



Virginia Chapter Newsletter – Fall 2002

Virginia Chapter President's Message: Ginger Kopp, President

The big item on the horizon for the Virginia Chapter SWCS is our Annual Meeting. I invite all members and non-members state-wide to look for the announcement and reserve Thursday October 24, 2002 to attend. The meeting will be in Fredericksburg, Va. This year's theme is Urban Water Quality Issues. An especially interesting meeting is being planned. A panel for discussing "LID", Low Impact Development will bring in town managers and development specialists for questioning. The LID concept is taking hold in several counties in Virginia where water quality issues are a priority. Other water quality issues will be discussed by the invited speakers. You also don't want to miss the swearing in of new officers and our awards luncheon.

Speaking of awards, do you know an outstanding person, project or activity that you think deserves recognition? We are looking for award nominees. Members and non-members can submit award nominations for both members and non-members! Member only awards include the Outstanding Service Award and Commendation Award. Both members and non-members can be nominated for the Honor Award, Merit Award, June Sekoll Media Award and Conservationist of the Year Award. To find out more information contact Ginger Kopp at 804-520-7229 or Lisa Sizemore at 804-287-1680.

The Annual Meeting is a great place to catch up with old acquaintances and meet new friends. We have a new Student Chapter President, Aaran Kelley, and several past Presidents of the Virginia Chapter will be attending. As in the past, our meetings provide technical education along with fellowship. I look forward to meeting you in Fredericksburg!

Virginia Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting, Oct. 24, 2002, Lee Hill Center, Fredericksburg. Urban Water Quality Issues

Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 Registration and Coffee
- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 Stormwater and Low Impact Development
Richard Street, VDOT and Director, Tri-County/City SWCD
Larry Gavan, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Panel of Case Studies
Scott Thomas, James City Co.
Town manager, Warsaw – Public perceptions and working with town council – successes and hurdles
- 11:15 Questions and answers
- 11:30 John Tippet, Friends of the Rappahannock – partnerships and ordinances
- 12:15 Questions and answers & Wrap up
- 12:30 Awards Luncheon
- 2:30 Adjourn

Registration fees are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members, includes luncheon and breaks. To participate, send registration by Oct. 18 to: Dawn Shank, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, 203 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219. Phone: (804) 692-0903, fax (804) 371-2072, email: dshank@dcr.state.va.us. Additional information is available at: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/AnnualMeeting2002.html>.

Registration:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Affiliation _____
 Phone: _____ email: _____
 Are you a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society? _____
 If not, are you interested in joining the SWCS? _____

2002 SWCS International Meeting Report – Theo Dillaha

The 57th annual conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society—held in Indianapolis, Indiana—was a great success. Virginia Chapter council members attending included Kilby Magette and Theo Dillaha. The Indiana Hoosier chapter did a superb job hosting the event. The dignitaries opening up the program eloquently expressed the significance of the conference. Over 700 attendees were greeted by the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Moseley, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Bruce I. Knight, and Indiana's NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty. Knight began addressing the crowd warmly by talking about NRCS's tie with the Society, "The close relationship between chapters and NRCS offices at all levels continues to be a strong level of cooperation—as are the numerous joint workshops we hold, and our close cooperation in publishing the latest on conservation science." It was interesting to hear what Knight—who has held his position only since late March—saw in the future for the relationship of NRCS and SWCS. He says, "NRCS is a science-based agency. We're proud that America's farmers and ranchers value and trust the quality and expertise within our Agency. Participation in the Society and other professional organizations is one way—and I think a very important way—that many of our employees use to develop and maintain the professionalism that our customers value so much."

ABCs of TMDLs Workshop, March 7, 2003, Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Virginia Chapter of the SWCS is sponsoring a one-day workshop of the TMDL program and how TMDLs are developed on March 7, 2003 in Blacksburg. Speakers will include professionals who have been involved in TMDL development in Virginia. The meeting will address the history of the TMDL program, legislative basis for the TMDL program, legal requirements for TMDLs, how TMDLs are developed, tools used for TMDL development, data requirements for TMDL development, and TMDL case studies. Participants should come away with a good understanding of the TMDL development process and how real TMDLs are developed. For more information, contact Theo Dillaha, dillaha@vt.edu, or phone 540-231-6813, or visit the workshop website at <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/ABCsOfTMDLs.html>.

2003 Southeastern Region SWCS Chapter Development Workshop, March 7&8, 2003, Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Virginia Chapter of the SWCS will host the 2003 Southeastern Regional SWCS Chapter Development Workshop in Blacksburg, Virginia on March 7 and 8, 2003. The purpose of the workshop is to improve the leadership skills of SWCS officers, committee members, and SWCS members in general. Southeastern region chapters that will participate include: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Topics that will be covered at the meeting include: improving chapter communications, how to increase member participation in chapter activities, membership recruitment techniques, fund raising techniques, how to be an effective leader, and reports by participating states on successful chapter activities. For more information, contact Theo Dillaha, dillaha@vt.edu, or phone 540-231-6813, or visit the workshop website at <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/ChapterDevWorkshop.html>.

2003 SWCS International Meeting, July 26-30, 2003, Spokane, Washington – Mark Your Calendars and Attend!

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) annual meeting will be held July 26-30, 2003, at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington. The conference, "*The Columbia, Conserving a Legacy of Life*" will focus on four key topics of concern for professionals working to conservation natural resources locally and globally:

- Integrated Watershed and Basin Management
- Water Supplies for Ecology and Economy
- Grassland Health for Sustainable Production and Biological Diversity
- Air Quality for Public Health and Economic Vitality

SWCS conferences bring researchers, practitioners and policy makers at all levels of government and a broad cross section of other interest groups together to explore current opportunities in natural resource management and planning. Additional information on the conference is available at the conference website: http://www.swcs.org/t_what2003confhomepage.htm.

New SWCS Members - Kilby Majette, President Elect and Membership Chair

Please welcome the Melvin Atkinson to the Virginia Chapter of the SWCS. Melvin is a native of Hanover County, VA, and a 1984 graduate of Lee-Davis High School and 1988 agronomy graduate of Virginia Tech. Since 1996, Melvin has been the Agricultural Reserve Program Coordinator for the City of Virginia Beach. This \$3.5 million program seeks to preserve the rural character of the Southern portion of Virginia Beach. Since the programs inception in 1995 there have been 5,700 acres protected from development with an agricultural easement. Melvin works directly with the Director of Agriculture, The Virginia Beach Agriculture Commission and City Council on issues relating to the agriculture industry. Prior to his position with the City of Virginia Beach, Melvin was an Extension Agent in Virginia Beach where he was responsible for educational programs in agronomic and commercial vegetable crop production. Melvin and his wife Kimberly have three children: Madison (6) and Katelynne (3) and Kole (3 months). Melvin currently serve as an elder of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and his hobbies include: restoring 1800's farmhouse, snow skiing, volleyball, softball and working around the farm. Please welcome him to the Virginia Chapter.

Virginia Tech Student Chapter Report, Theo Dillaha

The Virginia Tech Student Chapter just elected officers for the coming year. They are: President: Aaran Kelley, ekellev1@vt.edu, Vice President: Megan Siewers, msiewers@vt.edu, Secretary: Jenn Johnson, jejohns3@vt.edu, Treasurer: Adam Faulkner, afaulkne@vt.edu, Publicist: Candice Piercy, cpiercy@vt.edu, SGA-Representative: Richard Jacobs, rjacobs@vt.edu, and Faculty Advisor: Theo Dillaha, dillaha@vt.edu. For more information on the student chapter, please visit their web site at <http://filebox.vt.edu/org/swcs/>.

Questions or comments concerning chapter activities? Contact the appropriate officer or committee chairperson:

Officers

Ginger Kopp	virginia.kopp@va.usda.gov	President
Kilby Majette	kilby.majette@vaquinton.fsc.usda.gov	President Elect
Kathy Harris	kadjbh@aol.com	Secretary
Larry Wilkinson	stumptown3@juno.com	Treasurer
Dawn Shank	dshank@dc.state.va.us	Vice President
Stu Wilson	swilson@dc.state.va.us	2st Year Council Member
Phil McClellan	pmccllellan@maptech-inc.com	1 st Year Council Member
Wade Biddix	wade.biddix@va.usda.gov	Past President

Committee Chairpersons

Dawn Shank	dshank@dc.state.va.us	Annual Meeting
Lisa Sizemore	lisa.sizemore@va.usda.gov	Awards
Mary Leigh Wolfe	mlwolfe@vt.edu	Budget
Ken Carter	ken.carter@va.usda.gov	Elections
Don Wells	dwells1943@aol.com	Legislative
Kilby Majette	kilby.majette@vaquinton.fsc.usda.gov	Membership
Theo Dillaha	dillaha@vt.edu	Newsletter
Willis Miller	willis.miller@va.usda.gov	Nominations
Theo Dillaha	dillaha@vt.edu	Student Chapter
Stu Wilson	swilson@dc.state.va.us	Summer Tour Meeting
Gary Boring	gary.boring@vawythevil.fsc.usda.gov	Technical Meetings/Self Development
Theo Dillaha	dillaha@vt.edu	Web Page

Washington Update - Prepared by Norm Berg, SWCS Washington Representative

The technical assistance problem for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Farmland Protection Program (FPP) in FY'02 was resolved when USDA secretary Veneman's press release of September 6 listed state-by-state funding for the two programs. Thirty-two states received FPP cost-sharing money. \$5.9 million was allowed for NRCS technical assistance for WRP and CRP. Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, held a lengthy oversight hearing on implementation of PL 107-171 (the farm bill). USDA witnesses were the Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, Under Secretary J.B. Penn, Chief Economist Keith Collins, and NRCS Chief Bruce Knight. Title I (Commodities) and Title II (Conservation) had priority. Questions dealt with NRCS technical assistance funding. Several Committee members were concerned that the Administration failed to release WRP and FPP technical assistance funding that Senators thought had been mandated by law. The compromise for WRP and CRP in FY'02, reported above, apparently will be reviewed for FY'2003 funding. Questions on progress of rule making, training, use of 3rd party providers, USDA leadership for the grassland reserve, and the status of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) rules, gave the Secretary the opportunity for NRCS Chief Knight to outline progress and plans for FY 2003. The House Agriculture Committee has held oversight hearings on insurance issues. Congress has not yet sent to the President any of the 13 FY'03 appropriation bills. A Continuing Resolution (CR) will be required to keep the federal agencies operating beginning October 1. The length of the CR will be an issue as speculation centers on the potential need for a "lame-duck" session after the November 8 election. SWCS participated in the two-day National Water Resources Policy Dialogue led by the American Water Resources Association with many sponsors and co-sponsors. The six key issues were; restoring and protecting the environment, water resources infrastructure, safety and security of water resources, managing watersheds holistically, sustainable water use, drought management, and flood plain and coastal zone management.

Virginia Chapter SWCS 2002 Awards Nominations

Deadline for Nominations: October 4, 2002

The Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) asks you to nominate candidates for awards recognizing outstanding work in conservation. Winners will be honored at an Awards event during Virginia's SWCS Annual Meeting. Nomination forms for Virginia Chapter awards are available at <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/Awards.html>. Awards include:

Outstanding Service Award for Society members in recognition of unusual efforts in helping the Society develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time (Minimum of 10 years membership in SWCS)

Honor Award for outstanding accomplishments of a voluntary nature, compatible with the objectives of the Society (for members and non-members)

Merit Award for outstanding conservation effort, activity or product by a group, business, corporation, or organization (for members and non-members)

Commendation Award for Society member's service to the Chapter

June Sekoll Media Award for an individual or group that writes or produces materials for radio, television, newspapers, magazines, or organizational publications which significantly increase public understanding and promote wise use of Virginia's natural resources (for members and non-members). This nomination form is available at: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/JuneSekollForm.doc>

Conservationist of the Year Award for exceptional service in advancing the science and art of good land and water use. Service may be in practicing, investigating, administering, or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields (for members and non-members). This nomination form is available at: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/ConservationistForm.doc>

Ecological Excellence Award for Design and Ecological Excellence Award for Design - \$500 Cash Award for each

Sponsored by Pinelands Nursery and the Virginia Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS). The **design award** will be given to a landscape architect, engineering design, or environmental consulting firm for excellence in the design of an ecological restoration project, unique soil and water conservation stabilization project, or innovative habitat development or enhancement project. The use of native plants should be stressed in the design as well as innovative techniques to achieve ecological functions. The construction award will be given to an individual contractor or construction company for excellence in the construction of an ecological restoration project, unique soil and water conservation stabilization project, or innovative habitat development or enhancement project. Criteria are similar for both awards and are as follows: (1) The project must be completed and functioning. (2) The project must be in Virginia. (3) Nominees may include firms from outside of Virginia. Acceptable projects include: ecological restoration projects such as wetland, riparian or upland restoration or enhancement, reforestation or similar projects; Unique soil and water conservation or stabilization projects; and Unique fish or wildlife habitat development or enhancement projects. Evaluation criteria include: use of new or innovative techniques, use of native plant materials, educational value to the public and the ecological restoration community, and opportunity for this technology to be used elsewhere.

Nomination Procedure: Nominees must send in a completed award nomination form, including the project design and photos and slides of said project. In addition, a written description of the project, not to exceed 500 words, on why this project merits recognition, any adverse conditions encountered, any unique construction or planting techniques used, and how it meets the criteria listed above should be included. The package may include letters of support. Nominations must be received before August 16. Award recipient will be selected by the Awards Committee. Awardees will be notified by September 20. The award will be presented at the SWCS Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon/Dinner. (TBA for 2002)

Please contact the Lisa Sizemore to request the appropriate nomination form if you cannot obtain it from the SWCS web site, or for other questions regarding the awards program. Sample nomination write-ups are also available to help you in writing your recommendation. Lisa Sizemore, SWCS Awards Chair, USDA, NRCS 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, VA 23229-5014. Phone 804-287-1680, e-mail: lisa.sizemore@va.usda.gov. Start the nomination process today. Think of who's doing a terrific job in conservation. Call, fax, write, or e-mail Lisa and help SWCS bestow an honor on someone you know.

Virginia Chapter SWCS Home Page

Have you checked out the Virginia Chapter SWCS Home Page recently? It contains a variety of information useful to chapter members and others. One of the newest editions is a listing of all chapter members and how to contact them. The home page address is: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs>.

Newsletter and Home Page Contributions are Always Needed!

Contributions to the Virginia Chapter newsletter and home page are always appreciated. If you have a meeting to promote or something else of interest to SWCS members, please mail it to Theo Dillaha, 310 Seitz Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0303 or e-mail it to dillaha@vt.edu. The next newsletter will come out in December 2002.

SWCS Calendar

9th Annual Virginia Watershed Management Conference, Sept. 25-27, Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA. See www.dcr.state.va.us/watershed for more information.

Virginia Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting, Oct. 24, 2002, Lee Hill Center, Fredericksburg. Urban Water Quality Issues ABCs of TMDLs Workshop, sponsored by Virginia Chapter SWCS, March 7, 2003, Blacksburg, Virginia. For more information: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/ABCsOfTMDLs.html>.

SWCS Southeast Regional Chapter Development Workshop, hosted by Virginia Chapter SWCS, March 7-8, 2003, Blacksburg, Virginia.

For more information: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/ChapterDevWorkshop.html>

2003 SWCS International Meeting, July 26-30, 2003, Spokane, Washington

**VIRGINIA CHAPTER
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
OFFICER BALLOT FOR 2003**

Voting Deadline: October 17, 2002

Council Officers
Vote for one for each office or write in

Kilby Majette, President Automatic ascension, no vote needed.

Dawn Shank, President-Elect OR Write In _____

Stu Wilson, Vice-President OR Write In _____

Phillip McClellan, 2nd Year Council Member, 2nd year of two year term, no vote needed.

Pat McIlvaine, 1st Year Council Member OR Write In _____

Jackie Byars, Secretary OR Write In _____

Larry Wilkinson, Treasurer OR Write In _____

Nominating Committee For 2003
Vote for Three (3) OR Write In

Wade Biddix Diane Hoffman

Gene Crabtree Mary Leigh Wolfe

Kathy Harris OR Write In _____

Biographical Information on new officer candidates:

Pat McIlvaine has 18 years of experience as the Agronomist for the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. She has been an active member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for over 10 years.

Jackie Byars has worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for 7 years and currently serves as the District Conservationist for Fluvanna and Louisa Counties from the USDA Service Center in Louisa. She has been an active member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society beginning as a student member at West Virginia University.

Please e-mail completed ballot to: Don Wells at Dwells1943@aol.com, or mail to Donald L. Wells, 8036 Dunwoody Road, Mechanicsville VA 23111-4602