

**Chairman Lloyd works with State and National Officials on curbing Phosphorus Use in Urban Areas**

Each year residential phosphorus contributes to unnecessary algae blooms in area lakes. This occurs because many of the fertilizers that homeowners use to create a lush green lawn in summer contain a large amount of phosphorus. The phosphorus that is applied on lawns can easily enter our local lakes through storm sewer conveyance systems that drain into lakes from subdivisions.

Don Lloyd, Chairman of the Board, is working to curb the amount of phosphorus that enters our lakes by proposing bans on selling phosphorus fertilizer and selling only phosphorus "free" fertilizer. A few municipalities in Lake County such as Antioch and Wauconda have already enacted ordinances that prohibit the selling and using of phosphorus fertilizers. However, Chairman Lloyd would like to see bans extended to the County and State level. Recently, State Senator Garrett of Lake Forest sponsored a bill in the 95th General Assembly (SB2369) that would do just that.

Lloyd has also pursued resolutions at both the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Illinois Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD). These resolutions would provide educational resources and seminars to county citizens on phosphorus' affects on local waterways.

For more information on Phosphorus in Lake County refer to the Lake County Lakes Management Unit brochure at [www.lakecountyil.gov/Health/want/Documents/phosphorus\[1\].pdf](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Health/want/Documents/phosphorus[1].pdf) or contact the District staff.

**IEPA Construction Site Inspection program continues in 2008**

Key personnel from both Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency have worked tirelessly in 2008 to continue this cooperative program. Funding was made available through July 2009. Lake SWCD staff continued its efforts to educate and help bring into compliance dozens of developers and contractors. A total of 47 facilities, covering 1,380 acres were inspected. This effort is more important now than ever since IEPA has issued a new permit for constructions sites in August 2008 that stretches into 2013. The new rules are more stringent than in the previous permit. Therefore education efforts are paramount to not only keep permittees in compliance but also to protect our aquatic resources.

If you are interested in reading the new permit, as well as other IEPA educational materials for construction sites please visit <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/storm-water/construction.html> or contact the District staff.

**Rain Barrel and Tumbling Composter Sale Event**

The second annual rain barrel sale has proven even more successful than its first edition. LCSWCD, in a cooperative effort with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and the Lake County Forest Preserve District, has distributed 980 barrels to homeowners from Lake, McHenry, Cook and even Kenosha County, WI. A rough calculation estimated that 235,200 gallons of water were saved, which eased the burden on the local storm water sewers and our water resources. The number of barrels distributed in 2008 was more than double the sale in 2007. The LCSWCD staff attributed this vast appeal to an increased awareness in environmental issues but also to the fact that more people are being attracted to backyard gardening.

The staff expects the same if not an even bigger interest this year. That is why SWCD is also offering tumbling composters for sale. They are made with recycled components, including a pre-used 55 gallon black barrel and 100% recycled lumber painted with water based exterior latex paint (see picture).

If you are interested in purchasing from this year's event, please visit our website at [www.lakeswcd.org](http://www.lakeswcd.org) for descriptions of items for sale, as well as easy and secure on-line ordering. For specific questions please contact Mea Blauer, Resource Conservationist, at [meablauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meablauer@sbcglobal.net).



Chairman Don Lloyd



Tumbling Composter

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Fiscal Year 2008

**Soil and Water Conservation District  
of Lake County**



February 2009

Update on District Finances

It has been an interesting year in Illinois and National politics. A new President and now a new Governor are tackling issues with the economy and large financial deficits. Currently, the State of Illinois has over a 3 Billion dollar deficit and Districts are feeling the squeeze because of that large deficit.

Recently, the state legislature reinstated only half of our grant funds for District operations that had been cut in the 2009 budget by former Governor Blagojevich. But that does not mean that those funds are guaranteed to come the District's way. With the deficit looming, budget cuts and unpaid bills may be inevitable.

Good news has come from the State-our second quarter allocation has been approved and we will receive that funding as soon as vouchers are processed.

The District has been in continuous contact with our state legislators. We have kept them apprised of our current funding situation, our need for a more stable funding base, and the importance of the work that we perform in the community.

The Association of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) has also embarked on a campaign to secure a more stable funding base through the possibility of a tax. AISWCD recently voted to spend \$10,000 to hire a marketing firm that will help craft a strategy and message that we can take to state legislators to help our cause in securing a more stable funding base.

The AISWCD will also construct a new website that residents of the Chicagoland area can access to read about what we are doing to protect and conserve water and soil in urban areas.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been active in the state of Illinois since 1948. Districts have been dedicated to meeting the challenges and finding solutions for keeping our essential natural resources clean and secure. Even as financial challenges have recently beset our District we continue to offer our many programs and services to ensure the protection of Lake County's soil and water for the foreseeable future.

<b><u>UPCOMING LAKE COUNTY SWCD EVENTS!</u></b>		<b><u>Inside this Report:</u></b>
-Rain Barrel Sale: Currently Accepting Orders (Pickup-May 15 & 16)		-Annual District Accomplishments
-Fish Sale: Currently Accepting Orders (Pickup-April 4, 12:00 pm)		-Northeastern Illinois Envirothon
-NE Illinois Envirothon (North Event): April 8th, Prairieview Education Center		-NRIs Online
		-Financial Statement
		-District Pictures
<b>District Staff and Board of Directors</b>		-Phosphorus Free Fertilizer
<b><u>Lake County SWCD Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Board of Directors</u></b>	-Soil Testing Program
Joanne True.....District Manager	Donald Lloyd.....Chairperson	-Rain Barrel & Fish Sale
Mea Blauer.....Resource Conservationist	Tom Simpson.....Vice-Chair	-IEPA Inspections
Nick Spittlemeister.....Resource Analyst	Sandy Hartogh.....Treasurer	
	Cheena Wade.....Secretary	
	Cheryl Doros.....Director	
		<b>Soil and Water Conservation District of Lake County</b>
		100 N. Atkinson Rd., Suite 102-A Grayslake, IL 60030
		Phone: 847-223-1056 Fax: 847-223-1127 <a href="http://www.lakeswcd.org">www.lakeswcd.org</a>



**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Balance on hand: July 1, 2007 \$188,108.75

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
State Grants	117,321.57
County Board Grant	35,000.00
Soil Borings	9,080.00
Soil Testing	1,680.00
District Sales Programs	76,118.11
Natural Resource Information Reports	37,863.50
SMC Workshops	9,045.00
Sale of District Pickup Truck	11,500.00
Resale Itms/Cps/Ur. Manls & Plnt Guides	2,659.50
IEPA-SESC Reviews	10,120.00
ACOE Wetland Mitigations	1,800.00
Interest	4,839.68
Material, Phone & Misc. Reimbs.	2,057.67
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$319,085.03</b>

<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	99,793.49
Payroll Taxes	41,829.46
Retirement & Insurance Contributions	12,234.07
Staff Mileage & Travel	57.74
Staff Bonuses	250.00
NRI Refunds	6,067.11
Soil Borings & Testing	8,041.26
District Sales Programs	67,882.68
Newsletter	409.23
Business/Auto Insurance	2,821.84
Envirothon Plaques	504.00
Phone & Utilities	5,713.06
Office Rent	23,156.00
Postage	1,250.86
Vehicle Expenses & Maintenance	3,586.37
Equipment Leases	3,458.28
Supplies	1,845.33
Accounting	2,300.00
Meetings & SMC Workshops	11,942.14
Director Mileage & Travel	62.26
Dues & Memberships	3,423.92
Consulting Fees	263.00
	<b>\$296,892.10</b>
Change in Fund Balances	\$22,192.93

**District Accomplishments**

- District staff assisted 489 customers
- Reviewed 45 NRI Reports totaling 906 acres, for parcels undergoing land use changes
- Soil Scientist performed 22 soil borings during 2008
- District staff performed 94 Soil Tests
- District staff sold 980 rain barrels and 2,867 Fish
- Performed 84 NPDES Inspections totaling 1,380 acres

**Northeastern Illinois Envirothon**

The Northeastern Illinois Envirothon is an environmental competition for high school students in which they compete in five areas: Aquatics, Forestry, Soil, Wildlife and one subject that changes every year. 2008's topic was recreational impacts on natural resources.



Lake County was represented by four schools at this annual environmental event: Deerfield HS, Grayslake Central HS, Vernon Hills HS and Warren Township HS. They were among the 36 schools in northeastern Illinois that participated in this contest.

The results for Lake County were as follows: First place Grayslake Central; second place Deerfield; third place Vernon Hills; fourth place Warren Township.

The District congratulates all the Lake County participants and encourages them to take part in future Envirothon events.

**Soil Testing**

The District is entering its fourth year of offering soil testing to homeowners. Last year, District staff tested 94 samples from gardens, lawns, shrubs, trees, and flower beds in Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage and Kenosha, Wisconsin counties. Samples are tested for pH, phosphorus and potassium along with the texture, color and structure of the soil. Results are returned to customers within 10 days along with recommendations for remediation of the sampled area.

For more information about the soil testing program contact Nick Spittlemeister, Resource Analyst or visit the District website at [www.lakeswcd.org](http://www.lakeswcd.org).

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Top-Left: Vice-Chairman Tom Simpson instructing attendees on Forestry at the 2008 Northeastern Envirothon.

Top Right: Customers picking up fish at the 2008 Fall Fish Sale.

Middle Left: Resource Conservationist Mea Blauer with Jonathan Keopke of Encap Inc. performing an IEPA inspection.

Middle Right: Grayslake Central HS with Envirothon plaque.

Bottom-Left: Lake County SMC, Lake County Forest Preserve and District Staff at the Rain Barrel Sale.

Bottom-Right: Treasurer Sandy Hartogh and Resource Analyst Nick Spittlemeister participating in Adopt-A-Highway cleanup.

