

# Conservation Clipboard

Spring • 2010

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## Upcoming Spring Dates & Events

April 14<sup>th</sup>: Envirothon  
Competition for high school teams

April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Earth Day 2010

April 30<sup>th</sup>: Arbor Day 2010

May 1<sup>st</sup>: Average migration return date for hummingbirds in Coles County. Get your feeders up about a week prior.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: International Migratory Bird Day

May 9<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day – Remember to be kind to Mother Earth!

May 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>: Conservation Field Days for county 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

May 17- 21<sup>st</sup>: National Bike to Work Week

May 31<sup>st</sup>: Memorial Day



## SPRING THEMED KITS

Coles County SWCD has several kits that would be appropriate for use to celebrate the arrival of spring or Earth Day & Arbor Day in your classroom! Remember that there is no fee to borrow our materials and a SWCD staff member will transport the kit to & from your school at no cost to you! See a complete listing of our educational materials at [www.colescountyswcd.org/edu\\_k12.htm](http://www.colescountyswcd.org/edu_k12.htm)

Spring Themed or Earth Day/Arbor Day kits & materials:

**Beanie Babies**

**Eggsploring Poultry Kit**

**Farm Animals Tub**

**Insect Tub**

**Insect mAGic Kit**

**Adventures around the Farm**

**Seasons of the Farm**

**Planet Earth DVD Series**

**The Giving Tree**

**Soils Tub**

**Worm Tub**

**Water Tub**

**Sammy Soil**

**Plant Magic Kit**

**Recycling Goods**

**Plant mAGic kit**

## SWCD WEBSITE NEWS

The Coles County SWCD has recently started a new initiative to improve communication with our Coles County teachers and other interested groups through our website. Over the next several months, you will see many additions and changes to the site. One goal is to have many important forms and documents available for download directly from the site. This includes sale order forms, newsletters, and informational brochures. We will also create a page that outlines cost share programs and other services available through the district. The K-12 Education, Adult Education, and Calendar pages will be updated to list all of the new offerings available. A Links page will also be created to help users find our partners and other relevant conservation and governmental organizations. If you have never visited our site, please visit [www.colescountyswcd.org](http://www.colescountyswcd.org). If you have comments or suggestions about the site, please let us know!





## ENVIROTHON

Coles County will have three teams competing in the Land Use Council Envirothon on April 14, 2009 at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet. 3 teams will be representing Coles County: Charleston Team 1- James Melton, Tyler Gray, Anthony Gienko, Brent Pedigo, & Adam Held; Charleston Team 2 - Nathan Fritz, Alethe Vassay, Rhydon Vassay, Rachel Davis, & Adam Phillips; & Oakland Team - Austin Locke, Stefanie Borntreger, Jesse Clifton, Nic Turner, & Skyler Knox. Charleston's advisors are Ron Easter & Jan Easter and Greta Henry is the adviser for Oakland.

Over the last several months, the teams have been preparing for the competition by studying 5 major conservation topics: Forestry, Aquatics, Soils, Wildlife, and a Current Event topic. On the day of the competition, the team's knowledge on the 5 topics will be put to the test through written examinations and an oral presentation. The team with the highest score from the Land Use Council will move on the state competition and the winner at state moves on to national. We wish the 3 Coles County teams the best of luck and congratulate them on their efforts as they prepare for the competition.

## NEWS FROM ILLINOIS AG IN THE CLASSROOM



### **Summer Agricultural Institute:**

IAITC has put together a wonderful line up of Summer Agricultural Institute programs that will take place at locations all over the state of Illinois. Since 1991, more than 6,945 Illinois educators have completed a Summer Agricultural Institute! The courses are designed for pre-school thru high school educators who wish to expand their curriculum to include topics related to agriculture – the world's food and fiber system. The courses focus on how to integrate available resources and hands-on activities about agriculture and the environment into an existing classroom curriculum. You will receive free, innovative teaching materials, gain hands-on experience, participate in fun field trips, and gain action plans for your classroom all while earning graduate credit or CPDU's. Visit [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org) to download the 2010 brochure.

The local Summer Agricultural Institute will take place at the Coles County Farm Bureau June 7-11 and is entitled *Corn, Beans and Central Illinois Scenes*. Contact [colesmgr@consolidated.net](mailto:colesmgr@consolidated.net) for more information.

### **National Conference:**

The National Ag in the Classroom Conference will be held June 24-26 in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference fee is \$380 if you register by May 15<sup>th</sup> and \$450 if you register after May 15<sup>th</sup>. Information about the conference can be found at [www.aic2010.com/index.html](http://www.aic2010.com/index.html)

### **After School Agriculture:**

IAITC has new booklets available designed for After School Programs. One booklet is designed for K-3rd and the other for 4-6<sup>th</sup>. The booklets can be downloaded [www.agintheclassroom.org/060605/New/new.html](http://www.agintheclassroom.org/060605/New/new.html)



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