



SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

2010 Awards Program

July 20, 2010
St. Louis, Missouri



Ecosystem Services

Applications for
Conservation Science,
Policy, and Practice



2010 Soil and Water Conservation Society

Awards Program

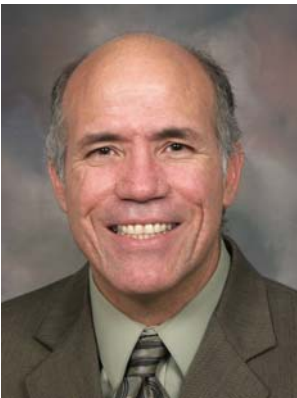
The Soil and Water Conservation Society is pleased to honor award recipients that have exhibited exemplary service to the conservation community. Today's award recipients join with us in our mission to advance soil, water, and related natural resources conservation to achieve sustainability.

Individuals and chapters nominated for these awards competed on a national and international level against others who have demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication in delivering assistance to landowners, communities, or local governments.

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Jorge A. Delgado



Jorge A. Delgado is a soil scientist with the USDA-ARS Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit and research editor of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. Dr. Delgado is a Fellow of American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, and Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is internationally recognized for his research and development of applied environmental quality tools and concepts designed to mitigate the losses of nitrates from agriculture, such as the nitrogen index, a nitrogen trading tool, precision conservation, breakthrough isotopic research techniques, and summer cover crops with limited irrigation.

He is an expert in developing and testing tools designed to assess N losses to the environment. He works closely with extension personnel and national/international scientists in transferring research information to real world use; for example, he led the first field study that examined the use of controlled-release fertilizers as a mitigation tactic to decrease nitrous oxide emissions in the United States. His research showed that Colorado cover crops with limited irrigation could reduce nitrate leaching to the environment, reduce erosion, increase nutrient use efficiencies and increase potato quality and yields. As a result, farmers have expanded the use of cover crops on thousands of acres, improving soil and water quality.

Working with scientists from as many as 13 countries, his collaborative partnerships have produced cutting-edge advances in agriculture, agronomy, nutrient management, and natural resource conservation that have proven applicable from farm fields to the global agricultural and ecological environment. His achievements have already brought him the Soil Science Society of America 2008 Applied Research Award and the Soil Science Society of America 2009 International Soil Science Award, which recognizes outstanding research contributions made outside of the United States.

Fellow Award

The designation of Fellow is conferred on Society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This award is given first and foremost for professional excellence. Professional achievement may be in practicing, investigating, administering, or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields. Only Society members with at least 10 years of membership are eligible.

Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant



Ms. Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant is being honored with the Fellow Award for her long and outstanding service to the Society at all levels of the organization. Her nomination, submitted by the Illinois Chapter, details her efforts and excellence in both professional and Society missions. She has served at the local and state levels and served as the national Society President from 2003 to 2004. She has been extremely active and involved in a number of Board projects dealing with the revitalization of the House of Delegates, Program Development Fund, land sale, and a number of staff led programs and initiatives.

In her 20+ years of service, she has served as a teacher, SARE Coordinator, and now serves as an Extension Specialist coordinating the Illinois Small Farm and Sustainable Agriculture Program. She has served as a Soil and Water Conservation Director, as well as the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts President, 1998-2000. She served as the Co-Chair for the 2000 SWCS meeting in St. Louis and has been honored in the past with two outstanding Service Awards (1996, 1998) from the Society, as well as the Honor Award in 1988, Merit Award in 1993, and Presidents Citation Award in 2001.

Joel Myers



Joel Myers is being honored with the Fellow Award for his outstanding service to the Society in the promotion of no-till planting system at the local, regional, state, national and international levels. Mr. Myers is widely recognized and regarded as one of the true experts and pioneers in the no-till planting system. Mr. Myers has been instrumental in the formation and sustenance of several conservation tillage conferences and has educated thousands of farmers and conservation professionals in all aspects of conservation tillage on the state and national levels. Mr. Myers also played an instrumental role in the formation of the Pennsylvania No-till Alliance, a non-profit group that actively promotes no-till planting systems.

In addition, Mr. Myers has authored or co-authored a number of publications, pamphlets, and educational courses. He has served the Society faithfully at the state level by serving in various roles and committees, including President on two occasions and continuing to serve on the Annual Meeting, Scholarship, and Education and Outreach Committees. Other Society activities include serving on the International Chapter Development Committee. Mr. Myers also “practices what he preaches” by using these techniques on his own farm and opening up the farm and his home for field days, farm visits, and other educational activities.

Cal Thorson



Cal Thorson has served in roles in the private sector and public service. In sales and marketing with Dow Agro Sciences, he was a major force in the important integration of industry in soil and water conservation issues. He organized the NRCS sponsored North Dakota Crop Residue Management Alliance and was instrumental in bringing the groups together that were involved in implementing the conservation compliance provisions of the 1985 farm bill. As one of the first Certified Crop Advisors in North Dakota, he developed many continuing education programs for soil and water training.

He has received numerous local and national SWCS awards, including an Outstanding Service Award in 2009 and a Commendation Award in 1999. He has provided leadership in the Manitoba-North Dakota Zero-Tillage Farmers Association serving as both Director and President. In 2002, the USDA Agricultural Research Service brought Cal on board to successfully develop the new Technical Information Specialist position to expand its technical transfer of natural sciences research to their customers. Cal has a long history of work in the area

of sustainable practices for the enhancement of soil and water quality and is highly deserving of this Fellow Award.

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes individuals who provide technical assistance, demonstrate effectiveness and creativity in conservation planning and plan application.

Kenneth J. Miller



Kenny Miller recognized the need to intensify his grazing management to become more economically sustainable over 25 years ago. As he observed subtle changes happening on his unit and shared his observations with others, he gained insight into the need to consider soil health in his management goals—both the cropland and grazing land resources. His observation triggered a change to his basic decision making process. Kenny now practices a management philosophy based upon improving soil health by integrating the livestock and cropping enterprises, managing each for the benefit of the other.

As a technician with the Burleigh County SCD, Kenny has provided technical assistance to farmers and ranchers on cropping and grazing systems focused on improving soil health. As a North Dakota farmer/rancher, Kenny practices what he preaches and has adopted no-till farming practices with full crop diversity plus cover crops to maximize soil health benefits while providing supplemental hay and grazing. Kenny is also active with the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition and serves as a mentor to others that wish to try different methods of utilizing their pasture and cropland acres. Kenny's experience and willingness to share what he has learned, is proving invaluable to other farmers and ranchers in North Dakota and across the country.

Conservation Research Award

The Conservation Research Award is conferred on SWCS members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research. This award is given for research excellence or results of the research that has led to significant conservation improvements.

Dr. Rajiv Khosla



Dr. Rajiv Khosla is a recognized authority in the field of Precision Agriculture. He is responsible for the Precision Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Program at Colorado State University. He is the Colorado State University (CSU) Distinguished Monfort Professor and an Adjunct Scientist and Visiting Professor at the National Engineering Research Center for Information Technology in Agriculture (NERCITA), in Beijing, China, as well as Precision Agriculture Research Chair Visiting Professor at King Saud University, Riyadh. In addition, he has developed and is the director of a new and unique undergraduate degree program called “*Applied Information Technology in Agriculture*”.

The main focus of Dr. Khosla’s research has been on “Management of in-field soil and crop spatial variability using innovative technologies (such as GPS, GIS, and remote-sensing) for variable rate precision nutrient management”. He has generated many discoveries in precision agriculture, most widely recognized among them is the innovative technique of quantifying variability of spatially diverse soils using satellite based remote-sensing to create management zones, which is currently being used by farmers in Colorado, across the United States, and in other countries around the world. His research has been pivotal in reducing nitrogen loadings into soil without impairing grain yield productivity.

Dr. Khosla continues to make novel contributions in the area of soil and water conservation using innovative geo-spatial technologies. Thus, we recognize Dr. Rajiv Khosla as the 2010 recipient of the Society’s Conservation Research Award.

Merit Award

The Merit Award is given in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business firm, corporation, or organization that promotes the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Agren, Inc.

Agren Inc. is being recognized for the development of the Center for Absentee Landowners website, a one-stop shop for conservation answers. This site was created for absentee landowners who are interested in natural resources conservation and who want to learn more information about available programs, resources, and support. The site provides information addressing resource concerns and educating landowners on soil and water stewardship ensuring they can maintain and improve the resources used for production of food, fiber, and other services that improve the overall quality of life. The center provides a wealth of resources about the entire ecological system and the role each of them play. The site also provides resources for conservation professionals working to improve outreach and education to the absentee landowner audience. A toolkit has recently been added to the site entitled “Engaging Absentee Landowners in Natural Resources Conservation.”

Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

Burleigh County SCD has demonstrated its ability to promote soil health successfully to a broad range of people. The SCD continues to be a leader among leaders in preparing and leading the way in education with their Soil Health Workshops. These workshops have been put together by the local district with support from its supervisors being presenters at the meetings developing a Farmers-Talking-to-Farmers mentality which seems to always be a success. The supervisors talk about their own no-till cropping systems, grazing systems, and how the use of cover crops improves soil health. Over the past seven years they have developed quite a reputation bringing in over 500 participants from multiple states and Canada to attend this educational event. Even though this event is focused on Soil Health, by implementing these practices, it also has the effect of better soil and

water management, reducing erosion, and improving water quality while eliminating sedimentation. Burleigh County SCD continues to set the bar in delivering Soil Health and Quality Resource Management information to the public and delivering principles to achieve better results in maintaining our natural resources.

The California Small Farms Conference

The California Small Farm Conference provides conservation educational opportunities on an annual basis to California's small farmers and ranchers who are, for the most part, traditionally underserved. The focus of the California Small Farm Conference is on economically sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship on small farms and ranches throughout California. Soil and water conservation, air quality, energy conservation, and "farmscaping" for biodiversity and to benefit vital pollinators are just some of the topics at the annual conference. This year's 22nd annual conference was attended by more than 500 farmers, ranchers, farmers' market managers, resource professionals, students and others. It is the belief of the California Small Farm Conference that all agriculturists should have access to the ways and means that can help them develop and grow sustainable farming and ranching businesses.

Project AWARE

Project AWARE is an annual weeklong river cleanup that engages ordinary citizens to do extraordinary things by removing trash out of Iowa's rivers and learning about the environment and water quality. Project AWARE has travelled seven different watersheds throughout Iowa. Over the past seven years, 1,500 volunteers have removed more than 140 tons of trash from over 500 miles of river, 5 lakes, 1 wetland, and 3 prairie areas. All trash is sorted and recycled as much as possible—72% of the trash collected on Project AWARE has been recycled. Volunteers not only collect and recycle trash, but they also have opportunities to attend education programs to increase their awareness of different water quality and environmental issues and actions they can take in their everyday life to reuse, recycle, and appreciate Iowa's natural resources. Project AWARE's primary objective is to "increase awareness about water quality issues that threaten the health of Iowa's water resources and promote advocacy and action towards their improvement and protection."

Seven Rivers RC&D Council

Seven Rivers Resource Conservation & Development began organizing and planning a Conservation Tillage Production Systems Conference for Georgia farmers more than nine years ago. While like most similar conferences that bring farmers together with researchers to discuss the issues facing the field of conservation tillage, it has grown and evolved into using a unique format of including a researcher, an extension/NRCS staffer, and a farmer on each program topic. This has proven very successful in allowing all perspectives to be discussed, and has led to new research and demonstration projects. Farmers report that the networking opportunity helps eliminate mistakes made by others and has facilitated long-lasting benefits to sustainable farming systems.

Honor Award

Henry Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson has been referred to as the Johnny Appleseed of soil science education. After being inspired by Joe Pitts, a Missouri DNR educator, in the use of hands on visual aids for teaching about soil properties and soil conservation, he went on to develop soils kits which have been used by many soil and water conservation districts in Missouri and several other states.

Mr. Ferguson developed a table top infiltration/runoff model which has been used to illustrate the importance of management on erosion control and water use.

Within the United States, he has travelled to over 27 states to work with teachers, university professors, and USDA conservationists on soil education materials and teaching equipment. Mr. Ferguson has donated a tremendous amount of time and effort in assistance to the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit and has volunteered over 300 hours last year at the exhibit interacting with more than 10,000 visitors and training docents that have reached thousands more. During a recent trip to South Africa, Mr. Ferguson provided a set of runoff/infiltration models to a crop consultant company for use in their workshops. Mr. Ferguson exemplifies the Society's mission of fostering the art of natural resource conservation.

Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award is given to Society members in recognition of distinguished service in helping the Society to develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time.

Robert A. Bird

The Society is pleased to present an Outstanding Service Award to Mr. Bird from the North Dakota Chapter of SWCS. Mr. Bird is a retired civil engineer from the USDA-NRCS with a long and distinguished record of service to the Society holding leadership positions in three SWCS Chapters; North Dakota, Illinois, and Minnesota.. His efforts to plan, design, and construct conservation practices have had a lasting impact on conservation of natural resources. His long and outstanding service to the Society and to conservation practices in three states earns him this Outstanding Service Award.

Christoph M. Gross

The Society is pleased to present an Outstanding Service Award to Mr. Gross from the SWCS Maryland Old Line Chapter. Mr. Gross is unmatched in his dedication to nutrient management and service to the Society. His record of service to the Society begins with membership as an undergraduate student and continues to today in SWCS program activities and training opportunities. His commitment toward technology tool development in the area of natural resource assessment and nutrient management, along with his service to the Society, earn him this outstanding service award.

Commendation Award

The Commendation Award gives international recognition to Society members for service to their chapter or council of chapters.

Kristin Brennan

The experiences of Ms. Brennan have ranged from Wisconsin to west and central North Dakota to soil survey details in the states of Oregon and Wyoming. These positions covered a wide range of terrain, climates, people; and soil conditions, practices and programs. She brings this experience in a short time to work with Society members from the State of North Dakota. While getting her undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, she was an active SWCS member and today serves as President-Elect.

In addition to participating on multiple planning committees, Ms. Brennan has assisted with updating the chapter display and other promotional materials for membership recruitment. In 2007, she was awarded the North Dakota SWCS Chapter Horizon Award which recognizes active, young professionals in the first 10 years of their membership. Her enthusiasm and work ethic inspires other young members to get involved.

Ann Fischer

Ms. Fischer's service to the Montana Chapter began on 2004 when she volunteered to serve on the Planning Committee for the Chapter's Annual Conference. She has gone on to serve on every Planning Committee since that time. She has chaired the Conference Planning Committee several times, including the 2009 conference dedicated to soil quality, where she helped select the speakers from her vast network of fellow conservationists who are learning and promoting the virtues cover crops and soil health.

Ms. Fischer not only promotes soil health, she lives it. She and her family are actively incorporating cover crops, no-till, and residue management into their farming operation. She has served as President of the Montana SWCS Chapter. During this time, she was instrumental in securing Montana as the host for a Regional SWCS Technical Conference. Ms. Fischer's leadership and devotion to the Montana Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is truly appreciated.

Larry S. Holmes

Mr. Holmes has been an SWCS leader since joining the Society in 1990. He joined as an active member of the Maryland Old Line Chapter. When his career took him to Washington DC, he joined the National Capital Chapter, where he has served as treasurer since 2000. Mr. Holmes has taken an active role in many of the chapter's events, such as the spring and fall tours. He always encourages attendance and helps with logistics such as meals and transportation. Mr. Holmes quiet nature suits him well as the always reliable member and treasurer of the National Capital Chapter. The Society is pleased to recognize Mr. Holmes continued effort with the Commendation Award.

J. Eric Scherer

Mr. Scherer has been instrumental in developing the executive director position for the Southern New England Chapter resulting in the chapter moving forward with planned activities. Mr. Scherer had led the Board through chapter bylaw updates and expansion of the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control/Certified Erosion, Sediment and Stormwater Inspectors and Certified Professionals in Stormwater Quality Review sessions and proctored exams. This professional development effort and a winter meeting wetlands conference provided individuals with needed review sessions, exams, and registered individuals for their respective certified programs. Mr. Scherer has also provided leadership in officer positions for the Southern New England SWCS Chapter and the International Erosion Control Association.

Ernest H. Thurlow

Mr. Thurlow has been an active and respected Chapter officer since 1999. In 1989, Mr. Thurlow was the first New Jersey Soil Conservation District Employee to become a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist (CPESC). He coordinated and instructed the first CPESC workshop in New Jersey and continued to sponsor and instruct the workshop for the next 18 years. Promoting and instructing CPESC workshops, combined with the past nine years of service as the Secretary to the Firman E. Bear Chapter, have been a valuable contribution to promoting conservation in New Jersey.

President's Leadership Award

The SWCS President's Leadership Award is given at the discretion of the SWCS President in recognition of exemplary assistance to the President in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Mary Miller

Ms. Miller made numerous contributions to the success of the Society while she served with distinction on the SWCS Board of Directors as the Northern Plains Regional Director from June 2007 through February 2010. Her wise counsel was critical for a number of important decisions. She served as Vice President at an important time for the Society.

Mary helped to chart a new course for the Society as Chair of the Membership Development and Marketing Committee. The strategies that are in process will help to bring the message of the Society to a new audience and reach our current clientele in a more effective manner. Ms. Miller was also a reliable member of the Executive Director Selection Committee. Her contributions to the Society are truly noteworthy and deserving in every way of the President's Leadership Award.

Kelly Goward and Sarah VanDelfzijl

As co-chairs of the Michigan Chapter's local arrangements committee, Ms. Goward (Ottawa and Allegan Conservation Districts) and Ms. VanDelfzijl (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) assembled and led an outstanding team effort to support the International Annual Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, held on July 11–15, 2009. These past presidents committed more than two years of preparation to the event. Their leadership team was successful in developing and delivering eight amazing local tours and enlisting tour organizers, hosting a very successful silent auction, coordinating volunteers and moderators, recruiting speakers, and assisting in coordinating the Emerald Ash Borer Fellows Forum. The entire team from Michigan is deserving of recognition and thanks, but the Society specifically thanks Ms. Goward and Ms. VanDelfzijl for their extra efforts in making the Dearborn conference a success.

Bill Hargrove

Mr. Hargrove (University of Texas-El Paso) served as lead organizer and chair of the planning committee for “From Dust Bowl to Mud Bowl: Sedimentation, Conservation Measures and the Future of Reservoirs” conference which was held in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 14–16, 2009. Coupling support from Kansas State University, USDA-CSREES, USDA-ARS, and the Society; he assembled a team that was dedicated to producing a meeting that addressed the protection and conservation of reservoirs, a critical water resource in much of the United States. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to tie ongoing and needed research, extension, and education in conservation practices directly to the health and sustainability of reservoirs. He also led the process and was primary author of the post-event “Conference Echoes” summary that appeared in the January/February 2010 issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

Mike Woodside

As the lead volunteer of the “Science to Solutions: Reducing Nutrient Export to the Gulf of Mexico” workshop, Mr. Woodside's (U.S. Geological Survey) leadership and guidance were crucial in putting together this interactive forum for managers, policy makers, and scientists held on December 10–11, 2009, in Des Moines, Iowa. His creativity in scheduling and problem solving, his technical expertise, and his extensive network of contacts were central in delivering a successful meeting during the worst blizzard in 30 years in Des Moines. The Society thanks him for his service in what were some of the most trying circumstances imaginable for a meeting.

Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Awards

Research Paper Award for Impact and Quality

The Research Paper Award for Impact and Quality recognizes the impact and quality of a research paper published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous 5 years. The 2010 award and honorable mention are given to the following papers:

The Winner

Gregory, J.H., Dukes, M.D., Jones, P.H., Miller, G.L. 2006. Effect of urban soil compaction on infiltration rate. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 61(3):117-124.

The Honorable Mention

Kitchen, N.R., Sudduth, K.A., Myers, D.B., Massey, R.E., Sadler, E.J., Lerch, R.N., Hummel, J.W., Palm, H.L. 2005. Development of a conservation-oriented precision agriculture system: Crop production assessment and plan implementation. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 60(6):421-430.

Editor's Choice Award

The Editor's Choice Award recognizes articles of excellence appearing in the A Section of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous year.

The Winner

Ted L. Napier

Napier, T.D. 2009. Grain scarcity: A new era for conservation policies and programs. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 64(1):7A-10A

Ted L. Napier is a professor of environmental policy in the Department of Human and Community Resource Development in the Environmental Science Graduate Program and in the School of Natural Resources at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Napier is the 2008 recipient of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Award.

The Honorable Mention

Kenneth R. Olson

Olson, K.R. 2009. Impacts of 2008 flooding on agricultural lands in Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 64(6):167A-171A

Kenneth R. Olson is professor of soil science in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Chapter Awards

Chapter Professional Development Award

The West Virginia Chapter is recognized as a 2009 Professional Development Chapter Award recipient for Chapters with 75 or fewer members.

The **West Virginia Chapter** is commended for pursuing the mission of the SWCS through enhancing the capabilities of conservationists through training and professional development. The West Virginia Chapter provided both technical seminars and field tours highlighting a range of technical issues designed to educate conservation professionals and the public. They partnered with multiple entities to provide professional training in irrigation, reforestation, forage management, endangered species and cultural resources.

The Alabama Chapter is to be recognized as a 2009 Professional Development Chapter Award recipient for Chapters with over 75 members.

The **Alabama Chapter** is commended for pursuing the mission of the SWCS by continuing to strive to improve the practice of conservation by fostering the development of state-of-the-art conservation practices and systems as well as improving conservation policy by bringing science and professional judgment to bear in shaping conservation policy. The Alabama Chapter provided educational seminars in erosion and water quality issues, continued to provide conservation professionals an opportunity to prepare for and be certified through the CPESC program, and planning and hosting "Managing our Natural Resources for the Future" annual chapter conference.

Sustained Performance

Region 2: South Carolina Chapter

The South Carolina Chapter is recommended for the 2009 Sustained Performance Award for continued high performance over the past five years. The Chapter has planned and conducted 17 symposia reaching over 1,000 members and nonmembers.

These symposia provided educational information and the latest technology on issues such as Conservation Partnerships, Utilizing Natural Resources in Development, Low Impact Development, Renewable Energy, Biodiesel Fuels, Basics of Precision Farming, Simple Farming to Save Money, Farming Naturally, Basics of Stormwater Management, and Instructions for Engineers, Developers, Planners, and others in designing Low Impact Development features. The Chapter provides six to eight scholarships annually to students furthering their education in natural resources related fields. They strive to keep professionals informed on current natural resource issues, legislation, and needed certification and are recognized among other agencies, public officials, and citizens for providing leadership in soil and water conservation related issues. The Chapter actively sustains itself through regular regional and statewide meetings and planning and implementing their annual work plan.

Region 4: Hoosier Chapter (Indiana)

The Hoosier Chapter has a rich history in soil and water conservation in Indiana. This is largely imparted by all the dedicated Chapter members. The Chapter's very active committees help pursue this excellence through their activities and through the implementation of the Chapter's strategic plan. The offering of an annual \$1,000 scholarship, members recognized nationally for their outstanding achievements, and nine educational and technical workshops hosted over the past five years covering topics such as Changing Weather Patterns and Conservation, Energizing Indiana's Water Community, Emerging Forestry Issues, the Fine Art of Grazing and Biofuels, the Floods of 2008, Two-Stage Ditches, and the new A Matter of Balance: Soil and Policy/Economics/Climate Change/Public Demand workshop, as well as active participation in the Indiana Conservation Alliance, are all good examples of why the Hoosier Chapter deserves the 2009 Sustained Performance Award.

Region 6: Wyoming Chapter

The Wyoming Chapter is recognized with a Sustained Performance Award in 2009. The Wyoming Chapter continues to present very successful technical workshops on critical natural resource issues utilizing diverse partnerships with neighboring SWCS chapters and conservation organizations and businesses, while providing educational opportunities to fellow members and the general public. These events are well planned with timely topics and are well attended. The Chapter has been faithful in giving scholarships to college students enrolled in a natural resource major and in contributing to the National Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. Of special note, over 2,000 students receive an Earth Day bracelet and accompanying lesson each year, and the Chapter sponsors five state 4-H awards which are presented at the Wyoming State Fair each August.

Chapter Achievement

Region 2: South Carolina

In 2009, the South Carolina Chapter conducted a one-day symposium intended to provide information to farmers and soil and water conservation professionals on simple ways to save money on the farm. The workshop provided innovative and proven methods of saving money, as well as new technology in using agriculture products in farm production in the most efficient way. The activity succeeded in generating income for the Chapter as well as providing very good information to the many Chapter members and nonmembers that attended the session. The Chapter is recognized for their timely action on a topic important to our economic well being.

Region 4: All Ohio Chapter

The All-Ohio Chapter demonstrated significant achievement with their 2009 program which identified the surging public interest in "recession gardens" and Society's growing concern over where and how their food is produced and turned that into a timely technical session for resource professionals. The session highlighted sustainability and conservation and its tie directly to food. Approximately 45 participants were provided with new insight and information on local food systems, public trends in organic food, direct farm-to-public food production, marketing of fresh vegetables and bison to Cleveland's farmers markets, and a local RC&D project that encourages new bee keepers. The Chapter is applauded for this important well-timed professional development activity.

Region 5: Iowa

The Iowa Chapter is recognized with the 2009 Achievement Award for one of the most creative ways ever to get a conservation message out to new audiences. In 2009, the Chapter hosted the conservation tent at the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) – a well-publicized bicycle event that attracts over 10,000 bicyclists from all over the country as well as other countries. Along with conservation partners, the Chapter provides free bananas and conservation-themed postcards to the bicyclists. This year, the Chapter installed six permanent conservation signs along the route to feature conservation practices to be viewed by the bicyclists as they rode across southern Iowa. Volunteers were also on hand to demonstrate conservation tools such as a stream table and rainfall simulator at the tent, as well as to address questions about conservation and agriculture. Volunteers also put stickers on riders stating, "I got my banana peeled at the Iowa conservation tent." And... don't worry about the waste—the Chapter also collected the banana peels for composting. The site is so popular that bicycle riders in banana suits make it a point to stop at the conservation tent each day to sing their corny songs to our audience.

Region 6: South Dakota

The South Dakota Chapter is recognized with a 2009 Achievement Award for carrying out a major educational activity for youth in partnership with the Association of Conservation Districts, NRCS, and the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation. This activity allowed 1,600 students, ages 6 to 13, on 65 campuses throughout South Dakota a very creative "hands-on" approach to understanding the dynamics of soils. The Chapter's involvement was significant in collecting the soils from all over the state, assembling the painting kits, training the summer interns who would present the soils lessons and soil painting activities, and making the kits available to conservation districts. Though the real impact of activities such as these is unknown, the Chapter believes it is important to take every chance to educate youth about the importance of soils in our daily lives. The Chapter's received recognition in NRCS publications and local newspapers for this exceptional activity. Note: The art of painting with soil (developed by Jan Lang, NRCS Physical Science Technician in Nebraska) was introduced in 2004 as part of the NRCS Soils Planner to promote the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

Outstanding Chapter Recommendations

Region 2: South Carolina

The South Carolina Chapter is recognized for their significant accomplishments during 2009. The Chapter has taken huge steps to connect their membership electronically to keep them involved and connected through regular emails and their website. The South Carolina members are very generous in providing seven scholarships totaling \$8,000, along with several conservation education grants. In 2009, the Chapter conducted three professional development events for nearly 250 members and nonmembers on topics such as stormwater management, the importance of open space and greenways during development, using natural resources during development, and land protection. They worked closely with other conservation organizations and the media to ensure these events were a success. The Chapter also continues to help organize and support the state Envirothon contest. Through these activities, the South Carolina Chapter has demonstrated that it is deserving of an Outstanding Chapter award.

Region 3: Alabama

Alabama is recognized as an Outstanding Chapter for 2009 for their efforts in sustaining and growing membership, developing communications, supporting students via science fairs and student chapters, and promoting developments in resource conservation in Alabama at their annual meeting. They sponsored two courses and exams for the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control program in 2009, with 20 of the 30 participants taking the exam. Their three-day annual meeting focused on Energy and Water Development for Alabama through presentations, technical sessions, and tours. The topics included innovations in natural resource and energy management and "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," along with field trips to view local water treatment, highway construction conservation initiatives, and a bio-energy production demonstration by the Auburn University Center. And that's not all—for more information about the Chapter's activities visit their Web site, <http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu>.

Region 4: Michigan

The Michigan Chapter is recognized for its outstanding efforts in 2009 to provide professional development opportunities for both members and non members. The most notable achievement was the Chapter's successful hosting of the 2009 SWCS Annual Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, with more than 500 individuals in attendance. In 2009, the Chapter also continued its "A Matter of Balance" series of technical sessions (first started in 2007) with the workshop entitled *Policy/Economics/Climate Change/Public Demand*. With 47 total participants, the "A Matter of Balance" workshops continue to be well received by resource professionals in the state. Michigan continued great annual efforts in 2009, such as Highway Clean-Up, Chapter Newsletter, FFA Land Judging, and Chapter Awards Presentations. In addition, they debuted new efforts such as the Michigan Chapter SWCS website, showcasing why Michigan is truly an outstanding chapter.

Scholarship Recipients

The Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship

The Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarships provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of full-time undergraduate study or are pursuing graduate level studies with a natural resource conservation orientation at a properly accredited college or university.

Kaylissa Horton of Carlisle, IN. Kaylissa is currently enrolled at Western Kentucky University and majoring in agronomy and biology minor. She is a first generation college student and is in her third year of interning for AgReliant Genetics. Kaylissa plans to go on to graduate school to study plant pathology.

Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship

The Kenneth E. Grant Scholarship provides financial aid to members of SWCS for graduate-level research on a specific conservation topic that will extend the SWCS mission of fostering the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. SWCS actively promotes multidisciplinary research.

Craig Smith, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, was selected by the committee to be this year's recipient of the Grant Scholarship. His research proposal is titled, "An economically efficient approach for targeting conservation practices to reduce the impact of sedimentation and improve water quality".

The Soil and Water Conservation Society would like to thank the members of the following committees for their services:

Awards Committee
JSWC Editorial Board
Leadership Development Committee
Professional Development Committee