

# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY



## 2007 Awards Program

Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa, Florida

July 24, 2007



## 2007 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 resource 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.*



#### **David Sanders**

David Sanders has left his imprint on the landscape in many parts of the world. His career has ranged from implementing soil conservation practices in local watersheds in Australia to leading the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) soil conservation activities in Rome, Italy. He has been a life-long advocate of conservation and has devoted his entire professional career to the management and wise use of soil, water and related natural resources. All of his efforts, including those as FAO administrator, were undertaken with the objective of achieving sustainability.

Most noteworthy among his accomplishments include his work in introducing modern agricultural techniques into the low rainfall areas of Jordan, addressing severe gully erosion in Lesotho, and his presentations and visits to some 40 countries advising governments on soil conservation policies and programs. Sanders has edited and/or been a major contributor to ten books, has delivered several keynote presentations to International Soil Conservation Organization conferences, and has contributed significantly to many journals and other conservation publications. In addition, he was a principal organizer in the establishment of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC) and served as president of WASWC from 1997 to 2002.

## 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.*



### **Ross Braun**

Ross Braun has dedicated his professional career to natural resource protection and the activities of the society. He has been an outstanding member of the society for over 20 years. Braun has been a vigorous SWCS membership recruiter and has served in numerous positions for the society at the board and chapter levels. He has dedicated his career to the protection of natural resources and the implementation of many conservation initiatives. He has been recognized for his leadership to SWCS with the Berg Fellow, 1992 SWCS Honor Award, and President's Award. He has served with the Missouri and National Chapters in virtually every board position. He continues to provide leadership in the protection and enhancement of

our nation's natural resources and serves as an excellent example of a Society Fellow Award winner.



### **Rodney Johnson**

Rodney Johnson's entire career has been devoted to the wise use and management of our soil, water, plant and animal resources. He has been a dedicated member of the society for over thirty years. Johnson has served the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter in virtually every council position throughout these years. He is recognized for his focus on water quality, aquaculture and the professional achievement while serving his chapter. He has been instrumental in providing the leadership and assistance to maintain the Hugh Hammond Bennett home place presently owned by

the chapter. He served as a key member of the planning committee for the 1986 International Conference and continues to be a strong advocate for the society.

## Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

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



### **Jim Lake**

With this award, the society takes the opportunity to recognize the achievements of those who work in the conservation trenches. It should recognize those that have gone beyond their job requirements. This award provides the opportunity to honor a conservationist that has made a difference through individual effort, community, organization, and/or unit of government. Lake is well deserving of the excellence in conservation award. He is recognized for his contributions to National Associate of Conservation Districts, Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana State Government, and the Nature Conservancy,

assisting them with the implementation of many significant conservation initiatives. Many have referred to Lake as a “Master Conservationist” for his efforts. He has contributed significantly as a director of the Conservation Technology Information Center, Soil Conservation extension specialist for Purdue University and overall as a conservation leader protecting our natural resources.

## **Special Resolution Honors**

### **Maurice J. Mausbach and Allen R. Dedrick**

The SWCS Board of Directors would like to acknowledge Maurice J. Mausbach and Allen R. Dedrick through a special resolution as follows:

Whereas: Maurice J. Mausbach and Allen R. Dedrick were key in establishing the multi-agency Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) and developed partnerships with SWCS and others to carry out the goals of CEAP; and documented the goals of croplands CEAP in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in 2004; and

Whereas: the USDA Agricultural Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service have organized special sessions at the 2007 Annual Conference to report findings from CEAP croplands watersheds; and are developing a special issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* to document research findings; and

Whereas: The SWCS/USDA CEAP partnership has contributed to SWCS’s standing as a leader in identifying science, technology, and policy needs to address landscape and watershed scale environmental issues, therefore,

Be it Resolved: that the vision and commitment of Maurice J. Mausbach and Allen R. Dedrick which was central to the success of CEAP, are gratefully recognized by the Board of Directors this July 24, 2007.

### **Clarence W. Richardson**

The SWCS Board of Directors would like to acknowledge Clarence W. Richardson through a special resolution as follows:

Whereas: Clarence W. Richardson was key in establishing the multi-agency Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), and led the CEAP Watershed Assessment Studies research team, and

Whereas: Agricultural Research Service has organized special sessions at the 2007 Annual Conference to report findings from five years of research in the CEAP croplands watersheds; and is developing a special issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* to document research findings; and

Whereas: The SWCS/USDA CEAP partnership has contributed to SWCS’s standing as a leader in identifying science, technology, and policy needs to address landscape and watershed scale environmental issues, therefore,

Be it Resolved: that the leadership and dedication of Clarence W. Richardson which was central to the success of CEAP Watershed Assessment Studies, are gratefully recognized by the Board of Directors this July 24, 2007.

## **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.*

### **Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service entered into a productive partnership that expanded and resulted in 19 new positions to enhance wildlife habitats and other benefits to soil and water conservation. These positions are located all across Kentucky in high workload areas where the Farm Bill biologists can be of the greatest assistance to private landowners who wish to restore or enhance fish or wildlife habitat. The partnership has resulted in over 55,000 acres of habitat improvement in Kentucky and has served as a model for other states across the country. It continues to be highlighted across the country as an outstanding example of the leveraging of state and federal resources to assist private landowners in the implementation their conservation plans.

## **Honor Award**

*The Honor Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments compatible to the mission of the society.*

### **Gene Goven**

Gene Goven was an original innovator of the well-documented planned rotational grazing systems currently utilized by livestock producers. He developed his expertise on his family farm in Turtle Lake, North Dakota where he grazes beef cattle on 800 acres of native prairie. Goven recognized that “Something was just not right” and that he needed to manage the grass instead of the cattle. From this paradigm shift came his innovative technique, now referred to as planned rotational grazing. In addition, Goven recognized that cattle and wildlife could co-exist and that his operation could provide benefits to migrating waterfowl. Therefore, he participated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on their Waterfowl Production Area pilot program to demonstrate the use of livestock as a management tool for habitat enhancement. Goven recognized and documented the improved soil health of managed grazing to include soil tilth and water infiltration benefits. He has worked for the benefit of private grazing lands coalitions by providing mentoring opportunities to other producers and conservation professionals. Goven has been a tireless presenter, has offered countless tours of his operation to guest from all over the world, and has published/co-authored over nine publications featuring his developed expertise.

### **Kris Stuart**

Kris Stuart has been a valued member of the Southern New England SWCS Chapter since 1976. She has excelled in furthering the society’s mission through her dedication to conservation education. Most noteworthy were her efforts initiating and providing the leadership for the development of a tri-state guide for erosion and sediment control and training meetings on storm water management and aquaculture. Stuart has served on numerous positions for the Board of Directors and currently serves as the treasurer of Southern New England Chapter of SWCS.

### **Joe Gumm**

Joe Gumm is recognized by the West Virginia Chapter for his excellence in leadership at the conservation district, state, and national conservation levels. Mr. Gumm has been a quiet yet effective initiator of many special statewide and local efforts to promote conservation. Most noteworthy are his efforts to establish state and regional interagency meetings of the conservation partnership, development of the state’s multiflora rose control program, and the development and implementation of the recycling program

through the Solid Waste Authority. He has served in many positions critical to the promotion of his conservation ethic. Most noteworthy is president of the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, West Virginia Grassland Initiative Steering Committee charter member, West Virginia Forage & Grassland Council member, and member of the National Association of Conservation District's Grazing Lands and Public Lands Resource Committee.

## **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.*

### **Stephen Merrill**

Stephen Merrill has been an active member of the North Dakota Chapter since 1979. He has contributed to the science supporting conservation through his research in fundamental and applied aspects of soil, wind, and water erosion; soil and water use; and root growth of diverse crops. Merrill has served the chapter in numerous positions such as a secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, and committee chair/representative for many years. He was instrumental in setting up soil exhibits at the North Dakota Heritage Center for viewing and educational opportunities for the visitors. He has published many scientific publications that support soil and land conservation and the mission of the society.

## **Commendation Award**

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

### **Jennifer Hegge**

Jennifer Hegge was elected to a two year term as director for 2003 and 2004. She has been actively seeking to establish a student chapter in North Dakota by researching the steps and seeking out students and sponsors at North Dakota State University since March 2003. Jennifer researched questions that have arisen regarding the chapter bylaws and got the proper procedures in place to handle these situations. Jennifer has been active in updating the chapter display used to promote SWCS and recruit new members. She has assisted the Membership Committee in using this display since May 2003, and was the acting Membership Chair from August 2005 to January 2006. Jennifer and another chapter director planned the 2003 annual meeting as a renewable energy symposium that attracted a wide range of professionals including non-members of SWCS. As a second-year director, Jennifer became the chair of the 2004 annual meeting which included a technical meeting and a business meeting with award presentations following the meetings. The NP Technical Meeting took place at a different time. Jennifer was on the Planning Committee for the Soil and Water Science Summit from June to August 2005 and served as moderator for the summit. The summit had an attendance of approximately 60 members and non-members, brought visibility for the chapter, and provided continuing education to professionals in the soil and water science fields. Jennifer currently serves the chapter as president.

### **Walter Bunter**

Walter Bunter worked with the Western Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) to have them as a partner in the SWCS Annual Conference. Walt also arranged for IECA speakers and for a proctor to conduct tests for certification as an erosion and sediment control specialist during the conference. Bunter successfully arranged for continuing education credits for the IECA presentations and two Natural Resources Conservation Service presentations. Bunter also serves as publisher for the chapter newsletter that is distributed both electronically and hard copy and also serves as the California Chapter treasurer.

**William Brash**

William Brash, Jr. served as president elect, president, and past president of the Firman E. Bear Chapter of SWCS from January 2003 to December 2005. During his terms of office, Brash helped organize chapter annual spring tours and fall meetings as well as training opportunities for members. He was also a regular contributor to the chapter newsletter and helped organize the awards program. Brash also contributed time to the chapter duck stamp print raffle to help fund the chapter scholarship and Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. These activities significantly contributed to the Firman E. Bear Chapter's local visibility in the conservation community. Brash contributed considerable amounts of personal time in these efforts.

**James Haagen**

During 2006, James Haagen has provided exceptional leadership in the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter as secretary and co-editor of the quarterly newsletter. Through Haagen's duties as secretary, he has worked to plan and carry out four very successful events: a paired Watershed Treatment Study in Eastern Kentucky, a 2007 Farm Bill Forum and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program presentation at the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention, a field tour of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program activities as related to the Mammoth Cave National Park Ecosystem, and the 2006 Awards/Scholarship Banquet and Fundraising Auction. Haagen's activities as co-editor of the chapter newsletter resulted in the use of digital photography to fully document and promote activities and events that took place in Kentucky and Keystone, Colorado during 2006. These newsletters were very useful tools for new member recruitment and the promotion of professional development activities.

**Gail Hughes**

Gail Hughes represents the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter on the state Envirothon Committee where over 700 students and their teachers from across the state participate in the Envirothon each year. Hughes is also the co-chairman of the Area 3 Envirothon. She spends many days planning and helping conduct the area and state Envirothon. Much of this is done on her own time since the Envirothon is always on weekends. While Hughes was chapter president, the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter received the "Outstanding Chapter Award."

**Beth Sauerhaft**

As president-elect in 2005 and president in 2006, Beth Sauerhaft has taken on membership recruitment duties and appropriately designated similar duties to other chapter leaders. As a result, The National Capital Chapter gained seven members. These new members add to the chapter's technical, agency-representation, and gender diversity. Sauerhaft also presided over the chapter's annual tour, connected with new members, and ensured a successful awards program. She was instrumental in recruiting and nominating a chapter member as a candidate for the SWCS Board of Directors.

**Brandy Pietz-Jones**

Brandy Pietz-Jones served as president elect for the Oklahoma Chapter during 2005-2006. Part of her responsibilities as President Elect was to put together the annual meeting. Pietz-Jones arranged for four speakers for the morning session, planned lunch, and provided a technical tour in the afternoon for 36 members. This meeting took several months of planning to secure speakers and display presenters as well as registration of chapter members. Pietz-Jones also helped to arrange one of the annual fundraisers for the Oklahoma Chapter. Every year the chapter sells T-shirts and caps at the National Pasture and Land Judging event that is held in Oklahoma City. The money is used for Oklahoma scholarship recipients. This took several weeks of preparation and time off of work to sell the items at the three day event. Pietz-Jones has also put together the quarterly Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter.

## **Conservation Research Award**

*The Conservation Research Award is conferred on SWCS society members or teams of 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 first and foremost. The award may be given for research excellence or results of the research that have led to significant conservation improvements.*

### **Douglas Karlen**

Douglas Karlen has developed and applied research to solve problems in soil conservation and is recognized as an expert in soil quality. His expertise has led to the development of many of the principles used today. He serves as an international leader in efforts to evaluate sustainability of agricultural land management practices. Karlen has provided farmers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other land managers with an applied understanding of soil physical, chemical, and biological properties, processes, and interactions. This understanding has led to solutions of nutrient management issues. He has held numerous positions as a research soil scientist with USDA Agricultural Research Service. Karlen has been appointed to two SWCS committees by the SWCS executive director, with the most noteworthy being the Beyond T committee. He has had over 70 prestigious invitations to write reviews, edit books and deliver presentations. Karlen has received numerous awards for his work and is recognized for his professional publications.

### **Don Tanaka**

Don Tanaka's research has focused on long-term field programs with an emphasis on soil and water conservation and the efficient use of precipitation. He has developed new knowledge on the management techniques for sunflower production to improve crop water use and crop competitiveness with weeds. His research established guidelines for producers so they could grow sunflowers using conventional small grain equipment. He is known amongst his peers for the development of a crop by crop matrix technique that determines if the sequence of crops in a cropping system influences crop production, precipitation use and soil properties. In addition, he has developed a diverse cropping system, as part of an integrated crop/forage/livestock system, to over-winter dry bred cows. Tanaka has delivered numerous presentations to professional groups, farmers and others. He has authored or co-authored over 35 significant publications relating to his field of research.

### **Jorge A. Delgado**

Delgado is an expert in the fields of nitrogen management and in the use of isotopes, biogeochemistry, and nitrogen fate and transport. He has made significant contributions in the areas of site-specific and regional scale evaluations of best management practices on nitrogen fate and transport and nitrogen efficiencies. Delgado's research has shown that cover crops can be used to conserve water quality, cycle nutrients, reduce erosion, and increase potato yields and quality. Delgado has established an international network of experts whose function serves to evaluate and implement new tools such as GIS, the Nitrogen Index, and nitrogen models that assess the effects of high risk cropping systems on nitrogen losses. Delgado's most noteworthy role was the leadership he provided while presiding over a committee composed of 14 federal and local agencies that conducted a study concerning the conservation practices in Puerto Rico. His leadership efforts resulted in the training of 150 agronomists, which contributed to even higher soil and water conservation achievements. Delgado is contacted by national and international scientists in response to his research and is currently cooperating with scientists from Argentina, Bulgaria, China, Mexico, the Caribbean region, Spain, and Switzerland. Delgado has held workshops and teaches nutrient management techniques to national and international groups of cooperators, and he has helped to develop workshops and other training activities with CEUs for over 300 participants. Delgado is a SWCS, SSSA, and ASA Fellow and has authored and co-authored over 60 journal manuscripts, 40 technical

publications, and 80 abstracts. Delgado has lead and cooperated with other national and international scientists and the Natural Resources Conservation Service cooperates to develop new concepts and tools, such as Precision Conservation, the New Nitrogen Index Tier One Tool, the assessment of Delta Nitrogen Losses at the field level, and the Nitrogen Credit Tool. Delgado's peers recognize him as an expert for his research work.

## **President's Leadership Award**

### **Kristin Ling Smith, Chair – Professional Development Committee**

Kristin is being recognizes for her leadership and her committee's work in developing, promoting, and enhancing the awarding of continuing education credits at SWCS meetings and the development of the "Offering Continuing Education Units: A Guide for SWCS Chapters."

### **Judy Doerner, Chair – Leadership Development Committee**

Judy is being recognized for her leadership and her committee's work in conducting the annual chapter awards program and two successful leadership development and conservation leadership workshops.

### **Max Schnepf, SWCS Consultant**

Max is being recognized for his work on the highly successful Managing Agricultural Landscapes conference and its proceedings, and the new book *Environmental Benefits of Conservation on Cropland*.

## **Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Award**

*The authors of the following paper are recognized with the 2007 Research Award for Impact and Quality of a Paper Published between 2000 and 2006:*

Sharpley, A.N., J.L. Weld, D.B. Beegle, P.J.A. Kleinman, W.J. Gburek, P.A. Moore Jr., and G. Mullins. 2003. Development of phosphorus indices for nutrient management planning strategies in the United States. *JSWC* 58(3):137-152.

## **CHAPTER AWARDS**

### **Chapter Professional Development Award**

#### **Michigan Chapter**

The Michigan Chapter (Region 4) held a variety of professional development activities in 2006. In addition to their annual meeting program, “No-till Tales from Belarus,” the chapter offered a workshop on Marketing Conservation, a “Value Added Farm Tour,” a seminar on the latest tools and technologies for conservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Planning Course.

### **Chapter Achievement Award**

#### **Region 1: Old Line**

The Maryland Old Line Chapter has been nominated for a Chapter Achievement Award for partnering with the American Forage Grassland Council (AFGC) to provide training and certification for consultants, farmers, and educators. The chapter co-sponsored “Certified Grassland Professional—The first step in becoming nationally certified” in response to the growing number of farm operations moving to pasture-based systems. The workshop provided knowledge on the subject and also explained the national grassland certification process. There were approximately 40 participants who learned from experts in subject areas including toxic plants, plant identification, erosion and sediment control, structural best management practices, and the proper tools to write a prescribed grazing plan. In addition to the valuable information provided, attendees were also eligible for continuing education units.

#### **Region 2: South Carolina**

The South Carolina Chapter co-sponsored three activities throughout the year focused on Low-Impact Development (LID). A two-day workshop was held in March for engineers, developers, home builders, city and county officials, planning department professionals and plan reviewers. The key speaker has designed numerous bioretention retrofits in the Charlotte area and conducts training for various county departments in the implementation and inspection of LID techniques. In August, he led a tour that visited several residential, commercial and subdivision developments which had LID practices installed in and around Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina. Two shopping malls, a residential subdivision, two apartment complexes and a commercial development were visited to view LID practices installed including rain gardens receiving water from parking lots and roofs, porous pavement, detention and retention basins, level spreaders for water exiting retention/detention basins, vegetated swales eliminating curb and gutter roads, roof gardens and rain barrels and cisterns for water conservation uses. In November, they followed up with a one-day workshop providing instruction on the actual design techniques used and procedures for reviewing LID practices submitted to county planners. Practices included vegetated swales, rain gardens, rain barrels, porous pavement for parking areas, retention/detention basins and level spreaders. PDH’s (professional development hours) were offered for these workshops and tours. The next steps to be taken include working with County Councils in reviewing and revising their standards and ordinances to allow use of LID practices.

#### **Region 3: Kentucky**

The Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter hosted a 2007 Farm Bill Forum with the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts. The objective was to involve representatives of various conservation and commodity groups to give a broad overview and varied perspectives regarding the development of the new farm bill. Individuals making presentations included representatives of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, United States Department of Fish and Wildlife Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Quail Unlimited, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Cattleman’s Association and University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Attendees and

speakers had the opportunity to interact throughout the forum as meaningful discussion resulted from presentations and resulting questions. Information provided in this forum allowed participants the opportunity to begin focusing on the potential conservation provisions of the new farm bill and how they might impact the agricultural landscape.

### **Region 7: New Mexico**

The New Mexico Chapter was nominated for a Chapter Achievement Award for sponsoring the Riparian Restoration in the Southwest Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to provide training and information on restoring western riparian areas to healthy conditions through planning, control, restoration and management. The goals of the workshop were to build partnerships and encourage collaboration between landowners, organizations, government agencies, and neighboring states to control salt cedar and other invasive plants. Most of the 185 participants were responsible to their organizations for riparian restoration yet had little or no experience or knowledge. This event provided a foundation for their work and introduced them to the experts. Evaluations showed that 85% of the attendees thought the workshop was valuable and want to have a similar workshop in 18 months. Attendees came from Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, and Montana as well as from New Mexico and Arizona Indian Nations. The chapter formed important partnerships with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the New Mexico Riparian Association and the NRCS. The *Albuquerque Journal* did a public service announcement a few weeks prior to the event. The workshop helped to train future leaders in hosting large conferences and was also very profitable, making \$8,926 for the New Mexico Chapter. The chapter was able to fund a \$1,000 scholarship after 10 ten years of not offering scholarships. It also helped the chapter to fund a membership campaign which netted 17 new members, 12 of which are students from the University of New Mexico.

### **Region 9: Ontario**

The Ontario Chapter undertook a study of changes in heavy rainfalls in the Canadian portion of the Great Lakes Basin. Estimates are given of the probable impacts on soil erosion, delivery rates or eroded soil to receiving waters and effects on water quality. The study provides projections into the future with continuing climate warming. With the support of two funding sources, a bilateral meeting was held. As a result of these activities, two papers will be available. Both papers will contain recommendations on necessary actions for the two federal levels of government.

## **Outstanding Chapter Award**

### **Region 2: South Carolina**

In 2006, the South Carolina Chapter offered a wide range of chapter activities, including annual planning, newsletters on a quarterly basis, involvement in and leadership at the state, regional and national levels in SWCS, environmental education and generous scholarship programs, membership programs, and active focus through tours, workshops and conferences on the issue of low impact development. This latter activity included news articles, a taped radio program broadcast on public radio, and extensive outreach to engineers, developers, home builders, city and county officials, planning department professionals and plan reviewers.

### **Region 5: Iowa**

In 2006, the Iowa Chapter offered a wide range of chapter activities, including annual planning, newsletters, an awards program, environmental education, a generous scholarship program, and a sustaining membership program. They are particularly proud of several key soil and water promotional activities staffed by chapter members. The first is the fourth consecutive year of providing relief to riders of the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, during which food, water, and conservation-themed postcards are provided to the riders. In conjunction with that project, 25 conservation signs

installed by the chapter across Iowa promote conservation practices implemented by landowners. During the 200 Farm Progress Show in Amana, the Iowa Chapter sponsored a “Conservation Central” tent with 12 Federal, state, and non-profit partners. For the past several years, members volunteer to work the phone banks for the annual Iowa Public Television Festival membership drive, resulting in promotion for the society.

### **Region 6: British Columbia**

The British Columbia Chapter played a pivotal role in the organization of two key events throughout the year. These two events showcased innovation in current issues surrounding the management of their soil and water resources and to encourage a critical understanding of the value of farmland protection both locally and provincially. In addition, the chapter was involved in numerous activities while contributing to conservation policy in British Columbia and Canada.

### **Student Chapter: Grand Valley State University**

This year the Grand Valley State University Student Chapter participated in a variety of clean-up activities, including a two mile stretch of M-45, located just West of Allendale, Michigan and the Annual Thornapple River Cleanup project in conjunction with the Thornapple River Watershed Project to pick up trash in the river and on its banks. Other conservation activities include seed collection at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, which will be used when restoring some of the large prairie systems on their site. Social events throughout the year include bowling, cross country skiing, etc. They currently have more than 20 members and the list continues to grow each semester.

## **Sustained Performance Award**

### **Region 1: Southern New England**

The Southern New England Chapter has been nominated for a Sustained Performance Award. The nomination reflects the chapter’s continued involvement in professional development in a tri-state area. In the past several years, the chapter has hosted day-long conferences on subjects including grazing, storm water management, cultural resources, and erosion and sedimentation control. The chapter manages a small competitive grant program, sponsors each state’s Envirothon team, and provides scholarships to local college students. The chapter is currently planning a series of trainings and workshops for certifications including Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality, conservation planning, and Natural Resources Conservation Service standards. In addition to the excellent training opportunities for chapter members, these events have been widely attended by non-society participants and have resulted in new members for the chapter.

### **Region 3: Alabama**

The Alabama Chapter aims to provide leadership through technology development, technology transfer, and provision of professional development opportunities and support of conservation education. Over 1,200 copies of the chapter’s July 2003 revision of the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control, and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas have been distributed to users throughout the state. The technology had been transferred through 14 classes and field days with over 850 students through June 2005. During 2004 and 2005 an Alabama Erosion and Sediment Control Field Guide was printed and over 6,500 copies distributed.

In the area of professional development, the chapter provides opportunities for continuing education for certified individuals, specialized training sessions for CCAs, and providing CPESC review courses and proctored exams to 60 individuals in the state. In the area of education, the chapter provides sponsors and financial assistance to the student chapters at Auburn, Alabama A&M Universities. At the secondary level, chapter members serve as judges at regional and state science fairs and provide cash awards to the

winners. They also provide financial sponsorship for groundwater festivals (environmental education for 4<sup>th</sup> graders). The chapter created a leadership development internship program (one position annually) during the 05/06 year which should provide a cadre of enthusiastic new leaders to serve the chapter and the state.

### **Region 5: Show Me (Missouri)**

The Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has a sustained record of high performance thanks to a proud past, active membership, and a promising future. From its organization in 1945, the chapter has been active. In the years from 1987 to 2006, the chapter's membership has ranged from 176 to 231 members, with current membership of 215. For more than the past 10 years, the chapter has had a scholarship program; sponsored winter and summer meetings, as well as the state Natural Resources Conference; recognized individual leaders through an awards program; conducted fundraising projects; sponsored a student chapter; and an on-line presence since 1998.

### **Region 9: Ontario**

Within the past two years, the Ontario Chapter has contributed to the science of conservation and significantly increased its financial assets. Through a grant for a research project entitled "Planning for Extremes—Adapting to Impacts on Soil and Water from Higher Intensity Rains with Climate Change," the chapter received support for members to attend a bilateral workshop in Milwaukee and printing of the report. The Ontario Chapter has also increased its revenue by increasing the principal in its Merit Endowment Fund, which is used to support two awards of merit. The chapter continues to work towards improving its financial assets by working in partnership to administer funding from the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Foundation.

## **Scholarship Recipient**

*The Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship provides financial aid to members of SWCS for interdisciplinary graduate-level research on a conservation topic that will extend the mission of SWCS.*

**Ashlee Dere** – *Nitrogen mineralization in mine spoils amended with poultry manure and paper mill sludge*

Ashlee Dere is pursuing a Masters of Science Degree in soil science at Pennsylvania State University. Her research will involve parallel field and lab experiments to monitor nitrogen mineralization in coal mine spoils that have been amended with either composted poultry manure or fresh poultry manure mixed with short fiber paper mill sludge. As Dere states in her proposal, "Because the environmental problems of excess manure and mine spoils exist within the same region, it is potentially feasible to combine them to ameliorate the problem." The information gained from this research will provide a better understanding of how nitrogen is functioning in the system and may facilitate future access to nutrient trading markets. The \$1,300 Grant Scholarship will help Dere purchase supplies and equipment, conduct sample analyses, and cover travel costs associated with the field experiments.

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

Awards Committee  
Leadership Development Committee  
Professional Development Committee  
JSWC Editorial Board