

# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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## GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS ARE OVER-REGULATED, FOOD SCIENCE EXPERT SAYS

It has been almost 20 years since the first genetically modified foods showed up in produce aisles throughout the United States and the rest of the world, but controversy continues to surround the products and their regulation.

Bruce Chassy, a professor emeritus of food science and human nutrition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, believes that after thousands of research studies and worldwide planting, "genetically modified foods pose no special risks to consumers or the environment" and are overregulated.

Chassy elaborated on this conclusion at the 2013 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston on Feb. 17. During his talk, "Regulating the Safety of Foods and Feeds Derived From Genetically Modified Crops," Chassy shared his view that the overregulation of GM crops actually hurts the environment, reduces global health and burdens the consumer.

Farmers have witnessed the advantages of GM crops firsthand through increases in their yields and profit, and decreases in their labor, energy consumption, pesticide use and greenhouse gas emissions, Chassy said.

Despite these benefits, various regulatory agencies require newly developed GM crops to be put to the test with rigorous safety evaluations that include molecular characterization, toxicological evaluation, allergenicity assessments, compositional analysis and feeding studies. This extensive testing takes five to ten years and costs tens of millions of dollars, and Chassy argues that this process "wastes resources and diverts attention from real food safety issues."

"With more than half of the world's population now living in countries that have adopted GM crops, it might be appropriate to reduce the regulatory scrutiny of GM crops to a level that is commensurate with science-based risk assessment," Chassy said.

During his talk, Chassy chronicled the scientific tests used in pre-market safety assessments of GM foods and elaborated on the evidence from thousands of research studies and expansive GM plantings that he says show these crops do not present risks to consumers or the environment. The overregulation of GM foods is a response, not to scientific evidence, Chassy said, but to a global campaign that disseminates misinformation and fear about these food sources.



(Photo credit: L. Brian Stauffer)

The overregulation of genetically modified crops is a response not to scientific evidence, but to a global campaign that disseminates misinformation and fear about these food sources, said food scientist Bruce Chassy.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - LONNIE WILSON

lonniewilson@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 6th, nearly 50 soil and water conservation district directors and employees made the trip to Springfield for the 2013 AISWCD/SWCD Legislative Day. Following a day of heavy snowfall in the northern half of the state, it was very encouraging to see everyone show up. Many had to get up very early and travel in less than ideal conditions to meet at the Illinois Building on the State Fairgrounds at 8:15 am. We were very happy with the turnout and from what we heard from those who participated, they were pleased to have the opportunity to speak with a number of legislators.

Sherry, Gina, Kelly and Rich have been busy with follow-up from the day's activities and have been preparing sample thank you notes for the SWCDs to send to the legislators they met with as well as a short news release that the SWCDs can use in their local papers. Pictures that were taken on the day of the event have also been sent to the SWCDs.

Following are some photos taken during the event.:



We had a great turnout!



The meeting at the Illinois Building helped let attendees know what was planned and provided some background on the House and Senate schedules for the day.

I want to take a bit of space to extend a sincere thank you to the ISWCDEA and the employees who helped pull information together for a fact sheet as well as a post card and green ribbon lapel pin that were given to every legislator.



The ISWCDEA and District employees put together a fact sheet, postcards and a green ribbon lapel pin for every legislator.



The AISWCD was able to reserve a conference room in the Stratton Building where we could regroup and discuss our visits. The room served another valuable purpose - to draw legislators in from that part of the Stratton Office Building to visit on their way to and from committee hearings.



We ended the day's activities with a nice lunch at a local restaurant.

We plan to start the process earlier next year, and we are looking forward to expanding the attendance and improving the process. I hope you will be able to join us.





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

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

And they're off! The Illinois General Assembly has hit the ground...walking. Though there are lots of bills being introduced and some action on the floor, the pace seems a bit more lethargic than what we would normally expect. However, that doesn't mean they aren't doing anything. The old adage that no one sleeps when the legislature is in town may be very appropriate.

We, so far, have dodged at least one attempt to further weaken the SWCDs. Representative Renée Kosel, (R) Mokena, introduced HB2243 in the early days of the session. The bill would have amended section 22.02a of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act and would have left the current requirement for petitioners to submit their request for variance to the SWCD for its written opinion to the discretion of the petitioner. In most cases, that change would have removed an essential part of the responsibility of the SWCDs to protect the natural resources in urban and urbanizing areas. The bill is most likely dead for this session but I have learned that a bill is never truly dead. It just goes away for a while until the original sponsor or someone else decides it might be able to be resurrected with a new name or new number and resubmitted for legislative consideration.

For that reason as well as many others, it is important that all SWCDs remain vigilant and ready to voice their opinion on any proposed legislative action they may learn of. Things that can often seem so unimportant or of minor consequence can have major and sometimes devastating impacts as they make their way through the system. Other legislators who may not understand the original purpose or who may have an axe to grind may propose an amendment to the bill "to clarify" its intent. Not always, but often enough, the amendment may make enough changes that the original intent of the bill is lost or changed such that its benign subject material has become dangerous and even perhaps lethal to some program or service.

We have all seen many examples of bills that have been amended at the last minute with language that can significantly alter the original bill's intent or purpose. Fortunately a large number of the bills that fall into that category don't pass but enough do that it is wise to make sure that no bill proposing change of any kind is ignored.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts will have an opportunity this March 6<sup>th</sup> to make sure they are recognized and taken into consideration when legislation dealing with natural resources is discussed. The AISWCD is sponsoring a legislative day on the 6<sup>th</sup> which will give SWCD directors and staff an opportunity to visit with members of the General Assembly and more specifically with members of the House and Senate Ag and Conservation Committees as well as members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees that appropriate funds for the SWCDs. These are the committees that generally hear bills that would have an effect on the SWCDs and the way they conduct their business.

I think it will be a great opportunity for those who are able to attend on the 6<sup>th</sup> to get a chance to visit with committee members, many of whom (especially on the House Appropriations-General Services Committee and Senate Appropriations II Committee) are from Chicago and the surrounding area. Even so, I think it is important to remember that nothing can replace a good relationship with your own local legislator. Whether that legislator is on a committee that can affect the SWCDs or not, if he or she knows your needs and understands what you can do for the people of Illinois, he or she can talk with members of those committees and may be able to have some influence over decisions the committees makes.

It was clearly demonstrated how important local relationships can be when we sought to have HB2243 withdrawn. The district folks in Representative Kosel's district also have a relationship with Representative, Barbara Flynn Curry. She is the chair of the Rules Committee that assigns bills to the various committees to be heard. The Rules Committee can make or break a bill by assigning it to a committee that might be friendlier to the content or by just deciding not to assign it. A quick call to Representative Curry gained her support in opposing the bill.

So, yes we would like to have a lot of people visiting legislators in Springfield on Legislative Day but please don't forget to make those relationship at the local level during the rest of the year. They can be very important.

*Rich*



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - KELLY THOMPSON

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

Spring is quickly approaching, although it does seem like winter has just begun with all the recent snow storms that have plagued our state. Nonetheless, I think we'll take the precipitation as our state is in dire need, especially after the less than desirable summer we experienced last year.

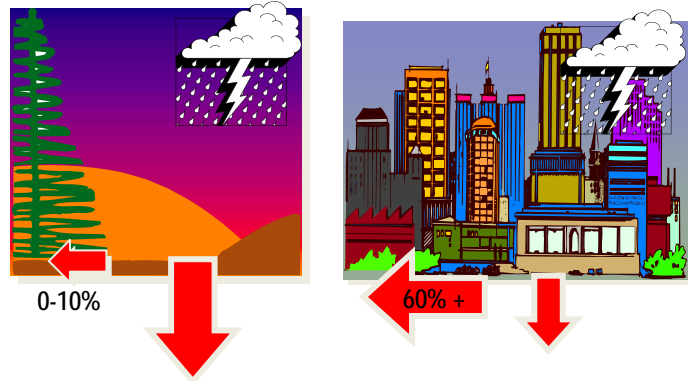
With all of this talk about precipitation, I feel it is only appropriate to discuss stormwater and how it affects many aspects of our life here in Illinois and throughout the United States.

As many of you are aware, the US EPA is developing a national rulemaking to strengthen the stormwater program that currently exists. With that, the Illinois EPA is also beginning to develop stormwater standards that would be implemented through the MS4 permit and ILR10 Construction Permit. Both entities are developing such standards to enhance the water quality throughout the state and nation as the ever growing population begins to place a burden on our shrinking, fresh water supply.

I am going to discuss with you the many reasons why the national and state rulemaking are much needed and well overdue. The national Water Quality Inventory: 2000 Report to Congress has identified urban runoff as one of the leading sources of water quality impairment of surface waters.

Urban sources are a concern due to the uncontrolled or treated runoff from urban environments and construction activity that can run off the landscape and into nearby surface waters.

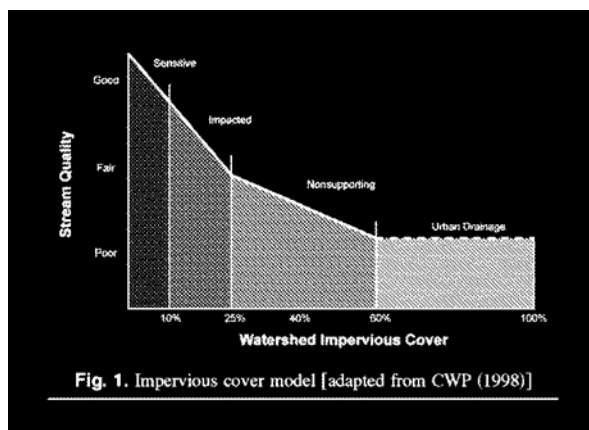
This image depicts the amount of runoff from pervious or non-urban settings is less than 10% while developed areas have up to 60% or more runoff rate.



The reason developed areas have a higher run off percentage is due to the amount of impervious surface that is present. Such impervious surfaces consist of pavement, roofs, compacted areas, reduced tree canopy and lack of open space which increase the amount of runoff volume that rapidly flows into our waters throughout the state and nation. Much of this water that runs off of impervious surfaces can contain pollutants such as sediments, pathogens, nutrients or fertilizers, hydrocarbons and even metals.

Due to the nature of impervious surfaces, the urban and developed area is more likely to have run off during a large rain event and even a small rain event, depending upon the size of the impervious area. The water that does not infiltrate leaves the existing site where it flows downstream and carries with it a host of pollutants, previously mentioned. This flow is both a higher volume and higher velocity than flow coming off pervious or undeveloped land.

The higher volume and velocity pose challenges for the waterways in which it runs into. The water begins to erode the stream banks which begin to widen the natural stream channel. The stability of the stream will decrease as erosion takes place, making the stream home to many uprooted trees. Sediment from the cutting-away of the stream begins to flow, along with the pollutants already carried into the stream, as part of the run off and thus reducing the oxygen level in the stream, making it difficult for fish and other aquatic life. The stream will begin to lose its pool-riffle structure which helps to slow down the flow velocity of the stream.



What happens to the streams as the amount of impervious cover increases? This image below, taken from CWP, 1998, depicts how water quality is directly related to the amount of watershed impervious cover.

### Sensitive Streams

The "sensitive" streams category typically has watershed impervious cover of less than 10%. These streams are noted as being of high quality. They feature stable channels, excellent habitat structure, excellent to good water quality and a significantly diverse fish and aquatic community. Due to the low impervious cover, these streams rarely to never experience frequent flooding and other various hydrological changes, that too often accompanies urbanization.

### Impacted Streams

The "impacted" streams category typically has watershed impervious cover rang-



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

[sherry.finn@aiswcd.org](mailto:sherry.finn@aiswcd.org)

### February Activities

#### 319 CREP Resource Specialist:

- Teleconference call with CRSs; need pesticide license; need copy of insurance card for vehicle using.
- Contacted CRSs for arrival of laptop computer; invoiced Housing Districts so they can invoice IDNR for reimbursement.
- Worked with Wade Louis and staff at IDNR for type of cameras needed for CRSs; looking into purchase of cameras.
- Sent IEPA November through January vouchers for CRS's expenses including payroll, travel, health ins., dental ins., and LTD-STD-Life ins.
- Worked with and answered questions about training (pest control).
- Working on quarterly report to IEPA.

#### OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence.
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards.
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database.
- 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; contacted Districts for upcoming issues spotlight information.
- Maintaining Earth Stewardship Bank Account.
- Working on Conservation Tour for 2013 Annual Meeting with Sangamon County SWCD staff; working with Northfield Inn and Ramada to establish conference rooms and hotel rooms.
- Updated AISWCD website with March QB information.
- Sent 2013 AISWCD QB meeting hotel contracts (completed) to Northfield Inn.
- Prepared and emailed March QB packet information to Board Members, Partners, minute recorders and Forestry Committee members and advisors; mailed packets to non e-mail access Board Members.
- Updated AISWCD Website with II Envirothon LUC event dates and locations; send information to FFA leadership.
- Sent e-mail to Districts requesting tree/plant sale dates and supplier contact information; compiled information; sent out to Districts.
- Sent e-mail to il.all with Acronyms.
- Took meeting minutes for MOU taskforce.
- Made contract with Ramada Inn for meeting room with the Prevailing Wage Partner Committee; faxed completed contract.
- Completed letter from President Wilson to District Chairmen about the Legislative Day and Annual Meeting; made labels for Gina to mail letters.
- Sent memo via e-mail to AISWCD Officers and Area VPs and Alternate VPs to serve as ticket takers at the 65th AISWCD Annual meeting.
- Scanned NACD February 2013 Forestry Notes and e-mailed to Forestry Committee.
- Updated Forestry E-mail Contact Information.
- Attended Livingston County SWCD Annual Meeting and Sangamon County SWCD Annual Meeting.

- Attended ISWCDEA meeting to report for AISWCD and update about Annual Meeting information.

#### Annual Meeting Taskforce:

- Organized seconded Annual Meeting Taskforce teleconference call; contacted members; prepared agenda & emailed to all members; took meeting minutes; sent to Planning chair for approval.
- Working on Annual Meeting "draft" agenda/program.
- Serving on Terrarium Taskforce Committee that was selected to have contest for Annual Meeting centerpieces for Recognition Luncheon and Farm Family Banquet; prizes awarded to winners.
- Talked with Marie Bunting, AISWCD Auxiliary President and worked out some time schedules.

#### ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for February; mailed payments to Federal & State.
- Reconciled all bank accounts for January
- Completed bookwork for All AISWCD & SWCD Insurance Accts.
- Completed Checks for Payables; Completed Deposits for Receivables; Completed Monthly Financials.
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Melissa Cauble.
- Completed Semi-Monthly IL Lobbyist Expenditure Data for IL Secretary of State for February.
- Registered with Blue Access (Blue Cross-Blue Shield) as employer so that employees can have access to newsletters and insurance cards.

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

- Submitting Annual Meeting Award Forms; registration forms; and hotel information to Districts and updating website.
- SWCDs Annual Meetings/elections.
- AISWCD March QB meeting.

**Blessing:** May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you where you go!

**To Think About:** Worry clutters up tomorrow's opportunities with yesterday's troubles.

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!**

**HOPE YOU HAVE THE LUCK OF THE IRISH!!!**

*Sherry*





## Office Assistant's Information - Gina Bean

[gina.bean@aiswcd.org](mailto:gina.bean@aiswcd.org)

Greetings Everyone!

I hope everyone is staying warm and isn't still digging themselves out from that snow storm we had last month. Although the shoveling is not the most fun, we are very grateful for the much needed moisture.

It's been another enjoyable month at AISWCD for me! July is going to be here before we know it so I've been busy working on the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting logo, program, and other forms that go with the meeting. Next, I can't wait to really dig into finding items for the live auction. When I've gone to events recently, my favorite parts have been the auctions. I love when you see an item that is so interesting and unexpected.

Kelly and I were lucky enough to be judges in a writing and poster contest held at the EPA. The contestants were in fifth and sixth grade and they were unbelievably talented. Some of those kids could easily be some of the next advertisers and logo makers. My jaw literally dropped on a couple when I saw some of the things they were able to do. They really took their time and focused on the message. It's good to see that younger generations are trying to do their part to keep the Earth alive for as long as we can.

Have a great March!

*Gina*

## A WORK DAY FOR THE NAGS

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6. Schedule a visit with the owner. Take your most personable committee members and lots of your photographs! Most owners are happy to learn that they own properties that are a part of the interesting landscape of pre-settlement Illinois – but some are not. Again, respect the owner. If the owner agrees with the restoration plan, you can go forward with the next step of providing appropriate insurance information that will allow volunteers to work on the owner's property.

7. With permission, the often-revised plan, funds, tools, personal protective equipment, insurance, first-aid kit, volunteers and plenty of homemade cookies, you are ready to restore a remnant of our state!

Note: AISWCD insurance no longer insures prescribed fire as a management technique. While we politely disagree with this policy, we understand that NAG committees must acquire insurance coverage at their own cost. LeeNAG is working with Chris Klein at Leffelman Insurance Agency (815) 849-5219 in order to acquire complete coverage for our prescribed fire activities in 2013. If you need information about coverage, please contact your local agent or Ms. Klein.

Ten volunteers, and a hired crew of four from the Kessel Tree Service, completely restored a critical turtle nesting ground in 50 hours. The nest grounds had been completely obliterated by an invasion of trees. The lack of naturally-occurring prairie fires (or now prescribed fire) allowed the south-facing sand dune nest sites to become overgrown, thus shading the turtle nests. Turtle eggs are temperature-sensitive; if a nest does not receive enough sunlight/heat, all eggs will hatch as male turtles thus disrupting the natural order.

Great COA volunteers!  
Worked 50 hours total today  
Restored Blanding's turtle nesting grounds  
on Indian Ridge - I.A.S. Amboy Marsh  
Big Marsh in the background



Photo of a recent LeeNAG Conservation Opportunity Area stewardship day at the Illinois Audubon Amboy Marsh

**national  
groundwater  
awareness week**  
March 10-16, 2013

## Celebrate National Groundwater Awareness Week

Groundwater is a precious, limited resource. It is worth protecting.

You can find information on National Groundwater Awareness Week at  
[www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org).



## ISWCDEA CORNER - *SHERRY HUFFSTUTLER* *ISWCDEA REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE*

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

Greetings! Your ISWCDEA conducted their first business meeting of the year Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentine's Day). The agenda was jammed-packed with partner reports and items that will have relevance throughout the year to you as an employee and to your directors.

The AISWCD and the ISWCDEA are making plans for Legislative Day scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you and your directors will make every effort to attend. The Legislative Day is a golden opportunity for Districts to tell the conservation story not only to our own legislators but also to legislators in Cook County and the surrounding collar counties.

In last month's *Conservation Catchall* I reported on the Envirothon activities. I'm sure by now the schools in your councils are studying feverishly for the local event in the hope that they will be the winner to go on to the state competition, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Allerton 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello, IL. This is an exciting time for those students and we as employees can make this a great day for them.

Believe it or not, the Summer Conference is now in the planning stages! The date is set for July 22-23, at the Northfield Inn, Springfield. A lot of good topics for sessions have been discussed for directors and employees. If you have a great idea for a session, it is not too late to let one of your ISWCDEA representatives know. I assure you, your ideas are important and they will be submitted to ISWCDEA Committee for consideration.

Until Next Time!!!



## ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - *SHARON MATSON, PRESIDENT*

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

We had our teleconference call on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. I had sent a PowerPoint presentation for all to view. Our next meeting will be our annual meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 and we invite all to attend. We will have a meal for all to enjoy and our speaker will be Marie Herman, CAP-OM, and ACS. Marie is the 2012-2013 Illinois Division President; Marie's program will be "Becoming the Renaissance Admin". We encourage all to attend.

Our Illinois SWCD Chapter will be hosting two sessions at Summer Conference; "How to create and work with Adobe Fillable Forms" and "Work Place Bullying".

If you are interested in joining the IAAP (International Association of Administrative Professionals) please contact any member of the organization or go to our website <http://ap-swcd.tripod.com> and view what is happening.



Sharon Matson  
President



Jill Harre  
Vice President



Brenda McMillan  
Treasurer



Melissa Cauble  
Secretary



Natural Area Guardians - Debra Carey

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

## A WORK DAY FOR THE NAGS

A diverse group of people, all good friends, gather at a natural area in Illinois as part of a stewardship restoration work day scheduled by a SWCD Natural Area Guardian committee.

Tom says "Hey, look at this dead tree – let's cut it down for firewood". Sue screams "NO, that tree is excellent habitat for the pileated woodpecker".

Mary remarks that moldering tree trunks lying on the ground must be removed in order to allow sunlight to hit the herbaceous layer so that rare plants may thrive. Larry emphatically states that the decomposing trees create new soil by providing habitat for wood-boring insects. Harry says it's the fungi that cause decomposition and not insects.

John begins cutting young black oak trees that have choked the previously open sand dune where endangered Blanding's turtles nest. Connie is upset since the black oak is a native tree and should not be considered invasive and should NOT be removed.

Get the point? In any natural area restoration, from a prairie site along the Wisconsin border to the swamps of the Shawnee, the entirety of the site must be considered. Aldo Leopold, that late father of natural resources, once said that the first rule of intelligent tinkering is keeping all the pieces; it's our job to keep track of the actual pieces and discard the detritus!

How does one then go about thoughtfully and correctly restoring a prairie, wetland or woodland? The following is the LeeNAG plan of attack when approaching a new site that offers potential of harboring high quality species, both plant and wildlife:

### 1. Make certain you are welcome.

This may sound elementary, but first ascertain that your committee has permission from the land owner, and not just the operator, to be physically on the site. Written permission is the key to a happy and on-going relationship between owner and restorer. Approaching absentee land owners who may not be aware that a wonderful, salamander-filled ephemeral wetland appears each spring requires correct information and a plan. Most natural areas are located using aerial mapping along with soil surveys. We know that certain turtles need specific soil types in which to nest. We know that mature hardwoods draw Neotropical migrants. And we rely upon local information – many of us in NAG groups have farmed in our respective counties for generations. So restoring a natural area begins long before you first step on to the property – or even before your first longing gaze from the roadside.

Inclement weather is a great opportunity to pore over maps searching for wet areas, woodlands and open prairies. Finding the actual owner, their address and possibly someone who has a relationship with the owner, is critical. Some owners do not wish to be involved in natural area restoration and their wishes are respected. But if the owner expresses an interested attitude, we go to step two.

2. Gather as much information as possible before you even set foot on the site. This is where the SWCD office is a goldmine. List every aspect of the site including location, acreage, soil types, and drainage history - everything you can find without actually being on the site.

3. With written permission from the owner, take a small crew of your best people and carry out an in-depth inventory of the site. This includes photographing everything that moves or doesn't move! Years later, you'll love to have before and after photos of the restoration.

4. With inventories and photographs in hand, enjoy a couple hours – well, days - of quiet discussion about the site. Create a spread sheet of all information, and remember – if this is privately-owned land, information must be kept within the office unless the owner wishes information to be publicly-available. Sometimes it's hard to contain your enthusiasm about a rare species, but respect for the owner is paramount.

5. Write a restoration plan. This sounds simple but it will take a lot of time, and your plan will be revised over and over as you gather additional information. Your plan should be well-thought out and written in phases. Reaching an immediate goal in Phase 1 provides gratification for volunteers and keeps them working! So include goals that are reachable, and a budget, yes, very important, that is reasonable. This is the time for Mary and Harry and Larry to work out their differences in regard to restoration and management techniques. But accepted science must be your base. Your plan must also include future management. Restoration is just the first step – on-going natural area management is the key to keeping a site healthy.

(continued on page 6)





## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE

(continued from page 4)

ing from 11% to 25%. Streams in this category begin to show clear signs of degradation of which erosion and channel widening are clearly evident. Stream banks are unstable which directly affects the physical habitat in the stream. The water quality therefore shifts to good-fair both during storm events and dry weather periods.

### Non-Supporting Streams

This category features watershed impervious cover that exceeds 25%. Streams in this category become a conduit for conveying stormwater flows; therefore the streams can no longer support a diverse stream community. Stream channels become highly unstable and begin to experience severe widening, down-cutting and streambank erosion. Water quality in this category is rated fair to poor. Water contact is no longer permitted as the stream now contains high levels of bacteria. The biological quality of these streams is also considered poor and primarily dominated by pollutant tolerant fish and aquatic insects.

### Urban Drainage

Watersheds within the urbanized areas consist of 60% to 100% impervious cover. After the descriptions of each category, I assume you can only imagine the impact 60-100% impervious surface can have on a watershed.

So many new developments are occurring throughout the state and nation; rarely do we discuss the effects of such development on our water system. Many small measures can be taken, in even the most developed areas, to prevent the impact that impervious cover has on our water supply. Begin today by reviewing the list below to see how you can help your local county reduce their amount of runoff from impervious surfaces.

#### Businesses:

- Plant a rain garden, or two!
- Install permeable pavement for the parking lot!
- Design and construct a bioswale to catch runoff from an impervious parking lot!
- Is your business in a high-rise? No problem, plant a roof top garden!
- Does your business have watering needs? Install rain barrels instead of traditional downspouts that typically runoff into stormwater drains.

#### Homeowners:

- Plant rain gardens in your yard! And, don't forget to plant native species!
- Save water and prevent runoff, install rain barrels today!
- Install a permeable pavement instead of traditional concrete for your driveway!
- Plant trees on your property, the root system will help to prevent erosion and runoff from stormwater!
- Begin a neighborhood stormwater watch program. Help other neighbors install practices and pull together to keep stormwater off the streets and from entering into the storm drains!

#### Municipalities:

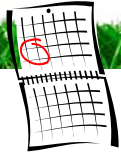
- Line city streets with permeable pavement to allow infiltration of stormwater off the traditional road system!
- Introduce rain gardens and bioswales instead of concrete medians!
- Plant more trees and reserve more green space for parks!
- Replace city parking lots with permeable pavement!
- If your municipality is located in a high rise, plant a roof top garden!
- Allow for permeable sidewalks!
- Raise awareness by hosting a stormwater outreach event for all ages!

It is more important, now than ever before, to begin thinking about the quality of our water in the state and throughout the nation. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are a great place to turn for assistance in developing programs and getting ideas to make your state, county and city a better place to live and

## Don't Forget...

national  
groundwater  
  
awareness week  
March 10-16, 2013

*Kelly Thompson*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- SWCD Legislative Day - March 6th - Meet at Illinois Building on Fairgrounds and car pool to parking lot near Capitol
- National Groundwater Awareness Week - March 10 - 16, 2013
- Spring Begins - March 20, 2013

### 2013 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- March 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - March 11th (Executive Comm. at IDOA) 12th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- June 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 10th & 11th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- September 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - September 10th - Teleconference (Only if Needed)
- December 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 9th & 10th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL



**WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2013 6:30 P.M.**

**"NEW SALEM STATE PARK AUDITORIUM"**

**MARK BECK- LAND LEASES-Co-Founder of  
HuntingPro Properties**

**KEVIN BETTIS - LAWS-Conservation Officer DNR**

**DAVE HOWELL & JERRY JOHNSON- HABITAT-  
Illinois Quail Unlimited**



MENARD CO SWCD



The Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District recently held a free informational meeting "Hunting the Land". One hundred attendees on a cold Wednesday night in one of the smallest counties in the state proved the interest in conservation on the land. Menard County SWCD has seen an added interest in landowners establishing wildlife habitat. Primarily the office has serviced the agricultural community and now we are seeing out of state landowners purchasing ground within the county for hunting and wildlife habitat establishment. Field border grasses, entire fields of grasses, trees and wetlands have been popular conservation practices. This meeting's presenters; Mark Beck Co-Founder of HuntingPro Properties, spoke on Land Leases - what does it mean if you own ground and someone wants to have the hunting rights, Kevin Bettis, DNR Conservation Officer, spoke on Laws - what are the rules with trespassers and what are the rules with certain wildlife and Dave Howell/Jerry Johnson Quail Unlimited, spoke on establishing wildlife habitat and the benefits. Program staff from the SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, US Fish and Wildlife, Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited and a representative who came clear from Kentucky representing Roundstone Seed was available to answer questions and offer available assistance. Feedback continues to come in for an exceptional networking meeting. "Helping people help the land."

**Editor's Note:** This meeting is, of course, long over but I am including it in this issue of the Catchall to let others know what some of the SWCDs are doing to serve their constituents. More than 100 people attended this meeting on a cold, windy, snowy night which I think gives strong testament to the desire of the local folks to know more about the topics presented. I attended the meeting and observed that there was a lot of interest. All of the speakers generated good crowd participation. The District had not tried anything like this before and had little idea of what to expect. The location was ideal in that the presentations were able to be made in a theater type facility that also had room for several displays. And, there were displays from the County FSA office, US Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR CREP, Pheasants and Quail Forever and others including a some private vendors. Great job Menard Count SWCD and NRCS!

**AI SWCD Mission:** *To represent and empower Illinois' SWCDs*

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