



# All Ohio Chapter News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## 2009 Summer Meeting Highlights

*By Chris Coulon*

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The 2009 Summer SWCS Meeting was held Friday, August 14, 2009 at Malabar Farm in Richland County. Several members including SWCS President Dave Libben, SWCS Secretary Sandy Chenal, Rick Wilson, SWCS Treasurer, and President Elect Michelle Lohstroh, attended the meeting. Approximately 30 members attended the meeting to learn more about local foods, organic production, the Crossroads RC&D beekeeping project and local farm markets.

Malabar Farm is the only working farm that is part of the Ohio State Park system. Lunch was provided by the Malabar Inn, which uses local produce when available. A short presentation was given by the head chef of the Inn, who described the challenges of dealing with planning meals using seasonal produce, which can be available in abundance at times. He's created several special recipes and techniques to utilize and preserve produce for use in the off season.

NRCS District Conservationist Kevin Swope gave a presentation after the delicious lunch, explaining the challenges and rewards of raising bison and produce for a farm markets in the Cleveland area. Swope's entire family participates in growing vegetables for the farm market, and travel to the market on sale day. Swope brought in samples of his produce and two buffalo hides, a full grown buffalo and a calf hide, which is a lighter color. The hide is tanned and sold, as is the meat of the buffalo. Even the fur is spun and used for producing clothing.

Deborah Stinner from The Ohio State University, also gave a presentation after lunch on organic production and research on

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## Member Spotlight – Rick Wilson

The 2009 AOC SWCS Treasurer, Rick Wilson, is the subject of this final member spotlight for 2009. Wilson is a native Ohioan raised in Bucyrus. Another Ohio State graduate, Wilson earned a Civil Engineering degree in 1994. Upon graduation, Wilson began work as a permit writer in the Division of Surface Water at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He advanced to the position of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation unit inspector beginning in 1999. He was the lead inspector in Buckeye Egg Farm case and Co-chair of the Animal Agriculture Task Force for the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Agencies or ASIWPCA from 2003-2007. Presently Wilson works in the Non-point Source program at Ohio EPA (a non-regulatory program), specializing in agricultural pollution reduction efforts.



*Rick Wilson*

Rick explains that he joined SWCS in 2005 because this is the organization that most directly speaks toward the continued critical need to protect our state's precious water resources, while at the same time recognizing the environmental and economic value of sustainable practices on the landscape. The historical ideals of this organization still today have incredible applicability. But barriers toward practical implantation of those ideals still exist.

Most SWCS members cite the networking opportunities as one of the major benefits of membership and Wilson agrees. He says he's had the opportunity to network with many, many folks whom he would not have otherwise, and through that has been exposed to so many social, economic, logistical, and environmental perspectives that all make soil and water conservation so seemingly complex. He finds the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation to be a terrific source of information with respect to his professional duties which relate to focusing our effort to minimize polluted runoff from the land and into our surface waters.

Wilson attributes an increased understanding of the incredible history of soil and water conservation to his experiences in SWCS. "I have bought and read several books available through the SWCS that have made a difference in the way I look at the issues facing effective soil and water conservation, and the want to improve things too," he states.

Rick Wilson currently lives in Grandview Heights with his wonderful wife, Melinda, and terrific kids, daughter Gabby, 11, and son Kindred, 20 months.

## Soil and Water Conservation Society - All Ohio Chapter Awards for OUTSTANDING PUBLICATIONS in 2008

The Soil and Water Conservation Society - All Ohio Chapter announces the following outstanding publication awards for 2008. A total of 8 publications were nominated by SWCS - AOC members for consideration for the three awards. All of the nominations represent excellent examples of publications of non-technical educational material, scientific research and general information regarding soil and water conservation.

**Dan Kush Award for Excellence in and Educational Publication:** The award is given to a non-technical publication or report that is intended to educate Ohioans about soil and water conservation and environmental resources.

Alan Sundermeier. 2008. Oilseed Radish Cover Crop. The Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Fact Sheet SAG-5-08.

This extension fact sheet helps producers understand the benefits of using a cover crop. Oilseed radish is a unique cover crop that farmers are planting to improve soil quality for economic crop production. It has the ability to recycle soil nutrients, suppress weeds and pathogens, break up soil compaction, reduce soil erosion and produce large amounts of biomass. The factsheet includes photos, nutrient content, soil nitrate reduction charts and management recommendations to help producers make informed decisions regarding the use of oilseed radish as a cover crop.

**All Ohio Chapter Award for Excellence in a Scientific or Technical Publication:** The award is given to a scientific or technical publication published in a refereed or juried journal, a book or chapters in a book, research report, or other published papers about soil and water conservation and environmental resources.

Martin J. Shipitalo and James V. Bonta. 2008. Impact of Using Paper Mill Sludge for Surface-Mine Reclamation on Runoff Water Quality and Plant Growth. *Journal of Environmental Quality* 37:2351-2359.

Paper mill sludge is commonly applied as a reclamation aid on surface coal mines. Current sludge management plans typically allow an application rate of 100 dt/ac but can go as high as 300 dt/ac. Environmental regulators identified the need for science-based information on the benefits and adverse impacts of various rates of sludge application to help them make informed decisions on application rates and other sludge management practices. This publication describes research designed to examine the influence of paper mill sludge on the quality and quantity of surface runoff, soil quality and plant growth when used as a surface mine reclamation aid and applied at typical and the highest permissible rates.

**All Ohio Chapter Award for Excellence in a General Information or Popular Publication:** The award is given to a publication that is directed to the general public about soil and water conservation and environmental resources.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. 2008. The Urban Review Sediment & Erosion Control Information Newsletter.

This publication provides contractors, developers, builders and municipal employees plain language insight into new regulations, examples of approved management practices and sources of continuing education. The integration of design and text allows Franklin SWCD the opportunity to present technical information to the construction community in a non-threatening forum that also takes into account the bottom line.

## 2009 AOC SWCS Student Scholarship Winner

Kimmaree Menendez Horvath is a junior pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in geology with a certificate in Environmental Science at the University of Akron. She intends to seek a job following graduation involving environmental research and remediation. Having lived in Central and South America as a child, Kimmaree has a deep respect for the environment and those that depend upon it for their livelihoods. As the mother of two young children, she worries about the fate of the planet we leave for them and future generations.

With a particular interest in ocean acidification, Kimmaree successfully applied for a competitive fellowship with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. As a NOAA fellow, she hopes to work this coming summer with the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory on a project to monitor the warming and acidification of the Earth's oceans. She is gaining essential field experience by conducting the final phase of a thirty year longitudinal study of Mentor Marsh in northeast Ohio. Kimmaree is evaluating the outcome of efforts to remediate salt mine till contamination at the marsh. Additionally, she serves as a research assistant on the Lake Faunas Through Time project which seeks to create an interactive database cataloging stratigraphy, faunal composition, physiography, and the chemical structure of lakes throughout the geologic record.

Maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, Kimmaree has been named to the Dean's List and was inducted into the Golden Key Honors Society. Additionally, she has received a number of awards at the local, regional, and national level. Kimmaree hopes to graduate in the spring of 2011. In her limited spare time, she enjoys photography, acting, and spending time with her wonderful and supportive family. Kimmaree would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society for this honor.



*Kimmaree Menendez Horvath*

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organic production in Ohio. OSU has produced several publications for people interested in getting involved in organic production and how to become certified as an organic producer.

Lunchtime speakers included Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski and ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources Director David Hanselmann, who provided updates on their organizations with the recent budget and political issues. Michelle Lohstroh gave an update on NRCS activities for State Conservationist Terry Cosby.



*AOC President Dave Libben welcomes the group.*

## Coming Soon...

- The 2010 All Ohio Chapter SWCS Winter Meeting - An announcement will be sent out over the AOC Listserv with the date, time, location and agenda for the AOC SWCS Winter Meeting.
- Nomination forms for the 2010 AOC SWCS Officers will be sent out shortly. Please take a minute to consider the candidates and vote.



*Taking a ride to the Pugh Cabin*



*Colorful produce from Kevin Swope's Farm*

To submit items for the newsletter contact newsletter editor Chris Coulon at [chris.coulon@oh.usda.gov](mailto:chris.coulon@oh.usda.gov)

### AOC Officers - 2009

Dave Libben, President  
Michelle Lohstroh, President-Elect  
Brent Sohngen, Past-President  
Sandy Chanel, Secretary  
Rick Wilson, Treasurer  
John Rausch, Member At Large  
Mary Ann Core, 2nd Year Member At Large

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