

Conservation Conversation

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Annual Tree Sale

By Karen Sanders

The district has ordered large quantities of trees to sell. We have ordered White Pine, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Red Oak, Red Maple and White Dogwood. The White Pine and the Norway Spruce make a very good windbreak. They both grow relatively fast and have fairly good survival rate. Now, the Blue Spruce grows a little slower, but they make a beautiful ornamental tree when they mature.

The Red Oak is a slow growing hardwood, excellent for shade. Each year we try to have something different so this year we added Red Maple and White Dogwood. The Red Maple will grow in a wide range of climates, likes full sun but will adapt to shade, and likes moderately moist soil. The White Dogwood is a shrub that will adapt to most soil types, can live in full or partial sun, and has good drought tolerance.

Now for the most important part: TREES CAN BE PAID FOR WHEN YOU PLACE THE ORDER OR WHEN YOU PICK THEM UP, WHICHEVER YOU PREFER. We take orders until all the trees are gone, so call early to make sure that you get what you want. We will call when the trees

arrive, usually around the first week of April.

If you have any questions, or are interested in purchasing trees, please contact Karen or Tony at

the Fayette County SWCD at 618-283-1095 ext. 3 or mail in the attached order form. I also put the order form on the website so if you would like to order online check the website, at www.fayettecountyswcd.com, to see if I have figured out how to get it working.



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Fayette County SWCD Annual Tree Sale

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Day-time or Cell Phone: _____

__ Bundles (25) White Pine, \$20

__ Bundles (25) Norway Spruce, \$16

__ Bundles (10) of Blue Spruce, \$12

__ White Dogwood, \$3 pair

__ Northern Red Oak, \$3 pair

__ Red Maple, \$3 pair

Mail for to: Fayette County SWCD

301 South 3rd Street

Vandalia, IL 62471

618-283-1095 ext. 3

Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck



It's been nasty weather here lately - cool, windy, and rain. Luckily it didn't rain too much. Harvest is still going on. Last year this time, we were all done for a long time. We haven't had a late harvest in years. The replanted corn went down, that gave farmers a few problems. Most people had some type of pickup on their header. Then the double-crop soybeans were late due to the late planting season. That let the wheat start coming up, so that slowed things up some. With the combines today it wasn't too bad. Twenty or thirty years ago it would have been a real problem. One good thing this year is that the yields were good. Now if the price goes up some things will be OK. We've had a pretty good harvest week so far. I'd say there were quite a few people getting done. It's always good to be done before the snow flies. I have got a varmint report this time. We've got a smart skunk around, haven't seen him or smelled him, but he's digging for the grubs. I've tried trapping him, no luck. Did catch a coon though, but that's all. He'll make a mistake some time and I'll get him. Or better yet, maybe he'll just leave. Let's see, let's see, grandkids: two working, one in school in St. Louis, one in school in Salem. Basketball has started. Looks like its going to be a long season. We did get a win the other night. Jordy is a good shot, but the other teams have got good shooters too. They had a tournament in St. Peter. They didn't win, but Jordy did get on the first all tournament team. I was in the NRCS office the other day, talking to Scott Smith (on the Conservation Plan on my farm, of course). He mentioned that the district sends this newsletter out to all of the

district's in Illinois. I'd like to send a big hello to all my friends all over the state. I enjoyed working for the SCS for 35 years. I would have liked to have worked longer, but Tony was getting a little older, and he just couldn't do my job and his own much longer. So I retired to give him a break. I looked through the directory the other day, and there are a lot of new names in the book. But there are a lot of old names that I remember, and I could tell a story on every one of them. OK, they tell me this letter is going to go on line instead of being mailed out. Now, I say that not near as many people will read it as before. Now, you readers prove me wrong. Send an e-mail to the office that you read it! I'm sure they will bring the results to my attention. I realize that it costs a lot to mail the newsletter out. Speaking of costs, how about these gas prices under two dollars. I didn't think I'd see that for a while. I'm still going in the shop most days. Seems like there are always toys to make. We've had a couple of craft shows, and sold a bunch. Janice is still making rugs. She has a good sized custom order that she's working on. There are thirty or more on the table in the basement. Well, its getting close to dinner time so I'm going to wrap this letter up. Happy Holidays! By the way, if you computer people see some of your non-computer friends. Wish them Happy Holidays from Nelsie's News. OK, the question for the day - "Why does slow down and slow up mean the same thing?" The old saying, "Well done is better than well said."

Soil Judging Contest

By Tony Pals

Every year the district co-sponsors a Soil Judging Contest with Effingham and Marion County districts. The contest, for all the Ag departments from the schools in these three counties, is usually a practice for the FFA section contest. This year, however, was a little different. Because of a scheduling conflict for Section 19, our soil judging contest served as the practice and the section contest. So there were a total of 15 schools participating.



We had the contest on Gene Schwarm's farm in the southeast part of the county, and the county highway department dug and closed the pits. Burke Davies, Marion County RC, judged the pits

on a rainy day before the contest. The students first judged a practice pit, and then were tested on four pits of different soil types and slopes. So, besides judging each pit for topsoil depth, texture, organic matter, structure, and many other characteristics, the students also had to determine the maximum amount of tillage that could be done on that slope to keep soil loss to a tolerable level.

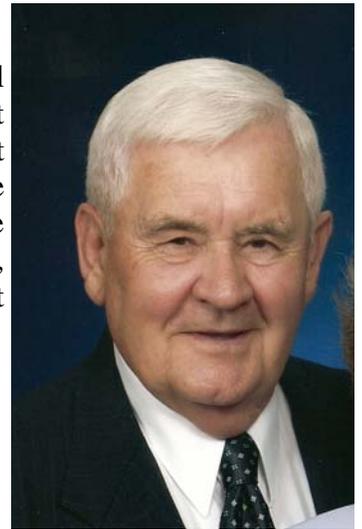
St. Elmo took top honors for the section, and, naturally, for Fayette County. South Central placed first for Marion County, and Altamont won for Effingham County.



(Continued from page 2)

used our grass seeder many times, and, because he was a member of the local QU chapter, could use it for free. But Gene always paid anyway. That's just the kind of person he was. To recognize his conservation efforts, the district tried to name him Conservation Farm Family one year, but he refused to take the award. He said it should go to people making their living farming. He was doing what he did for fun. Being a former Conservation Police Officer, he loved the outdoors and hunting, and training bird dogs, and his farm let him do all three.

He was a nice guy. I am going to miss him. We are all going to miss him.

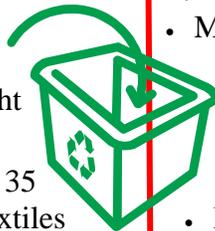


MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY RECYCLING

By Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer, NRCS/Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District

The recycling we do makes a difference. Consider these facts about recycling:

- In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage. This means that, without recycling, each adult will leave a legacy of as much as 100,000 pounds of trash for his or her children.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television, or operate a computer for three hours
- Every glass bottle recycled saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for four hours
- Each American disposes of about 35 pounds of old clothing and other textiles each year. 10 pounds per person is recycled. Of all the old clothing donated for recycling and reuse, 44% ends up as second-hand clothing (typically sold to third world countries), 20% is used to make wiping and polishing cloths, and the rest is used to make other fiber products.
- Recycled HDPE (#2) bottles are used to make more bottles (36%), pipe (19%), lawn/garden items (11%), and lumber (8%).
 - Half of all the polyester carpet manufactured in the U.S. is made from recycled plastic bottles. It takes five two-liter plastic bottles to make one square foot of carpet.



- Each year, Illinoisans use and dispose 1.1 billion foam cups, enough to encircle the Earth 19 times.
- Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour!
www.illinoisrecycles.org/facts.html



Recycling benefits the environment as evidenced by these facts from Illinois Recycles:

- Manufacturing goods from recycled materials requires less energy than producing goods from virgin materials. This means fewer fossil fuels are burned and less carbon dioxide is emitted to the atmosphere
- By diverting organic materials from landfills, the methane naturally released when these materials decompose is reduced.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood. Waste prevention and recycling of paper products allow more trees to remain standing in the forest.
- Recycling reduces the need for landfills, allowing local lands to be used in more environmentally preferable ways. And, by substituting scrap materials in place of trees, metal ores, minerals, oil, and other virgin materials, recycling reduces the pressure to expand forestry and mining production.

The Fayette County Soil & 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 status, or disability. This policy covers all programs, services, and procedures of the district, including employment.