

IOWA CHAPTER SWCS NEWSLETTER

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December 2008



President's Corner

As we begin a new fiscal year, I would like to take a moment to thank several members who recently completed their terms in various positions on the Iowa SWCS Board. For the past three years, we were very fortunate to have Tom O'Connor as the Central Region Chair, Dennis Schrodt in the Southwest Region, and Lori Schnoor from the Northeast. We've also lost Courtney Myers from the Southeast, Al Lauver as Treasurer, and Kevin Kuhn has completed the president-elect, president, past president trifecta. We also lost our membership chair when Ryan Gerlich moved to Wisconsin. Thank you all for your dedicated voluntary service to a great organization that leads the way in promoting soil and water conservation across the State of Iowa and beyond.

I also want to thank and welcome the new members of the Board. Bob Dayton takes over the task of Treasurer and Kevin McCall is the new president-elect. Alan Lange has agreed to step in as the chapter's membership chair. Other new Board members are Nicky Williams as Northeast Area Chair, Sarah Ham in the Southeast, Hillary Olson in the Central Region and Weston Dittmer in the Southwest.

It's because of great volunteers like the individuals I've recognized above that the Iowa Chapter continues to win national awards for its outstanding chapter activities. It's the officers who put together two fantastic training opportunities and field tours each summer and fall. They also develop joint activities with our student chapter at Iowa State, ensuring that the passion for conservation that this organization demonstrates in Iowa will carry on for future generations. And it's the Board that has helped the Iowa chapter lead the country by far in membership for a state chapter.

The Iowa chapter of SWCS is 300 people strong and I would like to encourage each of you to take pride in your membership and help to strengthen our society by getting involved. There's always room for members to get involved in advocacy for conservation, awarding scholarships to our brightest students in a natural resource curriculum, or nominating individuals for awards. You are all welcome to educate people from all over the country by spending a day on RAGBRAI handing out bananas and talking about good stewardship. In March, you can make a television appearance by helping the chapter as it volunteers at Iowa Public Television's Festival. There are so many ways you can make the most of your membership.

And while we're on the subject of membership, see if you can recruit a friend to join our chapter. I think everybody cares about healthy productive soils and clean water and what better way to show that than joining SWCS! Or better yet, for that person in your life who is hard to shop for, consider getting them an SWCS membership for Christmas.

I'm looking forward to great 2009 of increasing the general awareness of the public on just how important our resources are and the role they can take to ensure we continue to have healthy productive soils and clean water.

Sincerely,

Mike Sucik

Iowa Chapter Receives National Awards



The Iowa Chapter received the Chapter Sustained Performance Award. Mike Sucik accepted the award on behalf of the Iowa Chapter.



Duane Miller received a Commendation Award at this year's National SWCS Conference in Tucson, AZ. Duane was nominated by the Iowa chapter for his volunteer leadership over the past several years with the Iowa Conservation Team.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW — 2008



Stacy Schlader and Alan Lange stand with the Topsoil Display in Conservation Central at this year's Farm Progress Show near Boone, Iowa.



Rick Cruse and Bob Dayton at the Iowa SWCS/ISU Soil and Water Conservation Club display at the CDI Annual Meeting.

2008-09 IOWA SWCS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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COMMENTS?
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ANNUAL MEETING 2008

On September 5th, 2008, approximately 40 individuals gathered for the annual meeting of the Iowa Chapter of SWCS at the beautiful Diamond Lake Conservation Area near Montezuma.

The morning program featured two excellent presentations. Master's candidate Jennifer Hopwood gave the group a good look at native bees in Iowa and the importance of pollinators in relation to conservation. Extension Fruit Crop Specialist Paul Domoto then addressed the group on the rapidly growing fruit crop industry in Iowa. A business meeting and awards presentation wrapped up the morning activities.



Grinnell Heritage Farm tour with owner Andy Dunham



John Ernst Vineyard and Winery Tour

The theme of alternative agriculture in Iowa continued on the afternoon tour. The group first visited Grinnell Heritage Farm, owned and operated by Andy Dunham and then traveled to the John Ernst vineyard and winery near Tama. Products were available to sample and purchase from both tour stops, not to mention the invaluable lessons in conservation.

The Iowa Chapter of SWCS Awarded a \$500 Scholarship to Caleb Waters of Mt. Pleasant. Caleb will be attending Upper Iowa University majoring in Conservation Management.

The group then returned to Diamond Lake for a great meal, socializing, and a very lively auction which netted the chapter \$445.00 in proceeds from the items that were auctioned off. Thanks to everybody who donated an item or two to the lively auction!

In planning for next years annual meeting, which month do feel would be best to conduct this event: August, September, OR October? Please let us know!

2008 AWARDS



Friends of Conservation Award Winner, Bruce Carney, from Polk County.



Presidential Citations were awarded to Alan Lauver and Lynna Miller for their dedicated service to the Iowa SWCS Board. Lynna was not able to attend.



Jim Gillespie and Chuck Gipp, IDALS-DSC



Laura Greiner, Iowa NRCS

IDALS- Division of Soil Conservation and Iowa NRCS Public Affairs Staff were recognized for their dedicated support and contributions to the Iowa Conservation Team – RAGBRAI activities.

2009 Calendar of Events



IPTV Festival – February/March 2009

Summer Meeting – SW Region, June 2009

Project AWARE – June 20-27, 2009 on the Cedar River

SWCS National Conference – July 11-15, 2009, Dearborn, MI

RAGBRAI & Iowa Conservation Team – July 19-25, 2009

Annual Meeting – September/October 2009

West North Central Regional Conference – September 2009

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MORE PHOTOS ON OUR WEBSITE!!!

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