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Conservogram gets new look, new format

We are pleased to debut a brand new look for the monthly *Conservogram* in pdf format. Restrictive email security and spam blockers were beginning to affect delivery of the previous electronic format and there was not enough flexibility with features that would allow use of graphics. This new format now allows us to provide a full-color newsletter complete with photos and graphics that can be easily emailed, printed, and archived for future use.

Tell us what you think, what more you'd like to see, and remember to send in your member and chapter news. Together, we'll make the *Conservogram* membership's first source for Society news and communication!

**Board members meet in Ankeny
Site change due to water damage**

The annual Board of Directors meeting was held April 3-4 in Ankeny, but was moved off-site due to unexpected water damage to the lower level of headquarters the same day of their scheduled arrival.

The Board reviewed the Society's financials, discussed the upcoming annual conference in Keystone, Colorado, and discussed the Society's planned operations and initiatives. Newly elected directors had an opportunity to meet staff and hear reports from other regional directors, and the Board elected officers to serve for the 2006-07 year.

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Share your news!

Send in your chapter and member news along with photos you'd like to share to: suzi.case@swcs.org



Board elects officers for 2006-07

(continued from page 1)

Elected officers will assume their duties following the 2006 annual conference and include:

Steve Oltmans, President
Peggie James, Vice President
Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Secretary
Becky Fletcher, Treasurer

The Board of Directors meet monthly by teleconference at 12:00 p.m. Central time. Scheduled teleconference dates through the annual conference are:

May 18, 2006
June 15, 2006
July 21, 22 & 25



What a view!

A couple of Canada Geese have a great vantage point from the top of SWCS headquarters.

Attention: Quick Poll fans!

One of the popular features of the old newsletter format was the Quick Poll that could be found on the right-hand column of each newsletter. Surveys over the past few years have included everything from serious subject matter, such as the important ways we can control soil erosion and contaminants, to the much lighter fare of menu preferences for Thanksgiving dinner.

Fans of the poll will now be able to participate by visiting the SWCS website, where each week new questions will be posed. While you're there, check out the conference updates and calendar of events, or take a trip to the job board for recent postings. Make SWCS part of your weekly routine!

Water damages phone system SWCS headquarters

Recent heavy rains in Ankeny sent a deluge of water into the lower level of SWCS headquarters taking out phone service and slowing the email system.

Phone service is currently unreliable and restricted to outbound calls with only one incoming line to front desk and no access to voicemail. It is estimated that it will be another four weeks or around the middle of May before total phone service can be restored. The best method for reaching individual staff members continues to be by email, which now seems to be functioning normally. Clean-up has begun but it will be several months before the total extent of the damage is known.



Executive Director participates in policy meetings in March

SWCS Executive Director Craig Cox traveled to Washington, D.C. and then on to Columbus, Ohio in late March. He attended the Food and Farm Policy Project Coordinating Council Meeting to review a preliminary set of policy recommendations from four work groups; and to discuss steps needed to move the project forward.

Cox later participated in the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference in Columbus, Ohio where he was part of a symposium chaired by Jeff Vonk, Director of Iowa DNR on the 2007 Farm Bill: Opportunities and Barriers to Private Land Management. Cox discussed the subtopic "Where do we go from here?" providing a third person approach to what a good plan of action an agency leader should be thinking about in order to get the most productive programs from the next farm bill. The session shared ideas from working groups, farm bill coordinators, coordinating roles with conservation organizations, and other effective methods to keep federal dollars working conservation.

SOCIETY IN ACTION

MANAGING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE BASE

June 1 deadline approaches Call for papers

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) seeks abstracts of oral papers and poster papers for presentation at a workshop that will be held October 11-13, 2006, at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. **The deadline for abstract submissions is June 1, 2006.**

"Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality" is part of ongoing activities organized by the Society in support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's CEAP (Conservation Effects Assessment Project) initiative. The workshop will be multidisciplinary, involving agronomists, soil scientists, biologists, ecologists, hydrologists, economists, sociologists, engineers, and others working to improve our ability to quantify the effects of conservation practices on soil, water, air, and habitats at landscape or watershed scales. Participants will share their research findings and lessons learned and discuss key issues regarding work at landscape or watershed scales.

For a complete list of topic areas and to submit a proposal, visit the workshop website at:

http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/managing_agricultural_landscapes/

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The Keystone Resort and Conference Center offers many summer activities including three golf courses: A 36-hole course of scenic championship mountain golf; an 18-hole, par 71 River Course, which opened in 2000; and a renowned 18-hole Keystone Ranch Course.

Also available are indoor and outdoor tennis, river rafting, sailing, fly fishing, mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. For more information and to sign up for one of these events, visit the website at: <http://key-stone.snow.com/info/summeradventures.asp>

You play for FREE when you stay at Keystone. As a Keystone Lodging guest, you receive a FREE Adventure Passport loaded with coupons for activities and adventures. For activity reservations and more information, call your Mountain Concierge at 800-354-4FUN or 970-496—4FUN.

House of Delegates

DEADLINE APRIL 28

Delegates and agenda items

The 2006 House of Delegates meeting is set for Sunday, July 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the Society's annual conference in Keystone, Colorado.

Please help make the House of Delegates session productive by providing the following information:

- Name and email address of your Chapter Delegate.

- Issue paper (these can be very brief) providing background on the issue you would like to discuss during the House of Delegates session.
- Draft of any resolution(s) you will be asking Delegates to vote on during the session.

This information should be emailed to Executive Assistant Sue Ann Lynes at sueann.lynes@swcs.org and your Regional Director. **Information must be received by the April 28 deadline**, for the agenda, issues papers, and resolutions to be distributed back to chapters in May. That will allow for discussion of the issues at the chapter level prior to the House of Delegates session in July, which should result in a more effective session.

Time is running out

Reserve your room in Keystone 1-800-258-0437 Call Now!

All the plush comforts and amenities of an urban convention center can be found at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center located about 90 minutes west of Denver on Interstate 70.

SWCS has negotiated a discounted guest room rate beginning at \$115 per night based on type of accommodations. Reservations are now being taken by calling toll-free 1-800-258-0437. Be sure to reference the SWCS conference and our group code CBOCSNW to receive the discounted rate. For individuals wishing to extend their stay, rates will be honored three days prior and three days after the official conference dates – July 22 – 26, 2006.



Who Shows Up?!

By Larry Wright, Southwestern
Region Director



Several years ago I heard someone say that the world is run by those that show up. It has been interesting to observe the truth in that statement.

First of all, let me say thank you for showing up to read this leadership report. Your reading of this article indicates that you probably have a desire to make a difference. You see, the world is run by those who show up. Have you really thought about this? Are you one of the people that show up when something needs to be done? Whether it is a church committee, local school board, city council, or a civic organization; it is the people that show up that contributes to the decisions and the actions that make a difference in a community. The men and women that show up for the local conservation district board meetings and the Resource Conservation and Development Council meetings are the ones that make a positive difference for rural America.

I began to show up at our local school board meetings several years ago. I was elected to two five years terms. By actively participating in this process and showing up for the board meetings I was able to contribute to some positive changes in the local school system. I was showing up regularly at chapter and national Soil and Water Conservation Society annual conferences. This led to the election on the board of directors for the Society. I have been

blessed to serve two terms and count this as one of my contributions toward making a positive difference in the conservation community. Now that I have “term limited” on the SWCS board I will probably show up more at some other location.

Who are the next people to show up and make a difference in the conservation community? Most people will stay home and wonder what happened. Some will attend a meeting and watch what happens. Others will show up and participate in the process and make it happen. Sure, showing up every day at the job is commendable and you can make a difference; but those really “showing up” will run the world. Are you just helping someone else make a difference or do you really participate in the decisions and create change?

I wish I could meet all of you that are reading this today. Some of you I have already met and I thank you for your dedication and leadership to make a positive difference in our soil and water resources. I would also like to personally invite the rest of you to join us this summer for a great opportunity to learn and participate in one of the best conferences in the world today.

Show up this summer in Keystone, Colorado and attend the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference and make a positive difference in your professional career. Look me up, I'll be there.



Look what's new!

Membership recruitment tools

The Soil and Water Conservation Society recently printed two beautiful posters for use as a membership recruitment tool. Two styles are available to choose from to appeal to our diverse membership interest and are perfect to hang in college department hallways, staff break rooms or to display during workshops. A tear off card is included for interested potential members to take with them.

If you'd like a supply of these posters, please contact Lindey Krug at: memberservices@swcs.org.

Be sure to include your name, mailing address, phone and email, and how many of each style you need. Enjoy!



Colorado Chapter debuts new website

The Colorado Chapter has jumped on board with the Oklahoma Chapter and headquarters to have their site hosted through the SWCS provider. The site went "live" last week and features up-to-the-minute news about the chapter's hosting of the 2006 annual conference in Keystone. Find out about the chapter's newest initiatives, or read a current newsletter. Linked directly with the international website, the site provides a consistent theme with a format unique for chapters. The new site can be accessed directly at: <http://colorado.swcs.org>

For more information about chapter website hosting, contact Suzi Case at suzi.case@swcs.org.

Hoosier Chapter annual meeting June 21-23, 2006

The Hoosier Chapter of SWCS will hold their summer meeting in conjunction with the 27th annual spring meeting of the Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA). Presentations are invited on current research, innovative management schemes, and educational projects that would be of interest to water resource professionals in Indiana.

The symposium theme, "Energizing Indiana's Water Community", will bring together professionals in water resources and related areas to meet, discuss, and exchange ideas pertaining to all aspects of water resources research and management. The partnered meeting of IWRA and the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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will strengthen even more the relationships among the entire Indiana water community and will be held on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette.

Papers may be presented on any topic relevant to Indiana or Midwestern water resources research, planning, or management, and are not required to be original material, but may be presentations given previously to other organizations. The deadline for abstract submission is May 1, 2006.

For more information, please contact Jane Frankenberger, Associate Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue University frankenb@purdue.edu or visit the website at: <http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~frankenb/iwra2006> for more information.

In Memoriam

John Carreker of Atlanta, Georgia died recently. Mr. Carreker was a Life member of the Georgia Chapter and was recognized as a Fellow of the Society in 1974.

Volunteers needed! International Science Fair May 11, 2006 - Indianapolis, Indiana

The Hoosier Chapter Public Information and Education Committee is looking for volunteers to help with an activity in the Interactive Exhibit Hall at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis. The event will be staffed continuously from 8 am to 3 pm Thursday, May 11, and from 10 am to 2 pm Friday, May 12.

This event is a culmination of state, regional, and national science fairs from across the world and is for students grade 6-12 who excel in science, technology, engineering, and math. There will be hands on activities showing how science, technology, engineering, and math apply to natural resources, and especially soil and water conservation.

If you are available to help out or if you have activities or materials you would be willing to loan for this activity, please contact Susannah Hole, at 765 494 9992 x5 or email Susannah.Hole@in.usda.gov.

CHAPTER NEWS



Calling all students!!

Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Conference

Do you have an idea, research results or case study you would like to share with the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community? We invite you to submit a proposal for a poster session at the 3rd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, and to enter the Student Poster Contest. Use the regular application form at:

<http://www.estuaries.org/conference>,

and submit your proposal by May 1st to:

conference@estuaries.org.

Please specify that yours is a student poster.

This year's Conference theme is "Forging the National Imperative." Cash Prizes will be awarded in several categories:

- Human Dimensions of Restoration
- Education and Outreach
- Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Management
- Science and Technology
- Best Practices On-the-Ground
- Measuring and Communicating Results
- Policy and Funding

Sign up for an exciting activity!

2006 annual conference

http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences

Several awesome activities have been planned for student members at the 2006 annual conference in Keystone, Colorado. Experience the fantastic scenery of Colorado by taking a guided rafting trip of the Upper Colorado River or take an ecol-

ogy hike complete with lift ride to learn about the area. Unwind after a busy day by bowling a few games with fellow students at the Lakeside Bowl in Dillon. We need to make sure that enough participants are registered to hold the event, so visit the website now to assure your spot. Make this conference a memorable event!

For a list of activities, dates, times and cost, visit the website at:

http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_international_conference/student_member_activities/

No money for conference?

A regional scholarship may be just what you need

If you are finding that money is tight at the end of the school year, then a conference scholarship may be just what you need.

Many SWCS regions offer students scholarship money to attend conference, with participation provisions. Students may be asked to write a paper about their experiences and to attend a specific number of sessions.

To find out more, contact the SWCS regional director in your area. Contact information may be found on the SWCS website at:

http://www.swcs.org/en/about_swcs/board_of_directors/members_of_the_2005_2006_board.cfm



Happy Anniversary to members who joined in April!

20 Consecutive Years

- Anthony Felder
- David Harper
- Jeffrey Jacobsen
- Ray Ledgerwood
- David Pratt

15 Consecutive Years

- Brian Aldrich
- Jay Dorsey
- Joseph Gates
- James Hill
- William Puckett
- Diane Wulworth Duva
- James Balogh
- Jerry Hattan
- Carlos Henning
- Curtis Hobbs
- Charles Keenum
- David Lightle
- Maria Tegeler
- Joel Payne

10 Consecutive Years

- Michael Breedlove
- Marsha Paley
- John Ramsden
- Takahiro Shiono
- Barbara Thompson
- Charles Wright
- Malvern Allen
- Dwight Head
- Steven Mozley

Welcome new members

Special congrats to Iowa with seven new members and Ohio with six new members.

Great job!

Alabama

- J. Trent Mathews

Auburn University- Alabama

- Shelley England
- Robert Florence
- Mack Moncus

Arkansas-Razorback

- Calvin Shumway

Humboldt State University – California

- Matthew Stevenson

British Columbia – Canada

- Klaas Broersma

Ontario – Canada

- Hida Manns

International

- Yahya Yousef

Iowa State University

- David Webber

Iowa

- Jody Hoppen
- Brandon Nitcher
- Mike Augustine
- Storm Schmitt
- Jesse Pleggenkuhle
- Danny Henderson
- Adam Ohsann

Kentucky-Bluegrass

- Candrea Bingham
- Lauren Omer
- Megan Elizabeth Edwards

Michigan

- Rebekah Dewind

Montana

- Les Gilman
- Keldah Hedstrom

North Carolina – Hugh Hammond Bennett

- Michael Carter

MEMBER RECOGNITIONS



MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

Nebraska – Northeast

Allen Mittan

New Jersey – Firman E. Bear

Olivia Forte-Gardner

New York – Empire State

Brendan Masterson

Ohio

Jennifer White

Nelson Strong

Clark Hutson

Julie Brown

Christy Ahnmark

Justin Reinhart

TerrAqua – Ohio State University

Laura Bast

Pennsylvania – Keystone

Rebecca Sankey

Holly Nordahl

South Dakota State University

Mark Anderson

Texas – Riviera

Phillip Stewart

Texas A & M University

Mia McCraw

Utah

Bob Piper

Virginia

Pamela Thomas

Dana Bayless

Washington-Olympic View

Gil Bortleson

Wisconsin

Janice Kelley

Wyoming

Jessica Buelt

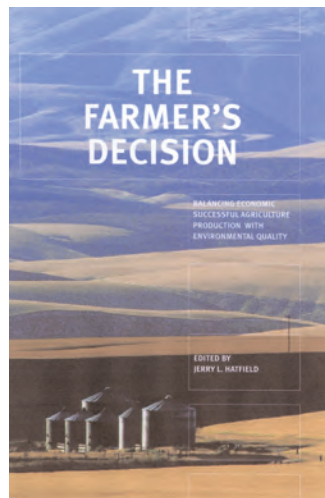
Mark Opitz

Adolfo Perez, Jr.

New Book

explains how decision support tools can be applied to agriculture.

*The Farmer's Decision:
Balancing Economic Successful
Agriculture Production with
Environmental Quality*
Edited by Jerry L. Hatfield



This book is a resource for the decision making process that goes into balancing economic success with a healthy environment. The discussions represent an international view and are a blend of field and watershed scale observations and research.

**TO ORDER:
WWW.SWCS.ORG**



UPCOMING EVENTS

**14th Annual ISCO Conference
May 14-19, 2006 - Marrakech, Morocco**

The 14th conference of the International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, May 14-19, 2006. This conference will gather scientists, experts, policymakers, and stakeholders representing public and private institutions and non governmental organizations throughout the world, to discuss water management and soil conservation problems in semi-arid environments.

Conference themes include:

- Resource management in water stressed environments
- Desertification assessment and control
- Dynamics of Agro-Silvi-Pastoral systems and land degradation
- Erosion processes and control
- Enhancing soil quality
- Soil degradation and the global environment
- Economic, social, institutional and policy stimulants of soil and water conservation

For more information, visit the website at: www.maneskovtravel.com/isco2006 or contact Mohamed Sabir at:
Phone: 212 37 86 11 49;
Email: isco2006@wanadoo.net.ma

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING COURSE

Montana Chapter
April 26-28, 2006
Billings Hotel and Convention Center
Billings, Montana
Contact: Tom Pick
Email: tpick@bresnan.net
<http://www.mtswcs.org>

SECOND NATIONAL WATER QUALITY TRADING CONFERENCE

May 23-25, 2006
The Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contact: Virginia Kibler
Phone: 202-564-0596
Email: kibler.virginia@epa.gov
<http://www.farmfoundation.org>

28th SOUTHERN CONSERVATION SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

"Improving conservation technologies to compete for global resources and markets"
June 26-28, 2006
Amarillo, Texas
Contact: R. Louis Baumhardt
Phone: 806-356-5766
Email: rlbaumhardt@cprl.ars.usda.gov
<http://www.mtswcs.org>

SWCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 22-26, 2006
Keystone, Colorado
<http://www.swcs.org>

For more event information, visit the SWCS web calendar at:
http://www.swcs.org/en/calendar_of_events_and_resources/