

## 2005 OKLAHOMA SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2005 annual conference was held in historic Guthrie, Oklahoma on June 22 – 24. Conference activities began Wednesday evening with a 2 – person scramble golf tournament held at the 18 hole Executive Par 3 course west of town. In a very close finish requiring a two hole playoff, the team of Victor Slowik and Clark Williams defeated the team of Steve Elsener and Jamey Wood to win 1st place.

The technical conference was held Thursday morning and afternoon at the Berk Fellowship Hall. Several interesting speakers discussed a myriad of topics including goats, fish, Oklahoma State University Extension programs, the Noble Foundation, the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Southern Plains Agriculture Resources Coalition.

Family night activities began at the conclusion of the technical conference. The first activity was a narrated

trolley tour of the historic homes and buildings of Guthrie. Awards were announced following dinner provided by the ladies of the Zion Lutheran Church. After the awards were announced, SWCS members and their families meet at 89er Bowl for an evening of bowling.

The conference concluded Friday morning with the technical tour held at Langston University. The first stop was at the aquaculture research ponds. The group learned about the research being conducted and got to watch fish being harvested from one of the ponds. The next stop was at the E. Kiki De la Garza American Institute for Goat Research. After touring the goat research facilities we were given the opportunity to sample goat milk ice cream, goat cheese, and goat meat jerky. The final stop was at the buck performance test where we saw the automatic scales and feeders used for the testing.



Jabree Wood meeting a new friend



1st Place golf team



Family night at 89er Bowl



Fish harvest during the technical tour

## 2005 OKLAHOMA SWCS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Two students from Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) received \$500 scholarships from the Oklahoma Soil & Water Conservation Society during the annual conference in Guthrie this past summer. The Oklahoma SWCS scholarship is available to students majoring in agriculture at all of Oklahoma's Colleges and Universities. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic performance and desire to pursue careers in the area of soil and water conservation.

The first recipient was Crystal Ashalintubbi. Crystal is from Eagletown and received her Associates degree in Agronomy this past spring. At EOSC, she maintained a 3.86 GPA and was a member of the soils judging team. She plans on attending Oklahoma State University this fall and will be majoring in Soil Science.

The second recipient was Sky Storey. Sky is from Haworth and received his Associates degree in Agricultural Education. He was on the soils judging team at EOSC and was high individual at the national contest. He had a 3.81 GPA at EOSC and will start working on a degree in Agricultural Education at Oklahoma State University this fall.

## SOIL PAINTING WORKSHOPS

The Tallgrass RC&D provided a grant so that soil painting workshops could be held in Tulsa, Washington, Rogers, and Payne Counties. So far, these workshops, "Painting with Oklahoma Soils" have reached many artists, school teachers, and Native American tribal organizations with exciting hands-on activities. The project brings together people of all ages to explore Oklahoma soils and hardwood trees. Personal experiences are shared through soil science, conservation and cultural diversity. SWCS member Carolyn Mathews and Woody Baldwin are available to provide workshops for school children, art and humanity councils, garden centers and historical societies. They can be contacted at 918-245-2855 or 918-280-1595.

## UPCOMING EVENT

2nd Annual SWCS Scholarship Fundraiser Tailgate Party

The Oklahoma Chapter of SWCS is planning a Tailgate Party prior to the OSU game against the Missouri Tigers on Saturday, October 8, 2005.

The festivities will begin 3 hours before game time unless it is an 11 a.m. start. If the game is at 11 a.m. the tailgate will be immediately following the game. The location will be at the picnic table on the west side of the State USDA Office. Parking is available in any USDA parking lot (east and south of the state office). The Oklahoma Chapter of SWCS is sponsoring this event and will provide hamburgers. In the spirit of a good tailgate please bring chairs, tables and whatever else you want for a good time.

The tailgate is free but donations will be accepted to support our scholarship fund. All SWCS members and guests are welcome. Come and join the fun, even if you are not going to the game.

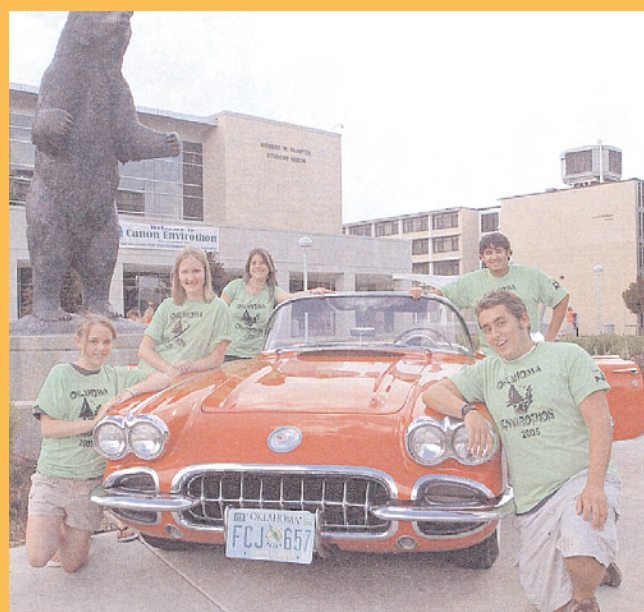
## CHAPTER NAME CHANGE

New name – same great Chapter. As voted on unanimously by the membership, our Chapter Bylaws have been changed to reflect our new name – the Oklahoma Chapter. The All-Oklahoma name was reminiscent of the combination of chapters within the state into a single state chapter. With the passage of time, that distinction became less significant as we grew to become a single strong state chapter.

## 2005 OKLAHOMA EVIROTHON COMPETITION

Edmond North High School was the winning team of the 2005 Oklahoma Envirothon competition held April 6 – 8 at the Sky Ranch near Wyandotte. Team members included (left to right) Liz Schwab, Amanda Plewes, Jerra Clifton, Michael Yannarell, William Wood. Team advisors were Debbie Allen and Gloria Harper. This team attended the International Cannon Envirothon held at Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, July 18-24, 2005. The rankings for the Oklahoma Team at the 2005 Canon Envirothon were: aquatics 20th, forestry 22nd, soils 16th, wildlife 29th, cultural landscapes 34th, and oral presentation 43rd, which made them 34th overall.

The 2006 Oklahoma Envirothon will be held on April 3-5, 2006 at the OU Biological Station on Lake Texoma. The 2006 Canon Envirothon will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada on July 23-29, 2006.



## OKLAHOMA SWCS HAS A WEBSITE!!!

Our new website address is: <http://oklahoma.swcs.org> .

If anyone has pictures to add or comments about the site contact Tyson Morley at [Tyson.Morley@ok.usda.gov](mailto:Tyson.Morley@ok.usda.gov) .

Check it out today!



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# NEWSLETTER

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY  ALL-OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

## OKLAHOMA WELL REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK

Our Oklahoma Chapter made a strong showing at the 2005 International Soil and Water Conservation Society's Annual Conference in Rochester, New York on the shores of Lake Ontario. Attendees included Chris Stoner, Past-President, Brandy Pietz, President-Elect, Larry Wright, Southwest Regional Director, and Dr. Jean Steiner who was recently re-elected as President of the International Society and one Oklahoma State University student, Melissa Molzahn. Also in attendance as presenters were Dean Graumann, a no-till farmer from Greer County, Chuck Willoughby, Business Planning and Market Specialist at OSU, and Jin-Song Chen a researcher at the ARS Grazinglands Research Station in El Reno. Former Oklahomans and past members of our Chapter also attended. These include Becky Ross from Virginia and Chuck Stanley from Texas.



Oklahoma Chapter Members Past and Present in Rochester: Larry Wright, Chuck Stanley, Becky Ross, Jean Steiner, Bert Allen Steiner, Brandy Pietz, and Chris Stoner

Our Chapter was recognized with two awards at the Awards Luncheon. These were "Outstanding Chapter" for 2004 and "Sustained Performance" for our work with the National Land and Range Judging Competition. Becky Ross also received a Commendation Award.



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