



Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

ForeverGreen

Spring/Summer 2007

www.KaneDuPageSWCD.org

Vol. 15 No. 2

Changes to SWCD Board

This year's Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) elections brought about changes to the board of directors. We sadly said goodbye to Mary Zaander, who has been the Vice-Chairperson since 2006 and a member of the KDSWCD board since 2003. She knew when to facilitate topics at meetings and was always available to the District staff for questions and advice. She will be missed.

The KDSWCD welcomed our new board member, Mary Ochsenschlager. Mary is well known as an enthusiastic environmental activist in the Fox Valley area. With her knowledge of conservation and Kane County, we feel privileged to have her as part of the board.



Wayne Schneider, Kane-DuPage SWCD Chairmain, recognizes Mary Zaander for her years of service to the KDSWCD

SWCD Annual Meeting Honors Excellence

On February 22nd, the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District held an annual meeting at Fishermen's Inn in Elburn. Following the business meeting, awards were given to honor achievements in conservation. Each year the SWCD gives awards to recognize individuals, agencies and organizations that go "above and beyond" to further natural resources and/or agriculture in Kane and DuPage counties.

Campton Township Solid Waste District was recognized for Excellence in Promotion and/or Conservation of Land and Water Resources. President Greg Van Zandt, Jack Berry, Mark Gordon, Dave Phillips and Rebecca Lambe serve as volunteers appointed by the Town Board.

The Campton Township Solid Waste District worked diligently to create a new waste hauler contract that included a large, covered and wheeled recycling tote for each household with no additional cost to the homeowner. Their goal was to increase the amount of

Continued on Page 6, see AWARDS

In This Issue	Board Changes	1
	SWCD Awards	1
	SWCD Elections	2
	Envirothon	3
	2007 Fall Fish Facts	4
	Poster Contest	5
	Recycling News	7
	Arbor Day Mini Grant / B.O.W.	8

Forever Green

A publication of the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

*Providing assistance to enable people to
achieve their natural resource goals using
responsible and sustainable practices.*

Directors

Wayne Schneider, Chairperson
Gerard Fabrizius, Vice-Chairperson
William Pauling, Secretary/Treasurer
Neal Anderson, Director
Mary Ochsenschlager, Director

Associate Directors

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Robert Arnet	Robert Montgomery
Kevin Bohlin	Randy Newkirk
Robert Conro	Timothy Paulson
James Doyle	Charles Swanson
Susan Harney	Mark Willobee
Patrick Kelsey	Linda Yunker
Jonathan Koepke	Mary Zaander
Vernon Long	

Soil & Water District Staff

Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Education Coordinator
Soren Hall, Resource Analyst
Stasi McCrory, Resource Analyst
Kelsey Musich, Resource Conservationist
Deb Pendell, Resource Analyst
Susan Rankin, Secretary
Dolores Salak, Secretary
Tracey Waite, Administrative Coordinator
Katy Zid, Resource Analyst

NRCS Staff

Rand Briggs, GIS Specialist
Thomas Ryterske, District Conservationist
Kenneth Towles, Soil Conservationist

SWCD Board Meetings

Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District Board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the District office. Meetings are open to the public. Please phone ahead to confirm the date and time.

The Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District offers all programs and services without regard to color, national origin, religion, sex age, marital status, or handicap.

Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

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St. Charles, Illinois 60175
630.584.7961 Ext. 3
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www.KaneDuPageSWCD.org

Soil and Water District Election Results

A day long ballot election was held February 22, 2007 to elect two individuals to serve as Directors for the Board of the Soil & Water Conservation District.

William Pauling, a small business owner and farmer was re-elected to the board. Mary Ochsenschlager, former assistant superintendent of the St. Charles Park District, was also elected to the board. The directors were elected for a two year term.

The five-member board of directors governs the work of the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and staff through an Annual Plan of Work. The SWCD works in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Two director positions will be voted on in the 2008 elections. In order to qualify to serve as a director, you must be a land owner or occupier in Kane or DuPage counties, of legal voting age, and willing to serve a two-year term. Persons interested in committing time to serve on the board of the Soil and Water District should contact the office at 630.584.7961 Ext. 3 for more information. To learn more about the activities of the district check out our web page at www.kanedupageswcd.org.



Kane-DuPage SWCD Chairman, Wayne Schneider, with new board member, Mary Ochsenschlager, and Dick Young.

2007 Northeastern Illinois Envirothon



Forty high school teams from eight counties in Northeastern Illinois participated in the 2007 Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition. The competition was divided into two day-long events held on March 19th and 21st. The March 19th event was

held at the Bartlett Park District's Community Center for the Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will County teams. The March 21st competition, held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture was for teams from DeKalb, McHenry, Boone and Winnebago counties.

Envirothon gives students the opportunity to learn more about natural resource issues in the areas of Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, and a new current topic each year. This year's current topic was Alternative/Renewable Energy. This topic was chosen to focus attention on the long and short term environmental, social and economic considerations of energy production and usage.

Students are given study materials for each of the topic areas prior to the competition. During the competition, students traveled to five stations representing each topic. At the wildlife, aquatics, soils and forestry stations, teams received a presentation from a resource professional. The teams then worked together to answer test and lab questions covering those areas. For this year's current topic station the students were given a scenario in advance and were asked to prepare an oral presentation.



Wildlife Presenter, Colleen Kulesza speaks to Envirothon teams



Dave Hendersen from Enbridge with DuPage County Winners, Willowbrook High School

The Leading Corporate Sponsor for this year's Envirothon was Enbridge. Enbridge operates the world's longest crude oil and liquids pipeline system. The pipeline system is being significantly expanded in Northeastern Illinois. In addition to the corporate sponsor, the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon was fortunate to have station sponsors this year. The wildlife station was sponsored by Pheasant's Forever, Winnebago County Chapter, Hey and Associates sponsored the aquatics station, and OC Image Works sponsored the forestry station.

Envirothon depends on the dedication of volunteers. The volunteers serve as team guides, station monitors and photographers. Another key to the success of the Envirothon is the knowledge of the presenters. Presenters for the events were US Fish and Wildlife Service; Cyndi Duda, Aquatics; Colleen Kulesza and Sarah Blevins, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife; Dave Brandt, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soils; Tim Tokarz, Village of Addison, Forestry; and the current topic judges.

The top scoring team for Kane County was Dundee Crown High School in Carpentersville. Willowbrook High School in Villa Park was the top scorer for DuPage County. The highest scoring team of the two events, that advanced to the State Envirothon May 2nd and 3rd, was Woodstock High School from McHenry County.

If you are a high school interested in competing next year call Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller at 630.584.7961 Ext. 3.



2007 FALL FISH SALE

FISH FACTS

F The **Channel Catfish** is not only an outstanding food fish, but also is an excellent sport fish. It is very popular because of its very fast growth rate when fed a commercial fish food. It is compatible in lakes and ponds with all species and works especially well with Hybrid Sunfish and Largemouth Bass.

Growth Rates: Up to 1 pound per year if fed a commercial feed.

F The **Hybrid Sunfish** is produced by crossing a male Bluegill with a female Green Sunfish. This hybrid cross produces a 90% male, 10% female population. This makes the Hybrid Sunfish an excellent pond fish as it will not over populate. It also accepts artificial feed readily and grows to a much larger size than either parent; 1-2 pound fish are not uncommon.

Growth Rates: 1/4 - 1/2 pound per year if fed a commercial feed.

F The **Largemouth Bass** is one of the most popular sport fish in America. It is a predator and works well to help control stunted Bluegill and Crappie populations. By nature, this fish will not accept artificial feed, but our supplying fishery does raise Largemouth (5-8" only) that accept the same feed that Channel Catfish and Hybrid Sunfish eat. This greatly increases their growth rates.

Growth Rates: 1/2 - 3/4 pound per year

F **Fathead Minnows** should be stocked in new ponds. They should also be stocked prior to stocking Largemouth Bass so they have an opportunity to spawn and provide plenty of feed for your Bass. Fathead Minnows should be stocked at 5 pounds per surface acre.

F **Bluegill** are similar to the Hybrid Sunfish except they do not grow as quickly and tend to overpopulate much more rapidly than Hybrid Sunfish.

F **Hybrid Redear** is a cross between a male bluegill and a female redear. It DOES eat snails and clams and has a slightly higher reproductive rate than the Hybrid Sunfish.

F The **Triploid Grass Carp** is a viable alternative to using chemicals for weed control. This fish will not reproduce and when the proper numbers are stocked, may eliminate the need for using chemicals or mechanical weed cutters. However, Grass Carp will only eat pond weeds. Stocking rates for each pond will be different, depending on the amount of weeds present. These Carp eat most aggressively in the hot summer months, and positive results are usually seen after a second season. Total eradication of plant cover in a pond is not a desired effect as it is beneficial to have at least 40% vegetative plant cover.

NOTE FOR GRASS CARP ORDERS: It is very important to fill out the exact location of the pond on the order form under the County, Township, and Section and return the order form by September 21st, 2007 as the fishery must apply for permits from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Poster Contest Winners

Once again this spring, the Kane-DuPage Conservation District held it's annual poster contest. All K-12 students in Kane and DuPage Counties were eligible to participate. Students could use any media to create original works of art to illustrate this year's theme, Conservation's Power.

Corinna Trost from Lombard won the grand-prize and Erin Owen, also from Lombard was the first runner-up in the K-3 grade division. In the 4-6 grade division Elijah Hunter from West Chicago was the grand-prize winner. Gift cards of \$50 were awarded to the grand-prize winners and \$25 gift certificates were awarded to the first runners-up in these grade divisions. Brandi Bradley and Tyler Mason, both from Woodridge tied for runner-up in the 8th grade division. Both recieved \$50 gift certificates

The grand prize posters in each division were sent to the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's (AISWCD) where they were displayed at the Association's annual meeting in July.

The poster contest is an annual event for the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District. Look for information about the 2008 Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Stewardship Poster Contest in March.

"Together We Have Power,
Power to Make A Difference"

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AWARDS, Continued from Page 1



Campton Township accepts their award from chairman Wayne Schneider

recycling and reduce the roadside litter. They are also focused on reducing the waste buried in landfills by taking the time to educate the Campton Township residents about different recycling opportunities.

An award for Excellence in Education was given to Pat and Peggy Hanley. Pat is a teacher at Streamwood High School and a trustee for West Dundee. Peggy is a teacher at Dundee Highlands Elementary School. For years, they have worked together to organize a service project for Peggy's students as part of an environmental awareness curriculum. Whether using native plants to stabilize a shoreline or planting trees to help restore a local park to an oak savanna, this hands-on approach helps students to learn about the conservation of Illinois' natural resources.

A Stewardship Award to recognize Excellence in the Area of Conservation was presented to ReBecca Mathewson. Her attentiveness during gardening and her persistence to learn the reason of tree's illness led to the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Kane County.

The recipient of the 2007 Dick Young Award was Mary Ochsenschlager. The Dick Young Award is given to an individual with a life long commitment to conservation in Kane or DuPage counties.

There is not enough room in this newsletter to list all Mary O. (as she is affectionately called) has accomplished for the Fox Valley Area. In her 16 years as the St Charles Park District's assistant superintendent of parks, natural resources and interpretive services, Mary has been quite the influential advocate! She has encouraged the Park Board to acquire natural areas, expand environmental education programs, restore native plants in natural areas and she has played an integral part in the establishment of Pottawatomie Park's Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

In 2007, we announced the John C. Biddle Award which will be presented to an outstanding farmer, family or partnership for their conservation efforts.

It was only appropriate to present the Biddle Family with the very first John C. Biddle Award.

Eva said her family felt very honored and will remember the occasion forever. When mentioning the award dedicated in memory of her husband John Biddle, Eva recalled how he always quoted, "The Lord gave us his land to plant and conserve it." We couldn't agree more.



Wayne Schneider, center, and Robert Conro, right, helped to present the first John C. Biddle Award to Eva Biddle and Sons..



Kane County Recycles



USED OIL COLLECTION

Saturday August 25- 8:00 am-12:00 noon

Kane County Highway Garage, Burlington & Empire Roads (west of St. Charles)

- Used Motor Oil will be accepted at no charge.
- No quantity too large or too small.
- Drained oil filters also accepted.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

Naperville Fire Station #4

Route 59 and Brookdale Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-88)

HOURS: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

every Saturday and Sunday (except holidays)

ELECTRONICS AND BOOK RECYCLING DAYS

Regular Drop-Off Location at: Kane County Circuit Clerk Building (former Montgomery Wards) 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles

These Saturdays from 8:00 am-12:00 noon:

July 14th

October 13th

January 12th, 2008

April 12th, 2008

August 11th

November 10th

February 9th, 2008

May 10th, 2008

September 8th

December 8th

March 8th, 2008

Computers and Peripherals: (25 piece limit)

- Personal computers •Monitors •Mouse •Cables •Tape, Disk, and CD Drives •Printers •Keyboards

Entertainment Equipment:

- Televisions •VCRs •Camcorders •Stereo equipment (no speakers) •Cameras •Game Players
- Joysticks

Other Electronic Equipment:

- Telephones •Answering Machines •Typewriters •Fax •Calculators •Adding Machines •Copiers
- Postage Meters •Cell Phones •Pagers •Microwave Ovens

Electronic Media:

- Floppy Disks •Compact Disks (and cases) •Video Cassettes (no audio cassettes)
- Please remove all paper and recycle it with your mixed paper at home

DO NOT BRING

- Manuals and packing material •air conditioners, microwaves, or other appliances •Household Hazardous Wastes

Books-both hardbound and paperback

Open only to all residents of Kane County and the cities of Aurora and Elgin. All collections are free of charge.

MORE INFORMATION FOR KANE COUNTY CALL: 630.208.3841

DuPage County recycling information is available at www.co.dupage.il.us/edp
(Economic Development & Planning) or call 630.407.6700

Arbor Day Grant



The Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District is once again soliciting proposals of up to \$500.00 for a reimbursable Arbor Day Mini-Grant to be used for celebrations and/or the purchase of native trees, plants or related materials for schools.

Examples of possible projects include but are not limited to: a student planned Arbor Day event, the creation of a unit on trees or plants, or a schoolyard habitat that utilizes native trees and plants

Completed applications along with a project proposal (maximum of 2 pages long), a budget and timeline are due by October 8th, 2007.

Project Coordinators will be notified of acceptance by mid-November. If you would like more information visit the KDSWCD website at www.kanedupageswcd.org or contact the office at 630.584.7961 Ext. 3.

B.O.W. Workshop

Rekindle old outdoor interests or learn new ones during a Beyond B.O.W. (Becoming an Outdoors Woman) event to be held September 8, 2007 from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee. An optional overnight experience is included. You don't have to be in tip-top shape or have all of the equipment; simply try something new in a beautiful outdoor environment.

Sessions include:

- archery
- fishing
- nature photography
- birdwatching
- shotgun shooting
- kayaking

Registration is \$60.00 before September 8th. Participants must be 14 years or older. For more information contact Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation at 847.428.2240.



Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

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