

# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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**Jake Vancil**

## 2013 ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON



**First Place Team**  
Triad High School, Troy, IL

Madison County Soil and Water  
Conservation District

1st Place - Forestry  
1st Place - Oral Presentation

**Second Place Team**  
Glenbrook South High School,  
Glenview, IL

North Cook County Soil and Water  
Conservation District

1st Place - Aquatics



**Third Place Team**  
Spoon River Valley High School,  
London Mills, IL

Fulton County Soil and Water Con-  
servation District

Tied for 1st Place - 5th Category



more pictures on pages 8 & 9



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Lonnie Wilson*

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

Well, May is here and in my part of the state it feels more like early March to me. It is wet, cold and down right just not very nice! This month I thought I would take a few minutes to answer a few questions I have received multiple times from districts.

The first one is "What is the AISWCD doing with our dues?" The board approved budget can be found on our website at: <http://aiswcd.org/AboutAISWCD/2013%20budget.pdf> and your LUC representative has the latest financial committee reports that they approved from the last Quarterly Board Meeting in March if you would like more detailed information. I would like to point out that the AISWCD receives over 80% of it's operational budget from grants and administrative funds from third parties. Keeping this in mind, less than 3/4 of one person is paid for by the dues by my calculations.

The Second is "Why does the AISWCD spend so much time working on NACD stuff?" NACD is our voice for the Farm Bill, USDA policy issues and other items effecting SWCDs and they need input from time to time from us. I do not believe we spend all that much time on NACD, especially compared to other member states, but we do forward their information and try to give them the information they need to help them represent our area properly. I am involved in the North Central Region a little more since I am the Vice Chair and do spend a few hours a month with those duties. I do feel that a national presence is just as important as the local presence in Springfield, and NACD does a great job with that. Our support for those efforts is very important and I hope you as a district feel the same.

The third is "Why are the Resolutions not published somewhere for us to review?" As a lot of you know, there is a resolution for action to be taken in July on this. I would like to help those of you out early and point you to the website below if you would like to review the past resolutions: <http://aiswcd.org/EventsAndNews/res1.html>. The web site is in the process of being reconstructed and all of the resolutions will be included when the website is complete. These can also be found in a binder in the AISWCD office. If you would like an update on a specific reso-

lutions, please have your LUC representative bring this up to Tom Beyers in June.

The fourth is "What are the funding sources that the AISWCD is working on? or "Why is the AISWCD working on the vetoed Gaming Bill?" Well, frankly we will not waste time working on a vetoed bill! Vetoed bills require a 3/4 majority vote in both the House and Senate to be overridden and the votes simply are not there for the gaming bill that was vetoed. We are working on some new sources though. We are not releasing much on this information because ideas we discussed publicly in the past were stolen and used for other agencies. But, we have 9 new sources confidentially being studied now with Representative Frank Mautino that will most likely be narrowed to a couple and included into an Ag Bill hopefully later this year. As you have seen, we were able to work to get back into a Gaming Bill for \$6.25 M that just passed the Senate this week. And we will be piloting a program in a couple of districts soon for a new funding source we have developed with one of our partners. The pilots will help us work out the final details over the next few months. We have also spent a lot of time making sure staffers, committee leaders, agency personnel and others understand who we are and the importance of the SWCDs both environmentally and economically to Illinois, which I believe is directly related to the increase in the proposed budgets.

The Last Item for this month is "Why doesn't the AISWCD have Legislator tours?" We are planning one now for August with the help of Peoria and Kane Counties, Caterpillar, ILICA and the Illinois Stewardship Alliance. I look forward to this as the model for a yearly event where we can educate legislators on our urban involvement and on the rural programs too.

With this article, I would like to open a line of communications with all the SWCDs and invite you to submit your questions for me to try to address in this article each month. This will give me topics that you want to hear about and answer your specific questions.

Have a safe and happy spring!





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

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

Hello everyone. I have good news and bad news. The good news is that the drought in Illinois is over! The bad news is that we are short of wood for an ark. Joking aside, it was an extremely wet April, and May is setting up to be in the top of the wettest months. Planting is way behind last year and also behind what would normally be expected for this time of year. However, the days are warmer and longer and that always helps after a long dreary winter.

As I am sure you know by now, the Gaming Bill passed the Senate May 1<sup>st</sup> and is now in the House Executive Committee (May 6). The bill was amended at the last minute in the Senate to include \$6.25 million for soil and water conservation districts. While that is only half of the amount that was in the vetoed SB1849, it represents a substantial increase over what the SWCDs can expect from currently available funding sources. We would ask that you contact your Representative and ask for their support when SB1739 comes up for a vote.

Legislatively, this has been a lackluster session as far as the SWCDs are concerned. It appears that most of the energy expended in both the House and Senate has been related to trying to fix the pension problems, agree on a concealed carry bill and tackle the gay marriage issue. There have been several bills that have made it through one chamber and have been sent to the second chamber, but most of them deal with issues that are much less controversial than the three issues just mentioned. Usually by this time of the session, budget bills have begun to move, but so far this year there has been no action on a state budget package in either chamber. Individual agency bills have been entered and are awaiting action in their respective committee or may still be in rules or assignments without yet being assigned to any specific committee. Both HB3595 and SB2466 are currently waiting for further action. HB3595 has been assigned to the Appropriations-General Services Committee but has received no action. SB2466 remains in the Senate Assignments Committee awaiting assignment to the Senate Appropriations II Committee. Both bills address the Department of Agriculture budget for FY14, and both bills contain a \$515,000 increase in the line for Grants to Districts.

There is some indication that the pension issue will be dealt with within the next few days, but there are no guarantees and even though parts of the pension solution have been subjected to "test" votes, no votes have been taken on a complete package that will deal with the entire issue. Hopefully the issue will be addressed soon, and the collective attention of the General Assembly can move on to decisions affecting funding the state's pro-

grams and services.

I'll switch gears here and write a little about the recently held Envirothon. You can read more about the results elsewhere in this issue of the Conservation Catchall, but I want to express my admiration for the students who participated at the state level completion. I have been a judge for the oral presentations for several years, and I am never disappointed in the quality of the presentations or the knowledge that the teams display. While there are obvious differences in the ability of the teams to present their information, the talent all of the teams display to put together a coherent and informative oral presentation with only a few hours of preparation is very apparent.

I believe that some of the students we see at the state level competitions will become our conservation champions in the years to come, and I am very comfortable with that idea.

This year there were teams representing all 16 Councils as well as several FFA teams that participated during the first day of testing. They all did a great job as far as I could tell, but unfortunately only one team can be selected to represent Illinois in the National Envirothon. The 2013 team will be Madison County Triad High School located in Troy, Illinois. The team is nearly always one of the top finishers and has won the state competition before. Congratulations to Triad and to their teacher!

Cannon Corporation has sponsored the national competition for many years but is bowing out. 2013 will be the last year that the company will have a major presence at the national competition, which will be in Bozeman, Montana. NACD and others are currently seeking a national sponsor, but so far no one has come forward. Let's hope this won't be the final year for this unique and truly worthwhile program.

Your support over the years has been a significant part of the success enjoyed by the Illinois competition which will continue as long as the AISWCD is able to host the event. Educating our youth is a very important function of the soil and water conservation districts. Without assuring that there is always leadership to be concerned for our resources and knowledgeable people to act on that concern, we cannot produce the food we do and sustain the environmental resources to continue to feed ourselves, and a major portion of the world.

*Rich*



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - KELLY THOMPSON

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

Happy May everyone! We have finally made it to spring-like weather although not without hardships along the way. My thoughts go out to those not so fortunate during the past several rainstorm events.

### **-IUM-**

The IUM Technical Review Committee met in April. The TRC is working on the following standards:

- Soil Bioengineering
- Rain Garden
- Pervious & Porous Pavements
- Post-Construction Detention Basins (4 total)
- Bio-Retention Facility
- Temporary Sediment Basin

Currently there are several standards on public notice on the USACE website.

Wetland Standards – Comment Period: *May 6 – June 6, 2013*

<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

Pavement Standards – Comment Period: *April 15 – May 15, 2013*

<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

The IUM TRC is also working on developing an IUM Field Manual. The manual is currently in the draft stage. The field manual will be printed and distributed by December 2013. A copy of the manual will also be available on the IUM website. For more information on the field manual contact me directly.

The IUM Steering Committee is meeting on Wednesday, May 8 in Normal. They will be discussing the development of the next grant as well as the committee bylaws and review of practice standards being developed. Additional information will be available in the June update.

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

The work group is beginning to sum-up their efforts that began over a year ago. A final recommendation document continues to be developed which will be submitted to IEPA on or before June 30, 2013. To follow the efforts of the work group, please visit their webpage: [http://www.aiswcd.org/Programs/PDSWRS\\_WorkGroup.html](http://www.aiswcd.org/Programs/PDSWRS_WorkGroup.html)

The final recommendations document will be posted to the website upon submitting to IEPA.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the IUM update or the PDSWRS work group, feel free to email, [kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org](mailto:kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org) or call (217) 744-3414!



**Have a wonderful month of May!**

*Kelly Thompson*



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

### April Activities

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

My report will be a little different for this issue. I have been working on the Annual Meeting Summer conference and thought I'd put a plug in for the Lake Springfield Watershed Tour. This tour should be of interest to all and will cover a broad spectrum of conservation activities that are applicable to the entire state.

### **AISWCD 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Conservation Tour/ AISWCD Lake Springfield Watershed Resource Tour 1:30 p.m. - Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

Tour event hosted by Sangamon County SWCD Staff/Submitted by Sherry Finn

Depart from Northfield Center - 1:30 pm

Arrive at South 6<sup>th</sup> Street WalMart - 1:42 pm - 1<sup>st</sup> WalMart specifically designed for Stormwater retention treatment

Depart from WalMart - 1:57 pm

Travel to Thayer, IL - On the way we will be able to see and discuss a Rock Chute, Waterways, Waterway scheduled for fall construction, and Impacts of Rural Urbanization. Bus will be able to pause or slow down at each site but not unload.

Arrive at Stockdale SAFE acres project - 2:40 pm - CRP Program-State Acres for wildlife enhancement; specifically set up for Northern Bob White Quail in Sangamon County

Depart from SAFE acres - 2:55 pm

Arrive at Tile Water Management and Saturated Buffer Research Site - 3:02 pm - Controlled structure patterned tiled system which holds water in the field for most of the year

Depart from site at - 3:17 pm

Arrive at Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary - 3:30 pm - Educational Wildlife Sanctuary

Depart from Nipper - 3:55 pm

Travel back to Springfield - On the way we will see and discuss large CREP area, Filter Strips, Animal Confinement, Aluminum Toe-wall Structure, CWLP funded Pond, and Stream bank Stabilization. Bus will be able to pause or slow down at each site but not unload. Presentation on CREP acres and state program.

Arrive at Southwind Park - 4:20 pm

Depart from park - 4:50 pm

Arrive at Sangamon County Farm Bureau Building - 5:05 pm

Meal to be served by Poe Catering and to include Pork Chop Sandwiches, Chips, Baked Beans, Iced Tea/Water

Once meal is finished bus will return to Northfield Center.

**We hope to see many of you there!**

*Sherry*





## Office Assistant's Information - Gina Bean

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

I don't know about everyone else but I am ready for Summer! What really got me ready for summer was Envirothon and the City of Springfield Earth Fair. It was my very first one for both events and I enjoyed them very much.

The City of Springfield Earth Fair was held on April 27, 2013. This year's theme was the Zero Waste Challenge. All vendors were encouraged to produce zero waste while they were at the Earth Fair. Maldaners catered the event and helped the effort by bringing in decomposable plates, straws, and cups. As AISWCD, we did our part by bringing an Enviroscape. Everyone really seemed to enjoy our booth. It did rain most of the time the event was going on, but it seemed to be an enjoyable time for all. We are already thinking of how we can make our booth different and better for next year.

Although the weather was rainy for the Earth Fair, it was excellent for Envirothon. Being out at the 4-H camp at Allerton Park made me feel like a kid again. Those high school students amazed me with what little time they had to prepare for their oral presentations. We have some future public speakers on our hands for sure. Some of them will make excellent additions to the Environmental workforce some day as well.

Other than those two events, I've just been busy with preparing for the Annual Meeting.

I've also been following Josh Seehorn as he travels across the country to raise money for Envirothon. As of April 24, 2013 he was still in Nevada. Please, if you haven't, check out his site <http://outdoorjosh.com>. His adventures are so interesting. You will read about his encounters with bears and how some of the trail has been covered with multiple feet of snow! He posts pictures and videos when he can. He's doing such a great thing for Envirothon so please support him in any way that you can.



Hope everyone isn't too tired of the rain. Remember if it gets dry again this summer we will wish that we had it.

Have a great rest of the month and I will see some of you next month at the Quarterly Board Meeting!

Gina Bean



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

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

Greetings!! Even though spring has "sprung a leak", our thoughts are focused on warm, dry days and sunshine. I know the RC's are anxious to begin working on PFC or SSRP projects and most SWCD's are planning for outdoor classroom events with students before the end of the school year. For those counties who have a school participating in the state Envirothon on May 1st and 2nd in Monticello, we say, "Good Luck and may the best team win!"

The ISWCDEA would like to welcome Jodi Hawkins, AC from Williamson County and most recently Carla Barnes, AC from Franklin County to the ISWCDEA board. Jodi and Carla are filling the two vacancies on the board for Region 5.

The ISWCDEA has recently had several inquiries about monthly SWCD job responsibilities. These inquiries have come as a result of the hiring of new employees or board decisions to have only one employee doing the work of both AC & RC. To begin this arduous task, a SWCD Guidebook Committee was formed. Those serving on this committee are Renee Weitekamp, area 4; Tara Hopkins, area 4; and Sondra Baker, area 2. The committee has recently sent an email out to all employees asking for your input so please submit your ideas or questions to those on the Committee. The committee's goal is to have the handbook posted on DARTS and the ISWCDEA Website where the information will be available to all employees.

The 2013 Farm Progress Show will be held August 27-29th in Decatur, IL and the ISWCDEA will once again be involved. Renee Weitekamp, Sondra Baker and Thad Eshleman are serving on the committee. They are going to work closely with Rich Nichols on plans and ideas to make this event very successful.

Reminder:

Be thinking about submitting the ISWCDEA Scholarship Application. The application must be post-marked by June 30, 2013 and sent to Joe Bybee, Region 2, IDOA Regional Representative.

Summer Conference is scheduled for July 22nd and 23rd at the Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield. Encourage your directors and staff to attend!

Until Next Time!



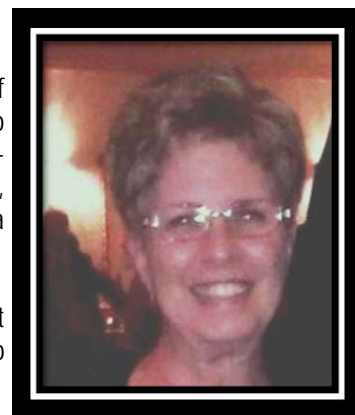
## ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - *SHARON MATSON, PRESIDENT*

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

Happy Belated Administrative Professional's Day!

Our annual meeting was held Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at the Department of Ag Building in Springfield, Illinois, Room 66 at 10:00 a.m. There were many who could not attend due to sickness or road closures. We held the IAAP 2014 election and installation of officers. Our 2014 officers are Jane Brangenberg, President; Sally Ferguson, Vice President; Brenda McMillan, Treasurer and Melissa Cauble as Secretary. I would like to give a huge thank you to all for attending and Congratulations to our officers.

Our speaker for the session, Marie Herman, CAP-OM, ACS 2012-2013 Illinois Division President was unable to attend the meeting due to road closures. I am hoping Marie will give a webinar to hear her presentation "Becoming the Renaissance Admin".



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://iaap-swcd.tripod.com> and view what is happening.





## 2013 ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON



1st Place - Soils  
Shiloh High School, Hume, IL,

Edgar County Soil and Water Conservation District

Spirit Award Winner

1st Place - Wildlife  
Dakota High School, Dakota, IL

Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District



1st Place - 5th Category  
Sandoval High School, Sandoval, IL

Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District

Tied with:  
Auburn High School, Sangamon County SWCD

Edwards County High School, Edwards County SWCD

El Paso-Gridley High School, Woodford County SWCD

Spoon River Valley High School, Fulton County SWCD

Morris High School, Grundy County SWCD







## 2013 ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

Thanks to the 2013 Envirothon Volunteers!!

Pictured left to right,

Top Row: Natalie Mahler, Stephanie Musselman, Shelly Seman, Kristy Cooley, Jake Vancil, Jason Bleich, Tara Hopkins, Diane Freeman and Brooke Baker

Middle Row: Sondra Baker, Derra Williams, Melissa Cauble, Thomas Harris, Keith Livesay, Debi Slade, and Jeremy Pruden

Front Row: Mary Dawson, Glenda Cox, Jane Brangenberg, Mindy Pratt, Lorna Chezem and Burke Davies

Not pictured, Megan Andrews, Gina Bean, Tonya Canania, Sherry Finn, Amy Ishmael, Jim Nelson Judy Meislahn, Craig Schroeder, Renee Weitekamp, Denise Willenborg, and Kelly Thompson,



## ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON - CLASS OF 2013



### The 15th Annual Illinois Leadership Conference June 6, 2013



#### The 15th Annual Illinois Leadership Conference

June 6, 2013  
Decatur Hotel and Conference Center  
Decatur, Illinois  
For more information: [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu)

#### Who should attend?

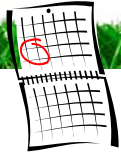
This conference is designed for anyone in a leadership position in a community or organization, serving on a board of directors, working on community projects or with committees, and seeking to manage and lead more effectively.

#### What is the cost?

Cost of the conference is \$75, and includes refreshment breaks, lunch, and all materials. Scholarships and CEUs are available. Participation is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Anne Heinze Silvis, University of Illinois Extension, at [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu).

#### 2013 Keynote

[Principles for Leading Across Generations](#)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Memorial Day Holiday - May 27th, Office Closed
- Flag Day - June 12th
- Father's Day - June 16th

### 2013 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- 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
- 

Some month long observances for May include:

- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- Asparagus Month
- Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month
- Flower Month
- National Bar-B-Que Month
- National Hamburger Month
- National Mental Health Month
- National Photo Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Strawberry Month
- Older Americans Month

Special days that we celebrate and important events that occur during May include:

- May Day, also a holiday in Hawaii where it is known as Lei Day - May 1st
- Brothers and Sisters Day, a day to cherish your siblings - May 2nd
- Cinco de Mayo - May 5th
- National Teachers Day - Tuesday of the first full week of May - May 7th
- V-E Day, The end of World War II in Europe, Germany surrendered at 11:01 am on May 8, 1945
- First Newspaper Cartoon published in the USA in 1754 - May 9th
- National Family Child Care Provider's Day - May 10th
- Tulip Day - May 13th
- Beginning of Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804, - May 14th
- First US Nickel Minted in 1866, called the 'Shield Nickel' - May 16th.
- First Kentucky Derby in 1875 - May 17th
- Boy's Club Day - May 19th
- Lindbergh Flight Day - Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget field near Paris a little before 10:00 pm May 21, 1927
- First Morse Code Message Sent from Washington DC to Baltimore in 1844 - May 24th
- National Missing Children's Day - May 25th
- Sally Ride Day - May 26th
- Learn About Composting Day - May 29th
- Ice Cream Freezer Patented in 1848 by William Young - May 30th

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

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