



Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society

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

Spring Issue
March 2007

Presidents Message Kirk Iversen

It's a bit more than half-way through the SWCS year, and time to do some reporting about what our Chapter has been up to. We've been involved in a number of successful activities and we can be proud of our members who have represented us.

Red Water Blues. Earl Norton and his team hosted two excellent meetings last fall in Tuscaloosa and Auburn. Both events were filled to (or beyond) capacity and had great reviews by participants.

Team Conservation Tillage. In October, we participated in the Team Conservation Tillage exhibit at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA. We had an estimated 6,000 visitors in the three days of the Expo. A number of our members are involved in this each year; last year SWCS International honored us with a Merit Award for this project.

Water Festivals. We sponsored two water festivals last fall in Jefferson and Shelby counties, with Rod Goode providing leadership.

Conservation Tillage workshops. We sponsored and participated in two workshops in February and March that provided information about conservation tillage systems to farmers and to extension and NRCS staff. Suzanne Baucom, Area I vice president, provided support for the workshop at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge near Decatur. Delarie Parmer, Area V vice president, supported the workshop at the new agriculture museum in Landmark Park in Dothan. A number of our members gave presentations or attended the workshops.

We've got several more activities scheduled for the rest of the year.

Science Fairs. We will be supporting several regional science fairs throughout the state and the state science fair in Huntsville. Thanks to Heidi Richards, Anne Cross, Carl Pinyerd, Eddie May, and John Curtis for their leadership on these.

(See Presidents Message Pg.3)

Annual Meeting June 20-22 Mobile, Alabama Joyce Nicholas SWCS Area 4 VP

The time is really flying by and plans are well under way to have a fantastic AI SWCS Annual meeting and tour. Mark your maps and your calendars as we head south this year, the meeting will be

held in Mobile, June 20-22, 2007. Steve Musser and the planning committee have been working hard to pull together a meeting and tour that you will enjoy and hopefully remember for quite some time.

The hotel site has been secured and if you want to go ahead and book your rooms our site is the Best Western Ashbury Hotel & Suites—

251-344-8030—600 West I-65 Service Road, Mobile, AL 36608. Rates begin at \$70.00 for a standard double or a standard King: a deluxe double is \$80.00—trust me this is a decent price for the Mobile area—especially in the summer time.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Update

The Smithsonian Soils Exhibit is on schedule to open in July, 2008 at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, DC. The Museum is the most-visited in the world, with more than six million visitors annually. The main exhibit will run for at least 18 months. A more permanent display, including monoliths from all 50 states, will also be up then.

When the main exhibit is finished, a traveling exhibit will visit libraries and museums around the country to get the message to many more people. A web site will also be part of the project.

SWCS Alabama Chapter played an important role in the success of this project. At the beginning, each state was asked to raise at least \$10,000 to get the ball rolling and to

be able to show potential sponsors the grassroots interest in it. Our chapter was the first Alabama group to donate at least \$1,000. Several of our members have been involved in the fund-raising, and we can tell you that this was huge. When we approached other groups, the first question was often, "who else is supporting this?" When they learned our chapter was involved, it made a difference.

(Continued Page 3)

Your Help is Needed!!!

Help your Society by registering early for the upcoming Alabama Chapter Annual Meeting. Early Registrations help us maximize Your meeting and keep our costs down. Your help is greatly appreciated

**Deadline for Motel Registration at Conference Rates is
May 20, 2007**

Regional Science Fair Held in North Alabama Alabama SWCS Serves as Sponsor



Matthew Thorn won the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society's junior award for best of show in the environmental category. Matthew is an eighth grader at Cherokee Middle School in Cherokee, AL. The title of Matthew's project was "A Study of Hickory Tree Growth Using Dendroclimatology and Soil Analysis". Matthew's project explored the effect of soil, climate, and environment on growth of hickory trees in northwest Alabama.

The 2006 North Alabama Regional Science Fair was held March 14-15, 2006 at the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The Alabama Chapter is a proud sponsor of these competitions.

Special Thanks goes to Alabama Chapter Members; Carl Pinyerd, Anne Cross, Heidi Richards, Eddie May and John Curtis.

Silent Auction Supports Student Chapters

For the past several years, we have incorporated a Silent Auction into our Alabama Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual meeting. The proceeds from the auction go to support our Auburn University and Alabama A&M University student chapters. It's a great way to generate funds to enable these chapters to do some special projects. Whatever your craft or interest, your contribution would help make the 2007 Silent Auction a success. Bring your items to our meeting on June 20th, or get them to Julie Best (Auburn State Office, PO Box 311, Auburn, AL 36830, Phone: 334-887-4549) or Amy Bell (Gulf Coast RC&D Office, 107 Courthouse Square, Bay Minette, AL 36507, Phone: 251-580-0195) prior to the meeting. Thanks in advance for your support!



Sarah Fisher won the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society's senior award for best of show in the environmental category. Sarah is a senior at Catholic High School in Huntsville, AL. The title of Sarah's project was "Sediment and Snails Solved!". Sarah's project explored the measurable correlation between right handed twist snail populations and sediment levels in local streams.

Alabama Chapter SWCS

Supporting Tomorrows Conservationists Today!!!!



President's Message (Continued)

Alabama DOT Stakeholder Advisory Group. AL-DOT is preparing an update of the Statewide Transportation Plan and has asked us to provide input through their Stakeholder Advisory Group. We will be doing this throughout the coming year.

Tri-State Water Resources conference. Perry Oakes is our lead person on this conference, which is sponsored by the Alabama, Georgia, and Florida chapters of SWCS. Scheduled for May 17-19 in Quincy, Florida, this conference is aimed at water conservation issues in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin that we share. Should be a good one.

Membership, Education, Chapter Development, Awards, and Certification. We need members from all parts of Alabama and all areas of expertise.

Annual Meeting
Steve Musser, Joyce Nichols, and their team are putting together another great annual meeting for us in Mobile, June 20-22.

Your Chapter is involved in a number of worthy projects that you can be proud of. Please consider helping with these by joining one of our committees. We need members from all parts of Alabama and all areas of expertise.

Thanks for making a difference.

Kirk Iversen

Education Committee Works to Help You Gain Professional Development Hours

Perry Oakes, Chair

The Education Committee of the Alabama Chapter of SWCS has been revived. The committee is striving to make sure the educational needs of our membership are being met. The education committee has three main objectives:

To ensure our annual meetings meets the educational needs of our membership.

To make our membership aware of other educational opportunities during the year to earn PDH's or CEU's for licensure or certification.

To look for ways to work with other groups to include educational topics for our members

If you are aware of educational opportunities for SWCS members, please contact one of the education committee members. They are:

Perry Oakes, Chair

Karen Wynne

Randy Raper

April Jones

Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 1)

They do have a nice looking swimming pool—

with some of the rooms opening into the courtyard—call early!

As of today our tour sites are undecided, therefore if any of you have request or suggestions please send them to me @ joyce.nicholas@al.usda.gov or call me at 1-251-734-5487.

Speakers are being lined up with various topics to be covered that will be of interest to a varied audience.

You can look for the final agenda to be forthcoming; it will appear in the next SWCS newsletter.

Joyce Nicholas, Area VP

Smithsonian (From Page 1)

Alabama was one of the first states to reach the \$10,000 goal, and currently has contributed about \$15,000 (#9 in the nation, #3 in the Southeast). More importantly, the project has raised over \$2.1 million towards the \$2.5 million goal for the main exhibit. (More will be needed for the traveling display, later.)

For more information about the Exhibit, check out the web site: <http://www.soils.org/smithsonian/>

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

HEADS-UP - MEMBER SURVEY COMING TO YOU SOON

The SWCS 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. Your input is valuable and the direction of our Society depends on your input. Be sure to do your part and respond to the survey.

The 2007 National SWCS Conference will be July 21-25 in Tampa Florida.

"Conservation Challenges in a Changing Landscape.

Find More Details on the Web at: [www. Swcs.org](http://www.Swcs.org)



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

We're on the Web!

www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/

Your Officers

**See Map on Page 9 for your
area**

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344-347-1504

Tri-State Meeting

Florida, Georgia, and Alabama Chapters

Soil and Water Conservation Society

**Water Resource Issues in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin:
Working together for a better future**

May 17-19, 2007

North Florida Research and Education Center

155 Research Road

Quincy, Florida

**The purpose of the meeting is to share information on water
resource conservation issues and encourage interaction
between society members of the various sections.**

Topics will include:

Agricultural and urban water conservation efforts,

Water resource management and planning efforts,

Impacts of water storage and minimum base flow,

Water quality impacts,

Storm water runoff and erosion and sediment control,

**Effects of water management on wildlife and
marine/aquatic life, and**

Aquaculture and fisheries.

Coming soon...Registration & Conference information at:
www.swcs.org

Sponsorship or Exhibits: Contact John Slupecki, jslupecki@curlex.com,
850-656-7190

Presentations or workshops: Contact Mark Risse,
mrisse@engr.uga.edu,
706-542-9067

Posters: Contact Dory Franklin, dfrankln@uga.edu, 706-796-5631 ext 215

ANNUAL MEETING OVERVIEW

Watershed Protection from Headwaters to Estuaries 2007 ...is the theme of the 2007 Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting. Watershed protection is a strategy for effectively protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems and protecting human health. Estuaries serve as a filter and buffer to the Gulf of Mexico. Land disturbance by farms, cities, roadways, and other human activities are necessary, but if these actions are managed correctly, the impact can be minimal. Watershed protection strategy has as its premise that many water quality and ecosystem problems are best solved at the watershed level rather than at the individual water body or discharger level. This meeting will help us understand how everyone must work together, from the headwaters to the estuaries, to protect the watershed.

Program Overview

Major topics to be featured at the meeting include:

- targeting priority problems,
- promoting a high level of stakeholder involvement,
- looking at the impact of natural disasters on watersheds
- suggesting integrated solutions that make use of the expertise and authority of multiple partners, and
- measuring success through monitoring and other data gathering

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM..... Exhibitor Set-Up
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM..... Registration
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM..... Opening Session/Exhibits
6:30 PM.. Reception

Thursday, June 21, 2007

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Registration/Exhibits
8:30 AM - 4:40 PM Field Tour
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM..... Committee Meetings/Exhibits
6:30 PM Dinner

Friday, June 22, 2007

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Registration/Exhibits
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Business Meeting/Silent Auction
10:00 AM- Noon Technical Sessions

Check the website soon for a copy of the detailed program:

<http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/>



Watershed Protection from Headwater
to Estuaries 2007

Registration Form

Name: _____

Organization/Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Category	Cut-off date	Member	Non-Member	Special	Enclosed
Entire meeting (includes field trip)					
Early Bird	May 18, 2007	\$90	\$115		_____
On-site	June 20, 2007	\$125	\$150		_____
Field Trip Only anyone (deadline May 9)				\$50	_____
Wednesday Only —Technical Sessions				\$45	_____
Friday Only —Business Meeting and Technical Session				\$45	_____

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

Thursday dinner (Adult) # _____ @ \$25.00 _____

Thursday Dinner (Child) # _____ @ \$12.50 _____

(For selected items, indicate the number needed)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please enclose payment with your registration form and return to:

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

Mail checks and forms to: Alabama Chapter of SWCS

**c/o Zona Beaty
P. O. Box 116
Auburn, AL 36830**

Deadline for hotel registration is May 20, 2007.

Contact the Ashbury Hotel and Suites at (251) 344-8030

About the Meeting

Continuing Education/ Professional Development 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, and Professional Engineers.

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 Earl Norton for additional information at 334-728-4107.

Meeting Location - The 2007 Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting will be held at the Ashbury Hotels and Suites, 600

Hotel reservations for your stay during the meeting may be made by contacting the Ashbury Hotels and Suites, 600 West I-65 Service Road S, Mobile, Alabama 36608. Phone Number: (251) 344-8030. The lodging room rate is \$70 standard and \$80 deluxe per night. Be sure to indicate that you are attending the Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting.

Deadline for hotel reservations is May 20, 2007. Reservations made after this date are subject to an increase at the hotel's discretion.

Questions? Contact Kirk Iversen, 334-844-4741 ext. 179 or Steve Musser, 334-887-4503, for more information about the meeting.



Co-Sponsors Include:

**Southeast Chapter of International Erosion Control Association
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**



Erosion and Sediment Control News

Earl Norton, Chairman, CPESC Committee

The Steering Committee for the Erosion and Sediment Control Program met on January 23, 2007 with industry representatives to discuss Red Water Blues Field Days for 2007. Tentative plans are to have 3 field days with strong consideration for the Cullman area, Prattville and either Baldwin or Mobile County. Final decisions on locations will depend upon opportunities to use local construction sites and the availability of local sponsors. If these locations do not materialize other locations will be considered. A positive development is that there will likely be twice as many industry participants in 2007 as in 2006. We expect the field days to be in September.

The Chapter-sponsored CPESC Exam Review Course and CPESC Exam are scheduled for March 28 and 29, respectively, at the Guest House Inn at Clanton. Registration information is available at the Chapter website. CPESCs may attend the session to earn CEUs if space is available – it is too early to tell for sure at this time, but very likely there will be space.

Speaking of CPESC, you will want to join Delarie Parmer and me in congratulating AL Chapter member and CPESC John Grace of the U.S. Forest Service Research Unit at Auburn.

He received the International Erosion Control Association's Most Distinguished Paper Award for his presentation prepared for the 2007 IECA Conference and Trade Show in February at Reno, Nevada. Delarie Parmer and I were in the audience during the presentation and we agreed that the scholarly paper was presented in a very outstanding manner and made us proud of our connection with John.

Alabama was well represented at the 2007 IECA Conference. Those that I remember seeing included: Andy and Wade Ellis, Skip and Bo Ragsdale, Jason Goldstein, John Grace, Delarie Parmer, Don Presley and Rosanna Sexton. There were likely several others but with 2,500 persons in attendance it is easy to miss someone and I very likely did.

During the Business Session of the SE Chapter of IECA I had an opportunity to announce the AL Chapter SWCS meeting and distribute registration forms. The IECA SE Chapter group plans to continue co-sponsoring our SWCS Annual Meeting and is looking for other SWCS Chapters to partner. I believe the AL Chapter SWCS and SE IECA Chapter partnership began in 1996.

If you are thinking of attending an IECA Conference and Trade show and waiting for it to come to the Southeast, you will have that opportunity next year since it will be in Orlando.

I am excited about our upcoming SWCS AL Chapter meeting at Mobile. The Program Planning Committee and the Tour Committee are planning an exceptional meeting and each of us should encourage non-members to attend. I can think of no better way to generate interest and increase Chapter membership.

Yes, you may call it trivial, but in looking at the CPESC directory for Alabama as I prepared this article, I noticed that there are 10 CPESC in Auburn. You may ask, Why so many? I think that there are two reasons: (1) there is a lot of construction occurring in this part of the State and (2) there is more environmental awareness in the Auburn area than in many other areas of the State.

I will add this, mentioning the number may be trivial but the impacts of this group are significant.

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



The Map to the right shows the different areas.

Get to know your Area Vice President.
They are your voice in Executive Meetings!

Alabama Chapter SWCS
P. O. Box 116
Auburn, Alabama 36838



TO: