



# Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society

Promoting the wise use of Soil, Water and other Natural Resources.....

Spring Issue  
April 2009

## Presidents Message



**Francisco Arriaga**  
2008—2009  
Alabama SWCS President

The last few months that I have served as president have been rewarding. It has been a great learning experience. Our Chapter is a diverse group. Serving you as president has given me the opportunity to learn about you, our Chapter. This is a dedicated group of individuals that recognize the importance of soil, water and natural resource conservation. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a small part of this Chapter.

The organizing committee is working hard making all the necessary arrangements for the annual meeting in Birmingham, and they are well on their way. If you have not had the chance, go to our website ([www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/](http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/)) and check the announcement and preliminary program. The theme of this year's conference is "Energy and Water Development for Alabama: Managing Our Natural Resources for the Future". The technical sessions and field tour are filled with great speakers and information. This will be a remarkable meeting.

As always, the Erosion and Sediment Control program has been very active. The Clear Water Alabama field day was a success and well received. Preparations for the next Clear Water Alabama field day have started. Make sure to keep an eye open for the field day some time in September. The CPESC Exam Review Course was held March 11, with the Exam on March 12.

We continue to participate in regional and State Science fairs, as well as water festivals and other activities. These programs are important since they expose our future generations to soil, water and natural resource conservation.

Finally, I would like to invite you to learn more about the Executive Board. This group of individuals spends a good amount of their time making the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society be one of the best chapters in the Nation. However, we need your help to continue these efforts by either volunteering to serve on one of our committees or as a board member, or maybe volunteer to be a science fair judge. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Even the smallest of actions, collectively, can have a huge impact.

Looking forward to serve you in the future,  
Francisco Arriaga

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**"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but is borrowed from his children" - Audubon**



**Energy and Water Development for Alabama  
(Managing Our Natural Resources for the Future)**

**June 10-12, 2009**

**Birmingham, AL**

**Pre-Registration Form**

(See Page 6 and 7 for this year's meeting agenda)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: State: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Cut-off Date	Member	Non-Member	Special	Enclosed
<b>Entire Meeting (includes field trip)</b>					
Early Bird	May 8, 2009	<b>\$125</b>	<b>\$150</b>	XX	_____
On-site	June 10, 2009	\$150	\$175	XX	_____
<b>Field Trip Only</b> —Anyone				\$75	_____
<b>Wednesday Only</b> —Technical Sessions				\$50	_____
<b>Friday Only</b> —Business Meeting and Technical Session				\$50	_____
<b>Student Registration</b> (University Name: _____)				\$20	_____

**Additional tickets, with one registered participant, may be purchased for guests/spouse/children at the following rates:**

Thursday dinner (Adult) # @ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday dinner (Child) # @ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

( For selected items, indicate the number needed)

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian dinner requested # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose payment with your registration form and return to:**

**Mail checks and forms to: Alabama Chapter of SWCS**

**c/o Andrew Price**

**P. O. Box 116**

**Auburn, AL 36830**

Make checks payable to: **Alabama Chapter of SWCS**



## Erosion and Sediment Control News



Time is flying by and many activities are now history and others are on the horizon. I would like to mention some of these.

The Clear Water Alabama Field Day 2008 at Bessemer in September was an outstanding combination of seminar presentations and field site visits. We were fortunate to have visiting icons the erosion and sediment control world as part of the events – these included Al Jarrett from Pennsylvania and Rich McLaughlin and Warren Faircloth from North Carolina.

The Erosion and Sediment Control Program Steering Committee met on February 18 with industry representatives and began planning for Clear Water Alabama 2009. We will have a two-day event with a seminar the first day and visits to field sites on the second day. September 24 and 25 are the dates and the gathering site is expected to be the Bessemer Civic Center. I encourage you to mark your calendar when you finish reading this item and plan to attend.

The International Erosion Control Association's annual conference and trade show was held February 8-13, 2009 in Reno. The event provided many opportunities for continuing education, networking and viewing products, both old and new. Attendance was down but there were still over 1900 attendees and the event was as valuable as ever. Attendees from Alabama that I recall seeing included Frank Barnes, Andy Ellis, Ware Ellis, Delarie Parmer and Luke Richardson. There were probably others from Alabama that I either did not see or have forgotten about seeing.

Next year's conference, EC10 will be in Dallas, TX on February 14-18, 2010.

The Southeast Chapter of IECA will sponsor a regional meeting at Ashville, North Carolina, May 12-13. This event will offer many benefits of the national conference. Our AL SWCS Chapter member Frank Barnes is the Alabama representative to the Southeast Chapter of IECA and will be glad to provide you details about the meeting. Also, you can get information on the meeting at the Chapter's website: [www.ieca.org/chapter/southeast/newsite](http://www.ieca.org/chapter/southeast/newsite).

Several of you are aware that we are updating the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Storm water Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas. The update process has been slower than I projected over a year ago but we are close to going to the printer. All previous recipients of the Handbook that completed a receipt form will receive the updated material by mail.

The recent NPS Conference sponsored by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management provided 1 ½ days of presentations that illustrated we have progressed a long way in Alabama over the past 20 years and, yet, have much left to accomplish in protecting and wisely using the waters of Alabama. I am very favorably impressed by the broad cross-section of our population that is involved in one or more programs that are focused on water quality.

I am excited about the 2009 AL Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting – from all indications we will be having another outstanding event. I can assure all CPESCs that you will not be disappointed in the meeting's content and I encourage you to attend.

Let me remind you to let me know if there is a specific topic related to Erosion and Sediment Control that you would like for me to cover in our Chapter newsletter.

Earl Norton, Chairman

CPESC Committee [nortone1@bellsouth.net](mailto:nortone1@bellsouth.net)

## New Sediment Basin Demonstrated at Field Day

**Perry Oakes, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Auburn, AL**

As part of this “roll-out” effort at the Clear Water Alabama Field Days September 18, 2008, a sediment basin was designed and constructed with new technology. The new basin design uses skimmer, baffle, and polyacrylamide technology developed through research at North Carolina State University.

This basin was the first built in Alabama that uses the new technology. Several NRCS employees and Alabama Chapter SWCS Members were involved in the design, layout, and construction of the basin. Construction on the demonstration basin was completed just a few days before Tropical Storm Fay brought over six inches of rainfall to the area. The basin performed perfectly, with turbidity levels reduced more than 95 percent.

Look for these type basins to soon be used on construction sites in Alabama and remember that SWCS played a big part in demonstrating this technology.



The sediment basin at Cedar Creek subdivision filled to capacity after the heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay. The difference in turbidity is visible as the water flows from the inlet off to the left of the picture to the skimmer at the right.

### **Educational Opportunities on SWCS Homepage**

A new feature has been added to the Alabama Chapter SWCS homepage. This link to our homepage below will give you lots of information on our society including field days and "Educational Opportunities": <http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu> Please make us aware of other educational opportunities for SWCS members by providing the information to a member of the Educational Committee



SWCS Members Perry Oakes, Bill Prince and Frank Barnes of Winters Excelsior work to install baffle for sediment basin at field day.

**Hotel Reservations** for your stay during the Annual Meeting may be made by contacting the Doubletree Hotel 808 South 20th Street Birmingham, AL

Phone Number: 205-933-9000.

The lodging room rate is \$94 per night. Free parking in the hotel parking deck for meeting registrants. The hotel is located near UAB and the Five Points Area. Be sure to indicate that you are attending the Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting.

**Deadline for hotel reservations is May 22, 2009.** Reservations made after this date are subject to a price increase at the hotel's discretion.

### Got Questions about the Annual Meeting?

Contact **Perry Oakes** at 334-887-4536

or **Earl Norton** at 334-728-4107,

for more information about the meeting.

### Remember.....

Your chapter supports Student Chapters in the State through the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting. Your help is needed to donate items for this auction to promote students in the chapters across the state as they study to keep the torch lit in promoting wise use of our Soil and Water Resources. Please contact Katie Heath, DAC in Bessemer or any Chapter Officer if you can help with a donation for the silent auction.

Thanks

*"The history of every nation is eventually written in the way in which it cares for its soil"*

*-Franklin D. Roosevelt*



**Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting**  
**“Energy and Water Development for Alabama”**  
**(Managing our Natural Resources for the Future)**  
**DoubleTree Hotel Birmingham, Alabama June 10-12, 2009**  
**Detailed Program**

**Wednesday morning****Wednesday June 10, 2009**

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Exhibitor Setup

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Registration

**Wednesday afternoon**

1:00 PM– 5:00 PM Opening Session/Exhibits/Silent Auction

Moderator, Perry Oakes

Welcome Francisco Arriaga, Alabama Chapter SWCS President

Brent Cotton, National Sales Manager, Greater Birmingham

Convention and Visitors Bureau

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM Keynote Address: Energy and Water Development for Alabama

Larry Filmer, Executive Director

Natural Resources Management &amp; Development Institute

Auburn University, Auburn, AL

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM Bioenergy Initiates for Alabama and the Southeast

Jeremiah Haswell, Engineer, Research and Environmental Affairs

Southern Company, Birmingham, AL

2:30 PM- 3:00 PM Break with Exhibitors

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM Alabama’s Water Resources: Current Uses and Future Needs

Tom Littlepage, Chief, Water Management Branch

Office of Water Resources, AL Department of Economic and

Community Development, Montgomery, AL

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM Wood Pellets - Implications for the Forest Industry and the Southeast

Evan Bates, CEO

New Gas Concepts, Pelham, AL

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Bioenergy Implications for Agriculture

Randy Raper, Lead Scientist, Conservation Systems Research

National Soil Dynamics Laboratory

USDA Agricultural Research Service, Auburn, AL

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM 25 x ‘25 – A Renewable Resources Coalition Vision

Dennis Bragg, Toney, AL

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Reception with Exhibitors



## Thursday, June 11, 2009

### Thursday Morning

Begin and end field trip at DoubleTree Hotel, 808 South 20th St. at 8th Ave., Birmingham, AL

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Registration, view Exhibits and Silent Auction

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Visit various sites in Birmingham and area to be selected from

list that includes (a) the Birmingham Water Treatment Plant that

receives water from Smith Lake; (b) Miller Steam Plant,

depicting a major electrical producing site dealing with water

quantity and quality, air quality and the need for basic energy

products; (c) a city utilizing the Auburn University mobile bioenergy

unit; (d) a forest managed to produce energy wood

products and provide carbon credits; (e) a site with erosion and

sediment control and stormwater management applications on

Corridor-X and that reflects infrastructure for economic growth.

4:45 PM – 5:30 PM Committee Meetings (CCA, CPESC and IECA SE Chapter)

and Visit Exhibits and Silent Auction

6:30 PM Dinner

Talk by Wayne Keith, St. Clair County, about his wood-burning

truck and the adventures with it over the U.S.

## Friday June 12, 2009

### Friday Morning

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM Registration and visit Exhibits and Silent Auction

8:00 AM – 10 AM Business Meeting and Silent Auction

Francisco Arriaga, Outgoing President AL Chapter, presiding

10:00 AM – 12 Noon Technical Sessions

Moderator, Perry Oakes, Incoming President, AL Chapter,

presiding

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Energy from Algae

Dr. Ronald Putt, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Energy and Environmental Designs for Homes

Robin White, Marketing Specialist

Alabama Power Company, Birmingham, Alabama

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Demonstrating Environmental Sustainability

Mayor Tony Petelos - The City of Hoover, Alabama Story

11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon Dig It! The Secrets of Soil

(Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History)

Kirk Iversen, Auburn University, Auburn, AL



The Map to the right shows the 5 areas.  
Get to know your Area Vice President.  
They are your voice in Executive Meetings!

**Attention!**

**If you know of any members that are not receiving mail/email on Alabama issues please let Skip Ragsdale know so we can get correct contact information**

We're on the Web!  
[www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/](http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/)



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