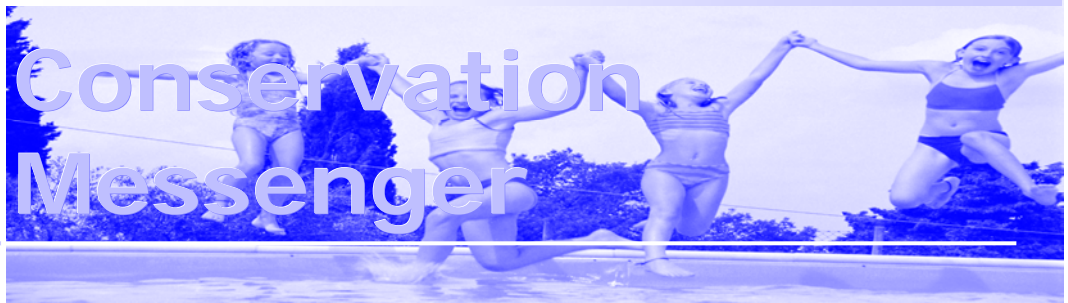


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Reminders:

- Annual Meeting, September 17, 2009
- NRCS and SWCD Office Closed September 7th, in observance of Labor Day.
- NRCS Office Closed October 12th, in observance of Columbus Day.
- Board Meetings 6:30 pm, 1st Tuesday of the month.

Woodstock High School Places 9th at National Envirothon Competition!

On August 2-8, the Envirothon team of Chelsey Belt, Brian Clow, Jon Peschke, Kim Lucke and Anna Woodruff, along with their adviser Bill Donato travelled to Asheville, North Carolina, to compete at the Canon National Envirothon. The dedicated team placed 9th in the Nation and received \$1,100 scholarships for each team member for their outstanding efforts.

The National Envirothon is the largest high school environmental education competition feature teams from across the United States and Canada.

The Envirothon program combines classroom learning with hands-on field experiences focused on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental issue. This year's current environmental issue was "Biodiversity in a



Above: Team members pose with their scholarship check for \$1,100 at the National Competition..



Right: Team members pose with their awards at the State Competition.

Thank you to Enbridge and Hey & Associates!

Thank you to Enbridge for co-sponsoring this years event, and to Hey & Associates for sponsoring our Aquatics Testing Station. Thanks to financial support from dedicated businesses and individuals, the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon will continue to provide quality environmental education and training to high school-aged students throughout the northeastern counties of Illinois.

For information on Envirothon Sponsorship opportunities, contact Spring Duffey at (815) 338-0099 ext. 3.



New GIS Layer Available

We have added a new layer to our GIS database called “Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas”.

Because McHenry County is 100% reliant on groundwater and has been experiencing groundwater quantity/quality issues, the county board in 1995 authorized a groundwater investigation/report titled “County of McHenry Groundwater Resources Management Plan”. Many facts in that report startled decision makers. For example, the report found that in 2000, one township was withdrawing groundwater at unsustainable rates and by 2030 if status-quo, three townships would be doing the same and that three other townships would be approaching that un-sustainability. In 2007, the County Board hired a full time Water Resources Manager and authorized the creation of the McHenry County Groundwater Task Force. The Recharge Subcommittee of the Groundwater Task Force was charged with identifying areas within the county that could be considered to have high potential for recharge of shallow groundwater and develop recommendations for protecting those areas in terms of both quantity and quality.

The main basis for the layer identifying recharge, is areas of high or moderately high potential for aquifer contamination as identified in the Illinois State Geological Survey’s Circular 559, “Geologic Mapping for Environmental Planning, McHenry County, IL”. In a meeting of the recharge subcommittee, Illinois State Geological Survey and Illinois State Water Survey, it was determined that the areas of high or moderately high potential for aquifer contamination could be qualified by using soil properties. The plan was to remove from the high and moderately high areas those soils with slow permeability, steep slopes and hydric soils that discharge groundwater. Using Table 6 of the Soil Survey of McHenry County a digital layer was developed of soil properties with:

- Restricted permeability
- Slopes 4% or greater (except if the soil had excessive permeability, it was not included)

Also digitized, were groundwater discharge hydric soils. NRCS Illinois Area 3 Resource Soil Scientists in 2002 developed a hydric soil recharge/flow through/discharge guide to use when designing wetland restoration. Because recharge/flow through/discharge is very complex and changes depending on the year, only soils that were thought to be generally only groundwater discharge were used.

Have A Happy & Safe Labor Day!

2009 Annual Meeting

On September 17, 2009, the District will be holding its 63rd Annual Meeting. The meeting will consist of a social hour, welcome and introductions, dinner, awards presentation, and a short program at our auxiliary building located at 2222 Dean Street, Woodstock.

This year the District will be giving three awards; Future Conservationists, Community Conservationist and Conservation Landowner.

Come join the district as we share the past year’s accomplishments and look forward to the future. Social Hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and tickets are \$20.00 per person.

For tickets or more information, please contact our office at (815) 338-0099 ext. 3.

IEPA Renews Contract

The McHenry County Soil & Water Conservation District has proudly signed a new Intergovernmental Contract with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to assist with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit program (NPDES) for another five years. The program was developed to assist developers and landowners, within the County, in maintaining their Clean Water Act compliance.

Envirothon...*(continued from page 1)*



Team Members Jon Peschke and Brian Clow trade items at Nationals.

Changing World”.

Woodstock earned a berth to the State competition by outscoring 35 teams at the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon, held at Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake. At State, Woodstock outscored 15 teams to earn the right to represent Illinois at the national competition.

The Northeastern Illinois Envirothon is hosted by Council 16, a conglomeration of Soil & Water Conservation Districts from the Counties of Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Winnebago. Staff works tirelessly throughout the year to prepare study materials, create tests, provide training workshops, secure funding, coordinate presenters, and many other duties.

Congratulations Woodstock High School Envirothon Team on all of your accomplishments.

Thank You, Phyllis!

We read it all too often in the paper and hear it on the news, but it really doesn't sink in until it affects you. Due to budget constraints, on August 4, 2009, we had to say goodbye to Phyllis McKinley our Administrative Coordinator.

Phyllis began her career with the district in 2002. Her duties included payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, clerical, walk-in customer assistance, office supply purchasing, board meeting minutes, soil boring report write-ups, and Tree and Fish Sale order processing. Additionally, Phyllis provided digital maps, digital FSA Compliance Slides, historical aerial photograph and resource inventory map copies, and NRI report application logging for customers.

Phyllis was an asset to the district and will be greatly missed.



Phyllis McKinley, Administrative Coordinator

Tornado Hits Office!

June 19th, 2009 will be a day that few of us in this office will easily forget! At approximately 7:10 p.m. a F1 tornado touched down near Highway 14 and Davis Road. It continued northeast, where it lifted the roof off of our office building and set it back down. The tornado weakened and lifted at approximately Lake Avenue.

It was fortunate, that all employees had already left for the day, and damage was minimal to our office and map resources (some historical aerials were damaged).

If you have been to our office in recent weeks, you will notice major construction is occurring. They are tying our roof into our walls and repairing the roof. Other than noise and displacement of office furniture, it is business as usual.



Photo of tornado damage provided by the National Weather Service.

Educational / Grant Opportunities

Below is a quick list of educational opportunities. Education programs are provided (at a cost of \$2 per child) to McHenry County Schools and Youth Groups.

Envirothon: Environmental High School Competition.

Greatest Show "of" Earth hands-on education trailer: This trailer brings the wonders of soils and its properties to your school. Geared to 3rd-5th grades.

Watershed Programs: Through the use of a table top model, watersheds are explained and non-point source pollution potentials are evaluated.

Erosion Demonstration: Students see first hand the destructive force of water and the pollution/social problems it can cause.

Third Grade School Tree: Each third grade school is offered a native tree to plant on their school grounds for Arbor Day.

Conservation Grants: The District provides up to \$2000.00 each year in grant money to schools for innovative environmental projects.

Other Programs: Staff are knowledgeable in a variety of areas and can tailor programs to fit your subject, by request.

For more information on any of the aforementioned programs, contact Spring Duffey at (815) 338-0099 ext. 3 or at Spring.duffey@il.nacdn.net.

District Directors:

- Critchell Judd, Chairman**
- Annette Rafferty, Vice Chairperson**
- Kenneth Fiske, Secretary**
- Orrin Bangert, Treasurer**
- Gregory Ibeling, Director**

Staff:

- Ed Weskerna, District Manager**
- Bob Oja, Soil Scientist**
- Spring Duffey, Resource Analyst/Administrative Coordinator**
- Tom Mattingly, Urban Erosion Control Specialist**

USDA-NRCS Staff:

- Dave Brandt, District Conservationist**
- Les Weskerna, Conservation Technician**

Visit our Website:
www.mchenryswcd.org

McHenry County Soil & Water Conservation District

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The McHenry County Soil & Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

HEALTH CARE IN OUR HANDS

Providing a clean, healthy, sustainable place to live for us and the living plants and wildlife with which we share living space is in our hands as we care for any bit of land entrusted to us. In every community, there is the potential to make our backyards and neighborhoods healthier places – for ourselves, and for the birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that are increasingly dependent on them.

Reducing our use of pesticides to manage insects and weeds in our yards and gardens is one simple health care measure that we can use to improve environmental health. Pesticides include herbicides for weed control, insecticides for insect control, fungicides for fungus control, rodenticides for rodent control, and a wide range of other substances used to kill or control other undesired organisms.

Homeowners apply an estimated 66 million pounds of herbicides and insecticides alone per year -- added to this are the applications made by pest control or lawn care professionals; lawn pesticides cause the deaths of an estimated 7 million birds per

year; homeowners are using 50% more herbicides than they did 20 years ago; commonly used pesticides are routinely found in surface and groundwater throughout the country. Audubon Society (2002):

The first step to healthier pest control is to practice prevention. For many years there have been management strategies for pest control that maintain a healthy environment. Audubon suggests: removing potential hiding and breeding sites such as trash and standing water; keeping plants healthy – taking advantage of native plants that thrive in your area; learning about natural pest enemies such as toads, dragonflies, ladybird beetles, bats, and other species and making them welcome; mowing a little higher crowding out weed pests.

The next step is to make sure you have a problem. Identify the “pest” – it may be beneficial. Tolerate some plants other than grass and allow naturally occurring plants to fill problem spots. Realize that pests can be controlled without eliminating them if they are so abundant that they cause damage. Sometimes physical

methods to remove weeds and insect pests are sufficient and a much healthier means as well.

Now many hardware stores and garden centers are carrying an increasing selection of healthier pest control products. Many manage pests with natural products. When using chemical pesticides be sure to read the label carefully. That means choosing the right product for your needs; knowing how to keep you, your children, and your pets safe; applying the product strictly according to directions (money saving, as well); and learning about any environmental effects. Packaging should include a contact number for answering questions.

This information and more about managing pesticides for a healthy environment can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency website; www.epa.gov/pesticides and at the Audubon Society website: www.audubon.org (search “pesticides”).

Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer,
NRCS/Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District