

66TH ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009 - 12:00 NOON 4-Season's, White Oak Room—Freeport



Sindy Main was part of an international team of distinguished scientists, teachers and explorers from the United States, Russia, Austria and New Zealand that recently returned from a six-week expedition to Antarctica where they studied the icy ecosystems of the Untersee Oasis, including perennially ice-covered Lake Unterseeahas.

Sindy taught in Dakota, Lena, and Freeport public school system for over 25 years teaching Science, Physical Education and Health at the Junior High and High School levels. She is currently teaching Junior High School at Freeport Junior High, Freeport Illinois. Sindy is the high school track coach specializing in jumps and hurdles. She mentor teachers in our district and has organized workshops for science teachers.

Sindy is an Illinois Master Teacher and has her National Board Teaching Certificate in Early Adolescence Science. She has a Masters in Education with an emphasis in exercise Physiology from Northern Illinois University. Sindy was selected to participate in an educator in space program sponsored by NASA and Honeywell in 2004. She plans to do her dissertation in the area of project based learning. Sindy hopes to use her experience on the ice to plan a project base activity to share with students in the Stephenson County and surrounding areas.

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The members of the present nominating committee (Richard Holmes, Chuck Moen and John Phillips) are seeking people to nominate to serve a two year term of office beginning in 2009 on the Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. An election will be held at the 66th Annual Meeting.



Barb Klinger seeks another two-year term. She has served on the Board for one term as Director. She and her husband, Mark, farm 500 acres and milk 150 cows in the Pecatonica area. They raise all their heifers and grow corn, soybeans and hay to feed the animals. Barb and Mark have two daughters, Rachel, 18 and Stephanie 15. Rachel is in her first year at Highland Community College studying in agriculture. Stephanie is a sophomore at Pecatonica High School where she plays volleyball and basketball. So when not doing chores, Barb a sports mom.

As of press time, the second candidate is yet to be announced.

Accomplishments for Calendar Year 2009

The stated goal of the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District is to be a dedicated partner in the conservation protection, and enhancement of all natural resources for our society through education and technical services. In the previous year the district provided a wide range of programs and services to the citizens of Stephenson County toward this goal.

Conservation Practices Program & Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program

Fourteen landowners received technical and cost-share assistance to install or apply conservation practices on their farms through this program. The total cost of projects installed was \$42,996.61.

Well Water Abandonment Program

Four landowners received cost-share funding to seal an abandoned well on their property. This state program was created in part by the efforts of the Stephenson Soil & Water Conservation District which originally introduced and strongly lobbied for this important program.

Conservation Education Tours & Workshops

Approximately 67 individuals attended the District organized events relating to: controlled burning, contractor issues, animal waste management, native prairies, woodlands, and ponds.

Additional District Services

- The District helped to protect 9,850 acres of cropland with detailed natural resource plans provided by the District for landowners.
- A total of 6,980 conservation practices were applied to improve soil quality, saving 51,342 tons of soil.
- A total of 7,469 conservation practices were applied to improve water quality.
- District staff planned 558 acres of upland wildlife habitat for landowners.
- The USDA and District staff provided technical and cost-share assistance to landowners for the construction of 28 acres of grassed waterways.
- Four Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans were written, and four Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans were applied.
- Landowners planted 62 acres of filter strips and riparian (trees and shrubs) buffer strips to protect stream water quality.
- Through the District's tree sale 12,261 seedling trees were planted.
- The District's fish sale stocked 64 ponds with healthy fingerlings.
- The District's no-till rental equipment was used by 9 producers to plant 417 acres
- Landowners used the District's two tree planters to plant 62.5 acres of trees.
- Literature was provided to 15 churches throughout the county participating in the Soil Stewardship program.
- To ensure prime farmland and unsuitable sites are not developed, 15 Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) reports were prepared for county zoning.
- To ensure septic drainage fields are properly located and sized, 26 septic suitability investigations were completed.
- In cooperation with the EPA, a Used Tire Collection Event was held in which 13,478 were collected.

CAP Foundation—Adopt a Chick

Martha Ebbesmeyer, Education Coordinator

Each spring, CAP teaches an embryology project to elementary classes around the county. Incubators and fertilized eggs are provided for the classrooms. On average 80-100 chicks are hatched.

CAP is looking for folks to adopt these chicks from the classrooms from mid-March into May. Call Martha at 235-2165 if you have room on your farm for these cute and fluffy little critters.

Insert Midwest Seed Genetics
Business Card Ad Here

STEPHENSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 66TH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, February 2, 2008 at 12:00 Noon

4-Season's White Oak Room, Freeport, Illinois

Agenda

Welcome from the Chairman and Invocation Randy Grunder

BUFFET STYLE DINNER & BUSINESS MEETING

(The reports are printed in the Annual Meeting issue of the Newsletter. Copies will be available to those attending.)

Welcome and introduction of Directors, Staff Randy Grunder, Chairman

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting Craig Hassenius

Treasurer's Report and Audit Results Craig Hassenius

Introduction of Candidates – Election Charles Moen

Chairman's Report Randy Grunder

Adjournment of Business Meeting Randy Grunder

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS Directors and Staff

TAWANI 2008 INTERNATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION Sindy Main

Adjournment Randy Grunder

Complete and mail the coupon below with your check to the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District office at 1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

TICKET ORDER FORM – 66TH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, February 2, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
4-Season's White Oak Room, Freeport, Illinois

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Number of Tickets: _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Tickets can be held at the door.

Please hold my tickets at the door

Please mail my tickets

Tickets are a donation of \$12 each.
Please make checks payable to Stephenson SWCD and mail to
1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

**STEPHENSON SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE
65th ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District was held at 4-Season's in Freeport, on Monday, February 4, 2008. After dinner, the business meeting was called to order by Board Vice-Chairman Rod Slamp at 12:48 pm.

2007 MINUTES: Craig Hessenius, Secretary - Treasurer, referred those attending to the amended minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting placed at each table. Copies of the 2007 Annual Report had been mailed to all producers in Stephenson County in mid January. The 2007 Minutes were approved unanimously as presented on a motion made by Chuck Moen; seconded by Larry Huneke. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Craig Hessenius, Secretary-Treasurer, referred those present to the 2007 Annual Financial Report included in the packet that was handed out at the door. The 2007 Financial Report was approved unanimously as presented on a motion made by Chuck Moen; seconded by Larry Huneke. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT: A CPA check was done. Craig Hessenius, Secretary-Treasurer, read the opinion of the CPA John Fischer, from the Fiscal Year 2006-2007. The report states that the 2007 District books were correct and in order. A motion was made to accept the audit opinion by Chuck Moen; seconded by Larry Huneke. Motion carried.

ELECTION: Richard Holmes, Nominating Committee and Election Chairperson, referred to and read the biographies of Rod Slamp, Randy Grunder, and Craig Hessenius as printed in the Annual Report. All those present were advised that nominations from the floor would be accepted. Three requests were made for additional nominations; none were made. Chuck Moen moved and Larry Huneke seconded that nominations be closed. All present voting aye, the motion carried, and Rod Slamp, Randy Grunder, and Craig Hessenius were elected by acclamation.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Vice-Chairman Rod Slamp presented his report. He thanked everyone involved with SWCD in the past year, all who volunteered with our programs, and the Board in helping run the District and the personnel of the District.

ADJOURNMENT: Being there was no additional business to discuss, a motion made to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. by Chuck Moen and seconded by Craig Hessenius.

**AWARDS PRESENTED BY SWCD
DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS
AND STAFF**

- **2007 SPECIAL CONSERVATION AWARD-*Conservation Teacher of the Year*** was presented to Heather Obert from Dakota High School.
- **VO-AG PLANNING CONTEST:** Plans of the Esther Parriott farm were created for the contest. This year's winners were all from Dakota High School with Heather Obert as their teacher: 1st Place: Clay Farster & Evan Dornink; 2nd Place: Rachel Trumpy & Heidi Miller; 3rd Place: Jesse Jansen, Logan Borgmann & Jake Hauch.
- **2007 SPECIAL CONSERVATION AWARD-*Earth Team Volunteer*** was presented to Della Moen.
- **2007 SPECIAL CONSERVATION AWARD-*Conservation Education*** was presented to Martha Ebbesmeyer from CAP.
- **ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST:** The first place Annual Poster Contest winners are: Division A – Grades K-1 Cailey Cahoon Orangeville Schools, her teacher is Mrs. Hansen; Division B – Grades 2-3 Macayla Pilson, Pearl City School her teacher is Mrs. Kempel; Division C – Grades 4-6 Allyssa Johnson, Pearl City Schools, her teacher is Mrs. Wenzel.
- **LEGACY FARM AWARD** was presented to Mervin & Verla; Kelly & Janet Lobdell, along with their children Kade & Kendall.
- **CONSERVATION HORIZON AWARD** was presented to David and Terry Thompson, owners of Thompson's Pearl Valley Eggs.
- **CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY AWARD:** The recipient of this year's Conservation Farm Family of the Year was the Holste family: Melvin & Carolyn, son Brian and his wife Kathy along with their three sons: Matthew, Benjamin and Jacob. The Holste's were presented with the sign that they will post on their farm.

Following the announcement of the door prize winners, Jim Ritterbusch introduced Jeff Hastings who discussed Trout Unlimited's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) to restore and protect the coldwater streams and watersheds of the Driftless area.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Hessenius, Secretary-Treasurer and
Deb Koch, Recording Secretary

STEPHENSON SWCD RECENTLY APPLIED FOR A RAIN BARREL/RAIN GARDEN GRANT

By Deb Koch

The Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District is pursuing a grant to launch a Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Education Project. If approved, rain barrels will be offered to residents that live within a municipal boundary in Stephenson County for only \$20 and a packet on building and maintaining a home rain garden will be distributed with each rain barrel.

Rain barrels are an excellent way to help the environment in urban areas because they reduce storm-water runoff which can carry pollutants and sediment directly to creeks and rivers. Rain barrels are an excellent way to conserve resources and reduce the amount of well or municipal water being used. In the past few years, we've heard more and more about the environmental movement to "Go Green," and rain barrels help this movement by conserving water. In addition, rain water has no calcium or lime buildups, less sediment and dissolved salts, it infiltrates better and is naturally warmer than tap water. All of these reasons help make stored rainwater a perfect choice for watering a garden.

With each rain barrel that is distributed, we will provide an informational packet on how to build and maintain a home rain garden which are landscaped areas planted to wild flowers and other native vegetation that soak up rain water, mainly from the roof of a house or other building. Compared to a conventional patch of lawn, a rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground therefore reducing stormwater runoff. While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits. Rain gardens increase the amount of water that filters into the ground, which recharges local and regional aquifers; helps protect communities from flooding and drainage problems; helps protect streams and lakes from pollutants carried by urban stormwater – lawn fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other fluids that leak from cars, and numerous harmful substances that wash off roofs and paved areas; enhance the beauty of yards and neighborhoods; and provides valuable habitat for birds, butterflies and many beneficial insects.

This grant allows for a maximum of 125 rain barrels at the \$20 price and will be restricted to residents living within a municipal boundary of Stephenson County. The cost will be \$75 for residents who live outside the municipal boundary, are not a resident of Stephenson County, or we sell out of the 125 maximum and have to order more.

We are hoping to be able to distribute the rain barrels on Thursday, April 2, 2009 during our Annual Tree Sale event. Again, this program is dependent on us receiving this grant, but we have started a list of interested recipients. Please call Craig at 815-235-2161 ext 3 or send an email to info@stephensonswcd.org if you want to be added to this list.

Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District FY 2007-2008 Financial Report

ASSETS AS OF 6/30/08

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$186,519.92
Capital Assets	\$ 34,926.00
Current Liabilities	\$ 2,599.49
Total Assets	\$224,045.41

FUND BALANCES AS OF 6/30/08

General Operations	\$ 186,946.23
Reserved (CPP & SSRP)	\$ 20,196.78
Reserved (Scholarships)	\$ 16,332.48
Reserved (Grants)	\$ 5,185.68

RESTRICTED PROGRAMS Revenue Expense

CPP & SSRP	\$ 49,511.56	\$63,889.52
IDNR Habitat Grants	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SWCD Scholarships	\$ 557.97	\$ 500.00
Other Grants	\$ 174.59	\$ 0.00
Total Restricted	\$50,244.12	\$64,389.52

GENERAL OPERATION INCOME

Grants	\$ 80,186.99
Sales Program	\$ 20,529.21
Interest Income	\$ 3,540.25
Rental Program	\$ 5,653.80
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 1,502.91
Soil Borings, LESA's, NRI's	\$ 1,120.00
Local Government Support	\$ 25,000.00
Other Support	\$ 695.00
NRCS Cooperative Agreement	\$ 7,212.50
Publicity	\$ 4,824.50
Total Revenues	\$150,265.16

COST OF GOODS SOLD

Cost of District Sales	\$ 11,340.54
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 11,340.54
GROSS PROFIT	\$138,924.62

GENERAL OPERATION EXPENSE

Administration	\$ 93,948.25
Publicity	\$ 15,358.75
Reimbursements	\$ 4,594.84
Equipment Rental Program	\$ 1,999.11
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 97.57
Total General Operations	\$115,998.52

NET OPERATION REVENUE \$ 22,926.10

Recycle mercury products at the Stephenson County Health Department—drop off locations are at either location: 10 W. Linden or 295 W. Lamm Rd.

UPCOMING UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION EVENTS

Women involved in farming in today's world face a number of obstacles daily. Often, they are employed outside the home and have the responsibilities of caring for children and elderly parents. They are sometimes kept at a distance from the decision making process by complex family arrangements and many times have no idea how the finances and business end of the operation are structured. And, even if they would like to learn more about the business end of the operation, most have no idea where to turn for even the basic information.

“Annie’s Project – Education for Farm Women” is being offered in Freeport during February. Annie’s Project is designed to help farm women develop their management and decision making skills in the dynamic, complex world of agriculture. Dates of the six session series includes February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20 (Wednesdays and Fridays) with each session running from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring Street, Freeport, IL 61032.

Using several agriculture industry and University of Illinois Extension educators as speakers, Annie’s Project will cover topics that include goal setting, business planning, family communications, keeping track of financial records, interpreting financial information, understanding insurance options (liability, health, life, long-term care, crop, etc.) leases, retirement and estate planning, risk management, commodity marketing basics, soils and crop basics, and much more.

The course fee is \$50 which covers the cost of a program binder, computer software, handout materials and refreshments. For more information call the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County at (815) 235-4125 or visit our website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/stephenson. Program sponsors include 1st Farm Credit Services, Carroll Service Company, Ag & Small Business Service of Lena, Highland Community College, Stephenson County Farm Bureau and University of Illinois Extension

2009 Illinois Dairy Days set for Freeport

"Economic Expectations" is the theme for 2009's Illinois Dairy Days, a program scheduled for nine locations throughout the state in January.

"The dairy business continues to face challenging times," said Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois

Extension dairy specialist. "To help producers make correct management decisions, it is vital to have the latest information at hand. That is the driving idea behind this one-day program--to help producers make the most of their resources and remain a productive part of the dairy industry."

Joining Hutjens as presenters are U of I Extension colleagues Dave Fischer, Jim Endress, and Dick Wallace, a dairy veterinarian.

Topics to be covered include: feeding challenges with today's milk prices; managing the replacement herd, evaluating economic alternatives, economic implications of cull dairy cattle, impact of technology on the dairy carbon footprint, manure, livestock gross margin for dairy, and herd health update.

Joining U of I Extension in sponsoring the program is the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Dairy Days will be held in Freeport at Highland Community College in the Student Conference Center (building H) on Wednesday, January 21. The program begins at 9:45 a.m. and concludes at approximately 2:30 p.m. Commercial displays will be available. Registration is \$15 before January 15, and \$20 after. Kolb-Lena Cheese Company, Stockton Cheese, and Swiss Valley Farms will cover the charge for their patrons.

For more information or to register for the Dairy Days program to take place in Freeport call the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County at (815) 235-4125 or visit our website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/stephenson to register online.

The same program will be held at the Elizabeth Community Center on January 20. For more information on the Elizabeth program call (815) 858-2273.

Goodbye from Deb

It is with sadness and excitement that I am announcing that I have resigned my Administrative Coordinator position with the Stephenson SWCD. I am sad to leave all the friends that I have made over these last three years and a really great job, but am truly excited about the opportunity that is ahead of me—I have taken an Office Manager position in Monroe, WI which is much closer to my home. My last day will be Friday, January 16th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2009 SPRING FISH SALE

Grass Carp Orders Due:

Friday, March 6, 2009

Fish Orders Due:

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Fish Pick Up: SWCD Parking Lot

Tuesday, March 24, 2009, 11 am

Please see insert for more information and to place your order.



SPRING TREE SALE

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Stephenson County Fairgrounds

Please see insert for more information and to place your order.

PRAIRIE GRASS BURN WORKSHOP

Tentative Date Set:

Saturday, March 21, 2008

Please call Craig at 235-2161 ext. 3 for more information.

WOMEN AND THE WILD: A BASIC SKILLS WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 9, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Oakdale Nature Preserve

\$30 per person before April 17, \$40 after that date

This workshop will be presented to rekindle old outdoor interests and learn new ones and to meet others with similar interests. Choose from any of the following hands-on sessions.

- Photography in Nature
- Fire Craft
- Phenology
- Meditation & Movement
- Basic Home Maintenance
- All-Terrain Workout
- Introduction to Mat Pilates
- Soap Making the Old Fashioned Way
- Spring Wildflowers
- Shelter Craft
- Defense Without Harm
- Outdoor Cooking
- In Home Tiling or Tiling Basics

Coordinating agencies University of Illinois Extension – Freeport office; Freeport Park District/Oakdale Nature Preserve; and the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District.

Call any office for a brochure or to register.

We would like to thank the sponsors that are advertising in this newsletter and in the enclosed Farm Services Directory. Please contact Deb at 235-2161 ext. 3 for more information on how you too can include your ad in our newsletter that is mailed to more than 3,000 subscribers quarterly.

809 Hicks Drive
Suite A
Elburn, IL 60119

mb

marine biochemists

PROFESSIONAL AQUATIC MANAGEMENT

MIKE PANKRATZ
Operations Manager

PHONE: (630) 365-1720
Fax: (630) 365-1721