



*To represent and empower Illinois' SWCDs*

## CHAD PREGRACKE

*One river, one piece of garbage at a time!*



The Mississippi River was literally Chad Pregracke's backyard while growing up outside of Hampton, Illinois. The son of educators and river enthusiasts, KeeKee and Gary Pregracke, Chad and his older brother, Brent, spent the majority of their time on, in, and around the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

During his summer breaks from high school and college, Chad worked on the river--primarily as a commercial shell diver for the cultured pearl industry, but also as a commercial fisherman and barge hand. Typically working miles away from home, he camped on the islands and shorelines of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to save money and fuel. It was during this time that Chad began to realize how neglected the rivers were, with the unsightly and toxic accumulation of trash along their banks. At the age of 17, he started making calls to government agencies to notify them of the problem, assuming someone would take care of it. Year after year passed by and the problem only worsened. In 1997 Chad decided that, if no one else was going to clean up the river, he would. One river, one piece of garbage at a time.

In 1998 at the age of 23, Chad founded Living Lands & Waters, a not-for-profit organization based in East Moline, Illinois, dedicated to cleaning up and preserving our nation's rivers. Today, the organization has grown to include 10 full-time employees and a fleet of 4 barges, a towboat, 6 workboats, 2 skid steers, 5 work trucks and a large box truck. With this equipment, the crew is able to travel and work in an average of 9 states a year along the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, and Potomac Rivers, as well as many of their tributaries. Since the project's inception, Chad, his crew, and over 60,000 volunteers have collected over 6 million pounds of debris from our nation's greatest rivers. Most recently, Chad expanded the mission of the organization to include Big River Educational Outreach, The MillionTrees Project, and the Adopt-a-River Mile programs.

Chad's vision, charisma, non-stop work ethic and natural leadership have garnered him an abundance of awards and honors over the years. Most notably, Chad was the recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public Service, America's version of the Nobel Prize, in June 2002. Chad accepted this award in the United States Supreme Court in Washington D.C. with other award recipients: Rudolph Giuliani, Bill and Melinda Gates, and Lilly Tartikoff.

*Plan to join July 27th and be entertained as Keynote speaker Chad Pregracke inspires you and re-energizes your commitment to conservation. See you there!*



[www.livinglandsandwaters.org](http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org)

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### Staff:

**Rich Nichols,**  
Executive Director

**Stacy Stremsterfer,**  
Education Coordinator

**Jim Nelson,**  
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**conservation catchall**



# president's message

Jim Todd, AISWCD President - jtoddfarm@starband.net

**t**he good news is that we understand that the AISWCD's efforts have paid off for at least twenty-nine SWCDs. We are please that the Comptroller has released the first three quarters of the FY10 allocation. We will continue to push for the release of the funds for the remaining SWCDs as well as for the fourth quarter.

We are continuing to work on the FY10 funding but we are also working on the 2011 budget. This morning, we met with the Down State Caucus, a group of democratic legislators who represent districts outside the Chicago Metro area, to explain the difficulties that have been created by the delay in receiving FY10 funding and to talk about the financial needs of the SWCDs to enable them to retain staff in FY11. We requested that the legislators keep us in mind and support our efforts to transfer \$3.7 million from the proposed FY11 Partners for Conservation appropriation to the Grant to Districts line for operations. That would provide sufficient funding in FY11 to pay the health insurance premiums and provide the minimum needed to maintain two employees. We feel this is a reasonable request since the FY11 Capital Budget proposed by the Governor contains \$8 million for cost share – more than SWCDs have ever received in a single year.

Another item of good news is the acceptance by Chad Praguecke to speak at the summer conference. I had a chance to hear him speak at NACD's Annual Meeting in New Orleans two years ago. He is an excellent speaker and provides a very inspiring message that is very conservation oriented. He taught us very clearly that we can make a difference; all we have to do is have an idea and the vision and perseverance to see it through. The conference is

coming together very nicely and should be well worth your time and effort to attend. So, we hope to see you there!

We appreciate those SWCDs who have made the sacrifice to pay the first half of their 2010 dues. So far, nineteen districts have paid their first half and one district has paid for the full year. The Districts who have recently received the first three quarters will be getting another invoice for the third quarter. We need your support to keep the AISWCD strong and to enable us to continue to work on your behalf to make the SWCDs stronger.

I am pleased to report that I have completed my corn planting and am anxiously awaiting a dry spell to get started on my beans. In fact, I finished planting my corn this year before I started last year and it is all no-till except for a couple of acres where I had to work out some problems that were created by the excessively wet weather we had last year. I hope that the rest of the state is also having a productive spring and accomplishing your work in a timely and safe manner. According to the latest crop reporting service report, corn planting is progressing at a record pace.

I hope that everyone else's work is progressing to the point that we will have everyone in attendance at the June Quarterly Board meeting. See you there!

*James H. Todd*

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Illinois Land and Water Resources Conference

July 26 - 28, 2010

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON

Registration information will be out soon. Watch your e-mail for the notice letting you know information has been posted to the website.





# executive director's notes

Rich Nichols - rich.nichols@aiswcd.org

**a**pril is gone and May is upon us! I'm not sure where April went. I didn't even get a chance to go mushroom hunting this year! As usual, when the Legislature is in town things happen – maybe slowly, maybe for good or for not so good but, they happen.

I received a question from a director about why it is taking so long for the SWCDs to get their money. My computer will not let me send e-mail so I thought I would include my response here for him and for everyone.

*The vouchers for SWCDs didn't get to the Comptroller's office until December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 because the Governor did not release the money for payment until just before Thanksgiving. Counting forward 105 business days (less holidays), that brings us up to the second week in May. It is taking so long to make payments because the state is literally out of money. Last fall the state borrowed several billion dollars to make payments that are required by the constitution, by law or by agreement with the federal government (Medicare/Medicaid fall under the later; Illinois is required to pay its share by a certain date in order to get its 50% reimbursement from the federal government). We are now paying that loan back at the rate of \$500 million per month. That takes a huge chunk of the revenue coming in from income and sales taxes.*

*This problem has been simmering on the back burner for several years and has finally caught up with us. The last four Governors have delayed payments to the pension funds which are required by the constitution. The state has underfunded the pension funds by approximately \$73 billion and can no longer delay payments or the funds may become insolvent. To delay payments further will create such debt that the state may be unable to sell a bond or borrow money for many years to come. Our bond rating is already at #49, just barely ahead of California. Our former Governor put us in a difficult position. He added numerous fees to generate new revenue but used the revenue for new programs instead of meeting current obligations or paying down the State's debt. Now we are stuck with these additional new programs and less revenue because of the recession that has served to reduce revenue from taxes as well as the fees that Governor Blagojevich implemented.*

*I don't deny that there are things that can be cut or reduced to help save money but the state really is broke and it will take a large influx of cash to solve the problem. Even cuts made in the existing budget will likely be insufficient to make a difference – after the required payments such as schools, Medicare/Medicaid, pensions, roads and a few others – are made, the only choice left is to severely cut or even eliminate entire state agencies. For example IDOA gets about \$82 million each year from general revenue and other state sources for its operation and for the pass through programs it administers, including grants to SWCDs. That is .6% of the state's current deficit of \$13 billion.*

*The following was authored by Woods Bowman in the Southtown Star and appeared in the April 28<sup>th</sup> edition of Rich Miller's Capitol Fax Blog.*

*(Bowman is professor of Public Service Management at DePaul University in Chicago. He is a former state legislator and past chair of an Illinois house appropriations committee)*

*"...Nearly a quarter of the state budget goes to Medicaid. The good news is that the federal government reimburses nearly half of this amount. That is also the bad news, because \$2 of cuts are necessary to achieve \$1 in savings, and federal law imposes lower limits on types of services and scope of coverage a state must provide to receive any federal reimbursement. Simply put, that means sick people receive fewer services and they remain sick and get sicker instead of better. Another quarter of state spending goes to school districts and local governments. Cutting state spending in this area only pushes the problem onto the property tax - the dominant tax source at local levels. Cutting appropriations to state universities and scholarship aid, which are 4 percent of the budget, would force increases in tuition and parental contributions.*

*Ten percent of state spending goes for debt service and pensions that, as legal obligations, cannot be cut - period. Finally, nearly 8 percent of spending is for transportation, which is financed by taxes on gasoline, license fees and the like.*

*These objects of spending account for more than two out of every three dollars flowing through the budget. Thus a 10 percent budget cut translates into a 30 percent cut, more-or-less, in the remainder of the budget. This is why it would be unwise to try to cut our way out of the problem."*

Here is why cuts will not help. While IDOA is one of the smaller state agencies in terms of funding, its complete elimination would make practically no difference in helping balance the state's budget. With a state budget of \$51.7 billion projected for FY 11, IDOA will receive a total of \$97.56 million from all sources, less than .2% (.0018) of the total.

I don't have a good or easy answer to the problem but I do know we will all have to be part of any solution for it to work.

*Rich*



# education coordinator's notes

Stacy Stremsterfer - stacy.stremsterfer@aiswcd.org

*Hello again!!*

As you know we welcomed a little girl into our family on January 15th, Colbie Renee. Since she was born, Colton has welcomed her with open arms and is quite the little helper. Again I want to say "thank you" for the cards we received from you all.

I returned to work on April 19th with a full plate waiting for me. Nothing like coming back to work hitting the road running! I looking forward to this year's annual meeting. Please make plans to attend. My activities for the first part of January can be found in the March Quarterly Board Packet on the website if you are interested in reviewing them. Just as a reference: every Friday I will be off on my furlough day. I'm glad to be back and look forward to working with you all again.....I missed ya!



*A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bank balance smaller, home happier, clothes dirty, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for.*

## APRIL 19TH - 30TH INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL MEETING TASKFORCE/SUMMER CONFERENCE:

- Meeting w/Sherry to get status of action items
- Completed Voting Delegate Form, Director Service Award Form, Trivia Night Registration Form, Auction Donation Form and memo with navigation page.
- Worked on menus and contacted Hilton on prices
- Updated meeting agenda
- Contacted Auxiliary re: reviewed meeting agenda & activities
- Had meeting with Hilton to confirm meeting space and menu prices
- Updated the conference registration form
- Worked on session training ideas and confirmations

### ENVIROTHON:

- Researched team and 1st place team awards & finalized order
- Updated volunteer packet & sent out to SWCDs
- Compiled volunteer database
- Finalized prices with Brown Bag
- Set up meetings with IEPA for oral scenario & 5th category test
- Reviewed registration forms & contacted HS for missing info
- Contacted individuals re: oral presentation judging
- Made contact with presenters & sent lunch form
- Finalized shirts and placed order
- Pulling together category test questions
- Canon Envirothon nominee chairman duties: sent out e-mail to individuals who were nominated and contacted committee

### JUNE QB MEETING:

- Reviewed agendas
- Met with Sherry on agenda changes

### LEGISLATIVE ITEMS:

- Started to work on compiling May's issue of legislative newsletter

### DIRECTOR TRAINING TASKFORCE:

- Will start working on after Envirothon competition

### MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:

- Staff meetings
- IEPA - re: Envirothon oral scenario
- Hilton - re: meeting space and menu prices

### OTHER DUTIES:

- Worked on CC
- E-mail correspondence
- Phone calls and mail
- Completed meeting follow-ups and/or action items
- Timesheets

### LOOKING AHEAD:

- Marketing Taskforce, Annual Meeting & Awards Taskforce, Legislative Newsletter, Envirothon Taskforce, Director Training Taskforce, and June Quarterly Board Meeting

*things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle. - abraham lincoln*

*Stacy*



# *urban stormwater corner*

Jim Nelson – [jim.nelson@aiswcd.org](mailto:jim.nelson@aiswcd.org)

**S**oil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) conducting erosion and sediment control inspections on construction sites have been slightly busier this year. Due to the economic downfall in past years many of these districts have had to reduce staff levels and make other cuts in order to continue providing services within their borders. One of the most detrimental effects to the environment, during the construction bust, was the loss of companies in the middle of projects. Some closed their doors and walked away from their sites prior to stabilizing them. In many areas sites were cleared, the organic soils removed and either stockpiled or sold off site, and the exposed soil layers left to erode into our lakes and streams.

Today some of those sites are somewhat stable due to weed growth but some have actually become active again. Districts have been seeing some construction begin in existing developments and say municipal projects appear to be on the rise. This additional work for the districts is good news financially as IEPA pays around \$250 for each visit a district makes to inspect a site. Each site gets two visits while the site is active. In addition to the work IEPA is funding, several districts have agreements with the US Army Corps of Engineers and others

have agreements with local county and municipal entities to conduct inspections. Now on top of all the inspection work districts are doing, the US Army Reserves has recognized the level of expertise and professionalism offered by the participating SWCDs. The Army has asked the AISWCD to gather district employees with experience inspecting sites and organize a training series for their environmental branch this summer. Rick Macho (Madison SWCD), Shannon Allen (Macon SWCD), and Jim Nelson of the AISWCD met with a representative of the branch to identify their needs and come up with a plan. The result is a proposal to do a three phase series starting with the basics of soil erosion and sediment transport continuing through permits and regulations and concluding with a field day to give Army employees a feel for how permitted sites should look during construction. If development increases and opportunities like this continue to pop up it could result in a, financial, breath of fresh air for many districts.



## *2010 Illinois Envirothon*

The 16th Illinois Envirothon will be held on May 13th and 14th at the 4-H Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello.

Results from the competition will be posted to the website following the competition however June's newsletter will have complete coverage of the competition.

This year the Canon Envirothon will be held at California State University at Fresno, California August 1 - 7.

The 2011 Canon Envirothon will be held at Mt. Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. The 5th category will be Salt & Freshwater Estuaries. Keep in mind the winning team will have to have passports!





# *administrative assistant's notes*

Sherry Finn - sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

## APRIL'S INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

### **MARCH QB MEETING Teleconference Call:**

- Completed Foundation and AISWCD Meeting Minutes
- Contacted Pam @ Northfield—verify contract for FY 11 meeting dates
- Contacted Susan @ Hilton to confirm a larger room for the Annual Meeting/Summer Conference Auction
- Contacted Sheila Lane to verify number of rooms needed for ISWCDEAs sessions for Annual Meeting/Summer Conference
- Contacted Susan @Hilton to confirm ISWCDEAs requests for rooms
- Completed Contract for Northfield Inn and had Rich sign for FY 11
- Compiled actuals for FY 2009 to forward to AISWCD officers and Board Members that requested them.

### **June Quarterly Board Meeting Packet**

- Did Drafts for all Meeting Agendas and sent to AISWCD staff, AISWCD officers, and FAC Chairmen
- Compiled meeting minutes in packet from December FAC meetings and March QB Foundation and AISWCD Meetings; putting together agendas for all meetings

### **OTHER DUTIES:**

- Phone Calls and Mail
- E-mail Correspondence
- Compiled expense report for Credit Card
- Timesheets
- Organized CREP Monthly Vouchers (March) & Forwarded Info to IEPA for reimbursement
- Maintain Patio Paver Database
- Maintain Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid Database
- Mailed Thank You Notes to Paid Districts
- Maintain Sponsorship Brochure Printing Fee Database
- Maintain Sponsorship Database
- E-mail and mailed AISWCD/SWCD Sponsors their monthly Conservation Catchall and Legislative Newsletter
- Maintain Illinois Envirothon Sponsor Database
- E-mailed Thank you memos to Envirothon Sponsors
- E-mailed Weekly Reports to Officers
- Updated Records Retention, Management & Destruction Folder
- Sent an all e-mail invitation to Districts to the FOIA training on June 17, 2010 at the DEPT of AG Auditorium
- Keeping Tally for FOIA Training Reservations from Districts
- E-mailed Legislative Newsletter to SWCD Districts and mailed newsletter to 4 Legislators that do not have e-mail availability
- E-mailed Conservation Catchall to Districts
- Sent an e-mail update to participating CREP and CREP assistant Districts about existing and new CREP contracts.
- Compiling format for CREP Coordinator Templates for the New CREP Coordinator Contract for 2010-2011

### **ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:**

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for March
- 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 February; Did Deposit
- Paid Participating CREP Districts for CREP assistant reimbursement; Mailed checks
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Debbie Holsapple, Administrator of Ins Funds
- E-mailed FY 2010 3rd Quarter Dues Invoice
- Completed Payroll Adjustments & Taxes for STD for Stacy
- Processed checks & Deposited for Brown Bag Lunches w/Envirothon

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

- Envirothon
- AISWCD/SWCD Sponsorships
- FOIA Training
- June Quarterly Board Meeting
- Annual Meeting/Summer Conference
- Preparation for Annual Meeting items-Auction and Trivia Night

### **REMEMBER:**

The mind has exactly the same power as the hands; not merely to grasp the world, but to change it. Anonymous

### **To Act:**

Encourage courage; praise someone for going after his or her dreams.

*Hope your Easter was blessed with family, fun,  
and good times!!!!*

Best of Luck to all 16 LUC teams at the Illinois  
Envirothon!!!



## ***Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)***

**Training Session:** AISWCD has scheduled a training session with the Illinois Attorney General's office for FOIA/OMA Training to be held **June 17, 2010** from 10:00 am till noon in the Auditorium at Department of Agriculture. Please RSVP to the AISWCD office by Friday, May 7, 2010. A representative from the Illinois Attorney General's Office will review procedures for when a request is made. You may have as many attend the training as you like, but the person that is registered needs to be present, if at all possible.

The new law took effect on January 1st and you have until July 1st to complete the initial electronic training on FOIA and OMA. The electronic training is free of charge and will need to be completed on an annual basis. The name of the FOIA officer should be prominently displayed in the office and on your website if you have one.

**Electronic training:** Log on to: [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov) On the first page under the middle column, click on the blue highlighted area under the "Public Access Counselor". Once this page loads, go to the left hand side under Resources and select "Electronic Training". On the next page, about halfway down, paragraph 4, select "Register as a FOIA/OMA officer for a Public Body". When you have completed the registration, go the FOIA/OMA Portal and complete the on-line training. Some of the SWCDs who have completed this say the registration takes roughly 15 to 30 minutes and the training about one hour for each. If you have any questions, contact Sherry at the AISWCD office.

## ***AISWCD on Facebook***

You can find many of your friends on Facebook, but did you know AISWCD is on Facebook?

Check us out! Search for Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Facebook and "like" our page. See you there!



## 2010 Sustainable Agriculture Tours Scheduled

The University of Illinois Extension is offering tours highlighting sustainable agriculture operations around the state of Illinois. The tours allow visitors to meet these extraordinarily, creative farmers and producers and find out how they solve their unique problems every day.



The schedule for the 2010 sustainable agriculture tours is as follows:

**May 27, The Business of Vermiculture**  
Wilken Farms, Iroquois County

**June 18, Feeding Universities Sustainably**  
Farmer Brown's Production Company and  
Mulberry Hill Farm, Jackson County  
<http://farmerbrownsproductioncompany.com>

**July 27, Illinois Berries**  
J & J Berry Farm, Jersey County

**August 13, Romance Tour – Flowers and Wine**  
Bright Flower Nursery and Famous Fossil Vineyard & Winery  
Jo Daviess County and Stephenson County  
<http://www.brightflownursery.com>  
[www.famousfossilwinery.com](http://www.famousfossilwinery.com)

**September 22, Agritourism – Farm Fresh Fun**  
Country Corner, Henry County  
<http://www.country-corner.com>

A fee of \$20 per person will be charged for each tour, which includes lunch. This year two adults pay \$30 when registered together and children under the age of 10 attend free. Registration at least one week in advance is required. Visit [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/smallfarm/ag\\_tours.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/smallfarm/ag_tours.cfm) to register and for more details about each of the tours including a map and agenda. To register by phone, contact Donna Cray at 217-241-4644. For more information, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant (217-968-5512; [cvnghgrn@illinois.edu](mailto:cvnghgrn@illinois.edu)).

**LEGISLATIVE NOTE:** Due to the timing of the newsletter and the Legislative session scheduled to end soon down at the Capitol, an overview from Mike Hoffmann will be sent via e-mail when the session ends.

## Legislative Items to Note

**SWCD PLATES:** HB 4966 passed the Senate May 4, 2010 and has been sent to the Governor. If Governor Quinn signs the bill, which he is expected to do, we will be seeking persons to purchase the plates. At least 850 plates must be sold for the Secretary of State to order the plates made. As we learn more about how the process works we will keep you informed.



Many thanks to Butch Fisher, RC in Douglas County, who first convinced Representative Chapin Rose to sponsor a bill creating the Soil and Water Conservation District License plate. We look forward to using the SWCD plates as a marketing tool to help spread the word about SWCDs and the important work you all do!

**BUDGET "SUNSHINE":** Representative Kay Hatcher announced legislation is now on its way to the Governor's desk will bring more accountability to the state budget process. She is a chief co-sponsor of HB 4836 that creates a "Sunshine Commission" which enlists the volunteer services of members of the private sector with a background in finance or accounting to conduct a thorough review of the state budget to identify and eliminate waste and duplication.

Representative Hatcher noted, "This is about getting the biggest bang for the buck we can for local taxpayers. If the Governor signs this legislation, we'll be bringing in independent members of the public that have no personal interest except to help us identify the hidden duplications and unnecessary expenses in the budget, and to eliminate them."

The budget Sunshine Commission is a key component of the Fiscal Reform Agenda Representative Hatcher and fellow House Republicans crafted last year.



# iswcdea corner

Visit their website at: <http://www.il.ncdea.org/>



Submitted by: Debi Slade, AC Co-Vice-Chair

“Teamwork to Achieve Success” is this year’s theme for Summer Conference.

On Monday, July 26, we encourage all employees to arrive early to take advantage of the training sessions. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Technical training will be presented for the RC’s with an AgLearn session for the AC’s. If you have a particular AgLearn session you would like to have presented, let me or any employee rep know.

On Tuesday morning, Dave Walling will be presenting a session on AgLearn, providing insight to all it has to offer. This information would be useful for all employees, so plan to attend. The general session will be very much worth your while, Chad Pregacke’s presentation on Living Lands and Waters has been well received.

Tuesday afternoon, the RC’s will head to the field to view and discuss designing a grassed waterway. The AC’s will have a Microsoft Office 2007 session provided by the IAAP and the Education Coordinators will hold a session as well (subject to be determined). We will have our regular Employee’s Forum on Tuesday at the end of the day to share concerns and achievements with each other.

On the morning of Wednesday, July 28, the RC’s will continue the grassed waterway session indoors to work on how to do a plan. The AC’s will have training on accounting principles – terminology, budgeting and how to help our directors make sense of the reports we give them.

**All training sessions are open to anyone who wishes to attend regardless of your title/position.**

Reminders - June 30<sup>th</sup> Due Dates:

- The ISWCDEA scholarship applications are due. The information will be available on our website soon. To be eligible, an applicant must be an active member of the ISWCDEA or a member of their immediate family.
- FOIA training must be completed.

**We can accomplish much when we all work together, Teamwork = Success!**



To learn more about turning ideas into action in your community or your organization, attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Leadership Conference at Jumer’s Chateau Hotel in Bloomington, on June 9.

The conference will feature several nationally known speakers, including Bliss Browne, who founded *Imagine Chicago* and has worked around the globe to help community members develop and implement innovative civic projects; Tim Miles, who will give the keynote luncheon talk entitled, “Managing Change from the Inside Out;” and Connie Pirtle, nationally known for her work in managing volunteers. In addition to exploring the ideas-into-action theme, conference topics include recognizing and managing generational differences, enhancing your local library’s community connections, developing and managing a volunteer base, and alternative energy options in Illinois. This year, the conference features dozens of learning stations which will provide opportunities for participants to explore successful strategies and effective programs for community and organizational improvement.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and adjourns at 4 p.m. Cost of the conference is \$75, and includes refreshment breaks, lunch, and all materials. Scholarships and CEUs are available. Participation is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Anne Heinze Silvis, University of Illinois Extension, at [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu) To register, go to: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/illinoisleadership/index.cfm>

# mark your calendar for . . .



- Award Nominations to AISWCD - Dealine is May 17, 2010!!
- 2010 Illinois Envirothon - May 13/14, 2010 - 4-H Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello, IL
- Memorial Day - May 31, 2010 - AISWCD Office Closed
- Resolution Deadline - June 1, 2010 - Submitted to AISWCD office
- June Quarterly Board Meeting - June 7/8, 2010 - Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
- Attorney General FOIA Training Session - June 17, 2010 - Illinois Department of Agriculture Auditorium, Springfield, IL
- SWCD FOIA Officer Training - June 30, 2010 - Deadline for completing eletronic training
- 62nd AISWCD Annual Meeting & Illinois Land & Water Resources Conference - July 26-28, 2010, Hilton, Springfield
- 2010 Canon Envirothon - August 1-7, 2010, Fresno, CA
- 2010 Illinois State Fair - August 13-22, 2010, Springfield, IL

## Microsoft Office Tips & Tricks

### Message Formats in Outlook and When to Use Which

With Outlook, you can send messages in three different formats:

- **Plain Text** sends emails using just plain text characters  
This format is great if you do not depend on any fancy formatting, and it ensures maximum compatibility. Everybody who has an email account will be able to read your message.
- **HTML** lets you use HTML formatting.  
You can make text stand out with italics, for example, or change the font. You can even include pictures that will display inline and use other formatting tools to make your messages prettier and easier to read. Today, most people with email can receive HTML-formatted messages fine (although some prefer plain text ).
- **Rich Text** is Outlook's proprietary message format.  
You can use simple text formatting with it, and you must use rich text format to send meeting requests or tasks. It's best to use it only for these occasions and when you can be sure the recipient also uses Outlook because no other email client will properly display messages in Outlook's rich text format.



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

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