



CONSERVATION

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Senator Susan Garrett Receives 2010 Friend of Conservation Award

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Pictured are AISWCD President James Todd, Senator Garrett, AISWCD Executive Director Richard Nichols and AISWCD Vice-President and Legislative Chair, Aaron Ferguson.

State Senator Susan Garrett (29th district) was selected to receive the AISWCD's Friend of Conservation Award winner at the 2010 Annual Meeting in July. Senator Garrett could not attend to receive her award so President Todd, Vice President Ferguson and Executive Director Nichols took advantage of the November veto session to meeting Senator Garrett in her office between committee hearings and present the award to her. Senator Garrett stated that she was very pleased with the recognition and thanked the Association for her selection. Senator Garrett sponsored an amendment to the Water Use Act which provides authority to Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts to play a greater role in monitoring water use and protecting our vital ground water resources. Her bill (SB2184) passed in both chambers, was signed by the Governor August 8, 2009 and became law January 1, 2010.

We commend Senator Garrett for her foresight in sponsoring the legislation and for assuring that the soil and water conservation districts remain as the focal point for assisting well and surface water intake owners with the provisions of the Act.

AISWCD Staff:

Rich Nichols,
Executive Director

Jim Nelson,
Urban Stormwater Specialist

Sherry Finn,
Administrative Assistant





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JAMES TODD

jtoddfarm@starband.net

I'll start out with the good news; we finally got the last Quarter of our FY 10 Funding! We are now working on getting the FY11 funds released but haven't had much indication that it will happen soon. If Governor Quinn is successful in getting his income tax increase, that may have some bearing on how quickly the funds are released.

As most of you know by now, the office is sending information about a funding initiative for FY12. We are hoping that the Governor will include the initiative in his FY 12 budget. Your letters to the Governor encouraging him to include that initiative are important and may help make the difference.

The Association held its board meeting December 13th and 14th. Among items acted on was the replacement of the Board Secretary. John Beckhart resigned due to the need to devote more time to his family and business. Lonnie Wilson of Stark County was nominated and appointed by the Board to fill the remainder of John's term. The Board voted to leave the education coordinator's position vacant at this time and to put staff back on full time status. The Association will enter into an agreement with Grundy County SWCD to provide assistance to the SWCDs for the 2011 Envirothon competition.

The board also voted to begin Phase Two of the site development plan for the AISWCD office. The wooded area behind the building and on the south side of the drive has been pretty much ignored for many years and has deteriorated to the point that a number of invasive species need to be removed as do several deadfalls and some brush piles that hinder aesthetics and use of the area. Over the next few months, visitors should see some improvement in the openness of the timber as well as a general clean up of weeds and non-native species.

Aaron Ferguson and I will be attending Illinois Ag Legislative Roundtable in Bloomington January 5th and the NACD North Central Meeting in Chicago January 6th and 7th. I would welcome your comments regarding legislative issues at the state and federal levels that we can take to these two meetings. If you have an idea or suggestion that you would like for us to carry forward, please feel free to contact me, Aaron or Rich. My cell number is 217-341-5886.

Aaron and I will also be attending the NACD Annual Meeting in Nashville January 29th through February 3, 2011. We will be seeking opportunities for federal legislation that will be advantageous for Illinois SWCDs.

It has been a very stressful year for most districts as well as for the AISWCD. We hope we have made our case with IDOA and others that the Illinois' SWCDs are an important and very necessary unit of local government. The framers of the original Soil Conservation District Law had great foresight when they wrote the legislation that allowed the districts to be created. Activities and partners have changed significantly but the purpose for which the districts were established; to protect Illinois' vital land and water resources. You should be proud of the work that has been accomplished in the past year in spite of our funding problems. As we close 2010, we look forward to better times and the hopes that districts can be adequately funded and provided the resources you need to continue doing the job that you all do so well.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

James H. Todd



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - *RICH NICHOLS*

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2010 is nearly gone! I can't say I'm sorry to see it go. I am glad that it ended on a somewhat high note with the FY10 fourth quarter allocations finally being paid. We will now concentrate on getting FY11 funds released. We are hearing that there is some movement within the General Assembly to borrow funds to pay the pension obligations. If that does come about it may free up additional dollars that can then be used to pay general obligations. Those general obligations include FY11 SWCD allocations. We also keep hearing rumors that the General assembly may take up the Governor's income tax increase when they come back in early January. With the change over in both the House and Senate and the loss of some of their majority, the Democrats may be willing to address the state's budget deficit and increase revenues to help reduce the deficit. It will undoubtedly be interesting to see what they decide to do and how they go about getting it done. If the General Assembly gets in the mood to address revenue shortfalls, we will do our best to be sure that districts are represented at that table.

While I'm on the subject of the General Assembly and funding, I hope that the SWCDs are writing letters of encouragement for the Governor to include a funding initiative in his 2012 budget for soil and water conservation districts. I don't believe that the General Assembly will approve additional funding for the SWCDs in FY 2012 out of the goodness of their collective heart. There has to be a proposal that they can get behind without subjecting them to undue exposure and having an initiative in the budget will help significantly with that effort.

The AISWCD had its December Quarterly Board meeting the 13th and 14th. As we normally do, we invited partner agencies to provide a report of their activities over the past three months. Marcia Willhite provided IEPA's report. She recapped the Nutrient Management Summit held this past summer and the Nutrient Policy Roundtable that occurred in mid October. IEPA is seeking as much input as possible but remains poised to begin setting standards for Nutrient loading. When asked where this (IEPA's efforts to gain input on nutrient standards) was all going, Marcia said that Illinois should be prepared for a program similar to the one that USEPA has implemented in the Chesapeake Bay area. You may recall from earlier comments in the Catchall and in my weekly reports that I have stated that the load reduction standards that have been put in place in the Chesapeake Bay area are making things very difficult for agriculture as producers attempt to comply with the load reductions. I don't know where Illinois agriculture will shake out when standards are adopted but I am certain that many producers will be caught by surprise and may have to significantly alter their farming practices. I have some strong concerns about all of the tillage that has taken place this past fall and the potential for severe erosion to occur next spring.

While IEPA has been very willing to work with agricultural interests over the years, excessive erosion may give the folks not quite as friendly to agriculture the ammunition they need to accuse EPA of not doing enough. The results could be very unpleasant.

I'm not sure what role the districts will play but would expect them to be heavily involved in working with producers to implement nutrient management practices as well as erosion control measures. The most wide spread practice being used in the Chesapeake Bay area is cover crops. Cover crops hold the soil in place over winter and into early spring and the plants utilize available nutrients helping reduce loads coming from surface and tile drainage systems. If you don't already have cover crops as part of your SWCD's action plan for addressing nutrients and soil erosion, now is the time to consider adding it.

I wish you will all have a very Merry Christmas and hope that you will be able to enter the New Year with joy and great expectations for the coming year!

Rich



URBAN STORMWATER UPDATE - JIM NELSON

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December has proven a rough month for southwestern states. Arizona and California received half of their annual rainfall in just one week. In both states mudslides and bank erosion has caused major infrastructure damages.

As the ground in California absorbed the record rainfall, officials began warning residents that they should abandon their dwellings for more stable ground. This is because they knew, once saturated, steep slopes in California become susceptible and major mudslides are the result. Consolidated clays and other fine textured soil particles combined with a steep slope create conditions that may lead to mudslides. When record rainfall events occur, the fully saturated soil becomes unstable. The soil can begin to slide at the head or toe of the slope and, when it goes, it moves along underlying material that remains stationary, known as the slip surface (Goudie, 2004). Two forces are at play on all slopes but in certain situations a combination of factors may lead to a slide. The two forces are the driving and the resisting force. The driving force is that of gravity pulling the soil material downward and often in a rotational manner (Watkins and Hughes). The resisting force is that of the toe area preventing the driving force from moving or slipping over the slip surface. It is the shear stress of the soil that dictates how much resisting force is present. Consolidated clays do not make for high shear stress and the resistance provided by can be compromised if the ground is saturated. Gravity at the head of the slope can exceed the shear stress of the soil holding it up and in this case gravity wins. The resisting force is overcome by the driving force; thus a mudslide. In some cases the soil type, saturation, and gravity are only part of the recipe for disaster. When a stream or ravine lies at the toe of a slope, a heavy rain could cause bank destabilization thereby undercutting the toe (resisting substrate) which could trigger the slide. It is hard to say which variables

caused the mudslides in California although, we can be sure gravity, soil saturation, and soil types played a factor.

In Illinois mudslides are rare. There are cases where disturbed soils are used on slopes and rotational failures do occur (I recently visited a site where had occurred). Therefore, much of the slope stabilization we focus on here involves erosion control measures that control raindrop impact which leads to rill and gully erosion. In cases where slope failure is an issue, slopes greater than 2:1 for example, we have to address both erosion and stability. In these cases an erosion control blanket (perhaps even a turf reinforcement mat) is necessary but, in addition, an engineer must step in and 'design' the slope from the ground up. This is often the case when a structure is being built on steep areas and where a wall is necessary to provide stability. This often involves retaining block walls or the use of geotextiles; oftentimes both. In retaining walls, interlocking concrete blocks are used on the face while a geotextile is anchored to layers of the blocks with pins. The textile mat is rolled out and extended behind the wall, well into the substrate of the slope. Several layers of the wall are then built up vertically and then fill is placed on top of the geotextile and compacted to the height of the blocks. Another layer of geotextile is anchored to the blocks and the process repeats as necessary. This web of nondegradable textile acts as a deadman for the wall so as pressure is exerted on it, the pressure of the slope behind the blocks act to keep the wall from bulging. Additionally, drains are placed throughout the wall to relieve pressure caused by soil saturation. To prevent the toe of the wall from being compromised, engineers require part of the wall to be constructed below grade and on a compacted or concrete footing. This prevents a rotational failure on the toe end of the slope and compaction reduces the likelihood of settling.



Urban Stormwater Report Continued:

Other techniques for slope stabilization use terraced retaining walls and geoweb (Goldberg, 2010). Geoweb are shaped like honeycombs and have been used in layers resembling terraces. They also are used as deadmen (like the geotextiles mentioned above) where the web extends back into the base of the wall. Once in place, the 'honeycombs' are filled with soil and a turf reinforcement mat is placed on top. The soil is seeded with deep rooted species such as native prairie plants which are also drought tolerant (also very important on slopes). Geoweb have been used on slopes as steep as 0.50:1 (Goldberg, 2010).

Although the above mentioned techniques may have not been enough to prevent all of the mudslides in California, or may be too expensive, application of these techniques may be in order for more populated areas if appropriate conditions exist. I'm sure conservation districts out west will have their hands full for the coming years cleaning up and trying to prevent nightmares such as those that happened December 2010.

Goldberg, Steve. January/February 2010. Geosynthetic Versatility, Erosion Control. 28-35, <http://digital.erosioncontrol.com/publication/?i=55117&p=&pn=>

Goudie, Andrew. 2004, *Encyclopedia of Geomorphology*. New York: Routledge Ltd.

Watkins, Anni and Scott Hughes Department of Geology, Idaho State University, Environmental Geology, Module 4 Landslides, Slope Failure, and other Mass Wasting Processes

http://wapi.isu.edu/envgeo/EG4_mass_wasting/EG_module_4.htm

NOTE: I recently noticed that in my July 2010 article on Biodiversity, references for my article were apparently left off due to space considerations. I do not wish to portray all of the information in that article as my own and therefore am providing that information for my July article below:

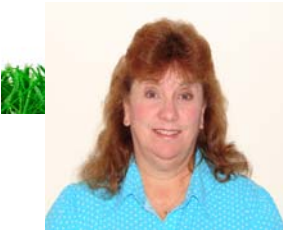
References:

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Gianinazzi-Pearson, Vivienne. The Plant Cell, Vol. 8, 1871-1883, October 1996 O 1996 American Society of Plant Physiologists

Meyer, John R. Symbiotic Relationships. [Internet] Department of Entomology North Carolina State University [modified 1998 January 3; cited 2010 May 3] Available from <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/course/ent591k/symbiosis.html> .

Moore-Landecker, Elizabeth (1996). Fundamentals of the Fungi (4th Edition): Benjamin Cummings



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S UPDATE - *SHERRY FINN*

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November - December Activities

CREP COORDINATOR GRANT:

- Obtained 3 quotes for printing of CREP Marketing Postcards; ordered postcards after selection of printing company
- Purchased postage stamps for Districts to mail postcards
- Completed Sept CREP Deposit and paid Districts
- Attended all informational meetings and distributed postage stamps
- Sent CREP Coordinator Sub-Agreement Contracts to several Kaskaskia River Basin Districts
- **Executive Meeting Teleconference Call:**
- Prepared and contacted executive board for 11/24/10 Funding Issues meeting; recorder minutes
- **December Quarterly Board Meeting:**
- Compiled information for agenda and handouts for DEC QB Packet; sent packet to Jim Nelson to post to Association website
- E-mailed and mailed Dec QB Packet to Board Members
- Sent reminder e-mail to members about meeting and Xmas Party along minute recorders
- Contacted Chesapeake Seafood House with menu requests and reservation numbers for Christmas Party
- Prepared cookies along with Jim Nelson and Rich Nichols and purchased bags for Board Member Christmas Treat Bags
- Contacted Northfield Inn with room reservations and menu requests for lunch and breakfast along with number count
- Prepared additional copies of QB Packet for Directors
- Prepared Meeting Room Signs; Prepared Roll Call Sheets for all meetings and Action Item Sheets for Minute Recorders for FAC meetings
- Sent reminder e-mail to Districts regarding Envirothon Coordinator Bid (part of agenda)
- Organized files for Envirothon Coordinator Bids and questions
- Compiled information for the NACD Annual Meeting Costs
- Compiled information on FY 2011 Funding for Districts
- Compiled information on FY 2011 Quarterly Board Minute Recorders and costs
- Sent FY 2011 DRAFT Budget to members
- Did roll call and recorded minutes of executive meeting, foundation and association meetings

IL Envirothon:

- Finalized Contract with U of I for 2011 IL Envirothon
- Printed labels for IL Science Teachers Conference
- Completed letter of support for Sara Paver, previous Aquatics presenter
- Printed labels for IL Envirothon Pamphlets
- Prepared Financial Income/Expense sheet for 2010 Canon Mini Grant report
- E-mailed Pennsylvania, Arkansas and Michigan for 5th Category information
- Contacted IL-IN Sea Grant, IL Natural History Survey, IL Geographical, and IL Water Survey for 5th Category assistance
- Prepared Financial Update for Sponsorship Grants
- Worked with Jim Nelson on obtaining previous presenters and judges; provided e-mail and phone numbers for both to Jane Brangenberg of Calhoun County

OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense report for Credit Card
- Timesheets
- Organized September CREP Vouchers & sent to IEPA for payment
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid Database
- Mailed Thank You Notes to Paid Districts
- Compiled Delinquent Dues Notices-e-mailed to Districts and sent to Area VPs as well as officers
- Maintain Sponsorship Database & Brochure Printing Fee Database
- Sent AISWCD/SWCD Sponsors monthly CC and Legislative Newsletter
- E-mailed Monthly Financials to Officers
- Updated Records Retention, Mgmt & Destruction Folder
- Maintaining a Database for computer items ordered w/ HP; contacted HP with shipping problems and billing problems
- Forward to Rich the monthly SWCD/LUC agenda and meeting minutes that are e-mailed to me; file these after seen by Rich
- Proofread Conservation Catchall and Legislative Newsletter and e-mailed and mailed to Legislators

ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for November & December
- Reconciled all bank accounts
- Completed bookwork for All AISWCD & Insurance Accts
- Prepared Deposits for SWCD Dues and Receivables
- Completed Checks for Payables; Completed Deposits for Receivables; Completed Monthly Financials
- Filed all Completed Payables & Receivables Documentation
- Faxed Copy Count to CDS Technology
- Received CREP Payment for Sept ; Completed Deposit; Paid CREP Districts for CREP Coordinator reimbursements for Sept
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Debbie Holsapple

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Opening of CREP Program/Training
- Annual Meeting Taskforce Organization
- CREP Enrollment and training
- Tracking of FY 2011 Funding
- March QB Meeting

REMEMBER: He who has not Christmas in his heart will NEVER find it under a tree!

TO ACT: Have the faith to move mountains!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!!

Sherry

ISWCDEA CORNER - DEBI SLADE, AC CO-CHAIR

website: <http://www.il.ncdea.org>



**"Stayin' Alive"
SWCD will Survive**

Another Winter Training has come and gone...based on the evals we received, most people felt it was a worthwhile experience. If you did not get your evals turned in yet, please email them to me so the board can review the comments at our first meeting in February. We also need input for summer conference and next year's winter training, so get them sent as soon as you can.

We presented awards for years of service to 37 current employees and sent certificates to 5 previous long-term employees who went to NRCS or retired. We, also, presented awards to the 5 outstanding regional employees and 1 overall outstanding state employee this year. Winners were chosen from the eleven nominations received. Receiving awards were: Region 1 – Bill Joseph, Region 2 – Debi Slade, Region 3 – Cindy Moon, Region 4 – Debbie Holsapple, Region 5 – Courtney Rothlisberger and overall – Megan Andrews, Region 2. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!

The State of Illinois gave us a nice Christmas present by filling our piggy banks with the 4th quarter 2010 funds. Hopefully, that kept a few districts "alive" for a little while longer. Now we need to focus on getting the new legislators on board and supporting the SWCD's!

This was not an easy year, but we've proved we're a resilient group who won't go away quietly. I am feeling hopeful for the coming year...I believe the SWCD's will survive, will "Stay Alive", and better days are ahead.

May you all have a joyous Christmas and let's make 2011 our "Best Year Yet!"

Be safe and warm! *Debi*

(Pictures on Page 9)

Illinois SWCD Chapter IAAP - Jane Brangerberg

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IAAP held a very successful raffle at the 2010 Winter Training. Prizes and prize winners are show below. Congratulations to the winners!



Brenda McMillan, AC for Cass County, won the Winter Warm-Up basket.

Evelyn Griffeth, FSA Pike County, won the Stocking Stuffer basket.

Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets!!
Teija



Sondra Baker, AC for DeWitt County, won the Illini basket



Natural Area Guardians - *Tim Keller*

Tim Keller, Whiteside Co. SWCD Director

Prairie Hill Recycling and Disposal Facility Recertified by Wildlife Habitat Council

Waste Management's Prairie Hill Recycling and Disposal Facility received recertification of its wildlife program Thursday, Nov. 11, from the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) at the organization's 22nd Annual Symposium in Baltimore. The facility is part of a national Waste Management program that protects animal and plant species on 25,045 acres at 103 sites around the country.

The Prairie Hill facility's recognition was one of 30 new Wildlife at Work SM certifications, three new Corporate Lands for Learning (CLL) certifications, 22 Wildlife at Work recertifications, and seven CLL recertifications that WHC awarded Waste Management programs this year. With these certifications, Waste Management surpassed its goal to have 100 certified programs and 25,000 protected acres-ten years ahead of plan.

The Prairie Hill facility occupies 423 acres in Whiteside County in northwest Illinois. The site was purchased by Waste Management in 1992. As part of the initial licensing process, the site manager and development team developed a closure plan that envisioned the site as a community resource, with publicly accessible bike trails, a nature trail with interpretative signage, and learning stations. In 1995, the company converted some unused land around the site's entranceway into a restored natural prairie. Working with the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Area Guardians, the facility established a prairie with native grasses and locally collected native prairie wildflower seed. The prairie is maintained through scheduled burns in cooperation with the soil conservation office combined with control of invasive species by occasional mowing and targeted applications of herbicide.

Educational opportunities are also being pursued. For example, every year from August through October the soil conservation office in conjunction with Natural Area Guardians arrive to harvest seeds that are sold as a fundraising event for their group.

"We are very proud of the fact that the seeds produced each year at our prairie are used to help other prairies around the area to be established, much like ours was 15 years ago," said Mike Wiersema, District Manager at the Prairie Hill Facility. "We're also pleased that this is a benefit to a wonderful local organization."

WHC's Wildlife at Work program provides a structure for corporate-driven cooperative efforts between management, employees and community members to create, conserve and restore wild life habitats on corporate lands. The Corporate Lands for Learning program promotes the use of certified company lands for hands-on environmental education by school and community groups.

"We see many business opportunities in the area of environmental sustainability, including recycling, renewable energy and helping customers with zero waste goals," said David P. Steiner, chief executive officer of Waste Management. "And nowhere have our people embraced these opportunities with more enthusiasm and success than in making sure that our locations are compatible with a healthy local ecosystem. Our team's efforts at Prairie Hill are a credit to our company, and this work was instrumental in helping us reach our sustainability goal to enhance wildlife habitat at our facilities. We're planning to continue growing our number of certifications and expanding the acreage we manage for wildlife protection. "

To read more about each program, please visit <http://www.wm.com/about/community/whc/wildlife-habitat-sites.jsp>



2011 ILLINOIS CROP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

January 26-27, Whittington

February 2-3, Springfield

February 9-10, Champaign

February 16-17, Malta

Agendas are the same at each location unless otherwise indicated. 13 total CCA-CEUs available

DAY 1

8:00 A.M. *Registration CEUs Applied For*

9:00	N Loss Mechanisms and Nitrification Inhibitors	(1.0 NM)
10:00	Effect of Biochar on Soil CEC and Nutrient Exchange	(1.0 NM)
11:00	Cereal Aphid Complex and Viral Diseases of Wheat (Whittington)	(1.0 PM)
	Corn Disease Identification and Biology (Springfield, Champaign, Malta)	(1.0 PM)

Noon Lunch

1:00 P.M.	Managing Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome	(1.0 PM)
2:00	Corn Nematodes: Identification & Management	(1.0 PM)
3:00	High Yield Soybean Production Techniques	(1.0 CM)
4:00	<i>Wrap-Up and Adjourn</i>	

DAY 2

7:30 A.M. *Registration*

8:00	Effects of Soil Erosion on Crop Productivity	(1.0 SW)
9:00	Soybean Breeding: Opportunities and Challenges	(1.0 CM)
10:00	Bioenergy Crop Production	(1.0 CM)
11:00	Corn Hybrids and Population Dynamics	(1.0 CM)

Noon Lunch

1:00	Corn Hybrid Performance Issues	(1.0 CM)
2:00	Corn Disease Identification and Biology (Whittington)	(1.0 PM)
	New and Emerging Insect Pests (Springfield, Champaign, Malta)	(1.0 PM)
3:00	Nitrate Losses Through Tile Drainage Systems	(1.0 SW)
4:00	<i>Wrap-Up and Adjourn</i>	

Registration cost:

\$130 per person pre-registration, up to one week prior to each conference.

\$150 per person for late, and on-site registrations. Only cash or check will be accepted on-site.

There is no single-day registration option.

Locations

January 26-27:	Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center, Whittington	(pre-registration deadline Jan. 19)
February 2-3:	Northfield Conference Center, Springfield	(pre-registration deadline Jan. 26)
February 9-10:	I-Hotel & Conference Center, Champaign	(pre-registration deadline Feb. 2)
February 16-17:	Kishwaukee College Conference Center, Malta	(pre-registration deadline Feb. 9)

2011 Illinois Regional Tillage Seminars

January 25th	Champaign	Parkland College
January 27th	Milan	Milan Community College
January 28th	Joliet	Weitdorf Ag Center, Joliet Junoir College

Agenda

<p>8:15 – 8:30 a.m. Registration Refreshments & Meet with Exhibitors</p> <p>8:30 – 8:50 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks</p> <p>8:50 – 9:50 a.m. Tillage and Nutrient BMP's: Water Quality Issues and Protection – Marcia Willhite, Chief, IL EPA Bureau of Water</p> <p>9:50 – 10:05 a.m. Conservation Tillage: Nutrient Mgt. and Placement Applied Research – Dan Schaefer, Manager, Illini FS</p> <p>10:05 – 10:20 a.m. Break</p> <p>10:20 – 11:30 a.m. Conservation Tillage: N & P Placement Issues in Reduced Till – Dr. Fabian Fernandez, U. of IL Dept. of Crop Science</p> <p>11:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. Tillage and Nutrient Mgt. – On-farm Applications – Producer and Applied Research Project participant panel</p>	<p>11:45 am - 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Meet with Exhibitors</p> <p>12:30 – 1:35 p.m. Conservation Tillage: Using Cover crops -- tillage and soil quality – Dr. Joel Gruver, Agronomist, Western IL University and/or Dave Bishop, SWCD Resource Conservationist, McLean Co.</p> <p>1:35 – 1:50 p.m. Cover Crops on the Farm: Central Illinois Cover Crop Initiative (CICCI) – Dave Bishop, SWCD Resource Conservationist, McLean Co.</p> <p>1:50 - 2:50 p.m. Conservation Tillage: Economics & Prescription Mgt. Considerations – Barry Fisher, State Agronomist, Indiana NRCS</p> <p>2:50 - 3:15 p.m. Conservation Tillage: Management on the farm – Producer panel</p> <p>3:15 pm Seminar Adjourns - Meet with Exhibitors and Speakers</p>
<p>(Note to CCA's: 5.0 SWM CEU's applied for)</p>	

(Left) ISWCDEA's 2009 - 2010 Co-Chairs celebrate another year of "Stayin Alive" at Winter Training.



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(Right) Meet ISWCDEA's Board Members for 2011 - 2012
 Bottom Row: (L to R) Jill Harre (Brammeier) Secretary, Phyllis Mace RC Co-Chair, Debi Slade AC Co-Chair, Dean Johnson, RC Co-Vice Chair, Sharon Matson Treasurer; 2nd Row: Abbie Sperry, Cindy Moon, Crystal Monsess, Jonathon Manuel; 3rd Row: Meghan Poston, Renee Weitekamp, Jane Brangenberg, Jamie Wheeler, Kara Downin not pictured: Tara Hopkins, Matt Schramm.

Time to Renew SWCDs Sponsorships

The first sponsorships are expiring but you can help your district and the AISWCD by encouraging those sponsors to renew! The AISWCD will contact those persons and businesses who subscribed to a sponsorship in 2010 asking for their renewals. Your encouragement may help make the difference.

Sponsorship brochures can be obtained by contacting the AISWCD office. To help defray printing expense, we are asking that each SWCD pay \$10.00 for 50 copies of the brochure. To make sure all 98 SWCDs have the opportunity to receive their 50 copies we are only giving out one packet (50 copies) per SWCD.

When an individual/company signs up to become a sponsor the checks are to be made out to the AISWCD. To make it easier, please feel free to send sponsors checks all at once or as you see fit. Keep in mind that individuals/companies can mail the sponsorships directly to us. For those of you that have not seen the brochure, there is a line for them to fill in their county name, to assure that SWCDs will receive 50% of the donations made in their county. Checks from the AISWCD to the SWCDs will be issued on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December).

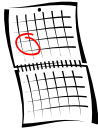
Take advantage of your annual meeting to hand out sponsorship brochures. Every sponsorship helps you and makes it possible for the AISWCD to continue our efforts to obtain a stable funding source for Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



***Wishing all of you A
Happy and Blessed***

from the AISWCD board of Directors





MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Christmas Eve Day - December 24th - Office Closed
- New Years Eve Day - December 31 - Office Closed
- NACD North Central Region Meeting - January 6-7, Schiller Park
- 2011 Regional Tillage Seminars - Champaign, Parkland College, January 25th - Milan, Milan Community College, January 27th - Joliet, Weitdorf Ag Center, Joliet Junoir College, January 28th
- Illinois Ag Legislative Day - March 9 Springfield
- 2011 Illinois Envirothon - May 12th-13th at 4-H Camp, Monticello, IL

2011 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- March 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting (1 day) - March 15th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- June 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 13th/14th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- September 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting - Only if needed
- December 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 12th/13th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL



2011 ENVIROTHON DATES

5th Category Topic: Salt & Freshwater Estuaries

ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON
May 12th - 13th
4-H Memorial Camp - Allerton Park
Monticello, Illinois

April 20th -
Last day for
LUC competitions

April 22nd - Last day
to register for Illinois
Envirothon

CANON ENVIROTHON
July 24th - 29th
Mount Allison University
Sackville, New Brunswick

Envirothon Update:

Sherry Finn has been working with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Illinois Natural History Survey and Illinois State Water Survey to develop resource materials for the 5th category. Resource materials will be available to Envirothon Coordinators at Winter Training for the for standard categories. We plan to have the 5th category materials posted to the AISWCD web site during the first part of January 2011. We have contracted with the Grundy County SWCD to serve as the Envirothon Coordinator for the AISWCD. Please feel free to contact Brooke Baker or Natalie Mahler if you have questions about the Envirothon.

AISWCD Mission: *To represent and empower Illinois' SWCDs*

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