

# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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## *AISWCD Staff:*

**Richard Nichols,**  
*Executive Director*

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

**Sherry Finn,**  
*Administrative Assistant*

## *SB0744!?*

As this is being written, SB0744 is now SB0747 or is it SB0748 or SB0749 or is it something else entirely.? The first half of the 2011 fall veto session has been interesting to say the least.

Governor Quinn has made it clear from the beginning that he did not like SB0744 and particular, he didn't like the provisions that would allow slot machines at race tracks, O'Hare and Midway airports and at the State Fairgrounds. There were no meaningful discussions between the Governor and the legislature about the bill following its passage by the General Assembly in May. In mid October, Governor Quinn released a framework of what he felt were reasonable things to consider for the expansion of gaming facilities in Illinois. The framework consisted of five casinos to be located in Chicago, Danville, Rockford, Lake County and a southern suburb of Chicago.

With what many consider a somewhat "tongue-in-cheek" approach, Senator Link incorporated the Governor's framework in a bill - SB0747 and began advancing the bill through committee in an effort to get it to the floor for a vote. The bill included only the casinos that the Governor had proposed but, it also included \$330 million in impact fees that would be paid by all casinos on a pro-rated basis, to the race tracks and to support the programs that were originally to be supported by SB0744, including the SWCDs. This added provision generated a lot of discussion during the committee hearing on Wednesday October 26th.

Somewhere along the way, folks started to get serious about trying to get a gaming bill crafted that would actually address the Governor's concerns and still provide needed revenue for the programs that were to be funded by the slot machines at the race tracks that were included in SB0744. SB0747 never actually made it out of committee on Wednesday but it seems to have served as a catalyst for the Governor and Legislative leadership to have a discussion about gaming expansion in Illinois. That on-going discussion began the morning of Thursday, October 27th. As yet, we don't know what the results of the discussion might be. The Senate recessed until November 8th without taking any additional action on SB747 or any other bill that dealt with gaming statutes.

As yet the House has taken no action on a gaming bill and we believe they are waiting for the Senate to act first.

The Saga will continue when both houses return to wrap up the veto session on November 8th.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JAMES TODD

jtoddfarm@gmail.com

Governor Quinn's stated position on SB0744 is a disappointment to our efforts to obtain funding for the SWCDs. He stated that he can support the five casinos but not the slot machines at the race tracks, airports and fairgrounds. Even though the slots, the original source of the SWCDs' funding, may not make it through the Governor's Office, we are hopeful that legislators can craft legislation that will address the Governor's concerns and still provide the \$10 million for the SWCDs and funding for the other groups that were included in the revenue stream expected to be generated by the slot machines.

I have been preoccupied with harvest and haven't been able to give a lot of thought to the Association but I have had some time to think about what is next for us with a new director at the Department of Agriculture. I'm sure that most of you are aware that Tom Jennings' retired from the Department on October 18<sup>th</sup>. There are some rumors going around but as yet we have not heard anything about who will replace him. We can hope that it will be someone with experience in the agricultural industry who is knowledgeable about soil and water conservation and farming in general.

I don't know if you have noticed but there seems to be a lot of land up for sale this fall. I'm sure that much of the land will end up in a family farming operations but I'm also sure that a good portion of the land will be purchased by investors. That presents a great opportunity for the districts to work with people that perhaps we have not had the chance to work with before. If you have land that is purchased by such investors in your area, I encourage you to follow up and contact the new owners to offer the services of the district and explain the programs that are available to help protect the land and the new owner's investment.

Conservation work is never done and my concern is that if we fail to do whatever we can to assure that the land is cared for properly we may find that we may end up with problems that are not easily solved because of the nature of the land's ownership. Typically, investors are looking to maximize their profits from

their investments and don't tend to look at the longer term needs of the land to maintain the land's ability to produce steady income.

These lands are also part of a larger landscape, that of the watershed within which they lay. We are at a point here in Illinois where we are going to have to do something to address the issue of excess nutrients in our waters. Depending on where the property lies in the watershed, it can have a significant impact on the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the surface waters. Of course, water quality monitoring will show those impacts and the enforcement may extend to all of the lands in the watershed instead of just those that are not controlled. We need look no further than the Chesapeake Bay area to see many examples of just that scenario. New landowners, whether they are investors or expanding farmers, need to clearly understand that what they do on their land will, in time, affect everyone in the watershed.

We will be present at the capital working with legislators during the veto session to be sure that the language in SB0744 that provides funding for the SWCDs will also be included in any measure that may be adopted by the House or Senate as a replacement for the current bill.

The Governor expressed his concerns about SB0744 not providing enough money for education. We are in the business of providing education, perhaps not in the traditional sense of teaching students but we never quit educating landowners and farmers of the importance of protecting and caring for our natural resources.

Please keep contacting the Governor's Office and your legislators to keep them informed of what we are doing for our constituents AND for the state of Illinois.

*James H. Todd*



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - RICH NICHOLS

rich.nichols@aiswcd.org

I never seem to know quite what to write about in these articles. Most of the time, I try to find a current issue or topical subject and relate what I know about it or what I am able to learn from available sources. I have delayed writing this article and sending the newsletter until after the first half of the fall veto session so that I could provide current information on the status of SB0744. As you can tell from the front page, SB0744 is out of the running as we end the first half of the 2011 veto session.

The General Assembly was quite busy with other matters, however. They overrode the Governor's veto of the "Smart Grid" bill that provides guaranteed rate increases for Commonwealth Edison and Ameren, Illinois' two major power providers, in exchange for increased investments by the power companies in upgrading Illinois' power grid. Though the two companies claim that electric rates will climb no more than \$3 per month for the average customer it remains to be seen just how much of an increase each homeowner will receive.

The General Assembly will be back in session November 8th - 10th. There are still a number of issues that they have indicated they intend to address, including a gaming bill, a funding source for the Regional Offices of Education, tax breaks for the CME Group (Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Chicago Board of Trade) and some others.

The Association has assigned the highest priority to the task of seeking a stable funding source for Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We will continue to work with members of the General Assembly, the Governor's Office, the Lt. Governor's Office and state agencies to address needs the districts have expressed through formal resolutions and through various means of communication. We will from time-to-time call on individual districts and on groups of districts to assist in those efforts. We hope you will be as willing to help as we are to try to meet your needs.

*Rich*

## NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TEST

**Editors Note:** The following is offered as a point of information.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**What is the Emergency Alert System (EAS)?** The National-level EAS is a national public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies. Alerting authorities can leverage the State and local EAS to send alerts and warnings to radio and television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services and wireline providers.

**What is Nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test ?** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA,) in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will send an EAS test message to all participating radio, television, cable, and satellite providers.

**What Can I Expect to Hear/See?** The Test may look like regular, local EAS tests that most people are already familiar with, but there will be some differences in what viewers will see and hear. The audio message will repeat "This is a test." The video message scroll may not indicate "This is a test." The message will last for approximately three minutes and then regular programming will resume.

**Where Will I Hear/See the Test?** On all participating radio, television, cable, and satellite providers (who are called EAS Participants).

**When Will the Test Occur?** November 9, 2011 at 2:00 PM (Eastern). The 2:00 PM (Eastern) time was selected to make sure the Test can occur during normal business hours across many time zones.

[http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas\\_info.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm)

Amy Tippey  
Administrator  
Tazewell County Health Department  
(309) 925-5511 x 221



## URBAN STORMWATER UPDATE - JIM NELSON

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

This represents the last article that I will write for the Conservation Catchall. As many of you know November 18<sup>th</sup> will be my last day working at the AISWCD. Though I haven't worked with each of the 98 SWCDs I have had the pleasure of working with districts as far south as Gallatin County and as far North as Lake – and from Vermillion all the way to Adams. That's a lot of land to cover and I loved seeing the state behind the wheel of a blue Chevy Corsica with busted leaf springs. Luckily the last several years were spent behind the wheel of the AISWCD grocery-getter, Dodge Caravan. It might not look great but it's gotten me there!

Although I am leaving the AISWCD I may be continuing work on several projects on a contractual basis depending on how the board and committees feel about the idea. My plan outside the association is to expand my work in the ecological restoration field as a contractor and consultant. There seems to be work available at this point in time so I feel it's now or never.

I've had a great time getting to know the SWCD directors and employees I've had the pleasure to work with. I hope to cross paths with all of you again sometime. Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## An Economist for Nature Calculates the Need for More Protection

By JOHN MOIR Published in the New York Times, August 8, 2011

COTO BRUS, Costa Rica — Dawn is breaking over this remote upland region, where neat rows of coffee plants cover many of the hillsides. The rising tropical sun saturates the landscape with color, revealing island like remnants of native forest scattered among the coffee plantations.

But across this bucolic countryside, trouble is brewing. An invasive African insect known as the coffee berry borer is threatening the area's crops. Local farmers call the pest "la broca": the borer.

Despite the early hour, Gretchen Daily, a [Stanford University](#) biology professor, is already at work studying this complex ecosystem. Amid a cacophony of birdsong, Dr. Daily and her team are conducting experiments that demonstrate the vital connection between wildlife and native vegetation. Preliminary data from new studies suggest that consumption of insects like la broca by forest-dwelling birds and bats contribute significantly to coffee yields.

Since 1991, Dr. Daily, 46, has made frequent trips to this Costa Rican site to conduct one of the tropics' most comprehensive population-level studies to monitor long-term ecological change.

"We are working to very specifically quantify in biophysical and dollar terms the value of conserving the forest and its wildlife," she said.

In recent years, Dr. Daily has expanded her research to include a global focus. She is one of the pioneers in the growing worldwide effort to protect the environment by quantifying the value of "natural capital" — nature's goods and services that are fundamental for human life — and factoring these benefits into the calculations of businesses and governments. Dr. Daily's work has attracted international attention and has earned her some of the world's most coveted environmental awards.

Part of Dr. Daily's interest in natural capital emerged from her research in Costa Rica, where she became intrigued with an innovative government initiative known as Payment for Environmental Services. The program, initiated in the

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

sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

### September-October Activities

#### CREP Coordinator Grant:

- Completed FY 2011 Quarterly Report (July-Aug-Sept) and forwarded to Jan Carpenter at IEPA
- Organized and mailed August & September CREP Coordinator Invoice with each participating Districts' vouchers and receipts
- Completed Database for FY 2010-11 CREP Contract with IEPA
- Completed New CREP Coordinator sub-agreements and mailed to each participating CREP District.
- Worked on amendment sub-agreements for CREP Coordinator participating Districts

#### December Quarterly Board Meeting:

- Working on QB Packet
- Contacted 10 hotels for 2012 Annual Meeting proposals
- Completed Financial Reports for September; working on October
- Updated FY '11 Budget and updating FY '12 Budget.
- Updated FAC and Taskforce Committees membership listing for the AISWCD Board members; waiting on Partners' list and ISWCDEA list.
- Contacted several restaurants to check on Christmas Party availability, accommodations, and menus.
- Compiled 2011 Annual Meeting Survey information for Planning FAC and Board meeting.
- Finished all postings of 2011 Annual Registration payments and made all refunds.
- Updated Income and Expense document for 2011 Annual Meeting report.
- Updated AISWCD Officer information, AISWCD letterhead, AISWCD Board Member Map and information and posted all updates to the AISWCD website.

#### IL Envirothon:

- Completed and paid 2012 Canon Envirothon Registration fee.
- Completed Proxy for Missouri to receive our materials at NACD Annual Meeting/Canon Envirothon Winter Training information.
- Completed Income/Expense Report for 2011 IL Envirothon and forwarded to Grundy County along with 2009 and 2010 Canon Mini Grant copies.
- Mailed Congratulatory letter with newspaper article to Taylorville High School for Canon competition.

#### OTHER DUTIES:

- Phone calls, mail and e-mail correspondence
- Compiled expense reports for Credit Cards
- Timesheets
- Maintain Patio Paver and Rain Barrel Database
- Maintain SWCD Dues Paid (FY '11) Databases
- Mailed Thank You Notes to Paid Districts
- Sent AISWCD/SWCD Sponsors monthly CC and Legislative Newsletter
- E-mailed Monthly Financials to Officers
- Updated Records Retention, Mgmt & Destruction Folder
- Forward to Rich the monthly SWCD/LUC agenda and meeting

- minutes that are e-mailed to me; file these after seen by Rich
- Proofread Conservation Catchall and Legislative Newsletter and mailed to Legislators and Board Members without e-mail
- Completed Monthly Office Supply Inventory and placed order
- Sent income/expense statement to Sangamon County Earth Stewardship Committee Chairman, Kristi Richards; maintain Earth Stewardship Bank Account.
- Sent Invoice (9-30-11) to SWCDs for remainder of FY 2011 4th Q Dues payment for operating funds paid (9-19-11).
- Sent delinquent notice to District Directors for FY 2011 all dues except last payment; sent same notice to AISWCD Officers, Area VPs, and SWCD Districts per Board request
- Worked on District Employee Workers Comp claim and forwarded to Insurance.
- Sent e-mail notice to all Districts requesting LUC articles for Legislative Newsletter.
- Sent updated e-mail to all Districts which included subscription to il.all and an update on prevailing wage info.

#### FY 2012 Audit:

- Compiled information to send out requests for bids for 2012, 2013, and 2014 audits.

#### ACCOUNTING/OFFICE ADMIN:

- Completed Payroll and Payroll Taxes for September & October
- 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
- Wrote checks for SWCD various insurance premiums; had Rich sign; mailed; e-mailed copies to Debbie Holsapple
- Completed Semi-Monthly IL Lobbyist Expenditure Data for IL Secretary of State for September & October
- Completed Deposit for CREP Coordinator August voucher; wrote checks, had Rich sign, and mailed to participating Districts for reimbursement

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

- Governor's Decision on SB 0744
- Winter Training
- December Quarterly Board Meeting & Christmas Party
- NACD Annual Meeting registration for Board Member(s)

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

**TO ACT: Do your best; there is no better achievement than that!!!**

**HAPPY AUTUMN!!!!!!**

*Sherry*



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

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



At the last meeting of the ISWCDEA, held September 8, 2011, we hammered out some details for our upcoming Winter Training. Those details will soon be revealed when the draft agenda is posted on the ISWCDEA's website. The theme "20/20 'the' Vision" was selected for the 2011 training. This theme is intended to remind Illinois SWCDs that despite the troubles of the past (and present, who am I kidding?), we also must take time to focus on the future of Illinois SWCDs. The future of Illinois SWCDs largely depends on quality employees. Quality employees are formed from experience, and their knowledge, skills, and abilities are enhanced through participation in training. To that end, the ISWCDEA is working hard to plan a Winter Training that will educate all SWCD employees and inspire them to look ahead to their place with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the year 2020.

### An Economist for Nature Calculates the Need for More Protection

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1990s, pays landowners to maintain native forest rather than cut it and has contributed to a significant reduction in Costa Rica's deforestation rate.

The Costa Rican program helped inspire Dr. Daily to co-found the Natural Capital Project in 2006. NatCap, as the program is known, is a venture led by Stanford University, the University of Minnesota and two of the world's largest conservation organizations, the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund. It aims to transform traditional conservation methods by including the value of "ecosystem services" in business, community and government decisions. These benefits from nature — like flood protection, crop pollination and carbon storage — are not part of the traditional economic equation.

"Currently, there is no price for most of the ecosystem services we care about, like clean air and clean water," said Stephen Polasky, professor of ecological/environmental economics at the University of Minnesota. He says that because economic calculations often ignore nature, the results can lead to the destruction of the very ecosystems upon which the economy is based.

"Our economic system values land for two primary reasons," said Adam Davis, a partner in Ecosystem Investment Partners, a company that manages high-priority conservation properties. "One is building on the land, and the second is taking things from the land."

"Right now, the way a forest is worth money is by cutting it down," Mr. Davis said. "We measure that value in board-feet of lumber or tons of pulp sold to a paper mill." What has been missing, he says, is a countervailing economic force that measures the value of leaving a forest or other ecosystem intact.

Early on, Dr. Daily recognized that new tools were needed to quantify nature's value. "We began by developing a software program called InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Trade-offs) to map and value nature's goods and services that are essential for humans," she said.

The software, which is available as a free [download](#), enables the comparison of various environmental scenarios. What is the real cost of draining a wetland or clearing a coastline of mangroves? InVEST models the trade-offs and helps decision makers better understand the implications of their choices.

"Our dream was not to try to capture the full value of nature's services, because that's so hard to do," Dr. Daily said. "Our goal is to begin making inroads in the decision-making process by including at least some of the value of nature in the economic equation."

The Natural Capital Project now works in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Pacific and North America. In China, NatCap is

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## Natural Area Guardians-Debra Carey

demydoidea@gmail.com

### WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE NATURAL AREA GUARDIANS? LASALLE COUNTY NAG



The LaSalle County Natural Area Guardians celebrated their 21st year in 2011. Formed with the goal of providing an organized means for locating and preserving natural areas in LaSalle County, this group has expanded their agenda to include native plant sales as a fundraiser for purchasing natural areas; helping the SWCD in incorporating natural area education into a curriculum for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in their county, providing programming for the public and assisting landowners and operators in managing their natural areas.

LaSalle NAG is a diverse group of volunteers, both urban and rural, sharing a common concern for the environment. Monthly meetings and programs are scheduled; the next meeting is November 13th and a video on bird migration will be shown. Meetings may include nature walks, work days, prairie plantings, picnics and more. For specific meeting information and an opportunity to become a member of LaSalle NAG please check out their webpage at [www.lasalleswcd.org/natural\\_area\\_guardians.html](http://www.lasalleswcd.org/natural_area_guardians.html).

This county offers a wealth of natural beauty and history. The majestic Starved Rock State Park, with its river bluffs and wooded ravines, is a well-known natural area. But many remnants are tucked away in corners of fields and meadows; all natural areas provide a glimpse of what LaSalle County looked like when in the 1690's when a Frenchman named DeGannes described his journey on the Illinois River:

*Here you begin to see the beauty of the country, both for the soil, which yields bountifully, and for the abundance of animals.*

There are seven dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves located in LaSalle County of which 6 are publicly owned. The Pecumsaugan Creek-Blackball Mine Nature Preserve provides critical habitat for bats; entrance to this preserve is by special permit only. The Blackball Mine is one of the largest bat hibernacula in Illinois. The federally endangered Indiana bat uses this hibernaculum along with 4 additional bat species.

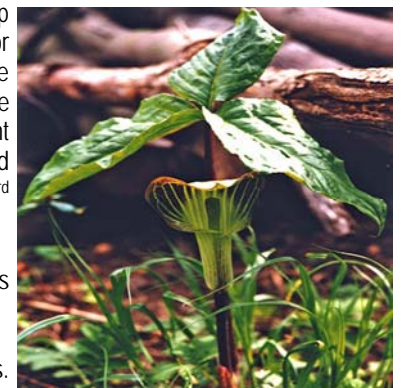


Chairperson Diana Rod has served for a majority of the 21 years of activity. She and her husband Gene are dedicated natural area preservationists; their daughter Alyssa, who became a NAG member as a young child, has followed in her parents' footsteps and is now the Curator of Education at the Tautphaus Park Zoo in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

John and Cindy McKee, longtime members of LaSalle NAG, have been recognized as Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Volunteers through their generous donation of time at Starved Rock State Park. The McKees are well-known and avid bird, butterfly and dragonfly surveyors and have assisted both LaSalle and Lee County NAG groups with important data.



Two sites in LaSalle County are owned and managed as natural areas by LaSalle SWCD. Rasmusen Natural Area is a 34-acre woodland savanna site in Northville Township and was donated by the Rasmusen Family. This site is used for spring and fall nature days. The students receive 2 hours of nature and conservation education within 3 – 40 minute sessions. The SWCD, NRCS and Members of the Natural Area Guardians present programs including spring wildflower ID; bird ID, bird songs, and how to use binoculars; tree planting and animal tracks for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders receive education on prairies; stream table and soils; and tree I.D.



The Costello Nature Preserve, donated by the Costello and Vignola Families, which is located in the Illinois River Bluff between Seneca & Marseilles will be used for educational programs in the coming years.

We enjoy learning about all the components of nature including the birds, plants, insects, and mammals. Join us!

(LaSalle NAG has developed several excellent identification guides. Contact the LaSalle NAG c/o LaSalle SWCD for more information.)



## Legislative Corner - Mike Hoffmann

The 97<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield last week for the first week of the veto session. The formal veto session is scheduled for six days when the House and Senate will meet in Springfield. It began last week with session Tuesday through Thursday. It will be completed November 8 through November 10. In reality, however, legislative leadership, the Governor's office, and interested groups are engaged weeks before and on many of the days that the legislature is not meeting. Phone calls, meetings, and e-mail messages are moving forward the discussions on possible legislation.

### ***Dedicated Funding and the gaming bill - [SB0744](#)***

For Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the major issue of the veto session is [House Amendment 001 to SB0744](#), which authorizes slot machines at race tracks where horse racing is ongoing (including the State Fairgrounds). As you all know, the bill allocates \$10 million (40% of the \$25 million total for Ag program) of revenue annually from the race tracks for grants to SWCDs. Moreover, the bill stipulates that these funds "**shall be used solely for grants to soil and water conservation districts. . . (and) shall supplement, and not supplant, other State funding for soil and water conservation districts.**" The funding from the bill is crucial to keeping the soil and water conservation program viable.

Although SB 744 passed both the House and Senate last spring, the bill was never sent to the Governor. Senate President John Cullerton has used a parliamentary maneuver to keep the bill in his hands until he received some indication as to where Governor Pat Quinn would fall.

Well on October 17, the week before the official beginning of the veto session, the Governor came out with his framework for gaming. He indicated that [SB0744](#) would be dead-on-arrival if it were sent to his desk. Further he declared that, while he could support five new casinos, he could not support slots at the race track – which was the source of funding for soil and water conservation program.

When the legislators returned to Springfield, the AISWCD again went to work. President James Todd, Vice-President Lonnie Wilson and Executive Director Rich Nichols made the trip to the statehouse to take the temperature of our key legislative supporters. After talking to several of them, we were assured that no gaming bill would pass without slots at the race tracks and the funding it supplies for SWCDs.

### **Probably a new bill**

After consulting with legislative leadership and staff, we are hearing that we will probably see another gaming bill next week when the G.A. returns on November 8. This bill will incorporate the structure of the [SB0744](#) – which means it will include five new casinos and slots at the race tracks. Funds will be allocated to soil and water conservation and other Ag programs. What will be new in the bill is some of the other revisions suggested by the Governor: more authority and funding for the Illinois Gaming Board to ensure the integrity of gaming; perhaps fewer new gaming positions and less tax breaks for casinos and race tracks.

We are told the Governor Quinn will meet with key legislators this week to try to work something out. We will be monitoring those meetings and are hopeful that they can work out an agreement that will contain secure, dedicated funding for soil and water conservation. If they cannot, it is the intention of legislators and interest groups who support the bill to fashion a new bill and work toward a roll call that can override a veto by the Governor. If we do indeed need to go that route, we will need help from all of you in again calling your legislators for support. We will let you know when you are needed!

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



## An Economist for Nature Calculates the Need for More Protection

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working with the government on an ambitious program to protect natural capital. After deforestation caused extensive flooding in 1998, China committed \$100 billion to convert vast areas of cropland back into forest and grassland. The government is building on this success by helping to develop and test the InVEST software to put in place a new reserve network that is projected to span 25 percent of the country. The reserves will help with flood control, irrigation, drinking supply, hydropower production, biodiversity and climate stabilization.

At a NatCap site in Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools, the state's largest private landowner, used InVEST to evaluate future land use for a 26,000-acre site on the North Shore of Oahu. In the past, the landholding had been used for aquaculture, crops and habitation. After examining the alternatives modeled by InVEST, Kamehameha Schools selected a diversified mix of forestry and agriculture intended to improve water quality, sequester carbon and generate income.

About seven months ago, [Google.org](http://Google.org), the philanthropic arm of [Google.com](http://Google.com), unveiled a powerful new tool that enables global-scale monitoring and measurement of changes in the earth's environment. Called [Google Earth Engine](#), it features a huge trove of satellite imagery of the earth's surface. NatCap is now moving the InVEST software onto the Google Earth Engine platform.

"Right now, when we do a NatCap project or use InVEST, we send people to a country or state, and they spend weeks accumulating the data and putting it in the right format," said Peter Kareiva, vice president and chief scientist for the Nature Conservancy. Google Earth Engine will greatly speed the analysis process, Dr. Kareiva said.

Luis Solórzano, program director of environmental science at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, who worked on Google Earth Engine, says that the new tool can map trends and allow scientists to forecast such things as soil fertility, erosion and deforestation. "It's the kind of tool policy makers need to make informed decisions," Dr. Solórzano said.

Because the natural capital concept is anthropocentric, Dr. Daily sometimes is asked whether quantifying ecosystem services runs the risk of ignoring nature's intrinsic worth or overlooking difficult-to-measure aspects of the natural world, like aesthetic or spiritual benefits.

Dr. Daily acknowledges that certain properties of nature defy quantification. "The beauty of the natural capital approach is it leaves the vast, immeasurable aspects of nature in their own realm while focusing in a very practical way on environmental benefits that we can and should incorporate into our current decisions."

The precarious state of the world's environment has concerned Dr. Daily since her teenage years, when her family lived in West Germany and she witnessed the destructive power of acid rain on the country's forests. "I realized then that I wanted to be a scientist," she said. This early fascination with nature led to her passion for the forests of Costa Rica, and that in turn set the course for her international leadership with natural capital.

Dr. Daily's work took on a special urgency with the 2005 publication of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which was developed under the auspices of the United Nations. This report found that recent and rapid human-caused changes have produced a "substantial and largely irreversible loss" in the diversity of life on earth and that two-thirds of the world's ecosystem services were declining.

"The loss of earth's biodiversity is permanent," Dr. Daily said. "And it is happening on our watch. We need to convey with compelling evidence the value of nature and the cost of losing it. I find it stunning that until the next asteroid hits the planet, it is humanity that is collectively deciding the future course of all known life."

### **InVEST System Requirements**

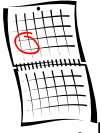
ArcGIS 9.3 (service pack 1 or 2) or ArcGIS 10 (service pack 1)

ArcGIS Spatial Analyst extension

[Python](#)

Version 2.5 or higher required for ArcGIS 9.3

Version 2.6 or higher required for ArcGIS 10



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Halloween** - October 31 
- **Veterans' Day** - November 11 (Office Closed) 
- **Thanksgiving** - November 24th/25th (Office Closed) 
- **Winter Training** - December 6 & 7, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

### 2011 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **December 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting** - December 12th/13th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

### 2012 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **March 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting** - March 13th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- **June 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting** - June 11th/12th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- **September 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting** - September 11th, Teleconference 8:00 am (Only if Needed)
- **December 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting** - December 10th/11th, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL

### october dates of note

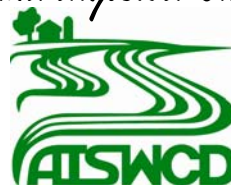
- On October 8, 1871 the great Chicago fire destroyed \$200 million in property in 3.5 square miles and killed 300 people.
- The first Illinois State Fair began October 11, 1853.
- October 12 - Old Farmers Day.
- Mother-in-law Day - 4th Sunday.
- October 30 - National Candy Corn Day.

### november dates of note

- Native American Heritage Month
- National Aviation History Month
- Peanut Butter Lovers Month
- November 2 - Devil's Egg Day.
- November 6 - Daylight Savings Time ends.
- November 11 - Veterans' Day
- November 13 - Sadie Hawkins Day. (Those of you younger than 50 may have to look this up)
- November 15 - Illinois voters approve first bond issue for statewide system of hard roads.
- November 19 - Lincoln's Gettysburg Address 1863.
- November 21 - World Hello Day
- November 24 - Thanksgiving
- November 25 - You're Welcome Day
- November 29 - Square Dance Day

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

4285 N. Walnut Street Rd.  
Springfield, IL 62707



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