



All Ohio Chapter News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

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From The President

By Dave Libben

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Greetings to all members of the Ohio Chapter! Mid-summer is busy time in my family's life and I'm sure you have much to do as well, with summer vacations, work around the home (& farm) and planning ahead for autumn.

I've just returned from that "state up north", i.e. the 64th Annual SWCS Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. It had been a few years since I had the privilege attend this event, and I wasn't disappointed. The gathering started with key note speaker Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. The former Governor of Iowa began his post in the "People's Department" January 21, 2009. His comments focused on the administration's commitment to helping rural communities through the Farm Bill, the Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Energy Bill.

USDA plans include Broadband investment to help rural communities stay competitive and expand their markets. They will be continuing to support research in bio-fuels. The Secretary is encouraging more efficient use of locally raised food to cut down on transportation cost. The term "Food Desert" was introduced as zones in urban areas where people do not have access to whole nutritious foods. Fast foods and quick marts dot the landscape, leading to poor eating habits and obesity issues. Can urban farms be the answer? He noted that the Ag. Census indicated that over 100,000 new small farms were created since the last census but over 80,000 mid size farms were lost. Ninety percent of all farms count on some sort of off farm income to supplement the household. He encouraged all to stay involved with the climate change discussion and pending legislation. How will it impact agriculture? Will there be offset opportunities for agriculture?

Member Spotlight – Michelle Lohstroh

By Christina Coulon

A SWCS member since 1983, Michelle Lohstroh was born in Cincinnati and attended The Ohio State University, earning a BS degree in Agriculture. She also completed the LEAD program through OSU.

Lohstroh has worked in various capacities during her career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, beginning as a student trainee during summers in college. Upon graduation, she served as a Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Public Affairs Specialist, Area Conservationist, Field Liaison, and State Administrative Officer. Currently Lohstroh is the Assistant State Conservationist for Special Projects. She has also participated on national and regional NRCS teams and is a member of the National Master Facilitator Cadre; providing facilitation for NRCS state, regional, national meetings and teams.

Michelle's personal interests include farming and 4-H. She and her husband have a diverse farming operation in rural Madison County, growing corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and cattle. The Lohstroh's are well known for their pumpkins, gourds, squash and other fall produce that they raise for a fall farm market. Michelle's children are also interested in agriculture, two plan to enter the agriculture field and two have earned their American Farmer Degree. Her third child misses the farm - sometimes.

Michelle has served as a 4-H advisor for 13 years, and on several community boards and committees. She is an avid gardener and favors plants for butterflies, bees and birds. She admits among the many flower gardens are two large rose beds that take the most care and time.

As a member of SWCS, Lohstroh cites the networking opportunities as one of the major benefits of participating in the All Ohio Chapter. She states, "Contacts I have made have shared information that I have been able to use on the job. As a SWCS Berg Fellow I had a great chance to discuss future conservation issues and was able to see some of the many events unfold over time."

Michelle Lohstroh has served as an AOC SWCS member-at-large and is currently the AOC SWCS President-elect.



Michelle Lohstroh

AOC Summer Meeting - Growing Green: Nurturing Local, Sustainable, Organic Food

All Ohio Chapter Summer Meeting
August 14, 2009
Malabar Farm

The meeting theme is "Growing Green: Nurturing Local, Sustainable, Organic Food." Practitioner perspectives, current research results, opportunities in the field, and a tour will be part of the day. We will also have an opportunity to see Malabar's new "green" facility and discuss Louis Bromfield's focus on sustainability when he operated Malabar Farm.

The meeting will begin at the visitor center

Agenda

9:00 Meet and Greet

9:30 Welcome and Overview Dave Libben, AOC President

Malabar Farm Highlights David Greer, President, Malabar Farm Foundation

- Louis Bromfield's Sustainable
- Agriculture Focus
- Tour of Visitor Center's "Green Features"
- Explore Visitor Center and Aviary

Crossroads RC&D Bee Project Sandy Chenal, Coordinator

Local Food Focus at Malabar Farm Malabar Farm Restaurant

Lunch and Business Meeting

Ohio EPA Chris Korleski, Director
ODNR-DSWC David Hanselman, Chief
NRCS Terry Cosby, State Conservationist
Grower and Conservation
Practitioner on Sustainability Kevin Swope, District Conservationist

Organic Growing and Sustainable Agriculture Deb Steiner

Put August 14th on the calendar to learn, network, and enjoy a summer day.

Summer Meeting Registration – Registration Deadline August 4th

August 14, 2009

Malabar Farm State Park

4050 Bromfield Rd. Lucas, OH 44843-9745

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Costs: Member, Non-member, and Student (\$20) \$ _____

Please fill out and return this sheet along with a check payable to:

AOC – SWCS

Mail to: Rick Wilson

882 McClain Rd

Grandview Heights, OH 43212

Questions

E-mail: rwilson882@gmail.com

Please consider making a personal contribution any or all of the Chapter's funds:

Envirothon Fund \$ _____

Operating Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Coming South from Cleveland, Ohio

South on Interstate 71 about 70 miles, Exit #169 at State Route 13; at Hanley Rd. turn east (left from north). Go about 2 miles; turn right at 4-way stop at Little Washington Rd. Go south about a half mile. At fork in road bear left onto Pleasant Valley Rd. Go about 6 miles; turn right at Bromfield Road. Entrance to the park is on Bromfield Road turn right at first road, Follow signs to Visitor Center which takes you to the public parking lot.

Coming North from Columbus, Ohio

North on Interstate 71, about 60 miles, Exit #169 at State Route 13; at Hanley Rd. turn east (right from south). Go about 2 miles; turn right at 4-way stop at Little Washington Rd. Go south about a half mile. At fork in road bear left onto Pleasant Valley Rd. Go about 6 miles; turn right at Bromfield Road. Entrance to the park is on Bromfield Road turn right at first road, follow signs to Visitor Center, which takes you to the public parking lot.

West from Canton (Wooster), Ohio

Go West on State Route (US) 30 about 40 miles, left on State Route 603 South about 8 miles to Pleasant Valley Road turn right (East) about 1 mile to Bromfield Road, turn left at park entrance, take first road to right, follow signs to Visitor Center, which takes you to the public parking lot.

East from Upper Sandusky (Bucyrus), Ohio

Go East on State Route 30 about 35 miles, right on State Route 603 South about 8 miles to Pleasant Valley Road turn right (East) about 1 mile to Bromfield Road, turn left at park entrance, take first road to right, follow signs to Visitor Center, which takes you to the public parking lot.

From The President, page 1

Will there be income potential for livestock and innovative crops?
So you get an idea of the complexity of the issues!

The AOC chapter will address the “Local food” and sustainable agriculture issues at our summer meeting at Malabar State Park. This is a great family vacation opportunity to learn about Ohio’s influence on conservation history and pick up some tips on sustainable energy, food production. See the details in this newsletter. Hope to see you in August!



Ford's "Rouge River Plant" F-150 truck plant Green Roof works with the 14 acre pervious parking lots, storing rain water and slowly releasing it into wetlands for treatment before draining to the river. The white siding and vines grown on the outer walls help cool the plant more efficiently. Note use of natural light as well.

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

New Members

Welcome these new SWCS members to the All Ohio Chapter!

- Guy Cunningham
- Dave McCartney
- Richard Moore
- Michelle Wood
- Randy Scheid

Events of Interest

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- [AOC SUMMER MEETING](#)
Malabar Farm
August 14, 2009
 - [OHIO STATE FAIR](#)
Columbus, Ohio
July 29 – August 9, 2009
 - [FARM SCIENCE REVIEW](#)
September 22 – 24, 2009
 - [2009 WATER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF OHIO ANNUAL MEETING](#)
November 4 – 5, 2009
-

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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