



## Soil and Water Conservation Society Virginia Chapter News Winter 2006

### Upcoming events

**Jan. 16** – 9 a.m. Council  
Teleconference

**Jan. 19** - 9 am - Summer Planning  
Committee Meeting teleconference

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Tom Benzing, 1<sup>st</sup> year

**Virginia Chapter website:**  
[www.bse.vt.edu/swcs](http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs)

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### Dillaha new SWCS President

Fellow Virginian and former Virginia Chapter President, Theo Dillaha, became the President of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in July. Theo is a Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, where he currently directs the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Collaborative research Program, which promotes sustainable development in poor countries around the world.



As president of the 5,000 member SWCS, Dillaha will work with the SWCS Board of Directors, chapters, and professional staff to be an advocate for conservation professionals and science-based conservation practices, programs, and policy, and will serve the professional development needs of SWCS members.

Theo's primary goal as Society president is to engage more members in Society governance and implementation of Society activities. According to Theo, less than 2% of Society members are members of national committees. He does not believe that this is healthy for a professional society and his goal is to increase this number two-fold in the next year and ultimately to 10% or more by creating/reviving member driven technical committees that will advance Society interests in specific technical areas.

Theo urges you to volunteer to serve/lead the new committees that will be developed to better serve member needs. If you have any suggestions or advice for Theo concerning the Society, please contact him at [dillaha@vt.edu](mailto:dillaha@vt.edu) or (540)231-6813 (day) or (540)544-4444 (home).

### Fall Meeting Examines Market Based Strategies

The Virginia Chapter's Fall meeting was held October 19<sup>th</sup> at Dorey Park in Richmond, Virginia. About 40 people attended the session which was focused around the theme – "Market Based Strategies...Are They the Answer for Water Quality?"

Federal, state and local officials gave an overview of Market Based Strategies, including nutrient trading efforts underway in Virginia and Pennsylvania. A panel discussion featured Chris Pomeroy from the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Wilmer Stoneman from Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Brian Noyes from the Colonial SWCD, Dr. Kurt Stephenson from Virginia Tech and Mike Gerel, staff scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



Left to right: Fred Garst, John Myers and Andy Douthat of Allegheny Construction Co.

### And the winner is . . .

Chapter awards for outstanding conservation efforts were presented at the VASWCD annual meeting in Roanoke on December 4, 2006.

*Honor Award* recognizing voluntary efforts was presented to **Fred Garst**, NRCS GIS Specialist from Harrisonburg, VA

*June Sekoll Award* recognizing outstanding communications efforts was presented to **Linda McNatt** of the *Virginia Pilot* newspaper and the **Culpeper SWCD**.

*Ecological Excellence Award* sponsored by Pinelands Nursery, who donated a \$500 cash award for innovative design and construction, was presented to the **Allegheny Construction Company, Inc.**

An award for service as Past President was also given to **Phil McClellan**.

*Kilby Majette and Monira Rifaat*, Chairperson, Culpeper SWCD



### Good Old Days?

Dressed in her Grandma Alderson costume, Virginia Chapter member Dawn Shank entertained district directors at the State Association annual meeting with her description of what it was like to haul water for household chores in the old days. The role playing is part of a script used by the VASWCD Education Committee to help students understand the importance of conserving water.



### Scholarships Available to Members

Would you like to continue your education, update your skills or conduct graduate-level research in conservation-related fields? SWCS will offer at least two scholarships in 2007 to graduate students and conservation professionals who have been members of SWCS for one or more years. The deadline for applying is **February 13, 2007**.

The Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship provides \$1,300 for graduate-level research on a specific conservation topic.

The Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship provides up to \$1500 to members who are currently employed but wish to improve their technical or administrative competence in a conservation-related field.

Scholarship applications are available on the SWCS webpage ([www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)) or contact SWCS Headquarters (512-289-2331) for more information.



Best Wishes  
for the  
Holidays and  
A Happy  
New Year

Meeting Minutes of the Virginia Chapter Executive Council are posted on the website at [www.bse.vt.edu/swcs](http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs)