

STARK COUNTY



Soil & Water Conservation District

7419B State Route 17 - Toulon, IL 61483
(309) 286-2261 Ext. #3

Conservation News

State Envirothon

The Stark County SWCD is pleased to announce that an Envirothon team from Stark County High School competed at the State Envirothon in Monticello on May 8-9. The two-day competition consisted of presentations and testing in the areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife, and a 5th Category, which was "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future." Teams also participated in oral presentations on the 5th Category theme. The Stark County FFA team placed third overall and was the top scoring team in the Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife Categories. Congratulations to team!

The Top 3 Teams at the 2024 Illinois Envirothon were:

First Place: Adlai E Stevenson High School (LUC 16)
Second Place: Richland County High School (LUC 11)
Third Place: Stark County High School (LUC 2)

Top Overall FFA Team:
Richland County High School

Adlai E Stevenson High School will compete at the National Envirothon event in Geneva, New York July 28 - August 3.

Richland County HS will represent at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana October 22 - 26.

Category Winners:
Aquatics (Tie): Morris Community High School (LUC 3) and Adlai E Stevenson High School
Soils, Forestry and Wildlife: Stark County High School
Current Event: Chrisman High School (LUC 7)
Oral Presentation: Adlai E Stevenson High School



Pictured with awards. Preston Parrish, Advisor, Cole Kinsella, Adam West, Toby Williams, Garrett Bruecks, Logan Goerks, and Taylor Wilkinson, Advisor.



Testing Day. Taylor Wilkinson, Advisor, Adam West, Cole Kinsella, Logan Goerks, Toby Williams, Preston Parrish, Advisor, and Garrett Bruecks.



Pictured with awards. Cole Kinsella, Adam West, Toby Williams, Garrett Bruecks, and Logan Goerks

Dates to Remember

- May 27th Memorial Day Holiday
~ Office Closed
- May 22nd Native Plant Pick-up
- June 19th Juneteenth Federal Holiday Observance
~ Office Closed
- July 4th Independence Day Observance
~ Office Closed
- July 19th Women in Conservation Seminar

Thank You to Education Program Donors

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District thanks all the donors who made contributions to its 2024 annual conservation education programs. The financial support from these businesses enables the Stark County SWCD to provide education programs to local youth and adults. We greatly appreciate the donations from these local businesses!

AgView FS Toulon
Akron Services, Inc.
Big River Resources
Elmira Mutual Insurance
FMC Corporation
Peltz Insurance

River Valley Co-op
Rumbold & Kuhn, Inc.
Sager Farms
Shafer Farms
State Bank of Toulon
Streitmatter Land Improvement



4th Grade Conservation Poster Contest

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District held the annual 4th Grade Conservation Poster Contest. The contest theme for this year was "May the Forest Be with You Always," and the theme needed to be incorporated into the posters. Students' posters contained many creative ideas related to the importance of trees and forests.

The first prize winners from each class were awarded a conservation medal. Ribbons were awarded to the top three winners and honorable mentions from each classroom. All poster contest students participated in either an ice cream treat or pizza party. Pictured are this year's poster winners from Stark County Elementary School and Bradford Elementary School.

The Stark County SWCD congratulates all 2024 Conservation Poster Contest winners. A special congratulations goes to Korbin Down. Korbin's poster will advance to the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's Auxiliary Poster Contest in July. The Stark County SWCD thanks Rumbold & Kuhn, Inc. and Sager Farms for their generous donations toward poster contest expenses.



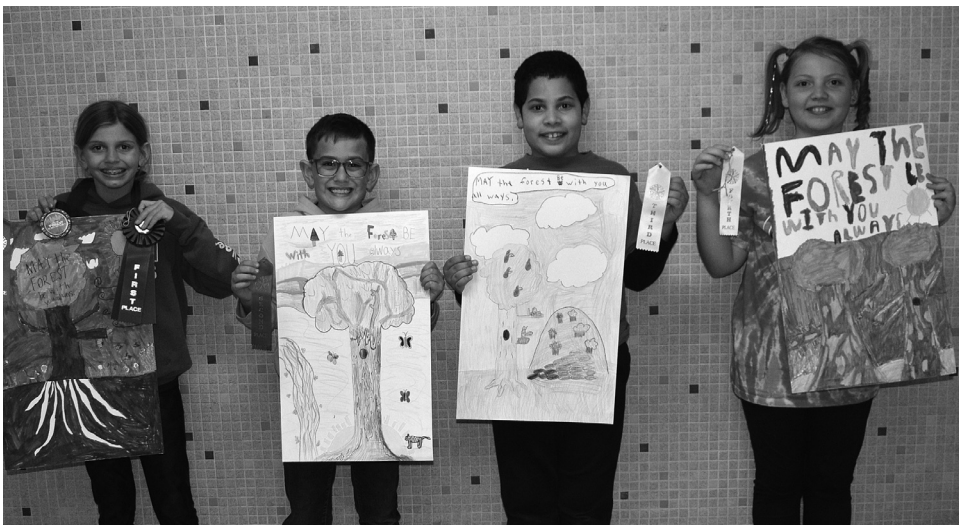
Pictured above is Korbin Down, whose poster was selected to advance to the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's Auxiliary Poster Contest in July.



Stark County Elementary School - Mrs. Smith
1. Kaidence Frisby 2. Armani Thomas 3. Hadley Forstrom 4. Charolette Pinon



Bradford Elementary School - Mrs. Donnelly
1. Stella Johnston 2. Macie Krohn 3. Jersey Peterson 4. Addi Paton



Stark County Elementary School - Mrs. Down
1. Korbin Down 2. Angus Knobloch 3. Royce Broaden 4. Lyvia Webster

Stark County SWCD Offers Scholarships

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District is once again offering the Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship in memory of Harvey Jackson and the J. Dale & Hester White Memorial Scholarship for the 2024– 2025 school year. Applications for these scholarships will be accepted until June 1, 2024.

To qualify for the Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship in memory of Harvey Jackson the applicant must be a Stark County resident or be a graduate of a Stark County high school. Applicants must be planning to enroll in an agricultural or agricultural related program at a college or trade school, be enrolled as a freshman or

sophomore, and have a cumulative grade point average of a "C" or higher. Applicants are required to submit a financial need statement of no more than one page telling why they are applying for this scholarship and what receiving it would mean to them. The amount of this scholarship varies each year.

Applicants for the J. Dale & Hester White Memorial Scholarship should reside in Stark County, Illinois or be a graduate of a Stark County high school. Applicants should be at least a college junior, with 60 or more credit hours earned toward a degree, be enrolled in an institution granting a B.S. Degree in Agriculture, with a conservation related

curriculum or a B.S. Degree in Conservation, either of which requires at least one course in basic soils. The amount of this scholarship varies each year.

The Stark County SWCD awarded Matthew McCauley a \$1000.00 scholarship from the J. Dale and Hester White Memorial Scholarship fund for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you are interested in applying for one of these scholarships, donating to the scholarship fund, or would like to request application materials, please contact the Stark County SWCD or visit www.starkcountyswcd.com/scholarships to submit an application via Google Forms.

Scholarship Donations

The SWCD continues to seek donations and hold fund raising activities to supplement the original funds for these scholarships. The Stark County SWCD accepts donation for the scholarships it administers on an ongoing basis. Anyone is welcome to make a cash donation to our scholarship in care of the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Thank You!

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District wishes to thank everyone who purchased items from our Spring Tree, Fish, and Native Plant Sale. We appreciate your patronage, as profits from these sales are used to fund conservation programs. We plan to hold fall tree, fish, and native plant sales. The August issue of Conservation News will contain order forms and information.




\$40+

PER ACRE

Partners for Conservation

COVER CROP

COST SHARE

PROGRAM

Funded by the Illinois Department of Agriculture

DO YOU WANT TO TRY COVER CROPS ON YOUR LAND?

Sign up today for early fall planting

BENEFITS OF COVER CROPS

- ✓ increase organic matter
- ✓ gain soil stability
- ✓ greater fertility
- ✓ protect water resources
- ✓ weed suppression

Call Now

309-286-2261 x3

for more information, visit our office at 7419B State Route 17, Toulon.

***seed mixes must meet NRCS standards and specs

Third Graders Celebrate Arbor Day

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District presented Arbor Day programs for third grade classes at Stark County Elementary and Bradford Grade Schools. Third graders learned about the importance of trees, tree planting instructions, and other tree and Arbor Day facts. Third grade students received white pine tree seedlings to take home and

plant. Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April in Illinois. Pictured are third grade students from Stark County Elementary School with their pine trees. The Stark County SWCD thanks Akron Services, Rumbold and Kuhn, and Sager Farms for helping to sponsor the 3rd Grade Arbor Day program.

PROUD TO PROVIDE

FARM INSURANCE

ELMIRA

MUTUAL

INSURANCE COMPANY

A GRINNELL MUTUAL MEMBER

127 W. Main Street - PO Box 129

Toulon, IL 61483

(309) 286-2221

• PREMIUM DIESEL & GASOLINE

• LUBRICANTS

• PROPANE

Michlig ENERGY

STILL Your Family Owned Petroleum Retailer

Manlius • Bradford • Cambridge

800-624-5593

Residential • Commercial • Agricultural

CALL TODAY TO ASK ABOUT OUR PETROLEUM SERVICES

• Lock in Pricing • Tank Monitoring & Keep Full Programs

• Budget Billing • \$50 Refer a Friend Credit

"Michlig Energy remains a local and family owned business that works hard to make sure our best assets are taken care of first: our CUSTOMERS and EMPLOYEES. We support and believe in our small communities!"

• Steven Michlig, Owner/President

AGRONOMY | ENERGY | FEED | GRAIN

RIVER ALLEY

COOPERATIVE

1-866-962-7820

www.rivervalleycoop.com

Serving our communities for 120 years now!



Specializing in Business and Ag Lending

• Operating Loans • Operating Lines of Credit • Real Estate Loans • Building and Equipment Leases

• Building and Improvement Loans • Equipment and Vehicle Loans • Livestock Loans

SBT

STATE BANK OF TOULON

Bank with someone you know!

Download Our Free Mobile App

State Bank of Toulon

102 W. Main

286-2861

Kewanee Banking Center

635 Tenney

852-3366

Galva Banking Center

210 SW 2nd Ave.

932-2131

www.banksbt.bank

Member FDIC



Thank you for supporting the Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District!

VOLUME 43

ISSUE 2

MAY, 2024

Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District

Page 3

SWCD Holds 81st Annual Meeting

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District held its 80th Annual Meeting on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the Stark County Junior Fairgrounds Building. The meeting began with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. A short meeting was chaired by Keith Bush to conduct Annual Meeting business. The minutes from the 80th Annual Meeting were approved, as well as the Fiscal Year 2023 financial report. Stark County SWCD volunteer, Bill Good, conducted the officer election. Directors Keith Bush, Nick Rumbold, and Phil Webster were elected to serve two-year terms.

Following the business meeting, Jim Isermann, Soil Health Specialist for the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership, spoke on Cover Crop Management in Corn and Soybeans Systems.

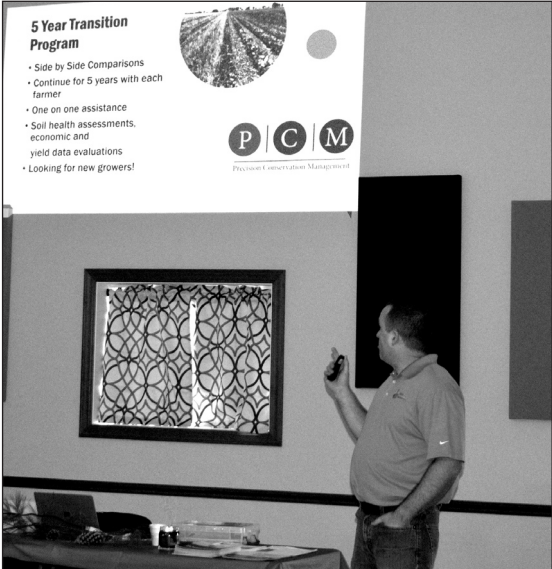
Following the meeting, door prizes were awarded, and raffle tickets were drawn for the baskets raffled to benefit SWCD scholarships.



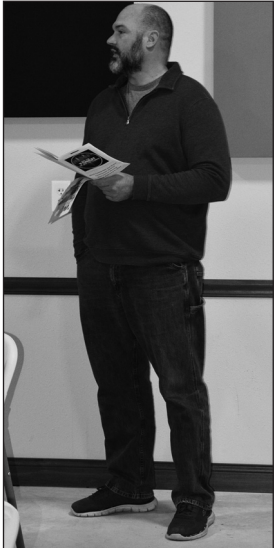
SWCD and NRCS Staff: Katie McCauley, Administrative Coordinator; Erika Luft, District Conservationist; Zane Downing, Soil Conservationist; Caleb Worley, Pheasants Forever Biologist; Bill Good, SWCD Volunteer, and Jannifer Powelson, Resource Conservationist.



Chairman Keith Bush running the business meeting.



Jim Isermann speaking on cover crops.



Bill Good conducting director election.




Senator Neil Anderson, Trevor Nelson, Keith Bush, David Sager, Phil Webster, Nick Rumbold, and Ethan Ely.


Nature Books for Sale

The Stark County SWCD has several helpful field guides and other nature books available for sale. The spring and summer months are great times to learn local plants and animals, and these guides have detailed photos or drawings to help you with identification of several common native plants and wildlife. The SWCD also sells decks of playing cards, each featuring different types of nature related themes. Stop by the office to purchase any of these handy and educational items.

Attention CRP Producers

As a reminder, if you have conservation practices enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), it is your responsibility to maintain the practice at its original design dimensions and acreage. Status Reviews are conducted on all practices prior to re-enrollment to ensure practices are being maintained according to your CRP contract and Conservation Schedule of Operations. If you have questions about your CRP practice, please contact the USDA Service Center at (309)286-2261.

Nature Books		
Book Title	Price	
Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie	\$30.00	
Prairie Plants of Illinois	\$20.00	
When Nature Calls—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
An Unnatural Selection—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
Freak of Nature—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
Flower Child—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
Bee in her Bonnet- A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
Leaf Peepers—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
Land of Ice—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
April Showers—A Nature Station Mystery	\$12.00	
Rachel & Sammy Visit the Prairie	\$10.00	
Rachel & Sammy Visit the Forest	\$10.00	
Rachel & Sammy Learn About Trees	\$10.00	
Rachel & Sammy Learn to Conserve	\$10.00	
Study Guide for Rachel Raccoon and Sammy Skunk Books	\$12.00	
Rachel and Sammy's Nature Notes	\$18.00	
Birds of Illinois Field Guide	\$13.00	
Trees of Illinois Field Guide	\$14.00	
Forest Trees of Illinois	\$10.00	
Animal Tracks of the Midwest	\$ 9.00	
Birds of the Midwest	\$ 9.00	
Butterflies of the Midwest	\$ 9.00	
Fish of the Midwest	\$ 9.00	
Critters of Illinois Pocket Guide	\$ 6.00	
Nature Pocket Guides—IL Birds, IL Wildlife, IL Butterflies & Moths, IL	\$ 7.00	
Nature Playing Cards—Fish, Trees, Dinosaurs, and Hummingbirds	\$ 6.00	
Winter Tree Finder Key or Tree Finder Key	\$ 3.50	
<div>Marking Flags Available</div> <div>Bundle of 100 Flags \$16.00</div> <div>Bundle of 50 Flags \$ 8.00</div>		<i>Purchase flags and nature books available at the Stark County SWCD office. No need to place an order.</i>
The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District greatly appreciates your support. Thank you for purchasing conservation items from the Stark County SWCD!		



Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Soil and Water Stewardship Week ran from Sunday, April 28 to May 5, 2024. This year's theme is "May the Forest Be with You Always." Not only was this theme used for the annual 4th Grade Conservation Poster Contest and will be used for the Women in Conservation Seminar, but local schools and churches were also given the opportunity to order educational materials related to this theme in observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The Stark County SWCD has a limited number of materials still available, including bookmarks and activity sheets/placemats. Please contact the office at (309)286-2261, ext. #3, to reserve materials for your group or organization. Many thanks to Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. for providing funding for this program.

Williams Presents Winning Essay to Legislators

Stark County High School FFA student Toby Williams received the honor of reading his winning soil health essay at the Springfield State Capitol. On May 6, 2024, the “Soil Heath” Lobby Day was held at the Illinois State Capitol Rotunda. Toby Williams of Stark County SWCD and Rylee Phillips of Bond County SWCD both read aloud their winning essays during the Lobby Day Rally in the Capitol Rotunda. Toby was joined by his grandmother Cheryl Nowers, mother Nora Williams, and FFA advisor Taylor Wilkinson. Toby reminds us of the importance



Williams



Phillips

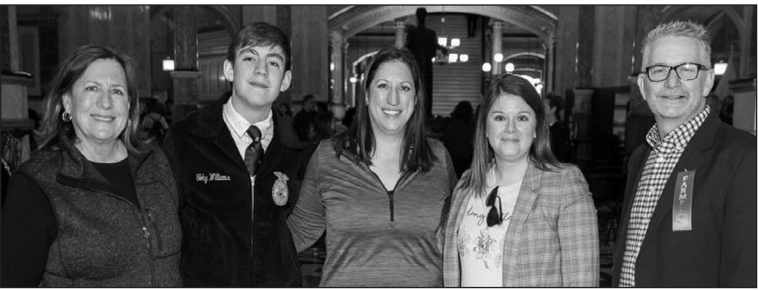
soil holds for all life and its relationships to our bodies. Please read Toby’s essay below:

Although soil is one of our most important and basic natural resources, it is often overlooked and taken for granted.

However, soil is all around us; it is part of earth and sustains the world. Plants feed and grow from the soil nutrients working up the human food chain to supplement us with our nutritional requirements.

Beyond nutrients, healthy soils foster a vibrant ecosystem of microorganisms. These microscopic friends play a pivotal role in degrading organic matter, releasing nutrients, and enhancing soil structure.

At the core of this connection lies the nutrient



Soil Health Week essay contest winner Toby Williams (for Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District) with (from left) grandmother Cheryl Nowers, mother Nora Williams, FFA advisor Taylor Wilkinson, and Dr. Michael Woods, executive director of the AISWCD, at the State Capitol in Springfield for Soil Health Week Lobby Day Wednesday March 6, 2024.

cycle, a delicate ballet between the soil and the plants that draw sustenance from it. A relationship exists within our bodies and the soils, where a diverse and thriving

microbial biome contributes to optimal digestion, nutrient absorption, and immunity. The health of the soil mirrors the health of humans. To sustain our bodies is to

sustain our soils. Sustainable agricultural practices, renewable farming methods, and soil and water conservation become not just environmental efforts but investments in human health.

As we inhabit the Earth, we citizens hold the power to design a future where the richness of our soils reflects the health of our bodies — a future where soil fertility fertilizes the next generation of healthy individuals.

If we act now and ensure our soil is well-protected and maintained, this will help everyone maintain a happy and productive future. Our world is surviving, not thriving, and how long it lasts is up to us to make that difference.

Land Use Council 2 Envirothon and Water Stewardship Week 2024

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was one of six SWCDs to plan the Land Use Council 2 (LUC2) Envirothon held on March 13th, 2024, at Black Hawk College – East Campus.

Teams from Bureau, Henry, Marshall-Putnam, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties competed in this year's event. Envirothon teams consist of five high school members, with teams listening to and testing on presentations covering the subject areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and this year's current event topic: "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future."



participating in this year’s event.

Stark County Team 1 tied for first place in the Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife Categories. Team 2 tied for first place in the Wildlife Category. The overall winning team was Stark County 1, which participated in the State Envirothon in Monticello on May 8-9th. See photos and accompanying article for the state competition. Congratulations to both Stark County Teams!

Thanks to Akron Services, Big River Resources, Rumbold and Kuhn, and Sager Farms for their donations toward the Envirothon.

Women in Conservation Seminar —Save the Date!

The Stark County SWCD, in conjunction with the Henry and Bureau County SWCDs, will hold a “Women in Conservation Seminar” on **Friday, July 19th**. Plans are still being finalized, but we will use the 2024 Soil and Water Stewardship Week theme, “May the Forest Be with You Always” for the day.

Mark your calendars now to attend this educational and fun filled seminar! More details will follow.

Stark County High School had two teams

Pictured below are Stark County Envirothon team participants and their awards.



Stewart Seed Company

12512 West Mendell Road; Princeville, IL 61559
PH: 309-385-4832 FAX: 309-385-2644
Email: cntrland@frontier.com
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30

In stock seed mixes & materials including:
Waterways Lawn Seed Pastures
IDOT mixes Fertilizer Erosion Control Blanket
Special orders to customer specifications including
CRP Prairie Grasses Wildflowers Filter Strips

ORWIG AUCTION AND EVENT CENTER

Complete auction services.
My specialty is your sale!
7642 Grain Bin Road Toulon, IL 61483

(309) 361-0397

5th Grade Conservation Day

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual 5th Grade Conservation Day on Thursday, May 2, 2024. This fun and educational day was held at the Stark County Junior Fairgrounds in Wyoming.

Students from Bradford and Stark County Elementary schools participated in several activities and educational sessions throughout the morning, including Soil and Water Conservation by Bill Good; Mammals by Katie McCauley, Stark County SWCD; Pollinator Habitat, Caleb Worley and Cassidy Rausch, Pheasants Forever; Spring Woodland Wildflowers, Jannifer Powelson, Stark County SWCD; Ryan Bogner, Rock Island Trail, IDNR; Earth Bracelets and Soil Painting by Rebecca Taylor, Bureau County SWCD. Following lunch, Rob Hilsabeck, IDNR Fish Biologist, presented a hands on aquatic animal program.

Many thanks to Rumbold & Kuhn, Sager Farms, and Streitmatter Land Improvement for helping to sponsor 5th Grade Conservation Day. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped make the day a great success!



Aquatics with Rob Hilsabeck.



5th grade students.



Pollinator Habitat with Caleb Worley and Cassidy Rausch.



Spring Woodland Wildflowers with Jannifer Powelson.



Soil Conservation with Bill Good.



Mammals with Katie McCauley.

Trucking - Demolition - Excavating

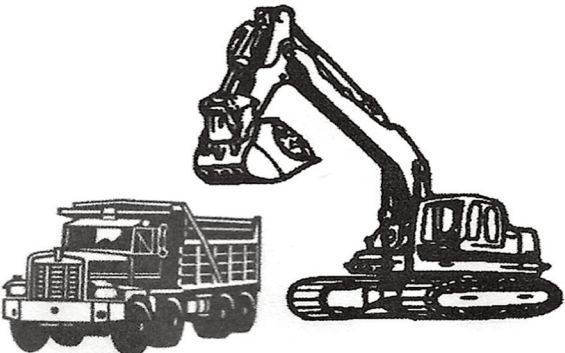
MARTIN
BROS. CO.

SERVICES:

- Sand, Rock, Gravel
- Trucking
- Lowboy Services
- Demolition
- Land Clearing
- Site Preparation
- Grade Work
- Mini Ex Work
- Waterway
- Bulldozing

CONTACT US:

- 309-525-0361
- martinexcavating7@gmail.com
- PO Box 641
7401 Possum Trot Rd
Kewanee, IL 61443



Learning Something New

BY JANNIFER POWELSON

Exploring woodlands and prairies has always been a favorite pastime of mine. Not only does the act of a peaceful walk through a natural area relax me, but I also enjoy photographing native plants and landscapes. And, if the occasional pollinator wants to cooperate for a photo, even better!

There’s something to be said about connecting with my favorite plants in my favorite places. However, in recent years, I’ve started to branch out my explorations to cover new territory. With that new territory comes new plants. Sometimes I go to try to “capture” a specific plant I know should be blooming in a particular area at a particular time. When that happens, it’s very exciting! But oftentimes I have no idea I’m going to stumble upon a “new to me” species, and that feeling is even better. If I’m really fortunate, I might find multiple new species, which has happened quite a bit in recent years.

Needless to say, my photograph collection has increased quite a bit, and so has my knowledge of these plants. In fact, I’ve made so many new discoveries I can’t remember all the names of the newer ones—especially since many of them contain unusual words, like Forbe’s Saxifrage. Luckily, the photos I take end up in my junior field guides, and by researching every new plant I add, I better absorb the information and hopefully remember the names. But if I don’t remember, all I have to do is thumb through the most recent editions of my field guides. If there is one thing I have learned in recent years, it’s that there is so much I

don’t know, which gives me a good excuse to keep exploring.

I’m not complaining about learning something new—at least when it comes to nature. It’s a wonderful experience, even if my brain has an annoying habit of not always remembering peoples’ names or what I need at the grocery store. It seems to have better luck with native plants. In fact, there’s nothing quite like the thrill of finally getting to see a plant I’ve wanted to see for decades, like the beautiful Pasque Flower I got to see at Nachusa Grasslands in March. When I find a new plant, I do a quick happy dance, then drop to the ground to shoot dozens of photos from all angles of my new discoveries. When I get home, I get to view the photos, tweak the cropping and lighting, then share my favorites online in a few Illinois nature groups. I also learn about nature and native plants online from the photos others post.

You may wonder where I go to see all these plants. I’ve started visiting local nature preserves. Some are postage size remnant prairies in pioneer cemeteries, while others are hundreds of acres of multiple undisturbed high quality habitats. I don’t always make special trips to these places; oftentimes I schedule visits on the way to or from work or other destinations. It sure helps that my daughters enjoy going with me on some trips as well. We have roamed local natural areas in Bureau, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties.

You never know where you’ll see or learn something new. Just a few hundred feet from our office I got to catch my first glimpse of Dwarf



Nodding White Trillium



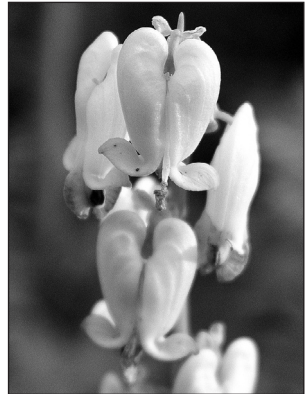
Marsh Marigold



Pasque Flower



Downy Painted-cup



Squirrel Corn



Fringed Puccoon

Larkspurs. Thanks to Katie for spotting them on a lunchtime walk and showing them to me. I’ve already seen over twenty new to me species this year, and there’s still plenty more to see. I’m excited about the discoveries I hope to

make this summer. Even though I’m exploring areas that are relatively close to home, a whole new world has been opened. Sometimes all we need to do is pause for a few minutes and open our eyes to the natural world around us.

New Books on Hand

Eklund Publishing recently released *Rachel and Sammy's Prairie Partner*, the newest book in the Rachel Raccoon and Sammy Series by Jannifer Powelson.

Rachel and Sammy's Prairie Partner is a junior field guide that will help children learn all about the Midwestern natural world. Kids can hike along with Rachel Raccoon and Sammy Skunk to discover 175 native prairie, woodland edge, savanna, and wetland species in this colorful and easy to use photographic nature guide.

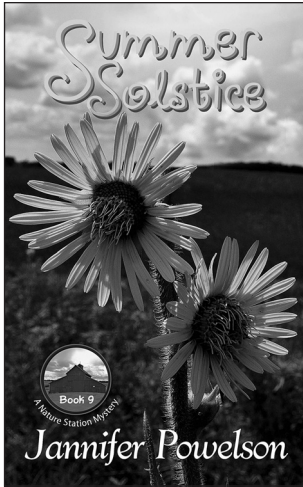
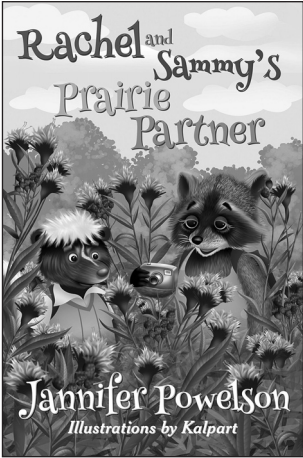
Summer Solstice, Powelson’s latest Nature Station Mystery and the ninth book in the series will soon be released.

Kristen Stevenson is excited to host the first ever Midsommar Garden Festival at the Nature Station. Even though preparations are made, the weather is warm and sunny, and crowds are flocking to the festival, the festival committee chairperson is raining on their parade. When she later turns up dead, Kristen and her friends not only work to continue with festival duties but also start looking into the committee chairperson’s death.

Was a disgruntled committee member to blame, or is the culprit closer to home? As Kristen asks questions around Eklund and digs up clues, she races to figure out whodunnit without getting done in herself.

The author is launching these newest titles at several upcoming local events.

Copies of these books are available, along with Powelson’s other titles, at the Stark County SWCD office.



You care for your farm... We will do the same for you!

Offering Financing for:
Land, Operating Lines of Credit, Buildings,
Livestock, Equipment and Homes
...plus Building and Equipment Leasing options.

Speer Community Bank

A Division of Morton Community Bank
Member FDIC

www.HometownBanks.com
Offer of credit subject to credit approval.

Stark County SWCD Attends Lobby Days

Springtime equals rally time as the State of Illinois House and Senate are presented with proposed bills and budgets. The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) lobbies year after year for the State to fund programs and operations for SWCDs to continue to serve farmers and protect natural resources. On March 6th, Stark County SWCD Administrative Coordinator, Katie McCauley and SWCD scholarship winner Matthew McCauley attended the Soil Health Lobby Day and Rally event. Hosted by the Illinois Stewardship Alliance and the AISWCD, members of both groups met with legislators to voice the importance of stabilizing soil and water conservation districts, voluntary conservation efforts, and cover crop reward programs.

Another ‘Loyal to the Soil’ lobby day was held on May 7th, where Katie McCauley represented the Stark County SWCD. In partnership with the Illinois Soybean Association and University of Illinois Extension, the AISWCD spoke with political leaders on



SWCD employees discuss the importance of their work with Representative Dan Swanson on May 7th.



Matthew and Katie McCauley Represent Stark SWCD at the March 6th Soil Health Lobby Day in Springfield.

district funding, importance of agriculture education, and voluntary conservation.



Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District Directors

Chairman - Keith Bush Vice-Chairman - Trevor Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer - Miriam Mock
Director - Phil Webster Director - Nick Rumbold
Associate Directors
Ethan Ely Lee Hager Robin Nowlan Sharon Sager Frank Shafer



Pictured right to left are Katie McCauley, Administrative Coordinator; Zane Downing, Soil Conservationist; and Jannifer Powelson, Resource Conservationist
THE STARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Is a local not-for-profit unit of government that works in conjunction with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to promote the conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources.

SWCD Staff

Resource Conservationist - Jannifer Powelson
Administrative Coordinator - Katie McCauley
District Employee - Joyce Scholl

NRCS Staff

Soil Conservationist - Zane Downing
District Conservationist, Erika Luft
Stark County SWCD board meeting are held on the third Thursday of each month, excluding May and October.

Stark County SWCD

7419B State Route 17 - Toulon, IL 61483
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone (309) 286-2261 ext. #3
Email: jannifer.powelson@il.nacdn.net
<https://www.starkcountyswcd.com/>

INSURANCE
AGENCY

142 West Main
P.O. Box 250
Bradford, IL 61421

Tammy Pelz, Agent

Phone: 309-897-4301
Fax: 309-897-8404
Cell: 309-231-2920

Auto - Home - Farm - Crop - Business - Life - Health



Rumbold &
Kuhn, Inc.

Grain Merchandising,
Brokerage Services,
Storage, Drying & Trucking
www.rkgrain.com

Duncan	309-385-4846	Valley	309-695-6465
Putnam	309-606-4151	Speer	309-249-2011
Princeville	309-385-4361	Wyoming	309-695-6459
Toulon	309-286-2461	Kewanee	309-751-4355

Main Office 1-800-322-5433
or 309-695-5151

A GREAT VALUE FOR MEMBERS

20% Off Choice Hotels

Call today to discover more great deals we offer!!

7417B State Route 17, Toulon
(309)286-7481
starkcountyfarmbureau.yolasite.com

Streitmatter
Land Improvement, Inc.
110 S. Main - Wyoming, IL 61491
Drainage & Excavating • GPS Equipped
Water Table Management
Office 309-695-2800 Cell 309-696-9861

- GPS Mapping & Design
- Farm Drainage
- Waterways
- Commercial Tile Plow

- General Hauling
- Dry Dams
- Terraces
- Basement & Ponds
- Stabilization Structures