

# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

## *In this issue:*

President's Message	2
Executive Director's Notes	3
Administrative Assistant Update	4
Program Coordinator's Page	5
ISWCDEA Corner	6
IAAP	6
Natural Area Guardians	7
Legislative Corner	8
Legislative Corner (Continued)	9
Envirothon	9
Calendar	10

## SWCD LEGISLATIVE DAY

Approximately twenty-five soil and water conservation district employees and directors made the trip to Springfield on March 27 to visit with Senators and Representatives about soil and water conservation district related issues including the need for a stable funding source.

The Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association came fully prepared with fact sheets and post card sized information cards with green ribbon lapel pins attached. Those in attendance split into small groups with each group having a list of legislators to visit. By noon the groups had been to every office in the Capitol and Stratton Building. Several of the groups were able to talk with legislators and most found them willing to listen to what we had to say.

The Association also had a display and information table in the Capitol Rotunda from 9:00 to 3:00. We handed out fact sheets and information about the SWCDs and their programs.



Later in the morning and early afternoon, there were quite a few legislators sporting a small green ribbon lapel pin so we knew they received the materials and hopefully had read the information.

While the employees and directors were making their visits, Jim Todd, Lonnie Wilson, Rich Nichols, Terry Davis and Mike Hoffmann were also

talking to legislative leaders in the House and Senate to make sure they understood the difficulties SWCDs are facing with reductions in funds and late payments of already appropriated funds.

The day turned out to be an excellent choice for the purpose of making legislative contacts. There were few hearings being held, no large groups to compete with and all of the legislators were in Springfield ahead of their Tuesday afternoon legislative sessions.



## *AISWCD Staff:*

**Richard Nichols,**  
*Executive Director*

**Sherry Finn,**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Kelly Thompson,**  
*Program Coordinator*





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JAMES TODD

[jtoddfarm@gmail.com](mailto:jtoddfarm@gmail.com)

Well, I am done planting corn so now I'm hoping for warm and wet weather. Unfortunately most of what we are getting in my part of the state is warm and dry weather. I have noticed that we have had quite a bit of wind erosion this spring and I think it is due to more clean tilled ground than we have had in past years. I'm not sure why no-till seems to be practiced less and less but it appears to be the case. Maybe we've had too much good weather for recreational field work.

With the record warmth we've had corn planting started mid-March (still winter) in central Illinois and have reached a very high percentage of completion. Even with the early completion for most of the area, there are fields that have not seen a planter yet because of the lack of moisture. I can't remember when we've had such temperature swings and such dry conditions at this time of the year. It is starting out to be a very unusual year.

The record cold in early April froze some of the earlier corn that had emerged late in March. It remains to be seen if the corn has been damaged to the point that it will have to be replanted but at the very least, it has been set back several days. I have heard that several central Illinois vineyards have also been damaged; some severely.

I should probably talk a little about the gaming bill since we are counting on it as the most likely means of funding the SWCDs for the foreseeable future. The AISWCD office sent an e-mail to all of the SWCDs several weeks ago asking for contact information for someone who would be able to receive information provided by the Illinois Harness Horseman's Association and use it to provide information to legislators who have been less than supportive of the gaming bill. We have heard from a little over 2/3 of the SWCDs but would still like to hear from the rest. The Association did not ask to be added to the gaming bill but since we are in it for more money than we have ever been able to generate from general revenue sources we feel like we need to support it. We have had two other sources of funds that we have proposed in the last six years we have been fighting for funding and both were taken from us and used for

something and someone else. We simply have not been able to make enough noise to get people's attention at the Capitol. We had hoped to do just that on March 27<sup>th</sup>. A resolution passed last year and the strategic plan both called for the AISWCD to sponsor a legislative day. On March 27<sup>th</sup> we held the SWCD Legislative Day event. Unfortunately other than Lonnie Wilson and me, only two other elected directors attended. We were pleased that about twenty-three employees decided to take a day of their own time and come to represent the SWCDs.

Since holding the legislative day was a resolution supported by the membership at last year's Annual Meeting, we need to know how to get participation. Twenty-five people out of a possible 600 or more is not making a very loud noise for the SWCDs at the Capitol. Since we had the support of the full voting body at the Annual Meeting we had hoped to have more directors make a commitment to follow through by attending at the event to provide a lot larger turnout. There is only so much that I and your Legislative Chair can do. Each of us has one Senator and one representative that we can vote for. That doesn't give us much authority with the other 173 legislators.

I do wish to thank those who did come. They did a lot of work going from office to office to leave informational materials but having someone from the legislator's district stopping by to talk to them carries a lot more weight than talking to someone who can't vote for them.

We believe that gaming bill will re-appear within the next few weeks and we will continue to monitor the activity and let you know what is going on to the best of our ability. We hope that you will continue to read the information that comes from the Springfield office and to act when asked to do so. I know it is in the midst of planting season for many of you but we are early enough this year and the nature of the legislation is so critical to the continued survival of the SWCDs that we hope you will be willing to take the short time needed to take action when the time arrives.

*James H. Todd*



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - *RICH NICHOLS*

[rich.nichols@aiswcd.org](mailto:rich.nichols@aiswcd.org)

Happy summer...uh spring... uh summer...uh whatever. With 90 degree daytime temperatures in March and freezing nights in April it is kind of hard to tell what season it is. What I do know for certain is that the flowers and trees have bloomed like it was spring and my lawn is growing like it was early summer. The early warm weather has really stirred up a lot of farmers as well. I have seen more fields planted in mid-March than I usually see by mid-April in most years. I can only hope we don't get a killing frost after the corn's growing point has reached the surface. Those who planted too early will not be able to collect on their crop insurance for replanting costs.

Another "victim" of the warm weather seems to be last fall's residue or at least what little was left from last fall. The warm weather and the hesitancy to plant too early have allowed a lot of producers to work their fields in preparation for planting. I have seen few fields that are going into no-till corn this spring. I'm not sure if that is a statewide problem or one that is limited to the central part of the state where we have had little rain and conditions have, for the most part, been good for field work since harvest was completed last fall.

My fears are that we may eventually enter a wet period like we've had the last three years. With the ground worked to a powder and no residue to protect it from the rain, we may see excessive amounts of erosion later in the year. Unfortunately, that will give the people who want to regulate Agriculture a lot more ammunition.

The problem is not just erosion. Along with the lost soil come the nutrients and water quality degradation from excess nutrients may eventually lead to Chesapeake Bay type actions by Illinois or USEPA. The limitations placed on agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay area have been so difficult to meet and have damaged the agricultural industry in the states contributing to the Bay so much that congress finally had to get involved to slow, and in some cases stop USEPA enforcement actions. It is my hope that we will be able to continue to work with produc-

ers to keep nutrients out of the waters so that nothing like that will ever happen here.

Switching to another topic not related to weather, I expect the gaming bill to be brought forth in some fashion shortly after the General Assembly returns from their Easter break April 17<sup>th</sup>. An article in the Springfield Paper over the Easter weekend reported on a conversation with Representative Lou Lang, the House sponsor for the gaming bills that have been brought forth to-date. In the article, Representative Lang stated that the group currently negotiating with the Governor and representatives of the casinos, horse racing industry and other interests is not moving as fast as had been hoped. Representative Lang also stated that if the group cannot reach consensus on proposed legislation that will appease the Governor and still meet the needs of the gaming industry then he may resort to further tweaking SB1849 or simply sending SB744 to the Governor and working during next fall's veto session to override any of the Governor's actions on the whole bill or parts of the bill he has threatened to veto.

For those of you interested, I came upon an interesting article in the April 11, 2012 edition of the Southtown Star newspaper which serves Chicago's southern suburbs. You can read it [here](#). Mr. Kadner makes some valid points in taking Governor Quinn to task for closing needed state facilities while promising to veto legislation that could help save those same facilities. Maybe we should copy the article and send it to the Governors' Office with a reminder that Governor Quinn ran for office on the promise that he would work for all of the citizens of Illinois.

Enjoy the early spring but be safe!

**"Keep steadily before you the fact that all true success depends at last upon yourself" - Theodore T. Hunger**

*Rich*





## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S UPDATE - *SHERRY FINN*

sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

### FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL Activities

#### CREP Coordinator Grant:

- Organized and mailed January, February, & March CREP Coordinator Invoices with each participating Districts' vouchers and receipts after tallying all submitted info
- Sent database showing funds used to IEPA for update; CREP Agreement (contract) with IEPA completed after January voucher totals.
- Received amended CREP contract from IEPA to extend 2010-2011 CREP Coordinator contract agreement.
- Completed amended CREP Coordinator Contracts for FY 2012 participating Districts; forwarded amendments to all participating Districts to have chairmen sign.
- Met with IEPA to discuss 2012-2013 CREP Coordinator Contract
- Sent Amended CREP Contract Sub Agreement Balances to participating Districts to update them on remaining balance of their amended agreements

#### March Quarterly Board Meeting:

- Organized March Quarterly Board Meeting Packet for Board Members; e-mailed and mailed packets to Members and Partners
- Contacted hotel with room reservations, meal selection, and meeting room facilities.
- Compiled FAC and taskforce meeting minutes; compiled and completed AISWCD & Foundation meeting minutes
- Following up on Action items from FAC, taskforces, and AISWCD & Foundation meetings
- Sent March QB meeting information update to il.all listing after the meeting.
- Compiling Gaming Bill Coalition Contact database.

#### OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards
- Timesheets
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid (FY '12 Databases)
- E-mailed Monthly Financials to Officers and other requesters
- Updated Records Retention, Mgmt & Destruction Folder
- 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; made changes and posted to website; copied link and forwarded to il.all.
- Completed Monthly Office Supply Inventory and placed order
- Maintaining Earth Stewardship Bank Account.
- Sent updated delinquent notice to District Directors for FY 2012 dues; sent same notice to AISWCD Officers, Area VPs, and SWCD Districts per Board request
- Sent e-mail notice to all Districts requesting LUC articles for upcoming Legislative Newsletters.
- E-mailed link to Districts & Board Members for Legislative and CC newsletters; mailed copies to non-email participants
- Updated Annual Meeting Award applications and sent link to il.all listing

- Printed, stuffed and mailed letters to District Chairmen from James Todd regarding 2012 Legislative Day.

#### FY 2011 Audit:

- Auditors at office to complete FY 2011 audit.
- Supplied 2011 AISWCD Board Members, Board Meeting Minutes, Budgets, Backup of QuickBooks, Bank Statements for all Bank Accounts to include 2011 & Jan - Feb 2012, all grant agreements and amendments, all payroll information, and Annual Meeting information.
- Pulled random Expense account checks from each bank account for their inspection along with related receipts.

#### ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for January, February & March plus Q taxes; mailed items.
- Reconciled all bank accounts for February & March
- 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
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Debbie Holsapple; contacted SWCD worker's comp agent to update insurance premium payment and remove monthly fee.
- Completed Semi-Monthly IL Lobbyist Expenditure Data for IL Secretary of State for February & March; included information for Legislative Day gift of pin oak saplings.
- Completed Deposit for CREP Coordinator Nov-December voucher and January voucher; wrote checks, had Rich sign, and mailed to participating Districts for reimbursement
- Posted & Deposited IL Envirothon Sponsors' checks

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

- IL Envirothon
- June QB Meeting
- Annual Meeting Initial Prep work

**REMEMBER: Positive thinking is how you think about a problem; enthusiasm is how you feel about a problem. The two together determine what you do about a problem!**

**TO ACT: Change your thoughts and change your life!!!!**

**HAPPY SPRING!!!**

**STAY ALERT & SAFE DURING PLANTING SEASON!**

*Sherry*



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - KELLY THOMPSON

[kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org](mailto:kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org)

### Happy Spring Everyone!

Well, it has been a little over a month since I have joined AISWCD. I am pleased to say the month of employment has been delightful. I have had the pleasure of meeting several employees from the districts, attending a Land Use Council meeting, and I have begun to familiarize myself with day to day activities, the Illinois Urban Manual (IUM) and have begun working with the Post Development Stormwater Runoff Standards (PDSWRS) Work Group, as part of our Federal Clean Water Act, 319 Grant. Over the past couple of weeks there has been a steady stream of work. The list below outlines my involvement within the IUM Committees and PDSWRS Work Group activities that have taken place thus far.

#### -IUM-

After much interchange of dates through a stream of emails, both the Technical Review and Steering Committees have agreed upon a date for our first meeting since the previous Coordinator, Jim Nelson's, departure. The meetings are scheduled for April 19th at 10am and 1pm in Normal, IL at the McLean County SWCD office. I look forward to meeting all parties involved in the IUM update process.

#### -PDSWRS Work Group-

I am excited to tell you about the new Work Group, formed out of the 319 Grant funded by the IEPA, called Post Development Stormwater Runoff Standards (PDSWRS). This group met for its first of 12 meetings on March 29 at IEPA in Springfield, IL. The group is comprised of a well-rounded selection of professionals within environmental, policy, government and non-profit affiliations.

Let me just take a minute to include an overview of PDSWRS work group. The by- invitation-only work group is in place to develop recommendations for stormwater runoff standards for post development landscapes throughout Illinois. The work group will put forth a total of one to four recommendation(s) regarding the stormwater performance standards for the State of Illinois as well as additional and separate standards which apply to Illinois Department of Transportation and/or Illinois Toll Authority to Illinois EPA. The Illinois EPA will then decide which stormwater runoff standards to incorporate as part of the NPDES permit process to improve the quality of stormwater runoff thus improving the overall quality of water throughout the state of Illinois.

The work group has some great ideas and is going to be very interactive. The group is comprised of a great bunch of individuals from various backgrounds and that will aid in developing the best possible stormwater runoff standard recommendations. During our first meeting the group was presented with information by two great presentations; one presentation was given by Bob Newport of US EPA. The presentation depicted best management practices that could be used to prevent a high percentage of runoff in post developed regions. The second presentation was given by Ryan Wilson of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT). The presentation illustrated the stormwater runoff practices already set-forth in nearby states to prevent an excessive percentage of stormwater runoff occurring in post-developed areas. Both presentations can be found on the PDSWRS Work Group website, link is listed below.

The work group will meet every month from March 2012 to March 2013 in efforts to develop the needed recommendations. Here is a link to the PDSWRS Work Group website: [http://aiswcd.org/Programs/PDSWRS\\_WorkGroup.html](http://aiswcd.org/Programs/PDSWRS_WorkGroup.html)

If you have any questions regarding either the IUM or PDSWRS Work Group don't hesitate to email, [Kelly.Thompson@aiswcd.org](mailto:Kelly.Thompson@aiswcd.org).

*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working together is success.*

~Henry Ford

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly".

## ISWCDEA CORNER - *KARA DOWNIN , ISWCDEA REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE*

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



We want to thank everyone who was able to participate in Ag Legislative Day in Springfield on Tuesday, March 27, staff and directors alike. We flooded the Capital and Stratton Building with green ribbons for conservation along with members of the AISWCD. Face-time with Illinois Legislators and educating them about the jewel of SWCDs is extremely important. We hope that many are able to make their way to Springfield with us next March.

Before you know it, Summer Conference will be upon us; Monday, July 23 – Tuesday, July 24. We are working with the AISWCD to offer some excellent training opportunities. Monday's topics include; Modular Concrete Block Grade Stabilization Structure and Cultural Resources in the morning, then CPESC training, Records Maintenance, Educational Ideas & Resources and an Employee Forum in the afternoon. Tuesday's topics include a tour of the Lincoln Memorial Gardens in the morning and then a continuation of the CPESC training in the afternoon. Details are still being ironed out and a more complete agenda will be available soon. We hope to see you there!

Please get any future session ideas to your ISWCDEA Reps since we will soon begin planning for Winter Training.

Have a safe spring construction and planting season!



## ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - *JANE BRANGENBERG, PRESIDENT*

website: <http://iaap-swcd.tripod.com>

### *Administrative Professionals Week is April 22-28* *Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 25*

The theme for the 2012 Administrative Professionals Day® is: **"Admins, the pulse of the office."** Administrative Professionals Day will mark its 60th anniversary on April 25, 2012. Over those decades, the job of an administrative professional has changed dramatically thanks to new tools, techniques and seismic shifts in the economy and culture itself. But admins have remained the steady center of efficiency through it all, helping ensure that jobs get done right, on time and under budget. Admins are one of the engines of business, particularly in a complex economy. In a world that demands the accurate and speedy movement of digital information, admins are masters of data. And they do this while maintaining their more traditional role as the gatekeepers for many customers, clients and employees. Quite simply, admins are the pulse of the office.

#### **About Administrative Professionals Week**

Since 1952, the International Association of Administrative Professionals has honored office workers by sponsoring Administrative Professionals Week. Today, it is one of the largest workplace observances outside of employee birthdays and major holidays.

In the year 2000, IAAP announced a name change for Professional Secretaries Week and Professional Secretaries Day. The names were changed to Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of today's administrative workforce.

Over the years, Administrative Professionals Week has become one of the largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated worldwide, bringing together millions of people for community events, educational seminars and individual corporate activities recognizing support staff.

Today, there are more than 4.1 million secretaries and administrative assistants working in the United States, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, and 8.9 million people working in various administrative support roles. More than 475,000 administrative professionals are employed in Canada. Millions more administrative professionals work in offices all over the world.

APW is always the last full week in April. In 2012, Administrative Professionals Week is April 22-28, and Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 25.



## Natural Area Guardians-Debra Carey

[demydoidea@gmail.com](mailto:demydoidea@gmail.com)

### Spring Ephemerals

If you are a student of the Greek language, you are familiar with the term ephemeros which basically means lasting one day. Transitory objects - here today and gone tomorrow. In nature, many things are ephemeral; in April the term is most generally applied to fragile wildflowers.

In Lee County, and in certain counties that had a high percentage of prairie habitat pre-settlement, there are a few remnant groves of bur oaks. These savanna-type ecosystems evolved through decades of naturally-ignited fire. The rough and tough bark of the bur oak withstands normal fire, and drought, and our usually bitter winter weather. In other words, bur oaks are native and well-suited to our area of Illinois and the Midwest. The open-grown oak groves were literally carpeted with spring wildflowers. In some cases, we are fortunate that this remains to be the fact.

The past few human generations have grown up with the mental idea that a woodland is a brushy, somewhat impassable area. Since well-meaning people - yes, even natural resource professionals like us! - suggested and promoted planting non-native honeysuckle in the 1950-60 era as wildlife habitat, our woodlands have been smothered with an onslaught of aggressive and brash honeysuckle. Where once you could walk unimpeded through a woodland, staring in awe at gigantic oaks, you now thrash through a maze of honeysuckle. The truly unfortunate thing is that the honeysuckle eventually replaced the forest floor component of spring ephemerals - those lovely and singularly special lady slipper orchids, Dutchman's breeches, trilliums, blood root, spring beauties, jack-in-the-pulpit and Jacob's ladder plants. And these are but a smattering of the diversity of wildflowers once covering every inch of the woodlands in our state.



Trilliums in Bartlett Woods, Lee County



Wildflowers, Bartlett Woods, Lee County

Luckily some lovely areas remain and this is the time to take a walk through your local woodland. The important word to remember is ephemeral. Don't think you can procrastinate on this task for if you do, you'll miss the show. Best case scenario is to visit your special site each week from April through mid-May. You'll witness an on-going change as certain flowers explode into bloom, and then disappear almost in a day. In a biological sense, the wildflowers take advantage of the leafless state of the trees; the flowers absorb every drop of sunshine that shines through the bare branches. Once the full canopy of leaves is in place for the summer, the spring ephemerals are locked away, safely underground, growing strong

roots for the next spring season.

As with any rare and lovely object, its very ephmeralism adds to its allure. It's hard to imagine but possibly if we had rows of ruby-red trilliums blooming 365 days a year, we would become immune to their beauty. But don't take a chance - take a woodland walk through the spring ephemerals of Illinois – today!



## Legislative Corner - Mike Hoffmann

### **2012 Session/Fiscal Year 2013 budget**

Our focus in recent weeks has been on next year's budget. The Governor's recommendation for fiscal year 2013, which begins on July 1, would keep soil and water conservation funding at an essentially flat level

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>\$Change</u>	<u>%Change</u>
GRF	\$2,785.0	\$2,485.0	-\$300.0	-10.8%
PFC	\$4,939.5	\$5,215.3	\$275.8	5.6%
Total	\$9,736.5	\$9,713.3	-\$23.2	-0.2%

In order to save the state's general revenue funds (GRF), funding for the districts would become more reliant on the Partners for Conservation Fund (PFC). The shift is almost equal, but amounts to a reduction of \$23,200.

We have been talking to key legislators involved in the budget process to convince them that continued funding at these levels jeopardizes soil and water conservation. They in turn have advised us that we need to demonstrate what services will be diminished or eliminated if SWCDs function at reduced levels. We will be attempting to provide that information and continue to talk to legislators in the coming weeks until the budget is passed – probably at the end of May.

**We need you to talk to your legislators in their districts about funding for SWCDs. As state government continues to go through budget cutting, your legislators need to know the effects of their actions on soil and water conservation.**

### ***Gaming Legislation***

Gaming talks continue. Recently the Senate President renewed his call for the gaming bill and cited the state's need to recoup the spending by Illinois consumers that now goes to casinos and related businesses just across our borders in Indiana and Wisconsin. Moreover, the state's fiscal mess can be improved by allocating gaming revenues to budget shortfalls (like SWCDs). We continue to be involved in the discussions. The possibility remains for a vote on a gaming bill later this spring.

Here once again is the list of Ag items that remain in the gaming bill.

### ***Downstate Budget Initiatives in SB 1849 (House Amendment #2, November 7, 2011)***

Transfer to the Partners for Conservation Fund for Soil and Water Conservation Program	\$12.5m
State Fairgrounds Infrastructure Improvement Fund	\$10.0m
County Fairs funding	\$ 6.0m
Cooperative Extension: match 100% of local funds	\$ 5.0m
Future of Agriculture Fund (for county fairs, FFA, extension)	\$ 5.0m
Transfers to Parks and Conservation Fund for operations and grants	\$ 3.0m
IL Historical Sites Fund	\$ 3.0m
IL Forestry Fund	<u>\$ 1.5m</u>
Total	\$46.0m

SB 1849 contains \$46 million for Agriculture-related programs, including \$12.5 million for

(Continued on page 9)



## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

(Continued from page 8)

SWCDs. We believe the funding is as secure as it can be legislatively. The funds will be appropriated annually if our legislative supporter sticks with us.

### **Other Legislation**

We are following a few other bills as well, some of which are doing better than others.

**FOIA training.** [HB5315](#) (Rep. Jason Barickman, R-Champaign Co.) enables a director of a soil and water conservation district to satisfy the training requirements of the Freedom of Information Act through an alternative training provided by the AISWCD. This bill passed the House and will now be considered by the Senate.

**Fertilizer use.** [HB5539](#) (Rep. Lisa Dugan, D-Kankakee Co.) & [SB3436](#) (Sen. Mike Frerichs, D-Champaign Co.) are identical bills that re-write the Illinois Fertilizer Act of 1961. The bill, which was proposed by the fertilizer industry, raises some fees and establishes a new Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) for the purpose of pursuing nutrient research and providing educational programs to ensure the adoption and implementation of practices that optimize nutrient use efficiency, ensure soil fertility, and address environmental concerns with regard to fertilizer use. We expect that some of those fees will be used to fund SWCDs involvement in assuring that optimal practices are used. HB 5539 passed the House and now will be considered by the Senate.

**Prevailing wage.** [HB5366](#) (Rep. David Reis, R-Jasper Co.) would exempt conservation projects or practices on private land from the prevailing wage requirements. That bill was not heard in committee as the committee chairman announced that only agreed bills would be considered. We are trying to work out an agreement to remove the opposition of organized labor in order to effect some relief for SWCDs.

**REMEMBER: KEEP YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS EDUCATED ON SWCD ACTIVITIES**



## *Illinois Envirothon*

### *2012 Current Issue Information Available*

The 2012 Current Issue - **"Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development"** study packet is posted on the AISWCD web site. Please access the information and distribute it to teachers in your district/Land Use Council who are interested in participating in the Envirothon.

Special thanks to the staff at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for their assistance in developing this material.

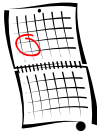
Date: May 10 & 11

Location: Allerton Park, Monticello, IL

Study Packet Information: [www.aiswcd.org/programs/envirothon.htm](http://www.aiswcd.org/programs/envirothon.htm)

Team Registration Packet: [Team Registration](#)

Volunteer Registration Packet: [Volunteer Registration](#)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Earth Day - April 22nd
- Administrative Professionals Day - April 25th
- Take Your Daughter To Work Day - April 26th
- Illinois State Envirothon - May 10 - 11, 4-H Memorial Campground, Allerton Park, Monticello, IL
- 2012 Annual Meeting and Summer Conference - July 23 - 24, Northfield Inn and Conference Center

### 2012 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- June 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 11th/12th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- September 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - September 11th, Teleconference 8:00 am (Only if Needed)
- December 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 10th/11th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

### april is:

- National Humor Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

### april dates of note:

- April Fool's Day - April 1st
- National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day - April 2nd
- World Health Day - April 7th
- Easter - April 8th
- Barbershop Quartet Day - April 11th
- National Pecan Day - April 14th
- National Garlic Day - April 19th
- Girl Scout Leader Day - April 22nd
- Bird and Arbor Day - April 27th
- National Honesty Day - April 30th

### may is:

- Foster Care Month
- National Barbecue Month
- National Bike Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- National Hamburger Month
- Older Americans Month

### may dates of note:

- May Day - May 1st
- Space Day - May 4th
- National Nurses Day - May 6th
- National Teacher's Day - May 8th
- Military Spouses Day - May 11
- Mother's Day - May 13th
- Armed Forces Day - May 19th

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

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