

# 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 - Illinois SWCD Chapter	6
Natural Area Guardians	7
No-Till Could Help Maintain Crop Yields Despite Climate Change	8
64th AISWCD Annual Meeting and Land and Water Resources Conference Award Winners (continued from front page)	9
Order Your SWCD License Plates	9
Calendar	10

## **64TH AISWCD ANNUAL MEETING & ILLINOIS LAND AND WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE**

The 2012 edition of the AISWCD Annual Meeting and Land and Water Resources Summer Conference is now in the history books. Be that as it may, there were many outstanding folks who were recognized for their achievements. Some of the award recipients are pictured in this issue. For more information and to see other award winners, please go to the AISWCD's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ILSWCDs>



Bruce Stickers, RC Champaign SWCD  
Outstanding District Employee  
Pictured above are Bruce and AISWCD President James Todd



Terry Bogner, Director, Marshall-Putnam SWCD  
Special Recognition - 40 Year Service Award  
Pictured above are Terry and AISWCD President James Todd

## *Conservation for the Future: The Next Generation*



Darrell Roegge, Director, Morgan SWCD  
Special Recognition - 40 Year Service Award  
Pictured above are Darrell and AISWCD President James Todd

We applaud the efforts of these three gentlemen. They have made a long term commitment to conservation for the future and the next generation!



(Continued on page 9)

## *AISWCD Staff:*

**Richard Nichols,**  
Executive Director

**Sherry Finn,**  
Administrative Assistant

**Kelly Thompson,**  
Program Coordinator





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - LONNIE WILSON

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

I had planned to introduce myself with this first article, but want to take a moment to discuss the veto of SB 1849...

Governor Quinn's veto of SB 1849 is a very big disappointment to me. Not only is there the funding for SWCDs and many other Ag related programs, but opportunity for economic development in SB 1849 which would generate revenues in a state that much needs a cash infusion. We will work with partners this fall to try and put in place the votes needed to overturn this veto. I have heard the Senate is where the most work will need to be done. Please, keep the pressure on your legislators to help us find a solution for a stable stream of funding for SWCDs outside of the general revenue fund. And, a thank you for all the letters and phone calls regarding this bill.

Now, a little about myself...

My wife, Julie, and I farm in Stark County, just east of Wyoming, IL. We are a small row crop operation and rent our feed lot out to a local veterinarian who has a small Black Angus herd. We moved to Illinois in 2005 after Julie's father passed and we purchased her home place. Since then, we have been building up ground and equipment as we can. We are members of the First Congressional (UCC) Church in Wyoming, IL. I am originally from southern Indiana from a curve in the road called Lone Tree just west of Bloomington, IN. This farm is still family owned and is partly cash rented with the rest enrolled in wildlife programs. In Indiana we did row

crop, cattle, hogs, trucking and operated a Farm store until I was old enough to head off to the Army. I served both in the regular Army and National Guard. I worked my way through college to gain a BS in Mechanical Engineering and worked mainly in the automotive industry until 2004 when our engineering group was "absorbed". Most of my engineering time was in current product support, program and project management. Julie and I are very active locally too. Julie is on the board at a local community center which they chartered about 2 years ago and purchased an old high school in Wyoming to convert. I work locally with a county wide festival board as their president. As needed, I have worked with economic development groups to help promote growth in the area where I lived.

I want to thank you for the faith you have placed in me to lead this organization. I do not take this responsibility lightly and will work hard to fill the role and try to exceed your expectations. Please feel free to call, email or even text me if you have something on your mind. I want to understand the issues you face across this entire state.

Have a safe fall and I wish you the best of luck in these very challenging times created by the drought. Once again, thank you and I look forward to working with you.



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

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

I waited till the last minute to write this hoping the Governor would either sign SB1849 or maybe just let it sit and quietly become law. Well, he did neither. His veto means we will have to be back at the capital in November to gain support from lawmakers and to work for an override. At this point, we don't really know what our odds for success might be. This has been a tough piece of legislation to get passed from the onset. There are many who oppose any form of gaming, and expansion of existing gaming, regardless of the benefits it can provide, is seen as just more of something they don't want.

I am sure that most of you are as disappointed as I am. We all worked very hard to try to find a source of funding for the SWCDs. To have it snatched from us at the last minute is very frustrating.

I am also sure many of you are wondering why the Governor waited the full sixty days to veto the bill. He has not changed his opinion of the bill since the beginning. Why didn't he just veto the bill when he received it? I don't have any answers but I do have an opinion and some ideas. I tend to think he may want to use the bill as a bargaining chip to force the General Assembly to act on pension reform. Had the General Assembly passed some kind of reform during their special session August 17<sup>th</sup> maybe he would have let the bill become law. I don't know if that is right or not, just speculation on my part.

A person who has been a longtime observer of politics told me that "nothing is ever as it seems." The more I see of Illinois politics the more I believe that bit of wisdom. I've learned over the years that, politically speaking, what you see or hear can seldom be taken at face value. There is nearly always a hidden agenda that is usually known only by the person or perhaps a select few others.

What is the Governor's real reason for vetoing SB1849? Only he knows for sure. In his veto message he wrote "The most glaring deficiency of Senate Bill 1849 is the absence of strict ethical standards and comprehensive regulatory oversight. Illinois should never settle for a gaming bill that includes loopholes for mobsters." What are those loopholes? He hasn't pointed them out to the bill's sponsors. He has stated he wants a ban on political contributions from anyone involved in the gaming industry. That won't happen. The Supreme Court has ruled that political contributions are a form of free speech and thus are not subject to limits of any kind. Therefore, any ban on political contributions would be found unconstitutional almost immediately upon passage. The Governor knows that. Why then does he still say he wants compre-

hensive ethical standards and strict regulatory oversight included in the bill? Are those elements not already in place for the current gaming industry? If SB1849 is indeed an expansion of gaming and not a bill to create a new gaming industry then it should be governed by the same rules and ethical standards that are currently in place. As yet, I haven't seen much in the way of criminal elements taking over the current casinos or other gambling venues. The Governor has said that the bill would allow too much gambling. If he feels so strongly about too much gambling, why then did he approve the video poker bill that will allow gambling to occur in almost any establishment that serves the public?

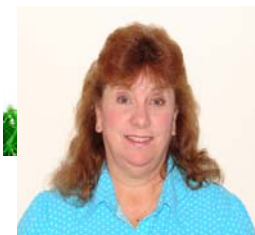
The Governor is concerned about jobs and trying to build the State's economy. Chicago officials estimate that the state and city lose about \$20 million EACH MONTH and countless jobs to gaming facilities in Indiana.

If enacted the legislation would have created an estimated 20,000 plus jobs (some estimates place that number as high as 40,000) in short term construction and long term casino and other employment opportunities! That many jobs would more than replace the payroll taxes from all of the state employees that are being laid off due to budget cuts and facility closures. I find it completely baffling that we continue to add to the State's unemployment costs rather than promote legislation that will reduce unemployment and generate tax revenue.

As I wrote earlier, nothing in Illinois politics is as it may seem. I have no idea where we are headed or how the State will pull itself out of the financial mire if we continue on the path we currently seem to be following. I can only hope that leadership has a plan, no matter how obscure it may seem, that will somehow bring the State back from the brink of insolvency and restore some equilibrium. I don't see how we can continue to stumble through each year getting further behind in payments to vendors, cutting essential services to people who legitimately need those services and reducing state employment head count to the point of having to discontinue entire programs.

As stated in the first paragraph, we will be back at the Capital this fall seeking the override and a supplemental appropriation, and next spring seeking an alternative funding source that hopefully won't be as vulnerable to the whims of the Governor as the gaming bill. Stay tuned to this newsletter and we will do our best to keep you updated.

*Rich*



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

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

### July and August Activities

#### 319 Partners in Conservation Grant:

- Have contacted several LUC areas to place employees
- Received Grant Agreement from IEPA; Rich signed; returned and everything is a go

#### JULY-AUGUST 64th AISWCD Annual Meeting/Summer Conference:

- Completed Northfield hotel accommodations, meal selections, live auction cash bar, Partner table accommodations, registration area, and conference meeting room confirmations with hotel contact.
- Completed Ramada hotel accommodations and meeting room confirmation with hotel contact.
- Completed Voting Delegate Packet, put together pages, and put packet together
- Ordered cookies and mints for attendees; put welcome packages together
- Selected and ordered awards for 40 Yr Service recipients, Farm Family LUC winners, and Outstanding Forestry Award
- Made room reservations for Farm Family winners, Legislator of the Year and Friend of Conservation
- Completed all registrations, made name tags, helped with Ticket printing and coordinated ticket stuffing in name tags
- Contacted poster and photo award winners for reservations for Recognition Luncheon
- Confirmed with all award winners to attend conference
- Confirmed Parliamentarian and Partners participation in conference
- Prepared Live Auction item listing; Live Auction sign in sheet; live auction bidding cards; and final tally cards.
- Printed Certificates for Director Service Awards, Poster Winners, and Photo Winners
- Made place mats for award winners for the Recognition Luncheon
- Mailed certificates to Directors for Service Awards that were not present at Opening Ceremonies
- Mailed Recognition Luncheon award winners and Farm Family LUC winner that were not present
- Completed thank you note cards to all Live Auction contributors and item purchasers; send thank you cards to Partners, Officers, and others instrumental in conference success
- Mailed Invoices to Districts and individuals that charged meal(s), registration fee, and/or live auction item.
- Completed all items on Annual Meeting/Summer Conference checklist (too many to list)

#### OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards
- Compiled Timesheets
- 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
- Completed Monthly Office Supply Inventory and placed order
- Maintaining Earth Stewardship Bank Account; posted donation funds to account; redid income/expense statement

- Mailed link to Districts & Board Members for Legislative and CC newsletters; mailed copies to non-email participants
- Sent e-mail to il.all listing for QuickBooks—Swizznet webinar; prepared database to keep update on interested Districts; worked with Swizznet contact to follow up on participation; contacted NRCS and updated them on receiver needed for Districts to host Swizznet for their QuickBooks

#### IL Envirothon:

- Sent out Meeting Wizard for taskforce committee to discuss 2013 IL Envirothon
- Paid Grundy County for IL Envirothon Co-Coordination-July and August (Contract completed)
- Sent new contract agreement to Grundy County Co-Coordination of IL Envirothon for renewal
- Sent signed copy of contract back to Grundy County
- Received final payments for 2012 IL Envirothon Sponsors and two (2) meals
- Prepared Updated Income/Expense Statement for treasurer.

#### ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for July & August
- Reconciled all bank accounts for July
- Completed bookwork for All AISWCD & Insurance Accts
- Prepared Deposits for SWCD Dues (received in July) 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
- Completed Semi-Monthly IL Lobbyist Expenditure Data for IL Secretary of State for May.
- Completed all CREP Coordinator deposits from Comptroller; made checks for participating Districts and mailed; CREP Coordinator grant completed and all payments made.
- Returned audit information back to SWCD Insurance Acct auditor

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

- CREP 319 & 608 Grant Programs
  - September Executive Committee Meeting
  - December QB Meeting/Christmas Party

**REMEMBER:** Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible!"

**TO ACT:** Do your best. There is no better achievement than that!!

**ENJOY YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND AND STAY SAFE!!!!**

*Sherry*



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - KELLY THOMPSON

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

Greetings everyone! Summer is beginning to wrap-up and autumn will be knocking on our door before too long.

It seems as though the time has been quickly passing by as it will have been six months on September 15 since I was hired by AISWCD as Program Coordinator. I'd like to take a minute to thank everyone for being so welcoming. By now, I have met a good portion of you and have enjoyed doing so. This summer has lent itself to many great learning opportunities and experiences. Over the past six months I have dabbled in a little bit of everything AISWCD has to offer. In March I attended the quarterly board and LUC 9 meetings; April was filled with meeting new people and attending meetings such as the PDSWRS Work Group, IUM Steering Committee and the IUM Technical Review Committee; In May I participated in the Envirothon as an oral presentation judge; June was a busy month with many conference calls taking place and becoming involved with a local watershed planning committee as well as the IL River Conference Planning Committee; July was equally as busy with annual meeting preparation and several conference calls and meetings with the IUM committees; And finally, August. August was filled with PDSWRS Work Group conference calls, IL State Fair Agriculture Day, helping out at Watershed Park, and NRCS/SWCD new employee field training at PMC in Elsberry, MO. September to December ought to be equally as productive and busy.

I'd like to thank everyone for the abundance of learning opportunities and experiences over the past six months. I look forward to working with the districts more as time goes by and meeting so many of you I have not yet met.

And now, I would like to give everyone a quick update regarding the Illinois Urban Manual update initiative. Below is a timeline of what to expect within the upcoming months and a list of items the IUM committees will be discussing at upcoming meetings.

— IUM Steering Committee to meet the last week of September in Normal, IL at the McLean County SWCD office. Date is still TBD.

Items open for discussing at the Steering Committee meeting are as follows:

- Development of an "Urban" Newsletter
- IUM website update
- State Agency representative replacements (due to numerous retirements)
- Update of the IUM Field Manual
- And numerous other items

— Approval of IUM Practice Standards ~ The following practice standards are awaiting IEPA final approval:

- Lined Channel or Outlet 872
- Open Channel 878

Once approved the two practice standards will be updated on the IUM website and an email will be sent to those of you who are on the IUM email list. If you would are not currently on the IUM update list and would like to be added, please send me an email and I will gladly place your name on the list.

— Updating of the Illinois Field Manual for Implementation and Inspection of Erosion and Sediment Control Plans from 1990.

The update will include a complete restructuring of the old field manual (brown pocket-sized book) to include new and updated erosion and sediment control practices that are currently found on the IUM website. The committee has met to discuss printing quotes and overall layout of the manual size. More information is to come once the committee holds additional meetings. Look for a new and updated field manual by September 2013.

— Due to the numerous retirements within state agencies, the IUM committees have lost several representatives. At the next Steering Committee meeting state agency representation will be discussed at length. It is imperative that the IUM committees receive input for the various practice standards from local state agencies. State agency partnership and participation is much appreciated.

— Current IUM practice standards being updated:

- Cofferdam 803 – Task Group to complete by mid-September 2012. Expect public review by early October – November 2012.
- Rain Garden 897 – Task Group to complete by mid-September 2012. Expect public review by early October – November 2012.
- Soil Bioengineering 926 – Pro bono AutoCAD work complete by late September 2012. Expect public review by mid-October – November 2012.
- Wetland Restoration 999, Wetland Enhancement 998 and Wetland Creation 997 – Consultant work ongoing through March 2013.

— Post Development Work Group (PDSWRS) – The work group met several times during the past month to discuss, develop and prepare a preliminary draft recommendations document. The document will be discussed at length during the public meetings set for October 18 and 23, 2012 (location TBD). For more information regarding the work group please visit their webpage at [http://aiswcd.org/Programs/PDSWRS\\_WorkGroup.html](http://aiswcd.org/Programs/PDSWRS_WorkGroup.html). The website will give you information on the work groups overall goal and a list of which groups/agencies are involved. After reviewing the website, if you still have questions feel free to contact me.

I will have more IUM information as it becomes available. Thank you again!

## ISWCDEA CORNER - *KARA DOWNIN, ISWCDEA RC VICE CO-CHAIR AND REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE*

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



Summer Conference had great attendance this year and our first annual 50/50 raffle was a success! Amy Peck, AC Peoria Co. SWCD, was our winner and she took home \$500 in cash! The EA Scholarship was also awarded during Summer Conference. Our winner was Danielle Brachman. Andrew Brachman, RC Henry Co. SWCD, is her husband. Congratulations Amy and Danielle!

Employee Association elections are upon us for Regions 2 and 4. We are in need of replacing members who have served their full terms. Region 4 and 5 also had vacancies that need filled. When we have a full EA board, then there are many to disperse any needed work. Many hands make light work. Please consider becoming a member even if you are new to SWCDs or if you have been on the board in the past. We have changed a couple of meetings to conference calls. Besides attending Summer Conference and Winter Training, we have six meetings per year and four are conference calls.

Regarding vacancies, the board is also in need of Vice Co-Chairs. Ideally, candidates would have at least 2 terms left (Reps have a max of 3 terms of 2 years each that they can serve); however, a new Rep can also fill a position on the board.

With the support of Representative Chapin Rose, SWCDs were included in House Bill 2938 which enacts the SWCD specialty license plate. Time is running out (September 30th) and 1500 pre-orders are needed. For every license plate ordered, \$25 will benefit the Illinois Envirothon. Contact the AISWCD or an EA Rep for more information!

Please contact your EA Reps with any possible Winter Training session ideas. Our planning meeting will be September 13th. Also, don't forget that FY13 dues need to be paid by December 30, 2012. Contact Treasurer Sharon Matson with any dues questions.



## ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - *DEBBIE HOLSAPPLE, PRESIDENT*

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

### "SUCCESS COMES WITH 110% EFFORT"

IL SWCD IAAP Chapter is looking forward to the 2012-2013 membership year. Our July meeting at Summer Conference was full of activity. New officers were installed. We adopted "Success comes with 110% Effort" as our theme for the membership year. We set retention and expansion goals. The 2012-2013 program calendar was approved and we celebrated the addition of four new members. They include Sally Ferguson, Rock Island County; Melisa Long, Winnebago County; Joan Whitney, Knox County and Annyce Winters, Greene County. Melissa Cauble from Montgomery County received a SPOT award for her inspiration and management of our "Illinois Partners in Conservation" fundraiser. Alli Bloj from Robert Half International provided a wonderful ending for our meeting as she gave us new insight on current business etiquette with the "New Rules in a Digital Age."

Our IAAP chapter mission is to be the acknowledged, recognized leader of administrative professionals and to enhance their individual and collective value, image, competence and influence. Your IL SWCD IAAP Chapter is working hard implementing and executing plans to accomplish our mission. Be sure to visit our website at <http://iaap-swcd.tripod.com> for more information about our chapter and the special 70th anniversary membership rate available through December. Come join our journey!



## Natural Area Guardians - Debra Carey

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

### ANTLERS AND HORNS

If you were a fair maiden in the early 1800's, your intricately carved hair comb may very well have been crafted from horn. Even earlier, during the Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1368 through 1644) horn was a common material used in snuff boxes, brush handles and utensils. King Tut's tomb may have been filled with carved vessels made of horn. Victorians prized pickle forks, beads, salt cellars and demitasse spoons made of horn. Even collapsible drinking cups were constructed of thin sheets of horn as were common buttons (and even the button hook). In the late 1700's and even running into the 1800's, only the wealthy had silver eating utensils. The rest of us used wooden utensils, or those carved from horn - or our fingers.

Horn was today's plastic. Horn is a keratinous tissue formed in layers around bone. When heated, horn can be flattened, rolled, molded, sliced, diced and carved. Cows have horns as do many animals found around the world. Both male and female animals may have horns. Horns are permanent; calves are born with horn buds which develop into fully-formed horns of a size and shape dependent upon the breed. The famous Longhorn cattle of the Old West sport horns that may exceed five feet in total length. Other cattle breeds have shorter, smaller, more curved or straighter horns. Every shape and color lent itself to a particular use. Flattened horn is quite translucent and its honey-color added an elegance to everyday objects in the household.

Since horn is an organic material, heavy use took its toll. High humidity, low humidity, careless handling, plain old dirt, remains of food; all these elements cause horn to discolor and decompose. That's why few horn objects remain; a silver fork outlasts a horn fork. But horn's individuality and its ephemeral qualities are what makes horn objects interesting and collectible. Since no two horns are the same color, no two objects made of horn are alike (can't say that about plastic!). Horn has a special and timeless quality that is vastly different than millions of mass-produced items. If you are fortunate to have antique horn items, treat them with care. Keep horn out of direct light or excessive heat (horn may revert to its original form!) A dab of olive oil adds to the horn's original luster.

Antlers are not permanently attached to an animal. In some species, such as whitetail deer, only male animals grow antlers. Antlers grow annually and are formed upon what's called a pedicle attached to the skull. Growing antlers are covered with a soft layer of thick skin - oftentimes called "velvet". This skin supplies the growing antler with oxygen, nutrients and a supply of blood. When an antler attains its optimum size, the velvet/skin dries up and is vigorously rubbed off by the animal. The resulting "dead" bone is the mature antler. After breeding season, antlers fall off.

Discarded antlers were a boon to early craftsmen. Antler chandeliers were a sign of wealth during the Renaissance and during this same period, antler sculptures depicting mermaids and dragons were called leuchterweibchen. As a sure sign of high style, furniture constructed completely of antlers was in vogue at the Crystal Palace in London in 1851. It was said that using antlers brought the "natural" world into their world of high society.

When the German cabinetmaker Wenzel Friedrich headed for the wild and woolly state of Texas in 1853, he brought the antler furniture craze to the United States (although the use of antlers as coat hooks and the like had surely existed before then). Antler chairs were interesting and unique but comfort was not what chair designers had in mind. The great Teddy Roosevelt's Adirondack hideaway held examples of antler craft as did many other hunting lodges. Antler was also used as handle material for knives and other utensils. And thin slices of antler added an outdoor look when used as buttons on jackets and coats.

Today, an original antler chandelier, chair, mirror frame or fern planter is a prized object. As with horn, no two antlers are alike lending artistic allure to the object. And what is really ironic is that you can now purchase an imitation antler chandelier - yes, made of plastic!

All of our natural resources - soil, water, air, minerals, plants and wildlife - provide us with a high standard of living in Illinois. As wise and careful stewards, we must make decisions based upon scientific data, and not emotion, when it comes to management and conservation of our resources.

## NO-TILL COULD HELP MAINTAIN CROP YIELDS DESPITE CLIMATE CHANGE

Reducing tillage for some Central Great Plains crops could help conserve water and reduce losses caused by climate change, according to studies at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Research leader Laj Ahuja and others at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Agricultural Systems Research Unit at Fort Collins, Colo., superimposed climate projections onto 15 to 17 years of field data to see how future crop yields might be affected. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency, and this work supports the USDA priority of responding to climate change.

The field data was collected at the ARS Central Great Plains Research Station in Akron, Colo. The projections included an increase in equivalent atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels from 380 parts per million by volume (ppmv) in 2005 to 550 ppmv in 2050. The projections also included a 5-degree Fahrenheit increase in summer temperatures in Colorado from 2005 to 2050. The ARS scientists used these projections to calculate a linear increase of CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature from 2050 to 2100.

Ahuja's team used the Root Zone Water Quality Model (version 2) for crop rotations of wheat-fallow, wheat-corn-fallow, and wheat-corn-millet to see how yields might be affected in the future. They simulated different combinations of three climate change projections: rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels, rising temperatures, and a shift in precipitation from late spring and summer to fall and winter. They ran the model with the projected climate for each of the 15 to 17 years of field crop data for each cropping system.

When the researchers used all three climate factors to generate yield projections from 2005 to 2100, the yield estimates for the three cropping systems dropped over time. Declines in corn and millet yields were more significant than declines in wheat yields.

Ahuja also simulated earlier planting dates and no-till management to see if either change reduced yield losses, but only the no-till option helped. In the wheat-fallow rotation with no tillage, wheat yields were higher than with conventional tillage through 2075. But by 2100, when summer temperatures had increased by 8 degrees F, even the no-till yield advantage was lost.

The results from this work were published in *Climatic Change* in 2012.

Read more about these studies in the August 2012 issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/aug12/cropland0812.htm>

The above story is reprinted from materials provided by [USDA/Agricultural Research Service](#). The original article was written by Ann Perry.

(From *ScienceDaily* Aug. 23, 2012)



(Credit: Photo by Tim Green)

ARS scientists used data from stations like this Colorado weather facility to predict that Central Great Plains farmers could use no-till production to offset wheat, corn, and millet yield losses from hotter temperatures and higher levels of carbon dioxide.

## 64TH AISWCD ANNUAL MEETING AND LAND AND WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS

(Continued from front page)



William (Bill) Gradle, NRCS State Conservationist (retired) received the AISWCD's Friend of Conservation Award  
Pictured from left are Lonnie Wilson, Bill Gradle, Sally Gradle and Jim Todd



Representative Lisa Dugan, (D) 79th District, received the AISWCD's Legislator of the Year Award  
Pictured from left are Lonnie Wilson, Representative Dugan, Jeff O'Conner and Jim Todd



## 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 idea 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 unless 1,500 plates are ordered.**

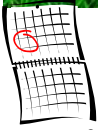
We hope that since most of the crops are planted farmers and their families will have a little time to think about other things and we hope they will think about supporting soil and water conservation in Illinois. The money from the orders and \$25 from the sale of renewal plates will go to support the 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. *The plate pictured above is only an example and not the actual design of the plate.*

Only sixteen plates need to be ordered 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 friends 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.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Labor Day - Monday September 3, 2012 - Office Closed
- Autumn Begins - Saturday, September 22, 2012

### 2012 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- Executive Committee Meeting - September 4, 2012, Illinois Department of Agriculture
- 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

### august is:

- Admit You're Happy Month
- Family Fun Month
- National Catfish Month
- National Golf Month
- Peach Month
- Water Quality Month

### august dates of note:

- Japan Surrenders - 14th
- Aviation Day - 19th
- Senior Citizen's Day - 21st
- Kiss and Make Up Day - 25th
- Toasted Marshmallow Day - 30th

### september is:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Courtesy Month
- National Piano Month
- Honey Month
- Self Improvement Month
- Better Breakfast Month

### september dates of note:

- Newspaper Carrier Day - 4th
- Cheese Pizza Day - 5th
- Jane Addams, co-founder of Hull House, born September 6, 1860
- International Literacy Day - 8th
- Grandparents Day - 9th
- Patriot Day - 11th
- National Cream-Filled Donut Day - 14th
- Working Parents Day - 16th
- National Cheeseburger Day - 18th
- National Comic Book Day - 25th
- Treaty of Chicago - last of Indian treaties ceding land to Illinois - September 26, 1833
- Native American Day - 28th
- National Mud Pack Day - 30th

**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)