



Shawnee

Resource, Conservation
& Development

2015 Annual Report

**Shawnee Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
941 State Highway 146W
Golconda, IL 62938**

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.

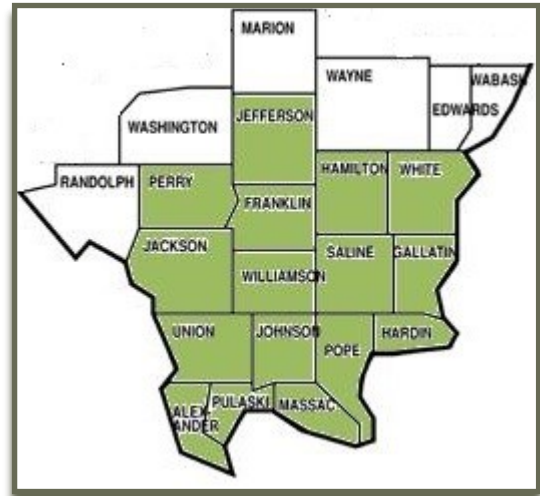
We receive funding from State and Federal agencies, charitable organizations, grantor foundations, and private individuals, interested in conservation projects.

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.”

Shawnee RC&D Area



Board of Directors

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Tabitha Ayres
tabithaayres@gmail.com

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Cathy Poshard
info@shawneercd.org

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dale Shumaker



It has been a year since I became the Chairman of Shawnee RC&D and to say it has been a rocky road is an understatement. Crisis mode is the norm, rather than the exception. With that being said, I am pleased to say that SRCD is still a viable organization that provides unique services to Southern Illinois.

Our year began with the announcement that Karla Gage, our River to River Weed Management Coordinator, would be leaving mid-year to accept a position at SIUC-C. A search began for her replacement and we were very fortunate to bring on board a very knowledgeable and experienced replacement that has prior experience in Southern Illinois, Kevin Rohling. Kevin has hit the ground running and has proven to be a worthy replacement for Karla.

Just a few weeks after Kevin's arrival, the Illinois budget crisis struck. Our council had hoped we would be able to avoid the Illinois budget mess because many of our grants are Federal pass-through dollars. What we learned was that those federal dollars must first be spent by the State of Illinois, before being reimbursed by the federal government. This meant that without an Illinois budget, even those federal grants were frozen. Unfortunately two of our contractors, Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator and Tracy Boutelle Fidler, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Southern Illinois COA Coordinator, had their grant funds suspended by the lack of an Illinois budget.

Just as we were reacting to the news about the suspended grants our Makanda CWPP Coordinator, Mark Filipiak left his position. Chris Evans filled his position for a short time before he also found other employment. Chris was an eight year contractor with SRCD and was widely known as the expert in the field of invasive species. We at SRCD will greatly miss the knowledge and leadership of the contractors we parted ways with this year. At the same time we welcome Kevin Rohling (CWMA) and Jennie Snyder (Makanda CWPP), the newest Shawnee RC&D coordinators.

In addition to dealing with the problems created by the lack of an Illinois Budget, and the departure of three contractors, we have also had to deal with cash flow issues and financial restrictions due to the suspension of grants. We have tightened our belt as much as possible and hopefully we can maintain our basic operation until our grants are reinstated or until we can secure grants that are Federally funded.

On a positive note we have created an education fund, which we hope to use for a variety of education projects in our SRCD region. We are still seeking donors to help finance the education fund. I am cautiously optimistic that we will improve our cash flow and finances in the coming year through new grants, and the potential reinstatement of existing grants. And last of all, we have recently gained some new council members and look forward to their involvement in council activities. We invite anyone interested in serving their Southern Illinois communities to attend of our council meetings and consider becoming a council member.

- Dale Shumaker

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tabitha Ayres

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

It can be difficult to see the bright side of a bad situation. For those of us living in Illinois, there are many examples of organizations and charities that have been negatively impacted by budget the statewide budget issues. While the current news is filled with information about big employers and agencies facing cuts in the coming months, many smaller organizations, such as the RC&D, have already had to make extreme cuts and reductions just to keep their doors open.

However, if we try to find the bright side in the situation, what do we find? We find a committed council and staff who have been able to support an organization through almost a year of funding loss. We find contractors and partners who are working hard to find new sources of funding and opportunities to help support an agency that is important, but unknown, to so many. We find people who care enough to keep trying new avenues to ensure our organization is able to remain in Southern Illinois, when so many others have sadly been forced to close. One of the positives, is that the funding crisis has thrown into stark contrast the importance of diversifying the income and funding of the RC&D. Following our loss of federal funding, the RC&D relied heavily upon the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to find new projects and opportunities. We have developed wonderful partner-

ships and programs through this connection to the IDNR but clearly need to work to try to build those same relationships with other organizations and grantors.

Next year, the RC&D will be celebrating its 50th year of conservation projects in Southern Illinois, and I know personally that I would love to see it be the best year yet. So I would ask each of us, rather than to concentrate on the issues that have currently caused our current shortages and stoppages, to look instead for new and creative funding opportunities. Opportunities that will allow us to put our contractors, and perhaps new contractors, back to work doing what they do best - improving the natural resources and helping with the environmental development of our Southern Illinois region.

I look forward to all the changes and opportunities to come.

Tabitha L. Ayres



Want to Get Involved?

Shawnee RC&D is looking for dedicated professionals and enthusiastic community members to join our Council. Meetings are held four times per year in Marion, IL. Council members are responsible for helping find new projects or conservation opportunities, networking with community and government leaders to accomplish conservation goals, representing Shawnee RC&D to the general public and informing others about the work we do. For more information about joining our council, or to submit a project or grant idea, please contact: Tabitha Ayres, Executive Director, (618) 944-1736, or email info@shawneercd.org.

2014 Annual Report

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Submitted by Kevin Rohling

Through the River to River CWMA project, the Shawnee RC&D continues a strong leadership trend in regional conservation efforts. The River to River CWMA is a partnership between 13 federal and state agencies, organizations, and universities aimed at coordinating efforts and programs for addressing the threat of invasive plants in the southern-most 11 counties of Illinois. In 2015, the CWMA continued an active program of invasive species outreach and education, prevention, early detection and control, and applied research.

2015 was not without challenges. It was a transition year for the CWMA with my predecessor, Karla Gage, stepping down to take on a new role as professor at SIU. I brought to the CWMA Coordinator position many experiences that helped to ensure a smooth transition even with multiple large projects already underway. In addition, state budget issues lead to suspension of funding for one of our main projects, the State Wildlife Grant. With that project on hold, we were able to focus on our other large projects in the last half of 2015.



Kevin Rohling, RTRCWMA Coordinator

The joint program between the CWMA and the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA), funded by USFS State and Private Forestry, aims to promote Oak-Hickory forest restoration through the integration



FRST Volunteer Day and training at Union Hill Subdivision (photo courtesy Chris Benda)

of prescribed fire and invasive species control. Through this program, the CWMA and SIPBA have created a volunteer corps, the Forest Restoration Support Team. In 2015, we held 12 training events with over 100 participants covering invasive species identification and ecology, herbicide safety, control methods, integrated pest management, and integrated pest management tools. We also organized numerous work days, treating over 200 acres of invasive species on priority private lands with over 60 participants (Figures 1 & 2).

Education and outreach continues to be a top priority in the fight against invasive species. The CWMA either held or participated in 24 trainings, workshops,

presentations, or outreach events, with an estimated reach of almost 1,000 people of all ages and educational backgrounds. The outreach campaign to raise awareness about the invasiveness of the Callery (Bradford) pear tree, and a demonstration planting of native trees which could serve as alternatives to the

Bradford pear was also completed in 2015 (Figure 3). Also in 2015, new boot-brush stations and aquatic-invasive species signs were installed in several areas across the region (Figures 4 & 5). In addition, a new email list of over 200

individuals was developed from the FRST training and volunteer events and has served as an outreach tool for Invasive Species Action Alerts, news releases, and advertising upcoming events.

Another focus of CWMA initiatives has been to accomplish invasive species control work and help partners provide “boots-on-the-ground”.

The CWMA participates on the Makanda Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) project,

contributing technical advice and expertise on invasive species control during site visits and consultation with the CWPP Coordinator and serving as Steering Committee member. In 2015, we hired interim CWPP Coordinator Chris Evans, who lead the project to completion of several cost-share contracts, and then hired new Coordinator,

Jennie Snyder at the close of 2015. The CWMA assisted The Nature Conservancy with technical support to the Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team. The state budget impasse has meant the current Strike Team has shifted from an IDNR focus to working mostly on the USFS properties under a different grant agreement. This new focus for the Strike Team concentrates on invasive species control in 23 Natural Areas across the USFS Shawnee National Forest, where high-quality plant communities are being threatened. Prior to the SWG suspension, much work had been done to visit private land sites for inclusion in the invasive species control cost-



Volunteers and conservation professionals join forces at Trail of Tears State Forest to control bush honeysuckle and enjoy a winter pot-luck



CWMA partners recognized Jennifer Behnken (fourth from left), SIUC Urban Forester, for her leadership in the Stop the Spread! campaign, and John and Paula Havlik (second and third from left) for their role in creating outreach for Stop the Spread! and many other causes related to invasive species awareness.

share program. Over 30 private landowners have been contacted, visited, and many of those enrolled in the cost



Several new boot brush stations were installed and old stations refurbished in 2015

-share program and were set to have the work completed just as the program was suspended. However, with much of the leg-work completed, we are well positioned to complete these cost-share agreements upon lifting of the suspension to this project. Finally, Karla Gage had been working on ongoing scientific research funded by Dow AgroSciences to look at ways to improve control of Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) and Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and she continues this work in her new role. In addition, the CWMA guide put out last year, *Management of Invasive Plants of Southern Illinois* has been proven to be enormously popular and useful, and a second printing has just been completed with support from our partners at IDNR, UI Extension, UI Extension Forestry, and National Wild Turkey Federation. We are currently working on a new publication, *Managing Invasive Plants with Prescribed Fire*, which will come out some time in 2016.

Those are but a few of the highlights of 2015, and with the 10-year anniversary of the creation of the CWMA, we anticipate 2016 will be another highly productive and successful year. Thank you for all you do to support the CWMA and conservation in our region!



Clean Your Footwear Before Entering And Leaving This Area



Boot Brush Program Partners







Help Reduce the Spread of Exotic Invasive Species

Exotic invasive plants are highly aggressive species which are not native to Illinois. These plants spread rapidly, can form dense colonies, and are wiping out native wildflowers, destroying wildlife habitat, and altering natural soil conditions.

Seeds from invasive species like these pictured below are spread on footwear, ATVs, and other off-road vehicles and equipment. Thank you for helping us to stop the spread of seeds by using this boot brush.

If you discover these or any invasive species on other lands, try to inform the landowner so control measures can be considered before it's too late.




Examples of Invasive Plants Spread by Footwear

			
Japanese Stiltgrass Threat: All Habitats	Garlic Mustard Threat: Woodlands & Forests	Sweet Clover Threat: Glades & Prairies	Sericea Lespedeza Threat: Glades, Prairies & Woodlands



Learn more about invasive species and spread prevention at <http://www.rtrcwma.org>

Educational signs installed at boot brush stations to inform the public about spreading invasive species through footwear.

Focus on conservation:

ILLINOIS BATS FACE PERILOUS HIBERNATION THIS WINTER

by Tracy Fidler

Carbondale, Ill. — Researchers fear that thousands of bats in Illinois face a perilous hibernation this winter after the recent discovery that additional counties are home to the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome.

“We are definitely seeing die offs similar to some of the places out east,” says Steve Taylor who leads bat surveys for the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois. “The populations are really decimated.”

Once infected, a colony of bats can be completely wiped out in two years, according to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s national plan to manage this threat to America’s bats. That’s what happened in Albany, New York, where the disease was first discovered. In nearby Indiana, which documented its first occurrence in 2011, the state’s Department of Natural Resources reports bat numbers are down between 27 and 90 percent, depending on the species.

White-nose syndrome was first discovered in Illinois in 2013. It is found in Adams, Carroll, Hardin, Jackson, Pike, LaSalle, Monroe, Pope, Saline and Union counties.

The disease has killed about 6 million bats and spread to 26 U.S. states and five Canadian provinces, according to WhiteNoseSyndrome.org, the website used by the Service and other agencies to jointly share information about the disease.

“There is no method for stopping the spread,” says Tim Carter, a bat scientist at Ball State (and Southern Illinois University alum) whose research is at the forefront of efforts to save bats. “This disease is going to spread slowly but surely. We can only hope to slow it down enough to find a cure.”

Taylor, however, is less than optimistic.

“We haven’t solved breast cancer or even athlete’s foot, which is still around, so how are we going to deal with white nose?” he asks.

From Europe to America

Pseudogymnoascus destructans, the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, is believed to have originated in Europe. The culprit for its movement here? Us, according to scientists working at London’s Royal Veterinary College who examined the fungus’ molecular structure to ascertain its origin.

The disease takes its name from the physical appearance of infected bats: They have white noses. The white fungus is capable of breaking down collagen, the glue that holds tissue together. It first forms as lesions, then spreads throughout a bat’s body, eventually resulting in its death. Since the fungus predominately is found in caves, the disease affects bats that hibernate, including the federally-endangered Indiana bat.

Search for a cure

There have been some great strides towards a cure, just this year. University of California, Santa Cruz researchers reported in April they discovered a bacterium, which occurs naturally on some bats, slowed the fungi’s spread on fruit in the lab. Now, they are testing the bacteria on bats with white-nose syndrome to see

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THANK YOU

This year the Shawnee RC&D has said goodbye to three of our program coordinators. While we understand their desire to continue their careers in the realm of conservation and development, they will be sincerely missed. We cannot possibly overstate the importance of these amazing professionals. Without the commitment of our project coordinators and contractors the RC&D would not be able to provide any of the valuable programs or projects that are the true purpose of our organization.

We are so honored to have had the opportunity to work with you, and wish you only the best!

- Shawnee RC&D Council & Staff



Christopher Evans,
Illinois Wildlife Action Plan
River to River CWMA



Karla Gage
River to River CWMA



Mark Filipiak
Makanda CWPP

Illinois' Conservation Opportunity Areas

by Tracy Fidler, abridged

What are Conservation Opportunity Areas?

Conservation Opportunity Areas are, quite simply, places in Illinois:

- with significant existing or potential wildlife and habitat resources;
- where partners are willing to plan, implement, and evaluate conservation actions;
- where financial and human resources are available; and
- where conservation is motivated by an agreed-upon conservation purpose and set of objectives.

To create a list of places in the state fitting this description, scientists with Illinois Natural History Survey identified priority areas for conservation, using a variety of tools, such as Audubon's Important Bird Areas and The Nature Conservancy's portfolio sites. The centerpiece of their analyses, however, was a dataset showing the state's key blocks of habitat (called hubs) and the corridors that connect them. As you can see in figure No. 1, the current matrix of Conservation Opportunity Areas generally encompasses these lands.

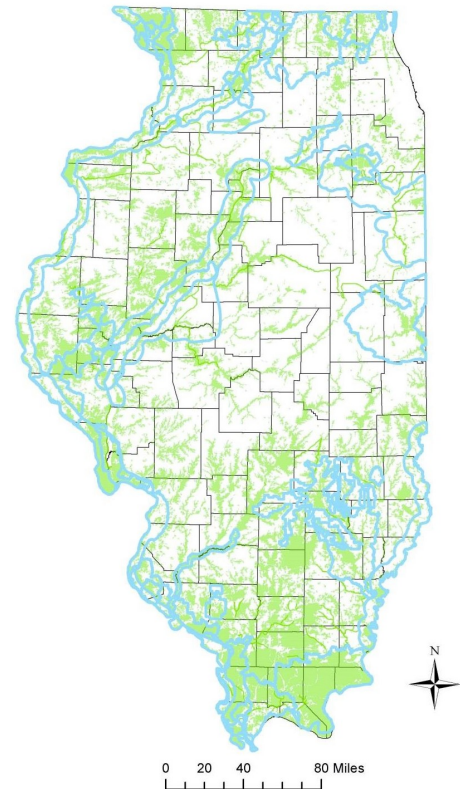
Conservation Opportunity Areas are, by many measures, important places for conservation. Consider, they contain:

- 80 percent of the lands identified in Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, which catalogs Illinois' high quality natural areas;
- 62 percent of the known occurrences of threatened and endangered species;
- 56 percent of the state's remaining wetland habitat; and
- 66 percent of the habitat identified in the wildlife hub and corridor analysis by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Status as of 2015

It is rare for Conservation Opportunity Areas to embody all four of the attributes that define them (listed above). Each area within Illinois is unique, facing different conservation challenges, opportunities and levels of support. In some places, federal and state agencies are engaged in landscape-scale conservation, whereas other areas depend on citizen volunteers to plan and implement efforts. This disparity presents unique challenges when it comes to helping these areas realize their conservation potential. Further, the balance of people, resources and conservation agreement is dynamic, ever shifting.

A 2015 survey of stakeholder working in COAs provides a snapshot of the level of coordination, activity and conservation effort underway in Illinois' Conservation Opportunity Areas. Some key takeaways (Fidler, 2015):

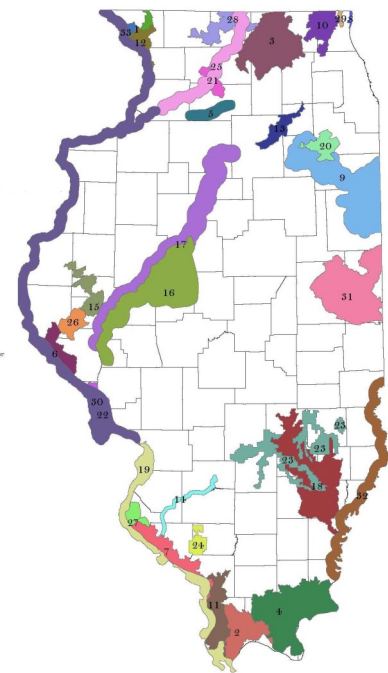


Key Blocks of Habitats and Corridors in Relation to COAs

Illinois' COAs need improved funding mechanisms, conservation leadership and support in combatting the spread and introduction of invasive species.

The top factor for successful resource management is people working together, whereas lack of funding was the main impediment.

Active local outreach is the conservation activity most likely to occur in Illinois COAs, whereas development of a resource management plan was least likely.



COAs currently recognized through the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan

Restoring and enhancing wetlands emerged as the top conservation priority for Illinois COAs, while assisting urban areas in developing and supporting smart growth, open space and wildlife recreational areas was last.

Invasive species and degrading habitat quality are the top two threats facing COAs.

The most important criterion for conservation projects is funding. Funding, or the lack thereof, also was the condition with which stakeholders were least satisfied.

Conservation planning in COAs is formed through a complex patchwork, representing diverse partnerships. In some instances, natural resource professionals coordinated with multiple partners to develop a landscape-scale plan. In other locations, management plans were created by professionals working at the federal, state or local levels and managing specific portions of the COA landscape. Overall, however, most stakeholders working in COAs said they did not know of a resource management plan (53.7 percent), which is a reversal from 2009 when 65.5 percent of respondents reported knowing of a plan (Table 3). Similarly, there is a drop in the number of stakeholders aware of data collection and/or monitoring efforts. Only 49.3 percent know of such an effort, which is down 14 percent from 2009 (Table 4).

Administrative changes to COAs

With the release of the Wildlife Action Plan in 2005, conservationists in the state raised questions about boundaries and other concerns in regards to the proposed list of COAs. To more effectively manage COAs, the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team established a Task Force to work on administrative issues. The Task Force, which is a committee composed of conservation partners and IDNR staff, reviews COA requests and makes recommendations to the Action Team for formal adoption.

Through these processes:

- Illinois has seen the formation of a new Conservation Opportunity Area: Middle Mississippi River
- It revised the boundaries for six COAs: Green River, Kishwaukee River, Lake McHenry Wetlands, Mason County Sands Area, Rock River and Upper Mississippi River
- Additionally, in mid-2015, it was uncovered that individuals working at Southern Hill Prairie Corridor and Sinkhole Plain COAs believed the two sites had been merged. IDNR is working with conservationists on this administrative concern, including formally bringing this to the Task Force. (It is unclear whether the confusion about Southern Hill Prairie Corridor and Sinkhole Plain affected stakeholder ratings for these sites, which are cited throughout this guide.)

2015 Annual Report

Makanda Township Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Implementation

By: Jennie Snyder, Makanda Township CWPP Coordinator

Makanda Township was the first community in the region to adopt a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to reduce risk from wildfire. This plan analyzes the wildfire risk in Makanda Township, and helps guide efforts in mitigating wildfire risk. This plan is important in raising awareness and coordinating community efforts.

Through federal funding from the US Forest Service, Shawnee RC&D has hired a CWPP Coordinator and Makanda Township has been able to begin implementing their CWPP. Jennie Snyder took on the coordinator role in November 2015 and is working on reducing risk from wildfire by reducing fuel levels in the forest, and increasing education and awareness on wildfire risk around the home and in the community. The coordinator collaborates with members of the US Forest Service, the IDNR, SIPBA and RTR CWMA.



Jennie Snyder has always had a love of the outdoors. She obtained her B.S. in Forestry from Penn State University and her M.S. in Forestry from Southern Illinois University. She spent 9 years in upstate New York before moving back to Southern Illinois in 2013.



Collaborators assessing wildfire risk on forested land. Left to Right:: Benjamin Snyder, Jesse Riechman, Kevin Rohling

One aspect of the project is helping to reduce the risk of wildfire through treatments to reduce hazardous fuels on private forested land. These treatments include invasive species control, thinning and prescribed burning. To date, 208 acres have been treated for invasive species, 178 acres have been thinned, and 57 acres have utilized prescribed burning. Not only have hazardous fuels been reduced but another benefit of these treatments is the forests are healthier and more resilient.

The other aspect of the project is education and outreach in Makanda Township. This is an important part in implementing a CWPP. In the past year, there have been two educational meetings for landowners in Makanda Township which reached over 50 individuals. Additionally, Jennie has met with a homeowner's association who are interested in pursuing a Firewise Community designation, which is a national recognition. Jennie is also performing Individual home assessments to raise awareness of their home's wildfire risk.

Shawnee RC&D is part of a notable project because it is the first CWPP implemented in the region. This collaborative project builds community and we hope to continue and expand this work to keep our communities safe from wildfire.

CARP Integrated Forest Management Program

2015 Annual Report

by Jesse Riechman

The Integrated Forest Management project was begun in August of 2014 and represents a close working partnership between the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and the Southeastern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA) to implement actions to improve overall forest health through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the Southern 11 counties in Illinois.

While this project is still in its infancy, there has already been much work toward grant deliverables accomplished, including:

- Established team of crew coordinators
- Worked with IDNR forester on creating maps for NWTF project.
- Attended week-long invasive species training hosted by Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge, resulting in 5 FRST volunteers having undergone “core” training.
- Coordinated and held Union Hill homeowners invasive species training at Giant City Visitors center, including a field tour of burn and invasive treatments.
- Planned and executed prescribed fire for 15 landowners, totaling 1,099 acres.
- Attended Friends of the Cache meeting as a board member to introduce the SIPBA and promote networking.
- Held one fall training and one spring training for SIPBA members, CWMA volunteers, and Master Naturalists to provide certification for invasive species mitigation
- Completed Joint project with CWMA and IDNR to map and identify invasive species on high-priority state land
- Led public interpretive hike in Giant City State Park hosted by the Friends of the Shawnee Forest, addressing the role of fire in the forest, also featuring forest history and forest health issues that support the goals of SIPBA in western Illinois
- Presented program to the Illinois Native Plant Society: “The Fire Tool,” an introduction to SIPBA and the private landowner’s new opportunities afforded by the SIPBA/CWMA partnership



Jesse Riechman, Project Coordinator

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

Since its inception, the Shawnee RC&D has had a strong commitment to conservation education, especially among youth and children. One way that we exhibit this commitment is through sponsorship and assistance of Stewardship Week. This program, held at the Dixon Springs Ag Center, in Dixon Springs, IL is an annual opportunity for school aged children to be introduced to varied conservation topics, presented by seasoned professionals.

26th Annual Stewardship Week

Year	Students	Classes	Schools	Counties	Running Total of Students
2015	1,374	66	21	9	68,068
2014	1,282	72	18	7	67,324
2013	1,633	93	21	8	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

whether it helps them.

And in May, a different bacterium, this one found in soil and used as a flavoring in food, cured some bats. U.S. Forest Service and Georgia State University researchers released those bats back into the wild. They are tracking the bats to see how they respond to treatment.

Scientists have learned a lot in the last nine years about this disease. When white nose first appeared, natural resource professionals were baffled about what was causing bats to die. Theories abounded. Knowing what causes the disease and how it affects bats has allowed the scientific community to hone its research.

Ball State scientist Tim Carter is testing a treatment this fall in Wisconsin. Still, he cautions scientists are a long way from having a way to treat millions of bats who are spread across the eastern United States. That's because of the challenges in developing and testing a cure, which he likens to efforts to finding a cure for cancer because of the difficulty of taking a technique from the lab into the real world.

"It's really complex to wrap your head around," agreed Rich Geboy, who helps U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service coordinate its white-nose syndrome efforts. Geboy says bats can move the fungus, but so can people. And, even if you cure a bat, the fungus will persist in the caves, which are super delicate systems, he said.

If scientists find a cure, they're not sure what to do about the fungi, which can persist in caves even without bats presence. This depressing finding was uncovered by Daniel Raudabaugh, a graduate student at University of Illinois working with Andrew Miller.

Even if cured, bats could be re-infected with this fungi every winter. Raudabaugh says a treatment "buys time, but how much is it going to cost every fall? Treat every bat, every year for, what, ever?"

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Follow with:

Raudabaugh, Daniel Bruce raudaba2@illinois.edu

Taylor, Steve: ceuthophilus@gmail.com; on behalf of; Steve Taylor sjtaylor@illinois.edu

Geboy, Richard richard_geboy@fws.gov

**SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
COMBINED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	38,358	
Accounts Receivable	\$	34,465	
			\$ 72,823

FIXED ASSETS

Equipment	\$	13,596	
Less: Accum. Depreciation, Equipment	\$	(13,596)	
Net Fixed Assets			\$ -

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 72,823

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

	\$	-	
Grants payable	\$	6,999	
Note payable - Line of Credit	\$	15,916	

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 22,915

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$	31,031	
Temporarily Restricted	\$	18,877	

TOTAL NET ASSETS, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

\$ 49,908

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 72,823

**SHAWNEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
COMBINED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

PROGRAM INCOME & EXPENSES	Income	Expense	
111 USFS Hill Country	\$ 750	\$ -	
112 USFWS Inv Spec Training	\$ 1,956	\$ 1,956	
113 Hazardous Fuels	\$ 9,318	\$ 1,092	
114 CARP Integ Presc Fire	\$ 45,982	\$ 24,851	
115 USFS Educ & Mangmt	\$ 27,923	\$ 24,045	
116 Makanda Phase 2	\$ 3,935	\$ 3,450	
208 SWG	\$ 18,594	\$ 8,708	
210 Presc Fire	\$ 676	\$ 493	
211 Cache SWG	\$ 28,594	\$ (438)	
212 Mgmt Inv Spec	\$ 1,959	\$ 1,781	
214 Stop the Spread	\$ 1,649	\$ 1,649	
216 IL Stop the Spread	\$ 1,470	\$ 1,246	
404 Vital Lands	\$ 757	\$ 728	
411 DOW Chemical	\$ 11	\$ 29	
508 Stitlgrass	\$ -	\$ 345	
511 Stewardship Week	\$ 2,286	\$ 562	
	<u>\$ 145,860</u>	<u>\$ 70,497</u>	
Net Program Income			<u>\$ 75,363</u>
 ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISC INCOME & EXPENSES			
Annual Meeting	\$ 420	\$ 482	
Steak Fry	\$ 418	\$ 523	
Conservation Education Donations	\$ -	\$ 3,255	
Unclassified Administrative Income (E)	\$ 678	\$ 53,477	
	<u>\$ 1,516</u>	<u>\$ 57,737</u>	
Net Administrative Expense			<u>\$ (56,220)</u>
 Total Expenses and Losses			
			\$ 19,143
Less: Depreciation expense			
			<u>\$ 427</u>
 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
			\$ 18,716
NET ASSETS - OCTOBER 1, 2014	\$ 71,832		
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTING ENTRIES	\$ (17,725)		
NET ASSETS - OCTOBER 1, 2015			\$ 54,107
 NET ASSETS - SEPTEMBER 30, 2015			 \$ 72,823