

IOWA CHAPTER SWCS NEWSLETTER

www.iaswcs.org/

December 2009

IOWA SWCS Cleans Up SWCS Headquarters

By Mike Sucik

On Saturday, October 24th, the Iowa State University Chapter and the Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society teamed up to clean up the landscape at SWCS headquarters in Ankeny.

Over the past several years, the areas around the pond and building have started to be overgrown with brush and some of the lower branches of established trees were drooping low enough to become an obstacle to groundskeepers and walkers.

The hearty crew of twelve volunteers arrived at 8:30 AM armed with chainsaws, weed eaters, loppers, rakes, gloves, and a great attitude. The brush dumpster provided was full in about an hour and the crew proceeded to clear about three times the amount one dumpster could hold. Special attention was given to the area around the pond and its outlet pipe. Beavers are doing their best to disrupt the pond outlet, but after Saturday, their plans have been set back substantially.



Cleanup volunteers. Standing (left to right): Bob Dayton, Jay Jung, Andrew Paxson (ISU), Rich Kann (ISU), Rick Knutson, Ron Lessard, Duane Miller, Seated left to right: Mike Sucik, Roni Lessard, Sue Ann Lynes, Susania Ernst

Rick Knutson was especially excited to see that the building foundation he assisted with back in 1972 was still in tact. The group then proceeded to catch the Cyclone victory over Nebraska which they are also taking credit for!

IOWA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Iowa Chapter of the SWCS has enjoyed the largest membership roster of any other chapter nationally for quite some time. Our membership level has hovered around the 300 member mark in the recent years, but in 2008 we dipped to 296 members, and in 2009 we fell to 281. It is time we turn this trend around to insure that Iowa maintains its status as a top level chapter. During 2010, the Iowa SWCS chapter will be engaging in a membership drive to bring us back to over 300 members. Our chapter will offer half price registration at our summer and annual meetings in 2010 to all new members joining after January 1, 2010. We hope this effort will encourage new membership, but the driver for recruitment is our current members. As Membership Secretary, I am challenging all of our members to recruit at least one new member. Speak with your colleagues, friends and family about joining the SWCS and the benefits that members enjoy. Remember that the SWCS is an organization that advocates for the conservation of our natural resources on many levels, and the strength of this advocacy is a direct reflection of our member base. SWCS members also enjoy many opportunities to network, and just have fun at our functions throughout the year. Federal employees also have the option to deduct membership dues from their paychecks, which amounts to only a few dollars every pay period. Please take the time to join us in this very important effort to improve our membership trend. If you do recruit a new member please take the time to drop me an email at iaswcs@iaswcs.org with your name, and the name of the individual that you recruited.

NEW MEMBERS JUN-NOV 2009

Iowa Chapter SWCS

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Joseph Dixon | Jamie Ridgely |
| Tim Johnson | Lucas Huber |
| Brett Hansen | Matthew Harvey |
| Mark McCurdy | Erik Smith |
| Casey's General Store | |
| Gavin Aronsen | |

Iowa SWCS Student Chapter

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Calvin Pudenz | Rashed Alzaabi |
| Nathan Happe | Ben Murphy |
| Jon Deerberg | DeeAnn Oldsen |
| Erik Creger | Joslin Ferguson |
| Logan Ferguson | Ryan Galles |
| Rachel Unger | Theodore Gunther |
| Joshua Kertenbach | |

Alan Lange, Iowa SWCS Membership Secretary

**Iowa SWCS Annual Meeting
Held Friday, September 18, 2009
Prairie Resource Center, Lehigh, Iowa**

The annual meeting was held on a beautiful fall Friday with a great agenda. The attendees heard from the Conservation Leaders of Iowa, Rich Sims - Iowa NRCS, Richard Leopold - Iowa DNR, and Chuck Gipp – IDALS Division of Soil Conservation; learned about the IWILL Constitutional Amendment from Sean McMahon; toured an ISU Learning Farm and the Prairie Resource Center. The day ended with a wonderful meal outdoors and a very profitable “Lively Auction”.



Iowa SWCS 2009-2010 Election Results

The 2009-2010 election results were announced at the Iowa Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting, Friday, September 18, 2009. The newly elected board members are: *President Elect - Jay Jung; Secretary - Stacy Schlader; Membership Secretary - Alan Lange; Northwest Area Representative - Mary Roberts; Southeast Area Representative - Sarah Ham.*

Thank you to everyone that ran for a board position!!

**2009-10 IOWA SWCS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President – Kevin McCall
(712) 542-5484
kevin.mccall@ia.usda.gov

President Elect – Jay Jung
(641) 842-5314
jay.jung@ia.usda.gov

Past President- Mike Sucik
(515) 323-2238
mike.sucik@ia.usda.gov

Secretary - Stacy Schlader
(641) 856-3893
stacy.schlader@ia.usda.gov

Treasurer - Bob Dayton
(515) 294-7789
bdayton@iastate.edu

Asst Treasurer -Alan Lauver
(515) 323-2726
alan.lauver@ia.usda.gov

Membership Chair – Alan Lange
(641) 464-2201
alan.lange@ia.usda.gov

NW Area Chair – Mary Roberts
(712) 732-3069
mary.roberts@ia.usda.gov

NE Area Chair – Nichole Williams
(319) 267-2756
nichole.williams@ia.usda.gov

SW Area Chair –Weston Dittmer
(712) 644-2210
weston.dittmer@ia.usda.gov

SE Area Chair – Sarah Ham
(319) 653-6654
sarah.ham@ia.usda.gov

Central Area Chair – Hillary Olson
(515) 294-7467
holson01@iastate.edu

Student Chapter Chair – Richard Kann
(563) 880-2168
kann@iastate.edu

Geezer Liason – Duane Miller
(515) 210-2547
drmill10@msn.com

COMMENTS?
comments@iaswcs.org

2010 SUMMER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION EVENTS

It's never too early to start planning your summer



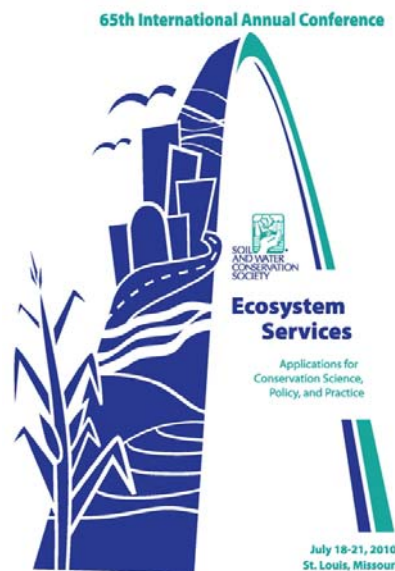
The 8th Annual Project AWARE Event has been scheduled for July 10 – 17, 2010. The event will take place on the West Nishnabotna from Harlan to Macedonia and on the East Nishnabotna from Atlantic to Shenandoah. Check out the Project AWARE website at: <http://www.iowaprojectaware.com/> for event details.

INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL SWCS CONFERENCE St. Louis, Missouri

This year, the 65th International Annual Conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. Des Moines to St. Louis is only a 5 ½ hour drive! Let's make sure Iowa is well represented! Check out the conference website at:

http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2010_annual_conference/.

And don't forget the Iowa SWCS Chapter offers Career Development Grants that can be used toward your conference registration. For more information about the Career Development Grants or to download a grant application, check out the Iowa SWCS website: <http://iaswcs.org/career%20development.html>.



IOWA CONSERVATION TEAM

The dates for RAGBRAI® have been set: July 25 – 31, 2010. The route will be announced January 30, 2010. Stay tuned for Iowa Conservation Team updates!



ISU TAILGATE NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Iowa SWCS and ISU SWCC came together to cheer on the ISU Cyclones Saturday, November 14, 2009. Despite the cool November temps and wet weather, we had a great time mingling with fellow Society members and our efforts even helped the Cyclones with a "W" against Colorado.



Dale Bruce chats with Mary and Phil Roberts at the tailgate.

IOWA CHAPTER SWCS NEWSLETTER

www.iaswcs.org/

December 2009

2010 Calendar of Events



Iowa Public Television Festival – February/March 2010

Summer Training Meeting, Central Region – June 2010

Project AWARE, West Nishnabotna & East Nishnabotna Rivers –
July 10-17, 2010

International SWCS Conference, St. Louis, MO –
July 18-21, 2010

RAGBRAI – July 25-31, 2010

Iowa SWCS Annual Meeting – September 2010

ENC/WNC Regional Conference, Illinois – October 2010

INSIDE THIS EDITION....

- ✓ IOWA SWCS CLEANS UP HDQ
- ✓ ELECTION RESULTS
- ✓ RECAP OF ANNUAL MEETING
- ✓ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
- ✓ SUMMER SOIL & WATER EVENTS

MORE PHOTOS ON OUR WEBSITE!!!
www.iaswcs.org/



SWCS Iowa Chapter
Stacy Schlader, Secretary
501 N 12th Street
Centerville, IA 52544