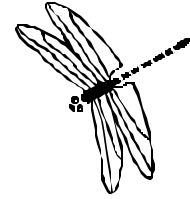




The Soil and Water Conservation District of Lake County

# Conservation Corner



Summer 2004 Newsletter



Jeremy Batson (left) was awarded "Educator of the Year" by SWCD Chairperson Cheryl Doros

## Educator of the Year Award

Jeremy Margaret Batson received the District's second annual "Educator of the Year Award". Ms. Batson has been working in the environmental field for 14 years and is currently Director of Education at Lake Forest Open Lands Association. During her career as an environmental educator, Ms. Batson created and enhanced many programs, combining art and science to explain the intricate ways of our natural world.

Her programs catered not only to the young audience but to the adult one as well.

Ms. Batson is a very deserving candidate and the Soil and Water Conservation District was very pleased to honor her with this award.

## Plant and Fish Sale

The Soil and Water District held its 22nd edition of the annual native plant and fish sale. The District distributed 740 seedlings, 111 oaks, 1,416 prairie plants, 1,559 trees, shrubs and groundcovers and 639 fish to the citizens of Lake County. They all helped improve the environment by incorporating native plants and fish in their conservation efforts. The Board and staff thank all of them and hope to see them at the next year's sale.

The District will be conducting its second **Fall Fish Sale** in October. Please check the website at [www.lakeswcd.org](http://www.lakeswcd.org) at a later date for details. For more information about this event please contact David Cassin, Resource Conservationist at 847-223-1056 or [davidcassin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidcassin@sbcglobal.net)

## Inside

Board Election  
Buffer Opportunities  
Conservation Grants  
NE IL Envirothon  
Big Tree Contest  
Earth Day Celebration  
Region 6 Science Fair  
Aldo Leopold Scholarship  
Summer Workshop  
GIS Maps

## Board Election

The Soil and Water Conservation District of Lake County held Board elections in February. The newly elected Board members are Don Lloyd, Vice-Chair and Brenda Motley-Urbis, Director. They join Cheryl Doros, Chairperson, Cheena Wade, Secretary and Sandy Hartogh, Treasurer. Board and staff welcome Brenda and Don as part of the Soil and Water Conservation District family.

Our board meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 3 pm. The Board of Directors reviews Natural Resource Inventory Reports (NRIs) on proposed development in Lake County. Please stop in if you would like to meet the Board members and staff. Please call ahead in the event of a time change.

The areas of concern for Soil and Water Conservation District of Lake County are: reduction of soil erosion and sedimentation, protection of water quality from urban sources of pollution and agricultural land, urban land use and development, land use planning, enhancement of woodland, wildlife and recreational and groundwater resources.

## Buffer Opportunities

by David Misek, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist

Get paid to protect the environment. The NRCS & SWCD of Lake County can help you apply for several cost share programs to install buffers of all types—such as filter strips, riparian buffer strips, contour buffer strips, grassed waterways, wetland restoration, and more. The following is an example of what is available. Call for details.

CPP - 60% cost-share for projects + incentive payments for nutrient management & no-till.

CRP - Up to 90% cost-share + signing bonus up to \$150/acre + annual rental payments.

EQIP - 75% cost-share on agricultural Resource Management System implementation.

HRP - 75% cost-share for wildlife restoration improving water quality. (Fox Watershed)

SSRP - Up to 75% cost-share for streambank stabilization projects.

WHIP - 75% cost-share to create and maintain habitat for wildlife (5 acres minimum).

WRP - 50-100% cost-share + lump payment for wetland restoration with easement.

*Cost-share is program money used to reimburse participants. Participants must pay for work performed, then submit bills. Cost-share payments are authorized upon completion provided the work meets minimum specifications.*

## Conservation Grants

The Soil and Water Conservation District awarded \$3,675 to 4 schools and organizations from Lake County for different conservation projects. The funds are part of the Conservation Grant Program and are distributed to schools, youth groups and organizations that need assistance in completing conservation related projects. This year's recipients are: Hyde Park Elementary (\$225 for Water Monitoring Kit and and Nitty Gritty Soil Science Kit); Brad Greco-Boy Scouts (\$750 for Prairie Restoration at Camp Moyoca in Antioch); May Whitney (\$1,500 for Outdoor Classroom Learning Zones) and Hawthorn Junior High (\$1,200 for Prairie Gardens on School Grounds).



Students at Warren Township HS restore the native wetland at their school with the help of a conservation grant

## Northeastern Illinois Eastman Envirothon



Warren Township High School Team

The Northeastern Illinois Eastman Envirothon is an environmental competition for high school students in which they compete in 5 areas: Aquatics, Forestry, Soil, Wildlife and one subject that changes every year. This year's topic was Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environments.

The students study a few months before the competition and also participate in specific workshops that are designed to give them further insight into the natural resource issues that surround NE Illinois.

The competition is sponsored by Eastman Chemical, which provides everything from study materials to t-shirts to lunches for the competitors and volunteers and awards.

Lake County was represented by four schools at this annual environmental event:

Deerfield HS, Grayslake Community HS, North Chicago Community HS and Warren Township HS. They were among the 36 schools in the northeastern Illinois that participated in this contest.

The results within Lake County were as follows: first place Warren Townships HS; second place Grayslake Community HS; third place North Chicago Community HS; fourth place Deerfield HS.

## Big Tree Contest

The species chosen for this year's contest was the Hackberry. The District received 2 entries, one belonging to Mark and Beverly Adamczyk of Lake Bluff whose tree measured 95 inches. They took second place in our contest. Jim Richardson whose tree is located on Abbott Parkway in North Chicago was the winner with 105 inches. The participants received a certificate and had the opportunity to choose native plants from the District's Annual Plant Sale.

The species chosen for next year's competition is the white oak. Originally, in 1907, school children across the state voted for the state tree of Illinois. "The Native Oak" won the contest over the Maple and Elm. There are approximately 20 species of Oak trees native to our region, so in 1973 the law was amended to specifically designate the White Oak (*Quercus alba*) our state tree, again by a vote of almost a half a million school children.

White Oaks can be differentiated from other oaks by their pale whitish-gray bark and relatively small burrows. The leaf of the White Oak is usually symmetrically lobed on both sides, with a rich deep green upper surface and a whiter underside.



Education Coordinator Mea Blauer is standing next to the "Big Tree Contest" winner

## Earth Day Celebration

The District participated alongside Recycle America, SWALCO, Farm Bureau and The University of Illinois Extension in an Earth Day Celebration, held at the Educycle Center in Grayslake. The event attracted 150 people who enjoyed a tour of the recycle center, making Earth Day bracelets and recycled paper, potting sunflowers and learning about native plants. This event was made possible by the corroborative effort of the agencies listed above. They have formed an education alliance that provides support to schools and other interested organizations.

The Soil and Water District also distributed 3,435 pin oak seedlings to Lake County third grade students. The seedlings were provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in an effort to bring awareness to Earth Day and the importance of trees.



Mea Blauer talks to children about the importance of native plants in their backyard

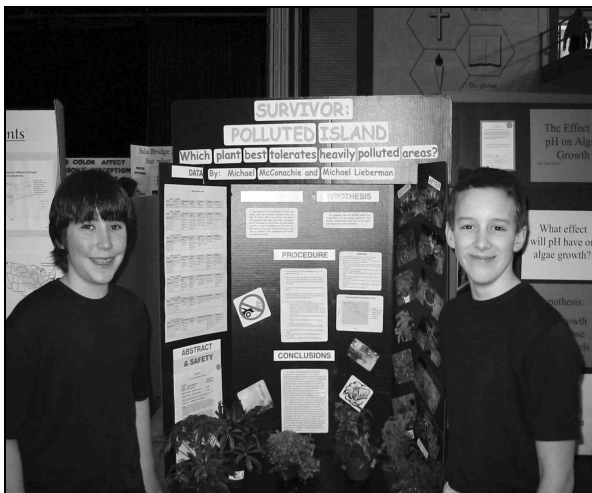
*"We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive."*

*Aldo Leopold*

## Region 6 Science Fair

The staff of Soil and Water Conservation District of Lake County participated in the 2004 Region 6 Science Fair as special award judges in the Environmental Science category. Eight projects were judged in this category. The staff selected three of them for special awards. The District presented the following students with savings bonds: Mary Kate Fritzsche from Woodlawn Middle School for "Does Air Pollution Affect Transpiration?"; Mercedes Alvarez (not pictured) from School of St. Mary for "How Pollution Affects Plants" and Michael McConachie and Michael Lieberman from Woodlawn Middle School for "Survivor: Polluted Island".

The winners were rewarded with savings bonds for their hard work and innovative ideas. The staff congratulates all the students.



## Aldo Leopold Scholarship



Chairperson Cheryl Doros and Aldo Leopold Scholarship Winner  
Greg LeFevre

The Leopold Education Project provides this scholarship to students enrolled in a natural resource field at a four year accredited college or university. The recipients are selected on the basis of their academics, community service, conservation work and their commitment to the preservation of the natural world. This year's winner is Greg LeFevre from Lake Zurich. Greg is currently attending Michigan Tech University with a major in Environmental Engineering. Greg is last year's recipient of the Soil and Water Conservation District's scholarship. The Board and staff congratulate Greg for his achievement and wish him the best of luck with all his future endeavors.

## Landscaping With Native Plants Workshop

The District is offering an informative and useful workshop on native plants and landscaping. Please attend if you are interested in turning your backyard into a prairie paradise that will attract butterflies and hummingbirds. All your questions will be answered by an expert in the field, David Cassin, Resource Conservationist for the Soil and Water Conservation District. The workshop will be held in the auditorium at the University of Illinois Extension on August 25, 2004 at 11:30 am. The workshop will be approximately an hour and a half.

The cost for this workshop is \$5 per person and includes all the handouts for the workshop. Please send your registration to 100 N. Atkinson Rd., Suite 102A, Grayslake, IL 60030.

Please direct all questions to Mea Blauer, Education Coordinator at 847-223-1056 or meablauer@sbcglobal.net

<b>What:</b> Landscaping With Native Plants Workshop	
<b>Where:</b> University of Illinois Extension Auditorium 100 S. Highway 45, Grayslake	
<b>When:</b> August 25, 2004 at 11:30 am	
<b>Cost:</b> \$5 per person, send with registration to Lake SWCD, 100 N. Atkinson Rd. Suite 102A, Grayslake, IL 60030	
✂-----	
Name _____	
Address _____	
_____	
_____	
Phone _____	

## GIS maps for property assessments

The Soil and Water Conservation District is able to provide site specific natural resource information with the advent of computer mapping, based on digitized maps from county, state, and federal agencies.

We currently work with several municipalities, as well as realtors, appraisers, and residents' of Lake County to provide non-engineering assessments of properties. The parameters of the assessment are specific to an individual's property; however, the District does not conduct the field investigations required for building permit activities.

Site specific assessments include an aerial photograph of the parcel with pertinent natural resource information overlaid, including wetland area, floodplain, soil types and limitations. Below is a sample photo of a site assessment showing wetland area. The cost is \$10.00 per PIN #. You can stop by the office for the assessment of your property today.

For more information please contact David Cassin, Resource Conservationist at 847-223-1056 or davidcassin@sbcglobal.net.

### Almond Marsh



*"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

*Aldo Leopold*



# Hey and Associates, Inc.

Water Resources, Wetlands and Ecology

26575 W. COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE 601  
VOLO, ILLINOIS 60073  
PHONE (847) 740-0888  
FAX (847) 740-2888  
VOLO@HEYASSOC.COM

# CCA

**Carnow, Conibear & Assoc., Ltd.**

Occupational and Environmental Health Consultants  
WBE Certified

*Environmental Engineering  
Industrial Hygiene  
Indoor Air Quality  
Asbestos  
Lead  
Mold  
Construction & Demolition  
Management*

**Edward C. Sotor**  
Director of Technical Services  
300 West Adams Street, Suite 1200  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Main Office Telephone (312) 762-2916  
Home Office Telephone, Fax (630) 941-3517  
Fax (312) 782-5145  
Cell (312) 656-2383  
esotor@caltld.com www.caltld.com

(847) 223-5768  
Fax (847) 543-6978

## VAUGHAN APPRAISAL SERVICES

**TERRY VAUGHAN**  
Certified Residential Appraiser  
IL # 156-001751  
WI # 1038-009



INTEGRATED  
LAKES  
MANAGEMENT

A Division of Environmental  
Products and Services, Inc.

**Patricia Bland**  
President

83 Ambrogio Drive Suite K, Gurnee, Illinois 60031

(847) 244-6662

Fax (847) 244-0261

# BLECK

Civil Engineers · Land Surveyors

**PATRICK J. BLECK, PRESIDENT, P.E.**

Bleck Engineering Company, Inc.  
1375 North Western Avenue · Lake Forest, Illinois 60045  
Phone 847-295-5200 Fax 847-295-7081

# KEI

**Kabbes Engineering, Inc.**

1250 S. Grove Ave., Suite 105  
Barrington, IL 60010

Phone: (847) 842-9663

Fax: (847) 842-9960

kkabbes@kabbesengineering.com

*Water Resources Engineering,  
Landscape Architecture &  
Environmental Services*

**Karen C. Kabbes, P.E.**  
President

## KUDRNA & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

CIVIL ENGINEERING  
PLANNING • DESIGN • LAND SURVEY • CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

**Richard L. Weitzel**  
Business Development Manager

400 South Green Street • Suite 304 (312) 738-1522  
Chicago, Illinois 60607 FAX: (312) 738-9792  
email: rweitzel@kudrna.com



Waterfront  
Equipment,  
Inc.

**THOMAS M. PUTZ**  
President

Distributor of Marine Products

320 Holiday Drive  
Somonauk, IL 60552

**TSA: 1-800-597-4432**

Fax: (815) 498-9775

Cellular: (630) 240-9544

www.tsawaterfront.com



Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
of Lake County

100 N. Atkinson Rd., Suite 102A  
Grayslake, IL 60030

NOT FOR PROFIT ORG.  
Presort Std.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit # 41

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH VEGETABLE BASED INK

## The Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for property

Our mission, largely funded through grants, is the protection and enhancement of natural resources. We continue to provide, free of charge, technical and educational assistance to countless residents of our county on a multitude of issues concerning our environment. In hopes of expanding the assistance that we may extend to residents the District is looking to acquire a piece of property that may be used as a “living classroom”. Ideally the property would contain a percentage of wetlands, woodlands, and open space where the District could have different age groups come and learn stewardship techniques for the various ecosystems present in Lake County.

If you have a property that you would like to donate, or sell at a reduced price within Lake County, the donation is tax deductible. If you are interested, the Board and Staff would be more than happy to meet with you and discuss the matter further. We look forward to working with you in the protection and restoration of our natural resources.

SWCD Phone: 847-223-1056