

SC CHAPTER SWCS



Volume 16, Issue 5

Spring/Summer 2007

Dear SWCS Members and Friends,

As your SC SWCS Chapter President, I am committed to working together with you in 2007 to strengthen the Society, increase membership, host educational symposiums, and spread the good news about the importance of soil and water conservation. As spring quickly transforms into summer, I am reminded why SWCS exist, and why I am a member. My concern for the health of our environment goes beyond my professional obligations. As a lifelong resident of the Palmetto State, I grew up enjoying and appreciating the abundance of natural resources with which we are graced. It's important to me to do my part to protect these things which enhance our daily lives, and provide us with food and fiber. I hope that you feel the same way, and if you feel the desire to do more, then SWCS is the place to illustrate your commitment to conservation. Become involved by joining a SWCS committee, or volunteer to help plan a symposium or the annual meeting.

If you are a member and you've recently been asked the question by a non-member.."*why should I join SWCS?*" then bring them out to ***Riverbanks Zoo on July 14th for SC SWCS' Summer Meeting and Membership Drive***. Plans are currently underway to develop a great event which will feature a cookout, a presentation by a wildlife conservationist, and fun and fellowship! SC SWCS members can attend for a minimal fee—just one of the benefits of membership. We will be announcing the details soon, so be on the lookout and encourage folks to attend. Good things are in store for SC SWCS, and now is a great time to be a member. I appreciate your support of the Palmetto Chapter.

Amy O. Maxwell
SC SWCS President



Inside this issue:

-Renewable Energy Symposium 2

-Guess Who I Am...

-SC SWCS Supports '07 Envirothon

2007 Chapter Officers And Financial Report 3

Chapter Scholarship Presentation

Awards 4

Late Breaking SC SWCS News: The South Carolina Chapter was just informed that we received a **2006 Chapter Achievement Award, and 2006 Outstanding Chapter Award!** SC SWCS President-Elect Lori Bataller will accept the awards during the national Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, July 24th at the 2007 Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida.
Way to go SC SWCS!

Pictured at right: The SWCS Executive Board met in April to discuss ways to enhance Society membership and plan upcoming events and meetings.



SC SWCS-Sponsored Renewable Energy Symposium Draws a Crowd

By Amy O. Maxwell, SC SWCS Chapter President

The South Carolina Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society kicked off 2007 with a bang. The Palmetto Chapter hosted a well-attended symposium in Myrtle Beach on January 3rd. “*The Future of Renewable Energy in South Carolina*,” drew over 150 participants including state and federal agency leaders, private citizens, and a host of SWCS members. An exhibit hall featured a number of companies and agencies, and Clemson University taped a radio interview highlighting the symposium and SWCS for playback on SC Educational Radio Network.

The symposium lineup included local and national speakers who explored topics ranging from bio-diesel use for agriculture, Green Power, and USDA incentives for use of E-85 and bio-diesel. The forum also included perspectives on alternative energy use from farmers who are currently using it, and then a Q & A forum generated lively discussion.

The event was capped off with an awards ceremony and dinner where more than 250 attendees enjoyed a great seafood dinner and witnessed award presentations and swearing in of officers for 2007. Outgoing SC SWCS President Von Snelgrove said, “This excellent turnout for the symposium and awards dinner is a sign of great things to come in 2007 for our chapter.”

Von Snelgrove, 2006 SC SWCS President, welcomed SWCD Commissioners, SWCS members and guests to the SC Chapter SWCS Awards Dinner. The dinner and awards ceremony took place at Bennett’s Seafood in Myrtle Beach, SC, in conjunction with the Conservation Partnership Conference.



Guess Who I Am.....

This SWCS member has visited the Buddha and Imperial Palace and lived in at least six states in her short life. She will not eat chicken on the bone and macaroni and cheese is one of her favorite foods. Prior to joining NRCS in 2005, she taught Junior High School for two years in Orange Park, Florida. She is a native of Alabama and is the oldest child and second oldest grandchild. Her hobbies include spending time with her paternal grandmother and traveling to Atlanta and Jacksonville to visit her friends and three Godchildren. **Who is this mystery member?**

Answer is on the back page

SC SWCS Supports 2007 SC Envirothon

SC SWCS helped sponsor the 2007 SC Envirothon which took place May 4, 2007, at the Clemson University Sandhills Research and Education Center. SWCS also provided personnel to help coordinate the event, and score the examinations. The 1st place prize was earned by Spartanburg High’s Team A. They will travel to Geneva, New York, this July to compete in the 2007 Canon Envirothon. SWCS enjoyed being a part of this outstanding competition which promotes environmental education and hopefully grooms future SC SWCS members!



SC SWCS members left to right: James Williams, Hugh Caldwell, Kellee Melton, Doyle Allen, and Al McNeil (foreground) hung out under the tent grading tests and calculating scores at the 2007 Envirothon.


2007 Chapter Officers

Financial Report

President - Amy O. Maxwell (NRCS)
President-Elect - Lori Bataller (NRCS)
Vice-President - Debbie Mann (NRCS)
Secretary - Tina Jerome (NRCS)
Treasurer—R. Hugh Caldwell (SWCD)

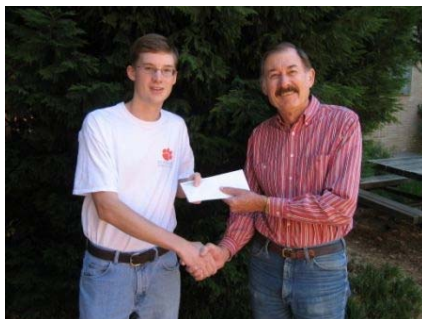
Board Members - Area 1 - Hugh Smith (NRCS)
 Area 2 - Kellee Melton (NRCS)
 Area 3 - Harry Doswell (DNR)
 Area 4 - Wayne Cowell (NRCS)

Committee Chair- Audit - Ayana Brown
 Awards - Al McNeil
 Education –Charlie Ogg
 Nominations –Mary Morrison
 Programs—Tommy Knots

SC SWCS		
FINANCIAL REPORT		
April 1, 2007		
TOTAL ASSETS		\$58,156.52
Account Balances		
Checking		\$5,144.99
CD (BB&T)		\$44,340.07
Mutual Funds		\$8,671.46
Designated Funds		
Trust & Activity Fund (in CD)	\$10,050.00	
Palmetto Fellow Fund	\$87.22	
Chapter Scholarship	\$225.00	
LID	\$2,657.45	
Undesignated funds		
	\$55,186.85	
Operating Balance		
	\$2,175.32	

SC SWCS Scholarship Recipient Selected

Christopher Bellamy is this year’s recipient of the SC Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Scholarship. The award goes to a high school or college student planning to earn an agriculturally-related degree with an emphasis toward natural resources or conservation. Applicants submit a biography, transcripts, letters of reference, and a short essay.



Dr. Bill R. Smith (right), retired soils professor at Clemson and Area One SC SWCS member, presented Christopher Bellamy with the 2007 SC SWCS Scholarship.

Christopher is majoring in Biosystems Engineering, Natural Resources and Environment Concentration at Clemson University with a May 2008 graduation date. A native of rural Horry County, Christopher says in his essay he first acquired his appreciation for agriculture through participation in the National FFA Organization. Through this participation he realized what many people still do not; how farming “contributes to the improvement of society through agricultural and environmental practices.”

Christopher held several FFA officer positions while actively participating in other high school activities, honor societies, and community volunteer work. He continues to accumulate honors at Clemson, maintain grades, and volunteer free time. One reference said “he is highly intelligent...a great ambassador for our college and its student body...an all-round student.” **Congratulations Christopher!**

SC SWCS Chapter Presents Awards



Doug Deaderick (left), former NRCS District Conservationist in Lexington County and now the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations, received the SC SWCS Conservation Technical Award from Chapter President Von Snelgrove. The award was presented to him for exemplary conservation technical assistance to a multi-county area, for outreach and support to rural and urban conservation needs, and leadership in providing assistance to three Conservation District Boards.



left to right: NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster, SC SWCS Past President Von Snelgrove, and NRCS SC State Conservationist Walt Douglas met in Columbia, South Carolina during a Farm Bill Press Conference on February 1, 2007. Lancaster joined SWCS soon after becoming Chief.



Hugh Caldwell (right), SC SWCS Treasurer, presented Babbie Mangum a check for \$2,085. The funds were collected from friends and co-workers in memory of her late husband, Dwayne. The funds will be used to help with college expenses for Amanda and Andrea, the Mangum's children. The family is very appreciative of the thoughtfulness, assistance and support of all their friends.



Kellee Melton, SC SWCS Executive Board Member, presented SWCS member Craig O'Dell a Certificate of Appreciation for over thirty years as a SC Chapter SWCS member. The presentation was made at Craig's retirement celebration. He was an NRCS District Conservationist in Newberry County.



Gordon Wells (right), Jasper SWCD Chairman, received the SC SWCS Honor Award from Von Snelgrove, SC SWCS Past President, in recognition of 30 years of dedicated service to the Jasper SWCD, as well as his leadership and energy in the creation of the Blue Heron Learning Center. The Honor Award is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments that are widely recognized by leaders in soil and water conservation.



Babbie Mangum (far right) and Hugh Caldwell (second from left), extended their appreciation to Charleston Conservation Partnership employees Debbie Eckard (far left) and Ann Bentley (second from right) for their outstanding efforts in coordinating the day-to-day activities of the Charleston USDA Service Center during Dwayne Mangum's extended illness. The SC SWCS presented Debbie and Ann a SC SWCS Special Achievement Award in recognition of their efforts.



Left photo: Charles Cothran (right), Oconee County landowner, received the SC SWCS Steward of the Land Award for his exemplary farming methods. The late George Grobusky, former Oconee SWCD Chairman, presented the award.

SC Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society

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Here's the answer to the Guess Who on page 2.

Surprise!

The SWCS mystery member is LaKeisha R. Hill,
NRCS Soil Conservationist in the Lexington Field Office.