

ALL OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MAY 2006

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PURPOSEFUL ACTION - THE ALL OHIO CHAPTER OF THE SWCS

By John Clark



Chapter Bylaws state its purpose is to:

- A) Advocate the conservation, protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water and related natural resources.
- B) Foster the development and application of science-based resource policies and practices, and
- C) Promote through education and example, an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.

A sampling of AOC activities:

1. "Trends in Technology and Programs of Soil and Water Conservation" – was the theme of the 1996 40th annual meeting. This theme was carried out through regular meetings and special events.
2. Lloyd Owens noted the value of summer meetings where members observed the results of research projects at agricultural research stations at Wooster (1995), Belle Valley (1980), Appalachian Experimental Watershed, Coshocton (2003), and Wilmington College-

geographical information system (1998). Other trips showed the benefits of conservation measures on the land, e.g., Indian Lake Hydrologic Unit (1993 & 2001), conservation in urban areas- Furnace Run, Summit County (2002), and effect of wind erosion on vegetable crops at Wauseon (1988).

3. Examples of co-sponsored special events: Interdisciplinary training workshop, "Timber, Wildlife, Soil and Water Management of Private Woodlands"(1979); Abandoned Mine Symposium at Ohio U. branch in Belmont County(1982); "Fourth Annual Farmland Preservation Summit, Columbus (2003), Co-sponsored first Ohio Geospatial Technology Conference for Agriculture and Natural Resources Applications(2003).
4. In cooperation with other groups, provided certification credit training, e.g., certified professional in erosion and sediment control, certified crop advisor, and certified soil scientist.
5. Have encouraged members to share results of their work by annually recognizing outstanding technical and popular published articles. Young people continue to be encouraged through a modest (over \$20,000 to date) AOC college scholarship program begun in 1962.
6. Maintaining a chapter organizational structure for members to better address changing conservation & environmental needs. The Executive Council was expanded in 1996 with two mem-

ber-at-large positions to provide more potential leader/doers. Strategic (long range) plans have been developed and implemented. Beginning in 2002, annual meetings have been held jointly with SWCD/ODNR-DSWC employees in Ohio. The AOC has a way to go inasmuch as its 1978 annual report listed membership at 390 persons, with 21 committees meeting at the AOC's summer meeting. (Thanks to Adrian Achtermann for this bit of history.)

7. The AOC has contributed in many ways through the years to support the parent Society, primarily through leadership at the regional and international level. Larry Tornes reports the highlight of his presidency in 1988 was hosting the Society's International Meeting. A special publication, "The Story of Soil and Water Conservation in Ohio" was developed for distribution to meeting participants. The international meeting was also held in Ohio in 1971 (and a prior year), hosted by an equally enthusiastic team. These efforts, including arranging for a number of tours, greatly strengthened the AOC.

Perspective

We applaud the vision, energy, and efforts of many, many members through the years to achieve these results. The support of agency leaders and other employers has been vital to the organization.

May parts of this article serve as a clue to future opportunities to accomplish the objectives cited at its beginning.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

- **SWCS International Conference:** July 30 - Aug 3, 2006, Keystone, Colorado
- **AOC 50th Anniversary Conference:** September 5-8, 2006, University Plaza Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

ALL OHIO CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Sean Browning

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PAST PRESIDENT

Dennis DeWeese

PRESIDENT

ELECT

Andy Ward

SECRETARY

Rich Gehring

TREASURER

Rob Hamilton

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Kim Browning

Doug Gifford

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Chris Coulon

MEETINGS

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

LISTSERVE

To post a message to the AOC-SWCS ListServe, send the message to aoc-swcs@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

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

ALL OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

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WINTER MEETING - A PICTORIAL



L-R, Rob Hamilton, Sean Browning, Kim Browning, Andy Ward, Doug Gifford, Dennis DeWeese.



Clark Hudson, print winner.



David Brooks speaks at the Winter Meeting



Outgoing president Dennis DeWeese (right), passes the gavel to new president, Sean Browning (left).



L-R, Dan Ross and Dennis DeWeese. Dan received the General Information Publication Award.

2006 SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

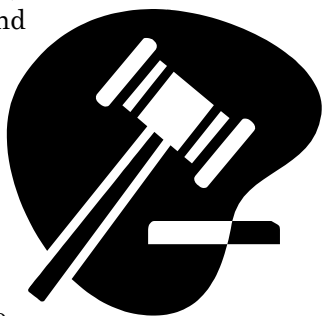
Students attending a 2-4 year Ohio college or university and interested in a career in the field of conservation, natural resources, or environmental sciences can now apply for a \$1,000 scholarship from the AOC SWCS.

The deadline for application is May 30, 2006. Applications can be downloaded at www.ohiochapterswcs.org. A one-page typewritten statement on career objectives, an official college transcript and a one page letter of reference from an academic advisor is required with the application. Students entering their freshman through senior year are eligible to apply.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings AOC Members,

As I begin, I want to extend thanks and gratitude to all who have served before me, our 2006



Executive Council, our 2006 Committee Chairs, and our membership for electing me President. Through your dedication, efforts, and service the state of our Chapter remains strong. I also want to extend a special thanks to outgoing President, Dennis DeWeese for his outstanding leadership and service to our Chapter.

I am grateful and honored to be your President (especially this year, the 50th anniversary of our Chapter). It was from humble roots, first as the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America (SCSA) (1952 - 1955) and then in 1956 as the All Ohio Chapter of SCSA, that our Chapter was born. I believe the existence of our Chapter fifty years later is testament to the wisdom, leadership, and vision of our Chapter's "founding-fathers."

Over the past 50 years, our Chapter has made many contributions to Conservation in Ohio. With half of a century's worth of accomplishments, one may be inclined to think "our work here is done." Nothing could be further from the truth. Fifty years is only the beginning and there is still more to accomplish.

Great things are in motion for 2006. To celebrate our 50th anniversary, we have partnered with Ohio State University to

host a four-day conference centered on the theme of "50 Years of Soil and Water Conservation and Beyond." To help expand and foster our membership base we have a newly chartered TerrAqua Student Chapter at Ohio State. And to help guide the Chapter we have an updated Strategic Plan.

For 2006, we have initiated a review of chapter position descriptions. Upon review, they will be placed into a formalized AOC leadership guide. Its purpose is to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of Chapter operations.

The Chapter could not function without our standing committees. Regrettably, some of these committees have become "committees of one." Because committee vitality is essential, I am tasking all committee chairs to recruit and mentor new committee members. This will ensure a "line of succession" and improve the overall effectiveness of our Chapter.

The quality and strength of any organization is a reflection of its membership. While our membership has remained stable over the past several years (approximately 180), it is significantly lower than previous decades. It is the duty of every member to recruit and retain members. As such, I challenge every member to recruit at least one new member in 2006.

With organizational membership, comes the expectation of service. In 2006 our goal is to sponsor a series of regionalized technical trainings.

Our concept for these trainings is that they are small-scale, low cost, fill a technical training need, and provide CCA/CEU credits.

Annual awards exist at both the chapter and societal levels. Our Chapter has a long history of honoring members who have made exceptional contributions (both professional and personal) to the field of soil and water conservation. Making time to nominate members for these awards is everyone's responsibility.

In closing, I have found the more I give to SWCS the more I get from SWCS. I strongly encourage every member to participate in both our Chapter and the Society. The achievements of our Chapter are the sum of our efforts over the last half century. It is my hope and expectation that the next 50 years will bring even greater achievements for our Chapter and Ohio.

50 Years of Conservation and Beyond,

Sean Browning - President



50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

The All Ohio Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society (AOC SWCS), in collaboration with The Ohio State University, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary by hosting a 4-day conference entitled, Floodplains, Riparian Zones, and Buffer Strips: Key Components to Aquatic Life Use Attainment and Self-Sustaining Stream and Watershed Systems. The conference will be held September 5-8, 2006 at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. This event, centered around the theme

“Celebrating 50 Years and Beyond”, will include a one day technical tour, an evening reception and 50th Anniversary Banquet, and eight technical workshops presented by nationally and internationally renowned experts in the field of soil and water conservation.

SWCS members (including out-of-state members) will receive a \$50 registration discount in honor of the AOC 50th Anniversary. A Gold Pass/Gold Pass

Plus is available for student-members, past presidents, and members who have retired. The Gold Pass/Gold Pass Plus entitles the holder to additional discounts.

For more information on the conference or for a conference brochure visit the AOC SWCS website at www.ohiochapterswcs.org.

Exhibitors are invited and can obtain more information by contacting Tim Lawrence, conference co-chair at 614-292-6538 or e-mail Lawrence.53@osu.edu.



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