



To represent and empower Illinois' SWCDs

2009 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

conservation catchall

It is hard to believe that 2009 is over and we are starting 2010. There have been many uphill battles we have had to fight this year with our budget. This is not new to the SWCDs and due to Illinois being one of the 10 states in the worst financial shape, we still have some work to do. However the funding taskforce has been working on ways to secure stable funding for SWCDs to allow us to get back to what we are here for....conservation of our natural resources not fighting to keep our doors open!

This year the AISWCD sent out three mailings to the legislators of Illinois to instill in them the important role SWCDs play. The first mailing included a packet of soil showing soil is soil....no matter if it is found in Chicago or Cairo it is all important and needs protection. The second mailing included a water faucet with a tag attached stating the importance of having safe, abundant drinking water. The third mailing included a letter to sum up the first two mailings and direct the legislators to the AISWCD website to see what their local SWCDs are doing for their constituents. If you would like to update the information on your county please forward the updates to Stacy Stremsterfer and she will get them posted to the website.

This year's annual meeting theme was "Putting U in Success". We hope attendees were able to take away something from the meeting and put it to work in your SWCD.

With the installation of the porous pavers for the parking lot, pervious concrete for the driveway, along with the flag pole and landscaping the office building is looking more like an office and less like a house. AISWCD is still accepting patio paver orders. This is your chance to have your name/organization be a part of the AISWCD. See page 10 for a listing of individuals who have supported the AISWCD. If you would like to purchase a paver, contact Sherry Finn at the office.

This year the Illinois Envirothon celebrated 15 years!!! This program is a great marketing tool for SWCDs and is a success due to the volunteers from the SWCDs. Thank you to those individuals who support the Envirothon program on the local and state level. We could not do it without you! Also this year, the winning team from Illinois tied for 9th place overall at the Canon Envirothon which was a huge accomplishment for the team and Illinois.

To show the accomplishments of a 319 Grant received from IEPA, the AISWCD held a media event this summer. This was also the time when Ken Kesler was recognized for this insight in starting this whole project.

Also this year the legislative newsletter was designed and started going to the legislators in Illinois. The two page newsletter will update legislators on our budget numbers, status of SWCDs in terms of financial difficulties, status of funding that has been released or still being held, impacts SWCDs have on federal program dollars as well as the impact those dollars have on the state's economy and other timely and important topics.

The last couple of months the Communications FAC worked to finalize a sponsorship brochure that will help support the local SWCDs in Illinois and AISWCD. Brochures are available from the AISWCD at \$10 for 50, see page 8 for more information. Remember, this is a "share the wealth" program and SWCDs will receive half of the contributions received from their county.

AISWCD Board Members and Staff wish you all the best for 2010!

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Staff:

Rich Nichols,
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Sherry Finn,
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president's message

Jim Todd, AISWCD President - jtoddfarm@speednet.com

as we close 2009 I want to look back at some of the high points we have experienced. I think the one that comes to mind the quickest is the success we had in getting an additional \$1.3 million restored to operations funding. Our work with IDOA convinced Director Jennings to use the cost share funds instead of the funds used for employee salaries to pay for the health insurance program. We have also had several meetings with IDOA and the Governor's Office concerning the issue of reducing the number of districts through consolidation and believe we have made a convincing argument that the workload is just too great to allow for any reduction in staff through that means. Our success in this effort is due in no small measure to Annyce Winters and her work in generating information on the amount of dollars and contracts that are being administered by soil and water conservation districts. We do owe Annyce a very sincere "thank you!"

Another small success that I believe we helped bring about is the \$2.6 million in Capital Funds for cost share. In our conversations with the Governor's Office we stressed the need for additional cost share funding to assure that weather related problems brought on by heavy rains in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009 could be addressed with the timely application of conservation measures. I think that had something to do with the inclusion of the cost share line in the Governor's Capital Budget.

One other area where we were able to make some improvements include a resolution that was passed by the membership at the Annual Meeting which called for the updating and clarification of the AISWCD's By-Laws. That has been something that has been needed for some time.

We will continue to do what we can to serve our members in the best way possible. We have taken steps to assure that the AISWCD will be able to continue to function and represent Illinois' SWCDs in the coming year by implementing several cost reduction measures. Please refer to Rich's report for more details on that effort.

As we begin the New Year AISWCD staff and leadership will be working toward dedicated funding for all SWCDs. The Funding Taskforce and AISWCD staff have worked very hard to prepare materials to use in contacting legislators and convincing them that the SWCDs are worthy of a stable source of funding. We have made this a high priority so that your time as directors can be devoted to your real job of putting conservation on the ground instead of spending untold hours just trying to figure out how to maintain the staff you have.

Aaron Ferguson and I attended the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington last July. While there we were able to pass on Illinois' concerns related to bills pending before Congress such as the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA), the American Conservation and Energy Security Act (ACES) and NRCS' budget. We specifically requested that NACD lobby against the removal of the word "navigable" from the CWRA and that agricultural lands are considered as a source of offsets for any "cap and trade" provisions contained in the ACES bill. We also made it clear that NRCS' budget was in need of additional technical assistance dollars. We will also be attending the NACD North Central Meeting in early January to put forth resolution 2009-2, calling for a means of communication between NRCS, the SWCD and FSA at the field office level, which was passed at the Annual Meeting.

I am looking forward to 2010 and the potential it holds. We have many possibilities open to us but it will be up to us to make them happen.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas with family and friends and that you will have a prosperous New Year.

James H. Todd





executive director's notes

Rich Nichols - rich.nichols@aiswcd.org

2009 is now history and I think I am happy for that. While it has not been the best of all possible years for the AISWCD or for the SWCDs, we all survived and can look forward to what we hope will be better days. There will no doubt be plenty of challenges as we patiently work toward a stable funding source for districts.

The General Assembly is scheduled to come back to Springfield on January 12th. It is not anticipated that much will be accomplished since most of the legislators will be concentrating on the primary election which will occur just three weeks from their first day back. Once the primary is over, I do expect that legislators will get down to business. It will be interesting to see how the General Assembly will conduct its business this year since it is unlikely that any major revenue streams, including tax increases, will be approved until after the November 2010 election. That does not mean, however, that we will in any way reduce our efforts to pass legislation that will provide stable funding for SWCDs

With the AISWCD facing a significant shortfall in its 2010 budget, steps have been taken to reduce expenses to the extent possible. These steps will take us through the coming fiscal year and hopefully allow us to continue serving and representing our member districts into and through 2011. Your dues will be even more important in the coming year as we face these uncertain times.

To cut costs and help assure that we are available to represent your interests, Sherry, Stacy and Rich have begun working four days a week and we are curtailing travel to extent possible. We are also exploring the possibility of using e-mail for communications that traditionally have used paper mail and postage stamps.

The Board has determined that the March and September Quarterly Board meetings will be conducted by teleconference and we are looking at ways we can further economize at the June and December meetings. One option under consideration is to hold a one-day board meeting at a location that will not charge. That would require committees to meet prior to the board meeting with committee chairs reporting to the board on the day of the meeting. If such an option is used then meals would either be catered or board members would be asked to provide for their own meal.

These cost saving measures will not affect Summer Conference since costs for registration and meals are set on a "break even" basis.

It appears that we have been given a short reprieve from having to pay "seat costs" for more than one SWCD computer. In an e-mail sent to the SWCDs, State Conservationist Bill Gradle indicated that NRCS would continue to cover support costs for SWCDs with more than one computer connected to the NRCS system through the current federal fiscal year which ends September 30th.

AISWCD has sent a letter to Tom Christiansen urging NRCS to continue too pay for the support to maintain more than one computer on the NRCS system. We will continue to work encourage NRCS to pay for those expenses.

Please accept my most sincere wishes for a healthy, prosperous and productive New Year!

Rich

**2010
STEWARDSHIP THEME
APRIL 25 – MAY 2, 2010**





education coordinator's notes

Stacy Stremsterfer - stacy.stremsterfer@aiswcd.org

DECEMBER'S INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL MEETING TASKFORCE/SUMMER CONFERENCE:

- Did prep work for taskforce teleconference
- Led teleconference
- Sent out all district e-mail asking for training session ideas for both directors and employees
- E-mailed potential speaker for summer conference

ENVIROTHON:

- Attended meeting w/IEPA and the committee who is working on finishing the updates on the 5th category resource packet
- Finished sponsorship letter and sent in to IEPA
- Updated LUC Envirothon dates on website
- Presented Envirothon session at Winter Training
- Sent e-mail to LUC contacts to follow up on topics that were discussed at Winter Training's Envirothon session

MARKETING TASKFORCE:

- Prep for upcoming teleconference
- Led and participated in teleconference with LUC 16 re: outreach program
- Designed sponsorship database and sent to Sherry with directions
- Developed payment arrangements to SWCDs on sponsorship money and spoke with AISWCD officers for approval
- Sent all district e-mail announcing sponsorship incentive and payment schedule of their 50%
- Designed sponsorship cards

FUNDING TASKFORCE:

- Prep for upcoming teleconference
- Led and participated in taskforce conference call re: review material that has been put together for dedicated funding for SWCDs
- Prepared PPT presentation to be given at Dec QB Mtgs.

DECEMBER QB MEETING:

- Posted December QB Meeting packet to website
- Confirmed menu and meals counts with hotel
- Completed prep work for QB meetings
- Confirmed meal count with Mariah's for Christmas Party
- Finalized with Sherry board Christmas treats and baked cookies
- Took minutes for Foundation, Board and Executive Meetings
- Finalized minutes for Foundation, Board and Executive Meetings

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS:

- Made contacts to SWCDs requesting specific info for newsletter
- Completed third issue of the legislative newsletter and e-mailed/mailed out to all IL legislators
- Sent legislative newsletter out to all SWCDs

DIRECTOR TRAINING TASKFORCE:

- On hold until after harvest

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:

- Winter Training
- Envirothon Meeting with IEPA
- Annual Meeting Taskforce Conference Call
- Marketing Taskforce Conference Call
- Funding Taskforce Conference Call
- December QB Meetings & Christmas Party
- IL Ag Legislative Day Planning Meeting
- ILCAE/ICAE Budget Conference Call
- Staff meeting

OTHER DUTIES:

- Completed CC, posted to website and notified SWCDs
- E-mail correspondence
- Phone calls and mail
- Completed meeting follow-ups and/or action items
- Compiled expense report for credit card
- Timesheets
- Id Badges
- Designed e-mail Christmas card from AISWCD and sent for approval
- Attended Winter Training sessions, took regional and employee service award photos, prepared and presented the Envirothon session, had sponsorship brochures available for SWCD pick up. E-mailed employees their service award photos and regional photos to ISWCDEA.
- Had employee review with Rich
- Web site Updates: Awards page, December QB meeting minutes posted, Envirothon page, home page, links
- Spent time researching information on computers
- Researched McKibben information

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Marketing Taskforce, Annual Meeting & Awards Taskforce, Legislative Newsletter, Envirothon Taskforce, Director Training Taskforce and Maternity Leave.

*things may come to those who wait, but only
the things left by those who hustle.
- abraham lincoln*

Stacy



urban stormwater corner

Jim Nelson – jim.nelson@aiswcd.org

What can we do about environmental impacts now and in the future? This is an increasingly common question as the human population of the world expands. Earlier ideas of the number of people that could inhabit the earth were based on availability of food. Those estimates, it seems, were grossly overestimated. Today, some reputable scientists believe the earth could already have exceeded its human population threshold not because of the availability of food but lack of natural resources and environmental health. This means that if we hold the population at the current number of approximately 6.7-6.8 billion this would still be more than our environment could sustain.

We need air, food, shelter, water, and fuel among other things to sustain populations on our planet. Luckily we have plenty of each to last through our own lifetime. What is needed for future generations is to put the word "alternative" in front of the word "fuel" and "clean" and "safe" before the words air, water, food, and shelter. It is our role as stewards of this planet to assure clean and safe resources for future generations. If we are at the brink of earth's capacity, as it exists today, we must find a new way to protect the environment. Or maybe, we need to adjust the idea of protection only, and instead begin the transition to actually cleaning the environment as well. Luckily many have moved toward this approach of 'fixing' the environment as well as protecting it. A little research will yield surprising results about the fields of remediation. When we remediate something we are providing a remedy to something negative that happened to it. Petroleum spills, strip mines, bacteria and nutrient laden wastewater, and polluted air are some examples of problems that, although we try to prevent them from happening, are a result of human activities which keep the world going. The good news is that each can be dealt with by remediation.

Some of the cutting edge practices that deal with environmental problems include treatment through wastewater treatment plants, reforestation, and prairie restoration. Mycoremediation is a relative newcomer to the list of remediation techniques and is showing some real promise. Paul Stamets, a mycologist and author, has been using mushrooms to clean up bacteria and petroleum wastes in the North Western US for the last several decades. His approach uses mycelium (roots of fungi) to absorb aromatic hydrocarbons, bacteria, pesticides, and other pollutants and convert them into above-ground fruiting structures; mushrooms. When the mushrooms decay, the organic matter attracts flies which lay eggs, which attract birds, which introduce seeds, bacteria, and other fungi which further break down the pollutants. In several months the contaminated soil is functioning biologically again. Although it is bound to have some bumps along the way, as any science will, mycoremediation shows promise for cleaning our environment.

It is crucial that we not only protect the earth's resources but also find ways to clean up the pollutants we cannot prevent from producing. Now and especially as the population of the earth grows, we simply will not be able to prevent pollution entirely. What is needed is more technology that either uses our pollutants for good or converts them into non-hazardous byproducts.

Some fascinating books by Paul Stamets:

Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World MycoMedicinals®: an Informational Treatise on Mushrooms, Third Edition

**Growing Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms, 3rd Edition
The Mushroom Cultivator**

To find spawn and spores for mushrooms that clean water and soil as well as gourmet and medicinal species go to Fungi Perfecti at <http://www.fungi.com> for mushroom cultivars.

Other sources: <http://science.jrank.org/pages/1244/Carrying-Capacity.html>

JIM

2010 Summer Conference

The 62nd AISWCD Annual Meeting and Illinois Land and Water Resources Conference will be held at the Hilton in Springfield, IL July 26-28th.

This year's theme is "Teamwork to Achieve Success." To follow the theme an e-mail was sent out on December 9th to SWCDs requesting training session ideas for both employees & directors to be sent into Stacy Stremsterfer. Please take time at your next board meeting to discuss some potential training you would like to see held this summer and pass them along.

Award applications along with Photo and Poster forms have been posted to the AISWCD website for your use. They are pdf or word fillable forms. If you have any problems filling out the applications/forms, please contact Stacy for help.

*Important
DATE!*



administrative assistant's notes

Sherry Finn - sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

DECEMBER'S INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

December Quarterly Board Meeting:

- Agendas drafted and mailed or emailed to everyone for additions, changes, or deletions
- September QB minutes requested for the Dec QB Packet
- Packet compiled and printed for non-email board members and placed on the website for board members with email
- Mailed QB Packets to board members without email capabilities
- Made additional copies of packet for QB Meeting
- Made QB Packets with cover sheets for officers & staff
- Made signs for meeting rooms and meal designations
- Updated and printed QB roll call sheets
- Updated & maintained room reservation database and holiday party reservations
- Phoned board members or SWCD contacts to confirm attendance
- Contacted Northfield Inn and made menu requests
- Faxed hotel room reservations
- Emailed or contacted all hotel room confirmation numbers to appropriate board members or SWCD contacts
- Made 15 dozen cookies for Dec QB Meeting Holiday Packs
- Took minutes/transcribed for the Forestry Committee Meeting
- Emailed and mailed letters to Area Vice Presidents, per passed vote, the delinquent Districts for FY 2009 Dues payment; also notified District Chairmen of Delinquent Districts

Acquiring Auditor for FY 2009 & FY 2010 & possibility longer

- Met with 2 Prospective Auditing Firms—they will provide bids for FY 09 thru 12 auditing services; already have one bid from November
- Made copies of bids for Dec QB Meeting
- Mailed letters to Auditing Firms that were not selected
- Working on Contract for Auditing Firm selected for FY 09 and next 3 FY years; Spoke directly with firm selected and confirmed audit

ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for December
- Reconciled all bank accounts
- 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; made copies for Dec QB Meeting
- Filed all Completed Payables & Receivables Documentation
- Faxed Copy Count to CDS Technology
- Invoiced IFA for Related Charges
- Received CREP Payment for October; Did Deposit
- Paid Participating CREP Districts for CREP assistant reimbursement; Mailed checks
- Received Check for Grant #3190801; Made Deposit and paid appropriate vendors
- Did Bonus Checks for Staff approved at Dec QB Meeting

FY 2010 Budget:

- Made Copies of Budget Info for Dec QB Meeting
- Updated FY 2010 Budget to show changes from Dec QB Vote

OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone Calls and Mail
- E-mail Correspondence
- Compiled expense report for Credit Card
- Timesheets
- Printed, folded & stuffed 2,282 copies of IFA membership form & letter to go with IDNR mailing for December
- Organized CREP Monthly Vouchers (Nov) & Forwarded Info to IEPA for reimbursement
- Maintain Patio Paver Database
- Maintain Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid Database
- Mailed Thank You Notes to Paid Districts
- Maintain Sponsorship Brochure Printing Fee Database
- Maintain Sponsorship Database
- Emailed Weekly Reports to Officers
- Printed 35 more IFA newsletter for fall; and mailed out
- Made Chicago NACD reservations for Jim Todd and Aaron Ferguson; printed maps with hotel directions for both.
- Updated SWCD Chairmen Mailing List and sent to NRCS
- Emailed invoices to SWCDs who picked up Sponsorship Brochures
- Emailed invoice to all Districts -first half of AISWCD 2010 Dues

LOOKING AHEAD:

- March QB Meeting
- Jan/Feb Mid Executive Meeting-if needed
- Follow up with Selected Auditor; Mail Completed Contract
- Starting FY 2010
- The arrival of Stacy & Lee's new addition to their family

REMEMBER: It is faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

To Act: Involve yourself in the things you believe in, and your actions will give you strength to complete your tasks.

Have a safe and prosperous 2010!!!!

Sherry

Quick Review of New Rules for the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Recently, Attorney General Madigan worked with legislators and open government advocates to draft and pass landmark legislation ([Senate Bill 189, Public Act 096-0542](#)) to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) to increase the transparency and accountability of governments at all levels. This new law makes it easier to enforce FOIA and OMA and fight for open and accountable government by making permanent the Public Access Counselor position within the Attorney General's Office and provides the Public Access Counselor with the authority to issue binding opinions to resolve FOIA and OMA disputes. In addition, the new law closes loopholes in FOIA that made it hard for the public to access government records and, for the first time, establishes significant civil penalties for FOIA violations.



The new law will take effect on **January 1, 2010**. You are encouraged you to check out their site <http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/> routinely as new materials are made available.

Under the new law, one of the most significant improvements to FOIA and OMA is the codification of the Public Access Counselor (PAC). The mission of this position is to help people obtain public documents and access public meetings.

SWCDs will be required to designate a FOIA officer who can be an employee, officer or board member. This person must complete the initial electronic training on FOIA and OMA by **July 1, 2010**. This is free of charge and will need to be completed on an annual basis. The name of the FOIA officer should be prominently displayed in the office and on your website if you have one.

If the SWCD designates additional or new FOIA officers who need OMA training after the initial training, they must complete the PAC electronic training within 30 calendar days of being designated by the public body.

SWCDs have five (5) business days from the day after they receive the request. There are several points that can extend your deadline. If the SWCD believes that information being requested is not public information, the SWCD must contact the PAC for authorization to deny the request for information.

FOIA requests can be sent by e-mail. They are considered "received" when it appears in the recipients' mailbox during normal working hours. If it is e-mailed after business hours, including a weekend or legal holiday, it is "received" on the following business day. Keep in mind FOIA does not have any exceptions for vacations! Requests through e-mail can be made anonymously, they are not required to provide their name.

All electronic communications (as long as they do not fall within an exemption) are subject to FOIA. Electronic communications includes faxes, e-mail and phone calls whether sent from an electronic device owned by the SWCDs, NRCS or by the individual board or staff member.



2010 Current Issue Information Available

The 2010 Current Issue—"Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning" for the Illinois Envirothon has been posted to the AISWCD Website on the Envirothon page for download. This document should be utilized by everyone, SWCDs, LUC and schools preparing for the Illinois Envirothon in May. Special thanks for Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Public Water Supplies/Groundwater Section, for their help in finalizing the document!

During the 2009 AISWCD Annual Meeting, Resolution 2009-8, Natural Area Guardian Areas was approved by the voting delegates. The main goal of the resolution is to encourage all Soil and Water Conservation Districts to form Natural Area Guardian committees to assist in the management of natural areas within each district. This resolution was forwarded to the Education Focus Area Committee to work on. Future of the *Conservation Catchall* will provide SWCDs with more information on the Natural Area Guardian Areas. We hope you will find this information valuable and if we can provide more information please contact the office.

A Good Planet Is Hard to Find

To see our role as farmers with the rest of society and the world, we need to pause and put things in perspective. We, too, are passengers on a very unique spaceship called Earth traveling through space. Like it or not, we are stuck here with everyone else on this planet. It is our home. We cannot just pack up and leave. We may have different beliefs from the others on board, but we share a common ground--the Earth and its atmosphere. Anyone who doubts this needs to be reminded of the worldwide effects of the Chernobyl tragedy, 10,000 miles away.

As farmers of the world we are responsible for feeding over five billion passengers. No small order. Already farmers in many parts of the world are unable to contribute to this task. As farmers in Whiteside and adjoining counties, we share part of the world responsibility. To do this, we are given a fixed amount of land. New farmable acres are not magically appearing on our Earth. If the surface of the Earth were a one-acre garden, 3/4 of it would be forever flooded as ocean. Of the 1/4 that remains, 3/4 is too cold, too dry, too hot, or too rocky for farmland. We, here in the Midwest, farm the best of the rest. Having worked overseas in agricultural projects some 30 years ago, I know that I am extremely fortunate to be farming the best soil with the best ag support system possible. Our one acre garden is like a very small piece of pie.

Unfortunately, the worldwide farmable pie is getting smaller due to urban sprawl and soil erosion. Now every available acre is expected to produce more and to make up for the acres we have lost. We are expected to do this for as long as civilization exists for centuries to come.

We can help to ensure that our land is farmable in the future by changing our farming practices and attitudes today. We may not be able to do much about urban sprawl, but we can do something about erosion. Some of us are already trying methods like Minimum Till, No-Till, and Ridge Till to slow down the erosion process. Ideas about residue management are gradually being incorporated into farm thinking. Instead of plowing residue, we are leaving it on the surface as a shield against erosion. This is a new idea in the war against erosion. Instead of tearing the land apart, we are finally learning how to hold it together. Through all of this, we are developing a new respect for the land. We call ourselves stewards of the land, but we are actually part of the land.

I am sometimes asked, "Why bother to save the soil?" or more recently, "Why bother to plant all those walnut trees? You will never live long enough to harvest them. For me, it's just the right thing to do, pure and simple. We should perhaps remind ourselves that the great majority of mankind is the unborn of the future. We, living today, are the minority. Will we be thanked or cursed by grandchildren for what we do today? Good soil, like a good planet, is hard to find. It must be protected and nurtured by good soil-saving practices.

New Incentive on SWCDs Sponsorship Brochures

Your SWCD can receive \$100 from AISWCD to be the first SWCD to turn in 25 sponsorships!! At the December QB Meeting the Board of Directors passed a motion, that the first SWCD to turn in 25 sponsorships will receive \$100 from AISWCD's 50%!

Sponsorship brochures can be obtained by contacting the AISWCD office. Due to the printing costs not being included in the FY 2009 budget we are asking that each SWCD pay \$10.00 for 50 copies of the brochure. To make sure all 98 SWCDs have the opportunity to receive their 50 copies we are only giving out one packet (50 copies) per SWCD.

When an individual/company signs up to become a sponsor the checks are to be made out to the AISWCD. To make it easier, please feel free to send them all at once or as you see fit. Keep in mind that individuals/companies can mail the sponsorships directly to us. For those of you that have not seen the brochure, there is a line for them to fill in their county name, since SWCDs will receive 50% of the donations made in their county. Checks from the AISWCD to the SWCDs will be issued on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December).



iswcdea corner

Visit their website at: <http://www.il.ncdea.org/>



Submitted by: Debi Slade, AC Co-Vice-Chair

WOW – How did it get to be 2010 already! Doesn't it seem like it was just yesterday that it was the beginning of this decade or is it that I'm just getting old and time really does fly?!

Well the holidays are behind us for another year and it's time to dig in our heels and get busy. The Employee's Association would like to welcome our new members and thank them for committing their valuable time to help serve. We are still short representatives in some regions and would ask you each to seriously consider filling these spots. We do provide a valuable service to the employees and if we aren't willing to look out for our own, who will? Contact your local reps or any of the chairs if you are interested in filling a position.

Of course the best Christmas present we got was a reprieve on the computer situation. This will allow us all more time to investigate options, make more informed choices and budget for the future changes. The ISWCDEA will continue to gather information to pass along as it becomes available.

We will have our first meeting in February and will be updating our Annual Plan of Work. If you have any suggestions for items you would like our group to address this year, please contact your region's representatives with your ideas.

May the Lord bless us, each and everyone, this year with love and health, friends and family, and may he provide the districts with funding so we may continue to address the many challenges and opportunities to protect our little pieces of heaven on earth!

Who is George McKibben?

The George McKibben Memorial Scholarship was established by the AISWCD to assist outstanding agriculture students in the completion of their education at any Illinois state college. The student shall demonstrate superior agriculture academic achievement, a commitment to soil and water conservation and potential for innovation and/or leadership ability. To be eligible for nomination by their local soil and water conservation district students must be a junior or senior for the 2010-2011 academic year enrolled at any state college in an Illinois; in agriculture degree program.

In the early 1960s no-till agriculture was not widely supported among farmers and agriculture specialists in the United States. George Elvert McKibben, however, made no-till the accepted farming technique that it is today. For thirty-seven years George McKibben was an agronomist for the University of Illinois. This work has been called the single most important contribution to corn production since the development and adaptation of hybrid seed corn.

In 1966 McKibben planted plots on which to conduct this experiments at Dixon Springs, Illinois. The plots are now named after George McKibben and are the oldest of their kind not only in Illinois, but also in the world.

McKibben was recognized and given many awards during his lifetime. The best recognition he received was the fact that by 1985 more than one million acres of farmland in Illinois were using no-till as a way of farming.

McKibben died February 1, 1988, but the contributions that he made to no-till continue to be beneficial to this state as well as to the nation. He was a man dedicated to what seemed to many an impossible cause. However, McKibben believed in no-till and proved to the state, as well as the nation, that it was a success.

This year, thanks from the support of the AISWCD Board the McKibben Memorial Scholarship of \$500 will be offered. Information on the scholarship and application will be posted to the AISWCD website soon under "Programs" and "Awards". Application deadline is May 17th.



George McKibben explains his "no-till" experiment results.
(Photo courtesy Ashley Hatfield)

mark your calendar for . . .



- Illinois Agriculture Legislative Roundtable - January 6, 2010 - IAA Building, Bloomington, IL
- IL Land Improvement Contractors Annual Convention - January 14-16, 2010 - President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL
- Martin Luther King Day - January 18, 2010 - Office Closed
- NACD Annual Meeting - January 31 - February 3, 2010 - Orlando, Florida
- Ag Awareness Conference - February 9, 2010 - Bloomington, IL
- March Quarterly Board Meeting - will be held via conference call - no meetings held at Northfield Inn
- 2010 Illinois Envirothon - May 13/14, 2010 - 4-H Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello, IL
- June Quarterly Board Meeting - June 7/8, 2010 - Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
- SWCD FOIA Officer Training - July 1st - Deadline for electronic training completed!!!
- 62nd AISWCD Annual Meeting & Illinois Land & Water Resources Conference - July 26-28, 2010, Hilton, Springfield

AISWCD Paver Listing

Thank you to those individuals and SWCDs who have purchased a Paver for the AISWCD Patio.

COUNTIES:

Clay County SWCD
Henry County SWCD
Knox County SWCD
Livingston County SWCD
Mason County SWCD
McDonough County SWCD
Piatt County SWCD
Saline County SWCD
Warren County SWCD
Union County SWCD
Morgan County SWCD
Menard County SWCD
St. Clair County SWCD

Corporate:

Kraus Landscaping

PAST PRESIDENTS:

George P. Irwin, Marion CO
Terry Davis, Warren CO
James H. Todd, Menard CO
Terry Bogner, Marshall-Putnam CO
Lee Bunting, Livingston, CO



INDIVIDUALS:

Philip Anderson-Saline CO.
Beckhart Family-Piatt CO.
Don Condit-Marshall-Putnam CO
Robert Sloan-Marshall-Putnam CO
Terry Bogner-Marshall-Putnam CO
Rollie Spaniol-Coles CO
Roland & Lois Spaniol-Coles CO
Jerry & Pam Snodgrass-Henry CO
Diane Talbott-Henry CO
Emery Oesch-Richland CO
Kenny Vosholler-Perry CO
Phil Fossler-Ogle CO
Jake Klein-Clay CO
Charles E. Curry-Henry CO
Eldora W. Zimmerman-Winnebago CO
Dwayne Proctor-Winnebago CO
Carl & Lois Wexell-Henry CO
Elizabeth N Kraus
Terry Davis Family-Warren CO
Memorial for Jake Klein-Clay CO
Virginia M. Hayter-North Cook CO
Mason Co, Auction Donation & Bitner Family
Dick Breckenridge
ISWCDEA

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

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