



# CONSERVATION CATCHALL

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## *AISWCD Staff:*

### **Kelly Thompson**

*Executive Director*

### **Gina Bean**

*Administrative Coordinator*

### **Matthew Hanauer**

*IUM/Watershed Coordinator*

### *CREP Resource Specialists*

#### **Catherine Dunn**

**Sheryl Philips**

**Timothy Royer**

**Dan Sahn**

**Sarah Still**

**Jake Vancil**

## Christmas Conservation

### USE A LIVE EVERGREEN

As an alternative to a cut tree, consider purchasing a live evergreen from your local nursery or garden center. Not only will it make a beautiful Christmas tree, you also can plant it in your yard after the season and enjoy it for many holidays to come. If you're considering a live tree for Christmas, proper planning is essential.

### **Quick Guide to Using a Live Evergreen:**

- Choose a tree that's right for Missouri's climate (download and browse *Missouri Urban Trees* listed in "Related Information" below).
- Make sure it's not too big for your house.
- Make sure won't be too heavy to carry outside after it has been watered for several weeks.
- Choose a planting location away from utility lines.
- In the fall before the ground freezes, dig a hole big enough to accommodate the root ball.
- Reserve the soil for backfill.
- Plant the tree, water and mulch it.

**For more information on how you can use a live tree as a Christmas Tree visit:**  
<http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/your-trees-and-woods/backyard-tree-care/live-christmas-trees>

### RECYCLE OR PLANT WHEN THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER

If your community does not offer a tree-recycling program, there are several creative ways to make further use of your tree. You can place the tree in the backyard to offer cover for wildlife, or under bird feeders to provide nesting locations in the branches. Your tree can be shredded or chipped for mulch, or you can sink it in a pond to enhance fish habitat. If you used a live evergreen and your ground is still soft enough to spade up, add it to your home landscape for years of enjoyment and wildlife cover.

**Source:** <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/your-trees-and-woods/backyard-tree-care/christmas-tree-care>

## Happy Holidays!

# CONSERVATION CROPPING 2015 SEMINARS

Managing your inputs for healthy soils...

## 1-DAY SEMINAR AGENDAS

Select the location closest to you. For more information visit [ccswcd.com](http://ccswcd.com) and click on CCS logo or contact your local USDA Service Center.

JANUARY 27th  
SYCAMORE, IL

- **Schedule:** Sessions/Speakers run 8:30 am – 12; Lunch 12 - 1, More Sessions/Speakers from 1 – 3:30; Meet-N-Greet 3:30 – 5 pm
- Welcome - Russ Higgins, University of Illinois Extension
- Illinois Conservation Cropping Systems Partnership
- Nutrient Utilization--Using BMPs & Cover Crops – Dr. Shalamar Armstrong, Illinois State University & local farmer
- Conservation Cropping Systems – Clay Mitchell, IA Farmer
- Herbicide Management & Cover Crops – Gordon Roskamp, IL Central College
- Systems for Soil Health - Dr. Eileen Kladvko, Purdue University
- IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy “What and Why Now?” – Lauren Lurkins, IL Farm Bureau
- Basics of Successful Cover Crops - Hans Kok, Soil Health Consultant, IN
- Farmer Panel Discussion with local producers
- IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy “What and Why Now?” – Lauren Lurkins, IL Farm Bureau

**DeKalb County Farm Bureau Bldg.**  
1350 W Prairie Dr., Sycamore, IL  
Contact: Joe Bybee (815)787-5480  
or (815)757-5465

FEBRUARY 4th  
MATTOON, IL

- **Schedule:** Sessions/Speakers run 8:30 am – 12:10; Lunch 12:10 - 1, More Sessions/Speakers from 1 – 3:30; Meet-N-Greet 3:30 – 5 pm
- Welcome – Elliot Lagacy, Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Illinois Conservation Cropping Systems Partnership
- Converting & Adapting to Strip-Till Conservation Cropping Systems - Roger Wenning, IN Farmer (invited) and Andy Shireman, IL Farmer
- Nutrient Utilization--Using BMPs & Cover Crops - Dr. Shalamar Armstrong, Illinois State University
- Weed & Herbicide Management with Cover Crops - Gordon Roskamp, IL Central College
- Soil Health—“How Do We Get to A Healthy Soil?” – Hans Kok, Soil Health Consultant, IN
- Economics & Ecology of Cover Crops – Dave Robison, IN Farmer, [Plantcovercrops.com](http://Plantcovercrops.com)
- Farm Panel Discussion with local producers
- IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy “What and Why Now?” – Lauren Lurkins, IL Farm Bureau

**Lake Land Community College**  
5001 Lake Land Blvd., Mattoon, IL  
Contact: Elliot Lagacy (217) 353-6603

FEBRUARY 18th  
MACOMB, IL

- **Schedule:** Sessions/Speakers run 8:30 am – 12:10; Lunch 12:10 - 1; More Sessions/Speakers from 1 – 3:30; Meet-N-Greet 3:30 – 5 pm
- Welcome – Dr. Andy Baker, Chair Western Illinois University, Department of Agriculture
- Illinois Conservation Cropping Systems Partnership
- IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy “What and Why Now?” – Lauren Lurkins, IL Farm Bureau
- Soil Health – Dr. Laura & Lowell Gentry, University of Illinois
- Conservation Cropping Systems – Clay Mitchell, IA Farmer
- Cover Crop Species Response To Herbicide Residues – Dr. Mark Bernards, Western Illinois University
- Strategic Cover Crop Use for Production and Conservation Objectives - Dr. Joel Gruver, Western Illinois University
- Farmer Panel Discussion with local producers
- Trends in Cover Crops in the Corn Belt – Dr. Rob Myers, University of Missouri

**Student Union, Western IL University**  
1 University Circle, Macomb, IL  
Contact: Marty McManus (309) 738-7227  
or Randy Grove (309) 456-3702



Register online to reserve your spot at [www.ccswcd.com](http://www.ccswcd.com), payable by check or credit card.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MYRON KIRBY

[kirbyfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:kirbyfarms@yahoo.com)

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We are very optimistic in the coming year with our relationship with NRCS and the Districts. I believe it is going to be an exciting year for the Districts to get conservation and conservation practices on the ground.

Looking ahead, spring is just around the corner. In a little over two months, we will be looking at warmer weather and it is even possible that we may be selling oats by the 15th of March. Winter is a planning time of year for us. Take this opportunity while it is here, for it won't last very long.

I'm still trying to take every opportunity I have to visit with the Districts. I appreciate the phone calls and input I have been given from directors and employees. Winter Training and the December Quarterly Board meeting were excellent chances for me to talk to you all. I took those opportunities to be open with everyone and it is my hope that if a District ever has a problem or concern, they will not hesitate to come to me.

Lets move forward...

**The Association works for the Districts so they may do their job of conserving our soil and keeping our water and air clean.**

-Myron



**CONSERVATION CROPPING**  
**2015**  
**SEMINARS**

**Save The Date!**  
**Only \$20!**

*Managing your inputs for healthy soils...*  
 Spend a day with experienced local farmers & resource experts. Learn new ways to improve profitability and protect your farm's greatest asset: Your SOIL!

**Soil Health Improvements - Cover Crop Success - Wise Nutrient Management**

<b>January 27th, '15</b> Sycamore, IL Farm Bureau Bldg	<b>February 4th, '15</b> Mattoon, IL Lake Land College	<b>February 18th, '15</b> Macomb, IL WIU Student Union
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Register online at [www.ccswcd.com](http://www.ccswcd.com)--just click on the seminar logo! Fee includes lunch. CCA credits applied for--watch the website! Coordinated by Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois NRCS, American Farmland Trust, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, IL Council on Best Management Practices, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Attend the event and learn new options for success.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES - KELLY THOMPSON

Kelly.thompson@aiswcd.org

How time does fly...when you're having a BLAST! And that we are, here at AISWCD! We have officially made it through our first Quarterly Board meeting in our new positions. As you can tell, by reading through the dot point highlights, much discussion was had at the December Quarterly Board meetings. The Annual Meeting task force is ramping up their efforts to begin planning for 2015. NRCS has announced their new program Client Gateway and have announced they are wanting to partner with AISWCD to administer contracts. This is all exciting news as 2014 draws to a close. We are hoping for many more opportunities that bring more funding to SWCDs as they are the face of conservation! AISWCD Board and Staff wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year for SWCDs, their employees and families! See you in 2015!



### News You can Use:

- \* AISWCD is giving away three tickets to the upcoming IDOA Cover Cropping Seminars! Please like us on Facebook to be entered to win! Drawing will be held the first week of January 2015. More details to follow.



### REMINDERS:

- \* The Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy paper is on public comment until *January 24, 2015*. Please review and make comments as your SWCD deems necessary. Find the Executive Summary and full document at this link: <http://www.aiswcd.org/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy/>
- \* Legislative Day is coming up. Please spread the word and mark your calendars...March 10, 2015! We would like for each SWCD to be represented at this year's event. More details to come.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

*Kelly Thompson*



## *IUM/Watershed Coordinator—Matt Hanauer*

[matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org](mailto:matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org)

Hello all!

November sure seemed to fly by this year! Before I knew it, it was time for Thanksgiving and I could stop blaming people for getting ready for the Christmas Season. I hope everyone had a fun and safe Thanksgiving. I'm certainly thankful that I got to travel back to Indiana for a few days to celebrate the season with my family. I'm also thankful for the opportunity to be able to serve and work with all of you to improve water quality!

Early in the month, I attended a workshop in Macon County to learn more about the Economics of Erosion Control. It was a good learning experience and I got to hear erosion control tactics from Rich Nowack and Dan Salsinger. Definitely worth an early morning trip!

Later, I attended a board meeting for the Randolph County SWCD to explain the project I had proposed at the end of last month to the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC). If you'll remember, I had to quickly assemble a grant proposal at the end of October. The grant would bring money to the 5 counties that agreed to work with the American Farmland Trust on their RCPP. If received, these grants could work together to further benefit farmers in the chosen watersheds, though both were written so that either could continue if the other isn't chosen for funding. As of the beginning of December, I haven't had any updates from the NREC, so we are still waiting for replies to both opportunities.

Later in the month, I travelled to Land Use Council 16 to sit in on their meeting and give an update on the IUM. It was great meeting new people from a different area of the state. Many of the people attending the meeting shared ideas that could improve my understanding of several issues, including the new definition of "Waters of the United States" for the Clean Water Act proposed by the EPA. I really appreciated hearing from them.

In the last couple weeks this month, I was also asked to help evaluate grant proposals to the Department of Agriculture and their Sustainable Agriculture grant they are offering for 2015. There were 14 proposals to read through and help rank. It was good, again, to hear several ideas of how agriculture can be improved throughout the state. Now that the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy is in the comment phase, we may need to start implementing ideas as soon as possible to avoid future regulations.

In the beginning of December, I look forward to two gatherings of SWCDs and representatives in the ISWCDEA Winter Training and the AISWCD Quarterly Board meeting. There are also meetings for the Steering Committee and Technical Review Committees scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, respectively. I look forward to hearing from many more people in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you to everyone who's reached out to me and I hope to hear from more of you! Feel free to email me at [matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org](mailto:matt.hanauer@aiswcd.org) or give the office a call if you'd like to talk or discuss an idea or issue. Happy holidays to all!

***Matt Hanauer***



## **Administrative Coordinator Information - Gina Bean**

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

### **IL River Conference Update:**

I currently serve as the minute taker for the 2015 Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System. We met at the beginning of December and as of that meeting there was not a location, date, or theme. The Co-Chairs worked hard and found a date and location that will work wonderfully: October 27-29, 2015 at the Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel

I think this committee is a great opportunity for me to get out there and gain more experience in planning events and meeting new people who we, as the association, can build partnerships with.

### **December Quarterly Board Update:**

This was my first Quarterly Board meeting in my new position. The rest of the office staff, Board Members, and District Employees were very helpful with anything I needed. There were some bumps, but for the most part I thought it went very well. It will only get better from here. Our CREP employees were able to join us this time which was perfect if anyone had questions concerning the program and what they do. All meeting minutes and handouts are up on the AISWCD webpage.

Believe it or not, I am already starting to prepare for the next Quarterly Boards. Like last year, it will coincide with the March 2015 Legislative Day.

### **Legislative Day Update (March 10, 2015):**

Planning is in the beginning stages for this coming year's event. We considered last year's event a great success. I can not stress how important it is for Districts to be represented. Last year, when Legislators were arriving at the reception at Boones Saloon, the first thing they would ask was, "Who is here from my Districts?" With some, it was very disappointing to have to inform them that no one was representing their District. The good news is the Legislators did not leave. Most stayed for at least a half hour and mingled with attendees. The meetings during the day are wonderful, but it is great to see District Employees and Directors converse one on one with Legislators in a more casual setting at the reception. If your District is still unsure, please contact someone from a District that attended and I'm sure they will tell you it is worth your time.

### **Annual Meeting Update (July 27 & 28, 2015):**

It was voted on at the December Quarter Board meeting that the 2015 theme will be "What's the Buzz About Conservation?" It will relate closely to this year's poster contest theme, "Local Heros: Your Hard Working Pollinators." The Annual Meeting Taskforce will be having a conference call in January to discuss all of the details of this year's event.

### **Dues Update:**

Invoices have gone out through the IL ALL email system and are due to AISWCD on January 16, 2015. Invoices and thank you letters will not be sent through the mail in order to cut down on costs and to conserve paper. If your District did not receive the email containing the invoice, please do not hesitate to email me. I can send one directly to you.



*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to Everyone!*  
*Remember that it is not about the presents we receive but  
the precious time we get to spend with our loved ones.  
Never take these times for granted.*

**Gina  
Bea**



## Legislative Corner - Mike Hoffmann

### A New Administration

Inauguration Day for Governor-elect Bruce Rauner is Monday, January 12. So as you might imagine he has begun forming his administration. He has named his transition team, and they have begun meeting with state agencies and some interest group. Executive Director Kelly Thompson has reached out the transition team, and the AISWCD will soon be providing input to the new administration. We will follow up on that and try to keep abreast of appointments and developments that affect SWCDs. It's been 12 years since Illinois has had a Republican governor and Democratic legislature, so these first few months encompassing the legislative session promises to be an interesting time.

### The Legislative Calendar

Just a reminder of the key dates for the next General Assembly, which begins the second week of January.

- **January 14.** The new, 99<sup>th</sup> G.A. takes office as the members of the House and Senate take their oaths of office. New bills will be introduced during this time (beginning again with Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1).
- **February 18.** The new Governor presents his budget recommendations for fiscal year FY 2016, beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016. This marks the start of the budget process, and the day when we will see what the Governor proposes for funding SWCDs.
- **March 10. AISWCD Legislative Day.** Let's produce a good turnout to visit with our legislators.
- **March-May.** Hearing and meetings on the budget and legislation will held as the House and the Senate debate the many bills that are introduced.
- **May 31.** The final scheduled day of the 2015 spring session. Can the Republican Governor and Democratic legislature reach an agreement on the budget in time for the scheduled adjournment?

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE**

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

*Mike*

# Legislative Day 2015

March 10, 2015—Springfield

More details to come!

Be watching for updates through the IL ALL email system.



**ISWCDEA CORNER - STEPHEN MILLER**  
*ISWCDEA REGION FOUR REPRESENTATIVE*

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

Another Winter Training and ISWCDEA Annual Meeting is behind us! Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped make this year's training a success. Congratulations to all the newly-elected and re-elected ISWCDEA representatives from Regions 2 and 4. We also wish to thank everyone who filled out the Winter Training evaluations. This event is organized for SWCD employees by SWCD employees. The comments received each year on the evaluations are vital to organizing Winter Training.

If you're eager to return to Springfield, the next opportunity is right around the corner. Now is the time to remind your SWCD board about the upcoming 2015 Legislative Day. Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> will be your opportunity to tell your legislators about the good work that SWCDs do every day. With all of the water quality and agriculture issues being discussed in Springfield, it's more important than ever for SWCDs to keep in touch with legislators. Mark your calendars today!

As always, feel free to contact your ISWCDEA representatives any time with any comments or concerns. We are always happy to hear from you!

*Stephen*



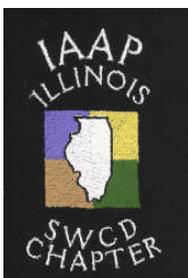
**Mark those calendars!**

**Envirothon registrations are due.....**

**APRIL 10, 2015**

**Contact Sondra Baker with any questions:**

**[Sondra.baker@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:Sondra.baker@il.nacdnet.net)**



**ILLINOIS CHAPTER - IAAP - SALLY FERGUSON, PRESIDENT**

This will be the last Conservation Catchall update for IAAP. The IL SWCD IAAP chapter is dissolving December 15<sup>th</sup> due to organizational changes at the national level. However, IAAP members will continue to network, share knowledge, and develop their leadership skills. Please join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ILSWCDACs> to learn and share with each other. We already have 30 members and posts on organization, FOIA, Internet Explorer, and Quickbooks. We would love to have all ACs join the group. RC's are welcome too! As our "Last 'Hurrah!'", IAAP was able to provide \$260 towards meals at Winter Training, \$300 towards the motivational speaker, 32 Quickbooks Handbooks to districts, and two \$25 gift cards for door prizes.

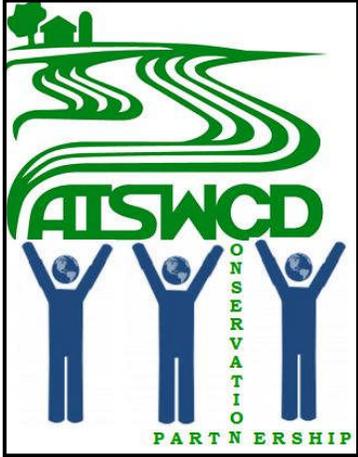
Thanks to all the IAAP members who have made this such an enjoyable and worthwhile organization!

**Sally**



**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!**

<p><b><u>Affiliate Members:</u></b>          Marc Anderson          Sheryl and Richard Philips          Sue Davis          Della and Charles Moen          George and Cathy Hypke</p>	<p><b><u>Lifetime Members:</u></b>          L&amp;J Enterprises</p> <p><b><u>Corporate Members:</u></b>          Patten Cat</p> <p><b><u>District Members:</u></b>          Christian County SWCD</p>
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**Affiliate Membership Reminder!!!!**

**Please remember that the money raised through the Conservation Partnership will go towards education activities and the Illinois State Envirothon.**

**Since Districts pay dues to AISWCD, they are given the discounts at cost at the rate of \$12. This \$12 is given directly to NAC who handles the discounts. AISWCD makes no profit off of a District's \$12. Once a District becomes a member, they will be able to use the discounts for office purposes.**

**The \$12 fee must be paid yearly to be eligible to receive discounts.**

**Please consider joining today and support our Education activities!  
Thank you!**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Christmas Eve** - December 24, 2014—AISWCD Office Will Close at Noon
- **Christmas Holiday** - December 25 & 26, 2014—AISWCD Office Will Be Closed
- **New Year's Eve** - December 31, 2014—AISWCD Office Will Close at Noon
- **New Year's Holiday** - January 1 & 2, 2015—AISWCD Office Will Be Closed
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day** - January 19, 2015—AISWCD Office Will Be Closed

### 2014—2015 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DATES

- **March 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting** - TBD
- **June 2015 Quarterly Board Meeting** - June 9 and 10, 2015

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## IL ALL Email

It can not be stressed enough on how important it is for SWCD employees and directors to be on the Illinois All email system. Many important emails come through this system daily. We understand that directors do not want all of the emails and that is why a Director email was set up.

Please, as a courtesy, remember to not “reply all” when responding to emails on IL ALL. This email system has members from AISWCD, SWCDs, Directors, and Partners.

If you are a director please consider signing up for either email.

Please share this information with any new staff or directors that come to your SWCD.

### **Benefits of IL ALL:**

- Emails from ISWCDEA
- Emails from NACD forwarded by Kelly Thompson
- Dues invoices are sent out through this email and you would know when they are expected back to AISWCD.
- Annual Meeting information
- Legislative Day information
- Quarterly Board updates and board packets

### **Subscribe to IL ALL email:**

[il.all-subscribe@aiswcd.org](mailto:il.all-subscribe@aiswcd.org)

When the email pops up to subscribe, all you have to do is type “subscribe” in the subject or memo line and send. You will receive a confirmation email back from our provider.

### **To Unsubscribe from IL ALL email:**

[il.all-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org](mailto:il.all-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org)

Follow the same directions as above but in the subject line type “unsubscribe.”

**Subscribe to Director Email:** [Director-subscribe@aiswcd.org](mailto:Director-subscribe@aiswcd.org)

**Unsubscribe to Director Email:** [Director-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org](mailto:Director-unsubscribe@aiswcd.org)

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

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Springfield, IL 62707



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