



# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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## RARE ILLINOIS CHORUS FROG FOUND ON MASON COUNTY DIRECTOR'S FARM

STORY BY CHRIS YOUNG, ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER



It's not the only frog that can be heard in central Illinois, and it's far from the most common. There's also the staccato call of the tiny western chorus frog, which sounds like a finger being run across the teeth of a comb. American toads are out now, and their trilling call can even be heard in town. But in the sandy areas of Mason County, about 45 minutes north of Springfield, the sound of the Illinois chorus frog is of particular interest to researchers.

The Illinois chorus frog is rare, occurring only in a few sandy areas of the state where conditions are just right for its survival. But for the past few years, wet spring conditions have been a boon to the frogs and the people trying to find and study them.

Bob Bluett of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is coordinating a team of field researchers, computer-mapping specialists and others who are trying to develop a statistically sound way to monitor populations of the Illinois chorus frog — a threatened species in Illinois.

"It's really a challenging species to work with," Bluett said. "They are only above ground for a few weeks, and the habitats they choose to live in are here today, gone tomorrow due to weather, ground water and other variables."

For the past few years, field researchers — who refer to their survey work as the "frog rodeo" -- have pulled lots of all-nighters. When conditions are right, it's not difficult for the trained ear to identify an Illinois chorus frog without seeing it. It's similar to bird watchers who learn the calls and can tell which birds are around without ever raising their binoculars. But Bluett says he wants to know more about why the frogs are there — or not. That's why they have been identifying likely habitats using computer models and sophisticated mapping software.

The frogs that are the subject of this article are found on Van Bittner's farm in Mason County. Van has utilized the CPP, CRP and LIP programs to create a habitat that supports a thriving population of the Illinois Chorus Frog.

*AISWCD Staff:*

**Richard Nichols,**  
*Executive Director*

**Jim Nelson,**  
*Urban Stormwater Specialist*

**Sherry Finn,**  
*Administrative Assistant*





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JAMES TODD

[jtoddfarm@starband.net](mailto:jtoddfarm@starband.net)

I'm sure you are aware by now that Senator Link has introduced an amended bill that will allow two districts to work through the process of consolidating without the need for a public referendum. The bill was necessary because of changes that have occurred in the state's election code since the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act was approved.

The original bill would have removed the need for a public referendum to consolidate, divide or dissolve a district. We expressed concern that the bill did not address the need for a public referendum to create a district and that the public was taken out of the process of dissolving or altering a unit of government that they had once voted to create.

We met with representatives from the Department of Agriculture to discuss the issue. IDOA told us that their legal staff had advised them that they could not hold a public referendum under current statute. Because there was a pending request, there was a need to act as soon as possible but it was also felt that because the consolidation action had occurred in the districts under the current provisions of the Act that changing the requirement to hold a public referendum would not be legal. The result was a proposed legislative change that would allow any district that had submitted a petition and a resolution for consolidation to the Department between the dates of January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012 to be allowed to consolidate without the need of a public referendum. If signed into law, the Act will allow McHenry and Lake County SWCDs to consolidate as a single district as they had requested and then sunset as of midnight December 31, 2011. The amended version only affects these two districts or any other districts that may choose to consolidate during the 12 month period but changed nothing else in the Act.

We will revisit the original proposal at a later date and try to determine how to restructure the Districts Act to either allow the Department to hold a referendum or to remove the requirement for a public referendum for creating, consolidating, dividing or dissolving a SWCD.

In addition to this issue, we have been regular visitors at the Capitol talking to legislators about funding for the SWCDs as well making the case that the funds currently allocated to the SWCDs are used for employment of staff and that consolidation will not save any money. In fact we believe that consolidation will likely cost more in the long run due to increased travel and the potential for having more staff in a field office which would then necessitate the need for office rent, computers and potentially the cost of one or more vehicles to provide transportation for employees for work purposes. We have also argued that customers will most likely have to travel further to get to an office to transact business simply because all of the information that currently exists in a service center might not be available if the district is located in another county.

We will continue to work with members of the General Assembly to try to increase funding levels over the Governor's proposed budget level.

I want to thank Aaron Ferguson and Lonnie Wilson and others for taking the time to be as involved as they have been in our efforts and I want to thank all of you too for your letters, phone calls, faxes and e-mails. It does make a difference! That was made very clear during our testimony when committee members nodded agreement that they had received a good deal of communication from the districts regarding the funding issue.

Finally, as planting season is upon us, please be careful and have a safe and productive season.

*James H. Todd*



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

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

Those of you with the courage to raise your heads above the radar have noticed that the federal government has averted a shut down – at least temporarily, spring is upon us as are all of the preparations for planting, and the Illinois General Assembly is finally getting serious about the FY12 budget. The Senate Appropriations II Committee will hear IDOA's budget on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the House Appropriations-General Services Committee will hear IDOA's budget on the 27<sup>th</sup>. In both cases the AISWCD will be requesting that funding for FY12 be restored to FY10 levels at a minimum.

The state's financial picture is dim at best. By all reports it appears that the Governor's income tax increase is doing nothing to help with past due bills but is helping maintain current spending. Without additional cuts there is little hope of a speedy recovery from the deepening financial hole in which we find ourselves. The good news is that the soil and water conservation districts are receiving a good deal of support from the people who use your services. The other part of that good news is that soil and water conservation districts are the only unit of government that generally create more revenue than they consume. By leveraging dollars from state, federal and other sources, the districts are pumping that money into the economy through by maintaining earth moving construction jobs and the sale of goods and services associated with those jobs. Those are powerful attributes that districts can firmly stand on when the need arises.

With all the work districts do, it seems ironic to me that most of the successes and accomplishments result in the things that people don't see. Oh, the conservation practices like waterways, filter strips, no-till, terraces and others are readily visible but the real accomplishment is the reduction in offsite damages from storm-water runoff and soil erosion that these and other practices control. The road ditches that had to be cleaned every year no longer need that regular maintenance, the floods that used to cause so much damage each spring no longer seem as severe and they don't last as long as before, surface water treatment facilities don't have to spend as much money to clean their supplies to drinkable standards and the list goes on. The point being made is that those problems no longer exist or at least are minimized to the extent that they are now an annoyance rather than a full blown disaster – and no one misses them.

Few people other than those who were directly involved with addressing the problems even question why the problems are no longer there, they just don't think about them. I think that may be the reason that we have so much difficulty convincing people that don't use our services why the districts are so important.

It's not like you are fire fighters who ride in on a big red truck with flashing lights and siren to bravely put out a fire and save someone's home or a child's life, or a law enforcement officer who arrests a criminal in the midst of a violent crime and saves someone from possible harm, you – the directors and staff of the 98 Illinois soil and water conservation districts quietly do what you do best and the problems just go away. There is seldom any fanfare or celebration just the secure knowledge and understanding that you have participated in controlling erosion on one more acre or that you have insured that one more endangered species will have a chance to come back from the brink of extinction because you helped restore a critical habitat or that there is one less accident at that spot in the road that used to flood every time it rained because you showed the developer how to properly install storm water control practices.

These are the things that no one notices because they don't happen anymore. These are the things that we must somehow tell the public so that the public understands that without Illinois soil and water conservation districts there really is no other way to solve these problems.

*Rich*



## URBAN STORMWATER UPDATE - JIM NELSON

[jim.nelson@aiswcd.org](mailto:jim.nelson@aiswcd.org)

During the near government shutdown several weeks ago we saw many programs under scrutiny and some under attack. The last minute budget deal brokered between the two sides resulted in a \$38.5 billion cut. The soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) have been notified of the cuts to agriculture by NACD. Department of Agriculture cuts total of 11% or \$3.2 Billion with \$118 million of that coming from NRCS' budget and \$500 million from WIC, the food and nutrition program for low-income families. SWCDs will be affected by this indirectly, of course, but also of concern to those working on water quality issues or problems associated with urban conservation, is USEPA's budget cut. Many districts utilize nonpoint source program (319) funds to provide financial assistance which augments their conservation efforts. Let's take a look at some specifics.

The USEPA's budget has been cut 16%, or \$1.6 billion, for FY 2011. Soil and water conservation districts have to wonder, how much of this will affect them. The answer is, for this year thankfully, not much. The majority of the cuts were in areas of air, coal mining, and point source pollution; not our charge of nonpoint source pollution.

Program	Total Cut
Climate	\$49M
State Assistance Grants	\$1.19B
<i>Revolving Funds</i>	<i>\$997M (from above)</i>
Chesapeake, Great Lakes, and Other Special Funds	\$191M
Scientific Programs	\$42M
Superfund	\$23M

### Some of the program cuts to USEPA

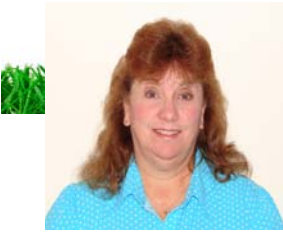
Ironically the deepest cut was to an essential EPA State Assistance Grant fund which provides states with revolving funds to allocate low-interest loans to communities in need of wastewater and drinking water treatment infrastructure upgrades. The aging treatment facilities on the banks of our rivers and streams across the state borrow from this fund to increase capacity as our populations grow.

The scientific research that goes into pollution identification and abatement has also been cut \$42M. Climate, Chesapeake, Great Lakes and other projects were cut as well. Of, perhaps the greatest concern to environmental advocates is the cut to the important Superfund program. This fund was established to clean up hazardous waste in areas abandoned by now bankrupt or non-existent entities. It also allows the levying of fines for those responsible for the dumping or who ordered the materials to be disposed of inappropriately.

The program most often utilized by SWCDs, the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program, has also been cut but only about 2% for FY 2011. This means all applicants who handed in applications last summer have a decent chance of being funded, although confirmation letters and agreements have not yet gone out. For those of us preparing applications for FY 2012 funds (due August 1) the outlook is much worse. According to USEPA Region 5 the 319 budget will be slashed a *minimum of 18%*. They added that they are planning for a higher cut but have no idea how high it may end up.

I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news. In the past several years of severe cuts to the Illinois SWCDs the 319 program was a consistent funding mechanism for watershed planning and getting conservation on the ground when state and NRCS programs could not. Urban SWCDs in particular saw 319 as a way to get conservation going in areas of the state not covered by NRCS. Now with the looming cuts, we may have to look elsewhere to fill-in the gaps.

If you are an SWCD interested in 319 funding for 2012 please get in contact with me or IEPA to discuss your project proposal. I give presentations on the program and tips on how to strengthen your project and application. The most important thing either IEPA or I can help you with is determining whether your project meets their program requirements. Understanding these requirements could save countless hours developing a project that is not in keeping with EPA's 319 charge of protecting watersheds through nonpoint source pollution in a voluntary fashion.



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

sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

### February Activities

#### CREP Coordinator Grant:

- Mailed Marketing information to Jan for Districts \$100 re-imbursements
- Completed FY 2010 Annual Report and forwarded to Jan Carpenter at IEPA
- Organized and mailed February CREP Coordinator Invoice with each participating Districts' vouchers and receipts
- **March Quarterly Board Meeting:**
- Contacted Northfield Inn with any room reservations and mail reservations; selected menu for lunch and ordered pastries, coffee and water for a.m. and p.m. activities
- Phoned Board members not heard from
- Completed Executive Teleconference Call Meeting minutes
- Completed hand out packets for Members
- Printed out December meeting minutes for Secretary's signature after Board voted to accept
- Compiled all meeting minutes from March QB and added to June QB meeting packet information
- Completed voucher requests for minute recorders

#### IL Envirothon:

- Sent out Meeting Wizard for IL Envirothon Taskforce
- Sent out e-mail to Taskforce about 3-16-11 conference call
- Participated in IL Envirothon Taskforce Committee meeting teleconference call
- Sent sponsorship requests to AISWCD Auxiliary, ISWCDEA, IL Farm Bureau, and Pheasants Forever
- Sent Grant application requests to IEPA, IDNR, and Cargill for funds
- Compiled Database for IL Envirothon Sponsorships

#### 2011 Annual Meeting:

- Contacted and confirmed Shirley Eck of the Convention and Visitors Bureau to attend the March QB and report on activities available for Annual Meeting
- Completed Annual Meeting Taskforce Agenda for March QB Mtg; distributed Feb Taskforce meeting minutes; completed roll call listing for taskforce mtg
- Contacted hotel reps to update Annual Meeting Contract and to forward menu entrees for committee approval
- Forwarded guest speaker(s) info to Planning chairman
- Contacted Abby Sperry, Hancock Co, about Fun Night assistance
- Contacted Mike Rahe about Director Training along with Cindy Moon and Jerry Snodgrass (update of modules)
- Contacted Mike Hoffman about furnishing names for the Legislator of the Year Award
- Mailed letter to Jim Sacia to act as Auctioneer; Contacted Kenni Crane from FSA to be Auctioneer also
- Contacted Dave Russell from Brownfield Network to be Farm Family MC; also checked with them about gifts for Farm Families
- Contacted Prairie Farmer about sponsorship of Family Sign for Farm Family to be presented at II State Fair
- Checked with Jim Nelson about serving as Main Photographer for Award Winners and Directors along with equipment and back drop.
- Maintain Annual Meeting Reservation Database
- Maintain Awards Databases
- Sent thank you letters to Ryan Anderson from Delta Institute for lunch program
- Sent thank you letter to Shirley Eck from Visitors Bureau for information provided Annual Meeting Taskforce FAC mtg.

#### OTHER DUTIES:

- Printed labels for Legislative Day gifts and taped them to tree saplings; loaded and transported saplings to Centennial Bldg.
- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards
- Timesheets
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid (FY '10 & FY '11) Databases
- Mailed Thank You Notes to Paid Districts
- Maintain Sponsorship Database (FY '11) & Brochure Printing Fee Database; Mailed Thank you letters to 2011 sponsors
- Sent AISWCD/SWCD Sponsors monthly CC and Legislative Newsletter
- E-mailed Monthly Financials to Officers; sent March QB FAC meeting minutes to Chairman
- Updated Records Retention, Mgmt. & Destruction Folder
- Maintain a Database for computer items ordered w/ HP; contacted HP with new purchase orders for Districts
- 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 and mailed to Legislators without e-mail
- Completed Monthly Office Supply Inventory and placed order
- Sent e-mail to Districts for PAC 10 request for letters to Legislators regarding FY 2012 State Budget
- Supplied proof of Ins to Prairie Farmer for the Farm Progress Show
- Sent e-mail to Districts notifying of first half of operation funds being paid; e-mailed dues invoice for first 2 quarters

#### ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for March
- 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
- Filed all Completed Payables & Receivables Documentation
- Faxed Copy Count to CDS Technology
- 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 II Secretary of State
- Completed Deposit for CREP Coordinator Jan voucher; wrote checks, had Rich sign, and mailed to participating Districts for reimbursement
- Wrote checks to SWCDs for their half of 2011 sponsorships

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

- Annual Meeting Taskforce Duties
- Tracking of FY 2011 Funding
- Illinois Envirothon-May 12-13, 2011 at Allerton Park, Monticello, IL
- June QB Meeting-June 13-14, 2011 at Northfield Inn
- 63rd Annual Meeting-July 25-27, 2011 at Hilton Hotel

**REMEMBER:** Believe in the sun, even when it's not shining!!!!

*Sherry*

## ISWCDEA CORNER - MEGAN POSTEN, ISWCDEA REGION FIVE REPRESENTATIVE

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



With the crazy spring weather we experience in Illinois, it seems imperative to live in the moment and enjoy warm sunny days before Mother Nature socks us with another 5 inches of snow. Suppress the urge to drop everything and fire up the rototiller, and take note of some fast approaching deadlines for scholarships and awards.

First of all, Outstanding District Employee Award nominations are due to LUC Chairmen this month. Please take a moment to consider nominating a deserving SWCD employee you know that goes "above and beyond the call of duty" even when they think no one is watching. Forms and information for this award can be found on the AISWCD website under the "Programs" tab.

On the scholarship front, the ISWCDEA offers \$500 to active members of the ISWCDEA or a member's immediate family (including stepchildren). The scholarship application will be available sometime in May on the ISWCDEA's website: <http://www.iswcdea.org>. The application deadline is July 1, 2011, and the recipient will be awarded at Summer Conference. One other scholarship to consider is the AISWCD George McKibben Scholarship. The deadline is May 16, 2011, and forms can be found on the AISWCD website.

Although it seems like we can barely hold on to spring, summer will be here before you know it, so keep your ISWCDEA representatives informed with any thoughts and ideas about Summer Conference!

## Trees and the Environment

April is the month during which we celebrate Bird and Arbor Day. It is also the month when many of the SWCDs have their tree sales so, in honor of April here are some "fun facts" about trees.

- Trees renew our air supply by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.
- The amount of oxygen produced by an acre of trees per year equals the amount consumed by 18 people annually. One tree produces nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year.
- One acre of trees removes up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide each year.
- Shade trees can make buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in the summer.
- Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves.
- Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent erosion.
- Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water, as well as protecting aquifers and watersheds.
- The cottonwood tree seed is the seed that stays in flight the longest. The tiny seed is surrounded by ultra-light, white fluffy hairs that can carry it on the air for several days.



From <http://www.treesaregood.com/funfacts/Environment.aspx>

## Natural Area Guardians - *Tim Keller*

*Tim Keller, Whiteside Co. SWCD Director*

# Only One Earth

We are well aware of the destruction done to Japan by the recent occurrence of earthquakes and the tsunami. We are tied to the rest of the world in unimaginable ways.

Though probably the most noticeable, the ever rising cost of fuel is just one of the results of problems in other parts of the world. Japan is situated on the "Rim of Fire" which also includes California and Alaska. The fate of the nuclear plants in Japan should serve as a warning to our country as well.

In addition to the problem of being situated on an active tectonic plate, we are also subject to pollution from the factories in China. Winds convey 1,400 pounds of mercury to our country every year. China emits more mercury than the U.S., India, and Europe combined.

An excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere poses another major threat. The wide use of coal and the burning of trees increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere resulting in acid rain. When a farm field tests acidic, lime is spread to correct the pH. There is no such ready solution for the waters of the oceans when they become acidic. 60 percent of Haiti was once covered with trees. That has declined to a mere 2 percent. The Amazon Rain Forest is also decreasing due to overpopulation, food shortages, and poor agricultural practices. Hopefully, we are becoming more aware of the practice of "clear-cutting" in our own country and will strive to use better methods of managing our forestlands.

Over time, poor agricultural practices, such as overgrazing, contribute to the eventual loss of a resource on a world-wide scale. Unfortunately, the individual abusing the land seems to not have a clue as to what he is doing. The land can only take so much.

We can't control Mother Nature. We have little influence on what other countries are doing. So what can we do? Awareness is the first step. A willingness to do with less is vital, and a never-ending search for answers to the problems facing this earth we all live on must continue. We must be open-minded and listen to possible solutions. The answers may lie in the mind of one farmer in the Midwest.

## *Time to Renew SWCDs Sponsorships*

***The first sponsorships are expiring but you can help your district and the AISWCD by encouraging those sponsors to renew! The AISWCD will contact those persons and businesses who subscribed to a sponsorship in 2010 asking for their renewals. Your encouragement may help make the difference.***

Sponsorship brochures can be obtained by contacting the AISWCD office. To help defray printing expense, 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 sponsors checks 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, to assure that 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).

Take advantage of your annual meeting to hand out sponsorship brochures. Every sponsorship helps you and makes it possible for the AISWCD to continue our efforts to obtain a stable funding source for Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts.





## Legislative Corner - Mike Hoffmann

### *Budget Watch*

We continue to talk to legislators about our budget for the next fiscal year. The Governor's budget is unacceptable because our General Revenue Fund appropriation for operational grants was cut by \$600,000, a 17% cut from the current year's level. At \$2.9 million, the recommended amount for fiscal year 2012 is less than half our appropriation of three years ago.

The good news is that we have been told by legislators that they are not starting with the Governor's budget – basically it is not under consideration. In the House, the budget folks are comparing three numbers: fiscal year 2010 actual expenditures, fiscal year 2011 appropriations, and the Governor's recommendation.

### **GRF Funding for SWCD Operations** **FY's 2010-2012**

2010	2011	2012
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Approp.</u>	<u>Governor</u>
\$5,827,000	\$3,531,600	\$2,931,600

We have asked House budget leaders to focus on the 2010 expenditures as a minimum funding level for SWCDs. We have also asked them – and they say they are looking at it – to review which programs have been cut the most the last few years when they make decisions about this year's budget levels.

On the Senate side, the Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing on the Agriculture budget last Wednesday. Rich Nichols and I were there to testify. We were pleased that two committee members – Sen. Sue Rezin of LaSalle Co. and Sen. Susie Schmidt of Lake Co. – raised questions about our budget before we even testified. We appreciated their supportive comments about SWCDs.

Rich and I made the case that soil and water conservation has been cut more than our fair share over the last three years and that for the good of agriculture and the environment that must change. We explained what SWCDs did in the rural and urbanized areas, and that, when looking at SWCDs, they should take into account not just the state cost-share funds, but federal farm program funding as well.

**Please stay in contact with your legislators in their district offices to let them know what will happen if this budget is enacted. The legislative session ends on May 31 and budget decisions will be made in the month of May, so please stay in touch.**

### *Bills to Watch*

[SB0003](#) (Sen. John Cullerton, D-Chicago) would authorize \$8.750 billion to pay vouchers that are at least 60 days past due, medical expenses incurred by the State under its health plans, corporate income tax refunds, and other operating expenses of the State. This bill is not moving at this point due to Republican opposition to more borrowing.

[SB0172](#) (Sen. Terry Link, D-Lake Co.) allows for the consolidation for the Lake and McHenry Co. Soil and Water Conservation Districts without referendum. This is an agreed bill that was revised at our request to make it apply narrowly to affect only this requested consolidation.

[HB3379](#) (Rep. Chapin Rose, R-Champaign Co.) would set General Revenue Fund appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for grants to soil and water conservation districts at \$6 million, an amount we have not seen for some time. The final amount will be set by state budget makers, but we appreciate Rep. Rose setting a reasonable goal. This bill is not moving; it will be addressed in the budget bill for Agriculture.

[HB3094](#) (Rep. Mike Tryon, R-McHenry Co.) stipulates that the Prevailing Wage Act does not apply to projects with a total cost of \$20,000 or less. Did not pass committee.

[HB5424](#) (Rep. Mike Madigan, D-Chicago) is a significant budget reform bill that was passed by the lame duck 96<sup>th</sup> G.A. in its waning hours (like the tax increase). Among other things, the bill would sunset every state grant program every five years beginning July 1, 2012. In order to continue in existence, grant programs would have to be renewed by a majority vote of both the House and the Senate. It would also revise budget priorities according to "merit" by requiring budgeting by goals and outcomes. **The bill was signed into law by Gov. Quinn on February 16.**

**KEEP YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS EDUCATED ON SWCD ACTIVITIES**



## ILLINOIS CHAPTER-IAAP - JANE BRANGENBERG, PRESIDENT

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

### Administrative Professionals Day, April 27th Administrative Professionals Week is April 24-30

The 2011 Theme for Administrative Professionals Day® is: ***This Year, Celebrate all Office Professionals.***

For Administrative Professionals Day 2011, we're veering away from the traditional celebration of the day which is centered on administrative professionals. The recession has hit everyone in the office. Downsizing has forced all of us to pull together and work harder, not just the administrative professionals in the workplace. IAAP recognizes the hard work and sacrifice from everyone. **This year, celebrate all office professionals.**

#### About Administrative Professionals Week

Since 1952, the International Association of Administrative Professionals has honored office workers by sponsoring Administrative Professionals Week. Today, it is one of the largest workplace observances outside of employee birthdays and major holidays.

In the year 2000, IAAP announced a name change for Professional Secretaries Week and Professional Secretaries Day. The names were changed to Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of today's administrative workforce.

Over the years, Administrative Professionals Week has become one of the largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated worldwide, bringing together millions of people for community events, educational seminars and individual corporate activities recognizing support staff.

Today, there are more than 4.1 million secretaries and administrative assistants working in the United States, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, and 8.9 million people working in various administrative support roles. More than 475,000 administrative professionals are employed in Canada. Millions more administrative professionals work in offices all over the world.

The Chapter will celebrate by conducting their Annual Raffle on April 27th. We will be drawing 2 winners; one for an IPAD and also one for a Kindle. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 and you do not need to be present to win. Contact any SWCD Chapter IAAP member to purchase a ticket.

#### IPAD



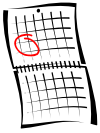
Processor Speed: Up to 1.0 Ghz  
Battery Life: Up to 10 Hours  
Hard Drive Capacity: 16GB Hard Drive Capacity  
Electronic Display Features: Touch Screen, LED Display

#### KINDLE



Wireless: 3G wireless  
Books in Under 60 Seconds: no PC required  
Paper-Like Display: Reads like real paper with no glare  
Carry Your Library: Holds over 1,500 books

The April meeting will be held in the back room of the Auditorium at the IDOA building on the state fairgrounds in Springfield. This will be a celebratory meeting honoring our members for their role as administrative professionals.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Conservation Farm Family and Outstanding Distirct Employee Awards - April 18th, Last date to be received by Council Chairman
- Administrative Professionals Day - April 27th
- 2011 Illinois Envirothon - May 12th-13th at 4-H Camp, Monticello, IL
- All 2011 Award Nominations - May 16th, Last date to be received at AISWCD Office.
- Resolutions for Consideration at 2011 Annual Meeting - June 1, 2011 to Aaron Ferguson, Legislative Chair
- AISWCD Annual Meeting and Summer Conference - July 25 - 27, 2011, Springfield Hilton Hotel

### 2011 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- June 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting - June 13th/14th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- September 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting - Only if needed
- December 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 12th/13th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL



**ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON**  
May 12th - 13th  
4-H Memorial Camp - Allerton Park  
Monticello, Illinois

### **2011 ENVIROTHON DATES**

*5th Category Topic: Salt & Freshwater Estuaries*

April 20th -  
Last day for  
LUC competitions

April 22nd - Last day  
to register for Illinois  
Envirothon

**CANON ENVIROTHON**  
July 24th - 29th  
Mount Allison University  
Sackville, New Brunswick

## Envirothon Update:

2011 5<sup>th</sup> category materials were posted to the AISWCD web site January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have contracted with the Grundy County SWCD to serve as the Envirothon Coordinator for the AISWCD. Please feel free to contact Brooke Baker or Natalie Mahler if you have questions about the Envirothon.

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

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