



Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

ForeverGreen

January 2008

www.KaneDuPageSWCD.org

Vol. 15 No. 1

Private Well Water Testing Program

As Easy As.....

1 February 11 through 22, 2008
Purchase Water Test Kits
at SWCD Office or
Kane County Farm Bureau

2 Sunday, February 24, 2008
Collect Water Sample

3 Monday, February 25, 2008
Return Water Samples

**Results are mailed to you
in 4-6 weeks.**

All results are confidential!

Better Farms, Better Water

Don Roseboom is a hydrologist and stream restoration specialist for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the Illinois Water Science Center, Champaign, IL. He will be speaking at the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, February 21st, 2008 at Fishermen's Inn in Elburn.

Don is a member of recently formed USGS team to develop Illinois watershed criteria for stream restoration. He also has a joint appointment with Colorado State University where he works with Dr. Chester Watson on stream restoration designs and project implementation.

A Social Hour will start at 6 p.m. followed by a buffet-style dinner at 6:30 p.m.. At 8 p.m. Don Rosenboom will speak.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25. To purchase tickets for the dinner or reserve a free seat for the program only, call the district office at 630.584.7961 Ext. 3.



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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.*

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SWCD Board Meetings

Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
District Board meetings are held the second 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
FAX : 630.584.9534

www.KaneDuPageSWCD.org

Elections Held for Soil & Water District Directors

Elections for three directors will take place by ballot
vote on February 21, 2008.

Votes can be cast at Fishermen's Inn, Route 47 and
Main Street, Elburn, from 7:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m..

What is a Director

A Director is one of five individuals who is willing to
give their time to make a difference on issues relative to
natural resources and agriculture in Kane and DuPage
counties. Directors provide direction, motivation and
guidance to the SWCD staff to carry out the SWCD's
plan of work in one of the fastest urbanizing areas of the
state.

Obligation of a Director

A director will serve a minimum of a two-year term on
the SWCD board, attend monthly board meetings,
participate and serve on "standing" committees, and
"time and need" committees. Standing committees
carry on throughout the year, whereas "time and need"
committees are formed on an as-needed basis.
SWCD directors also review, monitor, and supervise the
finances, office, personnel, and workload of the SWCD;
represent the SWCD, as time allows, at local, regional,
state and national conservation affiliated events and
meetings; and participate, as time allows, in regional and
state affiliated organizations.

To be Considered for Nomination.

To be eligible to be 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 as an SWCD
director. Please contact Nominating Committee Chair-
person, Charles Swanson at 847-486-3890. Nominations
must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on February 8th to be
considered for election.

Questions?

Please contact Tracey Waite at
the Kane-DuPage Soil and
Water District at 630-584-7961
x 3.



KANE-DUPAGE SWCD COOPERATIVE PRIVATE WELL TESTING PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF TESTS AVAILABLE

Test Kit #1- NITRATE PACKAGE (\$45.00)

The analyses in the nitrate package includes the following:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1. nitrate | 5. sulfate |
| 2. nitrite | 6. soluble phosphorus |
| 3. ammonia | 7. silica |
| 4. chloride | 8. specific conductivity |
| | 9. fluoride |

Additional Testing for Test Kit #1- PESTICIDE IMMUNOASSAY SCREENS - (\$70.00) These enzyme immunoassay test procedures provide a relatively low cost and highly sensitive technique to detect the presence of various groups of pesticides in water. The procedure **does not** indicate which specific pesticide(s) within a group is (are) present. In most private well samples, in most areas, pesticides are not present. This test will confirm the absence of pesticides, with the groups tested, at concentrations above the method detection limit. If the test should indicate the presence of pesticides within a group, a follow-up test to determine the specific compounds present may be warranted. The immunoassays may also indicate the presence of some of the breakdown products of pesticides within a particular group. A combination of the two pesticide immunoassay screens listed below are offered.

TRIAZINE SCREEN: This test will indicate the presence of common triazine herbicides, including atrazine (AAtrex), cyanazine (Bladex), and simazine (Princep). The detection limits, in parts per billion, for these three compounds are 0.05, 1.0 and 0.05, respectively. Atrazine is the herbicide most often found in private water supplies.

LASSO-DUAL-ACETOCHLOR SCREEN: This test will indicate the presence of alachlor (Lasso), metolachlor (Dual), or acetochlor (Harness).

Test Kit #2- VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS (\$75.00)- The analyses include a wide variety of chemicals (46) including fuels, industrial and household cleaning solvents, dry cleaning agents, paint thinners, paint strippers, dyes, perfumes, air deodorizers, moth balls, and industrial solvents used in the manufacture of pesticides, paints, coolants, and plastics.

Test Kit #3- METALS (\$90.00)- The analyses in the metals package include the following:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. aluminum | 8. chromium | 16. potassium |
| 2. antimony | 9. cobalt | 17. selenium |
| 3. arsenic | 10. copper | 18. silicon |
| 4. barium | 11. iron | 19. silver |
| 5. beryllium | 12. lead | 20. sodium |
| 6. cadmium | 13. magnesium | 21. strontium |
| 7. calcium | 14. manganese | 22. vanadium |
| | 15. nickel | 23. zinc |

STUDENT POSTER CONTEST



The Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District will be sponsoring a Soil and Water Stewardship Poster Contest. The contest allows students an

opportunity to share their thoughts about natural resource issues. All K-12 students in Kane and DuPage counties are eligible to participate in this program.

The theme for this year's contest is **Water is Life**. The theme for the annual poster contest is taken from the theme for Stewardship Week which will be observed April 27th- May 4th. The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again

where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil, water bodies, animals and clouds. That means the water we use today is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land.

A gift card of \$50 will be awarded to the grand-prize winner and a \$25 gift card will be awarded to the first runner up in the K-3 and 4-6, grade divisions. A \$100 gift card will be awarded to the grand prize winner and a \$50 gift certificate will be awarded to the first runner up in the 7-9 and 10-12 grade divisions. Grand prize posters from each grade division will then compete in the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's annual poster contest with the possibility of advancing to the National Conservation Poster Contest.

Posters must be mailed or delivered to the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District office, 2315 Dean St. Suite 100, St. Charles, IL 60175 no later than May 1st. For contest guidelines and entry form call 630.584.7961 Ext. 3 or visit www.kanedupageswcd.org.

PAPER, PLASTIC, OR REUSABLE?

For decades we have been challenged with the question, "Paper or plastic"? Our answer is usually predetermined and now we seldom ask ourselves what difference it makes.

In an article from *The Washington Post*, Oct. 2007, titled, "Plastic or Paper", they list why bringing your own reusable bag is definitely the best choice. According to the *Post*:

* Annually ten billion paper bags use 10 million trees; 100 billion plastic bags use 12 million barrels of oil.

* Paper bags generate 70% more air and 40% more water pollutants than plastic bags; five of the top six chemicals that generate the most hazardous waste are used by the plastics industry.

*Paper bags are biodegradable and cause fewer litter problems. Discarded plastic bags easily blow into trees and waterways where they can kill birds and marine life.

*Paper is degradable but because air and sunlight cannot get to the materials beneath the soil in modern landfills, it cannot completely breakdown. Plastic bags take up less space than paper bags in a landfill.

You can think twice about accepting a bag for small purchases that can be easily carried. When you have chosen a paper or plastic bag, please reuse and/or recycle them. Or you can invest in a sturdy and reusable cloth bag.

The Kane-DuPage SWCD sells a bag that is reusable, 100% all natural, biodegradable cotton, and washable for \$3.00 at their St. Charles office. Please call 630-584-7961 Ext. 3 for more information.



In your lifetime, you can have an impact on the environment by choosing paper, plastic, or cloth.

Illinois Soils Workshops

The University of Illinois Extension is proud to announce "Sustaining Illinois Soils" on Thursday, February 21st, 2008 at Kane County Extension office, 535 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles from 9:00am to 2:00 pm.

This workshop is for Certified Crop Advisers, producers and others wishing to learn more about Illinois soils and how to sustain their productivity.

Portions or all of this program will be offered live via the University of Illinois Extension teleconference system, with the opportunity for questions and discussion.

Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education Units pending: 4 hours in Soil and Water Management and 1 hour in Nutrient Management.

Copies of the agenda are available at the University of Illinois Extension and the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservations District offices.

This program is a repeat of the workshops on December 6, 2007 in Oregon, Princeton and Springfield, Illinois.

To participate in the program, registration forms must be received by February 14th, 2008. The registration fee is \$30.00 per person, and includes lunch. Please make checks payable to Kane County Extension. Register online at www.kane.extension.uiuc.edu.

For further information, program details, or pre-registration information, please call 815-397-7714.




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Your Lake and Canada Geese

The Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) is one of the most well known and popular game birds in the upper Midwest. They figure strongly in tales and folklore, and are a success story in wildlife management.

By the early 1940s, heavy hunting had reduced Canada goose populations close to extinction. A concerted effort by federal agencies, particularly the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has brought the Canada goose back to levels where hunting is again allowed, and has been for over 30 years.

In 1965, a biologist found a population of the subspecies *Branta canadensis maxima*, the giant Canada goose, which had been thought to be extinct. Since its rediscovery, the giant Canada goose has recovered and now makes up the bulk of our resident goose populations.

The giant Canada goose has adapted well to living among us in suburbia for several reasons: a weak migratory instinct, people are willing to feed them, lakes & ponds are kept ice-free, lack of predators, and they have become accustomed to cars, planes, and other noises of modern life.

If there were a Canada goose “paradise” it would include acres of short tender grass, freshwater ponds for drinking water and security, and no predators. It would look much like a public park, corporate office campus or golf course.

In the last twenty years, the population of Canada geese permanently residing in suburban America



has skyrocketed. These are full-time residents who don't fly away with the first ice.

Almost overnight, these once-endangered birds have become pests at some Illinois lakes and ponds. The most effective way of reducing these permanent populations is to change the habitat, at least to the extent possible.

Here are three changes that can be easily accomplished on most lakes:

◆ DON'T FEED THE GEESE

This is mostly an educational campaign. People think they are doing a good thing for wildlife, however it really isn't good for the geese. Geese gain very little nutrition from bread and other processed grain products. They will also grow dependent on the handouts and unable to forage for themselves. A ban on waterfowl feeding is the first step in any campaign to control problem goose populations.

◆ MODIFY YOUR SHORELINE

Canada geese don't like to nest in or walk through tall grasses, plants or shrubs as they like to be able to watch for predators at all times. Keeping turfgrass from going all the way to the lake edge is one good method for discouraging geese. Establishing a buffer strip between your yard and the lake/pond will make the entire area less desirable as a Canada goose habitat. You can also impare the flight paths into and out of your waterbody by planting trees along the shore.

◆ ALLOW LAKE TO FREEZE:

Consultation with a lake expert can help you determine if you need to maintain open water during the winter. Shallow lakes and ponds can have winter fishkills if allowed to ice-over. In most cases, the lake or pond can be allowed to ice-over in early winter (forcing the geese to move on), and then opened up later in the winter.

Taken from Lake Notes-a publication by the IEPA.

2008 SPRING 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 lake 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 March 12th, 2008 as the fishery must apply for permits from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Scholarship Available

The Leopold Education Project Scholarship Program provides a \$500 scholarship for students seeking a four year degree at an accredited college or university which will lead to a career in the natural resources field. The recipient will be selected on the basis of academic record, commitment to natural resource activities, community service, honors, educational and career goals, and letters of recommendation.

Students must be high school seniors or enrolled in a degree program, have a 3.0 GPA or better on a (4.0 scale) and permanently reside in one of the following counties: Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, or Winnebago. Call Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District to receive an application form at 630.584.7961 Ext. 3 or download a form from the internet at www.kanedupageswcd.org
Deadline is April 1st.



Trees for Arbor Day

In 1872, Nebraska resident J. Sterling Morton proposed a national tree planting holiday. It was estimated that over a million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. Each year the Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) helps to carry on this tradition by providing schools with a tree or shrub to plant.

This year the KDSWCD is offering one nannyberry seedling per school in Kane and DuPage counties. The seedling will be in a one-gallon pot and will be approximately 18" - 24".

Seedlings will be distributed in conjunction with the KDSWCD's Tree Sale on April 23rd. Participation forms for the Arbor Day Tree program will be sent to principals of public and private schools in Early February. The order deadline is March 7th. Contact Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller at 630.584.7961 with any questions.



Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

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