

2010
Annual Report
To Members



Wisconsin Chapter
Soil and Water
Conservation Society

Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River; from the Driftless Area to the moraines, kames, and drumlins; from the Spodosols of the North to the Mollisols of the South; Wisconsin has a diverse natural environment. The Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society seeks to bring people and ideas together in an effort to protect and enhance our unique natural resources.

International Soil and Water Conservation Society Guiding Principles

We promote a stewardship ethic, especially on privately owned agricultural and forest land - - our working land.

We believe in conservation and responsible use of natural resources.

We value volunteerism.

We believe in and value partnerships.

We respect the rights and responsibilities of private landowners.

We value trust and honesty.

We believe in working together as a resource management team with Board, employees, members and partners.

We welcome women and minorities' participation in the organization and their contributions to help build a strong society.

We provide leadership to committees, task forces, and staff so that all are effectively utilized and directed toward achievement of the mission and vision.

We integrate technology into the committee process to expedite communication and decision-making.

We seek out and facilitate the involvement of members and potential members who work to support the SWCS mission and vision and who can lead the Society into the next decade.

**WISCONSIN CHAPTER
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
2010 Officer and Committee Contacts**

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WI Chapter SWCS Membership Report 2010

Membership Committee Chair: Jon Field

For 2010, total membership for the state chapter and our two student chapters, UW-Platteville and UW-Stevens Point dropped ever so slightly but remains fairly constant over the last 5 years. As of the end of January, we are at 198 total members, down from 209 the year prior. The regular membership gained in 16 new members, up from 9 in 2009. We'd like to recognize those new regular members:

Area 3: **Leroy Kummer**, Ocean Spray Cranberries, Babcock

Andrew Johnson, Marathon Co Land Conservation Dept, Wausau

Debra Potts, USDA-NRCS, Waupaca

Area 4: **Jeff Huebschman**, UW-Platteville

Joe Bragger, Pioneer Farm, Platteville

Justin Daugherty, Pioneer Farm, Platteville

Gretchen Kamps, Pioneer Farm, Platteville

Mark Reichers, Pioneer Farm, Platteville

Area 5: **Logan Lee**, US Forest Service, Milwaukee

Regina Hirsh, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Jim Mullens, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Sharon Lezberg, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Ingrid West, UW-Extension, Madison

Philip Younger, Madison

Area 6: **Doug Sippl**, USDA-NRCS, Green Bay

Bethany Reinholtz, GDS Associates, Green Bay

If you have people that are interested in becoming a member of SWCS, please contact your area representative or myself for enrollment forms. You can also go on-line at: <http://wi-swcs.org/6.html>

Conservationist level membership still remains only \$80/year.

WI Chapter SWCS Contributors Drive 2010

Membership Committee Chair: Jon Field

The Wisconsin Chapter SWCS recently completed a Contributors Drive to provide their members an opportunity to contribute above their membership dues to assist in supporting the Chapter in their various program and scholarship areas.

The success of the Contributor Drive is a result of their strong support to the WI Chapter activities and functions. A financial commitment of \$900.00 by the following members contributed to this success; Kevin Connors, Jack Densmore, Roy Diver, Jon Field, Olin Fimreite, Jerry Griswold, Milo Harpstead, Eugene Hausner, Terence & Patti Kelly, Kenneth Kilian, Patricia Leavenworth, Michael Lieurance, Dale Parker, Polenske Agronomic Consulting, Inc., Leonard Splett, and Mark Wienkes.

The Wisconsin Chapter SWCS appreciate the additional commitment made by these individuals to further enhance the success of the chapter's various activities.

Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society: 2010 Annual Meeting

Crowne Plaza, 4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin, Thursday March 11, 2010

Bioenergy, Conservation and the Wisconsin Landscape

The next few years will be a “watershed period” for Wisconsin as the science and application of bioenergy continues to develop. Science gives the opportunity to increase the sustainability of the Wisconsin landscape in a way that enhances the viability of agricultural systems, addresses persistent environmental problems, and provides opportunity for economic development. There is the potential that poor choices will lead to an accelerated rate of loss of Wisconsin farms, continued degradation of our environment, and lost business opportunities. The questions chosen to investigate will influence policy choices of tomorrow. There are many paths to the future of which only a few lead to enhanced sustainability. This conference will help us be pathfinders for bioenergy, conservation and the landscape.

Pete Nowak, Professor, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison served as master of ceremonies for the meeting. Gary Radloff of the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative at UW Madison presented the keynote address. He discussed challenges and opportunities in the field of bioenergy. Steve Ventura, professor of soil science at UW-Madison discussed the vulnerable landscapes of Wisconsin and how they may be protected. Carol Barford, from the Center for Sustainability and Global Environment at UW-Madison talked about bioenergy issues.

Bill Bland, a professor of soil science at UW-Madison presented a talk entitled “A perfect storm for soil conservation? Assessing the threat of hydroclimatic change. He was followed up by Judy Ziewacz, the executive director of the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence. She discussed the promotion of bioenergy, sustainable outcomes and major barriers. Jonathan Barry, a farmer and businessman presented the private sector perspective in the advancement of environmental and social aspects of bioenergy while still being profitable.

A conservation panel closed out the conference and was comprised of Richard Cates, a farmer and faculty of soil science at UW-Madison, Gordon Stevenson, the director of runoff management at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Jennifer Giegerich, from the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. They discussed implications for conservation in Wisconsin, opportunities that need to be pursued, and pitfalls that will degrade conservation efforts

**Wisconsin Chapter – SWCS
Financial Statement**

Treasurers Report: Submitted by Gene Hausner, Chapter Treasurer

Balance on Account – 12/31/2010

Checking Account	\$ 1,625.84
Savings Account	2,180.72
Conservation on the Land Fund	10,470.61
Total	\$ 14,277.17

Respectively submitted

Eugene Hausner /s/
WI Chapter Treasurer

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
PLAN OF WORK
2010**

Mission Statement: “To empower, involve and inform members regarding resource conservation challenges through educational programs and project implementation.”

Team Members:

<u>What</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Complete</u>	<u>Who/Contact</u>
Program Development	1/1/10	5/15/10	Team Members
Contributors Drive	1/1/10	12/31/10	Jon Field, Jerry Griswold
Membership Drive	1/1/10	12/31/10	Jon Field
2011 Annual Meeting	3/10/10	3/11/10	Jerry Griswold
Nelson Institute Earth Day Conf	4/1/10	4/22/10	Jerry Griswold
2 nd Council Meeting	6/1/10	8/1/10	Jerry Griswold
Newsletter #2	7/1/10	7/15/10	Michael Stinebrink
Corporate Sponsor Drive	1/1/10	12/31/10	
Summer Tour	6/1/10	9/30/10	Paula Carow, Jerry Griswold
65 th International SWCS Conf	7/1/10	7/31/10	Andy Holschbach
3 rd Council Meeting	10/1/10	11/15/10	Jerry Griswold
Newsletter #3	10/1/10	10/15/10	Michael Stinebrink
Award Selections	10/1/10	12/31/10	Pat Murphy
Elections	11/1/10	12/31/10	Jerry Griswold
4 th Council Meeting	1/1/11	2/28/11	Jerry Griswold
2011 Annual Meeting	1/1/11	3/31/11	Holschbach, Griswold

Summer Tour July 12-13, 2010

Organized by Paula Carow, Reg 1 Rep

Conducted by Rusk County Land & Water Conservation Dept.



Sponsored by:

Flambeau Bassmasters

Dairyland Power Cooperative

Flambeau Lake Association

Wildlife Restoration Association

Tour of Flambeau Mine Restoration:

On the evening of July 12th following the Wisconsin SWCS Chapter council meeting a tour of the Flambeau Mine site conducted for the council members and lead by Paula Carow, Region 1 Representative and Jana Murphy, Environmental Specialist for the Mine. The site is located about a mile and a half South of Ladysmith on highway 27. This site had been the center of controversy prior to the opening of the mine in the 1970's. When the extraction of ore was completed in the 1990's, an extensive restoration process was initiated on the site. The restoration brought the site to its present condition of wetlands, grasslands, wooded areas and numerous hiking trails all being used for recreational and educational purposes. This site can serve as an example of how an active extraction site can be restored to a natural wildlife area for the benefit of the community and the immediate area.

Dairyland Flowage, July 13:

The Dairyland Flowage is located on the Flambeau River which is part of the Chippewa River Basin, eventually joining the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin. The activities of the day were initiated at Josi Creek Park with refreshments and a brief presentation organized by the Rusk County Land Conservation Department. The presentation discussed the flowage and activities that were undertaken by local conservation groups for the restoration and protection of the Dairyland Flowage.

Participants loaded into boats owned and donated/operated for the day by local residents. For those that loaded into the pontoon boats, the day was leisurely and relaxing as they visited each of the educational stops. Conversation with the boat operator provided a local perspective of the flowage and how it had changed. For the participants that boarded the bass boats, they had a day of excitement as they raced from stop to stop. The tour consisted of several educational stops and some informational drive-bys.

North Boat Landing: Pam Theil – US Fish & Wildlife Service discussed mussels located in the flowage. She also talked about the Lake Sturgeon in the local fishery and of the Flying Carp, not currently in the local fishery, but fears exist of its potential presence.

Community Park: The community park has been improved through a joint effort by several local organizations. A boat landing was extended and a second ramp was added. New facilities were built including a kiosk built by Environmental challenge students showing several hundred fish habitat structures and features a map of the entire flowage. Archaeologist Vicki Twinde-Javner made a presentation about the detailed archaeological study that was conducted by teams of volunteers and students when the flowage was drawn down during repair of the dam. She talked about the various artifacts that were found. Identification and location of former home sites, buildings and other cultural were documented.

The Point: John Thiel, Dairyland Power Chief Biologist discussed the “Point” known for its flat sandy shallows, makes a favorite spot for swimming for people of all ages. It is also a favorite area for fisherman because of its extensive wild celery beds with cobbly bottom areas nearby.

Forage Structures: Jerry Carow – retired DNR Warden and Wildlife Restoration Association talked about the efforts made by Flambeau High School Environmental Challenge Students in building structures that have been installed throughout the flowage for fish habitat. Some of the students were working on the project during the tour.

Sand Bar: Jake Doro – Environmental Challenge Intern and other students demonstrated activities that are taking place on one of the eroded riverbank areas. The sandbar is used by local boaters for relaxation during days of summer fun.

Hillsides: Chad Gago – Environmental Challenge Teacher and students discussed protection of these severely eroded slopes that occur at dozens of places around the flowage. The banks are very steep and a considerable distance from roads. Therefore the use of machinery is not an alternative. Log terraces are constructed and secured and then sodded. Seeding and mulching are also utilized.

Horseshoe: Cole Gudis – Environmental Challenge Intern discussed this backwater area as a perfect place to create a perch spawning area. They are sinking whole, green conifers spaced for perch spawning. The entire cover will be lined with conifers. There is also “take a kid fishing” area at the Horseshoe. A large dock area was installed with funds from the Wildlife Restoration Association.

International Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting:

By: Ryan Gerlich, Wisconsin Chapter 2010 Delegate



The Soil and Water Conservation Society International Conference was held July 17 – 21st in downtown Saint Louis, MO. I helped moderate the Leadership Development Workshop on Saturday July 17th. I attended and engaged in discussion on a wide variety of topics; how to make a meeting “green”, chapter rejuvenation, and sat in on a very eye opening presentation from Dan Sise, J.D., an Instructor at University of St. Louis’s Nonprofit Management & Leadership Program. Dan’s presentation and discussions with us really opened my eyes to the legal responsibilities of any non-profit organization and made me re-think fiduciary liabilities and duty of care.

On Sunday I attended the House of Delegates, State of Society Address, and Town Hall Meeting. New President Gary Steinhardt from the Indiana Chapter addressed the delegation. The discussion that followed was on the topic of energy, water, and global climate change driving our current and future research well into the next century. Afterwards I served as a panelist at the Student Members Information Session. The panel consisted of people from across government, academia, consult business, and non-government organizations. It was a lively and honest discussion with a diverse crowd of undergrad and grad students from the U.S. and abroad. We presented to the students how best to educate themselves for a career in our respective fields and get their feet in the door.

The Concurrent Sessions portion seemed better this year than in 2009, due to all the presenters showing up. Most notable to me was a session on the flood reduction effects of a remnant Swamp White Oak Savannah in the lower Cedar River floodplain in Iowa. Groundwater data was showing that the evapo-transpiration rate of savannah flora species provided significant drawdown of the groundwater, thus aiding in reduction of flooding. Using peizometers, soil data, and plant composition the researchers identified “hot spots” where the most rapid evapo-transpiration occurred. This data will be useful in the restoration and creation of riverine wetlands that can provide the greatest potential to mitigate downstream flooding. Another session that stuck with me was a presentation on quality of migratory bird habitat in a rice-crawfish rotational field versus a restored wetland using the WRP in Louisiana. Species Diversity was used to identify the most beneficial habitats utilized by those avians we love to hunt or view here in Wisconsin, and how to help at-risk species as they winter in the deep south. These two presentations, flood reduction and Louisiana wetland habitat, might have hit home to me the most due to living in the central Iowa floods of 2008 and witnessing on TV the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the BP Oil Spill in 2010.

On Monday evening I attended a SWCS tailgate that was held indoors due to the extreme heat, and then went to the Cardinals game where I watched Albert Pujols pound some home runs to womp the Phillies 8 – 4.

Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society 2011 Award Recipients

By: Pat Murphy, Chair of Award Committee

Friend of Conservation – Educator: Mary Holleback, Riveredge Nature Center

Mary Holleback has been the Riveredge Nature Center's Adult Education Coordinator for the last 19 years. Mary has organized a "Testing the Waters" program that now includes students from 19 high schools in 7 counties. To date over 25,000 students have participated in program under Mary's leadership. Through Mary's efforts a Land Use Educational Program has been developed in several of the schools which participate in the monitoring program. The programs purpose is to give students an understanding of how human actions impact the environment.

Mary coordinates water quality monitoring efforts in the Newburg area as a Water Action Volunteer and is now providing training to participants in a program to return lake sturgeon to the Milwaukee River.

Friend of Conservation – Organization: Wisconsin Wetlands Association

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association was established in 1969 to protect the states wetland resources through education, training, advocacy and research on key issues that affect wetlands. WWA is a statewide organization with over 1450 members.

WWA's accomplishments include; raising initial awareness of wetland values during the construction of Madison's beltline highway before state or federal wetland protection laws provided mandatory protection, advocating for Wisconsin Act 6 to protect isolated wetlands from destruction after federal protection of isolated wetlands was lost, promotion and support for federal wetland restoration programs and advocacy for streamlining state permitting processes during wetland restoration.

Chapter Achievement Award – Peggie James

Peggie has demonstrated outstanding leadership as a soil conservationist and as a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Peggie has served in a variety of leadership positions within NRCS including as District Conservationist in Iowa County, NRCS Liaison to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, national NRCS Liaison to The Nature Conservancy and as the program manager for the Farmland, Ranchland Protection Program/Grassland Protection Program. Peggie also actively participated with DATCP in the development of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program as a part of the Working Lands Initiative.

Peggie served as the Wisconsin SWCS Chapter as Secretary from 1998 -2003, Vice President in 2003 and as President in 2004. Peggie has also served SWCS at the national level as a Regional Director from 2005 to present, Vice President in 2007 and was elected as the SWCS National President in 2008 and 2009. Peggie continued to serve as the national SWCS Treasurer in 2010.

CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME 2011: by Milo Harpstead

The 27th Conservation Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place Saturday April 23, 2011 at the 1800 Theater and Restaurant at Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point. These are the inductees:

Jacque and Dorothy Vallier. The conservation efforts by Dorothy Vallier began when she was married to Gordon Kummer. Dorothy is the daughter of Henry Uihlein, the founder of the Schlitz Brewery. As a young person she became a junior member of the Audubon Society. The Kummers started Treehaven in 1954. It began with 600 acres dedicated to the preservation of the mixed hardwood forest near Tomahawk, WI and eventually was expanded to 1200 acres. The "on the ground" work on the original Treehaven property was conducted by Bill Sylvester, the forester for Trees For Tomorrow who later joined the faculty of the CNR of UWSP. After Gordon Kummer's death, Dorothy married Jacque Valleir in 1977. At Bill's suggestion, the Valliers donated Treehaven for the CNR's student summer camp and related programs in 1984. Jacque Vallier had an enviable record in conservation in efforts before he and Dorothy were married, but together many of their long standing efforts came to fruition. Among those accomplishments were: (1) the Schlitz Audubon Center for the education of children in the woods, meadows, ravines, and bluffs along the Lake Michigan shoreline, (2) a logging camp replica at Keshena Falls donated to the Menominee Indian Tribe, (3) major contribution to the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus (prairie chickens, (4) funding of the Dorothy and Jacques Vallier Chair of Ecology in the CNR at UWSP. Jacque passed away in 1996; Dorothy is still with us.

Noble W. Clark (1891-1988) was born in South Dakota and grew up on a farm in Minnesota. He received his bachelor's degree from the UW-Madison in 1915. He taught and was farm manager at the Michigan State University for a few years before returning to UW-Madison where he completed an MS degree and spent the rest of his career there. He was not a scientist but as an administrator instrumental seeing the number of scientists in the College of Agriculture grow from 80 in 1927 to 250 when he retired in 1962. His emphasis was on soil erosion control and the worldwide problems in food supply. To this end, some of the involvements were

In 1932 he was a supervisor of the first land use and wind erosion project in Wisconsin

In 1933 he was an advisor for the Coon Creek Watershed Demonstration Project

Along with the likes of Aldo Leopold he championed reforestation efforts across Wisconsin

Deputy Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Chairman of Agricultural Policy of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Clark was the first chairman the State Soil Conservation Committee

There are few people whose actions epitomize the goals of our organization, the SWCS, more than those of Noble Clark.

STANTON W. MEAD (1900-1988), the former President of Consolidated Papers Inc. in Wisconsin Rapids was born in Rockford, Illinois and graduated from Yale University. He was in administration at Consolidated papers until his retirement in 1971 where he emphasized sustained yields on company managed lands. He served as president of the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company that developed the reservoir system that controls flow and prevents flooding, as a reliable supply of water is provided for the paper mills. Mead was directly active in pollution abatement from the sulphite pulping process from 1939 to 1965. He was the motivator for the gift of 20,000 acres for the Mead Wildlife Area in Central Wisconsin. Stanton Mead had a great interest in education and youth projects. He served as trustee for Lawrence College and the Institute of Paper Science, was a long time leader in the Boy Scouts and was president of the Samoset Council in Wood County. In 1959 he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Wisconsin Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Fourth Annual Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference: Earth Day at 40

WI SWCS Chapter represented by Jerry Griswold, President

The Wisconsin Chapter of SWCS participated in the fourth annual Earth Day Conference sponsored by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. The two day conference was held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison April 20-21, 2010. It was a celebration of 40 years of observing Earth Day.

Speakers from across Wisconsin and the country made presentations at the many concurrent sessions conducted throughout the conference. Featured speakers included elected officials such as Governor Jim Doyle, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, Congressman David Obey and Congressman Tom Petri. Other featured speakers included Tia Nelson, daughter of the late Senator Gaylor Nelson who is credited with starting Earth Day celebrations across the country; Michael Dombeck, Professor at UW-Stevens Point and former head of the USDA Forest Service; William Meadows, President of the Wilderness Society; and Rebecca Wodder, President of American Rivers.

On the second day of the conference featured speakers from the Wisconsin business community including Fisk Johnson, Chairman and CEO of SC Johnson and Michael Splinter, CEO of Applied Materials Inc. In addition, author Margret Atwood made a presentation. The final guest speaker was Robert F. Kennedy Jr who serves as senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council among many other prestigious responsibilities.