

Illinois Chapter Land of Lincoln

Winter 2006/2007

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Presidents Corner

Greetings and best wishes for a Great New Year. With this winter newsletter comes news of the upcoming annual meeting, the election of Illinois Chapter officers, and several items from the recent board meeting.

First and foremost, plan now and make whatever arrangements are necessary with your employer, to come and learn at the annual meeting. **Kent Bohnhoff** and **Nancy Erickson** have developed an excellent professional development program relating to energy and agriculture. Why not get a carload or vanful together from your area (and solve a few world problems on the way)? Following the morning presentations on ethanol, biodiesel and wind power, we will present awards during the luncheon, including one to **Lt. Governor Pat Quinn** for his work on CREP, the IL River, mud-to-parks, RiverWatch, raingardens, Plum Island, and other conservation initiatives. The afternoon tour will be a unique opportunity to see a major windfarm under construction, so bring your cameras. Please print out the attached brochure and make extra copies for anyone who might be interested. Also, **exhibitors** are welcome—for \$100 they will receive an exhibit table, a registration, and recognition as a conference sponsor.

Second, the annual election ballot is enclosed. The nominations committee chaired by **Steve Hollister** has developed an excellent slate of officers. Write-in candidates are welcome as long as you have the permission of your write-in candidate. As noted on the ballot form, please send the ballots to election chairman **Alan Gulso**.

Third, here are a few items from the recent board meeting.

- **Rich Stewart** is working to update the Chapter Website. He will try to set up a cooperative financial arrangement with SWCS student chapter members, but develop other approaches if that does not pan out.
- **Betty Joubert** is working on the fall 2007 tour to be held in the Little Wabash Section. Those who attended the excellent fall 2006 tour arranged by **Martha Sheppard** were really impressed with the investment in and potential rewards of several forms of **agritourism** as creative and sustainable land uses on often marginal farmlands.
- **Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant** agreed to be the membership chair, and she has a \$300 allocation to set up an innovative first-time membership buy-down program for former student members. Essentially the Illinois Chapter will pay for half of the first year membership of any former student members.
- Treasurer **Mark Kaiser** reported the chapter has a healthy financial condition with about \$10,250 in a CD and about \$3000 in our checking account. A recent audit of his records was reviewed and approved by the board.
- **Bob Frazee** reported the very creative Claude Soil educational CD production was supported by almost \$2500 in Chapter funds and copies have been widely distributed. He hopes to have it available on a website soon. **Alan Gulso** reported it is also used in a computer kiosk at Watershed Park, thanks in part to a \$500 **IL SWCS Chapter** contribution. **Paige Buck** distributed these CDs at the **IL Science Teachers Association** annual conference and to **ag literacy coordinators**. More copies will be available for distribution at the annual meeting. Please help get this into **teachers'** hands and use.
- How often have you thought about the multidisciplinary nature of your work with

Presidents Corner Continued

private landowners? **SWCS-IL Chapter**, along with the Illinois Chapters of the **Society of American Foresters**, **The Wildlife Society**, and the **American Fisheries Society** (others invited), are developing plans for the **Fourth Illinois Renewable Resources Conference**. This is tentatively scheduled for **March 4-6, 2008**, at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria. Like similar conferences held in 1995, 1998, and 2001, this will be an interdisciplinary resource conference where the professional societies will meet concurrently and share professional development and networking opportunities. So far, **Steven Kraft** has agreed to serve on the Program Committee, **Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant** with college student involvement, **Kent Bohnhoff** on steering, and **Alan Gulso** on AV. We will need a lot more workers for these cross-disciplinary committees as we get closer to the event. To support staff professional development, we will also need the commitments of the **major conservation agencies**, without which the conference will be postponed or cancelled. While registration fees will be kept to a minimum, they will be designed to cover expenses. Nevertheless, SWCS will be asked to commit several thousand dollars to help guarantee the success of this conference and provide high level professional improvement and networking opportunities for **YOU**, its members. Please mark the date and **STAY TUNED**.

- The board endorsed the idea of inviting **SWCS** to have its **JULY 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE** in Springfield, IL, honoring the 200th Birthday of the founder of USDA, **Abraham Lincoln**. This year it was in Colorado, next year in Tampa, the following year in Tucson. We think it is time to bring the conference back to the heartland and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library would be a big draw. This undertaking would provide more direct access to this excellent professional meeting to our members, but would also require a lot of work on our part. The 2000 St. Louis Conference, hosted by the **MO & IL Chapters**, was one of the best attended in recent times, in part due to its central location.

Finally, we will be obtaining beautifully crafted coffee mugs from **Steve Ayers Pottery**. These are individually glazed, stamped with our logo, and signed works of art. We will sell these for \$10.00 and they make excellent gifts and awards. Bring your checkbook to the annual meeting.

This will be my last opportunity to address you in this forum as your president. It has been an honor to serve this noble professional organization in this role. Thank you for your trust. After January 30 I intend to stay active, as I have for the past 30 years. The incoming officers will do great, as they are well organized and diplomatic. The operations of the Chapter are spread among many members who do excellent work. We have increased our efficiency and productivity by using email and teleconferences when possible. We need more members to step up and help, particularly at the Board, committee, and Section levels. This is your chosen profession, so why not give something back through direct involvement in your professional society? There are currently several vacant committee positions. By working together, we can advance the science and art of good land use, and secure conservation on the land. Send any of the **current board members or officers** listed below an email with your interests or ideas, and we will try to get you plugged in so your light will help illuminate this profession.

President-elect
Vice President
Past-president
Treasurer
Secretary
Univ. of IL Chapter
Southern IL University
Section 1 – Blackhawk
Section 2 – NE
Section 3 – West Central
Section 4 – Prairieland
Section 5 – Capitol
Section 6 – Little Wabash
Section 7 – Shawnee Hills

Rich Stewart
Kent Bohnhoff
Steve Hollister
Mark Kaiser
Shannon Allen
Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
Jorge Hernandez
Dave Dornbusch
John Church
Jim McQuilkin
vacant
Dave Rahe
Betty Joubert
Steven Kraft

Thanks again for this honor and Happy New Year!

Harry Hendrickon
President, SWCS ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Scholarship Available

Scholarship available--2/13/07 deadline

Would you like to continue your education, update or enhance your skills, or conduct graduate-level research in conservation-related fields? SWCS will offer at least two scholarships in 2007 to graduate students and conservation professionals who have been members of SWCS for one or more years. Financial assistance is available to members of SWCS who want to pursue higher education and professional development through:

==> the Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship, \$1,300 awarded to an SWCS member for graduate-level research on a specific conservation topic; and

==> the Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship, up to \$1500, offered to members of SWCS who are currently employed but wish to improve their technical or administrative competence in a conservation-related field.

Scholarship applications and additional information on requirements for each scholarship are available on the SWCS webpage (www.swcs.org). Members may also contact their regional representative on the SWCS Professional Development Committee or SWCS Headquarters (512-289-2331) for more information. The application deadline is February 13, 2007

National SWCS Annual Meeting Abstracts

PROGRAM COMMITTEE EXTENDS ABSTRACT DEADLINE

The SWCS Annual Conference Program Committee decided recently to extend the deadline for submitting abstracts until Monday, December 18, 2006.

This applies to abstracts for symposia sessions, oral presentations, and poster presentations for the 2007 Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS) annual conference in Tampa, Florida July 21-25, 2007.

To download a complete copy of the Call for Papers, view sample abstracts, review criteria for presentations or for additional information, please visit www.swcs.org

Illinois SWCS Chapter Annual Meeting

Soil & Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting, January 30

The Illinois Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has scheduled their 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference for Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 311 N. Hershey Rd, Normal, Illinois. Registration begins at 9 am, The program is scheduled from 9:30 am to 3:15 pm. Directions: From Interstate 55 at either the north or south sides of town, exit onto Veterans Drive, proceed to Fort Jesse Rd (at the north end of town), turn east and go 2 blocks to Hershey Rd.. Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall is located at the southwest corner of this intersection.

The theme for this year's annual meeting is "Alternative Energy". The morning Topics and Speakers include: "Ethanol-Future as a Renewable Fuel", Mark Lambert - Illinois Corn Growers Association; "Soy Diesel-Promising Future", Julie Toohill - Illinois Soybean Association; "USDA Outlook for Energy", Doug Wilson - USDA Rural Development; and "Twin Groves Wind Farm Update", Bill Whitlock - Horizon Wind Energy.

The 2007 SWCS Annual Meeting and Awards Program will be conducted during the Noon Luncheon. The afternoon program will incorporate a bus tour of a wind farm currently under construction in McLean County.

Please join us for this exciting and informative 2007 SWCS Annual Meeting! The Registration Fee of \$30 (\$40 non-members) will include lunch, breaks, and a bus tour. Advance reservations are required to make necessary meal and meeting arrangements. Please make reservations by Tuesday, January 23rd.

To reserve your place, make check payable to "SWCS" and send with your name and address to: Kent Bohnhoff, McLean County SWCD, 402 N. Kays Dr, Normal, IL 61761. For more information contact Kent Bohnhoff at phone (309)-452-0830, Ext. 3.

Illinois Chapter Officer Candidate Biographies

President - Rich Stewart

Rich was raised on a farm near Greenup, IL, attended Lake Land Community College and then the University of Illinois where he received a BS degree in Agronomy in 1976.

He has worked as a Soil Conservationist in Will/ South Cook and DeKalb Counties. Became District Conservationist for Pulaski/ Alexander Counties in Southern Illinois, then for Henry County where he has served since 1980.

President Elect - Kent Bohnhoff

Kent is currently serving as vice-president of the Land of Lincoln Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He previously served as section representative for the previous 8 years for east central Illinois. He has been a member of SWCS for over 15 years and is a current member of the Presidents club. He has made oral presentations at two of the past four international conferences. Kent works for the Natural Resources Conservation Service as the District Conservationist in Normal for McLean county for the past 10 years and is in his 20th year of service with the agency. Kent lives in rural Bloomington with his wife Joan and children, Kyle and Olivia.

Illinois Chapter Officer Candidate Biographies continued

Vice President - Annette Holms

Annette Holmes is the District Conservationist in Macon County. She has been working for NRCS for 6 years. She was the Soil Conservationist in Knox and Hancock Counties prior to becoming a DC. She is a graduate of Tennessee State University with a BS in Agricultural Science with emphasis on Agronomy.

Treasurer - Mark Kaiser

NRCS District Conservationist in Morrison Field Office in Whiteside County since 1980.
SWCS member for over 20 years and IL SWCS Chapter Treasurer since 2000.

Secretary - Shannon Allen

Shannon, has been with the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's ever since receiving his B.S. degree in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in 1990. For the past seven years he has worked for the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District as a Watershed Specialist. He manages a city cost-share program to reduce sediment into Lake Decatur as well as researching several different ways at reducing nitrates in the watershed. In 1999 Shannon received his license as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and began working with the City and County on urban erosion issues. Shannon currently, serves as the State of Illinois Representative for CPESC and is a liaison to the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Election of Chapter Officers

This years Chapter Officers Election ballot is included with this newsletter. Please mark your selections on it and mail to: **Alan Gulso, SWCS Election Chair, 764 Prairie Street, Lincoln, IL 62656**

The DEADLINE for your ballots reaching Alan is January 23, 2007

**Illinois Chapter SWCS
2007 Election of Officers ballot**

Please mark your selections and mail to Alan Gulso, Election Chair, 764 Prairie Street, Lincoln, IL 62656. Deadline for Alan to receive them is January 23, 2007

President

Rich Stewart

Write in _____

President Elect

Kent Bohnhoff

Write in _____

Vice President

Annette Holmes

Write in _____

Treasurer

Mark Kaiser

Write in _____

Secretary

Shannon Allen

Write in _____

Co-Sponsors

- Illinois Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society
- McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Meeting Information

Tuesday, January 30, 2007
Christ Lutheran Church
311 N. Hershey
Normal, IL

Cost: \$30 for SWCS Member
\$0 for SWCS Student Member
\$40 for Non Member

Directions:

(Located at Fort Jesse Rd. & Hershey Rd.)

The meeting will be at Christ Lutheran Church in Normal, Illinois. It is about 2 blocks east of Veterans Parkway (the main thoroughfare on the east side of Bloomington/Normal) on Fort Jesse Road in north Normal. It is at the SW corner of the 4-way stop at Fort Jesse Road and Hershey Road.

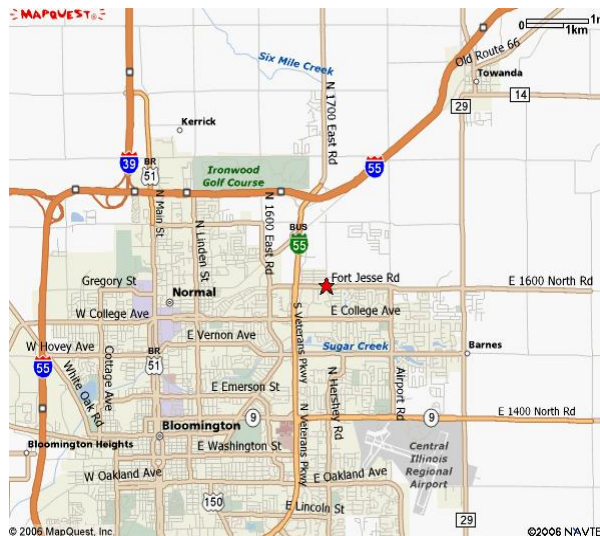
2007 Annual Meeting
of the Illinois Chapter
of the Soil & Water
Conservation Society



January 30, 2007

**Alternative
Energy**

**Christ Lutheran Church
311 N. Hershey
Normal, IL**



2007 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation Society

“Alternative Energy”

With the events of the recent past, energy use and its generation and conservation has everyone’s attention. The vast majority of energy used in this country and around the world comes from fossil fuels. The rising costs of exploration, extraction and processing these energy sources add to the cost of all goods and impacts everyone’s quality of life. The speakers today will give you insight into other fuel and energy sources that are alternatives to our traditional sources for the past 100 years. You will hear how energy sources can be grown right here in our fields from two very familiar crops – corn and soybeans. You will also hear about an energy source used for centuries and its comeback to prominence – wind. You will also receive insight on the Federal Government’s perspective on energy from the United States Department of Agriculture, a department with local offices and ties to the land. We will take a bus tour of the current construction of wind turbines east of Bloomington in the afternoon.

Please join us for this exciting and informative 2007 SWCS Annual Meeting!

Harry Hendrickson
SWCS Chapter President

Kent Bohnhoff and Nancy Erickson
SWCS Annual Meeting Coordinators

Reservations: Advance reservations are required to make necessary meal and meeting arrangements.

Please make reservations by **Tuesday, January 23, 2007. (No refunds after January 26.)**

To reserve your place, make check payable to “SWCS” and send with reservation form to: McLean Co. SWCD, 402 N. Kays Dr., Normal, IL 61761, or call 309-452-0830, ext. 3.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Registration/Coffee, Rolls & Juice |
| 9:30 – 9:40 a.m. | Welcome - Harry Hendrickson, 2006 SWCS Chapter President |
| 9:40 – 10:05 a.m. | Ethanol - Future as a Renewable Fuel, Mark Lambert, IL Corn Growers |
| 10:05 – 10:30 a.m. | Soy Diesel – Promising Future, Julie Toohill – Illinois Soybean Association |
| 10:30 – 10:40 a.m. | Break |
| 10:40 – 11:05 a.m. | USDA Outlook for Energy, Doug Wilson – Rural Development |
| 11:05 – 11:30 a.m. | Wind – Twin Groves Wind Farm Update, Bill Whitlock Horizon Wind Energy |
| 11:30 – 11:55 a.m. | Panel Discussion |
| 11:55 – 1:10 p.m. | Awards Luncheon |
| 1:10 – 3:15 p.m. | Bus Tour of Wind Farm |

Detach and Mail for Registration

Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

January 30, 2007

**Pre-registration is Necessary!
DEADLINE January 23, 2007**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State ____ County _____
Zip Code _____

of Reservations:
_____ \$30 for SWCS Member
_____ \$0 for SWCS Student Member
_____ \$40 for Non Member

Make check payable to
“SWCS” and mail to:

McLean Co. SWCD
402 N. Kays Dr.
Normal, IL 61761
Ph: 309-452-0830 ext. 3