



# ForeverGreen



## Annual Meeting Speaker



Join us for the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 19th at Fishermen's Inn in Elburn to learn about the importance of unstructured outdoor playtime for

children. Emilian Geczi, Leave No Child Inside Coordinator for Chicago Wilderness will speak about the coalition's Leave No Child Inside initiative to reconnect American children have changed how they spend their playtime

and, as a result, their relationship to nature. They have gone from ruling the countryside to ruling the remote control in just 30 years. Today's digital era, compounded by loss of green space to construction, has left kids plugged in and tuned out to nature, opting instead for  
*Continued on Page 7*

### Private Well Water Testing Program As Easy As

#### 1. Purchase Water Test Kits

At SWCD Office or Kane County Farm Bureau  
February 9 through 20, 2009

#### 2. Collect Water Sample

Sunday, February 22, 2009

#### 3. Return Water Samples

Monday, February 23, 2009

Results are mailed to you in 4-6 weeks.

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#### DIRECTORS

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

#### STAFF

Candice Anderson, GIS Intern  
Stasi Brown, Resource Analyst  
Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Education Coordinator  
Collin McConnell, Resource Analyst  
Kelsey Musich, Resource Conservationist  
Dolores Salak, Secretary  
Tracey Waite, Administrative Coordinator

## Elections Held for Soil & Water District Directors

Elections for two Directors will take place by ballot vote on February 19, 2009.

Votes can be cast at Fishermen's Inn, Route 47 and Main Street, Elburn, from 7:00am - 5:30pm.

### 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.

### 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.

### Nomination Consideration

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 Chairperson, Sue Harney at (847)428-8092 Nominations must be submitted by 4:30pm on February 2nd to be considered for election.

### Questions?

Please contact Tracey Waite at the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District at (630)584-7961 Ext. 3.

## Meet Coilin McConnell

Coilin McConnell, CPESC and Certified Wetland Specialist, joined the SWCD team in December to fill the empty Resource Analyst position left

behind by Tom Mattingly. Coilin has a degree in Environmental Earth Science from Simpson College. He formerly

worked for a surveying and engineering company in McHenry County where he handled the

engineering construction site plans and the environmental work for that company.

Coilin lives in Wonder Lake, IL



**Resource Analyst, Coilin McConnell**

with his wife of 7 years and two children. When Coilin is not at work he is at home enjoying spending time with his family. He and his family love to travel to national parks, camp, bike and just enjoy the outdoors.

### *Kane County Farm Bureau*

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**Mike Kenyon, Vice President**  
**Joe White, Secretary Treasurer**

**Manager, Steve Arnold**

Located on Randall Road in St. Charles

# KANE-DUPAGE SWCD COOPERATIVE PRIVATE WELL TESTING PROGRAM

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## SUMMARY OF TESTS AVAILABLE

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

The analyses in the nitrate package includes the following:

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

### **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      |

## Annual Poster Contest

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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 ***Dig it! The Secrets of Soil***. The theme for the annual poster contest is taken from the theme for Stewardship Week which will be observed April 26th to May 3rd 2009.

Completely familiar yet largely unknown, soils help sustain

virtually every form of life on Earth. Still, it is said that we know more about the dark side of the moon than we do about the earth beneath our feet. This year's theme urges us to learn more about this sometimes mysterious substance.



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 card will be awarded to the first runner up in the 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](http://www.kanedupageswcd.org).

## Trees for Schools

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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 red oak 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 22nd. 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 6th. Contact (630)584-7961 with any questions.

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# Incredible Survivors

As the sun comes up over snow-covered ground, birdcalls echo through the cold air. Our winter bird friends gather at the bird feeder eager to get energy for another cold day and night.

Having a bird-friendly yard means more than just a bird feeder. A bird that finds a place to take some of the sting out of the weather has a better chance of surviving a cold winter night, reports Diane Porter at [www.birdwatching.com](http://www.birdwatching.com). Porter explains birds that normally nest in cavities (such as bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, kestrels, and screech owls) will go into a hole in a tree to stay warm. Dead trees can save birds' lives on cold nights – a good reason to leave dead limbs or dead trees standing if they are not a hazard.

Other birds will not go in a hole. They need some place out of the wind, like evergreens with thick foliage. A loose pile of brush offers protection for birds that usually feed on or near the ground. Some birds may find shelter in a field of unmowed tall grasses that have a 'roof' of snow. (Porter)

"Black-capped Chickadees have a wonderful assortment of adaptations for the winter,"

according to Susan M. Smith, biologist, who has studied chickadees extensively and who is quoted in an article by George H. Harrison at <http://enature.com>.

"Carefully hidden food items, dense winter coats, specially selected winter roost cavities, and perhaps most remarkable of all, the ability to go into nightly hypothermia, thus conserving large amounts of energy, greatly increases their chances of survival. The ability to go into regulated hypothermia actually lowers the chickadee's body temperature in a controlled manner from their normal day-time temperature. This remarkable adaptation allows the bird to conserve almost 25 percent of its hourly metabolic expenditure when the outside temperature is at freezing. The lower the outside temperature, the more energy conserved.

*"Having a bird friendly yard means more than just having a bird feeder."*



Another wildlife ecologist Margaret Clark Brittingham who kept track of 576 black-capped

chickadees during three Wisconsin winters found that every winter morning chickadees had to

replace the fat they used overnight. (Harrison)

Birds are incredible winter survivors but they can use your help. Winter is the most important time to offer water although keeping it from freezing in a safe manner is difficult – glycerin and anti-freeze kill birds and electric water heaters have their own dangers. Bird feeders should be located close to plants that can provide quick protection from predators, yet far enough away so that they cannot be ambushed by cats. Metal in bird feeders is not a problem since birds do not have sweat glands in their feet and cannot freeze to metal.

[www.wildliferescueleague.org](http://www.wildliferescueleague.org)

Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer, NRCS/Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District, an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Tyler Creek Watershed



The Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District has joined with The Conservation Foundation to help lead efforts to start a watershed group for the Tyler Creek watershed. The group of local stakeholders will act as a voice for the watershed.

The Tyler Creek watershed drains 40 square miles of land that is home to high quality plants, wildlife, and 30 species of fish. The eastern half of the Tyler Creek watershed is heavily urbanized, and has been for decades. The central region of the watershed is now under rapid development. According to 'land use plans' set forth by

municipalities, the development will continue to the western portion of the watershed.

Local residents and people employed within the watershed like Gary Swick, a science teacher at Dundee-Crown High School, have reason to be concerned with this growing development. "Residential & industrial developments within the watershed have concerned me, as I know the creek has many high quality habitat sections that support some sensi-

*"It is time we act constructively to preserve a healthy watershed, or a sagging economy will be the least of our problems."*

tive & uncommon species of mussels & fish," says Swick. With such a dynamic and changing landscape those partners involved with implementing the plan feel it is imperative to protect the creek and the surrounding watershed areas.

The importance of protecting the Tyler Creek watershed should not take a back seat to the

development continuing to blossom in the Elgin area. Dr. Brenda Braaten, a recently retired professor at Judson University states, "It is time we act constructively to preserve a healthy watershed, or a sagging economy will be the least of our problems." Tyler Creek accepts and transports stormwater runoff, carrying it away from homes and infrastructure. Implement-

ing a watershed plan for the Tyler Creek and the surrounding areas helps protect other critical natural resources like the

Fox River and groundwater supplies.

The Tyler Creek watershed coalition is now meeting the first Monday of every month at Judson University in Elgin. These meetings focus on the formation of a watershed group that will eventually carry out the plans of the Tyler Creek watershed plan.

## Annual Meeting, *Continued from Page 1*

time online or with a cell phone. The lack of unstructured outdoor playtime may be linked to childhood obesity, attention deficit disorder, depression and other children's health

problems.

A social hour will start at 6 p.m. followed by a buffet-style dinner at 6:30 p.m. At 8 p.m. Emilian Geczi will speak.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25. To purchase tickets for the dinner or to reserve a free seat for the program only, call the district office at (630)584-7961 Ext.3.



**KANE-DUPAGE SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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## **Stream and River Systems Seminars**

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It has become imperative that we understand our impacts on the land, streams and rivers. In order to address these issues, the KDSWCD has organized two full day Stream and River Systems seminars.

The first seminar, to be held on January 21st, 2009, will focus on the fundamental principals of river systems including the evolution of a channel, and aquatic ecosystems, and stream application practices. Speakers will include Streambank Specialist, Wayne Kinney and Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Biologist, Steve Pescitelli. Participants learn the ins and outs of northeastern Illinois streams.

The February 25th, 2009 seminar will dig into human impacts on streams, 303d and TMDLs, and highlight many restoration principles. Two case studies will be discussed including a dam removal and a successful stream remeander. Speakers will include, John Hartness from the United States Geological

Survey and Howard Essig from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.



The cost is \$50 for each session or \$90 for both sessions. Price includes continental breakfast and lunch. Call (630) 584-7961 Ext. 3 to

get a registration brochure or visit [www.kanedupageswcd.org](http://www.kanedupageswcd.org). Registration must be received one week prior to the session you will be attending.