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## MANAGING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE BASE

**It's not too late—but almost**  
October 11-13, 2006  
Westin Crown Center Hotel  
Kansas City, Missouri

The deadline for submission is in two weeks. June 1 is the last day to submit a proposal to present at the *Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality: Strengthening the Science Base* workshop next October.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Meet the new faces at SWCS

*(Read more on Page 2)*



## Hot Links make direct navigation a snap!

We have received great feedback on the *Conservogram's* new look and format. Many of you have passed along positive comments and several good ideas. We'd like to recognize member Bill Kuentler from Texas for his suggestion that the "Inside this Issue" section include Hot Links directly to each page for ease of navigation.

In this issue we have provided the links to jump from each section "Inside this Issue" to the page selected. We hope you will find this to be a convenient feature, and invite you to share your suggestions to improve the newsletter. Send your feedback and ideas to Suzi Case at [suzi.case@swcs.org](mailto:suzi.case@swcs.org)

## Share your news!

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



*(continued from page 1)*

## **New Director of Learning and Development joins staff at SWCS**

Dewayne Johnson is the new Director of Professional Development for the Society. Dewayne has worked for and with environmental organizations for more than ten years. He has



served as communications coordinator for the Iowa Environmental Council; a program planner with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and spent the last five plus years as executive director of the Iowa Recycling Association.

Dewayne served on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Environmental Council from 1997 to 2005, was President of Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island (Nature Center) in Des Moines from 1998-2001, and President of IowaShares, a non-profit fundraising coalition, in 2005. He currently serves on Drake University's International Advisory Council for the School of Education and on the Advisory Board for the Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center at the University of Northern Iowa.

He was a member of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry's Leadership Iowa Class of 2001 and was recently appointed by Governor Vilsack to serve on the Keep Iowa Clean and Beautiful Task Force. Dewayne received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Drake University and will begin working

towards a master's degree in Adult Development and Learning this summer. He lives in the Beavertdale neighborhood of Des Moines with his wife Amy who works for the Iowa Department of Economic Development. They have a 4 year old son, Lucas.

Contact Dewayne at 515-289-2331, ext. 114 or email [dewayne.johnson@swcs.org](mailto:dewayne.johnson@swcs.org).

## **Communications department welcomes Kala King!**

Soil and Water Conservation society would like to welcome our newest communications intern, Kala King. Kala is a junior at Iowa State University



studying marketing and public relations. She plans to attend law school after graduation. Her hometown is Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she attended Lewis Central High School. Kala is actively involved at Iowa State.

She is currently the publicity co-chair of Engineer's Week 2006, as well as a member of Business Council, Public Relations Student Society of America, Habitat for Humanity, and STARS. Kala has also been on the Dean's List the last three semesters. Kala likes to play softball, dance, spend time with her family, especially her three nephews, listen to Rascal Flatts and travel.

Contact Kala at 515-289-2331, ext. 119 or email [intern@swcs.org](mailto:intern@swcs.org).



MANAGING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
STRENGTHENING THE SCIENCE BASE



**Organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Society**

**A multidisciplinary workshop for scientists and the people who use science to quantify the environmental benefits of applying conservation on agricultural land at landscape or watershed scales.**

Please join us in Kansas City for this workshop that will strive to...

- ❖ **Bring** together the scientific and technical communities working to quantify the environmental benefits of applying conservation practices on agricultural land at landscape or watershed scales.
- ❖ **Expose** the research community to the needs and expectations of policymakers and conservation practitioners struggling to account for the environmental benefits of projects intended to enhance soil quality, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and fish and wildlife populations and habitat.
- ❖ **Characterize** the implications for conservation policy and practice from what research results have shown to be the environmental outcomes from the use of conservation on landscape or watershed scales.

#### **WHEN**

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 7:00 AM -  
Friday, October 13, 2006 1:30 PM  
Central Time Zone

#### **WHERE**

Westin Crown Center Hotel  
1 Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

#### **ATTIRE**

Business Casual

#### **FEE**

*Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality*

#### **REGISTRATION**

\$250.00 for a limited time (\$300.00 original price)

#### **RSVP**

Friday, September 29, 2006

For more information, click the logo above or visit the website at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org) and select "International Conferences."



## Be a better leader

### **Leadership Development Workshop Saturday, July 22, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Find out how to get more out of your meetings and conferences by attending the Leadership Development workshop at this year's annual conference. Participants will learn and practice the process for working with professional organizations to obtain continuing education credits (CEUs) for chapter meetings, conferences, and workshops. A choice of breakout sessions will provide attendees with added leadership tools. Choose from:

#### **Using Conferences and Meetings for Fundraising**

Hands-on exercise in the use of a spreadsheet useful for setting up the budget and determining appropriate fees for workshops, conferences, and meetings. Success stories presented. Perhaps an outside speaker will present on this issue.

#### **Leading Change**

Learn and use skills in identifying and adapting to changes affecting your chapter. Understand how to use coaching, facilitating, and systems thinking to lead change for your organization.

#### **Collaboration**

Discover and practice tools in building and maintaining collaboration within your chapter and with other organizations.

For registration information, visit the SWCS website at:

[http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs\\_international\\_conferences/2006\\_international\\_conference/workshops/](http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_international_conference/workshops/)

## Student Members!

### **Sign up for an exciting activity**

[http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs\\_international\\_conferences](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 ecology 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/](http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_international_conference/student_member_activities/)

## Let's fill up the room block

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

Great job folks! We have about half of the rooms filled on peak nights during the conference. Let's keep up the good work and spread the word about the importance of staying at the contracted facility, Keystone Resort & Conference Center.

To make reservations call 1-800-258-0437. You must refer to the **group code CBOCSNW** to get the negotiated discount guest room rates. Remember to call by **June 15** to receive the discounted group rate.



FROM THE LEADERSHIP

## The SWCS partnership role in USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Project

By Jean Steiner, President and At-Large Director

About three years ago, I had the opportunity to attend an early stage planning meeting to establish watershed studies as a part of a newly evolving Conservation Effects Assessment Project. Several USDA agencies were represented, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Farm Services Agency (FSA), and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) was developed in response to the need for a different kind of accountability to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for conservation spending, as the funding levels increased under the 2002 Farm Bill. Most accountability had been based on "activities", e.g., numbers of acres, or miles of a practice, or numbers of contracts. What the Congress and OMB and the American people want to know is "Does the conservation spending produce the environmental benefits that we all want?" In trying to answer that question, CEAP has spawned what I think is the "next generation" of conservation science within USDA and beyond.

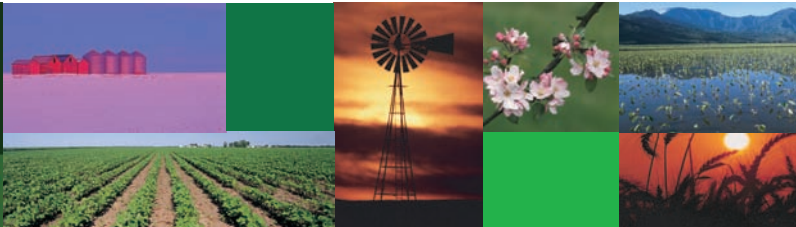


The CEAP has many aspects, described at this website:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/ceap>

As the project progressed, many other groups have become involved, and this is now a cross-departmental effort within the federal government with many active local and regional efforts. The NRCS is leading development of a national assessment that is based on the National Resource Inventory system, and utilizes models developed by ARS and intensive data on conservation collected by NASS. Detailed watershed assessment studies have been established in 28 watersheds under the leadership of ARS, NRCS, and CSREES. All of the watershed assessments involve complex teams of federal, state, and university researchers; federal, state, and local agencies; and private stakeholders who are focused on diverse conservation approaches to solve environmental problems.

Throughout the CEAP project, the Soil and Water Conservation Society is playing a key partnership role that is enriching the project. Just this month, SWCS released the final report of the CEAP Blue Ribbon Panel. Under Craig Cox's leadership, a distinguished panel conducted a detailed review and evaluation of the planned activities, and has provided feedback that has changed USDA's approaches and plans for the CEAP project. Under Max Schnepf's leadership, detailed review and synthesis of the literature will highlight the state of our knowledge of how cropland conservation practices impact soil and water resources at field and landscape levels. When published later this year, we think this will become a seminal publication for conservationists. The SWCS Annual



Conferences (in Rochester last year and in Keystone this July) have become a key venue for CEAP researchers, conservationists, and managers to share results and exchange ideas. In October, SWCS is organizing a workshop on *Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality: Strengthening the Science Base*, which is shaping up to be a key workshop that may set the science agenda for years to come.

Members of SWCS can be proud of all the contributions that our Society is making to the Conservation Effects Assessment Project. This partnership is keeping SWCS at the forefront of the development of the next generation of policy-relevant conservation science.

## Executive director meets with Chief Knight

### *Participates in workshops*

Executive Director Craig Cox traveled to Washington, DC to meet with USDA-NRCS Chief Bruce Knight on the final report of the CEAP Blue Ribbon Panel with a follow-up trip back to brief Dana York, NRCS and the full CEAP Executive Steering Committee.

He traveled to the first of several "Great Lakes, Clean Water Workshopx" beginning May 17th in Grand Rapids, Michigan then on to Osh Kosh, Wisconsin. The following week two more workshops will be held from May 24 in Saginaw, Michigan through May 25 in Toledo, Ohio.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NEBRASKA AND WYOMING CHAPTERS ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS

June 1-3, 2006

Sidney, Nebraska

Contact: Tina Carlson

Phone: 308-262-1313, ext. 3

### GEORGIA CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

"Bioenergy Effects on Soil and Water Conservation"

June 7-9, 2006

Chatsworth, Georgia

<http://www.gaswcs.org>

### SWCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 22-26, 2006

Keystone, Colorado

<http://www.swcs.org>

### ALL OHIO CHAPTER MEETING AND 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION

"Celebrating 50 Years and Beyond"

September 5-8, 2006

Columbus, Ohio

<http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org/Events/index.html>

**For more event information, visit the SWCS web calendar at:**

[http://www.swcs.org/en/calendar\\_of\\_events\\_and\\_resources/](http://www.swcs.org/en/calendar_of_events_and_resources/)



## **Nebraska and Wyoming Chapters hold workshops** **June 1-3, 2006 – Sidney, Nebraska**

Special workshops will highlight the Nebraska and Wyoming Chapters' 2006 annual meeting that will be held at the Holiday Inn in Sidney, Nebraska. An organic farming workshop will be held on the first day and will feature practical tips about organic farming and livestock production. Discussion will focus on how several local farmers got started in the business. The differences between organic farming, sustainable agriculture, and "naturally" produced will be explained and participants will learn how to become certified.

Day two of the meeting will include a water issues and soil quality workshop where participants will learn about soil quality, how improving soil quality can result in more water available to crops and rangeland. The latest information about Nebraska panhandle water issues will be discussed and how communities and municipalities can use the COHYST model for planning water use.

The chapters' business meeting will be held on the last day of scheduled events and will include meeting and chapter reports. The Nebraska Chapter will hold elections for new officers to lead them through the coming year.

Be a part of the action, network with other conservation professionals, and learn some new methods!

*For registration information, contact Tina Carlson at 308-262-1313, ext. 3.*

## **Bioenergy effects on soil and water conservation** **Georgia Chapter Annual Meeting**

The Georgia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will hold the 2006 Annual Meeting June 7-9, 2006 at Cohutta Lodge and Restaurant located adjacent to the Fort Mountain State Park, both of which are close to the Cohutta Wilderness Area in Chatsworth, Georgia. This site was chosen in order to focus on a major theme of this years meeting: Bioenergy Effects on Soil and Water Conservation. This year's meeting will feature several pre-conference workshops, a technical session, and post conference tours.

There will be plenty of activities for the family to enjoy while participants are busy discussing, learning, and developing new measures to improve our soil and water resources. Educational tours that the whole family can enjoy will follow the business meeting. Tours include snorkeling with endangered fish, trout fishing, birding, guided walks through Cohutta Wilderness Area and white water rafting.

The registration form is located at [www.gaswcs.org](http://www.gaswcs.org)



## All Ohio Chapter celebrates 50 years!

The All Ohio Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), in collaboration with The Ohio State University, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary by hosting a four-day conference entitled, *Floodplains, Riparian Zones, and Buffer Strips: Key Components to Aquatic Life Use Attainment and Self-Sustaining Stream and Watershed Systems*, that will be held September 5-8, 2006. This event, centered around the theme "Celebrating 50 Years and Beyond", will include one day of technical tours, an evening reception for all participants, a 50th Anniversary Banquet, one day of invited presentations and panel discussions by internationally recognized experts in the field of soil and water conservation and stream restoration, and two days of technical workshops on topics ranging from stream restoration design using the latest technology to the use of biological data in stream designs to erosion prevention and sediment control.

We invite you to be part of this special event that recognizes all the successes in the last 50 years of soil and water conservation and looks toward the future of healthy and functioning stream and watershed systems as part of the landscape.

In honor of our 50th Anniversary, SWCS members (includes students and out-of-state members) will received a registration discount of \$50. There will also be Gold Pass/Gold Pass Plus registrations which permit the holder to attend the conference

and technical tours, and Banquet (Gold Pass Plus) at a further discount. Gold Pass/Gold Pass Plus registrations are only available for student-members, past presidents, and members who have retired. If Gold Pass/Plus holders wish to attend a workshop, it's full price less the \$50 member discount.

Please visit:

<http://streams.osu.edu/conf/php>

or

<http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org/Events/index.html>

for the registration brochure and further details.

## Oklahoma soil outreach discovery by Carolyn Mathews, Oklahoma Chapter

Participants attending the festivities held on Earth Day at the Tulsa Zoo enjoyed painting with Oklahoma soils all day long! A crowd of adults and children practiced their art painting skills using various colors of Oklahoma soils.

Fourth graders from Pretty Water Elementary Schools and their two teachers welcomed Woody Baldwin, Oklahoma Native Hardwood tree artist and craftsman on April 17th. All 30 students painted with Tulsa and Creek County soils. Their artwork included stenciling, stamping, and hand drawn design on water color paper.



## UGA student chapter combines learning experiences and fun

by Karin Lichtenstein and Adam Speir

On March 8th, the University of Georgia Chapter of SWCS in conjunction with the American Water Resources Association took part in educational opportunities at Gaines School Elementary in Athens, Georgia. Using exercises from Project Learning Tree, the students taught nearly 30 students about tree growth, insects, and water. A great time was had by the six SWCS student members who attended.

In April, five members of the student chapter, and advisor Larry Morris took part in a rafting weekend on the Ocoee River near Cleveland, Tennessee. The group camped on the river and rafted Saturday afternoon.

The club president for the upcoming year will be Brooks Camp, a Forest Resources major from Athens. Adam Speir will serve as officer at large.

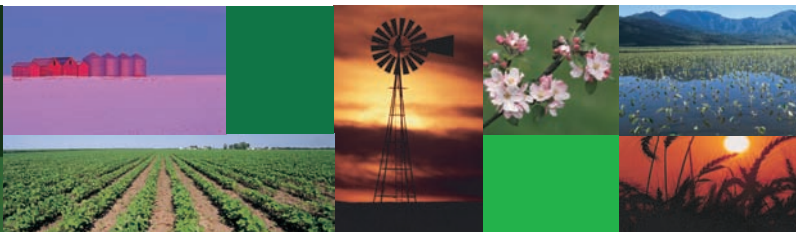


## Attention! Student chapter members and advisors

SWCS Membership Committee Chair, Pamela Reid is seeking a student member to serve on the SWCS Membership Committee in an At-Large position. If you are a student member and have a passion for soil and water conservation, this is a great opportunity to be involved with an international society in a Leadership role.

Individuals who serve on the Membership Committee serve as a communication link to chapter leaders and provide motivational stimulus to chapter presidents and membership chairs. Membership Committee members are asked to participate in regularly scheduled teleconferences, and at committee meetings that take place at the society's annual conference.

If you feel that serving in a leadership role with an international society will look good on your resume; and you have a passion for our Society's mission, please send your electronic resume to Pamela Reid, [preid@pss.msstate.edu](mailto:preid@pss.msstate.edu)  
**Deadline: June 2, 2006.**



**Happy anniversary to our members  
who joined or reinstated their  
memberships in the month of May!**

**40 Consecutive Years**

Steve Oltmans

**20 Consecutive Years**

James Clay  
Loren Frees  
Ernest Hardy  
Ed Morris  
Ernest Nicholson  
Krista Reed  
James M. White

**10 Consecutive Years**

David Neely  
Roger Claassen  
James Dunaway  
Alan Franzluebbers  
Michael Hogan  
Don McQueen

**Award winners announced**

The 2005 SWCS award winners have been announced! Look for a complete list of winners on the SWCS website in mid-June.

<http://www.swcs.org/en/awards/>

**Welcome new members**

**Special recognition to the Ontario Chapter  
with six new members and Iowa State  
University Student Chapter with six new  
members.**

**Way to go!**

**Auburn University**

Trey Prevatt

**California**

Cori Calvert  
Anita Brown

**Ontario-Canada**

Donald Lobb  
Anna Abnizova  
Tali Neta  
Dianne Bravo  
Dave MacDonald  
Perry Lalonde

**Georgia**

Timothy Strickland

**Iowa State University**

Aaron Sassman  
Marisa Anderson  
Drew Simonsen  
Jake Hartsock  
Jacob Prater  
Colby Moorberg

**Iowa**

Jacob Bruess  
Doug Akins

**Illinois**

Valerie Jakobi

*(continued on page 11)*



(continued from page 10)

### **Maryland-Old Line**

Doug Parker

### **Minnesota**

Kriste Ericsson

Tim Gieseke

### **Missouri-Show Me**

Donnie Bowman

Dustin Cox

Jeff Spencer

### **Mississippi**

Brent Bailey

### **HH Bennett – North Carolina**

Darrell Westmoreland

Lee Co SWCD

### **New York-Empire State**

Karen Gaidasz

### **Ohio**

Michael Monnin

### **South Carolina**

Charleston SWCD

### **South Dakota State University**

Javier Mollinedo

### **Tennessee**

Nick Strong

### **Texas-Riviera**

Joshua Johanson

### **New Hampshire/Vermont**

Mary Watzin

### **Wyoming**

Brad Holliday

### **International**

Nazneen Azmat

### **In memoriam**

**We remember those friends who have passed on and keep their families in our thoughts.**

**Earl McClellan** of Fairfield, Washington. Mr. McClellan was a Life member of the Inland Empire Chapter in the State of Washington.

**Ramon L. Kent** of Silverdale, Washington. Mr. Kent was a Life member of the Inland Empire Chapter in the State of Washington.

**Kary Howard** of Allegan, Michigan. Mr. Howard was a member of the Southwest Michigan Chapter.



## **AWRA summer specialty conference June 26-28, 2006 - Missoula, Montana**

Over the last few decades many water resource projects and programs of all scales and types have incorporated adaptive management concepts into the project design. At this point in time, it is important to come together to share experiences to advance adaptive management concepts and applications.

The conference dialogue will provide a forum for exploring adaptive management components, lessons learned and challenges including framing scientifically credible adaptive management projects and programs, including models, tools, and monitoring strategies for use with adaptive management, establishing performance indicators and target thresholds, assessment and management of uncertainty, decision support system applications, funding requirements, as well as scientific findings to support adaptive management and water quality and quantity markets. The conference includes many expert panel sessions, a role playing exercise in conflict resolution using adaptive management, and all session moderators who will bring forward key points, issues and next steps from each session and will be prioritized for action.

This conference was designed to facilitate such advancements by bringing together: scientists, engineers, researchers, on-site field technical practitioners, managers, regulators, policy development and compliance folks, and water resource conservationists. Participants will represent a variety of interests including: governmental organizations at all levels, private sector, academia, non-government organi-

zations, stakeholder organizations and development interests. All experience levels are encouraged to participate in this conference. For example, those relatively new to adaptive management can challenge conventional wisdom and provide new perspectives necessary to advance adaptive management concepts.

For more information, visit the AWRA website at <http://www.awra.org>.

**SPECIAL INTEREST**

**Journal of Soil and Water Conservation (JSWC) on CD!**  
**Limited Offer!**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**until June 30, 2006**

**Must have promotion code: BXY261**



**Years 1996 - 2005**

~~\$300~~  
**\$150**

**www.swcs.org**  
**pubs@swcs.org**  
**800-THE-SOIL**  
**(800-843-7645)**