2014 Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District Awards

Conservation of Land and Water Resources
The recipient of the award for Conservation of Land and Water Resources is Woodridge School District 68. The district was tired of the maintenance costs that come with asphalt parking lots. In 2011, they decided to do something about it. The result was the Green Campus Initiative, which is a multi-year effort to replace asphalt with permeable pavements, include outdoor environmental educational space, and incorporate native plant species at every school in the District. This year the award was sponsored by \textit{HAMPTON, LENZINI AND RENWICK}.

John C. Biddle Award
The recipient of the John C. Biddle award, sponsored by \textit{Kane County Farm Bureau} was \textit{Dezeri DeRaedt}. Dezeri resides with his wife and two children in Hampshire along with DeRaedt Seed Corp, a seed production business he started in 1978. Last year, Dezeri received cost-share funds through Kane-DuPage SWCD’s Conservation Practices Program to construct a grassed waterway on one of his fields. Conservation of the land he owns and operates is an important component in his farming activities. For several years he has used conservation tillage as well as cover crops, such as radish and rye, to enhance and benefit the soil biology of the land he farms. Being a good steward of the land is evident through Dezeri’s conscious effort to preserve and improve soil health through agricultural best management practices. Dezeri sits on the Farm Service Agency’s Kane-DuPage County Committee Board as well as Kane County Farm Growers Board.

Dick Young Award
The recipient of the Dick Young Award was Jack Shouba. Jack is a retired biology and chemistry teacher. He has remained very active in his retirement. He works to save and restore open space as Open Space Development Coordinator for Campton Township in Kane County. and volunteers for various conservation organizations. In this capacity he has helped pass open space referendums twice, helped create the open space planning design and implementation maintenance plan, performed botanical surveys on all Campton open space sites, and hosted prairie walks and education programs for the township. He is an expert at plant ID and has a passion for “ridding Campton township of noxious weeds. He further uses this passion to teach local flora, tree identification, and other classes at The Morton Arboretum. An avid photographer, he uses his photos in his teaching and in public lectures. His pictures have been used on calendars and by conservation organizations, government agencies, and Chicago Wilderness magazine. Jack is a dedicated steward of the land and the embodiment of the Dick Young Award. It is my pleasure to present this year’s award sponsored by \textit{Encap Inc} to Jack Shouba.