



All Ohio Chapter News

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From The President

By Lloyd Owens

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In August the All Ohio Chapter had a great program for our Summer Meeting, and it was well attended. Plans are already well underway for the Chapter's next Winter Meeting. It will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. All the speakers are not set yet, but the topic will center around cover crops and various aspects related to them. The intention is to have this set up so that CEUs can be earned by attending. As we get closer to that time, more details will be forth coming. So mark your calendars and hold that date!

As most of you are aware, most of the communication from the Chapter is done electronically via our listserve. Trying to have as few communication gaps as possible, efforts are being made to get as many

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Member Spotlight

By Christina Coulon

*The winter meeting will
be held on February 7,
2008 at the Gwynn
Conservation Area in
London, Ohio*

One of the All Ohio Chapter's highest ranking members in the U.S. Government is Ohio farmer Gary Mast. Mast was appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment in February, 2007. In this position Mast is responsible for overseeing the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

In this position, Mast works on conservation policy and operations issues. When former Agriculture Secretary Johanns appointed Mast, he said Mast is a "seasoned veteran of agriculture and conservation issues. Gary is well regarded within USDA and by our stakeholders. His background and passion for conservation will be especially valuable as we move forward with the 2007 Farm Bill."

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Under Secretary, Mast held several positions within the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In his most recent position, Mast served as Senior Advisor to the Chief of NRCS. Previously, he held the title of Special Assistant in the Office of

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email addresses on our listserve as possible and to keep them current. If you know of a member who is not receiving Chapter communication, please have him/her send their email address to Brent Sohngen (sohngen.1@osu.edu). Also, as your email addresses change due to employment changes, retirement, etc., keep us informed so that we can keep you informed about Chapter and Society happenings. Stay in touch!

Ballots for 2008 officers of the All Ohio Chapter will be coming in November. I certainly want to thank those individuals who are willing to serve in leadership capacities "To encourage the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources". Please take the time to study the candidates and vote. This is an important opportunity to participate in your chapter!

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the Chief and Chief of Staff. When asked to comment on Mast's appointment, NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster said, "Gary Mast is truly a conservationist, somebody who is well-versed in agriculture and now well-versed in NRCS."

From 2003-2004, Mast served as President of the National Association of Conservation Districts. For nearly 25 years, from 1981-2005, Mast served as a Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor in Holmes County, Ohio.

Mast says, "My experience with NRCS and NACD, and having made my living on a farm for the past 30 years, gives me the tools to do my best in the job of Deputy Under Secretary. It's a privilege, honor, and responsibility to serve."

Mast and his brother Jon farm 1,000 acres on their sixth generation farm. They custom harvest forage on 7,000 acres and manage a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for a 650-cow dairy herd. Mast and wife, Diane, have two children, Esther and Aaron.

Mast is also a lifetime member of SWCS. When asked if he is a member of SWCS, he proudly pulls his lifetime membership card out of his wallet as proof of his commitment to the organization.



Deputy Under Secretary Gary Mast

*"It's a privilege, honor,
and responsibility to
serve."*

Summer Meeting Highlights

By Christina Coulon, Kevin King, and Rocky Smiley

The summer meeting of the AOC SWCS held in Sunbury, Ohio, fell on one of the hottest days of the year. That didn't deter a total of 46 participants registered for the meeting, who attended the morning presentations and participated in the afternoon café discussion and subsequent field visit.

The morning presentations focused on watershed management with speakers from all levels of government. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Terry Cosby discussed the farm bill and how to maximize the investment of farm bill funds. Cosby stated that over \$200 million in farm bill funds has been invested in Ohio conservation activities between 2002-2006. David Hanselmann, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation Chief, focused on watershed coordinators and how the State supports this approach to water quality problems. Kris Bruestle, Upper Big Walnut Watershed Coordinator, showcased a grass roots effort in Michigan which resulted in the improvement of fish habitat in the Ausable River. Rick Shamblen of Malcolm Pirnie presented an evaluation of the Upper Big Walnut Watershed non-point source pollution abatement program, and NRCS District Conservationist David Ferguson demonstrated how farm bill programs have improved the natural resources in Madison County, Ohio.

"The café style discussion highlighted many ideas from personal experience about what natural resource professionals do, and how they can collaborate effectively with other groups and individuals to improve the state of the soil and water resources in Ohio," wrote Anne Baird, Café discussion facilitator in her report on the discussion. A six-page report was generated; request a copy from [Brent Sohngen](#), AOC President Elect.

Drs. Kevin King and Rocky Smiley of the USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit led the afternoon session with a tour of one of nine headwater stream research sites located in Upper Big Walnut Creek (UBWC) watershed. These headwater streams are being sampled as part of the ARS Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Watershed Assessment Study, the goal of which is to provide detailed information on the influence of conservation practices. UBWC is one of 14 watersheds in the United States selected to provide comprehensive, detailed information on the hydrological, water chemistry, and ecological impacts of conservation practices.

Dr. King explained that the current objective for the UBWC research was to quantify the influence of three conservation practices: pesticide management, nutrient management, and herbaceous riparian buffers. Dr. King discussed the technologies used to collect hydrology and water chemistry data as well as preliminary findings. Dr. Smiley followed with a discussion of the geomorphology, riparian habitat, instream habitat, fish, and macroinvertebrate sampling that is being conducted as part of this comprehensive evaluation of these three conservation practices.



Café discussion and graphic on wall at the Summer Meeting held at the Trent Township Hall in Sunbury



Norm Fausey (l) receives the Outstanding Member Award from Nomination Committee Chairman Art Brate (r) at the Summer Meeting

Remember to Vote!

By Sean Browning

Voting for the 2008 All Ohio Chapter Executive Council will take place in November, 2007. A ballot will be mailed to members via "snail mail". Be on the lookout for your ballot, select your choices and return promptly to the address indicated on the ballot. Currently, the candidates include:

President Elect - Dave Libben and TBD
 Secretary - Kara Tucker and Sandy Chenal
 Treasurer - Angel Arerhart and Bob Parkinson
 Member at Large - Martha Gilson and Mary Ann Core

Award Nominations

By Art Brate, Nominating Committee Chairman

It is time to consider nominating one of your fellow members as the All Ohio Chapter SWCS Outstanding Member. This award will be presented at the annual meeting this winter.

Take a few minutes and nominate them. The nomination form is on line at www.ohiochapterswcs.org. Click on News and the link is at the bottom. Please return the completed form to me via e-mail.

National award nominations are due to SWCS by December 12, 2007. Visit the SWCS website at http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/awards_for_individuals for more information.

To submit items for the newsletter contact newsletter editor Chris Coulon at chris.coulon@oh.usda.gov

AOC Officers

Lloyd Owens, President
 Brent Sohngen, President-Elect
 Sean Browning, Past-President
 Rich Gehring, Secretary
 Irene Moore, Treasurer
 Alen Sundermeier, Member At Large
 Kim Browning, 2nd Year Member At Large

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