



# All Ohio Chapter News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## From The President

*By Lloyd Owens*

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As we turn the calendar page and enter 2008, we wonder where 2007 went so quickly. Similarly, as my year as AOC president winds down, it has gone quickly also.

This past year has seen the Chapter use electronic communication to an even greater extent, with the biggest example being the newsletter. This speeds the process of getting the newsletter to members; produces cost savings by eliminating printing and mailing expenses; and allows the editor to make greater use of color, especially with photos. Chris Coulon is to be complimented on her work as newsletter editor. If you have suggestions, items to submit, or ideas that you would like to see incorporated into the newsletter for the interest and benefit of the Chapter members, please send them to Chris ([chris.coulon@oh.usda.gov](mailto:chris.coulon@oh.usda.gov)). With no printing costs, a larger newsletter will not be more expensive. Help the newsletter to be of

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## Member Spotlight – Sean Browning

*By Christina Coulon*

During his thirteen year membership in the AOC SWCS chapter, Sean Browning has accomplished quite a few things, both personally and professionally. He attended The Ohio State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1994, after which he headed of to West Africa for a stint with the Peace Corps. In 1999, Sean was awarded a master's degree in natural resources from OSU as well.

On a professional note, Sean began his career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service while still a student. His first job with NRCS was as a computer clerk. In 1999, he became a natural resource specialist with NRCS and currently works in that capacity in the Columbus State Office.

As an AOC SWCS member, Sean has been very a very active and influential contributor to the chapter. He served as newsletter editor for a seven year period (1998-2005). In 2005, he was elected to the executive council as President Elect, serving as President in 2006.

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interest to you!

Of course with the electronic communication, it is increasingly important that email addresses are kept up to date. 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](mailto: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!

The All Ohio Chapter had a great Summer Meeting, which was well attended. Plans are in place for a fine Winter Meeting thanks to the efforts of Brent Sohngen, Alan Sundermeier, and others. It will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. A program on "Utilizing cover crops in conservation practices" will feature speakers from university extension, SWCD, NRCS, and Ohio Farm Bureau. CEUs are available. The first 80 people to register will receive a free copy of the book "Managing Cover Crops Profitably" (a \$20 value). More program and registration information is available on the AOC website ([www.ohiochapterswcs.org](http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org)). Plan to attend!

Even though the winter meeting is in our sights, we need to be planning the next Summer Meeting. If you have ideas for topics, places you would like to see it held, and/or tour items to be seen, please contact one of the Executive Council members (listed in the newsletter). I certainly want to encourage each of you to be involved in the AOC SWCS. It is what brings value to your membership. Take ownership of your chapter!

In closing, I want to thank the Executive Council and the AOC membership for their support this past year. And I am sure that each of you will be supportive of the 2008 AOC leadership. Thank you!



*Sean Browning*

*Member Spotlight cont,*

When asked how Sean believes membership in the AOC SWCS has helped his career he states, "Being an SWCS member in and of itself has not really helped my career. Being an active SWCS member, however, has greatly helped my career. My participation in SWCS has afforded me opportunities to do things outside of my current job description (lead the Chapter, publish newsletters, plan conferences and meetings). These 'outside' activities have provided me with additional skills and experiences that have proven valuable throughout my career."

On a personal note, Sean and his wife Kim Browning live in Dublin, Ohio with their sons Hunter and Walker, and are expecting a new baby in March.

## 2008 Winter Meeting

### PROGRAM

- 8:30 am Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 am Opening Comments - Brent Sohngen
- 9:15 am "Overview of cover crops, opportunities in cropping systems" - Alan Sundermeier, Ohio State University Extension Educator. *No matter what your crop rotation is, there are opportunities for cover crops to be included. The importance of cover crops in soil and water conservation will be discussed.*
- 9:45 am "Cover crop effect on soil quality, species screening" - Dr. Rafiq Islam, Ohio State University Soil Specialist. *Over 30 species of cover crops are being tested at Ohio State University South Centers research farm. Soil quality analysis from cover crop systems will be shared.*
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am "Nutrient cycling with cover crops, no-till systems, Green Land Blue Waters Initiative" - Jim Hoorman, Ohio State University Extension Specialist. *Combining a no-till system with cover crops can quickly improve soil quality benefits. Also the Green Land Blue Waters initiative will be discussed.*
- 12:00 pm Lunch ,Business meeting, Agency Update, Awards - President Lloyd Owens
- 1:30 pm "On-Farm cover crop research with manure application" - Mark Fritz, Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District. *North Central Ohio on-farm testing of cover crops planted after summer manure application shows reduction of soil nitrate which prevents water quality problems from occurring.*
- 2:00 pm "NRCS Cover Crop Standards" - Mark Scarpitti, Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Agronomist. *The NRCS standards for cover crops will be explained.*
- 2:30 pm "Policy Implications that promote cover crops, Farm Bill, watershed nutrient reduction programs" - Larry Antosch, Ohio Farm Bureau. *What influence will the Farm Bill have on cover crop usage? Utilizing cover crops for nutrient reduction programs in watersheds.*
- 3:00 pm Meeting Adjourn

*Utilizing Cover Crops in Conservation Practices*

*February 7, 2008  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

*Ohio Department of Agriculture Headquarters  
8995 E. Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068*

*Each participant will receive a free copy of the book - "Managing Cover Crops Profitably" 3rd Edition, published by the Sustainable Agriculture Network.*

*Open to the Public and Non-SWCS. Certified Crop Advisor  
4.0 CEU credits - 1.5 NM, 1.5 SW, 0.5 CM, 0.5 PD*

*Registration Form Available on-line at <http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org/home.html>*

## Membership Notes

*By Deba Mohler and Lloyd Owens*

During this year's Awards Luncheon WMAO recognized Arthur M. Brate, P.E. Senior Engineer with Brate Consulting, LLC and former State Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as the 2007 inductee to the Ohio Water Hall of Fame. Art was instrumental in partnering with Ohio agencies, committees, and organizations to provide engineering guidance and leadership. He dedicated his time and talent to helping others sustain agricultural production and simultaneously address water quantity and water quality concerns.

In a recent AOC newsletter, it was announced that Dr. Norman Fausey, Research Leader, Soil Drainage Research Unit, Columbus, was named USDA-ARS Midwest Area Senior Scientist of the Year. He then was selected 2007 ARS Distinguished Senior Research Scientist. His citation read "For significant accomplishments promoting efficiency and environmental stewardship in agricultural drainage water management, with extensive benefits to producers, industry, and the general public."

Congratulations to both of these AOC SWCS members!



*Dr. Norm Fausey and Mr. Art Brate*

## Membership Stats

*By Dave Libben, Membership Committee*

If you've ever wondered how many members there are in the All Ohio Chapter of the SWCS, how many students we have on our roles, or any other membership info, the membership committee is the group to ask. The following stats are brought to you by the membership committee.

- 17 Life Members
- 3 Student Members
- 5 Soil and Water Conservation District Memberships
- Approximately 160 Members Total
- 51 Members Claim NRCS Affiliation
- 10 Members Claim SWCD Affiliation
- 9 Members Claim OSU Affiliation
- 4 Members Claim ODNR Affiliation
- 4 Members Claim ARS Affiliation

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

**Congratulations to  
our newly elected  
2008 officers!**

### AOC Officers - 2008

Brent Sohngen, President  
 Dave Libben, President-Elect  
 Lloyd Owens, Past-President  
 Sandy Chanel, Secretary  
 Bob Parkinson, Treasurer  
 Mary Ann Core, Member At Large  
 Alan Sundermeier, 2nd Year Member At Large

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