

# ALL OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MAY 2004

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

## 2004 ANNUAL WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2004 AOC Annual Winter Meeting held March 3 and 4, was the third joint meeting with Ohio's Conservation Partnership. Over 370 conservation

professionals, including more than 60 AOC members,



Frazier

attended a variety of informative technical and administrative sessions. This year's keynote speaker was Randy Frazier who delivered a humorous and inspirational presentation titled - *You Can Keep the Change*.

AOC sponsored this year's awards luncheon. R. Peter Richards and Garry Grabow received the Award for Excellence in a Scientific/Technical

Publication. Steve Davis, Bob Flickinger, Greg Guess, Gregg Maxfield, Don Schmenk, and David Trisel received the Dan Kush Award for Excellence in an Educational Publication. The Award for Excellence in a General Information or Popular Publication was presented to Heath Eisele, Constance Cullman Jackson, Pat Petzel and Tonya Sharp. Tim Gerber received the 2003 AOC Outstanding Member Award. Congratulations are extended to all 2003 award winners.



Gerber receives award

After the awards presentation, guest speaker Randy Frazier, delivered a second mo-

tivational presentation titled - *Butterflies, Buzzards and Bees*.

Afternoon sessions included the annual business meeting. Rebecca Fletcher, East North Central representative, provided an update on the latest Society initiatives. She stressed the important role SWCS has in conservation advocacy. Rebecca also mentioned that membership dues are not providing the revenue needed to fund new program activities. As a result, the Society is launching an aggressive



Fletcher

donation campaign. She encouraged all members to consider making a donation.

The annual business meeting concluded with the installation of the 2004 Executive Council and Officers: President, Mark Wilson ; Past President, Jennifer Fish; President-Elect, Dennis DeWeese; Secretary, Steve Hall; Treasurer, Robert McCall; Members-at-Large, Duane Wood and Doug Zehner.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**SWCS 2004 Annual Conference** will be held July 24-28, 2004 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information contact Nancy Herselius (nancy.herselius@swcs.org) at 515-289-2331 (ext. 17) or visit <http://www.swcs.org>

**AOC SWCS Annual Summer Meeting** will be held on August 13, 2004 in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Specific location details will be provided in the next newsletter. For more information contact Dennis DeWeese (dennis.deweese@oh.usda.gov) at 740-368-5979

# **ALL OHIO CHAPTER OFFICERS**

## **PRESIDENT**

Mark Wilson

Contact Information:

614-506-7846

landstewards@att.net

## **PAST**

## **PRESIDENT**

Jennifer Fish

## **PRESIDENT**

## **ELECT**

Dennis DeWeese

## **SECRETARY**

Steve Hall

## **TREASURER**

Robert McCall

## **MEMBERS AT**

## **LARGE**

Duane Wood

Doug Zehner

## **NEWSLETTER**

## **EDITOR**

Sean Browning

## **MEETINGS**

Executive Council meetings will be held at the Delaware County - USDA Service Center

## **VISIT US ON THE WEB!**

[Http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org](http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org)

## **ALL OHIO CHAPTER NEWS**

is published quarterly for AOC SWCS members. Submissions can be made to Sean Browning at [sean.browning@oh.usda.gov](mailto:sean.browning@oh.usda.gov).

# **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...**

Greetings AOC Members -

As most of you know, professional organizations like ours face a number of challenges. They range from declining membership to funding cutting edge programs. I don't want to take column space right now to dwell on these details; just know that the leadership of the AOC-SWCS (for example, Dave Libben – Membership Chair), is working hard to address them. Instead, I simply want to thank you for your membership and get about the business of delivering the value each of us knows is abundant in our organization.

Value is when something provides worth in terms of usefulness or importance. What value is there in being an AOC-SWCS member? Only you can truly answer this question. However, I'd like to suggest that "usefulness" is current information on soil and water conservation issues and access to a network of professionals and "importance" is professional development and influence on public policy issues.

In the year ahead, my goal is to deliver this value to you through two primary means: communication and advocacy. With regard to communication, take note of our newsletter. Sean Browning does an excellent job of putting it together and getting it in your hands – don't you agree! On the electronic side of things, Brent Sohngen has opened up a whole new way for us to communicate by creating the AOC-SWCS listserve. This is a quick and effective way for our membership to share information at just the click of a button. And Nathan Watermeier is using his extensive computer skills to maintain our website. The opportunities for communication are endless on the web. Check us out at <http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org>. Lastly, few people communicate better than John Clark. John has graciously agreed to offer his guidance and counsel in the months ahead as the Assistant to the Executive Council.

Along the lines of advocacy, I plan to tap the extensive knowledge base of our membership to develop programs and positions on key soil and water conservation issues both within Ohio and nationally. After all, this is what we do for a living, so why not offer our knowledge of soils, water table management, land use, etc. to policy makers and the public at large? One example of how we are becoming involved in a key policy issue is the selection of Farmland Preservation as the theme for our upcoming Summer Meeting. Under the enthusiastic leadership of President-elect Dennis DeWeese, the Program Committee has already conducted a site visit and set in place many details – please read about them later in this newsletter.

In closing, please make sure we have your email address. You can do this by checking your email inbox for this same message. If it's not there, send me an email at [landstewards@att.net](mailto:landstewards@att.net) and I'll do the rest. If you don't have or feel comfortable with email, please call me at 614-506-7846 and we'll work something out. Take care and remember, we need your ideas, assistance and talents!

Mark L. Wilson  
President

## **AOC 2004 SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

In support AOC's conservation education goals, the AOC is offering a \$1000 scholarship to qualifying students pursuing a conservation or environmentally related degree. Applications must be post-marked by May 30, 2004. For more information (including the application) visit the AOC-SWCS website ([www.ohiochapterswcs.org](http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org)) or contact Doug Deardorff ([doug.deardorff@oh.usda.gov](mailto:doug.deardorff@oh.usda.gov)) at 419-673-7238.

## **JOIN AN AOC COMMITTEE**

AOC is in need of your knowledge, skills and abilities. There are 10 permanent AOC committees (see pg. 4). Currently there is no chair for the Long Range Planning Committee. If you would like to get more out of your AOC membership, try volunteering for a committee. Committee chairs are frequently looking for member assistance. Assisting on a committee can be a rewarding and enriching experience. If you are interested in participating please contact Mark Wilson at 614-506-7846.

## **SUMMER MEETING IN THE SPRINGS**

The theme of this year's summer meeting (in Yellow Springs) is Farmland Preservation. The keynote speaker will be Gene Krebs, State Director of the Greater Ohio Initiative. Technical session topics will include agricultural easements, comprehensive planning and zoning, and potential easement funding sources. Afternoon tours will include a Tecumseh Land Trust site and a Wetland Reserve Program easement site in Clark County.

## **2004 WINTER MEETING PHOTO GALLERY**



## **COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **2004-2005 Executive Council:**

President: Mark Wilson, 614-506-7846, landstewards@att.net  
Past President: Jennifer Fish, 614-486-9613, jennifer-fish@oh.nacdnet.org  
President Elect: Dennis DeWeese, 740-368-5979, dennis.deweese@oh.usda.gov  
Secretary: Steve Hall, 937-675-5970, steve.hall@oh.usda.gov  
Treasurer: Robert McCall, 419-422-6106, mccall.57@osu.edu  
Members at Large: Duane Wood, 330-262-2836, duane-wood@oh.nacdnet.org  
Doug Zehner, 614-255-2493, doug.zehner@oh.usda.gov

### **Committee Chairs:**

Archives: Tim Gerber, 614-265-6680, tim.gerber@dnr.state.oh.us  
Awards Committee: Norm Fausey, 614-292-9806, fausey.1@osu.edu  
Election Tellers: John Clark, 614-442-0226, jbcmpc@core.com  
GIS/Webpage: Nathan Watermeier, 614-688-3442, watermeier.2@osu.edu  
Grants: Open  
Long Range Planning: Open  
Membership: Dave Libben, 740-653-5320, dave.libben@oh.usda.gov  
Program: Dennis DeWeese (see above)  
Newsletter: Sean Browning, 740-349-6920, sean.browning@oh.usda.gov  
Nominating: Jennifer Fish (see above)  
Scholarships: Doug Deardorff, 419-673-7238, doug.deardorff@oh.usda.gov

## **IN MEMORY OF JOHN GIBSON**

John "Hoot" Gibson, age 89, of Brookville, Ohio died January 4, 2004 at Brookhaven Nursing Center. Born on June 20, 1914 in Gower Missouri, was the son of the late James and Lula Gibson. He was a 1932 graduate of Gower High School and a 1938 graduate of the University of Missouri with a B.S. in Agriculture. He retired in 1974 as an Assistant State Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service having served in Missouri, Ohio and Maryland. John was also a life member of SWCS. Condolences may be sent to the family via Guest Book at [www.barnesfuneralhome.com](http://www.barnesfuneralhome.com).



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