



Shawnee

Resource, Conservation
& Development

2013 Annual Report

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thank you sincerely for the opportunity to serve as Chair of Shawnee RC & D for the last three years. I most value being able to reconnect with many friends and agencies in the 16 counties served by Shawnee RC & D. I strongly believe in the causes championed by our efforts. I hope that Shawnee RC & D continues as a leading grass roots organization that protects and enhances our vast natural resources in Southern Illinois.

During my three years as Chair it was necessary to strengthen our position as a solid 501 C 3 organization. With the separation from NRCS we no longer could rely on that agency for guidance. I admit to quite a bit of stress dealing with IRS and the Illinois Attorney General during my first year. However with the very capable assistance of Cathy Poshard, we made it through. Cathy, thank you for your dedication and expertise! We are on solid ground now and time can be spent moving the organization forward.

At the next meeting of the Council, the drafts of both the revised Operational Policy and Staff Manual will be reviewed and new documents eventually adopted. This should finalize the transition to a modern and up-to-date 501 C 3 status. There will be a need to monitor pertinent rules and regulations in order to keep current, but the ground work is now done. Thank you to the Executive Committee and Council for helping us to get to this point.

Shawnee RC & D now relies on the 10% grant management fee to meet operational expenses. We are successful with securing grants and have an excellent reputation for the delivery of quality products and services funded by the grants. We also are very fortunate to have Cathy, Tabitha, Chris, Tracy and Karla on as staff and consultants to keep this momentum going in the right direction. Thank you each for your contributions.

Cash flow is going to be the one biggest challenge in the foreseeable future. The majority of grants require spending the money then waiting for sometimes a considerable amount of time before receiving reimbursement. Part of that problem has been solved with the line of credit from The Bank Of Marion. That will allow for operation at our current grant level. Unfortunately it will not allow much if any room for expansion of grant programs or to take on non-grant supported efforts.

I am hopeful that in the next couple of years we can raise a minimum of \$50,000 to hold in a revolving fund that can be coupled with the line of credit. If this can be done, there will be more opportunity to move forward on solid ground to expand the excellent work done through Shawnee RC & D!

~ Glen Seeber

RC&D Council Overview

The Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, extends across the lower 16 counties of Illinois.

Originally incorporated as part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborate, Shawnee RC&D has been providing conservation and development services since 1967.

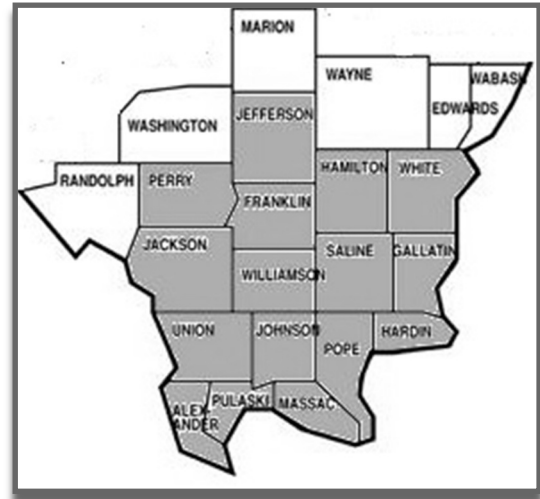
We receive funding from State and Federal agencies, charitable organizations, grantor foundations, and private individuals, interested in conservation projects.

In order to accomplish organizational goals, we strive to maintain strong partnerships with other organizations in our conservation area. Through these partnerships, and with the help of our talented and skilled Project Coordinators, we are able to create measurable change for the better, in Illinois.

Mission Statement

The mission of this Organization is to provide local leadership and the framework required to develop and carry out a plan of action for the conservation, development and wise use of the resources of the Area. The goals of the Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area Inc. can be accomplished through improving the following: agriculture, industry, recreation, education, culture, health, and the environment.

Shawnee RC&D Area



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tabitha Ayres

To our Grantors, Partners, and Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation and assistance, as we begin our 47th year

The coming year will be a time of change, as we recall the leadership of Glenn Seeber as past Chairman. His energy and vision have helped us through a time of heavy transition. Following the loss of federal funding, many RC&D Councils, sadly, closed.

We are fortunate to have had strong leadership and guidance, and we are now reaping the rewards of a strong and growing organization.

Our incoming Chairman, Rudy Rice, brings with him significant experience as both an RC&D Chairman and as a conservationist involved in many State and National initiatives and programs. I am sure that his experience and interests will help positively shape the future of Shawnee RC&D.

The many projects completed, and partnerships formed, remind us that new opportunities are always in front of us, and I, personally, am looking forward to the future.

2013 Annual Report

Illinois Wildlife Action Plan

Invasive Species Campaign

by Chris Evans

In 2012, the Shawnee RC&D, through funding from the State Wildlife Grant Program, expanded its efforts to address invasive species by hosting the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan – Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator position. This position is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the IWAP Invasive Species Campaign (ISC) statewide. In 2013, the RC&D continued this effort.

This year, the ISC Coordinator gave 38 presentations, with nearly 2000 in attendance. Some examples of these presentations include a webinar on fall prep work for invasive species, a presentation on the identification and control of Oriental bittersweet, leading a discussion forum on managing invasive species with limited resources at the Chicago Botanic Garden, and a featured presentation on how Invasive Species Impact Illinois' Biodiversity at Southwest Illinois College's annual Darwin Days Event.

The ISC Coordinator also gave presentations at regional or national events, including being one of the keynote speakers at the Upper Michigan Invasive Species Conference, presenting on invasive species in Illinois natural areas and leading a symposium on innovations in invasive species management at the Natural Areas Conference in Chicago, and being a featured speaker on Rapid Response Methods at the Indiana EDRR Workshop in West Lafayette.



Chris Evans, Coordinator

The Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator also officially became chair of the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council, and started hosting quarterly meetings. This council is a partnership between Natural Resource Professionals and the Illinois Green Industry Association. The main focus of the IIPSC in 2013 was the assessment of additional species to recommend adding to the Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

The ISC Coordinator was also instrumental in writing new legislation that regulates the release and take of Feral Swine in Illinois (Regulations on currently going through the rule-making process), is participating in the Illinois Hydrilla Taskforce, is partnering with Extension to add Invasive species sections to the Illinois Master Naturalist Program, and continued to serve on the Vital Lands Illinois Working Group.

Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month continues to be driven by a broad partnership of agencies and organizations across the state. This year, May was again Invasive Species Awareness Month and educational events and workdays were held throughout the month. With over 80 events being held, 2014 was a record year for ISAM.

With the statewide efforts of the Invasive Species Campaign, the Shawnee RC&D is having positive impacts on Conservation and Natural Resources throughout the state of Illinois.

Conservation Opportunity Areas in Southern Illinois

by Tracy Fidler

Thanks to a new grant, Shawnee RC&D is supporting the state of Illinois in implementing its Wildlife Action Plan in Southern Illinois. The plan establishes a common vision for the conservation of Illinois' wildlife and habitats and identifies specific conservation goals. As a way to tackle the awesome conservation task before the residents of Illinois, the plan also identified Conservation Opportunity Areas — areas where “partners are willing to plan, implement and evaluate conservation actions, .. and where conservation is motivated by an agreed-upon conservation philosophy and set of objectives.”



Photo by Tracy Fidler

Southern Illinois is home to three COAs — in the Cache River, Eastern Shawnee and Illinois Ozarks. These areas contain a high number of species consider “species in greatest need of conservation.” Identified in the Wildlife Action Plan, these species were selected for a variety of reasons, such as whether they are threatened or have declining population numbers. When compared to other regions of the state, Southern Illinois emerges as a critical spot for conservation by many measures.

Shawnee RC&D recently completed the first year of the grant, with the support of Tracy Fidler. The grant establishes a framework for focusing the broad conservation actions outlined in the plan.

Tackling Southern Illinois Conservation Challenges

Dramatic changes are sweeping through Illinois' forests. But, by working together, we can make a difference. Consider, the Illinois Ozarks is expected to convert from an oak-dominated forest to a forest dominated by shade tolerant species. That would have serious implications for wildlife.

Work is underway to develop and implement a habitat man-agreement plan for Trail of Tears State Forest. A key component of this plan is a 925-acre demonstration project where management actions will be monitored so that effectiveness can be evaluated objectively. Often called “adaptive management,” this approach allows land managers the opportunity to learn how best to restore natural communities and improve its management. What we learn here will be used throughout the region.

Shawnee RC&D also supported the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan by:

- Analyzing forest blocks in Southern Illinois to better guide restoration.
- Supporting a demonstration project on the lower Cache River to examine what level of water flow would be beneficial to wildlife.
- Restoring a critical forest block that connects Illinois Department of Natural Resources lands with Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge.
- Advancing permanent protection of Nature Conservancy's Round Pond as a Nature Preserve with the Illinois Nature Pre-serves Commission.
- Identifying opportunities to restore and enhance woodlands and barrens communities in the Eastern Shawnee.



Managing Trail of Tears State Forest with fire IDNR

2013 Annual Report

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area

by Karla Gage, CWMA Coordinator



Karla Gage, CWMA

In 2013, the Shawnee RC&D continued its role as a conservation leader in southern Illinois and beyond, receiving an Invasive Species Awareness Month Award for conservation work which included support of the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA); and the CWMA continued an active program of invasive species outreach and education, prevention, early detection and control, and applied research.

The CWMA is now a partnership between 13 (previously 12) federal and state agencies, organizations, and universities aimed at coordinating efforts and programs for addressing the threat of invasive plants in southern Illinois. This year, the CWMA added an additional partner, the Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge, and now all three US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges in the CWMA geography direct CWMA activities through Steering Committee participation.

The CWMA either held or participated in 33 trainings, workshops, presentations, or outreach events, directly reaching over 1,000 people of all ages and educational backgrounds (photos 1 & 2). The CWMA held 6 workdays, and through these and other activities, coordinated almost 1,000 hours of volunteer work dedicated to conservation and habitat protection through the removal of invasive species. For example, in early April, volunteers hand-pulled 34 – 30 gallon bags of garlic mustard from the Indian Creek Trail area of Giant City State Park, an area important for the conservation of spring wildflowers and other species (photo 3).



Photo 2: The Environmental Club from Carbondale High School celebrated Earth Day in the Park at Giant City State Park, planting a native plant garden and learning about invasive plants from Karla Gage.

Story by the Shawnee National Forest. In November, the CWMA held a burning bush control event with the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, University of Illinois Forest Resource Center, and the Illinois Forestry Association, where volunteers gathered to remove burning bush from the forested area surrounding the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (photo 6).

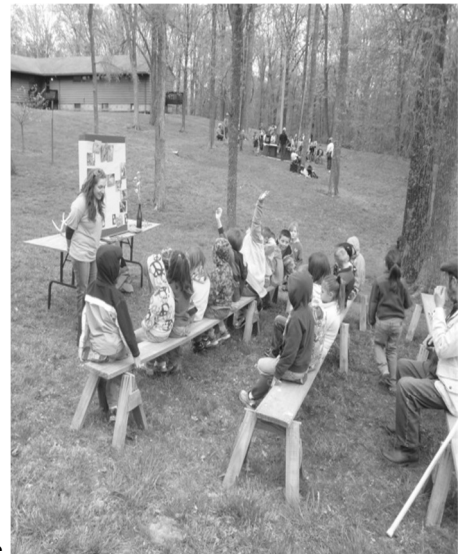


Photo 1: Stewardship Week at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, the CWMA coordinator, Karla Gage, gave a presentation on garlic mustard's ecological impacts & prevention.

In August, volunteers canoed the Cache River to look for locations of purple loosestrife in the Ohio River watershed, as part of a collaborative project between the CWMA, the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan - Invasive Species

Campaign, the Central Hardwoods Invasive Plant Network (CHIP-N), and the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (photo 4). On September 28th, almost 30 volunteers celebrated National Public Lands Day (NPLD) with the USDA Forest Service and the CWMA, through an invasive species survey and mapping event at Garden of the Gods, Indian Point Trail (photo 5). The NPLD event was featured as a 2013 Success

Additionally, more than 30 private landowners and agencies received technical support for invasive species removal, including land surveys and assistance in developing a management plan. The CWMA was also represented in several other partnerships, including two sub-committees of the state-wide Hydrilla Task Force, the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council, the Dixon Springs Advisory Board, and the Goods From Your Woods Forest Consortium.



Photo 4. Volunteers canoed the Cache River Basin and surveyed for purple loosestrife.

This year, the CWMA completed a two year project, funded by a USFS Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Grant, entitled “Survey, Prioritization and Control of Bush Honeysuckle” - a program which helped 17 landowners control bush honeysuckle across 290 acres in Southern Illinois. This project used aerial surveys of lands within and surrounding the Trail of Tears State Forest and remote sensing of vegetation to create a map of the locations of bush honeysuckle. As a test of the ability of aerial surveys to detect bush honeysuckle, data collected by volunteers conducting ground surveys was used to confirm these locations. The CWMA hosted an intern from the SIU Center for Ecology, Austen Slone, who was able to perform control measures on more than half of the survey-detected locations of bush honeysuckle within Trail of Tears State Forest as part of his internship program.

Additionally, in 2013, the CWMA, the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan - Invasive Species Campaign, and IDNR continued long-term research which documents the decline of invasive curly pondweed at Mermet Lake following annual control measures; the CWMA has also begun work with Dow AgroSciences



Photo 6. Volunteers begin restoration of the forest understory surrounding the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center by removing the dense infestation of winged burning bush; pictured are John Havlik, Sonja Lallemand, and Billie Douglas, with winged burning bush felled in the background.



Photo 3. Volunteers helped remove garlic mustard from Indian Creek Trail at Giant City State Park; pictured from left to right are Jason Willand, Andy West, and Nathan Speagle.

on a research project to improve control of three woody invasive species – autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, and Oriental bitter-sweet; and the CWMA received funding through an IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund grant to create and print a new resource for land managers, which will recommend control measures for invasive species of concern in southern Illinois.

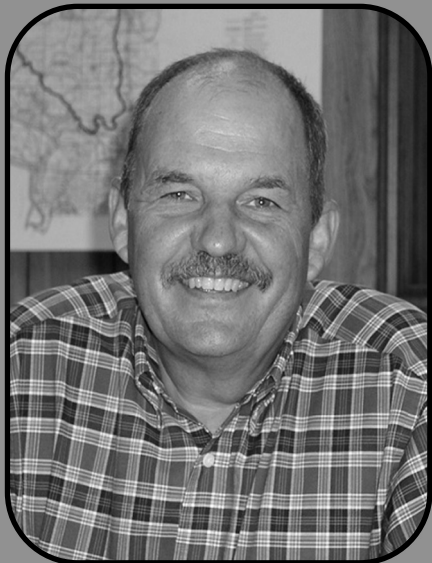


Photo 5. Volunteers celebrated National Public Lands Day with the USFS Shawnee National Forest and the CWMA at Garden of the Gods, Indian Point Trail, by surveying for four species of inva-

In 2014, the RC&D continues to address important conservation issues by supporting the CWMA and all partnerships and collaborations that further the control of invasive species in the bio-diverse and unique region of southern Illinois.

Featured Presenters

Scott Martin



After graduating from U of I with a Bachelors of Science in Agronomy, Scott joined the Soil Conservation Service. He has worked as a Soil Scientist mapping soils in six counties in Illinois for 13 years. For the past 24 years, he has served as the District Conservationist in Jackson County.

His interest in honey bees began seven years ago, when he first read articles relating to the significant loss of honeybee colonies in the US. His interest grew to experimentation. One hive expanded to 20 bee hives.

He assisted in the startup of the Southern Illinois Beekeeper Association, which now has approximately 90 members. He volunteers his time speaking to civic groups, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and 4-H clubs about the importance of honey bees and native pollinator habitat.

Rudy Rice is a semi-retired, life-long grain and dairy farmer from Du Quoin, IL. He has been involved in conservation work since 1974 when he joined the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Since that time, he has served as President of both Illinois Association of Conservation Districts and National Association of Conservation Districts. He began serving as Chairman for Native Pollinators in Agriculture in 2006.

Rudy is also active with the Shawnee RC&D Council. He is involved with No Greater Love Ministries and First Baptist Church in Du Quoin. Rudy and his wife Mara are the parents of three children and seven awesome grandchildren!

Rudy Rice



***Spotlight on Programming:
Stewardship Week—Illinois Forest Resource Center
Dixon Springs IL***

Stewardship Week Totals for 24 Years

Year	Students	Teachers	Schools	Counties	Running Total of Students
2013	1633	91	22	7	66,042
2012	2,460	132	35	15	64,409
2011	1,056*	57	12	7	61,949
2010	2,954	151	28	11	60,893
2009	2,674	145	25	13	57,939
2008	3,188	158	30	11	55,265
2007	2,923	150	33	11	52,077
2006	3,176	165	36	16	49,154
2005	3,049	162	39	14	45,978
2004	3,277	157	37	14	42,929
2003	3,194	163	41	14	39,652
2002	3,269	157	36	14	36,458
2001	3,392	165	42	14	33,189
2000	3,079	149	38	13	29,797
1999	3,174	164	42	13	26,718
1998	3,120	149	36	13	23,544
1997	3,074	145	40	14	20,424
1996	3,136	151	41	14	17,350
1995	2,994	134	35	12	14,214
1994	2,667	118	33	13	11,220
1993	2,584	113	28	11	8,553
1992	2,384	105			5,969
1991	2,272	105			3,585
1990	1,313	57			1,313

* 2011-Year of the Ohio & Mississippi River flood

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Sciences

Illinois Forest Resource Center
R.R. 1, Box 255
Simpson, IL 62985



5-15-2013

Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development

354 State Highway 145 N
Simpson, IL 62985

Dear Shawnee RC & D,

Thank you for your generous contribution toward Stewardship Week 2013 at the Illinois Forest Resource Center. Your help giving this \$1,200.00 monetary donation, combined with the contributions of other co-sponsors, help make it possible for us to offer a first-class program for our local southern Illinois elementary students.

The support we received for this program continues to be outstanding. The event is the combined effort of many individuals and organizations, like yours, that make our program an overwhelming success. This year we enjoyed four cool, cloudy and sometimes wet rainy days with a grand total of 1,633 grade school students; plus an average of 70 resource professionals to man the 35 separate learning stations.

Thanks again for your assistance and your generous donation.

Thank you,

Jim Kirkland
Illinois Forest Resource Center

University of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
Dixon Springs Agricultural Center
354 State Highway 145 N
Simpson, IL 62985

Office (618) 695-3383 Fax (618) 695-2687
jakirk@illinois.edu



**SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013**

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 12,096	
Accounts Receivable	36,426	
		\$ 48,522

FIXED ASSETS

Equipment	\$ 13,596	
Less: Accum. depreciation, Equipment	(12,001)	
Net Fixed Assets		1,595

TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 50,117
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 25,000	
Payroll Liabilities	-	
Total Current Liabilities		\$ 25,000

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	66,976	
Temporarily Restricted	(41,859)	

TOTAL NET ASSETS, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013		25,117
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$ 50,117
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**SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013**

<u>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</u>	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
CIG	\$ -	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250
Hidden Springs	-	3,316	3,316
CARP	-	30,500	30,500
NRCS Expo	-	10,323	10,323
USFS Hill Country	-	-	-
USFWS Inv. Spec. Training	-	2,000	2,000
Friends DSAC	-	-	-
SWG	-	87,453	87,453
Prescribed Burn	-	7,869	7,869
Cache SWG	-	34,191	34,191
Vital Lands	-	5,000	5,000
Harrisburg ReLeaf	-	5,000	5,000
Trans Canada	-	-	-
Fire Dispatch	-	2,200	2,200
Stiltgrass Summit	-	-	-
Expo 2012	-	9,835	9,835
Pickneyville Handicap Pier	-	-	-
Total Program Income	-	203,937	203,937
Other Income:			
Annual Meeting	570	-	570
Miscellaneous	322	-	322
Steak Fry	1,288	-	1,288
Total Other Income	2,180	-	2,180
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	2,180	203,937	206,117
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	272,506	(272,506)	-
 <u>EXPENSES AND LOSSES</u>			
PROGRAM EXPENSE:			
CIG	-	-	-
Hidden Springs	3,316	-	3,316
CARP	29,500	-	29,500
NRCS Expo	3,948	-	3,948
USFS Hill Country	2,500	-	2,500
USFWS Inv. Spec. Training	44	-	44
Friends DSAC	18,778	-	18,778
SWG	117,153	-	117,153
Prescribed Burn	2,647	-	2,647
Cache SWG	66,031	-	66,031
Vital Lands	-	-	-
Harrisburg ReLeaf	2,730	-	2,730
Trans Canada	600	-	600
Fire Dispatch	2,187	-	2,187
Stiltgrass Summit	795	-	795
Expo 2012	22,277	-	22,277
Pickneyville Handicap Pier	-	-	-
Total Program Expenses	272,506	-	272,506
 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE:			
Professional Fees	6,148	-	6,148
Supplies	1,620	-	1,620
Occupancy	1,800	-	1,800
Insurance	1,750	-	1,750
Payroll and Related Expenses	23,183	-	23,183
Travel	1,319	-	1,319
Education/Promotion	4,004	-	4,004
Miscellaneous	412	-	412
Total Administrative Expense	56,411	-	56,411
Total Expenses and Losses	328,917	-	328,917
Less: Depreciation Expense	405	-	405
Change In Net Assets	(54,636)	(68,569)	(123,205)
 NET ASSETS- OCTOBER 1, 2012	121,612	26,710	148,322
NET ASSETS- SEPTEMBER 30, 2013	\$ 66,976	\$ (41,859)	\$ 25,117

SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Decrease in Net Assets		\$ (123,205)
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash		
Provide (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Decrease in Accounts Receivable	\$ 8,362	
Increase in Accounts Payable	25,000	
Depreciation Expense	405	

NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES 33,767

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: -

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES -

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH (89,438)

CASH-OCTOBER 1, 2012 101,534

CASH-SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 \$ 12,096