

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

20 YEARS OF

"Respecting Our Environment, Growing Our Future"



Delivering environmental and conservation programs specific to the region's needs; ensuring open space, clean water, clean air and vibrant communities since 1989.



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

It would be hard to describe our communities as vibrant, alive or exciting if they didn't possess healthy environmental resources, including natural areas, parks, clean air and water. Individuals or corporations looking to locate to a community will almost certainly look to these "basic of life assets" prior to making a decision. Does your community value its natural assets; and is it willing to commit to them to ensure a strong economic future?

Over the past two years our staff has worked diligently to position ourselves to where we can provide the tools necessary to address current and future environmental resource issues, ensuring more vibrant communities for southwestern Illinois in the future. This could include assistance in identifying and securing open space, habitat restoration, targeted environmental education, planning alternative transportation routes, urban forestry, the development of "green" ordinances and much more.

We encourage a long-term approach to protecting our environmental resources. Current issues in air, land and water resources have escalated over several decades, and will not be resolved overnight. Additional stresses on our resources, including population growth and climate change, are almost certain, and will require long-term planning and program implementation in order to retain healthy environmental resources into the future.

As our communities start to grow closer and closer together it's more important than ever to participate in a partnership or regional approach to addressing environmental issues. Few environmental issues will be solved working solely within local jurisdictional boundaries. From identifying issues to developing programs to address the issues, there is strength in partnerships that cannot be overstated.

We hope that you enjoy learning more about the programs and activities that we undertook in 2009, and we look forward to assisting in creating more vibrant communities in southwestern Illinois into the future.



Jonathan McLean

JONATHAN MCLEAN
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dave Eustis

DAVE EUSTIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Conservation of Open Space

Arlington Wetland

In 2009, The Land Conservancy acquired and protected an 83.6 acre property in Pontoon Beach named Arlington Wetland. Arlington Wetland is a remnant meander of the Mississippi River and serves as a sanctuary for a variety of wetland-dependent species due to its prime location in the American Bottom. After the property was acquired with funding from a variety of partners including ConocoPhillips, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Madison County, and Collinsville Area Recreation District the ownership of the site was transferred to Madison County and the Collinsville Area Recreation District. At the time of transfer, conservation easements were placed on both properties, ensuring their protection in perpetuity. The acquisition and protection of this property is the result of a **COOPERATIVE EFFORT** from a diverse mix of stakeholders representing business, government, and non-profit worlds. Thanks to this collaboration and working towards the goal of protecting natural areas, Arlington Wetland will be intact today and for generations to come.



The Land Conservancy, a program area of Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, reached a milestone **PROTECTING OVER 4,000 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE** in the region.

PURPOSE: *Work regionally to protect agricultural, forest and other natural lands in order to provide for open space, landscape diversity, sustainable agriculture, wildlife habitat, and conservation benefits for present and future generations.*



Nitzsche's Protect Family Land Forever

Ray and Mitze Nitzsche of Randolph County couldn't bear the thought of their property, which has been in their family for over one hundred years, someday being broken up, subdivided, or developed. Frustrated by the conversion of surrounding rural areas to other uses, they sought out protection for their 160 acres by way of a conservation easement through The Land Conservancy.

The conservation easement on the Nitzsche's property will ensure that the property will never be developed. The easement deeds the land's development rights to The Land Conservancy with the understanding that it be **PRESERVED FOREVER AS OPEN SPACE**. We are honored the Nitzsche's chose us to be a part of their family's legacy, and thank them for working toward a goal of keeping open spaces for wildlife and people to enjoy forever. This marks the **13TH CONSERVATION EASEMENT** for The Land Conservancy and we hope to continue working with landowners across the region in protecting open space.

Foster Livable & Sustainable Communities



Low Impact Development

In September 2009, Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation

& Development hosted “**THINKING OUTSIDE THE PIPE**”

- a low impact development workshop and tour of 10 different stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that were installed at Rock Hill Trails - a conservation subdivision in Wood River, Illinois. Approximately 75 people from the region attended the two-hour workshop, followed by a walking tour of the 10 BMPs.

These **INNOVATIVE PRACTICES** include rain gardens, pervious pavement, and constructed wetlands. Corresponding educational materials were also distributed, including a 28-page handbook about low impact development techniques for southwestern Illinois and handouts for different types of BMPs - including design guidelines.

Project Updates:

- *City of Highland, Illinois Resource Plan* - This plan identifies and analyzes important **NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES** within the community’s planned growth boundary. Since the plan’s recent completion, it has been included into the City’s comprehensive plan. This allows the City to follow the resource plan’s recommendation in conducting a site specific resource analysis prior to each new development, thus ensuring that Highland’s resources are **PROTECTED AND ENHANCED** for the benefit of current and future residents.
- *City of Edwardsville, Illinois Parks, Open Space & Trails Master Plan* - In partnership with H3 Studios and Trailnet, the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development completed the Parks, Open Space & Trails Master Plan. The plan, adopted by the City Council, includes 48 miles of planned trails, 2 planned pedestrian bridges, 36 planned trail access points, and 20 miles of planned on-street facilities. The plan also includes recommendations for future parks and conservation overlay areas. This plan will certainly aid the city as they work towards **PLANNING AND PROVIDING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**.



PURPOSE: Further the protection of our resources through the utilization of GIS technology, innovative planning processes, the implementation of on-the-ground and educational projects that restore and protect habitat, and promote the use of practices that mitigate the potential impacts of climate change.

Investments in the Environment

PURPOSE: Foster the human and financial resources necessary to advance the conservation of our region's environmental resources.



SERVE Volunteer Program

Volunteers continue to graciously devote their time, expertise and passion in many aspects of our work. This year we especially recognize those volunteers that have captured all of the wonderful photographs that are displayed in our reports and newsletter as well as on the website.

“OVER THE YEARS WE’VE LEARNED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS ON A GOAL AS BIG AS RESTORING THE RESILIENCY AND WATER QUALITY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS THROUGH EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION. WE VERY MUCH VALUE HAVING REGIONAL PARTNERS WHO CAN PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO PROTECT THE RIVER AND RELATED RESOURCES.”

RON KROESE, THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Kaskaskia Watershed Association

A shining example of success in partnerships in 2009 was found through assistance to the Kaskaskia Watershed Association. Several years ago Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development led a technical committee in the development of an application for the popular Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. With the state legislature recently expanding CREP in Illinois to include the Kaskaskia, tremendous opportunities exist for improving water quality within this multi-functional watershed.



Throughout its twenty year history Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development has placed a high priority in bringing together partners and financial resources. One highly successful partnership has been the Middle Mississippi River Partnership. Since 2004 Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development has provided technical, administrative and outreach support to this group of 21 state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations. United their track record is impressive with nearly 7,000 acres acquired as open space, 2,500 acres reforested and several hundred acres of restored wetlands. Recognizing these accomplishments, The McKnight Foundation has recently awarded the organization \$90,000 for continued support of the MMRP.



The Southwestern Illinois Environmental Fund was developed to promote charitable giving for environmental protection and conservation efforts within our region. Through private and corporate giving, the FUND strives to assist in providing a stable source of funding to partners working to preserve and protect the region's resources.

Our Mission

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development advances the conservation of our environmental resources to ensure a sustainable quality of life, by creating and fostering diverse partnerships, leveraging resources and taking decisive action as opportunities arise.

Our Vision

"Healthy and sustainable agricultural, natural and social communities for current and future generations."

2009 Friends, Contributors & Volunteers

Anonymous (2) • Larry & Linda Altmansberger • Dr. Mark Azar • Mark & Ann Badasch • Matt & Amy Ballance • Mary Biernot • Steve & Licia Black • William & Christine Boardman • Bond County Realtors • Darrell Brink • Ralph & Karen Buettner • Kathleen Burch • Cahokia Mounds Museum Society • Ed & Allison Callison • Jack Carey • Carlyle Lake Association • Darlene Castello • Ted & Barbara Castello • Celtica • Laura Cohen • Commerce Bank • ConocoPhillips • Keith & Chrissy Cook • David Cornell • Joseph & Kay Courtney • Curt Smiths Sporting Goods • Rebecca Davis • Rita Diehl • Doubletree Hotel & Porters Steakhouse-Collinsville • Joe Durako • Marshall & Faye Dyer • Effingers Garden Center • Claudia Emken • Dave & Tamara Eustis • Paul Evans • Dorothy Faitz • Tom & Dede Farquhar • Christine Favilla • Feig Farms, Inc. • Paul Fraser • William Freeman • Mike & Rebecca Fruth • Steve Gonzalez • Dr. Jay & Jane Haines • Floyd Hammel • Lester Harnetiaux • Dr. Philip J. Harris • Ted & Julie Harvey • Robert & Donna Hilgenbrink • Farrel Hill • George & Catherine Hobson • HomeEco • Linda Horn • Miriam Huelsmann • Illinois Steward Magazine • Bill Iseminger • J~H Buffalo Ranch • Joe's Nursery • Judith Joy • Richard & Carol Kealy • Richard Keeling • Carolyn Kehoe • Harold & Judy Keck • Barbara Kinsella • Lisa Koerkenmeier • Ted & Linda Krauskopf • Jim Kron • Preston Lacy • Abigail Lambert • Nancy Larson • Joseph & Roberta LaSalvia • Jay & Elizabeth Lechien • Andy & Beth Limmer • Sue Lowry • Madison County Government • John & Virginia McCall • Jonathon McLean • William & LaVonne Mohr • Robert & Katie Nelson • Randall Newmann • Ray & Mitze Nitzsche • George Obernagel III • Old Enterprise Foundation • Andrea Pompei • Brad & Megan Riechmann • JoAnn Riechmann • Risk Strategies LLC • Rhutasel and Associates, Inc. • Jim Roth • St. Clair County Property & Recreation Committee • Larry Scace • Zane & Connie Schneider • Glen & Linda Schuetz • John & Linda Sedlacek • Charles & Ann Sheppard • Carrie Spencer • Suzie Stevens • Fred & Maren Stein • Barbara & Lawrence Taylor • Dave Tiedemann • The Indiana Department of Workforce Development in memory of Jackie Harold Schoonover • The Orchards • The Vineyard • William & Susan Thurston • Darren & Tricia Van't Hof • Village of Shiloh Tourism & Convention Fund • Walter E. Weidmann Charitable Foundation • Warner Limited Partnership • Waste Management • Pat Watkins • Gary & Linda Weber • Ann Webster • Ed & Kathi Weilbacher • Wetlands Forever, Inc. • Wild Birds Unlimited • Wilderness Outreach Adventures



→ Accomplishments

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development has invested \$15 MILLION in conservation, permanently protected over 4,000 ACRES of open space, and implemented over 350 PROJECTS within the region.

20 Years

Yes it is hard to believe that 20 years have passed since the creation of the Southwestern Resource Conservation and Development. So much has been accomplished and yet there is so much more to do. If we look at ourselves in 20 year spans we often see an evolution of thinking and maturity. When I was twenty I was ready to conquer the world. At 40, I was concerned about the future of my children. At 60, I will be transitioning to the next chapter in my life and looking forward to the next two decades. So too an organization can look at 20 year segments and celebrate their accomplishments and chart a course for the future. We are required to plan 5 years ahead, but the mission of the organization is to look beyond the short term and see our goals in the perspective of the long term. Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development has done that. They are looking to the long term of what the needs are for the region and planning today for the needs of the next generations. As we have matured as an organization the next 20 years will be as exciting as the past 20 years.

Ed Weibacher
USDA NRCS Coordinator

Where We Work



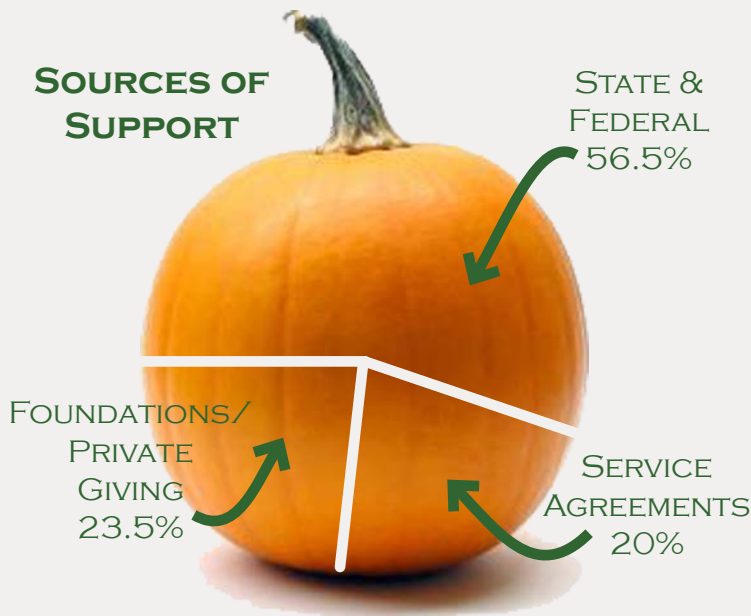
ED CROW

**CHARTER BOARD MEMBER FROM RANDOLPH COUNTY
1949-2010**

Ed Crow was an avid cheerleader for the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development. As a Charter Member he helped to establish the organization 20 years ago and worked to ensure that it would grow and mature as a strong organization focused on the region's natural resources. He believed strongly in regional cooperation while maintaining local grassroots connection to his home county and town - Randolph and Chester. Southwestern Illinois and the Southwestern Illinois RC&D will miss Ed Crow.

2009 FINANCIAL REVIEW, BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

SOURCES OF SUPPORT



Board of Directors - Current

Matt Willman - Bond County Board
 Lester Harnetiaux - Bond County At-Large (Secretary)
 Emily Hartmann - Bond County SWCD
 Darrell Brink - Clinton County At-Large (Treasurer)
 Edwin Varel - Clinton County SWCD
 Ronald Schroeder - Clinton County Board
 Michael Fruth - Madison County At-Large
 Ted Krauskopf - Madison County SWCD
 Kelly Tracy - Madison County Board
 Harvey Hoffmann - Monroe County At-Large
 Ralph Buettner - Monroe County SWCD
 Mike Kovarik - Monroe County Board
 Stephen Gonzalez - Randolph County Board
 Vacant - Randolph County At-Large
 Ray Nitzsche - Randolph County SWCD
 Kevin Terveer - SIMAPC
 Jonathan McLean - St. Clair County At-Lg (Chair)
 Patricia Watkins - St. Clair County SWCD
 C. David Tiedemann - St. Clair County Board
 Glen Bowers - Washington County SWCD (Vice Chair)
 David Droste - Washington County At-Large
 Charles Meier - Washington County Board

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development Staff

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 Mike Andreas, Agricultural Engineer
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USDA/NRCS Staff

Ed Weilbacher, Coordinator, ed.weilbacher@il.usda.gov

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2009 (Unaudited)

Assets	2009*	2008*
Cash in Checking	6,540	5,873
Money Market Account	129,184	167,368
Money Market - TLC Stewardship	18,496	8,228
Scott Credit Union-Org Share	5	0
Scott Credit Union-MoneyMarket	249,334	0
Citizens Community Bank- MM	246,222	0
First Federal Savings - MM	253,148	0
Farmers & Merchants Bank- MM	172,107	0
Sweep Account	0	0
Petty Cash	200	200
Accrued Interest on Investment	0	0
Certificate of Deposit	100,024	100,024
CD - TLC Stewardship Fund	32,203	20,501
Accounts Receivable	95,696	66,630
Grant Receivable	0	0
Fixed Assets	59,509	55,896
Land	4,600,000	4,600,000
Prepaid Expenses	2,822	816
Accumulated Depreciation	(44,415)	(37,135)
Total Assets	5,921,074	4,988,401
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	13,783	10,925
Payroll Withholdings	(248)	4,470
Accrued Compensated Absences	8,425	7,935
Accrued Expenses	0	0
Bond Payable	1,100,000	1,850,000
IRA Contribution	0	0
Deferred Revenue	80,813	43,322
Advance for Engelmann Farm	3,500,000	2,750,000
Total Liabilities	4,702,773	4,666,651
Net Assets		
Beginning Net Assets	321,750	307,231
YTD Changes in Net Assets	896,551	14,519
Total Net Assets	1,218,301	321,750
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	5,921,074	4,988,401

*Rounded to the nearest dollar

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development utilizes an accrual accounting system, incorporating MIP Fund Accounting Pro, a Best software product, to account for all revenues and expenses, by individual grant. The organization requires an annual independent audit, which in 2009 was performed by J. W. Boyle of Belleville, Illinois. A copy of the FY 2009 independent audit is available upon request.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development is an equal opportunity employer.

