



NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

RESOURCES *for the* FUTURE

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www.ndswcs.org

Volume 20, Number 1

DECEMBER 2010

President's Update *by Richard Webb*



Hello again, fellow NDSWCS members. The North Dakota Chapter has had a productive and exciting few months since our last newsletter.

We just finished another successful Joint Annual Meeting with the Pro-

fessional Soil Classifiers Association of North Dakota; which has proven to be a valuable partnership the past few years.

Planning is well underway for the 2011 Northern Plains Regional Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be in Mandan in early March. The preliminary agenda for this meeting looks very interesting and should be a valuable opportunity to network with our fellow Northern Plains members.

The Board of Directors has been discussing ideas

and opportunities for workshops and training sessions which the Chapter could provide, so I encourage everyone to consider their own training needs or any topics where you'd be willing and able to provide training to others. Please share any items for either list with any of the Board members so we can continue to provide exciting, high-quality professional development opportunities to meet the needs of all our members.

New Member Spotlight — *Cody Hatzenbuhler*

Cody Hatzenbuhler joined SWCS a little less than a year ago. He was looking for an organization that promoted soil health, which he is a strong advocate of.

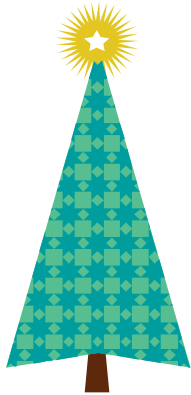
Cody is a District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He has been employed with them for the last 7 years. He worked in the Towner, Jamestown, Carson, and Steele field offices and is currently in Beulah. Hatzenbuhler has been at his Mercer County post for 2.5 years.

He grew up on a fourth generation grain and cow operation just northwest of Mandan, a place that he still visits every weekend. As district conservationist, Hatzenbuhler's goal is "to promote soil health and conserve natural resources for future generations."

Cody likes being out on the land working with producers. He said, "I came from a working farm so I know their concerns out there and their job that they're trying to do every day."



Cody hopes SWCS will help him get to know other professionals that are also advocates of soil health. He is getting involved with SWCS by helping plan the 2011 Annual Meeting.



“The day-long program was attended by more than 50 soil and water professionals from many educational and research institutions and agencies from across North Dakota.”



2010 ND Soil and Water Summit *by Susan Samson-Liebig*

The North Dakota Soil & Water Conservation Society held their third bi-annual Soil & Water Science Summit on July 13, 2010 at the NDSU Research Extension Center. This event was co-hosted with the North Dakota Professional Soil Classifiers Association. The day-long program was attended by more than 50 soil and water professionals from many educational and research institutions and agencies from across North Dakota.

New this year was a poster social, held at the Chieftain Hotel, the evening prior to the Summit. More than a dozen posters as well as soil monoliths were presented. This session provided opportunity for those in attendance to meet and cross-institutional network with others working in their area of expertise. The post-

ers also offered an opportunity for more exchange of data and information during this event.

The theme for the Summit was ***“Soil Change: Tools of Assessment, Adaption Strategies, and Implications for Agroecosystems in North Dakota”***.

The morning session focused on *“Tools of Assessment”* with presentations on rapid assessment of US soil carbon stocks, remote sensing applied to soil monitoring, and soil biology/enzymes. Presentations were made by scientists from USDA-NRCS, NDSU, and USGS-NPWRC.

The afternoon session focused on *“Adaption Strategies and Implications of Soil Change”* with presentations on organic production systems in the Northern Great Plains: challenges and opportunities,

cover crops in cropping systems, soil carbon change as impacted by grazing management contributions to net greenhouse gas balance, and soil and human health: is there a link. Scientists from USDA-NRCS, ARS, and NDSU delivered the presentations. Presidents from both the ND SWCS Chapter and the Professional Soil Classifiers Association moderated the presentations and discussion.

Sponsors this year were Amity, Inc. and Keitu Engineers and Consultants, Inc. who cosponsored the barbecue steak lunch prepared by Cal Thorson. In addition, DeHaan, Grabs & Associates, LLC, WPC, Inc., and Ducks Unlimited sponsored the coffee breaks and refreshments. Support from these sponsors was greatly appreciated.

Sneak Peak at the NP Regional Meeting

It is North Dakota’s turn to host the SWCS Northern Plains Regional Meeting and the agenda is in the process of being set.

The theme of the meeting is *“Soil Critters and Waste?”* The presentations are going to range from topics on soil health to pollution from sewer systems. There will be information on

using innovative ideas such as compost teas to improve soil health and using cover crops to reduce salinity. The meeting should be full of good information for soil and water conservation professionals.

The planning committee also has three tours planned: ND Geology at the ND Heritage Center, The Mandan ARS Station,

and The Burleigh County Soil Conservation District’s Menoken Farm.

The meeting is set to be held at the ARS Station and the Seven Seas Conference Center in Mandan on March 10-12, 2011. Mark your calendars! It should be an educational meeting!

66th Annual International Conference Conservation Science and Policy: Global Perspectives & Applications

Washington, DC
July 17-20, 2011
www.swcs.org/11AC



Call for Presentations

The 2011 SWCS International Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC on July 17-20, 2011. The conference theme is **Conservation Science and Policy: Global Perspectives and Applications**.

Please review the guidelines and consider contributing your work, research, and experience to the program. The complete Call for Presentations and additional information about the conference is available online at www.swcs.org/11ac

The submission deadline for abstracts is December 17, 2010.

2010 ND Annual Meeting

Another successful annual meeting was held in Minot at the Sleep Inn on October 14th and 15th, 2010. The theme of the meeting was Energy: The Spark of our Future. Speakers discussed topics that ranged from wind energy to gas and oil spill site reclamation. The topics were unique from other SWCS meetings so everyone walked away from the meeting learning something new.

The Sleep Inn was kind enough to host a social for the group the night before the meeting started with music from Reverend Raven & the Chain Smoking Alter Boys. The entertainment was well attended and gave the attendees time to socialize and network.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the Falkirk Mines.



2010 National Conference by Bob Bird

The Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society was held at Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, MO on July 18-20, 2010. The theme was Ecosystem Services. Attending from North Dakota were: Cal Thorson, Michelle Jezeski, Kenny Miller and Bob Bird. Michelle was the official delegate from North Dakota. The various speakers and panels explored the ways in which to generate income to pay for Ecosystem Services and the methods that have been tried and tested.

The North Dakota Chapter was very successful at the Awards Banquet where some of our nominations received the following awards:

- Fellow Award – Cal Thorson for his experience in the private and public sector, past SWCS awards and leadership positions, leadership in the Manitoba-North Dakota Zero-Tillage Farmers Association and as a Technical Specialist with the USDA-ARS to expand its technical transfer of natural sciences research to their customers.
- Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award – Kenny Miller as a technician with the Burleigh County SCD has provided technical assistance to farmers and ranchers on

cropping and grazing systems focused on improving soil health with no-till farming practices with full crop diversity plus cover crops to maximize soil health benefits while providing supplemental hay and grazing. Kenny has assisted many other counties, states and organizations by telling them about the successes he has experienced in Burleigh County and on his own farm.

- Merit Award – Burleigh County SCD Soil Health Workshop was recognized for promoting practices such as no-till cropping systems, grazing systems, and how to use cover crops to improve soil health to a broad range of people. Over the past seven years they have brought in over 500 participants from multiple states and Canada to attend this educational event. Burleigh County SCD continues to set the bar high in delivering Soil Health and Quality Resource Management information to the public and delivering principles to achieve better results in maintaining our natural resources.
- Outstanding Service Award – Bob Bird is a retired civil

engineer from the USDA-NRCS and has a long and distinguished record of service to the Society holding leadership positions in three SWCS Chapters: North Dakota, Illinois and Minnesota. He was an Awards Chairman and Scholarship Chairman in Minnesota and has been Co-Chair of the North Dakota Awards Committee for the last ten years. During this time North Dakota has been awarded numerous National Awards.

- Commendation Award – Kristin Brennan was unable to receive her award in St. Louis, but it was presented to her at the Chapter's Annual Awards Banquet by the Northern Plains Regional Director Anita Nein. Kristin was recognized for her participation on multiple planning committees, Chapter leadership positions, membership recruitment, and her enthusiasm to get other younger members involved in Society activities.

The Annual Conference had ample free time for social and networking opportunities to visit with members from other states, former co-workers from other states, speakers, view poster displays, and national staff and officers.

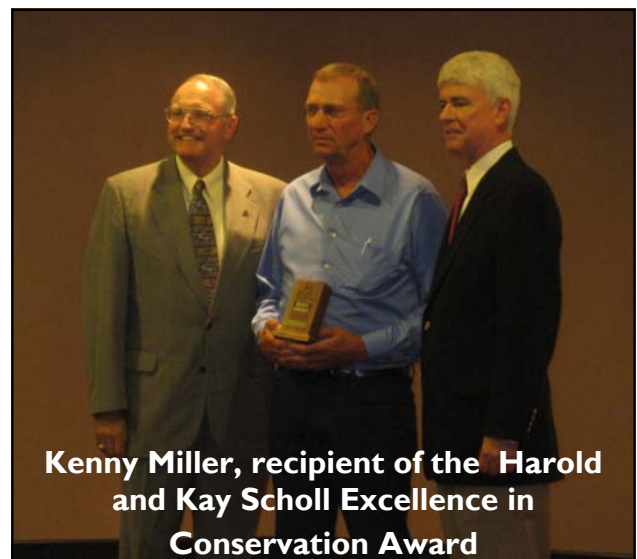


Cal Thorson, recipient of the Fellow Award

The 65th Annual International Conference, was a huge success, with over 600 conservationists in attendance. More than 100 people attended the anniversary dinner celebrating 75 years of Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, SWCS and NRCS collaborated on the Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families (F5) food drive and collected 250 pounds of food for the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, Missouri, which is the largest provider of homeless services in Missouri. If you missed the conference, there is post-conference material online at <http://www.swcs.org/10ac>.



Kenny Miller accepting the Merit Award on the behalf of the Burleigh County SCD for their Soil Health Workshop.



Kenny Miller, recipient of the Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award



Bob Bird, recipient of the Outstanding Service Award



Kristin Brennan, recipient of the Commendation Award

Rapid Soil Carbon Assessment in North Dakota by Lance Duey

The Rapid Soil Carbon Assessment (RCA) is a national project developed by NRCS to obtain and summarize data on soil carbon and bulk densities from twelve soil groups focused on six specific land uses. Sampling will be done on all soil horizons found in the top 40-inches of the profile using developed protocol. The field portion of the project will be completed by local MLRA Soil Survey Staff and is scheduled to be finished by June 2011. Once the field portion of the project is completed, MO Soils Staff will process the samples, and staff from the National Soil Survey Center will assist with data analysis, storage, and model development.

Goals

The objective of this project is to inventory U.S. soil carbon stocks as affected by soil-type, land cover, agricultural management, and ecosystems states. With this data NRCS can develop national, state, and local soil carbon maps, which can be used in a number of assessments by conservationists and soil scientist

Conservationists

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing conservation programs
 2. Target low carbon soils in need of conservation assistance
 3. Identify areas which can sustain removal of bio-mass for bio-fuel
- other



Soil Scientists

1. Understand conservation programs affect on soil quality, soil aggregate stability, surface and subsurface bulk densities, infiltration, runoff, and other dynamic soil properties
 2. Sites can be used in future ecological site inventories of vegetation and dynamic soil properties
 3. Information will be used in the continuing updates to the NRCS Soil Survey which drives many conservation programs
- other



Sampling Sites

Site locations were selected at random and divided among the 18 Soil MO Regions across the nation. Each MO region will be given roughly 400 sample locations to spread out among their MLRA Soil Survey Offices. There are roughly 7,000+ sample sites across the nation. At each site, soil scientists will collect soil from five sampling points. Nationally this adds up to more than 35,000 sample points.

2011 CANDIDATES

Susan Samson-Liebig – Secretary Treasurer

Began federal career in 1985 with Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) working for the Soil Management Support Services (USAID) developing non-standard soil chemical and physical methods at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. In addition, was a member of the management team for the National Soil Survey Laboratory. In 2000, began a two-year detail to the Soil Quality Institute located in Mandan, North Dakota. In 2002, returned to National Soil Survey Center to study the effects of different management practices on soil chemical, physical, and biological properties as well as assisting in the set-up of the Soil Biology/Carbon Laboratory at the Soil Survey Laboratory. Current position is the Soil Quality Specialist in North Dakota affiliated with the Soil Staff in the NRCS State Office located in Bismarck, North Dakota. Graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Agronomy, with a minor in Soil Science, and Clayton College of Natural Health in Birmingham, AL with the degree of Dr. of Natural Health, NHD.

Lance Duey – Council Representative

NRCS Soil Scientist in Devils Lake, ND since 2003 and Senior MLRA Soil Scientist since 2008.

Member of PSCAND since 2005 and a member NDSWCS since 2008. NDSWCS Environmental Education Committee Chair since 2008.

Amanda Slykerman – Council Representative

Hello, I am Amanda Slykerman. I have been a member of the North Dakota SWCS Chapter for one year. Currently, I am stationed in Napoleon, ND as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS. Prior to transferring to Napoleon, I had the opportunity of working in the Minnewaukan, Forman and Valley City field offices. I currently serve on the Newsletter, Publicity/Outreach and SWCS International Meeting committees. I have enjoyed being part of the ND SWCS Chapter and look forward to the future of SWCS!

NDSWCS Chapter Officer Ballot: submit completed ballots to Richard Webb via email at Richard.webb@ndswcs.org or via U.S. Mail at 1105 14th Ave SW; Jamestown ND 58401
Ballots received by January 3, 2011 will be reviewed and counted at the December Board meeting.

Council Representative – 2 year term, select only one name

Amanda Slykerman _____ Lance Duey _____ Other: _____

Secretary Treasurer – 1 year term, select only one name

Susan Samson-Liebig _____ Other: _____

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Congratulations to our 2010 Chapter Award Winners! *by Rani Lloyd*

The 2010 Chapter Awards were presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Minot, ND.

This year's recipient of the **Professional Award** was *Dr. Larry Cihacek*. Dr. Cihacek is an associate professor at North Dakota State University in the Soil Science Department. As well as teaching classes he has been a consultant to the North Dakota State Department of Health, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and professional research committees. His work on Carbon sequestration processes and monitoring, soil physical factors relating to soil erodibility, effects of soil management on deep carbon storage in soils, and nutrient management and monitoring has resulted in numerous publications.

Diane Olson was awarded the **Service Award** for her work in environmental education. Diane is a supervisor for the Barnes County Soil Conservation District and has worked extensively with

environment education in Barnes County and throughout North Dakota. She has worked with the Barnes County SCD, the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, The National Association of Conservation Districts and the Sheyenne James Resource Conservation & Development Board. She was instrumental in implemented the ND Statewide Eco-Ed Camp program and is presently the coordinator of the ND Envirothon program.

The **Business Stewardship Award** went to *CenDak Farmers Union Coop* of New Rockford, ND. They have been promoting sound conservation science by facilitating the soil health movement in and around Eddy and Foster Counties. The coop has established demonstration plots and is known as a main contractor for pursuing cover crop seed sources as well as providing a low cost seed source for specialty seed such as sugar beet which is intended for use to treat soil salin-

ity issues.

Penny Doty was the recipient of the **Chapter Horizon Award**. Penny joined the society in 2006 and has been involved as a Director in 2008 and 2009, Audit Committee in 2008, Annual Meeting Chair in 2009, and Secretary-Treasurer in 2010. Penny is the fifth recipient of this award.



Dianne Olson receiving the Service Award.



Richard Webb presenting CenDak Farmers Union Coop with their award.



Dates to Remember

December 17, 2010

Abstract submission deadline for Annual Conference

January 3rd, 2011

Ballots Due to Richard

March 10-12, 2011

NP Regional Meeting

July 17-20, 2011

66th Annual International Conference

The Awards Committee Needs your Help! *by Rani Lloyd*

The awards committee is in charge of selecting winners for our Chapter Awards annually, as well as submitting nominations for National Awards. However, we cannot do it alone! Our committee includes five individuals; three of these are located in Bismarck with the other two residing in Oakes and LaMoure. Therefore, we have NO IDEA about potential candidates from the rest of the state. If there is someone that you think fits into one of the award categories, contact one of the awards committee members.

The service award is presented to an individual or organization involved in soil and water conservation work and

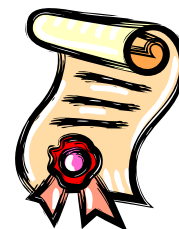
whose work has made a valuable contribution to the art and science of good land use. The individual or organization need not be a member of the state Chapter but should have some presence in the state.

The Professional Award is presented to an individual directly involved in the field of soil, water and natural resource work. Recipients have stimulated interest and progress in advancing the art and science of good land use through their professional work. This award recipient is usually a chapter member, but this is not a requirement.

The Business Stewardship Award is presented to recognize the efforts of a business to promote

soil and water conservation. This effort may be done by the actual promoting of activities in the field such as field demonstrations or through their educational efforts such as distributing printed materials or helping to sponsor informative meetings. The business does not have to be a member of the Society.

The chapter website includes a list of past award winners as well as a link to National Award Summaries. Members of the awards committee are Rani Lloyd, Michelle Jezeski, Kris Nichols, Bob Bird and Stephen Schroeder.



Notes from the Editor

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or articles for the SWCS Newsletter please contact any of the members of the Newsletter Committee. I will be asking for articles from you periodically. Thanks to all who have submitted articles for this edition.

Jaime

Newsletter Committee

Members:

- Jaime Palczewski, Editor
- Dan Wingenbach
- Keith Weston
- Amanda Slykerman
- Rani Lloyd

Newsletter Article

Deadlines for 2011:

- March 1st
- July 1st
- November 1st

Winter

www.ndswcs.org

