President’s Ponderings
by Jeff Holloway, President

Wow! It’s hard to believe that we’ve already been through a month of the new year. Time sure seems to move swiftly these days. I think it’s probably related to how busy we all are. The year ahead holds a great deal of work for our chapter and some great opportunities as well.

First let’s look at the work ahead of us. As you know the chapter has been a major partner in updating the Alabama Handbook for Erosion and Sediment Control for Construction Sites and Urban Areas. Recently, 6 chapter members provided training to engineers, planners, contractors and inspectors on the new manual in 8 classes around the state. These classes involved quite a bit of preparation time and to this point have been very successful and well received.

But there is still work ahead of us in this area. Another 4 classes for planners and designers are being scheduled right now. Already, preliminary planning is underway for 5 field days in various parts of the state. These field days will focus on installation and maintenance of best management practices. The field days will be a collaborative effort of many partners. SWCS members will have an opportunity to participate in setting up the field days and attending them. We are also planning to develop a dashboard version of the handbook for use by inspectors.

Another work area all of us need to be involved with is member recruitment. I think primarily due to the economy, but also due to some retirements and other matters, we have recently lost some members. I want to encourage each of you to take every opportunity you have to promote our chapter and membership in it to people and groups you make contact with on a regular basis.

Finally, I want to let you know about our annual meeting. The meeting planning committee is doing a great job of planning an excellent annual meeting for us. There are details about the meeting and registration information located in this newsletter. Please don’t miss this opportunity to meet for information and fellowship during June 2-4 in Opelika. I know that you will not be disappointed if you attend.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those chapter members who are working so hard to make our chapter special. I especially want to thank those on the annual meeting committee and those working with the handbook project. Their hard work is making a difference.

Looking forward to seeing you in Opelika

Jeff Holloway

Special points of interest:

If you have news that would be of interest to the readers and the membership, send it to the Newsletter Committee at the address on the back or email the Newsletter Committee (e-mail address on page 2).

Any stories or photographs of activities of our members are welcome too!
Alabama Receives the Outstanding Chapter & Chapter Achievement Award 2003

Congratulations to the Alabama SWCS chapter on a job well done for 2003! Alabama received the Outstanding Chapter and Chapter Achievement Award for the South Central Region.

Executive Director Craig Cox presents Alabama Chapter Awards to Rod Goode during the Awards Luncheon at the annual meeting in Spokane, Washington.

Photo submitted by Rod Goode. Rod receives award from Craig Cox.

Editors Notes: Joyce

I just a brief word to all of you SWCS members; please feel free to phone or email me with additions, corrections, comments, or articles of interest for our Al SWCS newsletter.

I appreciate all of those who take the time out of their busy schedules to contribute an article. I know how busy you all are, but really, if you will just send me a couple of paragraphs along with a couple of photographs our readers will have another story of interest for their reading enjoyment.

Thanks and I’ll see you in Opelika. jin
The Alabama A&M University Student chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society also known as the Environmental Science Club (ESC) which just received their charter this year is having a good start by mobilizing the students to set an environmental agenda for the club. This is significant because as concerns for the quality of the environment increases, the need to recruit and involve more and more youths through initiatives that give the youths a sense of service and responsibility to their local communities becomes paramount.

Although this experiment is still at the early stages of the Club, the level of University (Alabama A&M University) support, professional (Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Society) support, and student enthusiasm, that the club now enjoys, the future of the chapter looks good, and AAMU Student Chapter may well be setting the kind of record that environmental clubs in other schools may want to look at.

Within one year of obtaining a chapter, the AAMU Chapter has undertaken the following activities:

- Volunteered along with other organizations in Northern Alabama (Operation Green Team, Redstone Arsenal, Wheeler Wildlife Refugee, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and City of Huntsville, Mayor’s Office) area to help cleanup the Huntsville Spring Branch.
- Participated in the Huntsville Panoply Arts festival to promote the talents of young and mature artists throughout the nation.
- Undertook a “Printer Cartridge Recycling” program with Green School, a non-profit organization that allows schools and businesses to recycle empty printer, fax, and copier cartridges.
- Embarking on an AAMU Campus wide recycling program to recycle papers that are being generated from the University offices.
- Finalizing plans to adopt-a-mile in the Huntsville city area.

The Club is working toward affiliation with the Student Activities Subdivision, American Society of Agronomy (SAS-ASA).

ESC is developing a club web page, which can be accessed at http://webspace.aamu.edu/esc.

Much thanks go to The School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Alabama A&M University, The Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the Executive Board of the chapter.

The student Club of Alabama A&M. Keep up the Good Work!!
CPESCs in Alabama are very fortunate to have an SWCS chapter that supports CPESC related activities. Our President Jeff Holloway in the President’s Pondering article mentioned some of the related activities of our Alabama Chapter – the 2003 update of the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Storm water Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas and training seminars through Auburn University’s Business and Engineering continuing education program. And there are plans for field days and more training seminars. We need to recognize that the Chapter is not accomplishing everything alone and thank our partners. The partnership is significant and is the key to success. Together, we are accomplishing what none of the partners can do alone. Incidentally, these activities involve CPESCs, provide an opportunity for technology transfer and provide opportunities to promote CPESC.

By the time that you read this article the 2004 Annual Conference and Trade Show of the International Erosion Control Association will probably be history (February 16-20). I will give you some details in the next newsletter. Several of our AL Chapter SWCS members will be attending and will be promoting our Chapter Annual Meeting as we visit with acquaintances from the Southeast and when attending the Southeast Chapter meeting during the Conference. On a smaller scale, the Southeast Chapter of IECA will present Sediment and Erosion Control Solutions for the Southeast at Charlotte, NC on March 17-19, 2004. I encourage everyone with an interest in new technology to attend if it is practical. In addition, an exam review course for Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality, the relatively new certification program of CPESC, Inc., will be offered. I am aware of at least one Alabamian that plans to take the course and I suspect that there will be others.

I mention the IECA events often because of the outstanding programs that are presented and the opportunities for making new friends and networking with experts from many technical areas.

Finally, let me remind everyone that our Chapter will present the CPESC Exam Review Course and Exam on March 10 and 11, 2004, respectively. CPESCs may take the CPESC Exam Review Course for professional development credit if space is available after we provide space to those persons preparing to take the exam. Please contact me regarding a slot if you are interested in attending the course at Clanton on March 10.

Let me remind you, if there is a specific topic related to CPESC that you would like to have covered in our Chapter newsletter let me know.

Earl Norton, Chairman
CPESC Committee
nortone1@bellsouth.net

We can all do our part.....
To Conserve our Soil and Water

The June 2003 Handbook is available in three formats: 3-ring binder (Handbook); CD and electronically on the Internet.

The Handbook (two-volume set in 3-ring binders) and CD are available through the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Foundation. Use the form below.

Fill out this form and enclose a check or money order payable to AL Chapter SWCS. Send the form and check to:

Alabama Chapter SWCS
c/o Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Foundation
600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 320
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

___ Handbooks @ $75/set = $ _______ (includes shipping and handling)
___ CDs @ $15 each = $ _______ (includes shipping and handling)
Total for order $ _______

Name: ____________________________________________

Firm/Organization: ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________________________________________
(for delivery by U.S. Postal Service)

City ___________________________ State ___________________________ Zip Code ______

Telephone Number: __________ email Address: _______________________________

Please check the category that best describes the entity with which you are affiliated

__ Local Government  __ Engineering firm  __ Contractor/Builder
__ State Government  __ Consultant  __ Environmental Organization
__ Federal Government  __ Developer  __ Other (specify) _______________________

Electronic Version

The handbook may be viewed on the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee homepage and may be copied at no cost at this site: http://www.swcc.state.al.us/

***Please note: Reproduction of the Handbook in any format for resale is not authorized.***
Welcome New Members

Glenn Sutton; USDA/NRCS

Why Join the AL SWCS?

Join over 10,000 members nationwide and nearly 200 in Alabama, who represent every component of the conservation movement:

Academics | Technical advisors | Managers
---|---|---
Educators | and | Advocates

The reasons are limitless, here are the top 10...

1. **Become a member of a very dynamic, very involved, very knowledgeable and friendly organization.** Opportunities to network with and learn from professionals from many disciplines through local, regional and international meetings.

2. **Active support of Student Chapters** in Alabama allow future employees to network and interact with seasoned professionals.

3. **Community Involvement** is a priority for AL SWCS because this is where we work and live. Exposures to young minds allows member to instill the sense of responsibility to students in Water Festivals, Science Fairs, Engineering Conferences and workshops.

4. **The Love for our jobs** plus working with landowners, communities and units of government to get conservation on the land.

5. **Educational Opportunities** are available through the SWCS and beyond to receive training and seminars associated with soil, water, and other natural resources sustainability with the latest in conservation technology and practices.

6. **Professional Development** for members is available through SWCS endorsement of Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and the Certified Crop Advisors (CCA). The Alabama Chapter co-sponsors the biannual training course and exam for the certification in the area of erosion and sediment control and urban water quality.

7. **Continuing Education** for certified professionals is offered at the State Annual Meeting, Field Tours, national conferences and workshops on land and water management issues designed to update CPESC, CCA, and Professional Engineers (PE).

8. **Local Regulation Proposals** keep the Alabama Chapter ahead of the rest. AL SWCS along with the Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee are updating the primary reference, the Erosion & Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Handbook with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

9. **National Policy Proposals** made by the SWCS helped key stakeholders and policy makers at the state and local levels to shape the conservation provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. Bringing all sides of critical issues together to seek common ground and identify solutions to the most important conservation problems confronting landowners and policy makers.

10. **New Partnerships** are key to get firsthand opportunities to learn about different areas of the state and the country, new conservation techniques and just get-together with a diverse group of conservationists.
This is a recent $3.5 million Alabama Department Of Transportation [ALDOT] construction project consisting of a 1.25 mile section of newly constructed two-lane highway. The site is located just north of Talladega National Forest in Talladega County. The project includes construction of a new bridge over Talladega Creek and a 400 LF single barrel cast-in place 6’ x 5’ concrete culvert under a one hundred foot fill section along an unnamed tributary of the creek just north of the bridge.

Final quantities included: Approximately 43 acres of clearing and grubbing 420,000 CY of unclassified 20,000 CY of borrow excavation.

Thereby allowing for a successful ongoing project throughout a year that provided more frequent and severe rainfall events than any in recent memory.

Due to the relief of this heavily wooded site (approximately 140 feet within the right of way limits) containment of silt was a critical issue. Temporary sedimentation controls included brush filters below cleared areas, approximately 6500 LF of silt fence, hay bales and riprap ditch checks, and check dams. Seeding and mulching activities were undertaken immediately after clearing activities and when material was placed in stockpiles in order to provide temporary erosion control.

Structural BMP’s included riprap slope protection that was installed in conjunction with silt fence and hay bales, which provided for stream bank protection before work began on the bridge. As the project progressed, in order to prevent erosion to the slopes, earthen berms were utilized along the tops of the slopes in the fill sections and in conjunction with over 1100 LF of temporary pipe, this allowed for the flow of water to be directed down the slopes.

As the slopes and ditches were built to specified grades and locations, permanent seeding and mulching operations were implemented. Other permanent erosion controls included riprap and concrete ditches; placement of sod along the concrete ditch flume, around the bridge abutments, and pipe end treatments; erosion control netting applications across steeper slopes and in ditch sections. All temporary riprap applications were left in place as they continue to provide for stability and containment of sediment. Temporary measures such as silt fence and hay bales were removed as permanent applications became established.

Project Engineer Joe Haynes states that one of his highest priorities throughout this undertaking was to “preserve the beauty of Talladega Creek.” I would encourage anyone who hears of this project to take a drive on Alabama 77 and witness this undertaking for themselves!
You Can Say We Are #1
But...
Does That Make You Feel Better?

Skip Ragsdale, Membership Chairman

Of all the S.W.C.S. Chapters worldwide, no chapter had an increase in membership greater than your Alabama Chapter. At first glance that makes me want to stand-up and cheer. Instead, I feel like a sprinter who wins because everyone else ran backwards. Between April 2001 and September 2003, the Alabama Chapter gained 37 members. Worldwide, the S.W.C.S. lost 661 members. If my count is correct, the S.W.C.S. has 102 chapters with International grouped into one. Of this number only 19 had an increase in membership. Of those 19 chapters, 2 had an increase of 1 member. Nine had no change and 73 lost members. This downward spiral is not good for any group. For a group with a mission to foster the science and art of soil, water, and related natural resource management it is very disappointing. How can we propose to achieve sustainability of these resources when the Powers-That-Be are seeing fewer people interested in the environment? Whether you and I agree they should or should not, numbers matter when policy decisions are made. Should we leave anyone believing the environment is unimportant? I know many who feel like, “I do my part,” but do we? I think the numbers show not one of us should be satisfied with the direction membership is going. Do we really want to look around and not see new members? Are there no new enthusiastic people in our midst? What does that mean for the future? At what point do we lose the race?

I challenge all of you to bring in new members. Mentioning the benefits of the S.W.C.S. to 10 people should gain at least 2 new members. Tell your contacts they need to become members. If you will call or email me, I will make sure prospective members get a package of information including membership forms. You don’t want to see me beg, it isn’t pretty!

Skip Ragsdale
Membership Chairman
T- 800-844-7547
F- 205-674-5656
sragsdale@sunshinesupplies.com

Protecting Our Water Supply
Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting
June 2-4, 2004
### Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 10-11, 2004</td>
<td>CPESC Exam Review Course and Exam</td>
<td>Clanton, Al</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20, 2004</td>
<td>First Day of Spring</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2-4, 2004</td>
<td>Al SWCS Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Opelika, Al</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27-29, 2004</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy</td>
<td>Biloxi, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24-28, 2004</td>
<td>Annual SWCS Meeting</td>
<td>St Paul, Mn</td>
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http://www.alchapterswes.aces.edu/

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Check It OUT!!

It looks Great

A big Thanks to the following

Jay Tatum, Julie Best, Skip Ragsdale. For their hard work on the webpage.

http://www.alchapterswes.aces.edu/
About the Meeting

Meeting Location—The 2004 Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting will be held at the luxurious Grand National Conference Center and Lodge, Opelika, AL.

The resort is nestled in 2000 acres along the award winning Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and the Saughatchee Lake.

Hotel reservations for your stay during the meeting may be made by contacting the Grand National Conference Center and Lodge at 334-741-9292. The lodging room rate is $75.00 per night.

Be sure to indicate that you are attending the Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting.

Deadline for reservations is May 5, 2004.

Continuing Education/Professional Develop

The workshop provides high quality technical sessions and a field trip that is relevant to Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control, Certified Crop Advisors, Professional Engineers, etc. Certificates of training will be available to participants.

Conference Registration - Please register for the conference at your earliest convenience.

The registration fee covers all meetings and scheduled events.

Exhibits and Sponsorships - Exhibit and Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Skip Ragsdale for additional information at 205-674-5656.

Like to Golf?

A golfing activity for Wednesday morning is planned. Fee will by $60; advance registration is required.

Program Overview

→ Water Quantity → Hazardous Waste
→ Water Quality → Innovative products
→ Water Conservation in Agriculture → And much more!
→ Watershed Management

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 2, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon .........................Golfing activity and Exhibit Set-Up
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM: ......................... Registration
1:30 PM - 5:00 PM: ......................... Technical Programs

Thursday, June 3, 2004
7:30 AM. - 9:30 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Area
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM .......... Technical Program
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM .......... Field Trip
5:00 PM - 5:00 PM. .............. Committee Meetings
6:00 PM ......................... Dinner at the Lodge (outdoor setting)

Friday, June 4, 2004
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM .........................Business Meeting
9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon ......................Concurrent Technical Sessions

Check the website for a copy of the detailed program:
http://www.alchaptersswcs.aces.edu/
# Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

Annual Conference  
**June 2-4, 2004**  
Grand National Lodge  
Opelika, AL 36801

## “Protecting Our Water Supply”

Registration Form

**Name:**  
**Organization/Company:**  
**Address:**  
**City, State, Zip:**  
**Phone:**  
**E-mail:**  

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cut-off date</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>April 5, 2004</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>Late/on-site After May 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday only-Business Meeting and Technical Sessions</td>
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Additional tickets, with one registered participant, may be purchased for guests/spouse/children at the following rates:

- **Continental Breakfast (Thurs):**  
  - # ____ @ $10.00

- **Continental Breakfast (Friday):**  
  - # ____ @ $10.00

- **Field trip (includes lunch):**  
  - # ____ @ $25.00

- **Thursday dinner:**  
  - # ____ @ $18.00

*(For selected items, indicate the number needed)*

**Golf – 18 holes, Wednesday morning (must pre-register) @ $60**

**Total Enclosed $________________**

Make checks payable to: Alabama Chapter of SWCS  
Please enclose payment with your registration form and return to Al Chapter of SWCS.

c/o Mike Hubbs  
USDA-ARS-Soil Quality Institute  
National Soil Dynamics Lab  
411 S. Donahue Drive  
Auburn, AL 36832
Our Mission....

The Soil and Water Conservation Society fosters the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability.

We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment.

Why Join the AL SWCS?
See page “6” for “10” top reasons.

Alabama Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society

54 Kelley Lane
Suite 3
Columbiana, AL 35051

We’re on the WEB
www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu

Helping to conserve the Natural Resources of Alabama