



## Virginia Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2004

### Virginia Chapter President's Message: Dawn Shank, President

As President-elect, this summer I represented the Virginia Chapter at the International Meeting of the SWCS in Spokane, Washington. It was a great opportunity to travel to a beautiful state with mountains, an ocean coastline, incredible rivers and vast wheat fields that are something you have to see for yourself to understand why western farmers and ranchers often snicker when we talk about farming in Virginia....or what amber waves of grain really means in *America the Beautiful*.

I attended a workshop on chapter development at the meeting and met members from other states who shared ideas. The International Society is very concerned with dropping membership. We have stayed fairly stable in the Virginia Chapter, losing and gaining a few members each year. But, to stay a fresh, vital organization that can accomplish things, we need new members and more involvement by current members.

Think about why you joined the society. Was it to network with other professionals working in conservation? As a student to explore future opportunities? Because a co-worker asked you? To subscribe to the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* or to learn about new technical information from workshops sponsored by the society? To be part of a united voice for Natural Resource Conservation Service employees or conservation legislation?

These are all good reasons to be a part of the Virginia Chapter. Talk to one of your co-workers, friends or a student you know about joining. Get more involved. We need *your* ideas and energy to grow and be a viable force in conservation in Virginia. I'm looking for members that would like to serve on the technical programs committee. If you can help, give me a call at (804) 769-2968 or email me at [dshank51@msn.com](mailto:dshank51@msn.com).

### 2003 Virginia Chapter Awards Winners

The Virginia Chapter of SWCS has reviewed this year's awards application. The Executive Council is proud to recognize outstanding work in conservation here in Virginia. This year's award recipients are as follows:

#### Conservationist of the Year Award - Apple Ridge Farm, Pete Lewis – Director

Apple Ridge Farm is a non-profit 84-acre environmental education, retreat, and mountainside camping facility located in Copper Hill, about 22 miles from the city of Roanoke, Virginia. Apple Ridge was founded by Pete Lewis, a former DC and Roanoke City public school teacher. Pete founded Apple Ridge because he wanted to provide inner city and other youth with the opportunity to visit farms and experience nature like he had when he was growing up. Apple Ridge was founded in 1976 and the Apple Ridge Summer Academic Camp began in 1989. Facilities for environmental education at Apple Ridge Farm are impressive and include: 5 miles of nature trails, low and high ropes courses, a performance stage, conference center and overnight guest accommodations. Apple Ridge has three main programs: summer camp, environmental education, and reading adventure programs.

#### Merit Award - State Resource Conservationist and Program Staff : Ken Carter, State Resource Conservationist; Greg Moser, Biologist; Martha Powers, Biologist; John Myers, Environmental Specialist; and Dan Solomon, Soil Conservationist

The SRC and Program Staff have developed program criteria and delivered conservation programs during the last quarter of FY-03 that will have a long and lasting effect on the resources of Virginia. The NRCS did not receive a budget until late April and have implemented the following programs in a short period of time:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program = \$7,600,000
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program = \$450,000
- Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program = \$1,000,000
- Grassland Reserve Program = \$600,000
- Wetlands Reserve Program = \$600,000
- Technical Service Provider Agreements = \$232,000

**Merit Award - Citizens for Water Quality Team:** Joyce Brooks, Citizen Monitoring Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Quality; Stacey Brown and Jay Gilliam, Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams Program; Fran Geissler, Citizen Stewardship Program at Department of Conservation & Recreation

This team has put together the Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Citizen's Guide and brochure. These materials help inform citizens about how to get started monitoring local streams for water quality (in particular, benthic) and explain the uses of citizen water quality monitoring data. The team has organized educational meetings in order to provide a forum for the citizen monitoring groups to network, share ideas & information and provides awards on an annual basis. This group has been a valuable partnership between state water agencies and citizen groups.

## Annual Meeting Report, Stu Wilson, President Elect

The annual meeting and technical workshop of the Virginia Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society was held on October 2, 2003 at Dorey Park in Henrico County. There were approximately 80 participants registered for the meeting that included both SWCS members and a significant number of non-members. The technical workshop was entitled **Water Quality Standards and Designated Uses in Virginia** and included numerous technical presentations concerning Virginia's water quality standards programs and their applicability to water quality management and natural resource protection programs. Copies of the presentations are available on the chapter website at <http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/2003AM-Workshop.htm>. Those present at the workshop were given an overview of the Chapter and SWCS by President Kilby Magette and invited to become members. We hope that new memberships will result from participant's participation at the workshop. A short business meeting of the Chapter Council was held during the luncheon. New officers for 2004 were also installed during the meeting.

## 2004 Virginia Chapter Officers, Wade Biddix, Elections Committee

The newly elected 2004 Virginia Chapter SWCS officers are listed below. If you have any questions or suggestions for them, please do not hesitate to contact them.

President: Dawn Shank; (804) 769-2968; [dshank51@msn.com](mailto:dshank51@msn.com)

President Elect: Stu Wilson; (804) 786-4382; [swilson@dcr.state.va.us](mailto:swilson@dcr.state.va.us)

Vice President: Phil McClellan; (540) 961-7864; [pmcclellan@maptech-inc.com](mailto:pmcclellan@maptech-inc.com)

Secretary: Jackie R. Byars; (540) 967-0233 ext. 3; [jackie.byars@valouisa.fsc.usda.gov](mailto:jackie.byars@valouisa.fsc.usda.gov)

Treasurer: Larry Wilkinson, (703) 777-2075 ext. 3; [larry.wilkinson@valeesburg.fsc.usda.gov](mailto:larry.wilkinson@valeesburg.fsc.usda.gov)

Council Member: Alyson Sappington, (804) 975-0224, [alyson-sappington@va.nacdnet.org](mailto:alyson-sappington@va.nacdnet.org)

Council Member: John Myers, [john.myers@va.usda.gov](mailto:john.myers@va.usda.gov)

Past President: Kilby D. Majette; (804) 932-4376 ext. 101; [kilby.majette@vaquinton.fsc.usda.gov](mailto:kilby.majette@vaquinton.fsc.usda.gov)

## Virginia Tech Student Chapter Report, Adrian Harpold, President

This has been a good semester for Virginia Tech's SWCS Student Chapter. We have had several speakers; each has educated our members in different aspects of conservation. The chapter also spent a morning working for Apple Ridge Farm. The farm is a nonprofit organization designed to educate children, especially kids from the inner city. We have several more activities planned for the fall, including a day collecting benthic organisms for Save Our Streams. The chapter is organizing a 'Professions in Conservation' symposium for the last part of February of next year. The symposium will be a great way for students to learn about careers in conservation. We also hope to make it a way for professionals to look for interns/co-op's. The chapter will be asking for speakers and sponsors from other Virginia SWCS members in the coming weeks. The student chapter currently has 16 members. Officers for the 2003-2004 school year are:

President, Adrian Harpold, [aharpold@vt.edu](mailto:aharpold@vt.edu), Biological Systems Engineering, MS Student

Vice President, Jenn Johnson, [jejohns3@vt.edu](mailto:jejohns3@vt.edu), Biological Systems Engineering, Senior

Secretary, Shiela Ranganath, [shangan@vt.edu](mailto:shangan@vt.edu), Biological Systems Engineering, Junior

Treasurer, Dan Lunsford, [dalunsfo@vt.edu](mailto:dalunsfo@vt.edu), Environmental Science, Senior

Past -President: Aaran Kelley, [ekelley1@vt.edu](mailto:ekelley1@vt.edu), Environmental Science, Senior

## ABCs of TMDLs Workshops, Theo Dillaha

The Virginia Chapter of the SWCS sponsored a one-day technical workshop on the TMDL program and how TMDLs are developed on March 7, 2003 in Blacksburg. Speakers included SWCS Virginia Chapter members Brian Benham, Kevin Brannan, Theo Dillaha, and Gene Yagow. Thirteen people attended the workshop. The meeting addressed 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 gained a good understanding of the TMDL development process and how real TMDLs are developed. A similar one-day workshop by the same presenters will be offered at the SWCS International Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota this summer. Information on this workshop will be included with your registration material for the summer meeting.

## Virginia Chapter Membership Report, Theo Dillaha

Membership in the Virginia Chapter has declined significantly over the past decade as many of our members have retired or moved to other states. We currently have 139 paid members, which is about half of our membership of a decade ago. The list of current members below was provided to us by SWCS in October 2003. Please review the list of names below to identify potential new members. Then contact them, tell them about the society, and ask them to join or pass their contact information on to Stu Wilson, our membership committee chairperson ((804) 786-4382; [swilson@dcr.state.va.us](mailto:swilson@dcr.state.va.us)). To find information on membership or to renew your membership, visit the SWCS website. The SWCS website can take online payments for membership in the Society. Just log on to the membership section of the SWCS website at [http://www.swcs.org/f\\_aboutSWCS\\_membership.htm](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.

### Virginia Chapter SWCS Members, October 2003

John Marshall SWCD	Eric Capps Kenneth Carter	Frederick Garst Michael Gay	Alica Ketchem Barry Kintzer	Greg Mullins John Myers	Harry Slawter James Snyder
Mountain Castles SWCD	Ernest Carter Daniel Lee	Roland Geddes J. Jeffery Goebel	Charles Koch Virginia Kopp	Steven Newborg John Nicholson	David Starner David Steeds
Northern Neck SWCD	Conrad Kerry Cook	Glenn Graham John Greene	Robert Lawson Warren Lee	Paul Nylander Frances Parsons	Jackie Stewart-Byars E. Thompson
Sneed Adams Glenn Anderson	Charles Copenhaver	Gilberto Guerrero Charles	Ned Leonard Tom Lovegrove	Richard Peterson Alvin Phelps	Joseph Thompson Dwight Towler
Melvin Atkinson Dennis Avery	James Cox Gene Crabtree	Hagedorn Edward Hale	Kilby Majette Stephen Mallette	Martha Powers Albert Ramey	David Trauger Tom Trykowski
John Barber, Sr. Becky Barlow	Samuella Crim Adam Crist	Hollie Hall Jeffrey Hancock	Gary Margheim Virginia McClure	James Reavis Marc Ribauds	Patricia Tyrrell Donald Wells
Paul Batchelor Brian Benham	Louis Cullipher Wilson Custis	Kathy Harris Conrad Heatwole	David McCorkle William	Monira Rifaat Fred Rodgers	Carol Wettstein Terry Wharton
R. Wade Biddix Gary Boring	Gerald Darby Theo Dillaha	Deborah Heimburger	McElfresh Patricia McIlvaine	Gerald Root Burton Ross	Larry Wilkinson Stuart Wilson
Darrell Bosch Stephen Bouchard	Denise Doetzer William Dorsett	John Henry Diane Hoffman	Stephen McLaughlin	R. Neil Sampson Alyson Sappington	Ronald Wisniewski Barrie Wolf
Wayne Boyd Pat Bragg	R. Dugan Thomas Dumper	June Hogg Greg Hounshell	Niles McLoda Robert Melby	Harry Saxton George Schaefer	Mary Leigh Wolfe Eddie Wood
Kevin Brannan William Bratton	Herbert Dunford Geo. Dunlop	Wayne Hypes Jerome Hytry	Jason Moore Eugene Morris	Brian Schmidt John Selby	Gene Yagow Tamim Younos
Charlotte Burnett Paul Cain	Billie Jean Elmer Paul France	Dennis Jones Chris Jones	Saied Mostaghimi	Dawn Shank Leslie Shoemaker	
Leith Campbell	Jack Frye	Robert Kellogg	Benny Mullins	John Simon	

## 2004 Southeastern Region SWCS Chapter Development Workshop and North Carolina SWCS Chapter Annual Meeting, June 3-5, 2004, Ashville, North Carolina.

The South Carolina Chapter of the SWCS will host the 2004 Southeastern Regional SWCS Chapter Development Workshop in Ashville, North Carolina June 4 - 5, 2003 in Ashville, North Carolina in conjunction with the North Carolina SWCS Chapter Annual Meeting. The North Carolina Chapter has invited other chapters in the region to participate in their meeting and the Virginia Chapter Executive Council thinks this is a great idea. The theme of the North Carolina Chapter meeting is "Ethics for Natural Resource Professionals." It may also include a special 6-8 hour ethics short course conducted by Clemson University. The purpose of the Chapter Development 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. Additional information on the North Carolina annual meeting and chapter development workshop will be available after the first of the year.

## SWCS Board of Directors Elections

The SWCS will be holding elections for the SWCS Board of Directors in February. One of our members, *Theo Dillaha*, a Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, is running for the Southeast Region position. Other candidates for the SE region board representative are Walt Douglas, the South Carolina NRCS State Conservationist, and Mark Risse an Associate Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Georgia. You will also be able to vote for an At-Large board position. Candidates are: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, an extension/Research Specialist at the University of Illinois; Leonard Jordan, the NRCS State Conservationist in Georgia; and John Parish, the Director of Geomorphic Ltd. and Research Training, Inc. in Canada. Please watch for your ballots and more information on the candidates in February and vote for the candidates of your choice.

## Soil and Water Conservation Society 2004 Annual Conference— Mark Your Calendars! July 24 – 28, 2004 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

The 2004 Annual Conference will take place in the heart of downtown St. Paul – part of the “twin cities” of Minnesota. A modern metro area of more than one million people, St. Paul is the capital city of Minnesota. It is the commercial, cultural, and educational hub of the upper Midwest. In addition to cultural activities, the area offers an abundance of outdoor activities for all ages and interests. The theme for the annual conference, *Headwaters of Conservation*, will unfold in the plenary and concurrent sessions as well as in the technical tours. The program will focus on four areas:

- Soil and Environmental Quality
- Agricultural Management and Environmental Quality
- Assessing the Effectiveness of Conservation and Environmental Programs
- Geo-spatial Technology for Conservation – Soil, Water, and Land

The conference format has changed for 2004. Plenary, concurrent sessions, and symposia will be held on Monday and Tuesday. Tours and workshops will be offered on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, and possibly Thursday. Posters and exhibits will be displayed on Sunday,

Monday, and Tuesday. This new format substantially increases the time available for oral and poster presentations and for symposia. Additional information on the conference is available at the SWCS conference website: [http://www.swcs.org/t\\_what2004confgeninfo.htm](http://www.swcs.org/t_what2004confgeninfo.htm) or the Minnesota Host Chapter website <http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/conv2004.htm>.

## **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](mailto:dillaha@vt.edu). The next newsletter will come out in the spring 2004..

## **SWCS Calendar**

July 24 – 28, 2004 Soil and Water Conservation Society 2004 Annual Conference, Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

Virginia Chapter SWCS  
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