

# Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

# Healthy Land Clean Water For Life



## From the President

I was fortunate enough to attend a great training session this year for leaders of environmental or conservation organizations. It was called “Managing in Hard Times,” and it was presented by the Institute for Conservation Leadership. The workshop was well presented, and the information was very valuable. However, the bottom line that I came away with is that the Board of Directors and staff at SWCS are already doing the management practices outlined in the training:

1. Plan for hard times before they arrive
2. Assess your financial situation
3. Explore your options
4. Follow a good decision-making process
5. Manage yourself

We have spent a year in search of an Executive Director, but the predecessor had the wisdom to incorporate a comptroller into the SWCS staffing plan. Comptroller Jody Ogg does an excellent job and has been the glue holding our bottom line at SWCS. As I learned in this valuable training, many organizations do not have a comptroller or a budget officer to help manage and track the long-term financial goals and objectives of an organization. Armed with this information, the Board of Directors has been doing long-term strategic planning to redirect funds and diversify our revenue streams over the past several years. As with all organizations and individuals, we have taken a hit on our investments, but we are very stable and are moving forward with some new initiatives in the next year when we add a new Executive Director and continue to strive towards our mission.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society is an organization you can be proud of and confident in to advance the science and art of natural resource conservation.

**Peggie James**



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© 2009 by the Soil and Water Conservation Society. All rights reserved. This annual report covers the period April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009. For more information, please contact the society at 515-289-2331 or [swcs@swcs.org](mailto:swcs@swcs.org). The summary of SWCS activities presented in this document was compiled in good faith. Any errors or omissions are with regret.

## Who We Are

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization that serves as an advocate for natural resource professionals and for science-based conservation policy. SWCS fosters the science and art of soil, water, and environmental management on working lands to achieve sustainability.

SWCS includes over 5,000 members around the world. Society members promote and practice an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and their environment.



## Board of Directors

(as of March 31, 2009)

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**Sue Ann Lynes**

Executive Assistant/Corporate Membership

**Jody Ogg**

Comptroller

**Jacqueline Pohl**

Editorial Assistant

## Annual Conference

The 2008 International Annual Conference was held in Tucson, Arizona, on July 26-30, 2008. This conference was one of the best attended in years, with nearly 650 registered attendees. Highlights from the conference included the Pritchard Lecture, which showcased the opening of “Dig It! The Secrets of Soil” by the Soil Science Society of America and the National Museum of Natural History; an urgently convened symposium on conservation issues related to the Midwest floods; the Second Annual NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants Showcase; a networking/social night event at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; and a special plenary session discussing the National Research Council’s report on “Water Implications of Biofuel Production in the United States.” Following the conference was a special workshop on Getting the Water Right, which explored connections between hydrology, climate change, and the bioeconomy.



Barbara Stauffer at the Pritchard Lecture. Exhibit Developer for the Dig It! The Secrets of Soil exhibit, National Museum of Natural History.



Mike Sucik, Iowa Chapter, at the State of the Society Town Hall meeting.



Networking/Social event at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.



Exhibitors had lots of opportunities to demonstrate their products.

## Farming with Grass Conference

The Farming with Grass conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on October 20-22, 2008. The conference and subsequent publication was well received by presenters and attendees. There were 115 registrants, including 41 poster presenters and 16 participants giving lead or perspective presentations. Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Gale Buchanan, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, US Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Fred Kirschenmann, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University. The summary session was from Dr. Jean Steiner, ARS Grazinglands Research Lab, El Reno, Oklahoma. There were participants from 30 states with international participation from Canada. Jean Steiner served as the conference organizer for the event, Alan Franzluebbers chaired the program committee, and Mark Anderson-Wilk and Oksana Gieseman managed the editing and review process for the postconference publication. The postconference publication—the e-book *Farming with Grass: Achieving Sustainable Mixed Agricultural Landscapes*—was published in March 2009.

## Journal of Soil and Water Conservation



We are pleased to announce the launch of our online journal: <http://www.jswconline.org>. The online option provides access to all JSWC journals back to 1981. The online journal should increase the visibility, use, and citation of the journal internationally. We also have moved to an online manuscript review system.

Published since 1946, the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is the society's flagship publication, with a circulation to over 6,000 individuals and libraries worldwide. The journal serves as an important international multidisciplinary forum to promote creative thinking and investigation of conservation issues.

The journal has two sections designed to engage a diverse readership: a front section containing features, perspectives, and articles on practice, and a research section containing peer-reviewed applied research papers.

## Corporate Membership

The SWCS corporate membership program provides organizations the opportunity for increased national and international visibility and identification with land and water conservation causes. SWCS corporate members also have the opportunity to be involved in policy development within the society.

SWCS is pleased to recognize the following organizations as corporate members and partners in the effort to advance natural resource conservation and environmental sustainability.

### CORPORATE MEMBERS

**Gold Corporate Member:** Agri Drain Corporation

**Silver Corporate Members:** Agren Inc.; BSA LifeStructures; Erosion Tech Inc.; MACE USA LLC; and Validus Services LLC

**Bronze Corporate Members:** Ag Business Consultants; Agricultural Engineering Services PLLC; Agrowknowledge; Alliant Energy Corporation; EnSave Inc.; Horizon Wind Energy; Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Logiag Inc.; The Nature Conservancy; RPM Ecosystems LLC; Stock Seed Farms; Truax Company Inc.; White River Irrigation District

For more information, please call 1-800-THE-SOIL or email [corporate@swcs.org](mailto:corporate@swcs.org).

## Special Projects and Activities

### **Mini Blue Ribbon Panel for the First CEAP Croplands Modeling Report**

As part of our ongoing work and partnerships on the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) asked the Soil and Water Conservation Society to establish a panel of reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the report “Assessment of the Effects and Benefits of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin” prior to publication. A subset of panelists from the earlier Blue Ribbon Panel on CEAP met in December 2008 to hear presentations on the report. Longtime society member Jeff Zinn served as chair of the panel, and a letter was delivered to NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster with the panel’s recommendations. We have continued to coordinate with the NRCS staff throughout the editing process of the report and are working with the panel to continue to provide support as necessary. Below is the list of panelists involved in this project:

- Sandra Batie, Michigan State University
- Craig Cox, Environmental Working Group
- Otto Doering, Purdue
- Krysta Harden, National Association of Conservation Districts
- Dewayne Johnson, Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Pete Nowak, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Bob Stewart, West Texas A&M University
- Mary Watzin, University of Vermont
- Jeff Zinn, formerly with the Congressional Research Service (now retired)

## Professional Development/Continuing Education Projects

### **Distance Learning Greenhouse Gas Reporting Training Module**

SWCS continued to provide support for USDA NRCS and Iowa State University to develop and deliver an online training module for the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases for Agriculture. Evaluation of opportunities from the 2008 SWCS Annual Conference put the highest priority (and potential for success) on transforming the workshops into fee-based distance learning courses.

### **SWCS Career Center (Job Board)**

In mid-February, SWCS launched a new interactive job board: the SWCS Career Center. With its focus on the conservation community, agencies, organizations, and professionals, the SWCS Career Center offers SWCS members—and the conservation community as a whole—an easy-to-use and highly targeted resource for online employment connections. Both members and nonmembers can use the SWCS Career Center to reach qualified candidates.

### **SWCS Mentor Program**

The creation of this program and its March 2009 launch is almost entirely due to the diligence of Student Board Member Colby Moorberg. The Mentor Program, as developed, is a self-driven section of the SWCS Network where student members and young professionals entering the conservation field can connect with more experienced conservationists for career advice, guidance on getting involved locally, and making connections in the conservation community.

## Grassroots/Chapter Action

SWCS has 75 chapters across the United States and Canada. The local chapters undertake a diverse set of grassroots activities.

A few examples of SWCS chapter activities in the past year are listed here:

**The Colorado Chapter** hosted the Impact of Energy Development on Soil and Water Resources conference. The goals of this unique conference were to educate conservation professionals and the public about upcoming energy issues and coal-bed methane production. Throughout the year, the Colorado Chapter provided both technical seminars and field tours highlighting a range of technical issues. The Colorado Chapter partnered with other professional organizations to strengthen their chapter's professional development program.

**The New Mexico Chapter** along with other partners successfully established and implemented the Environthon program in the state. The chapter played a key role in promoting, organizing, sponsoring, and implementing the educational event. Students completed months of learning and competition in real-life problem solving and natural resources; they gained hands-on experience and direction for a possible future career. Clearly, the New Mexico Chapter has a heartfelt dedication to youth education and is to be congratulated for bringing this program to the state.

**The Arizona Chapter** was recognized for its outstanding efforts to host the 2008 Annual SWCS Conference. The

chapter organized and conducted eight conservation tours, including BHP Copper Mine, Kartchner Caverns, Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed, and Aspen Fire Restoration tour of the Catalina Mountains. The chapter was commended for its extensive use of partnerships to carry out this successful professional development event.

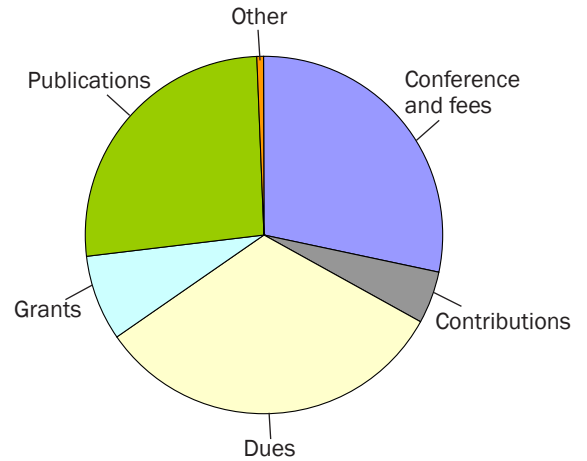
**The National Capital Chapter**, in collaboration with the Society of American Foresters, engaged in support activities for the new soils exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Members volunteered at the Smithsonian's exhibit table during the National Harbor Food and Wine Festival, volunteers were recruited to conduct the grand opening activities, the chapter coordinated volunteers and educational activities for the exhibit's grand opening and provided refreshments for all volunteers, and volunteers donned a Sammy Soil costume to engage the public in the rotunda to promote the exhibit. Members continue to volunteer as docents for ongoing educational activities at the exhibit.

**The British Columbia Chapter** engaged in activities that focused on raising awareness of soil issues in a rugged landscape, the Agricultural Land Reserve, and the threats to local foodlands. The chapter partnered with the Agricultural Land Reserve Protection and Enhancement Committee and organized a guided bike tour of Barnston Island, an isolated agricultural area in otherwise urban landscape. The chapter is working on a Soil Conservation Awareness document for the province, which focuses on legislative protection of scarce soil resources.

## Financial Summary

### INCOME

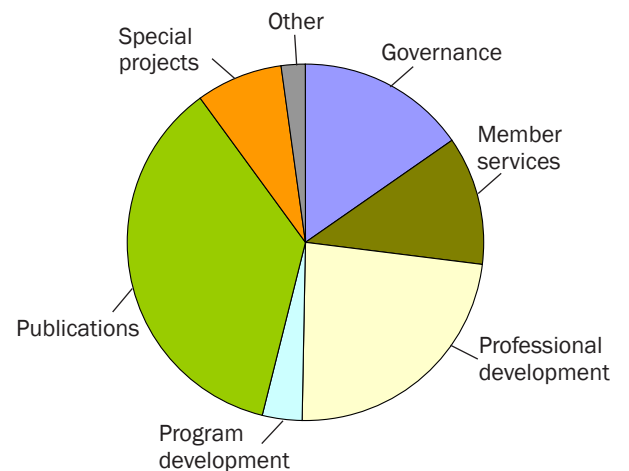
	2008-2009*	2007-2008*
Conferences and fees	313,675	230,456
Contributions	51,407	22,944
Dues	353,380	354,169
Grants	87,896	282,344
Investment income	(277,243)	(29,542)
Publications	290,540	281,364
Other	6,063	11,513
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$825,718</b>	<b>\$1,153,248</b>



Income April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009.

### EXPENSES

	2008-2009*	2007-2008*
Governance	171,388	172,133
Member services	134,777	119,852
Professional development	264,281	205,489
Program development	38,232	45,237
Publications	408,927	325,943
Special projects	87,896	232,655
Other	26,075	32,701
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,131,576</b>	<b>\$1,134,010</b>



Expenses April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009.

\*For the annual period April 1 to March 31.

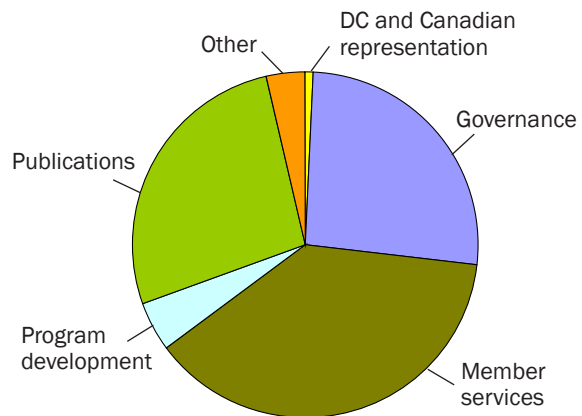
# Financial Summary

## NET ASSETS

	2008-2009*	2007-2008*
Beginning of year	1,718,849	1,576,009
End of year	1,410,491	1,718,849
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$(308,358)</b>	<b>\$142,840</b>

## WHAT DUES SUPPORTED

	2008-2009*
DC and Canadian representation	3,146
Governance	91,837
Member services	133,937
Program development	16,376
Publications	94,983
Other	13,101
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$353,380</b>



What Dues Supported April 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009.

\*For the annual period April 1 to March 31.

## Awards and Honors

**SWCS is pleased to present the following awards.**



Dr. Napier has devoted over four decades to understanding the socioeconomics and public policy aspects of soil and water conservation. During his career, he has focused on conservation at the local, state, national, and international levels.

He dedicates his personal and professional life to advancing the art and science of soil and water conservation. His eloquent, influential, and sometimes controversial presentations are remembered by many and have shown his ability to foster the art of conservation.

The SWCS awards its most prestigious award, the 2008 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, to Dr. Ted Napier with highest regard and respect for his passion, integrity, and professionalism.

### 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.

**2008 Recipient: Ted Napier**

### FELLOW AWARD

The designation of Fellow is conferred on society members who have performed exceptional professional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

**2008 Recipients: Gary A. Peterson, Michael D. Collins, Margaret (Peg) Reese, Robert E. Ball**

### HAROLD AND KAY SCHOLL EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION AWARD

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

**2008 Recipient: Robert (Bob) Gray**

## Member Recognition

SWCS's most valuable resource is its members. The list of names is too long to print here, but it is these people who make the society what it is. We'd like to acknowledge those who have made the commitment to be a member at the President's Club and Leader levels. Visit [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org) to become a member today!

### **PRESIDENT'S CLUB**

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Ira Linville  
Amy Lockwood  
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Melvin Womack  
Larry Wright  
Charles Wright  
Don Wysocki  
Jeffrey Zimprich  
Jeffrey Zinn  
Ted Zobeck

### **LEADERS**

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Herbert Andrick  
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Lori Bataller  
David Beck  
Brian Benham  
Peter Black  
Daniel Blatter  
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Astor Boozer  
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Jerry Hattan  
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Eugene Hausner  
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Ronald Hensler

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Stuart Lawson	Earl Norton	Donald Schuster	Dana York
Patricia Leavenworth	Thomas O'Connor	Ross Scott	James Zeigler
William Lee	Valerie Oksendahl	Patricia Sharman	

## Recognition of Contributions

SWCS is deeply grateful to all the people who have generously donated to the society to support soil and water conservation. Visit [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org) or call 1-800-THE-SOIL (1-800-843-7645) to make your contribution.

### CONTRIBUTIONS \$5,001+

Anonymous Donor \$25,000

### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$151 TO \$5,000

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Don Wysocki  
Thomas Van Horn  
Desiderio Zamudio  
Vincent Zutz

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*People who donate to SWCS  
through the Combined*

*Federal Campaign may  
designate whether they want  
to donate anonymously.  
Those individuals who  
released their names are  
as follows:*

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Edward Biggers, Jr.  
Ross Braun  
Anthony Burns  
Jessica Cruz  
Randy Davis  
Sarah Desanto  
Frances Elliot  
Wendy Fewster  
Jonathan Gerken  
Lon Gross  
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