



President's Message

by **Bob Ball**, Show Me Chapter, SWCS

The Executive Council and Committee Chairs met Friday, March 3rd and finalized our annual plan of work. This year could be one of the busiest ever for the Chapter. There are many opportunities for our 224 members to have a positive impact on the Chapter and to have it impact them professionally. I look forward to seeing each and everyone one of you making this kind of positive impact on Missouri's natural resources by becoming directly involved in the Year 2000 version of the Missouri Show-Me Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Our highest priority is certainly our role in co-hosting the Society's Annual Meeting and Conference July 8-12, 2000, in St. Louis with the Illinois Chapter, SWCS. A large number of our members are already actively involved in planning, fund raising, and serving on numerous committees plus we have a very long list of volunteers from both chapters who will support activities on-site. Speaking from personal experience, I missed an opportunity many years ago as a student to attend and support a Society meeting that took place only three miles from my campus. I've always regretted that. I encourage you to not make the same mistake. Preliminary programs have been available for several weeks. Let either **Ross Braun** or myself know if you need a program or check the Society's homepage.

One feature of the program is a post-conference tour scheduled for July 12-13 in the scenic Missouri Ozarks. I'm willing to bet many of you would find this mining, milling, and natural resources tour in the St. Francois Mountains exciting and informative.

In closing, we've just received word that our Chapter will be recognized at the Society Annual Meeting as the "Outstanding Chapter" for the West North Central Region. Congratulations to Past-President **Ken Bruene**, and members of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs for this fine accomplishment! ■

New Members: Member News



Curtis Gooch, Membership Chair, would like to extend a **WELCOME** to these first-time members and **WELCOME BACK** to members who have rejoined the Show Me Chapter.

Gorman Bennett, Jefferson City

Connie Doer, Owensville

Chris Evans, Popular Bluff

John Forsyth, Macon

Adam Koenigsfeld, Jefferson City

Walter Lane, Fayette

Tabitha Madzura, Columbia

Robert Miller, Jefferson City

Richard Moore, Jefferson City

Teresa Philbert-Lowery, Jefferson City

Douglas Wallace, Columbia

If members or potential members would like more information, contact Curtis Gooch at 210 Oaklawn, Warrenton, MO 63383 There are "new" membership application and dues. Curtis also notes that "persons attending or volunteering at the National SWCS Conference in St. Louis are encouraged to join the Society as they can receive a reduced registration rate for the conference and the other benefits of the Society."



News about Curtis Gooch! He has taken the Resource Conservationist position at the Osceola NRCS Field office and will be relocating there in the future. In the meantime, continue contacting him at the address above until he lets us know his new one.

Best wishes to **Anne Thor**, Southeast Area Director, who married David Seyer in August 1999; together, they have a large beef cattle operation in Stoddard County.



Whoops!! Make the following change to the directory included in the Winter 2000 Newsletter: the correct Email address for **Mike Morris**, Southwest Area Councilperson, is michael.morris@mo.usda.gov ■

2000 Executive Council

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Central - Lynn Heidenreich

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Southeast - Ray Hudak

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Membership Chair - Curtis Gooch

636/456-3434 ext 3

curtis.gooch@mo.usda.gov

Newsletter Editor - Wanda Eubank

573/672-3221 • 573/672-3238 fax

wuebank@nemonet.com

Executive Council Highlights



by **Ron Redden**, Chapter Secretary

The Executive Council of the Show Me Chapter, SWCS, met on Friday, March 3, 2000, at the NRCS State Offices in Columbia, Missouri. **Members present: Gary Bacleese, Ross Braun, Renee Cook, Wanda Eubank, Larry Fischer, Curtis Gooch, Allen Green, Bob Hagedorn, Lynn Heidenreich, Dave Johnson, Lynn Leimkuehler, Mike Morris, Bill Pauls, Ron Redden, Gary Van De Velde and Dan Yager. Bob Ball**, President, opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

- **Renee Cook** discussed the Urban Soils Conservation Tour being planned for the SWCS Conference in St. Louis in July. She discussed applying for 319 grant funds to assist with travel, a tour guide, and support information and offered to do the grant writing. It was discussed that in-kind matches could come from time donated from tour presenters.

- **Renee Cook**, Outgoing Membership Chair, passed out VIP and Chapter membership lists and noted that the Chapter has four new members for a total of 220. She also distributed an inactive list. A membership application and a SWCS conference brochure will be sent to these individuals. Renee will be seeking assistance in calling these past members about renewals.

- **Craig Cox**, Executive Vice President of the SWCS, joined the Council via telephone at 11:30 a.m. Craig discussed four areas in which he sees the SWCS needing to proceed – *Professional Development, Communications, Public Affairs, and Science*. Craig indicated that headquarters could contribute toward *professional development* best through the annual conference. He felt that the rest of the training opportunities must come from the local level. Craig mentioned that there has been a major push with *Conservation Voices*, designed to *communicate* the message that conservation is people and not programs. *Public affairs* this year will focus on the farm bill. *Science* has been neglected at the national level and they are working to change this.

Craig continued by indicating that the two biggest long-term issues are *membership* and *publications*. Membership continues to decline and 25% of the budget is dependent on this income. In response to a question from **Bob Ball** regarding the status of corporate dues, Craig stated that structuring of corporate membership had not been finalized. Six to 10,000 copies of *Conservation Voices* are printed each edition with Senate and Congressional members each receiving a copy. The publication has been a smash hit but is expensive and Craig wonders if it is possible to continue to publish three publications. In his closing comments, Craig indicated that he did not expect a major change in the farm bill this year and that, because of low commodity prices, conservation concerns were not doing well right now.

- **Wanda Eubank** indicated that the newsletter is being mailed on schedule. She asked **Curtis Gooch** to wait three months before sending termination letters since members frequently renew during this time period.

- **Ross Braun** updated the Council on the SWCS 2000 Conference. He reported that there are a number of good conservation tours planned as well as an excellent family night event. Workshops include topics such as nutrient management and riparian restoration. An NRCS State Conservationist meeting

will be held in conjunction with the conference.

- **Gary Van De Velde** reported on the 2000 Conference finances to date. Gary reported that it is estimated that the conference will have an income of \$90,000. Committees will soon be finalizing their budgets and donations are continuing to come in.

- **Ross Braun** addressed the Council on the state Envirothon and explained the purpose and organizational structure of the competition. The Chapter was invited and the Council approved a motion to become a full member of the Missouri Envirothon Advisory Committee. Ross asked the Chapter to be the sole sponsor for this year's event at a cost of about \$750; this was approved later in the meeting. As sole sponsor, we would increase our visibility at the state event held on May 4, 2000, at the Prairie Forks CA near Williamsburg, Missouri.

- **Allen Green** addressed the Council on the 2001 Natural Resources Conference. As the Program Chairman, he asked for ideas to take to a March 21 meeting where discussion would center on selecting a theme and potential speakers for the conference.

- **Bill Pauls**, representing the Missouri Association of Soil Scientists, addressed the Council to seek support for HB 1825 to officially recognize Menfro as the state soil for Missouri. Bill pointed out that this is a great educational tool and brings interest and recognition to the importance of our soil and agriculture.

- **Ross Braun** recommended that the Chapter increase sponsorship for the Natural Resources Career Camp from \$300/year to \$500/year and to encourage other quad-societies to help with sponsorship. The Council agreed to give this matter further consideration during the discussion of the budget.

- **Bob Ball** and **Ross Braun** planned to attend the Chapter Development Workshop following the WNC-SWCS Watershed Conference the week of March 27. It was noted that **Donna Menown** and **Lynn Heidenreich** would be presenters at the Watershed Conference.

- **Lynn Heidenreich** discussed the need to present something tangible to Scholarship Award winners at the time of the award. She will work with **Dave Johnson** to get plaques for this year's award winners. Lynn is looking for persons to serve on the committee and to help develop a promotional brochure. She plans to bring proposed scholarship selection criteria back to the Council. **Bob Ball** will send a letter of appreciation to **Clark Gantzer** in recognition of his efforts as past Chair of the Awards Committee.

- **Wanda Eubank** asked the Chapter to co-sponsor the North Fork Watershed Conference to be held on July 18 at the Mark Twain Country Club near Paris, Missouri. A \$200 contribution was approved during the budget discussion. This also includes one registration and exhibit space for the Chapter.

- **Larry Fischer** brought up the need to address several Chapter administrative procedures: the Chapter has never been audited although bylaws state that accounts will be audited at the close of each year. **Bob Ball** will look into the procedures to meet our Chapter audit requirements. Larry indicated that an

official Chapter address was needed and that it should be a permanent address for the non-profit and tax-exempt certifications. It was agreed that Larry's address should be used for this purpose.

- **Gary Baclesse** announced that he was looking at possible dates and topics for the Fall Forum and asked interested members to serve on the planning committee. **Bob Broz** has already volunteered. It was brought to the Council's attention that the bylaws include a provision that the Program Development Committee is to include the Chapter President-Elect, Vice-President, and Area Councilpersons.

- **Bob Ball** handed out draft copies of the 2000 Work Plan for the Chapter. The Council discussed the plan and made several modifications.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Friday June 16, 2000, at the State NRCS Offices in Columbia. Members are welcome at these meetings. ■

Condolences

Charlie Dickerson, former NRCS Ag Engineer in Warrensburg, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 2000. The funeral was held in Marshall on April 9, 2000. Condolences can be directed to his family at 1568 The Oaks, Marshall, MO 65340-3627.



We just received word that **Marvin Wells**, father of **Mike Wells**, died on May 11, 2000. Cards and condolences can be sent to Mike and Fran at 1309 Westview Terrace, Columbia, MO 65203.

Notes from the Treasurer

by **Larry Fischer**, Show-Me Chapter

Following is the report given at the Executive Council meeting held on March 3, 2000: Total expenses since January 1, 2000, amount to \$1,139.91 and include \$300 for the 1999 donation to the Conservation Career Camp and \$243 for the annual affiliation fee to the Missouri Conservation Federation. Total income since January 1, 2000, amounts to \$902.99 and includes \$877 raffle income (thanks to **Raleigh Redman** for his efforts on the raffle project!) from the 2000 Missouri Natural Resources Conference. As of March 1, 2000, the Chapter has a savings



account balance of \$4,067.55, a checking balance of \$1,108.81, and three CDs totaling \$4,104.10. Total Chapter assets are \$9,280.46

The 2000 budget was presented. Several modifications were recommended with the most notable being an increase in the Career Camp from \$300/year to \$500/year, adding a line item of \$750 for tee shirts for the state Envirothon competition, and adding a line item of \$200 for the North Fork conference sponsorship. ■

Surf the Web!

Easy-to-use Computer Model Helps Illustrate Water Movement Through Soil.

A user-friendly, sophisticated computer model developed by the Agricultural Research Service has helped engineers, scientists and students worldwide understand how water and chemicals move in soil and groundwater.

HYDRUS allows agricultural engineers to design irrigation systems that provide optimal water to crops while minimizing the transport of fertilizers and pesticides to groundwater. Land-fill designers have used the program to ensure their facilities do



not release contaminants.

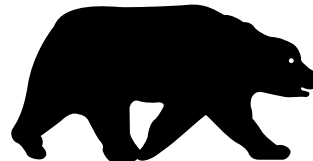
HYDRUS provides an easy-to-use, Windows-based format. It displays results visually by means of graphs or contour lines, instead of as columns of numbers. Animation can illustrate how a fertilizer or other chemical would move through the soil and possibly into groundwater. A demonstration version of the model is online at:

www.ussl.ars.usda.gov/MODELS/HYDRUS2D.HTM

FHWA Website Provides Link to Wildlife Protection. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed a web site that provides information on methods and techniques that can be used to help protect wildlife along highways.

The new web site, called "Wildlife Crossings," describes some of the effects that transportation has on wildlife and ecosystems. It also highlights exemplary projects and processes around the country that help reduce those impacts.

The projects featured on the web site include bear underpasses, salamander tunnels and fish passage structures. These and other examples are described on the FHWA web site for Wildlife Crossings, which can be found at www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings.



NRCS Golf Tournament.

Missouri NRCS employees interested in playing tournament golf should mark your calendar now! The 2000 State USDA Golf Tournament has been scheduled for September 29, 2000. The location is Eagle Knoll. The format and cost will be the same as last fall's tournament. Please share this with other USDA colleagues and friends. For details, contact **Ted Utz** at Email: ted.utz@mo.usda.gov



CFM Report

by *Gary Van De Velde, Show-Me Chapter Member and Liaison to the Conservation Federation of Missouri*

The Conservation Federation of Missouri held its annual meeting at the Lake of the Ozarks the weekend of March 24 through 26, 2000. This year's conference featured National Wildlife Federation Chair, **Paula Del Giudice**.



This year, organizations and groups entered 20 resolutions. A summary of the issues follows:

- Ask the Conservation Federation membership to:
 - support the ballot measure for the creation of Metropolitan and Recreation Districts.
 - support the new MDC Private Lands Service Program.
- Have the Missouri Conservation Commission:
 - do a feasibility study of children-only zones for trout fishing.
 - establish a Wild Trout Management Area on the Little Piney River.
 - pursue efforts to relocate a population of wild elk based on a study bearing favorable results.
 - favorably consider and approve a proposal to adopt a five zone adaptive otter management concept with limits in certain zones and season extensions in others.
- Ask the Missouri General Assembly to:
 - address the serious shortfall in funding for hazardous waste activities of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
 - designate Menfro as the official State Soil of Missouri
- Ask the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to:
 - delay issuing new Chip Mill Permits because of the impact chip mills have on water quality.
 - support the removal of mine de-watering exemption from the Scenic River Ways.
- Ask the National Wildlife Federation to:
 - encourage State and Federal Courts to enact legislation deeming such lawsuits (The Great Ape Legal Project) as frivolous and a waste of valuable time for the court systems.
- Ask the Missouri Department of Agriculture to:
 - declare the Tartarian Honeysuckle (a non-native plant) a noxious weed.

If you have questions, call or email Gary. Telephone: 573/ 893-5188 email: gary.vandavelde@mo.usda.gov ■

Society Notes *from Craig Cox, Executive Vice President*

(Editor's Note: Since many of our members are active at the national level, we will include Society Notes whenever space permits.)

Annual Conference – 2000 and Beyond. The preliminary program for this year's annual conference can be viewed at the Society's web page (www.swcs.org).

The Annual Conference Task Force, chaired by **Robin Shepard**, delivered its report and the Board recommended that the Society open up the site bidding competition to any chapter, regardless of location, each year. It would then become the responsibility of the Board to ensure geographic representation over time in the selection of annual conference sites. The current schedule is:

- ◆ 2000: St. Louis
- ◆ 2001: South Carolina
- ◆ 2002: Indianapolis.

SWCS Web Page Trivia. For March 2000, the *most active user countries* other than the United States: the United Kingdom (second) with 281 user sessions; Canada, third, with 258; and Australia, fourth with 68.

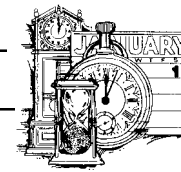
- *Most downloaded files for March, 2000:* (1) The Cochran testimony with 62 (testimony for fiscal year 2001 budget appropriations); (2) Soil survey document with 42; and (3) The Skeen testimony with 37 (testimony for fiscal year 2001 budget appropriations).
- *Most active organizations in March, 2000:* (1) America Online with 14,228 hits and (2) US Department of Agriculture with 7,419 hits.

Web page - public affairs section: From www.swcs.org, there are now links to: the SWCS testimony for fiscal year 2001 budget appropriations, the USDA Conservation Initiative, and the follow-up information on the USDA National Summit on Private Land Conservation.

Job Hunting? The SWCS *communications department* is advertising to fill two vacancies: Technical Editor and Editorial Assistant. Talk to **Deb Happe von Arb** at National headquarters. ■

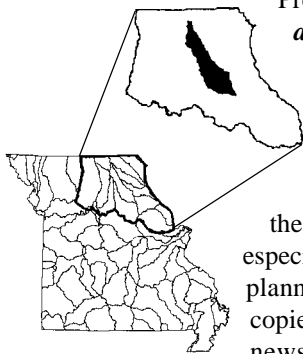


Timelines & Deadlines



Regional Watershed Conference.

The North Fork 319 Project presents *Watersheds: Issues and Answers* on Tuesday, July 18, 2000, at the Mark Twain Country Club near Paris, Missouri. As a “spin off “ from the National SWCS Conference, the Show Me Chapter will be serving as one of the co-sponsors. Chapter members – especially those working with watershed planning groups – can obtain multiple copies of the brochure inserted in this newsletter from **Wanda Eubank** at



CCWWC, 34146 Route U, Stoutsville, MO 65283 Phone: 573/672-3221, FAX: 573/672-3238 Email: weubank@nemonet.com

MNRC 2001. Planning is well underway for MNRC 2001 to be held from Wednesday, January 31 through Friday, February 2, 2001, at Marriott's Tan Tar A Resort, Lake Ozark. **Allan Johnston, Steering Committee Chair, MNRC 2001** called to say that the last meeting of the planning committee was held on April 12, 2000 at the USDA Service Center in Jefferson City and “everything is going as planned”. The theme selected by the MNRC steering committee is: *Private Lands - The Foundation for Conservation.*

Allen Green, Program Chair, says that “the Program Committee is currently working on identifying speakers and outlining other details of the program “ he adds that “I should have considerable more information on speakers, concurrent sessions, and the poster session by the next issue”. He asks that anyone having suggestions for plenary session speakers that fit this theme, please contact him at (phone) 573-876-0900 or E-mail: allen.green@mo.usda.gov

Allan Johnston reminds members that “the next meeting of the MNRC 2001 Planning committee is to be held on July 27th at 10 a.m. in the same location (as above) to discuss potential speakers reflecting the conference theme.” He suggests that anyone wanting to make input should get ideas to **Allen Green** before that date.

Awards Nominations Sought. The Awards committee is always looking for nominees for any of the awards presented each year by the Show Me Chapter. Categories are: Professional Conservationist, News Media, Volunteer, Teacher or Educator, and Legislative. The selections will not be made until December, but that does not mean that nominations have to wait. If you have someone—or a group—that you would like to nominate for an award, please contact **Dave Johnson, Chair of the Awards Committee,** at 660/542-33361, Ext. 3 or by Email: dave.johnson@mo.usda.gov



Natural Resources Conservation Camp 2000:

Update. The Natural Resources Career Camp Committee has completed recruitment for calendar year 2000. Much appreciation is given to the Society and the members that worked hard at getting out the word about the Camp. But it is never too early to look for good candidates for next year.

The five students attending MNRC are excited about completing their Camp experience and entering the opportunities offered by natural resource and conservation careers. Please take time to visit with students from your area and encourage their professional development.



Nineteen campers will be invited to attend the two-week camp to be held at University Forest facilities near Poplar Bluff Missouri. In addition, 15 students will be returning for their second year and another 13 will be completing the camp with one week each at the University of Missouri, Columbia and Lincoln University. Camp dates are July 10 through the 21st.

Anyone interested in helping with transportation or needing more information about the camp should call **Steve Wilson,** Osage Valley RC&D, 100 Westmor, Suite 2, Clinton, MO 64735. Phone: 660/885-5052 Email: steve.wilson@mo.usda.gov ■



Two of the Conservation campers take part in a learning experience as part of the Camp program on fisheries management.

American Honda Foundation Grants. *Do you have E&I responsibilities? This may be a good opportunity to obtain funding.*

Sponsor: American Honda Foundation

Purpose: To support various programs within youth education.

Deadline(s): May 1, 2000, August 1, 2000, November 1, 2000 and February 1, 2001

Summary: Projects that have been funded include a focus on job training, math, science and environmental education. **Eligibility** includes: nonprofits, including K-12 schools and school districts, education institutions, nonprofit scientific and education organizations, and national programs involved with curriculum development that encourage innovative education methods and techniques.

For guidelines, send a SASE to: American Honda Foundation, PO Box 2205, Torrance, CA 90509

If the staff receive preliminary proposals a month before the deadline, they can provide feedback in time for applicants to make changes and still meet the deadline.

Contact: American Honda Foundation, 1919 Torrance Blvd, Bldg 100, Torrance, CA 90501 or call, Kathy Carey at 310/781-4090 Website: <http://www.flstw.fsu.edu/honda.html> ■

Headlines - News about People, Places & Things



Chapter Award. Ross Braun, Missouri Show-Me Chapter Secretary (retired!) received a letter recently announcing that the **Show Me Chapter** has been approved to receive the “**Outstanding Chapter**” award for the **West North Central Region in 1999**. “Congratulations to the Executive Committee and especially to Past-President **Ken Bruene** for this prestigious award!”

An awards ceremony will be held Saturday, July 8th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Society meeting in St. Louis. “Congratulations to all!” says **Bob Ball**, President, Missouri Show-Me Chapter.

Ken will be attending the ceremony to accept the award and he says, “It does please me that the chapter won the award for last year. It makes me feel a bit like I felt one time when I was still on the farm and had a herd of rather docile Holsteins. One was lying down in the feed yard and I walked up and sat on her which prompted her to get up. Then I just hoped that I could stay on top of things until she quieted down.

“The same thing is true with my last year’s relationship with the chapter. I sat on top and hoped things went the right way until I could get off. Seriously, it was a good year and I enjoyed being a part of it. The best part was getting to know people such as yourselves, better. That is what it is all about.”

West North Central Region Chapter Development Workshop. Ross Braun and Bob Ball represented the Missouri Show-Me Chapter at this training and information exchange held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin March 30-31, 2000. Chapter leaders from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were also in attendance.

You now have an excellent opportunity to catch-up and exceed both Ross and Bob by attending the Chapter Development Workshop on Saturday, July 8th at the SWCS annual meeting during the Personal and Professional Development Session. This promises to be a valuable experience for Chapter leaders.

The workshop begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Registration details can be found within the 2000 SWCS Annual Conference Preliminary Program.

Missouri Envirothon. The future of the earth depends on the students of today. The decisions they make, such as where to build their homes, what kind of transportation to use and the type of detergent to buy, all affect the environment. **The Envirothon helps students learn about their natural world and make wise decisions that affect it.**



The Envirothon is a **problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students**. In the field, teams of students are challenged to hone critical thinking skills and work as a team. They answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigation of environmental issues in five categories – Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues. Envirothon can also be used as a curriculum guide for classroom study.

Envirothon was started in 1979 by three Pennsylvania Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). By 1988, the idea had caught on and the first national contest was held. In 1995, there were participants from 31 states, Canada and Australia. **Missouri held its first state Envirothon in 1998 and sent teams to national competition in 1998 and 1999!**

Missouri is divided into seven regional Envirothon competition sections: Northeast, Northwest, Kansas City, St. Louis, Southwest, Southeast, and Central. Competitions are sponsored by the Missouri Association of SWCDs. Reference materials for students and teachers are available through County SWCD’s. They will also help set up training schedules.

Teams wishing to compete in 2001 should be making plans to organize and prepare throughout the 2000 - 01 school year. Training for team advisors is provided by the Missouri Departments of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resources (DNR), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and University Outreach and Extension (UOE). For more information, contact: **Peggy Lemons**, MASWCD, 1209 Biscayne Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109, phone: 573/893-5188.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Water Quality Shortcourse. Forty students, representing many Missouri natural-resource partners, attended a 3-day training course held in Columbia April 18 - 20, 2000. **Paul Calvert**, right, Stream Agricultural Program Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation, offers instruction on macroinvertebrate sampling techniques to members of the group. **Bob Schultheis**, Extension Agricultural Engineering Specialist, holds down the “kick seine” while **Anne Peery**, Environmental Specialist, MDNR-WPCP, prepares to dance in Grindstone Creek to free up the little critters that will be collected in the net.

The Missouri Show-Me Chapter, SWCS provided administrative support for the training.

(Photo courtesy of **Frank Wideman**, Extension Ag Engineer.)



Hickman High School, Columbia, MO, takes first place in Missouri State Envirothon for the second year in a row. (left to right) Backrow : Lori Lewis, Coach; Alex Gibbs, Justin O’Neal, Artiz Briseno; Front row: Kelly Pierce and Sarah Hood. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Minor, NRCS, Columbia.)



St. Louis 2000 Update

Contributed by **Ross Braun**, Co-chair of Local Arrangements

Gateway to the Future: Conserving Private Lands: Year 2000 Annual Meeting & Conference in St. Louis July 8 - 12, 2000

(pre-conference workshop through awards luncheon)



Program and Activities: We are only weeks away from the St. Louis conference! Do you feel the excitement? The word throughout SWCS and our partner organizations is that this is going to be the best conference ever. We received numerous compliments and all of the subcommittee chairpersons deserve that recognition. We now have over 140 volunteers!

The St. Louis Conference offers more professional development opportunities than any previous conference. There will be workshops on Stream Corridor Restoration Technology, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning, and Storm Water Quality. An Erosion and Sediment Control workshop is available for people interested in the Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control program. The five conservation tours (Program Without Walls) offer a variety of unique educational experiences. The annual Chapter Development Workshop on Saturday offers leadership training and will give participants a chance to get to know national and state leaders. Concurrent technical presentations will be held on Monday, July 10, and include the most recent soil and water conservation efforts and issues in the United States and several other countries.

The Wednesday, July 12, plenary session will provide insight for conservation provisions in the 2002 Farm Bill. The Monday morning, July 10, session includes a dramatic presentation titled "People Sustaining the Land" with photo images and real life stories from 38 states. The Monday afternoon session will explore the practical impacts of new conservation technology.

Financial support for the conference is excellent! By the time you read this, you should have received the preliminary program/registration packets. Over 16,000 packets were mailed and the in-

formation and registration form is posted on the SWCS web site (www.swcs.org).

The conference and annual SWCS meeting promise to provide an abundance of valuable and unique opportunities. It's invigorating for the Missouri Show-Me Chapter to be a vital part the experience.

Local Arrangements Committee Chairpersons

Registration: **Dan Silberberg**

Facilities: **Debbie Bruns**

Conservation Tours: **Duane Friend**

Publicity: **Sarah Minor & Paula Price**

Spouse Activities: **Steve Wilson**

Teen Activities: **David Rahe**

Youth: **Martha Sheppard & Jay Lingwall**

Local Contact: **Renee Cook**

Transportation: **Ed Weilbacher**

Finance: **Gary Van De Velde**

Student Activities: **Tony Dohmen**

Hospitality: **Marvin Brown**

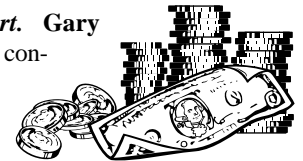
Family Night: **Kim St. John**

Post-conference Tour: **Bob Ball**

LAC Co-Chairs: **Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, IL & Ross Braun, MO**

Budget and Financial Support. **Gary**

Van De Velde says "We have received contributions from a variety of organizations and we are still receiving them" among those are "Anheuser-Busch, Novartis, the Departments of Natural Resources in both Illinois and Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation, 48 Conservation Districts in Illinois and Missouri, University of Illinois, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Illinois EPA, Sharp Brothers Seed Company, National Pork Producers Association, Illinois SWCD Employee Association, Illinois Association of SWCD's, and NRCS in Illinois and Missouri."



Silent Auction: Your editor had a note from **Mike Bradley**, Chair of this event. He says, "We are still looking for items for the silent auction for the SWCS 2000 Conference." He went on to say, "We would especially like to see unique items made in Missouri or in some way associated with our State." Mike will appreciate any items that members think would work well for this fund raiser. If you have contributions or questions, contact him at 660-665-7710 or 660-665-1221 or email: michael.bradley@mo.usda.gov ■

Newsorthy Items

Menfro Silt Loam: Update on Proposal for Missouri's Official State Soil

Bill Pauls, Treasurer, MAPSS, sent word that "Unfortunately our Menfro bill # 1825 ran into some choppy (political) waters." He explained that Representative Klindt, sponsor of the bill, decided to withdraw it from the formal calendar because he didn't want it to be defeated outright. Bill further explained that "this would have precluded us from bringing it back next year. (and now) we intend to take advantage of the 2nd 'win' in our win-win scenario. If we didn't accomplish outright passage this session (first win), then we will increase our efforts to make more Missourians aware of the importance of soil as the most valuable natural resource by bringing it back in upcoming years until we are successful. We get to continue promoting and educating Missouri's citizens."



Bill went on to say that "Menfro fell victim to unrelated (to our bill) partisan wrangling over more contentious issues" and that there were comments and questions such as 'We don't have Menfro

in our part of the state' and 'Why do we need a state dirt?'. He added that "We will work on the education side of the equation and Representative Klindt and friendly colleagues will work on the political side."

Even though it is not found in all areas of the state, Menfro is the most representative soil type in the state because of its extent, locations and high productivity. One of the reasons Representative Klindt was asked to sponsor the bill was because he has no Menfro in his district. He does however recognize the value to agriculture, and the state in general, of having a legislated state soil as an educational tool.

Bill appealed to the Society "We ask for your help, and especially the help of your members in areas without Menfro. Please contact your Representatives and request them to release Menfro as 'political hostage' next session."

He concluded "An advantage of this process is the current education I am getting on how our political system *really* works."

Comments and questions should be directed to **Bill Pauls**, Treasurer, Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS), Email: Bill.Pauls@mo.usda.gov ■

Calendar of Events



June 3, 2000 • Jefferson City
June 9, 2000 • St Charles
June 10, 2000 • St Charles
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

July 8, 2000 • Poplar Bluff
July 22, 2000 • Springfield
August 5, 2000 • St Joseph

Introductory Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshops. Each participant *must* register and can do this by telephone or on the Stream Team Web Page (www.mostream.org). Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch—none will be provided—and to wear outdoor clothing and bring boots or “river shoes”. Attendance is limited to 30 people per workshop. ***You are asked to call Priscilla Stotts (573/526-3406) in advance for registration details, to be sure that the workshop is on schedule, and to be sure that there is an opening for your participation.***

July 8-12, 2000 • St. Louis, Missouri

SWCS Annual Meeting & Conference. See inside this issue for participation and volunteer opportunities. Also contact Ross Braun, Missouri Co-chair, Local Arrangements Committee, 573/876-9426, email: ross.braun@mo.usda.gov

July 18, 2000 • Paris, MO

Mark Twain Country Club, Highway 154 East

Watersheds: Issues and Answers. This regional conference is sponsored by the North Fork Project, a 319 grant to the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission. The Show Me Chapter serves as one of the co-sponsors. The program will include *Watershed Management: Why?*; *Watershed Management: How Do We get Started?*; *BMPs for Agriculture: What Works, What Doesn't*; *Rural Sewer Districts*; *Water Supplies: Status and Outlook*; and *The Price of Doing Nothing*. The lunch speaker will be Kevin Rund, Illinois Farm Bureau, on the *Code of Country Living—a look at the realities of rural living*. Program and registration information is available from Wanda Eubank at 573/672-3221 or email: weubank@nemonet.com

August 29-31, 2000 • Des Moines, Iowa

Des Moines Convention Center

Carbon: Exploring the Benefits to Farmers and Society. Come and find out what carbon is worth environmentally, economically, and agronomically; what we know about carbon management and sequestration; how to manage carbon on agricultural land; how carbon credit trading might work; and what's “over the hill and on the horizon”. The conference will also include roundtables, panel discussions and poster presentations. For registration information, contact Alice Vinsand at 515/225-1051 or email: avinsand@aol.com Information is also available at www.cvrtd.org

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Louis.

In these photos, Renee Cook is shown presenting awards to (left) Gerry Boehm, Conservation Educator of the Year. At right is Renee with Rhonda Ferrett, Volunteer of the Year.