

# 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
NASA's Landsat Satellites See Texas Crop Circles -- Of the Irrigation Kind	8
Order Your SWCD License Plates	9
Envirothon	9
Calendar	10

## *AISWCD Staff:*

**Richard Nichols,**  
*Executive Director*

**Sherry Finn,**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Kelly Thompson,**  
*Program Coordinator*

## *HILLARD MORRIS, 1921–2012*

Illinois' Conservation Family lost a good friend on March 15, 2012. Hillard Morris devoted most of his life to the conservation ethic and to the education of our youth about the importance of conservation and protecting our valuable natural resources.

Among his proudest accomplishments was serving on the 30 member task force appointed by Governor Ogilvie in 1972 to develop a Master Plan for Environmental Education. That plan, the original for the state, still exists in its updated form and is used and for many years following his efforts had gone into helping Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and interested groups developing local conservation and education committees starting Conservation Education in their schools and developing outdoor school sites and conservation environmental areas. He was instrumental in establishing the Ballard Nature Center which has become a well used education facility in the region.



Hillard served as a director of the Effingham County Soil & Water Conservation District for 40 years and was chairman for 34 years. During that time he was also an active member of the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts, serving as a Board Member, a member of the Legislative Committee, Chairman of the Forestry Committee, Vice President and President for seven years (1964-1971).

Hillard's concern for conservation took him to the national level where he served on the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Board of Directors for six years from 1975 - 1981. While serving with NACD, Hillard was also an active member of NACD's District Operations Committee, Recreation and Youth Committee and Education Committee.

Hillard also helped organize the Illinois Woodland Owners and Users Association in 1983 and served on their board for many years.

In addition to his many other awards, Hillard was presented with an Illinois EPA Award in 1974 for involvement of a citizen in Environmental Education and in July of 1975 he was named Illinois' Outstanding Soil & Water Conservation District Director, an award given for the first time by Prairie Farmer and the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Hillard Morris set a very high bar as an example of an agriculturalist and a community leader who was dedicated to the conservation of our natural resources and the education of our youth. He will be missed.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JAMES TODD

jtoddfarm@gmail.com

Mother Nature is still in control! Even though we had record warmth in March, winter was apparently still here. For the central part of the state, our average temperatures in March were warmer than the average for April. That is quite unusual. The record cold we experienced in April did some serious damage to the "late winter" planted corn. Because the soil in this part of the state was so dry the growing point was not well insulated and many acres of the early corn had to be replanted.

Last night I participated in a conference call of the NACD North Central States and we spent quite a bit of time on the Field Office of the Future topic. Illinois had a meeting April 19<sup>th</sup> to get the partnership together to discuss how to approach the opportunity here in Illinois. NRCS took the lead in calling the meeting and involving the various partners. The AISWCD, IDOA, NRCS, NRCS Employee Union and ISWCDEA were represented at the first meeting. RC&D was invited and will participate in future meetings but was not able to be represented at the first meeting.

We discussed the concept behind the Field Office of the Future (FOTF) and what it was NOT. According to New State Conservationist Ivan Dozier, "It is not about office closures but rather an opportunity for our agency and the Illinois SWCDs to examine our current delivery system and consider new ideas and options, changes and current realities that we face." Your SWCD will be involved in helping with that effort. The goal is to make the field office into the most efficient operation possible. Chief White has proposed a 90% plan (field office staff out of the office and on the ground 90% of the time) and this effort is visualized as helping to achieve that plan.

"The 90% plan is part of the Conservation Delivery Streamlining initiative which is to have 90% of NRCS staff out in the field with their boots on the ground working with landowners and putting conservation on the land. The vision uses new technology and integrated electronic tools and technologies, computer systems, etc."

The Steering Committee, if I can be permitted to call them that, discussed a number of issues that can be addressed through this effort. Some of those issues are:

- The need for more uniform policy and procedures used across the state.
- Addressing the workload associated with FSA reconstitutions.

- More timely responses from IT regarding new programs or updates of programs (i.e.: QuickBooks).
- How infrastructure and hardware issues fit and what is IT's role.
- The need to have "town hall" type meetings to assure that local input is included in any recommendation(s) arising from this effort.
- The need to keep communication lines open to facilitate this process, and others.
- The possibility of utilizing specialists to cover several field offices to relieve NRCS and SWCD staff of routine and sometime tedious workloads (i.e.: contract administration, etc.). It is possible that some of the special assistance could be in the form of information call centers.

An important concept that we all need to keep in mind is what the FOTF may look like if there are serious reduction in conservation program and operations funding. Each state will initially be responsible for its own concept of the FOTF. Washington has finally realized that the "cookie cutter" approach does not work.

The first action will be the Town Hall meetings. Each NRCS area will host a meeting prior to June 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is expected to take most of the day and will involve NRCS staff, SWCD Directors, SWCD staff and RC&D Council representatives.

**I encourage SWCD directors to find the time to attend this very important meeting.** What is determined through this process will likely create significant and far reaching changes that will decide how we operate for the foreseeable future. SWCD Directors have always been part of the process of determining how conservation will be implemented in Illinois. In this case silence is not golden - please make sure you attend your Area's meeting

It is expected that there will be one or more surveys sent to the above groups as well as made available to our customers and other groups, organizations and agencies with which we are involved. It is anticipated that these other groups will be involved in the process at some stage in the future. The process is scheduled to be completed by September so there may be no second chances. Participate when you have that chance!

*James H. Todd*



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

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

May has arrived and with it some much needed rain. I always look forward to May. I'm not sure why; maybe it's because I know that the cold weather is finally gone. This year though, the cold weather was gone in March but came back for a short stay in April. I'm not sure if we can blame all this on climate change or not but it has been a really unusual year for weather so far.

Putting the weather aside and changing to another topic, I hope you all are communicating with your legislators and asking for their support for the gaming legislation. As of yet, no bill has surfaced as "the" gaming bill. There are still two bills alive in the General Assembly – SB744 and SB1849. SB744 passed the Senate, was sent to the House where it was amended and passed and was returned to the Senate for concurrence. At the last possible minute, Senate President John Cullerton paced a "motion to reconsider" on the bill when it failed to garner the needed votes to pass. The bill is still in the Senate and could be called for a vote at any time. SB744 is not favored by Governor Quinn who threatened to veto the bill because it expanded the number of gaming positions too much with too little oversight and because it included the installation of slot machines at the State's six race tracks. The Senate reviewed the Governor's objections to SB744 and crafted SB1849 which reduced the number of positions and tightened oversight of the gaming industry. The bill still included slot machines at race tracks, something the Governor is adamantly opposed to. In spite of that, the bill quickly passed the Senate and was sent to the House where it was amended and where it is now resides on third reading with a motion to "postpone consideration".

If it appears that there are enough votes in the House to pass the bill, Representative Lang will most likely remove his motion and a vote will be taken. If the bill passes, it will be sent back to the Senate for concurrence.

With two bills near the passage stage, it is still possible that a new bill might be drafted and moved through both chambers before the scheduled ad-

journalment date of May 31 or even this fall during the veto session. At this point, we are not aware of any new bills being filed that would address gaming expansion in Illinois.

With all that said, a group called *The Illinois Revenue and Jobs Alliance* is pushing very hard for the passage of SB1849. The group represents more than 70 labor organizations, business groups, farming and agribusiness interests, racetracks and horsemen associations, and local municipalities, all committed to the creation of new jobs and state and local revenue that expanded gambling would bring.

The group hired a survey firm to conduct a poll to determine interest in gaming and slot machines at race tracks. The company surveyed 800 likely voters throughout the state. They found that 70 % of those polled in the collar counties were in favor of the gaming bill and slot machines at race tracks. More specifically, support for SB 1849 is highest in the Collar Counties where 70 percent of respondents favor the proposal, but support is strong throughout Illinois: 68 percent in favor in Northern Illinois; 61 percent in favor in Southern Illinois; 60 percent in favor in Cook County; and 54 percent in favor in Central Illinois.

It appears to me that if our Senators and Representatives truly represent us, the citizens, then logic would dictate that they should be voting for SB1849. Likewise the Governor should have no qualms about signing the legislation once it lands on his desk. Unfortunately politics is a strange animal and things just don't seem to follow logic. That is why we need to make sure our legislators hear from us again and again and again. Until this General Assembly ends next January there is an opportunity for SB1849 (or something else that will address gaming expansion in Illinois) to pass. Let's hope it does and lets do what we can to help it along!

*Rich*





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

sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

### APRIL Activities

#### CREP COORDINATOR GRANT:

- Organized and mailed April 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; amended agreement completed and receiving signed contracts from Participating Districts.
- Forwarded signed amended CREP contracts to IEPA to show Districts participating.
- Had another meeting with IEPA and IDNR to discuss 2012-2013 CREP Coordinator Contracts; no decision yet.
- Sent amended CREP Contract Sub Agreement balances to participating Districts to update them on remaining balance of their amended agreements; mailed letter to participating District chairmen from Rich notifying of the completion of current CREP Coordinator contract and amendment; emailed copy of letter to participating Districts.

#### JUNE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

- Sent Partner report request; sent FAC chairmen request for agenda items; and compiling FAC and Board Meeting agendas
- Organized June Quarterly Board Meeting Packet for Board Members; will e-mail and mail packets to Members and Partners the middle of May
- Compiled FAC and taskforce meeting minutes for March; compiled and completed March AISWCD & Foundation meeting minutes; posted all to AISWCD website and sent copies to Officers, Area VPs and FAC Chairmen.
- Following up on Action items from FAC, taskforces, and AISWCD & Foundation meetings
- Will send June 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

#### FY 2011 AUDIT:

- Making any audit changes; Waiting for audit summary
- Contacted 8 auditing firms for bids for 2012 - 2014 audits

#### IL ENVIROTHON:

- Posted & deposited checks for Registration fees sent to AISWCD office
- Inventoried all IL Envirothon stored items; labeled all tubs, bags, and boxes.
- Volunteered for Wednesday to help set up event; delivered stored items to camp
- Confirmed for Rich the competing Districts in good standing

#### 64TH AISWCD ANNUAL MEETING/SUMMER CONFERENCE:

- Compiled meal and session information for registration forms; completed forms and posted on website; sent links to Districts
- Met with Northfield Inn staff to determine meal selections; reserve rooms for Farm Family MC, Farm Families, Parliamentarian, and honored guests; determined meeting room selections for meals and sessions; worked on areas for Partners and others; determined registration area and item needs along with A/V needs.
- Compiled all award registration forms, e-mailed to Districts and posted to website; worked up databases to compile registrations submitted.
- Working on sponsors or grants for funding awards and expenses.

#### ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for April; mailed items.
- Reconciled all bank accounts for April
- 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 April.
- Completed Deposit for CREP Coordinator February 2012 voucher; wrote checks, had Rich sign, and mailed to participating Districts for reimbursement
- Sent Invoice for FY 2012 dues for SWCDs remaining operating funds payment; posting payments to database, making deposits, and sending thank you letters to Districts

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

- IL Envirothon
- June QB Meeting
- Annual Meeting

**REMEMBER: Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart!!!**

**TO ACT: Let your light shine!!!!**

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!!!!!**

*Sherry*



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - KELLY THOMPSON

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

May is finally here! It's hard to believe that spring is zipping by so quickly. Before you know it school will be out and families will be jet-setting or road-tripping to their favorite vacation spot.

Nonetheless, here is update on the Illinois Urban Manual and Post Development Stormwater Runoff Standards Work Group.

### **-IUM-**

The Illinois Urban Manual Steering and Technical Review committees met on Thursday, April 19 in Normal, IL. Both meetings were filled with great ideas and discussion. Thank you to all who were able to attend. It was a pleasure to finally meet you all and place a name with a face.

A new urban standard was approved by IEPA and has been updated on the IUM website. Go check it out: [Silt Fence 920](#) – Drawings [620A](#), [620A\(W\)](#) & [620B\(W\)](#) and Material Specification [Geotextile 562](#).

Currently, the Steering Committee has approved *Silt Curtain-Floating* 917 to be submitted to IEPA for final acceptance and approval. The group is awaiting a response from IEPA. As far as other standards go there are approximately six to seven that will be considered for updating at the next meetings. Meetings are scheduled for end of May and beginning of June.

### **-PDSWRS Work Group-**

The Post Development Stormwater Runoff Standards work group met on Thursday, April 26 at the IEPA with a call-in option. The work group meeting began at 1:15 pm and concluded at 4:20 pm. Great discussion and brainstorming took place. The group compiled a list of key components needed in order to develop the recommendations. To find out more information regarding meeting notes and presentations that took place click here: [http://aiswcd.org/PDSWRS\\_WorkGroup/PDSWRS\\_Table\\_Contents/Meeting\\_Notes.html](http://aiswcd.org/PDSWRS_WorkGroup/PDSWRS_Table_Contents/Meeting_Notes.html)

As always, if you have any questions regarding the IUM update initiative or the PDSWRS work group, feel free to email or call!

***Try to always find time to educate someone on conservation and environmental issues and practices. You never know what someone might learn from you!***



**Have a wonderful month of May!**

*Kelly*

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

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



ISWCDEA is participating in the NACD/NRCS Field Office of the Future Steering Committee. Please review the letter emailed by Rich Nichols on March 1, 2012 (forwarded by NRSC Chief White and NACD President Gene Schmidt) with staff and board members. Please send any input to the Employee's Association Co-Chairs, Debi Slade and Dean Johnson, SWCD employee representatives.

Making plans to attend Summer Conference? Directors and staff are both encouraged to attend. Please return the registration forms soon and let your EA Rep know of any topics you would like covered at the Employee's Forum.

ISWCDEA supports the push for a state SWCD license plate (Sherry Finn email March 26, 2012). This endeavor could net over \$37,000 that is planned to go towards State Envirothon. This will only happen if Districts work together to each secure 16 license plates (1500 minimum statewide).

The next ISWCDEA meeting will be a conference call on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please submit comments/concerns to your EA Rep before this date.



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

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

The IL SWCD Chapter April meeting was held April 25<sup>th</sup> at the IL Department of Agriculture Building in Springfield. The business meeting began at 10:00 with the Annual meeting following. Election of officers was conducted, those elected are; President Debbie Holsapple; Vice-President Sharon Matson, Secretary Melissa Cauble and Treasurer Brenda McMillan. These members will be installed to begin their duties for the 2012-2013 year at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting at Summer Conference.

At our recent IAAP meeting we were discussing fundraising ideas and noted that it had been a while since anyone did a Conservation Partners logo shirt sale. So we decided to do just that. There are several items to pick from and we are going to use the logo with the hand holding the farm scene and using the phrase "Illinois Partners In Conservation".

There are a variety of embroidered and screen printed items in various price ranges, so we hope everyone will find something they like. The deadline for the orders and money to be returned to Melissa Cauble by June 8<sup>th</sup>.



Melissa plans to deliver items to everyone at Summer Conference. If you are unable to attend we can make arrangements to get your items to you. Perhaps you have a director attending or someone from a neighboring county. Or I will drop it in the mail to you if needed. All SWCD employees should receive an e-mail from Melissa with the shirt information.



## Natural Area Guardians-Debra Carey

*demydoidea@gmail.com*

### The White Oak



Rainfall was abundant in the summer of 1848 and the white oak acorn crop was bountiful. Every squirrel in the vicinity spent much of the autumn industriously stashing acorns for the upcoming winter months. One such buried acorn was never sniffed out and in May 1849 it sprouted and pushed up through the leaf litter - reaching towards the life-giving sunlight.

On a winter day in 1867 a bright white and black Downy woodpecker, *zygodactyl* toes firmly wrapped around the oak sapling's trunk, drilled busily as he searched for larvae snuggled beneath the bark. He was lucky and filled his stomach; and often returned to that same spot to chisel away.

A grey squirrel noticed the chiseled area in 1879 and took immediate advantage of the situation. She worked to enlarge the woodpecker holes, and after a frantic chase and a successful mating, settled own to raise a family of three in the growing white oak tree.

A pair of majestic pileated woodpeckers, one of the few still in the area, usurped the squirrels in 1898. They hatched two young woodpeckers but a little boy with a new slingshot killed both fledglings on a sultry summer afternoon.

The raccoon coat craze of the 1920's era caused a wise old mother coon to use the secluded white oak tree as a den site. She sprung four baby coons on the unsuspecting crawdad populations in the spring of 1921.

Encroaching civilization in the fall of 1936 caused the white oak to become a tree in a family house yard. Many of the surrounding oaks and hickories were cut down to make room for the new homes that were ordered from the fat Sears and Roebuck Catalog.

A treehouse was built in a sturdy crotch of the white oak tree in 1949. Materials salvaged from an old barn by an industrious 10-year old boy named Bill created a leafy retreat far from the world of homework and pesky sisters - high among the boughs of the friendly white oak tree.



The beginning of the end took place in 1953. On a humid May night, a spectacular electrical storm exploded. The white oak tree took a direct hit.

Heavy snow during the winter of 1978-79 burdened the already weak oak limbs.

By May 2012, abundant rainfall once again blessed the area. The white oak staggered under the weight of fresh leaves. At 3 a.m. on May 28th, the tired old oak finally gave up and crashed - silently - back to the earth from which it came forth. No one heard it fall. One hundred and sixty-three years of providing a home for birds and bees; of selflessly giving shade to the earth; of creating a secret dreaming place for a young boy; of holding the soil with its roots; of slowing the wind; and of delighting the eye of man came to an end.

What do we lose when we lose a tree? We lose our world, piece by piece. Plant a tree in May this year....and every year after.

## NASA'S LANDSAT SATELLITES SEE TEXAS CROP CIRCLES -- OF THE IRRIGATION KIND

A water-rich polka dot pattern takes over the traditional rectangular patchwork of fields in this time series animation of 40 years of Landsat images. In the dry Texas panhandle near the town of Dalhart, this transformation is due to center-pivot irrigation, a farming method that improves water distribution to fields. It was invented by farmer Frank Zybach in 1949. Center-pivot irrigation works by pumping water from the center of the field through a long pipe that rotates above growing crops like the hand of a clock. Evenly spaced sprinklers along the pipe deliver water with minimal loss to evaporation. Farmers like center-pivot irrigation because it works with a variety of soil types and it can be used on slopes where other gravity-driven forms of irrigation cannot.

As it caught on in the United States and abroad, it revolutionized agriculture since the system can be adapted to a wide variety of terrains and is more efficient with water and labor than other forms of irrigation. Together, all types of irrigation water 20 percent of cultivated fields worldwide, and those fields produce about 40 percent of the global food supply.

In this time series animation, vegetation appears red and the bare soil of fallow fields or sparsely vegetated grasslands appear white to green. The blue-gray X near the center of the images marks the town of Dalhart.

This series uses data from four Landsat satellites. Shown in this false color composite is light reflected from the near-infrared, red, and green regions of the electromagnetic spectrum (bands 4, 2, and 1 from the Multispectral Scanner Systems (MSS) aboard Landsat 1, 2, and 4, and bands 4, 3, and 2 from the Thematic Mapper (TM) aboard Landsat 5).



*A water-rich polka dot pattern has taken over the traditional rectangular patchwork of fields. (Credit: Image courtesy of NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center)*

The Landsat satellites have provided scientific data on Earth's land surfaces for the past 40 years: Landsat 1 from 1972 to 1978; Landsat 2 from 1975 to 1982; Landsat 3 from 1978 to 1983; Landsat 4 from 1982 to 1993; and Landsat 5 for a record-breaking 28 years from 1984 to what was likely its last data downlink in 2011.

Currently, Landsat 7, launched in 1999 is still providing data. The data from Landsat satellites has been instrumental in increasing our understanding of forest health, storm damage, agricultural trends, urban growth, and many other ongoing changes to our land.

NASA and the U.S. Department of the Interior through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) jointly manage Landsat, and the USGS preserves a 40-year archive of Landsat images that is freely available data over the Internet.

The next Landsat satellite, now known as the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) and later to be called Landsat 8, is scheduled for launch in January 2013.

**Editor's Note:** *The wells near Dalhart in north-west Texas near the Oklahoma boarder draw water from the Ogallala Aquifer which is being rapidly depleted. Between 1980 and 1995, the level has dropped more than 40 meet in that part of the aquifer and some scientists believe that the aquifer around Dalhart will be completely depleted in the next 25 - 30 years at the present rate of use. Without proper care, the problem of depleted aquifers could affect parts of Illinois as well.*

Source: *ScienceDaily* (Apr. 28, 2012) — The above story is [reprinted](#) from materials provided by [NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center](#).





## ***SWCD LICENSE PLATES NEED TO BE ORDERED!***

Have you ordered your SWCD license plate yet? For many years, since the "Environmental" license plate first appeared, soil and water conservation districts have been talking about getting a specialized plate to promote soil and water conservation efforts in Illinois. With the passage of HB 4966 sponsored by Representative Chapin Rose that discussion became reality. Public Act 96-1377 was signed July 29, 2010 allowing any Illinois resident to request a soil and water conservation district license plate for their automobile or light truck. **That law will expire September 28, 2012.**

We hope that when the crops are in farmers and their families will have a little time to think about other things and we hope they will think about supporting soil and water conservation in Illinois. The money from the orders and \$25 from the sale of the plates will go to support the Illinois Envirothon, a very worthy cause.

To order a plate, interested persons need only complete a short form and mail it along with a nonrefundable \$25 deposit to secure their order. The funds will be used for the Illinois Envirothon whether there are sufficient orders to print the plates or not. In order for the Secretary of State to make the first printing, 1,500 plates must be ordered. Once that number has been reached, the Secretary of state will ask for a design to be submitted and if it is found to meet legal requirements then the first run of plates will be printed.

Only sixteen plates need to be orders in each of Illinois' 97 soil and water conservation districts to meet the minimum so be sure to get your plates ordered now and ask your friends and customers if they will consider supporting soil and water conservation in Illinois. They are going to have to buy a plate or sticker anyway. They might as well make it a plate that supports a great cause **AND** promotes soil and water conservation.

You can obtain an order form at: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/vsd702.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd702.pdf). Print out a bunch and give them to your fiends and neighbors or anyone else who might have an interest.

The name of the specialty plate is "**Soil and Water Conservation**". Complete the rest of the form, sign it and mail it with a **\$25 check** to the Springfield office of the Secretary of State. Orders will not be accepted without the payment.



## ***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

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

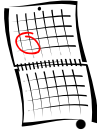
Date: May 10 & 11

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!

- **Illinois State Envirothon** - May 10 - 11, 4-H Memorial Campground, Allerton Park, Monticello, IL
- **Memorial Day** - May 28, Office closed
- **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

### **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
- Wild Flower Week - May 6th - 12th
- 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
- National Waiters and Waitresses Day - May 21st
- National Escargot Day - May 24th
- World No Tobacco Day - May 31st

### **june IS:**

- Candy Month
- Dairy Month
- Fight the Filthy Fly Month
- National Adopt a Cat Month
- National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month
- Rose Month

### **june dates of note:**

- National Doughnut Day - June 1st
- National Bubba Day - June 2nd
- Fishing Week - June 3rd - 9th
- Hug Your Cat Day - June 4th
- World Environment Day - June 5th
- National Chocolate Ice Cream Day - June 7th
- Donald Duck Day - June 9th

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

4285 N. Walnut Street Rd.  
Springfield, IL 62707



Phone: (217) 744-3414  
Fax: (217) 744-3420  
[www.aiswcd.org](http://www.aiswcd.org)