



Soil and Water Conservation Society Virginia Chapter News Spring 2007

Upcoming events

June 25 – Summer Meeting, Deep Run Park, Short Pump, Virginia
“Implementing Low Impact Development: Lessons Learned”

July 21-25 – International SWCS meeting, Tampa, Florida

Officers:

John Myers, President
Jim Cox, President Elect
Brian Benham, Vice President
Larry Wilkinson, Treasurer
Mary Ann Trent, Secretary
Council members:
Clifton Bell, 2nd year
Tom Benzing, 1st year

SWCS Virginia Chapter news

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June SWCS Meeting to Address “Lessons Learned” on Low Impact Development By Clifton Bell

Low impact development (LID) is becoming increasingly popular in Virginia as an environmentally sound and economically sustainable approach to addressing the adverse impacts of urbanization. Although a promising concept, the implementation of LID programs presents opportunities and major challenges for Virginia’s localities.

The Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is hosting a June 25 meeting entitled *Implementing Low Impact Development in Virginia: Lessons Learned*. Rather than focusing on engineering concepts, this meeting will emphasize the practical experience of local communities in implementing LID programs: both success stories and “hard” lessons learned.

The morning session will include an overview of LID practices by former DCR employee Doug Beisch, currently with the Williamsburg Environmental Group. DCR-CBLAD chief Joan Salvati will discuss the state’s role in encouraging local LID programs, and special LID case studies will be presented.

The afternoon session will consist of a panel discussion of local government representatives with LID experience. Panelists include representatives from northern Virginia (e.g., Chuck Williamson of Prince William Co., Steve Hubble of Stafford Co.) where LID is most commonly practiced, and also from southeastern Virginia (e.g., Charles Heffington of Virginia Beach) where flat topography is a strong determinant in the types of LID practices that will succeed.

Topics for the panel discussion include:

- LID ordinance development

- Maintenance of LID practices: Whose responsibility?
- Development of LID technical manuals
- Public education and acceptance of LID programs

The meeting will take place at Deep Run Park near Short Pump in Henrico County, Virginia. Costs are \$20 for students, \$40 for SWCS members, and \$50 for non-members. Registration will include a boxed lunch. For the registration form and directions, contact John Myers at john.myers@va.usda.gov or 804/287-1668.

Mark Your Calendar for October 24, 2007

The SWCS Virginia Chapter annual meeting will be held in Staunton at the Frontier Culture Museum on October 24. Brian Benham and his committee are lining up an informative program on bio fuels and impacts on agriculture and conservation. We will also be presenting the SWCS Chapter awards, so don't forget to send in your nominations to Kilby Majette by the 15th.

“Better to Give Than Receive...”

The Allegheny Construction Company has generously donated its \$500 award back to SWCS for use in promoting educational goals. Allegheny Construction received the award sponsored by Pinelands Nursery for innovative design and construction. SWCS is contributing the \$500 to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Education Foundation. The Foundation provides annual scholarships to college students interested in conservation.

Heading To New York...

The Virginia (State) Envirothon was held in May at the 4H Center in Wirtz, VA. Seventeen teams gave oral presentation on alternative renewable energy and competed for awards in soils, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife. The Harrisonburg High School Team placed first overall, and as the state champions will represent Virginia at the Canon Envirothon to be held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, on July 29-August 3, 2007.



Yang Liu, Carly Byers, Martha Skelley, Camilla Domonoske, Olivia Quach Harrisonburg High team coach Ross Bair

Last year, Virginia's Envirothon team from Fort Defiance High School in Augusta County took first place at the national competition and each team member received a \$5,000 scholarship. The Virginia SWCS Chapter annually provides a \$500 donation to help support the state Envirothon.

Student Chapter News

President Asa Spiller reports that about 10-12 students were active in the Virginia Tech Student Chapter this past year. Activities carried out by the students included a Careers in Conservation Symposium, Project Learning Tree workshop, Blacksburg Watershed Open House, New River Cleanup and general meetings.

Students will also have an opportunity to participate in the International Meeting in Tampa in August. The Chapter provides up to \$1,000 to sponsor student attendance at the meeting. For more information and to view photos from past events, click on <http://www.swcs.org.vt.edu/home.html>

Meeting Minutes of the Virginia Chapter Executive Council are posted on the website at www.bse.vt.edu/swcs

Award Nominations Due August 15, 2007

Attention members and conservation partners, do you know an individual or group that should be recognized for outstanding conservation work here in Virginia? The Virginia Chapter SWCS is looking for nominations for the 2007 Awards program. The winners in the following categories will be honored during the Annual Meeting.

1. Outstanding Service Award is given to Society members in recognition of distinguished service in helping the Society to develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time. Accomplishments of the nominee should not be of a scope or significance warranting the degree of Fellow, but should be greater than those required for the Commendation Award. *(Minimum of 10 years membership in SWCS).*
 2. Honor Award recognizes people, usually nonmembers of the Society or lay members of the Society, for outstanding accomplishments compatible with the mission of the Society. *(for members and non-members).*
 3. Merit Award is given in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business firm, corporation, or organization that promotes the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. *(for members and non-members).*
 4. Commendation Award gives international recognition to Society members for service to their chapter or council of chapters. *(for members)*
 5. June Sekoll Media Award is for an individual or group that writes or produces materials for radio, TV, newspapers, magazines, or organizational publications, which significantly increase public understanding and promote wise use of Virginia's natural resources. *(for members and non-members).*
 6. Conservationist of the Year Award is 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).*
 7. Ecological Excellence Award for Design and for Construction - \$500 Cash Award for each sponsored by Pinelands Nursery and the Virginia Chapter SWCS:
 - A. 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. Use of native plants should be stressed in the design as well as innovative techniques to achieve ecological functions. *(for members and non-members)*
 - B. 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. *(for members and non-members)*
 - C. Criteria are similar for both awards and include:
 1. The project must be completed and functioning.
 2. The project must be in Virginia.
 3. Nominees may include firms from outside of Virginia.
- NOTE: 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 forms are posted on the SWCS website at www.bse.vt.edu/swcs if you can contact me (Kilby) to request the appropriate nomination form(s). Nomination forms can be sent to:
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