



# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

## *In this issue:*

KNIB Announces Date of Great American Clean-Up	1
President's Message	2
Executive Director's Notes	3
Program Coordinator's Page	4
Administrative Assistant's Update	5
Office Assistant's Information	6
Green Cities	6
Illinois Chapter IAAP	7
ISWCDEA Corner	7
AISWCD Affiliate Membership	8
Earth Day - April 22, 2014	8
Sam's Club Offer	10
Calendar	10

### *AISWCD Staff:*

**Richard Nichols,**  
*Executive Director*

**Sherry Finn,**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Kelly Thompson,**  
*Program Coordinator*

**Gina Bean,**  
*Office Assistant*  
*CREP Resource Specialists*

**Russell Blogg**

**Sheryl Phillips**

**Jeremy Pruden**

**Timothy Royer**

## [KNIB Announces Date of Great American Clean-Up](#)

LOVES PARK (WIFR) – Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful has announced that the Great American Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 26 in Northern Illinois. Volunteer registration is now open for both Winnebago and Boone County collection routes with a choice of 20 equipment pickup locations.

The Great American Cleanup™ is the region-wide litter collection involving more than 1,000 citizens from all municipalities, agencies and service organizations in Winnebago and Boone County.

Individuals and teams from businesses, civic groups, churches, youth, or neighborhood organizations can select specific routes or be assigned to a targeted area. Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful and its partners provide safety and litter-collecting equipment at strategic staging sites the day of the event, which is to be returned at the end of the collection. The bags of litter are retrieved within the next week

“Last year we had more than 1,200 volunteers clearing more than 300 miles of roadside,” said Frank Manzullo, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Great American Cleanup coordinator. “We hope to attract even more volunteers this year,” he added. “Now that the snow has melted, we need to improve the image of our neighborhoods and event venues. As the Stateline welcomes visitors to its spring and summer events we want them to know that we take pride in our community,” Manzullo said.



Preregistration for the event is required. Volunteers should register by Friday, April 18. On Saturday, April 26, a designated team coordinator may pick up supplies at one of the 20 distribution sites between 8 and 9 a.m. and bring them to their assigned team cleanup location. The sites are listed at [www.knib.org](http://www.knib.org).\* Team members meet at the start of the route, receive their supplies and pick up litter between 9 and Noon. Complimentary water and snacks, courtesy of event sponsors, are also provided to

Groups or individuals interested in participating in the 2014 Great American Cleanup can call Frank Manzullo at Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful at 815-637-1343 or register at [www.knib.org/programs/great-american-cleanup/](http://www.knib.org/programs/great-american-cleanup/).

In an additional effort to beautify Northern Illinois, in honor of Arbor Day free oak trees will be available, in limited quantities, at select distribution sites and at the Rockford Park District Trolley Station, 324 N. Madison Street, on Saturday, April 26. The grant from the Living Lands and Waters project requests the trees be planted within sight of the Rock River.

Source: <http://www.wifr.com/news/headlines/KNIB-Announces-Date-of-Great-American-Clean-Up-253148301.html>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - LONNIE WILSON

lonniewilson@gmail.com

### Understanding Plant-soil Interaction Could Lead to New Ways to Combat

**Using high-powered DNA-based tools, a recent study at the University of Illinois identified soil microbes that negatively affect ragweed and provided a new understanding of the complex relationships going on beneath the soil surface between plants and microorganisms.**

"Plant scientists have been studying plant-soil feedback for decades," said U of I microbial ecologist Tony Yannarell. "Some microbes are famous for their ability to change the soil, such as the microbes that are associated with legumes -- we knew about those bacteria. But now we have the ability to use high-power DNA fingerprinting tools to look at all of the microbes in the soil, beyond just the ones we've known about. We were able to look at an entire microbial community and identify those microbes that both preferred ragweed and affected its growth."

Although it would seem that the logical conclusion would be to simply add anti-ragweed microbes to soil, Yannarell said that adding microbes to soil hasn't been successful in the past. An effective strategy, however, to suppress weeds might be to use plants that are known to attract the microbes that are bad for ragweed, and in so doing, encourage the growth of a microbial community that will kill it.

The study used Manhattan, Kan. (sunflower) and Urbana, Ill. (ragweed) and conducted trials independently at agricultural research facilities in Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, South Dakota, and Oregon, using local soils gathered on site. These particular weeds were selected because ragweed is a more common weed east of the Mississippi and sunflower is more common in the West.

The experiment allowed Yannarell and his colleagues to observe how three generations of ragweed and sunflower interacted with the microbial community in the soil. The plants interact with each other indirectly due to the differing effects they each have on the microbes in the soil.

"We used the same soil continuously so it had a chance to be changed," Yannarell said. "We let the plants do the manipulation."

Interestingly, they did not find the same ragweed-preferring microbe across all five states. "The microbial communities are different in each of these states, and yet we found the same overall patterns in each state individually," Yannarell said. Illinois, Oregon, Kansas, and South Dakota (and in about 50 percent of the data from Michigan) each had local microbes that preferred ragweed and had a negative effect on its growth. "That was a take-home lesson for me," he said, "that the actual organisms can be different in different locations, but they still may be performing the same functions."

Yannarell said that currently one of his graduate students is studying ways to use what they learned as a method for weed control. "What we're looking at now is the use of different cover crops, many of which are not harvested but just turned under into the soil," he said. "We're looking for specific cover crops that can make the microbial community bad for weeds as opposed to spraying. Can we create weed-suppressive soils?"



Giant ragweed.

Credit: Image courtesy of University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Science.

**Source: The above story is based on materials provided by University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. The original article was written by Debra Levey Larson. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.**

**University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. "Understanding plant-soil interaction could lead to new ways to combat weeds." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 25 March 2014.**

[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/03/140325133548.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/03/140325133548.htm)



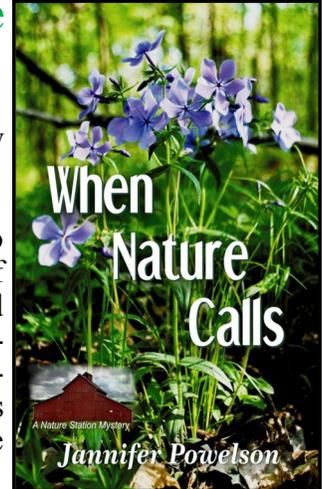
## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - RICH NICHOLS

rich.nichols@aiswcd.org

### Local Author Releases *When Nature Calls*, the First Book in the Nature Station Mystery Series

Wildflowers, Weeds, Nature, hardly the recipe for Murder, or is it? *When Nature Calls* contains all the ingredients of a fresh, all natural, cozy murder mystery!

Naturalist Kristen Matthews is heading up a team of volunteers working to eradicate pesky weeds during a workday at the Nature Station, but when one of the volunteers wanders away from the rest of the group, he ends up eradicated himself. Kristen is concerned for her safety, as well as the Nature Station's reputation. Digging, she unearths some interesting dirt on her squeaky clean helpers. Is it possible one of them is the killer? Follow Kristen's lead, as she wades through the wildflowers tracking the murderer, while learning about nature along the way.



Born and raised on a farm in Northwestern Illinois, Jannifer Powelson's interest in writing, conservation, and the natural world was sparked at an early age. Powelson is also the author of four books in the award winning Rachel Raccoon and Sammy Skunk Series. These educational books use entertaining storylines, colorful and realistic illustrations, and actual photos taken by Powelson. She is employed as a resource conservationist at the Stark County SWCD and resides in Princeton with her family. Ms. Powelson is currently working on *An Unnatural Selection*, the second book in the Nature Station Mystery Series.

*When Nature Calls* and books in the Rachel Raccoon and Sammy Skunk series may be purchased at the Stark County SWCD, several local stores, and online retailers.



Series: Nature Station Mystery Series

Paperback: 300 pages

Publisher: Progressive Rising Phoenix Press, LLC (March 12, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1940834066

ISBN-13: 978-1940834061

Price: \$11.95

Books available: [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) - [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) - [www.progressiverisingphoenix.com](http://www.progressiverisingphoenix.com) select stores and online retail stores

For author interviews contact Progressive Rising Phoenix Press: info@progressiverisingphoenix.com  
http://www.progressiverisingphoenix.com Twitter: @PRPpress  
FB: https://www.facebook.com/RisingPhoenixPress

#### Contact

Progressive Rising Phoenix Press

[info@progressiverisingphoenix.com](mailto:info@progressiverisingphoenix.com)

Source: *Progressive Rising Phoenix Press*

Rich



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - *KELLY THOMPSON*

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

### UPCOMING URBAN CONSERVATION EVENTS

#### **First Midwest Urban Conservation Workshop**

**Date:** April 29th – May 1st

**Location:** *St. Louis, MO Botanical Gardens*

##### **What is this workshop about?**

This is a workshop that is designed by you for you, to learn from you and to learn from each other. We will be discussing what cities all across the Midwest are doing to promote and capitalize on Urban Conservation initiatives. We envision a world where humans, wildlife, and native ecosystems in the Midwest are coexisting in healthy vibrant urbanized areas. The mission of the workshop is to share experiences, technical knowledge, and successful approaches to urban conservation – a true networking opportunity with other officials from cities and towns, NGOs, and researchers committed to urban conservation. This will increase the capacity for your organization, the public and decision makers to engage in responsible, creative, collective-impact-focused solutions and build upon already existing urban conservation efforts.

**To Register:** Contact [Kristin Shaw](#) or click [HERE](#)

#### **2014 Green Infrastructure Breakfast,**

*Presented by Heartlands Conservancy*

**Date:** Tuesday, May 20, 2014

**Location:** *Double Tree by Hilton*

*1000 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234*

##### **What is this workshop about?**

Come to the breakfast to be inspired on how the Menomonee Valley has used a connected system of green infrastructure to create a win-win situation of stormwater management, access to nature, improving the quality of life for employees and residents, biodiversity and economic success.

**To Register:** [www.heartlandsconservancy.org](http://www.heartlandsconservancy.org)

#### **69th SWCS International Annual Conference**

*Making Waves in Conservation: Our Life on Land and its Impact on Water*

**Date:** July 27 – 30, 2014

**Location:** Lombard, IL

##### **What is this conference about?**

From the Great Lakes to the coast, our use of the land impacts major bodies of water. Whether it be the large freshwater lakes of the United States and Canada, the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean; or the other lakes, seas, and oceans of the world, these terminal waters tell the story of what is happening upstream. This year, we consider challenges and progress in nutrient management, erosion and sediment control, nonpoint source and watershed policy, and other issues influencing the health and productivity of our soils and large water bodies. We have an opportunity to reflect upon decades of hard work and to acknowledge the progress of land managers, farmers, advisors, and scientists. We can also recognize failure and emerging problems, with a focus on innovatively moving forward to develop and implement best practices and improve outcomes. Collectively we can make waves in conservation by coming together to share ideas, explore opportunities, and face the challenge of our life on land and its impact on water.

**To Register:** [www.swcs.org/14AC](http://www.swcs.org/14AC)

*Kelly Thompson, Program Coordinator*

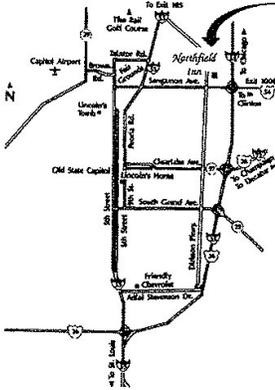


## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S UPDATE - SHERRY FINN

sherry.finn@aiswcd.org

### Greetings from Sherry!

Listed below are the Hotel Registration Information and the Deadline Dates for the 2014 AISWCD Annual Meeting. Hope to see all of you there July 28 and July 29, 2014!!!



### Hotel Reservation Information: Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center 3280 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702 (866) 577-7900

*Located just off I-55 at exit 100B (Sangamon Ave.), turn right at light, one block to Northfield Drive, turn right, hotel is just ahead on the right.*

**(Rooms available at the Northfield and also the Ramada across the street from the Northfield- be sure to say which hotel you would like. Block of rooms & rate of \$70 available from 4/15/14 until 6/30/14.)**

### We're in the center of things...

- Easy highway access from Interstate 55, Interstate 72, and Route 29
- Five minutes to downtown Springfield and Abraham Lincoln Museum and sites
- Three minutes to Illinois State Fairgrounds
- Five minutes to Springfield Capitol Airport

### Hotel Amenities

- High speed internet wireless access
- Business Center with printing capabilities
- Sunny breakfast room with extended continental breakfast
- Premiere meeting and banquet facilities to accommodate a range of functions and guest counts, from 25-800 people
- All guest rooms feature a microwave, refrigerator, and coffee maker
- Beautiful indoor pool and attached patio
- Suites, jacuzzis and accessible rooms are available
- Workout facility featuring multi-gym, treadmill, bicycle and exercise bar

### 2014 Annual Meeting Award Application Due Dates

Due Date	Award	Due To
5/17/14	George McKibben Scholarship	AISWCD Office
5/30/14	Conservation Farm Family	LUC Chairman
6/6/14	Conservation Farm Family	AISWCD Office
5/16/14	Outstanding Forestry Contribution	AISWCD Office
5/30/14	Auxiliary Poster Contest	AISWCD Office
5/30/14	Auxiliary Photo Contest	AISWCD Office
5/16/14	Teacher of the Year	District
6/5/14	Teacher of the Year	AISWCD Office

### 2014 Annual Meeting Forms

Due Date	Award	Due To
6/6/14	Voting Delegate Form	AISWCD Office
5/15/14	Early Bird Registration - Meals/Sessions	AISWCD Office
6/30/14 (postmarked)	Registration - Meals/Sessions	AISWCD Office
7/8/14	Late Registration - Meals/Sessions	AISWCD Office
6/27/14	SWCD Auction Item	AISWCD Office
6/27/14	Director Service Award	AISWCD Office
6/27/14	Director Service Photo	AISWCD Office
6/1/14	Resolutions	AISWCD Office or Tom Beyers

**Time to Think:** The value of persistent prayer is not that he will hear us; but that we will finally hear him!

**To Act:** Face every situation with faith in your heart and a smile on your face!!!!

*Sherry Finn*



## Office Assistant's Information - Gina Bean

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

Kelly and I will again be participating and representing AISWCD at the Earth Day Springfield Event. We had a wonderful time last year demonstrating the Enviroscope. We hope to interact with even more individuals this year and hopefully get more people signed up to the Conservation Partnership Affiliate Membership. If you can make it to Springfield, please stop by. There will be live music, activities, games, and information. Admission is free. Rain or Shine. It is an event not to be missed!



## 22nd Annual Earth Day Springfield Event April 26, 2014 \* 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Lincoln Park, Springfield, IL

# Gina

### Green Cities

Earth Day Network launched the Green Cities campaign in the fall of 2013 to help cities around the world become more sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint. Focused on three key elements – buildings, energy, and transportation – the campaign aims to help cities accelerate their transition to a cleaner, healthier, and more economically viable future through improvements in efficiency, investments in renewable technology, and regulation reform.

#### Energy

Most of the world currently relies on outdated electric generation structures that are extremely inefficient and dirty. To help cities become more sustainable, we need to redesign the current system, transition to renewable energy sources, and implement 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions.

#### Green Buildings

Buildings account for nearly one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions. Through simple efficiency and design improvements to buildings we can reduce those emissions drastically. To realize that vision, cities need to update ordinances, switch to performance based building codes, and improve financing options.

#### Transportation

Transportation is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, three quarters of which comes directly from road vehicles. To reduce these emissions and the resulting smog, we need to improve standards, increase public transportation options, invest in alternative transportation, and improve city walkability and bikeability.

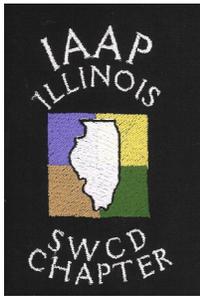
Through an informative website and a series of in-depth toolkits, the campaign will educate the public about each element of green cities and spur individuals to take civic action by signing petitions, sending letters, and organizing events.

In addition, Earth Day Network will work with partners on the ground in strategically placed cities and towns to organize grassroots efforts to improve local codes, ordinances, and policies that will help cities become model green cities.

Spanning Earth Day 2014 and 2015, the campaign will work with an international team of partners, including local organizers, non-profits, businesses, and governments to help increase public awareness, mobilize support for appropriate policies, and generate concrete commitments for innovative and replicable initiatives.



Source: <http://www.earthday.org/greencities/about/>



## ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - JANE BRANGENBERG, PRESIDENT

IL SWCD IAAP Chapters 14th Annual Meeting will be held April 16th. The regular chapter meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. The annual meeting will directly follow. The afternoon training session will be beginning at 1:00 with Dee Krueger, Assistant Director at the Lincoln Land Community College in Taylorville. Ms. Krueger's session topic will be the Microsoft Office program "OneNote". If any of you would like to join us for the day or would like more information please e-mail me.

I would also like to remind everyone of the two upcoming training sessions at the AISWCD Annual Meeting/Summer Conference. The sessions covered will be Excel with Amy Stolte as the speaker. Advanced QuickBooks will be led by Sally Ferguson. If you have any questions or topics you would like addressed for either session please let me know.

**Jane**



## ISWCDEA CORNER - STEPHEN MILLER ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE

website: [iswcdea.org](http://iswcdea.org)

Each year, the ISWCDEA sponsors a \$500 scholarship. The scholarship is available to SWCD employees in good standing with the ISWCDEA, an employee member's spouse, or an employee member's legal dependents. Applications are now being accepted and must be post-marked no later than June 30, 2014. Part of the application requirements is the writing of a one-page essay describing the benefits of Sustainable Agriculture, Locally Grown Products, or Pollinators. Anyone involved with this year's Envirothon got to learn about several great sources of information about Sustainable Local Agriculture. High school students have been giving wonderful presentations about Sustainable Local Agriculture at Land Use Council Envirothons around the state.

The ISWCDEA gets strong scholarship applications each year and we encourage anyone who is interested to apply! If you missed the scholarship application packet that was emailed last month, please contact one of your ISWCDEA reps for the information.

The weather is slowly warming up and although it may seem like summer is a long way off, Summer Conference is right around the corner. The ISWCDEA helps choose some of the topics for the employee training sessions that are held during Summer Conference. Although this year's sessions are already mostly set, we are always looking for input from employees on what sort of training they would like to see. If there is a certain topic or aspect of SWCD operations that you would like to learn more about in a training session, please let us know. We encourage all employees to consider attending Summer Conference and to remind SWCD Directors of how important their presence and participation in the Conference really is. We hope to see everyone in Springfield this summer!

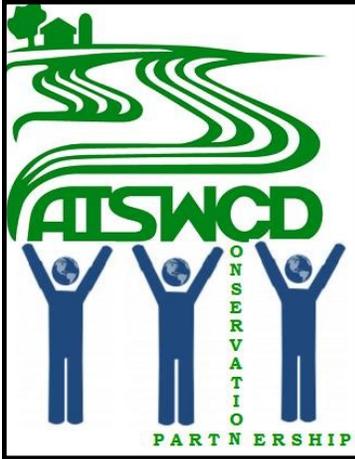
As always, feel free to contact your ISWCDEA representatives any time with questions, comments, or concerns.

**Stephen Miller**



**TODAY!**

**BECOME A MEMBER**



*Association of Illinois Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts  
Conservation Partnership*

*Business, Consumer, &  
Health Service Discounts!  
TireBuyer Discounts!*

*Perfect gifts for family members!*

*For more information visit our website ~OR~ call  
Kelly Thompson at 217-744-3414  
[www.aiswcd.org/donate-membership/](http://www.aiswcd.org/donate-membership/)*

**Look who has already joined!**

**Affiliate Members:**

**Marc Anderson  
Sheryl and Richard Phillips  
Sue Davis  
Della Moen  
Charles Moen**

**Lifetime Members:**

**L&J Enterprises**

**District Members:**

**Warren County SWCD**

**Corporate Members:**

**Patten Cat**

---

## **Earth Day—April 22, 2014**

The First Earth Day was in April 1970.

It may be hard to imagine that before 1970, a factory could spew black clouds of toxic into the air or dump tons of toxic waste into a nearby stream, and that was perfectly legal. They could not be taken to court to stop it.

How was that possible? Because there was no EPA, no Clean Air Act, no Clean Water Act. There were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment.

In spring 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to force this issue onto the national agenda. Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked!

In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm>



Former EPA Administrator William K. Reilly with Earth Day founder Senator Gaylord Nelson on Earth Day 1990.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Good Friday** - April 18, 2014 - AISWCD office will be open
- **Easter Sunday** - April 20, 2014
- **Earth Day** - April 22, 2014
- **Administrative Professional Day** - April 23, 2014
- **Mother's Day** - May 11, 2014

### 2013-2014 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **June 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting** - June 9th & 10th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- **66th AISWCD Annual Meeting and Conference** - July 28 - 29, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- **September 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting** - Executive Committee Meeting will be on September 9, 2014 at IDOA
- **December 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting** - December 8 and 9, 2014
- **Christmas Party** - December 8, 2014



# Join or renew to receive up to a \$25 gift card\*

To take advantage simply bring this offer, along with proof of employment or membership with the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to the Member Services Desk of your local club.

Visit [SamsClub.com/clublocator](http://SamsClub.com/clublocator) to find a club near you.

\* This offer is limited and may be terminated or changed at any time. Join or renew as a Sam's Plus™ Member and receive a \$25 gift card, or join or renew as a Sam's Savings™ or Sam's Business™ Member and receive a \$10 gift card. You must be 18 or older to purchase a membership, and membership is subject to qualifications. Gift card will be provided at the time membership card is issued. This offer may not be combined with any other offer or promotion. Only one gift card per primary member. The gift card with this offer cannot be used toward membership fees and must be claimed within 30 days of membership sign-up or renewal connected with this program. Membership cards are non-transferable and are valid at all Sam's Club locations worldwide. Walmart® and Sam's Club associates are not eligible for this offer. A Sam's Plus Membership and Sam's Savings Membership include one primary card and one spouse (or other household member 18 or older) card. A Sam's Business Membership and Sam's Plus Membership for business include one primary card, one company card and one spouse (or other household member 18 or older) card. Primary memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue. Offers are not valid at [SamsClub.com](http://SamsClub.com) or by mail. Visit [SamsClub.com/privacy](http://SamsClub.com/privacy) to view our privacy policy. Offer not valid in Puerto Rico. For a limited time only. One-time use only. Only original offers accepted. Offer valid for employees and members of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and is valid through April 30, 2014.

\$25 Gift Card: #970504    \$10 Gift Card: #263396



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)