



Georgia Chapter Newsletter

Winter 1999

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

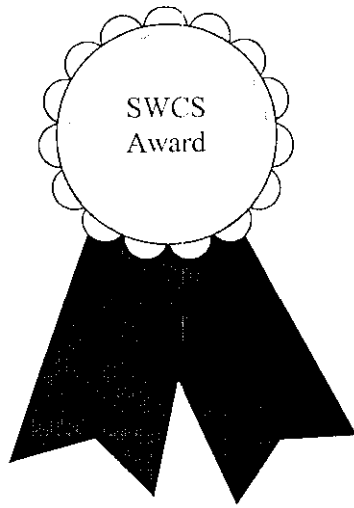
By Dr. Jean Steiner

The Georgia Chapter of SWCS faces important issues as we enter 1999, such as urban growth patterns, loss of agricultural and open land, low commodity prices that squeeze even our best producers, and protecting water and air quality. Georgia agriculture is highly dependent on income from animal production, so the current dialog over confined animal feeding operations are important to us and we need to make sure the national focus on grazinglands management addresses eastern pastures and forages, as well as drier rangelands.

Our Chapter can give us a strong voice as such issues are debated in our communities and state. I am very excited about new ideas and programs that the Executive Committee discussed in December. This newsletter highlights a new committee structure to develop and guide our Chapter programs and activities. Give us some feedback, and let us know which committee(s) YOU would like to be involved with. Please contact me or your Regional Vice President to share your ideas for the Georgia Chapter in 1999.



1998 SWCS Georgia Chapter Award Recipients



The annual awards program was a success again this year thanks to the efforts of Dan Thomas, Awards Committee Chair. The following individuals were recognized by the Georgia Chapter for their contributions to Soil and Water Conservation:

Honor Award: Julian E. Brown

Merit Award: William "Billy" Lancaster
Richard G. McDaniel
Frederick N. "Rick" Reed
Deen Day Smith

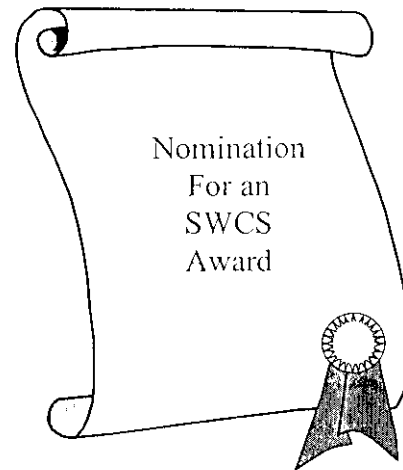
Environmental Educator of the Year:
Mrs. Raynor Cathey

The Georgia Chapter wishes to congratulate each individual and express our sincere appreciation for your hard work.

1999 SWCS Georgia Chapter Awards

The Georgia Chapter is now accepting nominations to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding professionals in the field of Soil

and Water Conservation. Individuals can be nominated for an Honor Award, Merit Award, or Environmental Educator of the Year Award. Nomination forms and award criteria are attached. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 1999. For more information, please contact Dan Thomas, Awards Committee Chair, at 912/386-3377.



SWCS – Georgia Chapter 1999 Annual Meeting Scheduled!!!!!!

Make plans now to attend the 1999 Georgia Chapter Annual Meeting. It will be held at Floyd College in Rome, Georgia on June 10th, 11th, and 12th. Richard King, President Elect and Program Chair, is planning an exciting meeting that will include field tours, presentations, and more. There will be a social on Thursday evening, June 10th followed by a field trip to Floyd College Wetlands Site and Berry College. On Friday morning, we will hear from a number of individuals and groups that are actively engaged in implementing innovative erosion and sediment control technology. The Annual Business Meeting will take place on Friday afternoon, and the CPESC exam will

be held on June 12th. The meeting is open to all individuals interested in soil and water conservation. An information packet can be obtained from Dr. Jean Steiner at 706/769-5631 [jsteiner@arches.uga.edu], or Richard King at 706/295-6131 [region1@gwins.campus.mci.net]. Chapter members will receive registration material this spring providing them with an opportunity to register for the Annual Meeting.

CPESC Update

The Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control [CPESC] designation identifies specialist who have met established standards of expertise, experience, and knowledge. Through a process of peer review and written examinations, applicant can obtain certification. CPESC is the only program of its kind in the field of erosion control and includes more than 2000 professionals in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. Numerous U.S. States and counties are now requiring the use of CPESC's for erosion and sediment control implementation.

A new certification process went into effect for all new applicants beginning January 1, 1999. Please note that persons in the middle of the application process must have finished by December 31, 1998 – after this date, the process must be initiated again under the new rules. The process can be completed in eight steps:

1. Applicant request application from either the SWCS, or the International Erosion Control Association,
2. Applicant should receive application within one week,
3. Applicant submits completed application with supporting documentation to CPESC,

4. The complete application will be sent to the review committee within 30 days,
5. Review committee makes determination on application within 30 days,
6. If approved, the applicant is notified and has one year in which to take the exam. If not approved, the committee may recommend “in-training” status,
7. Applicant takes exam within one year, and
8. Exam is graded within 30 days, and those passing receive a certificate and a certification number.

The exam will consist of two parts, all to be completed in one day, proctored testing format. Applicants will not need to complete a take-home essay.

Part One [3 hours] will test Fundamentals, such as processes, prediction, and control. The format will be 165 true/false and multiple choice questions.

Part Two [3 hours] will test Specialties and/or Regulations. Applicants will select any three questions to answer dealing with Agriculture, Land Development, Forestry/Recreation, Transportation/Utilities, and Mining/Land Reclamation. Applicants who score a 70 or better will pass.

CPESC's who are interested in obtaining an Urban Water Quality [UWQ] designation may continue their professional development. A separate tutorial and CPESC-UWQ Exam is given by the National Organization and is being considered by the Georgia Chapter of the SWCS. Only existing CPESC's can take this exam.

The next CPESC exam is scheduled for June 12th at Floyd College. For more information on the CPESC exam contact Elaine Nash at 770/922-7292.

National SWCS Meeting for 1999 will be Wild!!!

The 1999 annual conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be an opportunity for integrated learning, and sharing across key natural resource topic areas. The theme of *Walk on the Wild Side* offer an opportunity to explore issues facing natural resource management in the context of increasing demands for environmental quality and, food and fiber supplies. These issues will be explored through a combination of plenary sessions, volunteered papers, workshops, and field tours to showcase research and policy issues. The major topics for the meeting include: soils, environmental quality, wildlife, and wetlands. The underlying theme for the conference is the global community's dependence on natural resources for our quality of life. Taking place at the Grand Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi between August 8 and 11, this year's conference promises to be one of the best ever.

Georgia Chapter Board Members for 1999

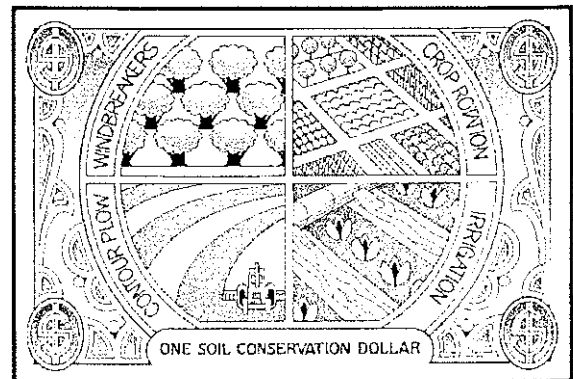
The following individuals began their tour as Chapter Officers at the conclusion of the 1998 Annual Meeting:

President: Jean L. Steiner 706/769-5631
Pres. Elect: Richard E. King 706/295-6131
Treasurer: Maurice H. Frere 706/548-0228
Secretary: Jimmy R. Bramblett 706 546-2073
NW Region VP: Jose Pagan 770/267-8363
NE Region VP: Wally George 706/769-4196
SW Region VP: Kristin L. Smith 912/336-2050
SE Region VP: Thomas L. Joyner 912/681-5241

Southeastern Conservation Tillage Conference

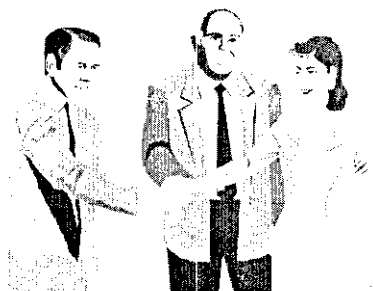
The 22nd Annual Southeast Conservation Tillage Conference, July 6-8, 1999, Tifton, GA, "From the Ground Up, Conservation Pays". For the Conference Announcement and Call for papers, see <http://nespal.cpes.peachnet.edu/TILLCONF/announcement.htm> or contact Dr. Jim Hook, jimhook@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu or 912/386-3182. The planning committee has established special program focus areas: On farm research and farmer to farmer exchanges; Conservation tillage brings wildlife onto our farm; Management challenges & opportunities in conservation tillage. Deadline for Title/Summary Submission: February 28, 1999. Manuscript for Proceedings Deadline: March 30, 1999 [The Georgia Chapter of SWCS is co-sponsoring the conference].

CONSERVATION DOLLARS



NET HIGH YIELDS
FOR THE FUTURE

Georgia Chapter Committees are Forming Volunteers Needed!!!!!!!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

The 1999 Chapter Officers have established a number of committees to increase the efficiency and exposure of the Chapter. Below is a list of committees that have been established, the chairperson for that committee, and brief description of committee responsibilities. We are asking for volunteers to help with each committee. You can volunteer by contacting any board member identified on page three.

Nominating Committee – David Ferrell, Chair

The Nominating Committee is chaired annually by the Immediate Past President. Past Presidents for the preceding three years have also served on this committee. This Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations for Chapter Officers on an annual basis. If you would like to be nominated, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact David Ferrell by May 1st, 1999 at 912/285-4621.

Georgia Chapter Awards Nominations Committee – Dan Thomas, Chair

Each year the Georgia Chapter recognized individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding professionals in the field of Soil and Water Conservation.

This committee solicits nominations for three award categories, and ranks nominations according to award criteria.

National SWCS Awards Committee – Executive Board.

Each year the National Organization recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding professionals in the field of soil and water conservation. There are six award categories for which an individual can be nominated. These include the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, Honor Award, Merit Award, Commendation Award, and others. The Georgia Chapter Executive Board will be responsible for nominating individuals for recognition at this level.

Education Committee – Jose Pagan, Chair

The Education Committee will inventory educational materials available to the Chapter and identify ways to expand their use in local school systems.

Certification/Continuing Education Credits Committee – Kristin Smith, Chair

The purpose of this Committee is to develop a list of workshops, courses, and other training opportunities that will provide Continuing Education Credits [CEUs] for Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control [CPESC], Certified Crop Advisors [CCA], and other related certification programs. This Committee will also serve as a clearinghouse regarding the processes required for CPESC/CCS/Other Certification. Career development and continuing education were also mentioned as potential responsibilities of this Committee.

SWCS Georgia Student Chapter Committee – Jean Steiner, Chair

The development of a Student Chapter is needed for long-term Chapter viability and

for increased SWCS exposure. Committee members will work with designated institutions in the University of Georgia to explore starting a Student Chapters.

Public Relations Committee – Jimmy Bramblett, Chair

The purpose of this Committee is to serve as a vehicle for sharing information about that Chapter to its members, prospective members, partners, and other interested parties. This Committee will identify additional individuals, groups, agencies, and others that should be added to the Chapter's current mailing list as a part of their responsibilities. Another discussion item for this Committee was the concept of developing a Chapter Website. The need to explore creating a local website vs. linking to the national website was suggested. This, and future, Newsletters are the responsibility of this Committee.

Membership Committee – Richard King and Tom Joyner, Co-Chairs

The function of this Committee is to survey the current membership to identify needs and opportunities related to the Chapter. This Committee may also be responsible for "Membership Drives", or head up action related to new member recruitment.

Membership

The current membership of the Georgia Chapter is 150. We would like to see an additional 30 members join the Society and Georgia Chapter this year. If you are not currently a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, please complete the enclosed brochure for membership, be sure to check for Chapter membership if you would like to participate with the Georgia Chapter.

Acknowledgment

The Georgia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society would like to recognize, and express our sincere appreciation to, the Ogeechee Soil and Water Conservation District for their assistance with the duplication and distribution of this newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this newsletter, please contact:

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