



Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society

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

**Fall Issue
November 2007**

Presidents Message



Steve Musser

The New Year has brought a lot of change among the officers. Several people have left because of various personal and professional reasons, but others have stepped up to take their place. Francisco Arriaga is serving as president elect, Andrew Price as Treasurer, Kathy Gotcher

as Area one V.P., and Jason Gardner as Area two V.P. As most of you know, these positions are important and require plenty of work. I appreciate everyone who fills these positions.

I am proud to serve as president of a group of professionals as dedicated as you. The only way this organization can be successful is if everyone contributes. We want and need your input on all issues. The executive committee has made an effort to place every member on at least one of the committees. I encourage you all to participate and offer suggestions that will improve our organization.

I hope that you will be active in making contact with your elected officials on important conservation issues. For example, the Farm Bill is being debated in the Senate and when approved will go to conference for resolution of differences. Now is the time to let your congressman know your concerns about the Farm Bill.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas season I hope we all can enjoy the many things for which we are all thankful. We live in a great nation that is safe and free. When I notice the simple things like clean water and cheap abundant food I am even more thankful.

I hope this season is a happy one for you and your families.

Inside this issue:

President Message	1
Past President	2
Conservation Educational Activities	3
CPESC NEWS	4-5
Editors note	5
2007-08 Officers	6
Area Map	7

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

Wrapping Things Up

Past President: KIRK IVERSEN

I'd like to thank everyone for helping me last year as your President. I received a huge amount of support from our Board and from many other members around the state, and I'm very grateful for that. It was a great experience for me and a chance to meet many impressive folks in our Chapter who are doing significant and impressive things for our soil and water resources.

Our Board last year was a hard-working bunch and you can be proud of them. Our Chapter sponsored a number of activities during the year – Red Water Blues, science fairs, CPESC programs, water festivals, workshops, a field day, a farm tour, Sunbelt Ag Expo, the tri-state Water Resources conference, and more. Thanks to everyone in our Chapter who helped make these successful.

Huge thanks to everyone who was involved in organizing our annual meeting in Mobile last June. We had a great tour and a very interesting program that covered a wide variety of topics and fine presentations. I'm also pleased with the awards we presented to people who are making important contributions to our Chapter and our natural resources – Jay Tatum, Patti Hurley, and Grassroots, Inc.

Finally, it's a pleasure to know that our Chapter is in the fine hands of Steve Musser and this year's Board. They're already hard at work planning activities for this year and I know that it will be another great one.

Please consider helping out by joining one of the committees that are doing the work of our Chapter.

Thanks,

Kirk



A plaque for outstanding leadership and service as the 2007 President of the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society was presented to the Kirk Iversen by Steve Musser, President-elect

Fourth Annual Lee County Water Festival – “Make Every Drop Count”

by Anne Miller, District Administrative Coordinator, Opelika Field Office, AL

The 4th Annual Lee County Water Festival, with the theme “Make Every Drop Count,” was a big success again in 2007. The Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service Opelika Field Office, and community partners coordinated and implemented the plan to make this year’s event a success.

The Lee County Water Festival is FREE to all 4th grade students in Lee County and is non-profit event for educational purposes only. Over 1,960 students attended the 2007 Lee County Water Festival. Every student, teacher, and volunteer received a Water Festival t-shirt.

The mission of the Lee County Water Festival is to educate students and their families about all aspects of surface water and groundwater and other related natural resources (such as wetlands, forestry, wildlife and much more) and to instill in them a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic. Students and their teachers will go home with increased knowledge and awareness of the importance of our precious water resources and on becoming good environmental stewards of these resources.



This 4th Annual Lee County Water Festival could not have taken place without the assistance of community volunteers, Lee County governmental officials, utilities, local businesses and the Haley Center Staff. High School Earth Team Volunteers spent their spring break helping get the supplies counted and ready for each class.

The Water Festival is not only beneficial to students and their teachers. It is also helpful to the local community. This event helps cities meet the Phase II Storm Water Educational requirement established by the Federal Stormwater Management and Permitting Program

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Plan on attending the Annual Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society Meeting

June 11-13, 2008

Auburn

More information coming soon.



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Erosion and Sediment Control News



Earl Norton, Chairman, CPESC Committee

The Red Water Blues Field Days for 2007 are history and, like the previous 3 years, were quite successful. Again, with no hurricanes, the events were held as scheduled – Cullman, Prattville and Spanish Fort on September 6, 13 and 27, respectively. Approximately 100 persons were involved at each event. Feedback from participants has been positive. We continued the format of field site visits and two hours of technical presentations and this provided a way to go into more depth about practices and products than just presenting the BMPs that are in the field. Most of the installations were made during July and August in scorching days and, fortunately, the temperatures had moderated considerably by the time of the field days.

There were a record number of industry supporters of field days this year and we truly appreciate them providing materials and manpower. I need to mention, also, that we had excellent support of the local soil and water conservation districts (Cullman, Autauga and Baldwin) and other local governments, including Cullman City and County, City of Daphne and Baldwin County – as we mentioned during the field days, we cannot have these events without all of these sponsors.

Also, the activities were strongly supported by the Home Builders Association of Alabama and the Associated General Contractors of Alabama.

The Steering Committee for the Erosion and Sediment Control Program will be meeting in January or February to chart the course for field days and other activities in 2008. If you have suggestions, please pass them on to me soon.

Congratulations to the following persons that have entered the CPESC ranks since the last newsletter: Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne; John Carlton, Consultant, Spanish Fort; Daniel Holliman, Malcolm Pirnie, Bessemer; Leslie Lassiter, City of Fairhope; Kiley Robinson, Great Southern Engineering, Trinity (In-Training); Jon “Bo” Sawyer, Arcadis, Montgomery.

Looking ahead to future training opportunities, consider attending ECO8 (the Annual Conference and Trade Show of the International Erosion Control Association) in Orlando, FL February 18-21, 2008. This is the best venue in the world to get up-to-date technology and increase your networking opportunities. We will add other events to our Chapter calendar as they become known.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Educational Opportunities on SWCS Homepage

A new feature has been added to the Alabama Chapter SWCS homepage. Click the link to our homepage below and check out "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 or Perry Oakes.

perry.oakes@al.usda.gov



CPESC CONT:

A Spanish version of the Field Guide for Erosion and Sediment Control on Construction Sites in Alabama has been printed and will be available to individuals at the counter of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, on the Soil and Water Conservation Committee’s website and for purchase through the Chapter’s arrangement with the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Foundation.

Several changes are being prepared for the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites. If you have any suggestions please pass them to me before the end of November.

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

Earl Norton, Chairman
CPESC Committee
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SWCS Alabama Chapter

Check our website
<http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/>

Send Articles for the newsletter to Joyce.nicholas@al.usda.gov



Take Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For every thing there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven.

I hope that each of you will find time in your busy schedules to celebrate the bounty of the goodness that surrounds us here in America. Thank a Farmer! As the Farmers of American still provide us with the safest most economically grown food in the world.



We also want to take this time to send a note of gratitude to those who serve our Nation in it’s highest capacity, as a member of the Military— all of our men and women and their families deserve our acknowledgement.



Therefore, to all of our military families I hope you will accept our deepest appreciation for your service and we also send our prayers for safety.

Co-Editor: Joyce Nicholas

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The Map to the right shows the 4 areas.
Get to know your Area Vice President.
They are your voice in Executive Meetings!
See contact information on page 6.



We're on the Web!
www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/



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