to have a current burn permit issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). It does take some time for the permit to be processed. In addition you are required to have a prescribed burn plan that describes how you will conduct this burn in a safe manner. If you do not wish to receive cost share money, you will only have to send for the burn permit and send a letter to FSA stating the date of the burn and that no cost share money was desired.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) organizes and runs the CRP program and is responsible for all of the contract related items. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for all of the technical related issues.

To register clip out the form below and mail with payment. Call the office at 815-235-2141 ext. 3 for questions and additional information or visit the SWCD website at: [www.stephensonswcd.org](http://www.stephensonswcd.org)



☐ YES, I will attend the Controlled Burn Workshop on Saturday, March 16, 2019 9:00 – 11:00 in the Lincoln-Douglas room at the Stephenson Co. Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport, IL (enter off Walnut Street).

Cost: \$20.00 per person / \$30.00 per couple

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people to attend.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Stephenson SWCD. Mail check and above form to Stephenson SWCD 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032. Registration and payment due by Wednesday, March 6, 2019.





### **Stephenson SWCD Tree Sale is Underway**

Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District annual tree sale is underway for 2019. Each year the District sells bare root tree, evergreen and shrub seedlings to increase efforts to provide energy conservation and/or habitat cover for wildlife. These plants are for conservation purposes only and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping. **Deadline to order is March 11, 2019.** The deadline allows us to adjust pre-ordered quantities with the nurseries. We are hoping this eliminates the “extras” at the end of the sale.

Trees are sold in bundle sizes of 10, 25 and 100.

Evergreens available include Balsam Fir, Concolor Fir, Red Pine, White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, White Spruce and American Arborvitae.

Deciduous Trees include Kentucky Coffeetree, Northern Pecan, Black Walnut, Quaking Aspen, Sycamore, Burr Oak, Northern Red Oak, Pin Oak, White Oak, Swamp White Oak, Red Maple, Sugar Maple and Shagbark Hickory.

Shrubs available include Allegheny Serviceberry, Red osier Dogwood, Highbush Cranberry, Nannyberry and American Plum.

Additional items for sale include marking flags, Plantskydd Animal Repellent, tree mats, tree tubes and stakes, bat houses, blue bird houses and wood duck houses.

**New location for pick up:** Tree Order pick-up is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at **2405 N. Henderson Road, Freeport IL**. A reminder postcard will be sent to confirm the pick-up date, time and location.

Order forms can be picked up at the District office or printed from the SWCD website [www.stephensonswcd.org](http://www.stephensonswcd.org)

Order and payment must be mailed or dropped off at the Stephenson SWCD office; 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport IL.



### **Stephenson SWCD Fish Sale is Underway**



Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District spring fish sale is also underway. Fish that can be ordered include: channel catfish, albino catfish, largemouth bass, hybrid sunfish, redear sunfish, bluegill, black crappies, fat head minnows, and grass carp. The various species can be ordered for stocking new and existing ponds.

- ❖ Grass carp orders must be placed by Wednesday, April 3, 2019
- ❖ All other species by Friday, April 12, 2019
- ❖ Delivery will be at the USDA/SWCD office parking lot at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 22, 2019.

Order forms can be picked up at the District office or printed from the SWCD website [www.stephensonswcd.org](http://www.stephensonswcd.org)

Order and payment must be mailed or dropped off at the Stephenson SWCD office; 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport IL.

## **Conservation-It's All About *YOU*, the *SWCD*, and *Our Natural Resources***

*By Jim Ritterbusch*

Our natural resources are, without a doubt, one of our nation's greatest assets. In fact, there are those today that would argue that we are one of the greatest nations in the world because of our natural resources. Our past leaders have recognized this and early on formed what is today the United States Department of Agriculture. This commitment to our natural resources is a great indication of how important our forefathers thought agriculture was and maintaining its productivity is.

In the early 1900's there was a clear need for locally lead conservation of our natural resources. The result of that need was the formation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Seventy-five years ago, a small group of foresighted people in Stephenson County began to establish, what I believe, is the single greatest example of locally lead government. People like, V.J Banter, R.R. Thompson, R. Seuring, Roy Long, M. Hurd, Francis Holmes, Orville Otte, A.G. Laible, Oliver Holmes, R.F. Dameier, and E.J. Sullivan. From that small group of people, you're first Soil and Water Conservation District Board was elected. They were R.R. Thompson, R. Seuring, Roy Long, M. Hurd, and Francis Holmes. Those Board members began a tradition that still exists today. They make decisions about what is the best way to approach conservation in Stephenson County. I have yet to see or learn of a better example of local government.

Every month since 1942, your SWCD Board and staff have met to talk about how they believe they can best implement conservation in their own communities. That adds up to approximately 900 Board meetings. With five Board members attending and each Board meeting lasting an average of 3 hours, over 2,700 hours of work have been donated to the SWCD. You see, each Board member donates their time as this not a paid position. I challenge you to find for me a better example of local government.

I have had the privilege to be involved with the SWCD for the past 30 plus years. I have been in most of those meetings. Some have been very spirited; most, by today's standards, are rather mundane. Discussions about cost-share programs, watersheds, staff, budgets etc. all take place during these meetings. Your current Board is made up of Jim Hutchison, Chad Alderks, Barb Klingler, Seth Wenzel and Dan Diaz. Like the first Board, they are making decisions that impact our natural resources.

The last, and in my opinion, most important part of this trilogy is **YOU**. I think we all agree that protecting our natural resources is important. Quite frankly, without **YOU** we can't protect our natural resources. Our farmers, producers, renters, and owners are our most important resource when it comes to protecting our natural resources. The Soil and Water Conservation District's single most important role is to provide technical assistance that allows you to put conservation on the land.

Conservation-It's all about **YOU**, the **SWCD**, and **our natural resources**.

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Greg Cross



# 2019 TREE ORDER FORM

Please print.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Description	Size	10 Trees	25 Trees	100 Trees	Quantity	Amount
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## EVERGREENS

Balsam Fir	Small size only!	8-12"	\$16.50	\$41.25	\$165.00	
Concolor Fir		18-24"	\$19.00	\$47.50	\$190.00	
Red Pine	Back again!	16-24"	\$18.00	\$45.00	\$180.00	
White Pine		18-24"	\$25.00	\$62.50	\$250.00	
Colorado Blue Spruce		24-36"	\$24.00	\$60.00	\$240.00	
Norway Spruce		24-36"	\$24.00	\$60.00	\$240.00	
White Spruce		18-24"	\$19.00	\$47.50	\$190.00	
American Arborvitae		18-24"	\$17.00	\$42.50	\$170.00	

## DECIDUOUS TREES

Kentucky Coffeetree	18-24"	\$20.20	\$50.50	\$202.00	
Northern Pecan	2-3'	\$30.00	\$75.00	\$300.00	
Black Walnut	2-3'	\$14.50	\$36.25	\$145.00	
Quaking Aspen	2-3'	\$25.00	\$62.50	\$250.00	
Sycamore	2-3'	\$25.00	\$62.50	\$250.00	
Burr Oak	2-3'	\$23.50	\$58.75	\$235.00	
Northern Red Oak	2-3'	\$22.00	\$55.00	\$220.00	
Pin Oak	18-24"	\$19.00	\$47.50	\$190.00	
White Oak	2-3'	\$35.00	\$87.50	\$350.00	
Swamp White Oak	18-24"	\$12.50	\$31.25	\$125.00	
Red Maple	2-3'	\$22.00	\$55.00	\$220.00	
Sugar Maple	2-3'	\$26.50	\$66.25	\$265.00	
Shagbark Hickory	18-24"	\$32.50	\$81.25	\$325.00	

## SHRUBS

Allegheny Serviceberry	2-3'	\$22.00	\$55.00	\$220.00	
Redosier Dogwood	2-3'	\$14.00	\$35.00	\$140.00	
Highbush Cranberry	18-24"	\$16.50	\$41.25	\$165.00	
Nannyberry	2-3'	\$35.00	\$87.50	\$350.00	
American Plum	2-3'	\$21.00	\$52.50	\$210.00	

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Marking Flags (bundles of 100)	Each	\$10.00	
Bat House	Each	\$30.00	
Bluebird House (Peterson style)	Each	\$30.00	
Wood Duck House	Each	\$55.00	
Tree Mats (includes 4 wire staples)	Each	\$1.50	
48" Tree Tubes	Each	\$3.00	
60" Tree Tubes	Each	\$4.00	
White Oak Tree Stakes are ordered upon request	48" \$1.25@ 60" \$1.50@		

**TOTAL PAYMENT \$**

**All Stock are Bareroot Seedlings.** The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival. We reserve the right to refund all or part of payments made. Quantities are limited-- please place your order early. *These plants are for conservation purposes only and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping.*

**Payment must accompany order.** Make checks payable to **Stephenson SWCD**. Mail or bring to **Stephenson SWCD, 1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.**  
**Sorry NO CREDIT CARDS accepted!**

**Order pick-up: Thursday, April 11, 2019, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Tree Pick-Up location: 2405 N. Henderson Road, Freeport**

**Order Deadline MARCH 11, 2019**

*Large quantity orders (500 trees of one species) will receive special rates.*

*Call the office (815-235-2141 ext. 3) for more information. Reminder cards will be mailed.*

*The sale proceeds are an important fundraiser for the District and support the local conservation efforts of SWCD.*

*If for any reason the pickup is delayed, you will be notified.*



EVERGREEN TREES	NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES
<b>CONCOLOR (White) Fir</b> - ( <i>Abies Concolor</i> ) - a medium growing compact evergreen 30 - 100 feet tall; 15-25 ft wide. The Concolor fir grows in zones from 3-6 and does well in poor dry soils. An excellent ornamental landscaping tree and Christmas tree.	<b>RED MAPLE</b> ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ) - Medium -sized tree, up to 80 feet tall. Trunk diameter up to 3 feet; crown oval or rounded. Bark: gray and smooth when young, becoming darker and scaly. A rapid grower that can adapt to a wide range of soil conditions. Buds: rounded, reddish, usually hairy. Fall colors vary from yellow to scarlet.
<b>WHITE PINE</b> ( <i>Pinus strobus</i> ) - A large, picturesque native tree with long soft needles widely used in reforestation, windbreaks. Moderate to fast grower which thrives in a wide range of soils. Average maximum height to 80'.	<b>SUGAR MAPLE</b> ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> ) - Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 3 feet; crown broadly rounded, with many branches. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well-drained upland forests; prefers rich , deep, moist upland sites, including coves, low slopes and ravines.
<b>COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE</b> ( <i>Picea pungens</i> ) - Very hardy, pyramidal shaped tree with stiff branches; blue green needles providing excellent nesting, roosting, and winter cover for birds; great in windbreaks. Mature height in Illinois is 30-60' with a spread of 10-20'. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, full sun. <u>Does not like wet soil.</u>	<b>NORTHERN PECAN</b> ( <i>Carya illinoensis</i> ) – Large tree up to 120 ft tall; trunk diameter up to 3 ft; bark reddish brown to gray-brown; becoming roughened in platy scales. Nut pointed at tip, reddish brown with black markings; shell thin; seed sweet. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forest; attains best development on deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial soils.
<b>BALSAM FIR</b> ( <i>abies balsamea</i> ) - A north American Fir; small to medium size evergreen tree grows 46-66 ft tall, with a narrow conic crown. Balsam Firs are the most cold-hardy and aromatic of all firs. A food source for squirrels and chickadees, as well as shelter for deer, small mammals and songbirds. Thrives in cool, damp places, very shade tolerant.	<b>WHITE OAK</b> ( <i>Quercus alba</i> ) - The Illinois State Tree. Known for its majestic beauty and longevity, the White Oak <u>prefers moist, well drained upland soils</u> . This is a sensitive tree which cannot tolerate urban conditions. Acorns are loved by wildlife, produces valuable wood.
<b>NORWAY SPRUCE</b> ( <i>Picea abies</i> ) - A hardy, lofty tree with ascending branches that intermingle to break the wind. Moderately fast grower. Grows well in a <u>wide range of soils</u> .	<b>SWAMP WHITE OAK:</b> ( <i>Quercus bicolor</i> ) –Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 4 feet; crown rounded and broad. Distinguished by leaves which are coarsely round-toothed; softly white and hairy on the undersurface and it's long stemmed acorns. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to poorly drained bottomland forests.
<b>WHITE SPRUCE</b> ( <i>Picea glauca</i> ) - Pyramidal shaped tree with dark blue green needles favored for windbreaks, Christmas trees. Mature height of 60-70 ft.	<b>PIN OAK</b> ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> ) - Fast growing, <u>grows well in most soils including wet soils</u> , tolerates city conditions. Small acorns feed birds and animals.
<b>RED PINE</b> - ( <i>Pinus rubra</i> ) - A long needle pine which <u>thrives in poor soil conditions</u> . This is a tough tree which can survive under adverse conditions. Red Pine produces dark green needles in bundles of two egg shaped cones	<b>BURR OAK</b> ( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> ) – Large tree, up to 120 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 5 feet; crown rounded with stout branches, trunk straight, stout, sometimes slightly buttressed at the base. Habitat: Prefers rich, well-drained bottomland forests; thrives in upland forests tht range in drainage & fertility.
<b>AMERICAN ARBORVITAE</b> ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ) – Pyramidal in habit. Leaves are frond-like on flat branches varying from dark green to light green during the growing season. Grows best in loamy, moist soil. May be planted as a n ornamental, hedge or windbreak. It is also a good source for wildlife food, shelter from enemies and elements and nesting cover.	<b>NORTHERN RED OAK</b> ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> ) -Large tree, up to 120 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 4 feet; crown broadly rounded, with large spreading branches; trunk straight; columnar, often buttressed at the base. Acorn has very shallow, saucer-shaped cap. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well drained upland forests; prefers rich deep, moist upland sites.
SHRUBS	<b>BLACK WALNUT</b> ( <i>Juglans nigra</i> ) - The valuable dark rich wood from this tree make plantings a good long-term investment. <u>Prefers deep, rich soils</u> . May grow to 100'.
<b>HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY</b> ( <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> ) – Broadleaf Shrub; yellow to red purple fall color. New foliage has reddish color. Bears extremely handsome whiter flowers and bright red fruit.	<b>KENTUCKY COFFEETREE</b> ( <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> ) – Medium to large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 3 feet. Bipinnately compound leaves with large leaflets, short, thick legumes, and thick twigs with sunken buds readily distinguish this tree. It is one of the last trees to put forth its leaves in the spring. It has the largest leaf of any native hardwood in Illinois. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forests; also <u>thrives on rick, upland forest sites</u> .
<b>AMERICAN PLUM</b> ( <i>Prunus Americana</i> ) - Bears white flowers in spring, and yellow to red fruit in June-July.	<b>QUAKING ASPEN</b> ( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> ) – medium sized tree up to 60 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 1 1/2 feet; crown rounded or occasionally spreading. The whitish trunk and the ovate, trembling leaves distinguish this species. Habitat: Favorable to a wide virety of forested sites; pioneer species after disturbance.
<b>REDOSIER DOGWOOD</b> ( <i>Cornus stolinifera</i> ) – Native shrub, very distinctive red branches highly recommended for windbreaks. Produces small, flat clusters of whitish flowers in late May followed by white berries that are a favorite food of song birds. <u>Adapted for wet soils but will also do well upland when established.</u>	<b>SYCAMORE</b> ( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> ) –Large tree, sometimes more than 120 ft. tall; trunk diameter up to 8 feet; crown broad, often irregular. Bark reddish brown when young; quickly breaking into thin, flat scales; sloughing away in sections to expose large patches of whitish or greenish inner bark. Fruit: Achene; round light brown heads, about 1 inch in diameter; on long drooping stalks; contains many small seeds surrounded by hairs. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forests; attains best development on deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial soils.
<b>NANNYBERRY</b> ( <i>Viburnum lentago</i> ) – Other name: sweet viburnum. Small tree, up to 25 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 5 inches; crown rounded. Bark reddish brown, broken into irregular plates. Flowers: Perfect; many in broad, round-topped clusters, slightly fragrant, appearing during April and May. Fruit: Drupe; fleshy, oval to ellipsoid, blue-black, up to 1/2 inch long sweet, containing single stone. Habitat: Dry, rocky to fertile well-drained forests.	<b>SHAGBARK HICKORY</b> ( <i>Carya ovata</i> ) - Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 3 1/2 feet; crown rounded, with some of the branches often hanging. Distinguished by its shaggy bark, its usually five large leaflets, and its large winter buds. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well-drained upland forests; occasionally found on terraced bottomland forests with excellent drainage.
<b>ALLEGHENY SERVICEBERRY</b> ( <i>Amelanchier laevis Wieg</i> ) – small tree up to 15 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 6 inches; crown narrowly round-topped, with many slender branchlets. Fruit: Pome, usually spherical, up to 1/4 inch in diameter, dark purple edible, sweet fleshy, 1 to 2-seeded. Habitat: Moist forests and slopes.	







# STEPHENSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2019 SPRING FISH ORDER FORM



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES ( <i>Stocking Rate</i> )	SIZE	PRICE	UNIT	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Channel Catfish ( <i>150/acre</i> ) - <i>Sport fish. Mix with Hybrid Sunfish &amp; Largemouth Bass.</i>	4-6"	\$ 0.70	each	ea.	
Channel Catfish	6-8"	\$ 0.90	each	ea.	
Channel Catfish	8-10"	\$ 1.10	each	ea.	
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$ 1.20	each	ea.	
Largemouth Bass ( <i>50/acre</i> ) - <i>A predator; helps control bluegill and crappie populations.</i>	2-3"	\$ 0.90	each	ea.	
Largemouth Bass	5-8"	\$ 2.90	each	ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish - <i>Will not overpopulate; accepts artificial food; can grow large.</i>	3-5"	\$ 0.85	each	ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish	5-7"	\$ 1.20	each	ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish (bags of 250) ( <i>250/acre</i> )	1-2"	\$ 75.00	per bag	bags	
Redear Sunfish (bags of 250) ( <i>250/acre</i> )	1-2"	\$ 75.00	per bag	bags	
Bluegill (bags of 250)( <i>250/acre</i> ) - <i>Prolific in ponds. Stock with Largemouth Bass.</i>	1-2"	\$ 75.00	per bag	bags	
Bluegill	3-5"	\$ 0.85	each	ea.	
Black Crappie - bags of 100 ( <i>100/acre</i> ) - <i>Good in large clear vegetated lakes/ponds. Prolific. Stock with Largemouth Bass.</i>	2-3"	\$ 65.00	per bag	bags	
Fathead Minnows ( <i>5 lbs/acre</i> ) - <i>Stock in new ponds before Largemouth Bass.</i>		\$ 12.00	per/lb	lb.	
** Grass Carp ( <i>5-10 each/acre</i> ) - <i>Alternative to using chemicals for weed control. Aquatic plants should not be totally eliminated.</i>	8-10"	\$ 12.00	each	ea.	

## \*\* REQUIRED PERMIT INFORMATION FOR GRASS CARP ORDERS

POND LOCATION: TWP \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ POND SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES

ORDER TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER DEADLINES:** Grass Carp – *April 3, 2019*; Other Fish – *April 12, 2019*

**DELIVERY:** 11:00 a.m., Monday, April 22, 2019

USDA/SWCD Office parking lot, 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL

**PAYMENT:** Please include payment with your order, payable to Stephenson SWCD.

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport IL 61032

815-235-2141 ext. 3



## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

All fish except the 8-10" catfish will be bagged and sealed in oxygenated water.

A 5 gallon bucket or something similar to support the bags is recommended.

**The 8-10" catfish cannot be bagged. Bring large containers (garbage cans, etc.) filled with water.**

**Water cannot be furnished. DO NOT use chlorinated water.**



## **CHANNEL CATFISH**

The Channel Catfish is not only an outstanding food fish; it is also an excellent sport fish. It is very popular because of its fast growth rate when fed a commercial fish food. It is compatible in lakes and ponds with all species and works especially well with Hybrid Sunfish and Largemouth Bass.

Stocking rate: 150 per acre, 4-6 inch fish per acre.

## **LARGEMOUTH BASS**

The Largemouth Bass is one of the most popular sport fish in America. It is a predator and works well to help control bluegill and crappie populations.

Stocking rate: 50 per acre, 2-3 inch fish.

## **HYBRID SUNFISH**

Crossing a male Bluegill with a female Green Sunfish produces the Hybrid sunfish. This hybrid cross produces a 90% male and 10% female population. This makes a Hybrid Sunfish an excellent pond fish as it will not over populate. It also accepts artificial feed readily and grows to a much larger size than either parent; 1 to 2 pound fish are not uncommon.

Stocking rate: 250 per acre, 1-2 inch fish.

## **REDEAR SUNFISH**

The redear sunfish is a rather thin and deep-bodied sunfish. It does well in deeper ponds with aquatic vegetations. Its fondness for mollusks has given it the common name of shellcracker in the southern states.

Stocking rate: 250 per acre, 1-2 inch fish.

## **BLUEGILL**

The Bluegill is a thin and much compressed sunfish, of bluish or yellow-green color. It does very well in ponds where it is quite prolific. Largemouth Bass should already be present or stocked to control Bluegill populations.

Stocking rate: 250 per acre 1-2 inch fish.

## **BLACK CRAPPIE**

The Black Crappie does well in clear vegetated lakes or ponds. It feeds largely on small fish as an adult but still relies heavily on insects and crustaceans. This species is extremely prolific; a female may produce from 10,000 to 180,000 eggs. Largemouth Bass should already be present or stocked to control their populations. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SMALL PONDS.**

Stocking rate: 100 per acre, 1-2 inch fish.

## **FATHEAD MINNOW**

Fathead Minnows should be stocked in new ponds. They should be stocked prior to stocking Largemouth Bass so they have an opportunity to spawn and provide plenty of feed for the young bass.

Stocking rate: 5 lbs. per acre.

## **TRIPLOID GRASS CARP**

The Triploid Grass Carp is a viable alternative to using chemicals for weed control. This fish will not reproduce and when the proper numbers are stocked will reduce or eliminate the need for chemical control. Conservative stocking rates are always recommended, it is easier to add fish than to remove unwanted fish. Aquatic plants should not be totally eliminated because they are beneficial and a necessary part of ponds. They are important in producing oxygen and serve as escape areas for young fish. Stocking is not recommended at all if the pond has weed coverage of 20% or less at their peak growth.

Stocking rate: 5-10 per acre.

*\* Stocking rates are as issued by the private hatchery. The rates are for new ponds where you do not plan to feed your fish. Stocking rates for old ponds with existing fish populations will differ, contact the District office for more information.*

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