



SHOW-ME CHAPTER

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY KIM WORTH



Pizza!!! As a college student, pizza was sufficient motivation for joining an organization which has, and will continue to, change my world for the better.

My membership in the Soil and Water Conservation Society began when some of the Central Area SWCS members, especially then President Bob Ball, were working to reinvigorate the University of Missouri – Columbia SWCS Student Chapter. I was working as a co-op student at the NRCS State Office during college, so Bob asked me to be involved with SWCS and the student organization. I'm kind of a sucker for such causes, so I agreed. And shortly later at the student organization's business/pizza meeting, I agreed again...to be President. There's no better way to be part of a professional organization, or any organization, than to be active, passionate, involved, available, and just jump right in. So, that's what I did.

That was probably 2001. By 2004 I had been working full-time for NRCS for two years, married for one year, and was still an SWCS "member" but I was getting fed up with paying the \$75 SWCS membership fee and receiving this Journal that was taking up space on my shelf. (Don't get scared that you voted for this person as Chapter President...yet.) I was also considering not renewing my membership in SWCS for the coming year. About 5:30pm one evening David Speidel, current NW Area Councilperson, straightened me out. I know he works late, but I don't remember why I was staying at the office so late. Fate, I suppose. I expressed my dissatisfaction with the SWCS "value for my money" that I was receiving. David talked to me about his experiences with the Iowa and Nebraska SWCS Chapters, their activities, the benefits of being involved, the need for SWCS, the professional benefit of The Journal (or one's ability to donate it to colleges), etc. It was one of those talks where you remember the strong emotion that it elicited, but not all of the words exactly.

In 2005 I ran for Show-Me Chapter Vice President, and then volunteered to fill the Webmaster slot. In 2006, President-Elect. In 2007, President. It's like an addiction (but a good kind). You get involved with something, you meet the people, you go to regional and national meetings and learn about things that are larger than you, you loan your Journals out to student after student (and even notice some interesting articles for yourself), you see the benefits of Chapter scholarships, you feel needed and part of a group, you realize that \$80 is pocket-change for what you are gaining. An addiction, maybe, but the side effects are totally worth it.

There are numerous ways to get involved. The Chapter always needs people to run for offices. Volunteer for activities being planned in your Area, or if there's "nothing" going on, plan something. Write articles for the newsletters. Become more educated on the goals of SWCS so that you can tell others about the organization. Keep up on environmental legislation on the local, state, and national fronts. Take a stand for something worthwhile. Or, tell someone the story of what got you involved in the Soil and Water Conservation Society. It could change their life too.

In this issue:

Membership Report	2
Professional Development Funds	2
First Place Scholarship Essay	4
WNC Leadership Workshop	5

MARCH 2007

Special points of interest:

- * Page 3 has information about WNC Regional Meeting
- * Page 5 has information about awards presented by SWCS at the MNRC conference.

**FUNDRAISING
COMMITTEE
REPORT
BY MIKE MORRIS**

The silent auction and raffle netted approximately \$2,050.00 for the Show-Me Chapter scholarship fund. I wish to thank everyone who participated in ticket sales and silent auction bidding. This year's winners in the raffle are as follows: Dan Silberberg, \$250 Bass Pro Certificate, Stuart Lawson, pocket knife collection and display, Cliff Baumer, Branson ticket package.

I would like to thank the following contributors to our fund raising activities: Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Everharts, Case IH, Schaffner Equipment, Kline's Equipment, Western Smokehouse, Central Bank, Commerce Bank, Tipton Latham Bank, Exchange Bank, Wonders of Wildlife Museum, Mike Kehoe Ford, Silver Dollar City, Jim Stafford Theater, Pistols Plus, St. Louis Cardinals, Kansas City Royals, Wal-Mart, Pamida, Flat Branch Pub, Bissels, Ranger Boats and Crown Power.

I would accept any ideas concerning the fund raising activities so please feel free to contact me. As President Elect for 2007 I welcome any and all assistance with the fund raising effort.

Next Executive Council Meeting - Tuesday, April 10

All SWCS members are invited to attend Executive Council meetings. If you cannot attend, please submit agenda items to your Area Director or kim.worth@mo.usda.gov. The April 10th meeting will be in the Columbia area.

Membership Report BY RON REDDEN

The chapter membership includes 215 members. This compares with 219 in March 2006 and 215 in May and 218 in August. Our membership includes 21 student memberships, 14 Life memberships, 8 Leader or President's Club memberships, 1 non-profit partner (MLICA), and 171 memberships at the Conservationist level.

The largest increase this past year has been in the SE area which has increased its membership from 15 to 22. The largest decrease was in the NE area where they saw a decrease from 28 to 22. There are 36 members in the NE area, 79 in the Central area, and 53 members in the SW area. The large number of members in the Central area is, in part, due to number of state and federal agency members in Jefferson City and Columbia who use their work address for the society yet live in another area. Also, as a result of the MRNC, we have two new members and they include Dick Henderson and Brian Fredrick.

Our fluctuation in the total chapter monthly membership is primarily associated with new and terminated student memberships. The students that let their memberships terminated are largely students who have been provided a one year "complimentary" memberships as a result of things like winning the Envirothon, scholarship recipients, etc. and not university students.

The way Ankeny keeps their membership records, if the membership completely terminates, the renewing member will be listed as a new member upon receipt of the membership fee.

During the past year, I am only aware of one NRCS termination. There have been several late renewals, but with the one exception, they were just late and plan on renewing if they have not already done so.

DNR terminations stem primarily from Soil and Water Conservation Program staff that either move to another program with a discipline other than soil and choose to support that discipline or are a result of folks that retire or leave the agency entirely. Other state agency and non-agency memberships remain fairly constant also. As we have discussed on numerous occasions, it is sometimes hard for some folks to justify an \$80/year membership upon retirement or when moving to another environmental area.

If USDA members would find it more convenient or affordable to pay the SWCS annual dues through payroll deduction, that can be arranged. By using payroll deduction, your dues will only cost you a few cents more than \$3 a pay period. You can contact your SWCS chapter Area Director or Area Councilperson for a copy of the USDA form titled Request for Payroll Deductions for Association Dues. NRCS employees may contact the State Office at (573) 876-0904 if you have questions about completing the form.

Issues/Resolutions for International SWCS Conference

Please submit issues to be discussed, or resolutions to be voted upon, at the SWCS House of Delegates Meeting by March 30th to kim.worth@mo.usda.gov, or any Executive Council Member, so that the Executive Council can discuss and submit them to Ankeny.

Position Available: Chapter Nominations Chair

Anyone who would be interested in volunteering for the Show-Me Chapter Nominations and Elections Chair (arranges elections and nominees), please contact kim.worth@mo.usda.gov or tammy.teeter@mo.usda.gov. Current Chair Tammy Teeter is the best source for information about the position.

By-Laws Revisions Summary

The Show-Me Chapter by-laws are in the process of being revised. The existing and proposed by-laws can be accessed at <http://www.swcs.missouri.edu/>.

There will be a vote by the membership in mid-March regarding the proposed changes.

Changes include: Article IV Section 2 which makes our membership categories the same as the parent society. Article VI Section 8 which removes the past restriction of allowing the vice-president to serve only a one year term and no more than two consecutive terms. The change allows the vice-president to serve indefinite number of terms which is the same as the secretary and treasurer.

Article VII Section 3 which states that voting shall be by mail-in and online ballot.

Article IX Section 7 which removes the Betty Broemelsiek Scholarship Endowment Committee section (the committee is no longer active).

Article IX (new Section 8) which changes previous wording to match our membership categories.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

BY DIANE BRADLEY

In the future if you would like to attend an SWCS function, such as the SWCS Annual Conference, an SWCS Regional Conference, or the WNC Leadership Development Workshop, then you should consider making a request to the Executive Council for financial assistance to attend.

How does it work? The MO Show-Me Chapter plans to continue to set aside funds for members to attend functions that will provide professional development opportunities. You will likely request assistance through your employer to attend on company/agency/government time and at their expense. Sometimes the employer will only approve a portion of the request, none of the request, or the entire request. For those of you who do not get the complete support of your employer to attend with all expenses covered you may then request financial assistance by completing the MO Show-Me Chapter Application (available on our website) for Professional Development Funding and at the next Executive Council meeting your request will be considered and action taken.

The Executive Council will make approvals for funding based on the available funds. Requests may be made for partial funding to the event, such as just registration or just lodging, etc. **You must submit your request to the President prior to the event and in time to allow the Executive Council to act upon the request.** Once approved you are on your way. Finally, receipts are required after attendance for reimbursement to occur. If you have additional questions please contact a member of the Executive Council. We would be glad to assist you with any questions you may have concerning the process or completion of the application. The application is posted at <http://www.swcs.missouri.edu/>

WNC REGIONAL SWCS Impacts of Increased Bio-Fuel Production on the Midwest Landscape

October 16-18, 2007
Holiday Inn
450 Main Street
Dubuque, Iowa

With regional and national attention focused on the use of renewable bio-fuels, energy conservation and energy independence, the impact on the environment (specifically on soil and water quality and quantity) is a critical dimension of the dialog that has often been in the background. The desire for less reliance on fossil fuels and foreign sources of energy will have a dramatic impact on national soil and water resources.

The goal of the conference is to elevate the debate beyond just technology creation and narrow economic development aspects to address soil conservation, water quality and human decisions about land management and how these intersect in the public

debate surrounding bio-based fuels; and in particular, increases in grain based bio-fuel production. Organized by the West North Central Region of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Call for Papers:

http://swcs.sitevz.com/en/swcs_conferences/regional_conferences/

The call for papers is open through March 31st.

Registration: Opens August 1, 2007

Contact Information:

Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
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JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

by Lauren Cartwright

As of January 31, 2007 the balances for all accounts and investments for the MO Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society total \$23,808.97. Of that total \$15,270 are CD investments that will yield the chapter around \$900 in interest by next December. The scholarship money is being accounted for in the budget as a separate line item and back scholarship money that was not spent since 2002 is now accounted for and is allowing us to increase the scholarship amounts for the time being. Not counting the fund raising efforts at the recent MNRC conference, available scholarship money is \$7,928.

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY—FIRST PLACE

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT VS. WILDLIFE HABITAT: CREATING A BALANCE BY KYLIE DICKET

The human population on the earth continues to increase. As we continue to increase we also increase our taking of land that was previously wild. Land usage in terms of development by the human population is daily encroaching upon the habitat areas of the wildlife population. As a professional who is trying to manage and protect natural resources it is important to develop strategies and programs that can stimulate positive outcomes for the both the human and wildlife populations of a given area.

In order to set up a win-win situation for all interested parties it is necessary to establish a plan of action that addresses the concerns of both human needs and wildlife protection. To implement the plan would require four important components. The first component would be to recognize how the human development impacts the wildlife habitat and migration issues. Additionally we must work to educate the public about how our actions impact the population of wildlife. Another important aspect is to foster planned development that protects and promotes both the wildlife and human interests by forming planning commissions that work to meet human needs and protect wildlife. Finally, government legislation must be developed to protect the rights of wildlife and private landowners in order to assure that the proposed developments are in the best interest of everyone.

Before any plan can be formulated it is necessary to learn how human development affects the wildlife in the proposed area. A recent article by wildlands.org cited five major impacts that human development has on wildlife. First, development often leads to a loss of habitat for the wildlife in the area. This can cause a loss of shelter, food, or breeding grounds and the wildlife may move away or have to adapt. Secondly the buildings may fragment the habitat into smaller pieces which may not sustain the wildlife population. Thirdly, the quality of the remaining habitat is adversely affected. Power lines, excessive noise or lights can cause harm to the animals. Fourth, the landscape of the developed area may be incompatible for migration corridors of some species. And last, with development come more roads. The most harmful effect of the roads is of course that more develop comes and expands into the wildlife habitat area.

Education must be a part of any successful collaboration between urban planners and wildlife management. It is vital to share how we impact wildlife, how we can help and protect wildlife. We must also educate people on how to think about humans and wildlife living together in a compatible way to improve the quality of life for both humans and animals.

A third component of a successful partnership in the development of lands for human use that also protect the wildlife would need a plan. Wikipedia describes urban planning as “the discipline of land use planning which explores several aspects of the built and social environments of municipalities and communities.” The idea of looking at how the land is used is critical to the success of a project that is looking at the impact on wildlife habitat. As custodians of the earth our planning needs to be implemented with standards for dealing with maintaining healthy habitats for the native animals. This should be done by forming planning committees to gather data from urban planners, developers, environmentalists and wildlife managers to compile proactive plans to get the best use out of the land and still protect the wild animals. We should look at development as a team effort in order to establish a win-win outcome for all involved.

The final component must be government protection for the environment and animals that will maintain healthy populations of the wildlife in our country. Wikipedia describes wildlife management as the “process of keeping certain wildlife populations at desirable levels determined by wildlife managers.” Our government was established with three branches of government in order to protect the people and the same idea is good for protecting wildlife. We must have laws to protect the animals that cannot speak for themselves and make sure that not their entire habitat is destroyed. Effective lobbying of the legislature to institute safe use policies and fair land management will help protect those animals that cannot speak for themselves and work to protect out environment.

We already share our turf in urban settings. It is not uncommon to see birds, fish, deer or other wildlife in our backyards or parks. Urban planners put in “green” areas for parks and recreation. We add gardens and ponds, plant trees and put up feeders and birdhouses. However that does not mean that all types of wildlife would thrive in an urban setting. Effective planning must also provide for the species that cannot do well in an urban setting.

By working as a team the needs of both humans and animals can be respected. Natural Resource professionals can build upon the common good with the planners to see that any planned developments is making the most efficient use of land. We can encourage reusing land in urban areas to cut down on urban sprawl before taking natural habitat of wildlife. If new land must be taken we can work as partners to legislate, educate and ensure that the needs of the animals are being protected.

First place, and \$2000 scholarship winner, Kylie Dicket, is a senior at Clinton High School. She plans to attend Central MO University and major in Agribusiness Management. Kylie is active in both 4-H and FFA and winner of many awards. She is currently FFA Area VII Vice-President, Past president of the Henry County 4-H Council, Henry County LEAD, 2006 American Legion Girls State Delegate, and winner of the 2006 MO Institute of Cooperatives State FFA Public Speaking Contest. Additional school activities include Band, FBLA, and Soccer. She is also an active volunteer in her community and is active in her church.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE MISSOURI NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

BY DAVE JOHNSON

The Missouri Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society presented several awards at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference held at Tan-Tar-A Resort on February 1, 2007.

The Chapter's most prestigious award, the Professional Conservationist of the Year Award, was presented to Bill White, Private Land Program Supervisor with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Bill worked as an Area Biologist with the MDC at the USDA-NRCS Area Office in St Joseph, MO from January 1988 through March 2004. During this time, he had a major influence on the management of thousands of acres of land and worked with hundreds of land owners interested in conserving and improving their properties natural resources as well as providing support and training to NRCS and SWCD District employees. Since 2004, Bill has been very active on the state and national levels as the Department's Farm Bill Coordinator and Liaison to USDA state level staff with NRCS and FSA. Bill has also been a very active member of the Show-Me Chapter serving this past year as secretary.



Jim Low, who is an Outdoor Writer for the Missouri Department of Conservation, received the Chapter's Media Award for his effort in keeping the public informed about Farm Bill Conservation Programs by writing numerous press releases and articles for the Missouri Conservationist magazine.

The Warren County Pork Producers Association received the Chapter's Volunteer of the Year Award. For the past six years the Pork Producers from Warren County have volunteered to prepare lunch for over 400 fourth grade students who attend farm tours held by the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Russ Barton of Parkway North High School received the Chapter's Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Barton is very active in training high school teams for the Environment competition. His teams, from two different schools,

have won the competition in Missouri and represented the state at the National Competition. In fact, this years team placed 14th in the nation this past summer at the national competition held in Winnipeg, Canada.



Renee Cook presented an Appreciation Award to Michael Morris for his leadership as the Show-Me Chapters Fund Raising Committee Chairperson.

The President's Award was presented by Renee Cook to Lauren Cartwright in recognition of her leadership in organizing the Show-Me Chapter's finances and identifying investment opportunities that improve our ability to accomplish chapter goals.



WEST NORTH CENTRAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

West North Central Spring Leadership Workshop is in Platteville, Wisconsin again at the Cooper Living and Learning Center located at the College Farm.

The dates are April 16th and 17th, starting at 1:00 p.m. on the first day and ending about 2:00 p.m. on the second day. An agenda with speakers/presenters will follow. All other officers and committee chairs are also highly encouraged to attend and any future leaders in the Chapter as well.

The Cooper Living and Learning Center has housing available. <http://www.uwplatt.edu/llc/> or Platteville hotels are just five miles away. http://www.platteville.com/tourism_lodging.htm

Cost of the entire conference will be \$25.00 plus lodging. The registration will cover all training, the social, breakfast on Tuesday morning and breaks.

Registration *in name only* is due by April 9th. Registration payment will be received at the workshop.

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*Fostering the science and
art of soil, water and
related natural resource
management to achieve
sustainability.*



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Front row, L-R: Jay Lingwall, Ashley Johnson, Kim Worth, Lauren Cartwright, Mike Morris, Renee Cook, Diane Bradley.

Back row, L-R: David Speidel, Fred Young, Chris Wieberg, Bill White, Don Foerster, David Ritchhart.

DAVID HOWARD GOES TO D.C.

Dave Howard, Southwest Area Councilperson and Director in 2005-06, started a new position within the USDA as of March 4th. Dave is leaving his position as Resource Soil Scientist/Wetland Team Leader in Warrensburg, Missouri and heading for Washington, D.C. to become the National Wetlands Compliance Specialist at the NRCS National Headquarters. Dave stated, "I encourage people to put in for details if they have any interest whatsoever. It's a great experience to go up there and see how things operate at that level." Good luck, Dave!

HEADS-UP - MEMBER SURVEYS COMING TO YOU SOON

The SWCS International Board of Directors will soon be email information to all Society members asking them to complete a membership survey. The purpose of this anonymous survey is to get your opinion about SWCS programs, activities, and services; and to learn what SWCS could do differently or provide that would most improve the value of membership to you. The results of this survey will provide guidance to SWCS Board of Directors and Staff in developing a new Strategic Plan. Please look for this information in the next few weeks.

Dave Speidel, Northwest Area Council person has set up a survey on our website, as he is trying to determine what type of area functions would be the most popular to our members. Survey creators President Kim Worth and Northwest Area Councilperson David Speidel thank everyone in advance for their participation." The survey can be reached via a link from

www.swcs.missouri.edu/