



Virginia Chapter Newsletter – Spring 2002

Virginia Chapter President's Message: Ginger Kopp, President

Welcome to spring, or is it summer yet? Just as the trees and flowers are bursting out all over, the Virginia Chapter of SWCS is bursting with activity. Committees have been formed for the Summer Meeting and our Annual Meeting. The Summer Meeting will be a bit different from what we have focused on in the past. Bowing to the needs of our more urban members, brownfields, will be the topic of the summer meeting. Brownfields are the "Superfund" sites of the urban community, areas needing a high level of treatment and recovery. These sites can be contaminated by a number of pollutants such as chemicals, radioactivity, poisons and water pollution. Designating areas for a Brownfield grant will help the community fund the clean up and recovery of the site. This meeting is scheduled for late June.

The Annual Meeting will cover the new Farm Bill, such as it will be. There will be many changes in the Conservation Title and programs offered. This meeting will clarify as best as possible the new regulations. Since the Farm Bill has not yet been enacted, as of April 16, 2002, the details will remain fuzzy. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for the middle of October.

Membership has declined slightly since January 2002. We currently have 163 members, down from 167. However, I believe we can turn this around with strong programs and active members. We gained several members from our booth at the VASWCD State Association Meeting last December.

The Strategic Plan will be evaluated this year. All members were sent a copy of the plan last year. If you have any thought about the Strategic Plan please forward them to Ginger Kopp. This plan has served us well over the past 5 years. The document is not an "end product" but an active project that guides our future.

Finally, I wish to thank the members and the council for their support and active involvement on behalf of our Chapter. We would not be as successful as we are without the commitment of our membership.

Last of all remember to stop and smell the roses and inhale the new breezes of springtime. We all need to take the time to enjoy the results of our professional conservation efforts. It would not be here without the dedication of many people throughout the ages.

Virginia Chapter SWCS Brownfields Redevelopment Technical Workshop, June 27, 2002, Dorey Park, Henrico County

Brownfields are abandoned industrial sites that are perceived to be or have been contaminated by pollution. Although mostly located in urban areas, brownfields are often found in rural areas as well. The sites not only impact the environment in a community, but can reduce tax revenues, employment opportunities, impact support businesses and tarnish the community image. Brownfield redevelopment projects can have a positive impact by reusing existing sites, buildings and infrastructure as well as providing tax incentives for participants. This workshop will focus on basic issues, case studies and programs for successful brownfields redevelopment. Anyone interested in learning more about brownfields, redevelopment options and Virginia's programs should attend.

Workshop Agenda

- 8:30 Registration & refreshments
- 9:00 Welcome and introductions, Stu Wilson, *SWCS*, Herb Dunford, *Henricopolis SWCD*
- 9:15 Brownfields 101: What are brownfields, where are they located, why are they important? Virginia's Voluntary Remediation Program and Brownfield Restoration and Land Renewal Act - Chris Evans, *Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*
- 10:15 Opportunities for Brownfield Redevelopment: Opportunities for landowners, land purchasers, land planners, engineers, local governments, opportunities for public private partnerships- *DEQ*
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Legal issues in Brownfield Redevelopment - Ron Rosenberg, *Williamand Mary Law School*
- 11:45 Panel question and answer session
- 12:00 Lunch & informal discussion
- 1:00 Introduction to Brownfield Case Studies - Each case study presentation will be followed by a question and answer time.
 - Exeter Site Remediation, Hopewell Ed Bogdan, *Earth Tech*
 - Big Gem Brownfield Site, Town of Shenandoah - Charles Meek, *Earth Tech*

- South Jefferson Redevelopment, Roanoke - Drew Flynn, *Huggins, Faulkner and Flynn*
- Windy Hills Site - *DEQ*
- Carlisle Redevelopment Site - *DEQ*

4:00 Workshop wrap-up - Stu Wilson

Registration fee includes lunch and breaks. Cost: Students - \$20; SWCS Members - \$25; Non SWCS Members - \$35. Send registration form with check made out to Virginia Chapter SWCS to: Kilby D. Majette, Virginia Chapter SWCS, P.O. Box 190, Quinton, Virginia 23141-0190.

Any questions concerning the workshop can be directed to Stu Wilson of the SWCS at the Department of Conservation and Recreation at 804-786-4382 or swilson@dcr.state.va.us.

Registration Form:

Name: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Total enclosed: \$ _____

Directions to Dorey Park

From Richmond or the west: Go East on I-64 as if heading toward RIC Airport. Take the Laburnum Avenue Exit (Exit #195). Bear to the right. Continue South on Laburnum Avenue for approximately 1 mile and cross Williamsburg Road (Route 60). Stay on Laburnum Avenue through the intersection at Charles City Road. Pass the Nabisco Plant on the right. Continue to Darbytown Road (1st traffic light after the Nabisco Plant). Take a left onto Darbytown Road. Go 1.5 miles to Dorey Park entrance on the right. Turn right onto Dorey Park Drive. The Recreation Center is the Barn on the left about a 1/4 mile inside the park.

From Williamsburg or from the east: Going West on I-64 toward Richmond (after the RIC Airport Exit) take the Laburnum Avenue Exit (Exit #195). Take a left onto Laburnum Avenue. Continue South on Laburnum Avenue for approximately one mile and cross Williamsburg Road (Route 60). Stay on Laburnum Avenue through the intersection at Charles City Road. Pass the Nabisco Plant on the right. Continue onto Darbytown Road (1st traffic light after the Nabisco Plant). Take a left onto Darbytown Road. Go 1.5 miles to the Dorey Park entrance on the right. Turn right onto Dorey Park Drive. The Recreation Center is the Barn on the left approximately 1/4 mile inside the park.

From I-295 (North or South): Take the Route 5 Exit (Exit #22-B). Go past Four Mile Creek Baptist Church (on right). Take the second right onto Doran Road. Go to the end of Doran and take a left onto Darbytown Road. After 1/2 mile, pass Pioneer Baptist Church. Shortly thereafter, go up a slight hill and the entrance to Dorey Park will be on the left. Turn left onto Dorey Park Drive. Dorey Recreation Center is the Barn on the left inside the park approximately 1/4 mile.

Thanks to the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District for hosting the event.

Additional information on the workshop is available at: <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/brownfields.pdf>.

2001 Virginia Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting Report – Kilby Magette

The Virginia Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society (VASWCS) hosted an Alternative Septic System Workshop for its 2001 Annual Meeting. The workshop was scheduled for October 23-24, 2001, at the Red Lion Inn in Blacksburg, Virginia. Approximately 75 people registered for the workshop. This workshop provided a forum for people who wanted to insure that water quality concerns are addressed in the future. With the pressure of finding new land for housing developments that is independent from a treated sewer system and with older septic systems not working properly, the workshop brought together a group of professionals that discuss their experiences in alternative septic systems. The workshop showed how communities could contribute to protecting one of our most important natural resources – water. The two-day conference focused on topics that addressed the design, construction, maintenance, community planning, funding, new technology, assessing watershed and soil conditions for different types of alternative septic systems. The conference also provided an opportunity to discuss some basic engineering principles, listen to several case studies, visit with exhibitors and held a panel discussion with the presenters. The Virginia Chapter organizes a group of speakers that were from all aspects of the alternative septic system arena. The VASWCS Chapter was able to get sponsorship from community organizations, private groups and local businesses for the two-day event. These individuals helped the Chapter by providing scholarships to students and local officials to attend the workshop, helping with the printing of materials and providing to those participants who wish to receive Continuing Educational Units (CEUs). We had eleven people to request for CEUs for a variety of reasons. The Chapter worked out an arrangement with Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University to offer these CEUs to the group. The Chapter also held its Annual Awards Dinner on the first night of the event. The Awards Dinner provided an opportunity to install new Officers, present awards, review the President and Committee Reports and highlight the accomplishment of the VASWCS Chapter for the past year. The two-day workshop was a great success due to the diligent work of all the committee members who had a part in planning the event.

2002 SWCS International Meeting Scheduled – Mark Your Calendars and Attend!

Setting the Pace for Conservation

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is "Setting the Pace for Conservation" this July in Indianapolis, Indiana. July 13-17, 2002 at the Westin Hotel, the Society will be providing conservation professionals with another great opportunity for professional development. Highlighted topics will include: land use-reconciling economics, ethics, and ecology; managing nonpoint source water pollution; and measuring conservation progress. The 57-year-old conference is a combination of workshops, plenary and concurrent sessions, and educational tours. The conference will focus on how conservation of natural resources is linked to local, regional, national, and global concerns. Executive Director, Craig Cox, says, "This year's annual conference will be an opportunity for integrated learning and sharing across key natural resource topic areas. It could be our best conference ever." The Hoosier Chapter of SWCS will serve as the host for this year's conference. Knowing the area as they do, they've come up with terrific tour and family activities. A number of tours include Purdue University USDA-ARS National Soil Erosion Lab, Dow AgroSciences, Monsanto, the National Future Farmers of America headquarters, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The preliminary program with more details and registration form is on the SWCS website at http://www.swcs.org/t_what2002conffrontpage.htm. Contact Pat Mulligan, patm@swcs.org, (515) 289-2331, ext. 17 with any conference questions or Deb Happe-vonArb, communications director, deb@swcs.org or (515) 289-2331, ext. 26.

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

Please welcome the following new members to the Virginia Chapter of the SWCS.

Tom Lovegrove, a resident of Franklin County, is the CEO of FormulaShop.Net, a software company and Bayview, Inc., a holding and investment company attempting to bring high tech employment opportunities to the tri-county trading area of Smith Mountain, as well as actively contributing to the quality of life in the community. Tom Lovegrove serves on the advisory board of directors of several venture capital organizations that have financed start-ups and seen them grow into public and profitable companies. Additionally Mr. Lovegrove is collaborating with several organizations and investors involved with the management of Virginia Tech, UVA, and VCU intellectual property. Tom also serves on the Board of Directors of the Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) leadership board for Smith Mountain Lake, the Board of Directors of the Franklin County Aviation Network (FAN). An avid boater, Tom is also a member of the Smith Mountain Boating Association, an organization promoting boater safety and rights, and the Smith Mountain Lake Association, whose primary concern is water quality on the lake. Along with these activities, Tom participates in the Smith Mountain Lake Antique and Classic Boat Association and is a Patron of the Smith Mountain Arts Council. Contact information: 70 Scruggs Road, Suite 102-126, Moneta, VA 24121, Phone: 540-721-1353, Fax: 540-721 5419, Email: tlovegrove@bayview.com

Liu-Hsiung Chuang lives in Great Falls. Phone: 202-720-7076, Liu-Hsiung.Chuang@usda.gov

Amy Booth works as a research associate at Virginia Tech and lives in Christiansburg. Phone: 540-268-1215, ambowman@vt.edu. Amy was a former member and president of the Virginia Tech SWCS Student Chapter. She will be attending the SWCS meeting this summer in Indianapolis and presenting a paper on her MS thesis research involving bacterial source tracking.

John C. Simon, President Simon and Assoc., Blacksburg, drperk@aol.com

Robert Burgholzer, Graduate student in Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. rburghol@vt.edu.

R. Lee Walker, walker@dgif.state.va.us

SWCS Membership Renewal

It's now even easier to renew your Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) membership. The SWCS website can now take online payments for membership in the Society. The SWCS encourages renewal by sending out renewal notices to remind members that their membership will be terminated if payment isn't made. But with each renewal, it hasn't been just one slip of paper going to each member informing them of their lapsed membership, the current process involves four letters to each member before membership is terminated. October is the beginning of a four-month onslaught of member terms expiring, so it's the hope of the SWCS staff to help these people out. SWCS wants to make it as easy as possible for you to renew your membership. Just log on to the membership section of the SWCS website at http://www.swcs.org/f_aboutSWCS_membership.htm. You can pay by credit card in a secure environment in a manner of minutes. No postage, no writing a check, no driving the envelope to the post office. Headquarters will be sending instructions with the first renewal notice and via email announcements. At this time, membership dues are the only online payment SWCS can accept, but look for announcements for online payments for publications and other products in the future.

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	stumtown3@juno.com	Treasurer
Dawn Shank	dshank@dc.state.va.us	Vice President
Stu Wilson	swilson@dc.state.va.us	2 nd Year Council Member
Phil McClellan	pmcclellan@maptech-inc.com	1 st Year Council Member
Wade Biddix	wade.biddix@va.usda.gov	Past President

Committee Chairpersons

Dawn Shank	dshank@dcr.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@dcr.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

FARM BILL UPDATE - Prepared by Norm Berg, SWCS Washington Representative

On May 9, 2002, the U. S. Senate (64-35) cleared the Conference Report for H. R. 2646 for the President's signature after 12 hours of debate. Labeled the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, the 421-page document has X Titles. Title II-Conservation has 158 pages. The six-year bill includes an additional \$51.7 billion in new budget authority through 2007 instead of the \$45.2 billion that was originally budgeted when Congress began work on the bill in 2001. The entire bill has \$248.6 billion in mandatory funding. Title II has \$17.079 billion through 2011. The bill not only increases crop subsidies, but increases by 80% spending on working land conservation with a new Conservation Security Program. Senators from Iowa, Texas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Maine split their votes with both Senators from Kansas and Florida voting No. 20 Republicans voted Yes. The only Senator absent was Helms because of recent surgery. Senator Roberts who chaired the House Agriculture Committee that passed the 1996 law said, "When this farm bill needs fixing---and it will---I will be part of this process". During the House and Senate debate the conservation measures were highly praised. A colloquy between Senators Lugar, Cochran, and Harkin on Technical Assistance for Conservation Programs led Senator Cochran to say, "I also appreciate the Chairman's work to ensure that adequate resources are available for technical assistance". The prediction is that the President will sign H.R 2646 into law next week. The subcommittee for USDA funding has been waiting for the new Farm Bill to mark up FY 2003 funding. To date only the House has acted on a new Budget Resolution. Also, Congress must soon raise the statutory debt ceiling of \$5.95 trillion. Non-defense discretionary funding for FY 2003 may be about \$375 billion that would maintain existing federal programs at their current level.

Virginia Chapter SWCS 2002 Awards Nominations Deadline for Nominations: August 16, 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. Chapter 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>

In addition, there are two new awards that SWCS is co-sponsoring with the Pinelands Nursery, the **Ecological Excellence Award for Design** and the **Ecological Excellence Award for Construction**. Additional information on these two awards is provided below.

Please contact the Awards Chair to request the appropriate nomination form 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 me and help SWCS bestow an honor on someone you know.

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.

Criteria

- The project must be completed and functioning
- The project must be in Virginia
- 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
- Unique fish or wildlife habitat development or enhancement projects

Selection criteria

- Use of new or innovative techniques
- Use of native plant materials
- Educational value to the public and the ecological restoration community
- 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)

Virginia Chapter Fact Sheet – Kilby Majette

At the request of the Chapter Council, a fact sheet on the Virginia Chapter of the SWCS was developed to assist in recruiting new members. Please use this fact sheet when you attempt to recruit new members to the chapter. The fact sheet included on the last page of this newsletter and is also available on the Virginia Chapter SWCS website at <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/FactSheet.doc>.

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 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 August 2001.

SWCS Calendar

May 22, 2002: Virginia Chapter SWCS Council Meeting, Blacksburg and Louisa via videoconference

May 19-20, 2002: Virginia Envirothon - University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm is a 700 acre field station located in the northeastern Shenandoah Valley (61 miles west of Washington, D.C. on U.S. 50, 4 miles west of Shenandoah river; or 9.5 miles east of Winchester, VA). For more information, click on the following link: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/environment/envirothon>

June 27, 2002: Virginia Chapter SWCS Brownfields Redevelopment Technical Workshop, June 27, 2002, Dorey Park, Henrico County

July 13-17, 2002: Soil and Water Conservation Society 2002 Annual Conference. Indianapolis, Indiana. Theme: "Setting the Pace for Conservation" For more general information, including hotel information and more about the Indianapolis area, click the following link: <http://www.hoosierchapterswcs.org/activities/settingpace.htm>

September 11, 2002: Virginia Chapter SWCS Council Meeting, Blacksburg and Louisa via videoconference



Soil and Water Conservation Society

Virginia Chapter Fact Sheet At Work in the Commonwealth

- Mission** A multidisciplinary Society that advocates the protection, enhancement and wise use of soil, water and related natural resources. Through education and example, we promote an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.
- Purpose** The Soil & Water Conservation Society is a non-profit scientific and educational organization. VA Chapter of SWCS serves as an advocate for the conservation profession and for science based conservation policy that may affect Virginia's natural resources through certain legislative measures.
- Membership** The Virginia Chapter's membership consists of approximately 170 professional and non-professional people working in many phases of agriculture, education, natural resources and related fields. The Society keeps people informed of water quality issues that may affect the state. The Virginia Chapter members are committed, informed and effective conservation leaders. Some of the membership benefits include the Journal of Soil & Water Conservation, international meetings with technical presentation & tours and other opportunities to network with professionals from many disciplines.
- Conferences** Each year the Virginia Chapter hosts technical forums on land and water management issues designed to keep conservation professionals and citizens up-to-date with natural resource issues, science, technology, and conservation practices.
- Activities** The Virginia Chapter awards two (2) \$1,000 scholarships each year through the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's Educational Foundation. In years past, we have sponsored the State Envirothon, 4-H Soils Judging Team and the VA Tech Student Chapter Career Day. We conduct an awards program each year that recognizes outstanding accomplishments in conservation. The Virginia Chapter provides an opportunity for leadership development and to network with a wide variety of governmental agencies, universities and private consultants.
- Website** <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs>

For more information on the Virginia Chapter of the SWCS, please visit our website or contact our membership chairperson, Kilby Majette, kilby.majette@vaquinton.fsc.usda.gov, phone: (804) 932 - 4376 ext. 101