

CONSERVATION CATCHALL

In this issue:

President's Message	2
Executive Director's Notes	3
Program Coordinator's Page	4
Administrative Assistant's Update	5
Office Assistant's Information	6
Protect Your Groundwater Day	6
ISWCDEA Corner	7
IAAP - Illinois SWCD Chapter	8
Recognition	9
Calendar	10
Parting Shots	10

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HENRY COUNTY FAMILY SELECTED AS ILLINOIS' CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY FOR 2013

Tom and Margaret Hitzhusen and their family were selected as the AISWCD's 2013 Conservation Farm Family and Governor's Conservation Farm Family award winner

When the Hitzhusens moved to their current farm, the land was in very poor condition. The previous owner left no crop residue on the soil surface and had not utilized conservation practices. Due to the lack of good stewardship

practices massive amounts of erosion had been taking place for many years.

Upon taking over the farm the Hitzhusen family took action to reclaim their fields from the gullies and creek, by completing a stream bank restoration project. The creek had so much fall as it ran through the farm that they built two grade stabilization structures in the creek which stopped creek bed erosion, eliminating the problem of steep bank walls.

In addition to addressing the problems with the creek, the Hitzhusen's have planted filter strips to help further slow the water flowing off the fields. The filter strips filter excess nutrients keeping them out of the creek and provide wildlife habitat.

Other practices on the Hitzhusen property include four water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), 4 acres of grassed waterways and CRP. They use native grasses and forbs on their steeper ground which has slopes that can vary from 18-30%. The steepness of the slopes makes those acres impossible to farm and they are placed in permanent cover.

The Hitzhusens have done much to help promote conservation and are an excellent representation of conservation practicing farm families throughout Illinois. The Hitzhusens were also honored during Ag Day at the Illinois State Fair where they were presented with the Governor's Conservation Farm Family award and a suitable sign sponsored by Prairie Farmer to post on their property.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Lonnie Wilson*

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I will give up my space this month for highlights of the 2013 Annual Meeting and Summer Conference. Overall, the event was a great success. We had more attendees than we have had for the past three years and comments received showed that the attendees thought the sessions were informative and relevant to their needs.

We were also honored with the presence of Earl Graber, NACD President, for Sunday afternoon and Monday and NACD North Central Region Executive Board Member Tim Palmer for Monday and Tuesday.

Thank you to those who attended this year's Annual Meeting and Summer Conference and a special thanks to those who took the time to complete the survey forms.



Director's Training Session
Jerry Snodgrass and Lee Bunting



Cover Crops Session
Elliot Legacy and Bret Roberts



Brad Wilson led the Feral Swine Session



Roger Windhorn led the Soil Health Session

I hope you agree that these and other sessions were timely and helpful in informing you as directors and staff.

We hope to see you next year.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - *RICH NICHOLS*

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What a great Annual Meeting and Summer Conference! There was good attendance and lots of activity throughout the event. For those who went on the Lake Springfield tour on Sunday, we had an eye opening experience. The Sangamon County SWCD has been working for a number of years in conjunction with City, Water, Light and Power (CWLP), the lake's management agency for the City, to help control soil erosion and the resulting pollution of the lake which serves as Springfield's water supply and as the cooling lake for CWLP's coal fired electricity generators. The SWCD has succeeded in protecting thirteen miles of streams that fed the lake. For the most part, filter strips and buffers serve to halt soil erosion and reduce contaminants from entering the waters that feed the lake. Approximately 84% of the tributaries to Lake Springfield are protected with filter strips and buffers. Prior to the SWCD's involvement, the City was spending \$250,000 per year to remove Atrazine and other farm based chemicals from its treated water. After installation of the filter strips and buffers, the City enjoyed several years where no money was spent to remove these contaminants. Recently heavy rains have again made it necessary to remove the Atrazine but the expense is much less than before the practices were applied.

We also saw some examples of drainage water management that are working well to protect the water supplies.

Monday was a full day with sessions, the recognition luncheon and the Farm Family Banquet in the evening. Prior to the Banquet the AISWCD recognized Jason Barickman as the Legislator of the Year and Caterpillar Inc. as the Friend of Conservation.



Senator Barickman receives the Legislator of the Year Award from Lonnie Wilson



Marty Dains, Manager of the Edwards Demonstration Facility receives the Friend of Conservation Award on behalf of Caterpillar

The event ended Tuesday afternoon after the AISWCD's Annual Meeting and another round of sessions. It appeared that attendees had an enjoyable time and learned quite a bit in the process.

We hope to see many more of you next year.

Rich



PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S PAGE - *KELLY THOMPSON*

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The 2013 Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) training took a different turn this year. The training session was a one day event, changed from last year, which took place on Monday, July 22. The morning session began with a tour featuring the Illinois Green Infrastructure grant site at IL Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on the IL State Fair Grounds. Jim Nelson (Nelson Land Management LLC) and John Wilker (IDNR) gave a brief presentation on several green infrastructure practices that were installed to control storm-water runoff and reduce nonpoint source pollution. Practices installed included a rain garden, bio swale, permeable pavement and several bio islands on the IDNR pond. The next stop on the tour was the Springfield Metro Sanitary District's new state of the art facility. Mr. Gregg Humphrey gave a tour of the facility. The tour consisted of a walk around the entire facility. Humphrey noted the erosion control practices put in place throughout the site.

The afternoon session included presentations from Jeff Hutton-IEPA Permit Section, Megan Andrews-Kendall County SWCD, Rick McAndless-North Cook SWCD, Rich Macho-Madison County SWCD and Dennis Anthony-Winnebago County SWCD. Both sessions were well attended with approximately 25 participants in each session. Below, a few photos taken from the morning tour.

We hope you can join us next year for the CPESC training session during AISWCD Summer Conference/Annual Meeting!

Kelly Thompson, Program Coordinator



Bio Islands



Permeable Pavement



Rain Garden



Waste Treatment Plant



Bio Swale



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S UPDATE - *SHERRY FINN*

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The 2013 Farm Progress Show once again introduces an expanded show site for its Decatur, Ill., permanent facility. A new street has been added as well as an annex to accommodate exhibitors' requests for exhibit space. This year's Farm Progress Show is scheduled for August 27, 28 and 29.

In 2012, the Farm Progress Show needed to expand the Boone, Iowa, site, also due to the increased demand for exhibit space at this prime show. Demand for space has once again spurred show organizers to expand exhibit space, this time at the Decatur, Ill. site.

Growth projections exceeded

"When the Farm Progress Show sites were built in Decatur and Boone, they were built to accommodate the largest show usage in recent times," says Matt Jungmann, national events manager. "Before the 2011 show, we added Eleventh Street to meet the demand for space. This year, it became clear that extra space was needed to accommodate all the requests by exhibitors, and the investment would need to be made to accommodate those requests."



The completion of 12th Street for the Farm Progress Show, August 27, 28 and 29 in Decatur, Illinois.

Largest outdoor farm show

The Farm Progress Show grounds have grown from 10 streets to 12 over the last eight years the show has been in Decatur. This year's demand for exhibit space results in the creation of an annex exhibit area in the west parking lot, as well as adding the Twelfth Progress Street within the exhibit field. The new street will be paved for visitor com-

fort. This expansion equates to 3.647 million square feet of exhibit space, a 6% increase since 2011.

More for visitors

The extra expansion area referred to as the "Annex," located outside of Gate 1 in the west parking lot, has an excess of 60 new companies exhibiting. There will be a mix of outside lots and a tent with booths inside. These exhibitors span the AG spectrum and include companies like Polaris, Roto-Mix, Merschmann Seeds, Husqvarna and many more.

This year's show has even more for visitors to see. With the completion of Twelfth Progress Street and the addition of the Annex, the Farm Progress Show will host more than 600 companies, almost 100 more exhibitors than in previous years.



Finishing the final street at Progress City in Decatur.

Information submitted by: Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant; article from FPS website.

Sherry



Office Assistant's Information - Gina Bean

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Making bird feeders out of paper tubes, peanut butter and bird seed.

I really enjoyed my first Annual Meeting and Summer Conference. It takes a lot of work but it was certainly worth it to see all of the people having a good time and I was happy to be able to meet many of you that I have talked to over the phone, face-to-face. Much of the work I did leading up to the event was with the program booklet, signs for sessions, and poster and photo winners, registration and award winner certificates. I also ordered the Who Buddies teaching materials and put it in packets for the SWCDs to pick up. Those who were not in attendance or did not pick up their materials will be able to get them at Winter Training.



Viewing winning photos and posters.



One of the many great terrariums donated by the SWCD as table decorations and later sold.

Gina Bean



Groundwater Protection Day is September 10, 2013. There are a number of ideas for children's activities at: www.groundwateradventurers.org

Try the online Water Use calculator.
<http://wellowner2.org/2009/waterusecalculator.htm>

Try the Free App for iPhone and iPad.
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/water-use-calculator/id553141703?mt=8>



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

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

Greetings!

Whew! Another Summer Conference is over and everyone can breathe a sigh of relief. It was certainly great seeing all the District employees. This year, there were a number of great sessions offered and I hope you were able to attend some of them.

The ISWCDEA's 50/50 raffle winner was Susan Scott, Administrative Coordinator in Jersey County. Her winnings were \$470.00. Congratulations Susan!

The ISWCDEA sponsored the "Employee of the Year" award and the Employee Association Scholarship. Two very worthy individuals were the recipients and received recognition at the Summer Conference. Below are excerpts of their bios and after reading them you will see why these two gentlemen are so deserving.



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD – DEAN JOHNSON (RC, DeKalb County SWCD)
Dean has worked with the DeKalb County SWCD for the past 12 years and is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and has been approved to write Nutrient Management Plans for the IDOA's CPP Program. His job includes conservation planning and natural resource information review for DeKalb County and local municipalities. Dean's role is to promote and administer the PFC Program and the SSRP through the IDOA and assists with the NRCS and the FSA to promote USDA programs. Dean is the current chairman of the local watershed steering committee and also serves on the watershed technical committee and the DeKalb County Community Foundation Landuse Committee. Dean has farmed in the Sycamore area for the past 25 years.



EA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – MIKE MALON (RC, JoDaviess County SWCD)
Mike worked as a chef for 15 years and studied at the Culinary Institute of America in St. Helena, CA. He received an A.S. in Engineering and then graduated Summa cum Laude with a B.S. in environmental science from the University of Dubuque. Mike has studied G.I.S. at Oregon State University and agronomy through Kansas State University. He is currently working towards a M.S. degree in Environmental Policy. Mike has worked for the U.S. Forest Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and has been the Resource Conservationist for the Jo Daviess County SWCD since 2011. He is currently part of the technical review committee for the Illinois Urban Manual and is a member of the board of directors for Yellow Creek Watershed Partnership. He specializes in aquatic ecology and watershed processes.

Congratulations to both Dean and Mike!!

Reminder! If you have any information that you think should be included in the Employee Guidebook, please contact Renee Weitekamp, Tara Hopkins, or Sondra Baker.

Until Next Time!

Sherry



ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - JANE BRANGENBURG, PRESIDENT

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

IAAP had a great time at the 2013 Summer Conference. Members attended some really great sessions and had a good opportunity to network. Here are some photos of a few of the highlights and good times.



Districts employees Charla Meyers, Jami Mowen & Rhonda Keohne getting ready for the "Microsoft Fillable Form" session with speaker Amy Stolte.



New member Tara Hopkins receiving her membership pin by President Jane Brangenberg.



Sharon Matson and Victoria Prestia. Victoria led the "Bullying in the Workplace" session.



Amy Stolte is an Instructor at Lincoln Land Community College and Lake Land Community Colleges. She teaches both basic and advanced computer applications.



IAAP members Melissa Cauble & Cindy Moon.

Jane

RECOGNITION!

Congratulations to all of the 2013 Award Winners! Pictured are just some of the talented and capable people who were recognized for their abilities and achievements at the Recognition Luncheon.



Lou Conwell, K-8 Conservation Teacher of the Year and Rollie and Lois Spaniol, Outstanding Forestry Contribution Award



Dean Johnson, Outstanding District Employee and Jessica Johnson, Youth- Agriculture and Conservation Across America Photo Contest



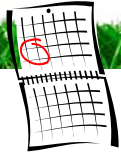
2013 Illinois Envirothon Winners, Triad High School, Troy, IL
Madison County SWCD



Emily Crompton,
4th - 6th Grade Poster Contest



Morgan Cox,
K-1st Grade Poster Contest



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- DuQuoin State Fair - August 23 - September 2, 2013, DuQuoin, IL
- Labor Day - September 2, Holiday, Office Closed
- Illinois River Conference - October 1 - 3, Peoria, Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Click here to [Register](#).
- Columbus Day - October 14, Holiday, Office Closed

2013 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- September 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - September 10th - Teleconference (Only if Needed)
- December 2013 Quarterly Board Meeting - December 9th & 10th - Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL
- March 2014 Quarterly Board Meeting - March 11, Northfield Inn - Springfield, IL - Executive Committee meeting March 10, IDOA

PARTING SHOTS:



Judy Beyers - restocking the Auxiliary's goodies



Marty and Elliot - talking shop



How many conservation practices did you find?



What a great looking rain barrel!

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

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