

Material MATTERS

A newsletter of the Illinois Recycling Association

IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the President

From the Executive Director

Recycling - It's in the Stars!

Conference Highlights Available on CD

Did You Know?

Plastic Bag Initiative Fizzles

Curbside Program News

Food Waste and Vermicomposting Seminar

Spotlight on DCEO

IRA to Hold Training Program

Greenbuild Coming to Chicago Nov. 6-8

By-Laws Amendment

New IRA Members



◆ IRA Elects Board of Directors ◆

The results of the Board of Directors election as announced at IRA's Annual Meeting, June 13, 2007, at the Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria IL.

ILLINOIS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Elected to New Terms until the Annual Meeting 2009:

Marlene Ceja, U'S Again, West Chicago

Sharon Conte, COM2 Computers and Technologies, Carol Stream

Jim Glavin, Sims Recycling Solutions, West Chicago

Bill Kramer, ACME Refining Company, Chicago

David Miller, Illinois Army National Guard, Springfield

David Shelangouski, Black Hawk College, Moline

Continuing in Current Terms until the Annual Meeting 2008:

Peter Adrian, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Gurnee

Wynne Coplea, City of Springfield

Rod Fletcher, City of Urbana

Mike Huskey, Burris Disposal Services, Carbondale

Paul Jaquet, Eagle Enterprises Recycling, Galva

Kris Kaar, Geneva IL

Agency Liaisons:

David Ross, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

David Walters, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Paul Ruesch, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

Officers for 2007-2008:

President: Rod Fletcher

Vice President: Kris Kaar

Treasurer: Peter Adrian

Secretary: David Miller

Special Thanks to Outgoing Board Members:

Jeri Knaus, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Springfield

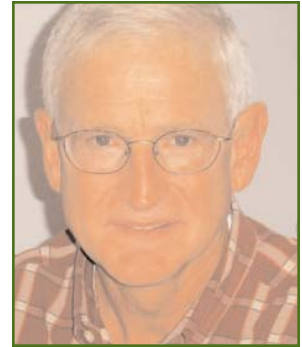
Jeff Nichols, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon

Andilee Warner, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Ed Wollet, DeWitt County Human Resources, Clinton

A Message from the President

ROD FLETCHER



I was reading an article the other day explaining why America needs to explore space. At first blush you may be asking what does this have to do with recycling? Well nothing directly. But there were several comments made in the article authored by Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, host of the PBS-TV series Nova science NOW, and author of several books, that motivated me and I wanted to share.

First he observes that "Science and technology are the greatest engines of economic growth the world has ever seen. Without regenerating homegrown interest in these fields, the comfortable lifestyle to which Americans have been accustomed to will draw to a rapid close." Indeed that day in the early 1960's when it was announced that America will, within the decade, put a man on the moon seemed like a dream. But it was much more than that. The commitment given to attain that goal was steadfast. Americans, as well as the entire world, benefited from the research and tangible products resulting from that initial effort - everything from "Superglue," to the personal computer, to medical advancements. We had a common goal, it was exciting, challenging, we were experimenting and we learned lessons from failure. In short we were leaders and it was an American legacy to the world.

Tyson notes that there are many more interested parties competing in space exploration initiatives today - China, Europe, India, and some African countries. He also suggests that countries that do not have such ambitions working within their culture, feel an absence of hope. He goes on to say "Due to all manner of politics, economics, and geography, people are reduced to worrying only about that day's

shelter or the next day's meal. It's a shame, even a tragedy, how many people don't get to think about the future. Technology coupled with wise leadership not only solves these problems but also enables dreams of tomorrow."

So what are your dreams of tomorrow? What are your challenges and how can we overcome them? We will have to be more analytical in our approach. The public sector will have to expand its relationships with the private sector. We are no longer just collecting newspaper and cans from residential homes. Electronics, fluorescent bulbs, food scraps, textiles, C&D materials are all "new commodities" that are being targeted for recovery. And we need to expand our efforts in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors as well. For example, have you made 64 gallon carts available to residential customers in your program? Cities that have done that are reporting that quantities recovered increase 20-35%. Does your community have a multifamily program available for multifamily residents? What recycling is occurring in the commercial sector?

They say that timing is everything. The links between economic and environmental benefits and recycling are strong. Global warming, reducing carbon footprints, and sustainability issues are in the forefront and they have gained the attention of the public and politicians alike. I think it's our time to regenerate and to develop and implement plans to leave a legacy of hope and dreams to our children and their children. What do you think?

◆ From the **Executive Director**

MIKE MITCHELL



By all accounts, this year's Illinois Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference & Trade Show, "Bringing It All Together" in Peoria was a Win-Win-Win proposition for all involved. This was a first time partnership between IRA, ILCSWMA and the Illinois Chapter of SWANA to organize a truly state-wide conference and trade show. Including last minute registrations and a handful of walk ups, close to 300 people participated in the event which featured over 40 exhibitors, 20 concurrent sessions under 4 different tracks, a keynote address by Jerry Powell (Resource Recycling Magazine) and a closing presentation by Kate Krebs (National Recycling Coalition).

The conference website, <http://www.illinoisjointconference.com>, contains lots of information from the conference including links to our sponsors' websites (please check them out!), award winners, photographs, and copies of presentations from many of the concurrent sessions and featured presentations. Presentations are still being added as speakers continue to send them in. For the first time, IRA experimented with video taping the keynote address and the Recycling Track sessions on Tuesday. A link to order a CD Rom of these presentations can also be found on the website. (Special thanks to Andrew Pincon of Digital Workforce Education Society for facilitating the recordings.) This is a feature we expect to incorporate more fully into future conferences.

Speaking of future conferences, mark your calendar for our 2008 Conference and Trade Show which will be held June 9-11 at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel in Arlington Heights. This conference will be hosted by IRA and the Illinois Chapter of SWANA. Even

though ILCSWMA opted not to formally co-host this event, there is a great deal of common membership between the three organizations, so we plan to build on all of the positive energy generated by this past conference and produce another great event which will meet the interests and needs of the entire recycling and solid waste industry in and around Illinois. Keep posted for more information, and don't be surprised to find all three organizations partnering together again in 2009.

GET TRASHED

Another of the special features at the 2007 conference was a preview screening of the new documentary by Bill Kirkos, "Trashed". IRA members may recognize a number of people in the movie including, Lee Addelman (Waste Management), Dan Knapp (Urban Ore, Berkeley CA) and Rod Muir (Sierra Club of Canada) among others. The World Premier of "Trashed" was held this past July at the Music Box Theater in Chicago to an almost packed house. You can get your own copy of this thought provoking documentary at www.trashedmovie.com.



There's still time to register for NRC Congress and Expo!

You may register online at <http://www.recycling-conference.org>

◆ Recycling - It's In the Stars! ◆

Some days are better for recycling than others, according to Georgia Nichols, who provides a syndicated horoscope for the Chicago Sun-Times and other papers.

On April 8, 2007, Georgia gave this forecast for Scorpios: "You're in the mood to throw things away today (so you can clean up your act), and yet you also want to conserve things. You don't

want to waste anything. If you can recycle something today, this will give you pleasure and satisfaction."

For the week of July 1st, Nichols discussed how Cancers should respond to the effects of a Mercury retrograde: "Take a ruthless, practical approach to your possessions. Streamline. Recycle."

◆ Conference Highlights Available on CD ◆

Did you miss something at the Bringing All Together Conference? Now you can have the June 11 and 12 Recycling Track presentations on CD. The CD-Rom includes audio and slideshow or video, along with audience questions and comments. The disc includes the Electronics Recycling Forum on Monday June 11, Jerry Powell's Keynote Address on Tuesday June 12 and the 3 Recycling Track concurrent sessions on June 12.

Highlights of the Recycling Track concurrent sessions include:

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Recycling Wireless Devices:

Craig Bosworth, Hobi, Inc.

Community Based Refurbishing and Re-use Programs:

Angela Haas, WITS

FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

Institutional Vermicomposting:

Andilee Warner, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Curbside Compost Collection:

Rod Muir, Sierra Club Canada

Proposed Compost Regulations:

Kay McKeen, SCARCE

RAISING THE BAR: NEW STATE PERSPECTIVES ON RECYCLING

Cynthia Moore, Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources

Jeff Geertz, Iowa Dept of Natural Resources

For ordering information go to <http://www.digibridge.net/ira>. Thanks to Andrew Pincon of Digital Workforce Education Society for capturing the sessions on video.

Did You Know?

A full-grown cow (deceased) can be composted in two to four months, according to a Washington state project which addresses on-farm mortality composting. For details, visit MortCompost.Info, where you will find up to date information and resources on the natural rendering of livestock mortalities and butcher residuals on the farm.

◆ Plastic Bag Initiative Fizzles ◆

It started out with a bang and ended with a whimper. As originally introduced, Senate Bill 303 would have required retailers with more than 10,000 square feet to provide recycling opportunities for plastic shopping bags. It also required bag manufacturers to develop educational materials to assist the retail efforts.

The bill was introduced with much hoopla, following a similar, successful effort in California. But, as the concept made its way through the legislative process, compromises were made.

After numerous amendments, the final bill created a voluntary program in Lake County to encourage retailers to recycle the bags. The

approved "Plastic Bag Recycling Act" also creates a task force to evaluate Lake County's program and report to the Governor by 2010.

"A go-slow approach is better for everybody," said Rob Karr of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association.

Plastic bags not only create highly visible litter, they are also not accepted in most residential recycling programs because the bags tend to clog sorting machines and must then be removed by hand.

An estimated 100 billion plastic grocery bags are used in the U.S. each year, or about 333 per person. Only about 4% are currently recycled.

◆ Curbside Program News ◆

MOLINE

Twenty years after the first municipal curbside recycling programs began in Illinois, the City of Moline is developing its inaugural curbside program. On July 3rd, the City Council authorized staff to negotiate service with the Midland Davis Corp., a local recycling firm.

Initial estimates put the program cost at \$2.50 per month, which likely will be billed quarterly with the water bill. Moliners currently have their trash collection covered by property taxes.

Moline joins Davenport and Bettendorf in the Quad-City curbside club, leaving only Rock Island and East Moline without curbside service.

ORLAND PARK

The Village of Orland Park, in southern Cook County, will be challenging one of the basic tenets of successful recycling by changing their existing weekly program to a biweekly schedule.

Their new service will include larger plastic totes for single stream recycling. Village officials hope the larger containers, coupled with no sorting, will be a viable approach.

Officials also state the new program will require less labor from garbage collectors and result in less wear and tear on village streets. The switch will reportedly keep the cost of garbage collection from rising.

The Village will also kick off an education campaign to promote recycling.

◆ Food Waste and Vermicomposting Seminar ◆

by Wynne Coplea

IRA held a seminar on composting and vermicomposting of food waste at SIU-Carbondale in May, with 15 attendees representing private businesses, colleges and universities and local governments from across Illinois. Speakers regaled attendees with lessons learned from their own experiences. Ken Dunn of the Resource Center of Chicago estimated that up to 25% of Chicago area waste is organic, and explained how his composting service assures a uniformly rich end product. Ken stressed that in Illinois, there is a legislative challenge to commercial composting in that food waste is defined as municipal solid waste in IL law. This means that although such materials as paper can be set aside and considered a recyclable (no handling permit required) food waste that is set aside specifically for composting and has never entered the waste stream is considered MSW; thus, facilities handling this material require siting and operating permits. Changing this legislative definition of food "waste" is Ken's #1 goal at this time because he passionately believes that many thousands of tons per day of food scraps are indeed wasted, rather than recycled into rich compost.

Andilee Warner, South shared results of SIU's first full school year of vermicomposting food waste from some of their student cafeterias and student union. Lessons learned during this year included not closing the building so tightly that it heated up and held humidity, which makes the worms wander out of their troughs. The tour of the campus building dedicated to vermicomposting topped her presentation, and Andilee was upstaged by about one million red wiggler worms!

Jack Macy of the City of San Francisco Department of the Environment's Zero Waste Program told us about SF's food waste collection program. The program takes both residential

and commercial food waste, first attempting to give edible food away to food banks, with the remainder processed by their contractor Norcal Waste Systems. SF's goal is to make recycling and composting at least as convenient and affordable as making garbage, and the city provides grant support, business incentives and multi-lingual training to help meet these goals. Among Jack's suggestions for others wishing to implement a food waste composting program: do lots of promotion prior to program kick-off and use pictures rather than text as instructional tools. Another popular aspect of the program is the free compost material given away two times a year to promote the program.

Garick Corporation of South Charleston, Ohio composts a variety of materials at its site, including yard waste, manure/biosolids, food wastes and grains. Doug Alderman of Garick shared an industry perspective with the group, and explained that in his experience, the biggest problem faced at their plant was management of water. Most organic wastes have a high water content (in the case of lettuce, it's 92% water!), which lead to issues of leaking collection trucks, leachate capture/collection, and most of all, odors, odors, odors. The "recipe" for blending materials is crucial not only for a good end product, but also to keep odors down and neighbors happy. Garick Corp. has multiple processing sites mainly across eastern U.S., and touts their facility as preferable to landfill dumping costs to waste haulers and to corporate customers.

We ended our day with a bout of Vermicomposting Jeopardy and the Dirty Jobs video on worm farms. Although relatively small in number, attendees were enthusiastic about what they had seen and heard, so hopefully, we'll see some expanded composting and vermicomposting programs in Illinois soon!

SPOTLIGHT ON DCEO

IRA has received a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to perform an assessment of the infrastructure to manage electronic scrap in Illinois. In order to conduct this assessment, IRA has subcontracted with Engineering Solutions and Design of Overland Park, Kansas. The assessment is designed to determine the quantity of e-scrap currently being generated, and a three year projection of generation data in the State, including demographic impacts in rural and urban areas as well as residential/commercial/industrial variations.

The assessment will also include a comprehensive listing of current processors, refurbishers and brokers of e-scrap conducting business in

Illinois. This listing will include both businesses and not-for-profits. Each entity will be categorized according to its operational type and report its current processing throughput of e-scrap material, as well as projections for increasing processing capacity by expanding the number of working shifts or planned plant expansions where applicable.

The final report will also provide interactive geographical mapping of current and potential e-scrap flow based upon population surrounding the location of processors, per capita generation and the potential processing capacity. This interactive map will be designed so that future information can be added to maintain upgraded information.

IRA to Hold Training Program

BEST OPERATIONAL PRACTICES FOR MRFS AND RECYCLING DROP-OFFS

What: This training program will lead to a certificate of completion from IRA. Qualifies for SWANA CEUs as well.

When: Friday, September 28, 2007, 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm. Registration at 8:30

Where: Comfort Suites Hotel, 1310 W. Fayette Rd., Effingham, IL. 217 342-3151.

Overnight accommodations available for \$75, please call hotel directly. Rooms reserved under IRA block until September 13.

Cost: \$75 IRA or ILCSWMA members, \$150 - Non IRA members. Includes manual, test and lunch.

Why: The purpose of this course is to provide continuing educational training to those persons involved in the recycling industry that own/operate MRFs and/or drop-offs to evaluate their operations against BOPs - to reduce environmental impacts, advance safety consciousness, improve processing efficiencies, reduce operating costs and increase potential revenues. Topics include: MRF design for location and efficiencies; Materials management from receiving, to baling, to storage; Baler selection, operation, residual management, maintenance, and transportation issues; Marketing; Health and safety in the workplace; Pollution control and good neighbor practices; and Optimizing drop-off operations. Over 50 attendees have received certification of this program!

Contact Mike Mitchell @ 708.358.0050 or email: info@illinoisrecycles.org. Register by September 21, 2007.

Greenbuild Coming to Chicago November 6-8

Greenbuild is the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building. This November, more than 18,000 building professionals from all over the world will come together for three days of outstanding educational sessions, renowned speakers, green building tours, special seminars, networking events, and the biggest exhibit hall in Greenbuild history.

Chicago: Aiming to be the Greenest

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley has pledged to make Chicago the most environmentally friendly city in the world. Building on its legacy as a center of American architecture, Chicago was one of the first cities to adopt LEED. Today it has the most LEED projects of any city in the world, including the new West Building at McCormick Place, where Greenbuild will be held. Chicago's world-class culture, limitless outdoor activities, and unparalleled entertainment make it the perfect home for Greenbuild 2007.

Highlights:

- o Master Speakers series with internationally renowned leaders and innovators
- o Over 850 Exhibit Booths with the newest products and technologies
- o More than 100 Educational Sessions
- o Member Day-an exclusive event for USGBC members
- o Tours of 40 of Chicago's most celebrated buildings
- o "Windy City Blues" Leadership Awards Celebration
- o "Party at the Pier" - USGBC and Chicago Host Committee Welcome Event at the historic Navy Pier

For information and registration go to <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org>.

By-Laws Amendment

The following change to the by-laws of the Illinois Recycling Association was unanimously approved at the Annual Meeting on June 13, 2007, held at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria.

Section 3.2 now reads (words in bold type were added and the word "state" was removed from line 4 between the words "respective" and "agencies"):

"Liaisons: The Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), or his/her designee, and the Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), or his/her

designee, and the Director of US EPA Region V, or his/her designee, may serve as liaison between the respective agencies and the Association's Board of Directors. Liaisons are invited to attend all meetings of the Board in a non-voting, advisory capacity and may serve on or chair any committee of the Association."

The Board believes that including a liaison from US EPA Region 5 will add to its depth, increase the exchange of information and strengthen relationships. Paul Ruesch from US EPA Region V has agreed to serve in this capacity.

New IRA Members

William Fineran
Augustana College

Darlene Lee
Augustana College

Robert Pirrello
CellMark Recycling

John Ocansey
Change Way

Ellen Sargent
Chicago Park District

Karen Krane
Classic Computer Recovery, Inc.

Anne Godman
Computer Banc

Nathan Armstrong
E-Scrap Technologies, Inc.

William Kamka
Fuel Freedom International

Mike Selep
Illinois Parks and Recreation Association

Travis Griggs
Intercon Solutions

Harvey Abramowitz
Purdue University Calumet

Nancy Martin
Second Chances

Lisa Barry
St. Johns Hospital

Matthew Daker
Sustain Print Cartridges

Doug Widener
US Green Building Council - Chicago Chapter

Marlene Ceja
U'S Again, LLC

Scott Bahan
US GreenFiber

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Rod Fletcher, City of Urbana

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Kris Kaar, Geneva, IL

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Peter Adrian, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

SECRETARY

David Miller, Illinois Army National Guard

IRA OFFICE

Mike Mitchell, Executive Director
Rose Kollman, Computerized Document Solutions

AGENCY LIAISONS

David Ross, DCEO
Dave Walters, IEPA
Paul Ruesch, US EPA Region 5

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- David Shelangouski, Black Hawk College

The IRA is a statewide professional association comprised of business, government, educational institution, non-profit and individual recyclers that provide for the exchange of information and ideas on resource conservation through re-use, recycling and waste reduction. IRA is a state affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition. Material Matters is published four times per year. To advertise or submit articles for publication, contact the IRA office:

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