



All Ohio Chapter News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

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From The President

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Head North Buckeyes!

By Dave Libben

The 64th International Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is right around the corner, July 11-15 in Dearborn, Michigan. The overarching theme of the conference is "Delivering Conservation, Today and Tomorrow". We will explore the challenges facing the delivery of conservation planning, policy, and practices today and the issues that must be resolved in order to deliver sustainable soil and water conservation tomorrow and into the future. Please visit the SWCS website for details. You can download the preliminary program at <http://www.swcs.org/>. There are several great reasons for AOC members to attend: it is close - just a few hours in the car can get you up there - diverse programs, excellent training/professional development opportunities, networking with other conservation professionals, research and product displays, and a world premier movie!

Did I mention it is close?!

Dirt! The Movie was one of about 200 films selected for exhibition at the *2009 Sundance Film Festival* and received an excellent response. It is an insightful and timely film that tells the story of the glorious and unappreciated material beneath our feet. One teaspoon of dirt contains a billion organisms working in remarkable balance to maintain and sustain a series of complex, thriving communities that impact our daily lives.

Narrated by Jamie Lee Curtis, Dirt! The Movie is directed by Bill Benenson and Gene Rosow and produced through Common Ground Media, Inc., a non-profit foundation. The genesis for the film came when Benenson was given a copy of William Bryant Logan's book "Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth," in which Logan wrote a series of essays that elevated dirt to a new level of importance by looking at the numerous roles dirt plays in everyday life.

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Member Spotlight – John Clark

By Christina Coulon

While born in New York, John Clark began his education in a one room school house in Shelby, Ohio. After high school, he continued his education at The Ohio State University, majoring in agriculture and graduating in 1954. Mr. Clark is also a Veteran, having served during the Korean Conflict in 1951-53.

First employed as a county extension agent in Champaign County, Mr. Clark went on to work for the USDA ASCS beginning in 1958. He worked in several jobs at the Columbus State Office with ASCS, including assistant program specialist, state compliance supervisor, district director for central Ohio, chief of the administrative division, and head of the conservation programs section, the position he held until his retirement in 1990.

In 1984, he was recognized by John R. Block, Secretary of Agriculture, for his contribution to the USDA Club of Franklin County for having provided enthusiastic leadership as president in 1965, 1977, and 1984. In June, 1990, Mr. Clark received the National ASCS Administrator Award for Service to Agriculture for distinguished individual achievement. The citation reads, "For dedicated service and leadership in conservation programs at state and national levels and for serving as Acting State Executive Director for two extended periods".

Mr. Clark's history with SWCS is long and decorated. He became a member of SWCS, which was then the Soil Conservation Society of America, in 1962. He has served in several roles, including chapter secretary, chair of numerous committees, chapter president-elect and president in 1979-80, and most recently as counselor to the AOC Executive Council. At the International Society level, Mr. Clark served as vice-chairman and chairman of the Human Resources Division. In 1989 he became a life member of SWCS.

The awards and recognition for service Mr. Clark has received through the years include commendation by the Society in 1967 for his enthusiastic efforts to increase SCSA membership, outstanding chapter in the East North Central Region in 1980 under his leadership, the AOC outstanding member in 1982, and the Society's commendation award in 1984.

A dedication to promoting an interest in natural resources among youth promoted Mr. Clark to join in the establishment of the Pathfinder 4-H Club in 1958, which has a section oriented to natural resource projects. He led this club for nine years as it grew to 12 advisors and 63 members.

Another of his youth oriented efforts was the Clintonville Conservation Club where he chaired the Youth Education phase for six years. During this period he was instrumental in the Club sponsoring over 50 boys and girls to various nature related camps.

Outside of the agriculture and natural resources arena, Mr. Clark gives to society as a multiple gallon donor of the American Red Cross blood bank. He also assists in providing mid-week worship services at the Forum health service facility for seniors. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Columbus.



John Clark

East North Central SWCS Leadership Workshop

By Lloyd Owens

Good topics. Good discussion. Good updates. SWCS chapter leaders from the 4 states in the East North Central Region (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia) met at Malabar Farm on March 19 and 20.

Peggy James, SWCS President, gave a Society Headquarters update to the 16 attendees. Following presentations on the conservation philosophy of Louis Bromfield and the “green” Visitors Center, there were sessions on cover crops. Presentations on reduction of soil loss, carbon sequestration, nutrient loss abatement, types of vegetation, and economics generated considerable interest and discussion.

After the evening meal at Malabar Inn, the Michigan chapter gave an update and status report of progress on the International Conference to be held in Dearborn in July.

Along with chapter reports the next morning, the 1936 documentary entitled “The Plow that Broke the Plains” was shown. This dramatically showed some of the management practices that contributed to the “Dust Bowl” in the 1930’s. The morning also included a session on the 2008 flooding that occurred in central Indiana, its consequences, and restoration strategies. Good topics. Good discussion. Good updates. Successful workshop.



Left of sign: Rick Wilson - OH, Dan Kesselring – MI, Lloyd Owens – OH, Peg Reese – WV, Gary Steinhardt – IN. In front of sign: Sarah Van Delfzijl - MI, Kelly Goward – MI. Right of sign, kneeling: Peggy James - President, SWCS, Susan Meadows – IN, Dave Libben –OH. Right of sign, standing: Aaron Lauster – MI, Andrew Brown – IN, Scott Wagner – IN, Becky Fletcher - IN

Student Chapter Update

*By Mary Ann Core and
Sara McCarthy, President of Terra Aqua
Contact: MAC @ 486-9613. Sara @ 205-8178*

On Saturday, April 16, 14 members of the OSU SWCS student chapter, Terra Aqua, turned out to assist with a corridor restoration project at Wolf Park on Alum Creek, East Broad Street in Columbus. The planting was organized by the Friends of the Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) and there were several other volunteer groups assisting to plant approximately 1200 tree and shrub seedlings along a 900 foot reach of the stream. The creek's water line was lowered about four feet as a result of low head dam removals last fall. The seedlings were planted from the water line up to the existing tree line.

It was most rewarding to see the masses of Virginia Bluebells, Dutchman's breeches, and Trout Lilies that appeared as a result of the honeysuckle control which just began last fall. What a quick recovery! The corridor restoration will continue with invasive species control, tree plantings and streambank protection practices to be installed over the next four years. When completed, approximately 1.5 miles of corridor will be restored, utilizing funds from FACT, OEPA, NRCS and the City of Columbus.



Student members team up to plant along Alum Creek.

SAVE THE DATE! AOC Summer Meeting

August 14, 2009.

Malabar Farm

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

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 Bromfield's focus on sustainability when he operated Malabar Farm.

So put August 14th on the calendar to learn, network, and enjoy a summer day out of the office.

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Learn more about the movie at:

<http://dirtthemovie.org/>

Professional development includes workshops on Connecting with Absentee Landowners and Native Pollinators. The tours are diverse and include visits to Fishery Research on Lake St. Clair, Urban Farming and community gardens in Detroit, Bio-Engineering at Ford and historic Greenfield Village highlight the variety of "outdoor" education.

Several years ago, the International Conference was in Indianapolis. Ohio turned out in great numbers and I hope we can take advantage of the short distance again. At the East North Central Meeting in March, the Michigan Chapter gave a great overview of what they had in store. They have worked very hard to keep logging prices low, including a low government room rate of \$107 (plus tax)/night. Most educational tours are under \$40/ person. The Michigan Chapter has also offered a reduced rate to AOC members if they volunteer at the conference. Please contact me for additional information.

So consider taking advantage of this great opportunity to participate in your society's featured event. Hope to see you there!



Spring flowers in Dublin, Ohio

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

In Passing

Ralph "Jack" Hixon Cochran, 86, of Clintonville passed away on February 2, 2009. Ralph was a decorated combat veteran serving in WWII, awarded the Purple Heart, 4 Bronze Stars and 3 Bronze Clusters.

A graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in sociology and economics, Ralph served as State Executive Director of the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Columbus.

Ralph served as President of the Soil Conservation Society of America. A celebration of his life is being planned for this spring.

Events of Interest

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- [SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE](#)
Dearborn, MI
July 11-15, 2009
 - [AOC SUMMER MEETING](#)
Malabar Farm
August 14, 2009
 - [OHIO STATE FAIR](#)
Columbus, Ohio
July 29 – August 9, 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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