



Georgia Chapter Newsletter

January/February/March 2000

In This Issue

President's Corner	1
CPESC Update	2
Upcoming Events	2
Design Course	3
SWCS National Annual Meeting	3
Georgia Chapter Annual Meeting	3
Membership Information ..	3
Professional Development on the Internet	4
Georgia Chapter Board Members	6
Awards Nominations	[attached]

President's Corner

"The Soil and Water Conservation Society fosters the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment."

"The SWCS is recognized and respected as an effective advocate for the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources."

High sounding ideals, but they mean nothing without people to carry them out.

The Georgia Chapter of the SWCS is more than an organization which meets once a year. The Georgia Chapter is more than the Chapter Officers and a few others.

The Georgia Chapter is YOU, all 140 +/- in the State (as of the end of 1999) – not to mention all those who have an interest in conservation and who *not yet* are members. If you know of someone who may be interested, tell them about us.

The Chapter supports conservation through participation with the National SWCS office

and the other Chapters across the Nation.

The Chapter promotes and sponsors the **Natural Resources Conservation Workshop** at ABAC each year. We provided \$400 for Awards for 1999 as we will in 2000, and would like to support this terrific program even more. For those of you who are not familiar with that program, High School students with an interest in wildlife or conservation can take part in the NRCW at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The workshops are open to high school students between 15 and 18 who will not have graduated from high school at the time of the workshop. It gives students an opportunity to learn about Georgia's natural resources; soil, water, air, minerals, plants, and animals. And Jimmy Dean and I are on the Executive Committee planning the 2000 affair.

We provided sponsorship of the 1999 **Southeastern Conservation Tillage Conference** held in Tifton in July 1999. We would like to provide a greater sponsorship (of similar events) than \$200, and program planning support.

Continued on page 5



1999 Merit Award winners, Rome, GA Middle School, for their efforts to enhance access to the wetland and wildlife demonstration site at the school.

Upcoming Design Course

The Executive Committee authorized and the committee membership is beginning the task of organizing a course for design and review personnel—multiple day/evening course—in the planning, organization, design and review of erosion and sediment control/land disturbing activity plans. It should be completed and ready to publicize by June 2000.

The course will instruct the proper methods of analysis of soils, in-situ concerns of a site, planning and design of all facets of erosion and sediment control, storm water management,

and other related concerns—as well as how to review a plan.

It will be open to all who have successfully completed the two courses given by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission in the Fundamentals and Design for Best Management Practices.

Those in attendance will be primarily professional engineers, design personnel, and others experienced in erosion and sediment control planning. Initial response has been terrific, and the outlook for attendance is extremely optimistic.

SWCS National Annual Meeting

The next Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society National Conference will be in St. Louis, Missouri July 8-12, 2000 —“Gateway To The Future—Conserving Private Conference”. And in the year 2001, it will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Georgia Chapter, by vote of the Executive Committee, has forwarded \$500 to the South Carolina Chapter to assist with start-up expenses. And for those who really want to plan, Indianapolis Indiana will host the 2002 Conference.

I want to thank all of you in advance for your commitment. Let's do Georgia proud, and show the other Chapters we can do it too—only better!!

GA Chapter Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the GA Chapter will be held June 8-9, 2000 in historic Savannah!

The meeting will begin with a tour and social on Thursday afternoon. The program, awards luncheon, and business session will be held on Friday. Certified Crop Adviser and Pesticide Certification credits will be provided. The meeting will end mid-afternoon on Friday. Tours and other activities for spouses and children are planned during the meeting on Friday.

There are many places to visit in historic Savannah! Visit their web site at www.savannah-visit.com for a complete list.

Mark your calendar and plan to be in Savannah June 8-9!



Membership

We'd love to have you as a member! If you are not a member, or know someone you work with would have an interest, please consider: SWCS brings together conservationists from around the world—10,000 strong—who are dedicated to the art and science of caring for the land. Working together, we can do more for our land and water resources—and our profession—than we can do as individuals. As stated in the President's Message, we need to grow and become a force in Georgia to help promote conservation and our youngster's educational options.

There are many levels of membership, both for individuals and for business. But, for \$60 per year you can begin to make a difference. Contact Michael Breedlove, Membership Chairman at 770-483-1229; or Richard King, President GA Chapter at 706-295-6131.



Or visit our web page accessed through the Rome Region Office SS&WCC web site at

<http://www.georgianet.org.gswcc/region1/page22>.

Or see the SWCS site at <http://www.swcs.org>. You can sign up on-line, or we will send you a brochure to mail in.

Professional Development Opportunities on the Internet

Do you need continuing education credits to maintain a professional certification? Are you interested in professional development? Would you like to keep up with the latest developments in natural resources or just learn something new? Are you short on time and money to attend training courses? (Who isn't?) The Internet may provide a solution.

The Internet can be a source of seemingly unlimited information on any given subject. Sometimes the information available is almost overwhelming. In order to help you meet your continuing education and professional development goals on your own time schedule, without spending your limited funds, here are several suggestions for continuing education sources available on the Internet. Additional sources for continuing education and professional development will be covered in future newsletters.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Watershed Academy 2000 Distance Learning Program is a set of self-paced modules that provide a basic but broad introduction to many facets of watershed management. Module topics include principles of watershed management, invasive non-native species, economics of sustainability, and public information and outreach. Future modules will include applied

topics such as Best Management Practices for forestry and agriculture, site design in urban watersheds, drinking water source protection, and water quality standards overview. By completing a series of 15 of these modules you can earn the Academy 2000 watershed training certificate. Academy 2000 Internet-Based Training modules can be found at the following address:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/acad2000.html>

The American Society of Agronomy also provides opportunities for continuing education on their web site through a series of self-study articles that have been approved for CCA and ARCPACS continuing education units (CEU's). You can receive 1 CEU for reading an article and successfully completing the associated quiz; there is a \$12.00 processing fee. Self-study units on nitrogen, phosphorus, nutrient management, soil sampling, weed control, conservation tillage, precision agriculture, and many other topics are available on the ASA web site at <http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/education>.

USDA-NRCS offers an introductory level training course on water quality on the Internet. This training creates an awareness of NRCS water quality policy and introduces prin-

ciples, and how to apply them in daily planning activities on the field, farm and watershed levels. Registration is free and can be done on the Internet any time. A pre-test is given following registration. If you score 80% or above on the pre-test, you are automatically qualified for a Certificate of Competency. If you score below 80%, you will receive the program instruction materials; you will then have 3 months to complete the course and take the post-test. Registration is free and can be done on the Internet anytime at the following web site: http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/iris/water_qual/netinfo.html.

The Continuing Education Committee needs your help to investigate opportunities for SWCS members. If you would like to join the committee, or provide information on sources of continuing education and professional development, please contact Kristin Smith, Regional Vice-President, at 912-336-1451, extension 114, or Kristin.Smith@gacamilla.fsc.usda.gov.

President's Corner Continued From Page 1

We support the Georgia Envirothon, and have supplied judges and planning as well as \$400 last year and \$500 this year. The Envirothon is a hands-on, high school academic competition on the environment. There are two levels of competition: the Regional competition, a 1-day format; and the State competition, a 2-day format. The six member teams are comprised of students enrolled in grades 9 through 12. The winner of the State competition goes on to the national level.

We support the State Science Fair with judges, and pay for awards to winning projects related to conservation.

We promote the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control program (CPESC), provide staff for the tutoring and exam proctors and lunch for the participants. This is a tremendous possibility for growth for our Chapter. And, we are working hard to achieve the goal of adding CPESCs to the State Laws to be allowed to do plans. Additionally, we are creating a multi-day workshop for training in preparation and review of E&SC plans (approximately late fall 2000).

Additionally, we:

- work with obtaining and cataloging the many educational materials for students and teachers to use. We are

working on ways to expand their use in local school systems.

- are working to develop workshops, courses, and other training opportunities that will provide Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for CPESCs, Certified Crop Advisors, Soil Scientists, Foresters, and other related certification programs as well as career development programs.
- are trying to work through Colleges and Universities to develop a Student Chapter Program.
- are investigating joining a coalition in the Upper Oconee River Basin to develop better understanding of links of land use to water quality.
- also cosponsor and participate in the biannual Georgia Water Resources Conference.
- are planning conferences in Urban as well as Agricultural themes. The first to be planned is a training course in urban erosion control planning design, implementation, maintenance and review for all designers and Issuing Authority personnel.

As you can see, these require money and time. That is where each of YOU, our members, come in.

First, *we need members*. The more members, means the *more in-*

fluence we can have as a Society. Second, membership dues allows us to better promote and sponsor these and other viable programs. But, remember, our Chapter only receives \$5 per member from the National Society. The rest goes to promote the programs which help us all and fight for conservation and programs at the national level.

But, most importantly, active membership allows *committees* to take on new activities and promote better discussion and planning. *We need you*, not just at the Annual Chapter Meeting each year (coming June 8-9, 2000). Not as a name on the list. But *as an active participant*. We especially need Committee Chairs and *ACTIVE* Committee members on all Committees. I challenge each of you. Participate!!!!

Work on committees. Be more than a name on the list. It is too easy to sit back and say, "*someone else will do it*." But, you know what? They won't.

I look forward to the remainder of my year as President. I thank Jean Steiner for her term and contributions as President—as well as her invaluable assistance to me. Like David Ferrell, Jean's abilities will be put to good use as Immediate Past President. And I am working with Jimmy Dean, President-Elect, for the transition to next year.

Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control

The Georgia Chapter has been active in the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification program, and continue to provide tutorials and exams several times each year. These are promoted through the many agencies—Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Georgia, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources among others.

The tutorial and exam are offered to people living instate as well as out-of-state, and mem-

bers as well as nonmembers.

The CPESC program allows certification of individuals who are qualified to take the exam, and who will be in continuing education to improve their professional skills.

A tutorial is held before the exams. It is conducted by registered soil scientists and foresters. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for the tutorial.

The CPESC exam consists of two parts, all to be completed in one day in a proctored testing format. Approved applicants have one year to take the

certification exam from the date of the letter of authorization.

Part I of the exam tests fundamentals such as processes, prediction and control. Part II, tests specialties and/or regulations. Applicants select any three questions to answer dealing with agriculture, land development, forestry/recreation, transportation/utilities, and mining/reclamation. Both exams, Parts I and II, are approximately three hours each.

The next sessions will be taught Fall 2000. Contact Elaine Nash at (770) 922-7292 for more information about this program.

Schedule of Upcoming Events ...

Georgia Envirothon

Southwest Regional, Chehaw Park, Albany, March 15, 2000

Central Regional, Newman Wetlands Center, Clayton County, March 16, 2000

Southeast Regional, George L. Smith State Park, Twin City, March 23, 2000

North Regional Fort Mountain State Park, Chatsworth, March 29, 2000

State Competition, Wahsega 4H Center, Dahlonega, May 5-6, 2000

Soil and Water Stewardship Week, "Community Waters", April 30-May 7, 2000

Georgia Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA, June 8-9, 2000

Natural Resources Conservation Workshop, ABAC, June 18-23, 2000

Southern Conservation Tillage Conference, Monroe, LA, June 19-20, 1999

Contact: www.agctr.lsu.edu/wwwac/tillage or call (318) 788-7531

Annual SWCS National Conference, St. Louis, MO, July 8-12, 2000

Certified Crop Adviser Exam, Tifton, GA, August 4, 2000

Contact: www.agronomy.org

GACDS 2001 Annual Meeting, Callaway Gardens, January 6-8, 2001

To include information about future events in the next issue of the "Georgia Chapter Newsletter" contact Richard King at 706-295-6131 or e-mail Pat Hood-Greenberg at pat.hood-greenberg@ga.usda.gov.



Kathryn J. Hatcher, P.E., a Water Resources Engineer with the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia was awarded the Environmental Educator of the Year for 1999. The award was presented because of her tireless devotion and dedication to the programming for the Georgia Water Resources Conference over the last 12+ years.

GA Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society

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Membership, Chair	Michael W. Breedlove
Newsletter/Publications, Chair	Patricia Hood-Greenberg



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To foster the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability.