



**SC Chapter
Soil and Water
Conservation
Society News**

**FROM THE SC SWCS
CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

Dear SWCS Members and Friends,

It's hard for me to believe that this year is winding down! It feels like just a short while ago we were in Myrtle Beach at the 2007 SWCS Symposium, and in our Chapter Business Meeting, talking about the year ahead. As I look back on 2007, I am proud of the visibility that the SC SWCS Chapter has gained, and I am looking forward to two upcoming symposiums.

On December 11, 2007, our chapter will host the symposium entitled, *Balancing Growth with Environmental Integrity in Urban Development*. You can find out more details by reading the enclosed article, but I can tell you that we are really generating some interest with this topic. Registrations and sponsorships are rolling in, and this event is even stirring media inquiries.

Furthermore, SWCS President-Elect Lori Bataller is heading up a committee to plan the January '08 SC SWCS Symposium on precision agriculture. Our chapter is committed to planning, promoting, and hosting such events, because part of our mission is to educate and inform South Carolina citizens about current issues related to soil and water conservation.

We also adopted a new logo this year, and printed up t-shirts for all members. If you haven't received yours yet, and you are in the NRCS State Office, or if you are going to see me at a meeting, let me know, and I'll bring you one. I hope that you will wear it with pride, and when people ask you about SWCS, you'll encourage them to join!

The success of our Chapter is dependent upon many factors. First, that people know *who we are and what we do*. By planning symposiums like the ones we have coming up, we are exposing new folks to SWCS, and illustrating the benefits and privileges of being a member.

Thanks for being part of our Chapter, and I look forward to seeing you at the symposiums!

Amy O. Maxwell



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The new SC SWCS Chapter t-shirts feature a new logo.

SC SWCS CHAPTER TO HOST SYMPOSIUM TO ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT



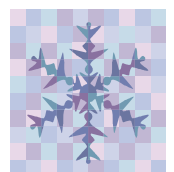
December 11th symposium will highlight 'green development' success stories

The SC Chapter is planning a symposium which will educate developers, engineers, planners, natural resource professionals, and others about the integration of urban development with environmental planning.

Balancing Growth with Environmental Integrity in Urban Development will highlight the importance of environmental planning, particularly in Richland and Lexington Counties. Success stories from Lexington County's Stormwater Management Division, and from the *Mungo Company*, will illustrate how the pressures of urban development can be balanced to ensure protection of our state's natural resources.

SC SWCS Chapter President Amy O. Maxwell said, "This symposium was planned because of the rising demand for communities that offer more open space and preserve natural features, such as buffers. Homebuyers in South Carolina, and the nation as a whole, are starting to understand the importance and necessity of environmental protection, particularly in high-density urban areas. They are actively seeking housing developments that evaluate environmental impacts before and during construction. So, it's in the best interest of developers and planners to maintain open space, leave the natural vegetation and timber, and in turn, they may increase their profits over traditional developments."

Early Bird registration is due by November 19th! To download and print out a registration form, visit <http://swcs.tripod.com/SCSWCSregisterDec11.pdf>



SMART FARMING: THE BASICS OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE

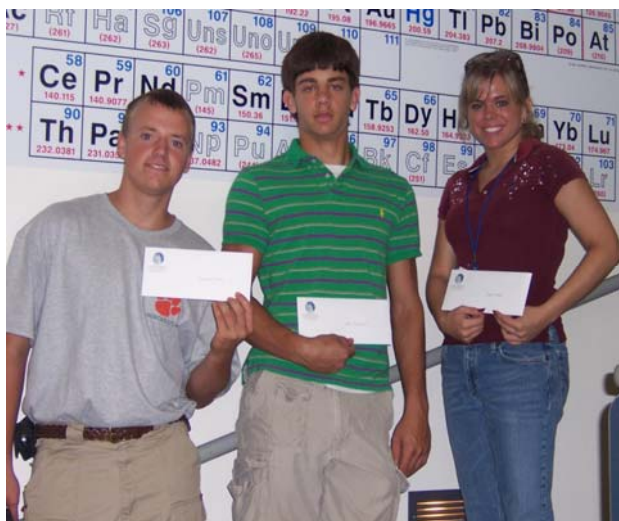
January 15, 2008 11:30a.m.-5:00p.m., Myrtle Beach, SC, Kingston Plantation

This conference will concentrate on the Basics of Precision Agriculture, with an overview of the equipment needed for precision agriculture and how infrared yield maps can detail progress in precision agriculture. The conference will also focus on the details of precision irrigation, which uses a variable rate application system while using GIS technology.

A farmer-led panel will share personal experiences with precision irrigation and agriculture. In addition, attendees will also be treated to a view of agriculture in Afghanistan from Alex Johnson, retired NRCS employee, who lived and worked in Afghanistan for over a year.

Registration is due by December 31, 2007, and the cost is \$75, which includes lunch and a break. Send registrations to Hugh Caldwell in the Richland SWCD Office.

SC SWCS PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP AT 2007 INSTITUTE for NATURAL RESOURCES



Jonathan Holmes, left, received a \$500 scholarship provided by the SC Chapter SWCS. Jonathan was one of many high school students across South Carolina to attend the week long South Carolina Institute for Natural Resources workshop held each June at Lander University. Students attending the workshop studied programs that focused on water quality, boating safety, wildlife and wildlife management, soil composition, geology and even got to pan for gold. Each student is eligible to receive scholarships at the end of the week through a test to determine knowledge they gained.

Congratulations to Jonathan for receiving the SC Chapter scholarship!

SWCS SCHOLARSHIPS

South Carolina SWCS Chapter

The South Carolina Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society is offering a \$1000 scholarship for the 2008-2009 school year. High School seniors or undergraduates in College or Tech Schools studying in a natural resource/conservation curriculum are eligible to apply. Applications are available from Hugh Caldwell, 400 Mill Creek Rd., Lexington, SC 29072 or email rhc@sc.rr.com. The application can also be found on our website at scswsc.org.

Applications are due by March 15, 2008.

International SWCS

Research and Professional Development scholarships are available from the International Soil and Water Conservation Society. These include the Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship, Donald A. Williams Leadership Development Scholarship and Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Scholarship.

For further information on these scholarships contact Hugh Caldwell or visit the SWCS website at swcs.org.

SWCS CHAPTER AWARDS



The SC Chapter is seeking nominations for awards for 2007. Award categories are: Palmetto Fellow, Conservational Technical Service, Merit, Honor, Outstanding Service and Commendation. Categories, criteria, and nomination forms can be found at the chapter website: scswcs.org.

Select Chapter Awards on home page.

Nominations are due by November 5, 2007, and should be sent to:

Al McNeill
SC SWCS Awards Chair
1835 Assembly St., Room 950
Columbia, Sc 29201





Personal Perspective on the '07 SWCS International Conference

Held in Tampa, Florida

July 21 - July 25

By Lori Bataller - SC Chapter Delegate

July 21, 2007—Leadership Workshop, Theo Daliaha gave a brief talk about the survey which was completed by the members online. The number one reason for others joining is **they were asked by another member to join**. Have you asked someone to join?

Tom Pick, a member of the Montana Chapter of SWCS, said in an effort to boost the number of attendees at symposiums, they focus on controversial topics. They also send a letter to all natural resources agencies asking for their employee training needs, so they can develop workshops which fill those needs. When hosting a workshop you should be very specific and define your target audience. The Chapter also adds a small technical section to the state chapter newsletter to give the members something besides just news. Also, try partnering with other conferences to get our name out. **The major selling point of any conference is the CEU credits.** There is a 16-page booklet available on the SWCS website that explains how to get the credits approved for any type of workshop. There is also a website that is easy to send out surveys called surveymonkey.com which charges \$25. Should we look at sending a survey to our members to find out their needs?

Pamela Reed Rhodes, President of the Mississippi Chapter reported that it is critical to have a good grassroots campaign when trying to diversify your membership. Some examples of good contacts were Rural Water Companies, USGS member, Urban Foresters and local Utility Companies.

In order for any group to be seen as credible with a news outlet we as individuals need to develop a relationship with the news media. Don't overload them with too many news releases. **Make sure your information is correct and current.**

TOP 3 ITEMS TAKEN FROM THE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

1. Keep connected between meetings, send the minutes out and then refresh everyone at least a week before the meeting so they have time to ensure their particular task are complete.
2. We must have good partnerships in order to flourish and grow. Don't just look for people and topics you are familiar with__ step out and find new ways to grow.
3. And most importantly (spoken by Norm Berg, Washington DC Representative, SWCS, about his retirement) **"the problem with doing nothing is you don't know when you're finished."** We can all use this as a call to duty as we need to be involved so we know when we have completed our mission.

July 22, 2007—House of Delegates Meeting, the major focus of the meeting was on the Missouri Chapters resolution to create a new membership option that would allow members to take the Journal or not. After a slide show detailing the cost of the journal and the reduction of only \$10 a year in dues it was decided unanimously to keep the membership cost the same. The Journal is a large money maker for the Society because of the ads, and the more subscribers we have, the larger the number of ads placed.

Continued on page 5 . . .

SWCS 2007 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PERSPECTIVE continued...

There is a new Corporate Membership option available to businesses. Contact Sue Ann Lynes and she will set everything up for a sponsorship. There are three categories--gold, silver and bronze. For each corporate member that joins SWCS, the local chapter will receive some money ranging from \$300 to \$100.

Each of the local staff from Ankeny, Iowa gave a presentation of their roles in the organization. If we have any questions we need to contact them as they are there to help us with professional development, membership, and communications.

July 23, 2007—2007 Farm Bill Overview, the invited guest speakers were required to be on Capital Hill as the farm bill was scheduled to be brought up for a vote. In their place Craig Cox, SWCS Executive Director, gave an in-depth overview of the proposed farm bill. It was a very interesting session and the bill looks as if the money for conservation programs will remain about the same with a few changes in the acronyms.

July 24, 2007—The Role of Conservation in a Bio-Fuels Economy? This special plenary session consisted of a round table panel of researchers, policy analyst, corporation heads and environmentalist. This was a very exciting discussion about long-term effects of the bio-fuels. The use of corn was discussed as not being sustainable due to the removal of the organic matter and the loss of carbon sequestration. Switchgrass as an alternative is not really viable at this time because of the initial planting and the length until which a good stand is achieved. Also, we need to find a way to increase yields on existing cropland without clearing new land to put into production. They also discussed water resources or the lack there of in areas where new production plants would be installed.

South Carolina SWCS was recognized!! The South Carolina Chapter received two awards which I was proud to accept on behalf of the chapter. The awards were Chapter Achievement Award for the LID conferences and for Outstanding Chapter Award for overall activities of the chapter.

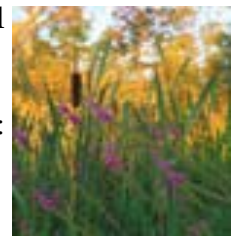
The conference was great to attend. I was very fortunate to attend two years in a row and I feel like everyone in the Society should take the opportunity to attend an annual conference if given the opportunity.

INFORMATION ON INVASIVE SPECIES



A new invasive species outreach brochure and poster are available to gardeners and homeowners with best management practices to prevent invasive plants from spreading to parklands and natural areas. The material was developed in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Garden Club of America, the National Invasive Species Council, and others. To request free copies, email Lynda Brick at lbrick@wildflower.org with your address and quantity requested or visit www.wildflower.org or phone 512-232-0110.

PDF files for the brochure and poster are available at: <http://wildflower.utexas.edu/plantwise/>.





SC SWCS Zoo Crew!



On Saturday, July 14, 2007, SC SWCS members and their families braved the rain to spend a lovely and educational afternoon at Riverbanks Zoo. The event included a cookout at the Safari Camp, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the elephant quarters with a real wildlife conservationist!

Chapter President Amy Maxwell said, "It was great to be able to get folks together, out of the workplace, during a weekend afternoon, and enjoy each other's company and meet family members. I think that is what SWCS is about, and why we are unique. Our chapter is comprised of a diverse group of folks, from different agencies, with different professions, but we all share a common bond by the fact that we care about natural resources."

Admission to the zoo was paid by the Chapter for Society members, and lunch cost them only \$5--just another benefit of joining SWCS!



Right: The group was treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the elephant quarters, where the kids enjoyed crawling around in the cages (without the elephants of course!)

Left: Jamison Melton, son of SWCS Chapter Member Kellee Melton, braved the rain in a homemade parka!!



SC SWCS		
STATEMENT OF ASSETS		
	29-Oct-07	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$58,457.41
Checking		\$7,756.46
CD (BB&T)		\$46,700.95
Mutual Funds		\$4,000.00
Designated Funds		\$4,269.67
Trust & Activity Fund (in CD)	\$10,050.00	
Palmetto Fellow Fund	\$87.22	
Chapter Scholarship	\$350.00	
LID	\$2,657.45	
Urban Development - Dec. 11th	\$1,175.00	
Undesignated funds	\$54,187.74	
Operating Balance	\$3,486.79	

SC SWCS FINANCES



**SC Chapter
Soil and Water
Conservation Society**

4045 Bridge View Dr., Ste. C-204
N. Charleston, SC 29405

Phone: 843-727-4160 x 3
Fax: 843-727-4541



*Happy Holidays
from your
SC SWCS
Executive Board!*

