

NEWSLETTER

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY



OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

MEET THE OFFICERS



J. CHRIS STONER

*President
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

I am a second generation SCS/NRCSer. After several moves as a child (as generally happened within SCS), we settled in Amarillo, Texas where my dad retired as a District

Conservationist in 1989. While growing up, I worked on a friend's wheat farm and cattle ranch and with the ARS Research Station at Bushland, Texas with the Wind Energy Division.

I graduated from Texas A&M University in 1987 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. While in school I was a student trainee for one summer at the Canyon, Texas field office. Upon graduation, I worked in the Lubbock, Texas field and area offices for two years before moving to far south Texas in the Edinburg field office. After a year, I was selected Area Engineer for Uvalde, Texas. I then became an Engineering Team Leader and transferred to Fort Stockton, Texas where I spent two years before moving to Stillwater in 1998.

In my current position as Agricultural Engineer on the state office engineering staff, I provide engineering technical support to all farm bill programs, especially the Wetland Reserve Program. I also develop and/or coordinate the development of engineering standards, specifications, standard drawings, and forms.

I have a beautiful wife Connie and three growing kids Kyle (13), Amanda (11), and Stephanie (9). We all enjoy camping, gardening, golf, along with all the sports and other kid activities that go on throughout the year.



CLARK WILLIAMS

*President-Elect
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

I was raised on a 2500 acre wheat, alfalfa, and cattle farm in SW Payne County. I graduated from Coyle High School and was active in both 4-H and FFA.

I have a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University. Currently, I'm going to school part-time working on my PhD in Agricultural Education. After completing my M.S. degree I accepted a job in the Agriculture Department at Langston University. I have worked at Langston University (LU) for the last 14 years. At LU I have a dual appointment as an extension specialist and an instructor of agribusiness. In addition, I serve as the academic advisor to all of the agricultural students and as the advisor to the Agricultural Sciences Club.

I have been a council member for the Oklahoma Soil and Water Conservation Society and a Class XI graduate of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program. I'm an avid supporter of OSU athletics and some of my hobbies are running, golf, travel, and highpointing (visiting the highest point of each state).



SWCS OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY 2004 HOMECOMING TAILGATE PARTY

Since there are several members of our Oklahoma chapter that are alumni of OSU, we hosted a Homecoming tailgate on October 16, 2004 in Stillwater. Attendance included approximately 40 members, perspective members, family and friends. It was a great time for fellowship with friends! However, there was a sad aspect of this party – we said farewell to Becky Ross, Past-president and loyal council member. She had accepted a position in Virginia as Assistant State Conservationist. We wish her well and plan to see her at the next National SWCS Convention.

Melanie Oliver



2004 OKLAHOMA SWCS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Mr. Justin Cash was recognized for receiving a \$500 scholarship from the Oklahoma Soil & Water Conservation Society during the annual conference in Stillwater this past summer. The Oklahoma SWCS scholarship is available to students majoring in agriculture at all of Oklahoma's Colleges and Universities. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic performance and desire to pursue careers in the area of soil and water conservation.

Justin, who is from Perkins, Oklahoma, is a senior at Langston University. He is majoring in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Agribusiness. He has maintained a 3.80 GPA and will be graduating in December. For the last two years, Justin has worked part-time as a student trainee for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and is planning on working for them full-time after his graduation.

Clark Williams



Clark Williams, SWCS Scholarship Chairperson, presenting the scholarship certificate to Justin Cash during Family Night at the Pawnee Bath House.

COMING SOON!

A spring technical conference dealing with conservation on public and private lands will be held in March 2005. Topics to be included are: Roadside erosion, invasive plants species, and much more. Currently taking abstracts for presentations on related topics.

Please notify **MELANIE OLIVER** if you would like more information.
Melanie.oliver@ok.usda.gov 918-287-5384

2004 ALL-OKLAHOMA CHAPTER SWCS ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Jean Schneider
delivers the Keynote
Address

The 2004 All-Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society was held June 16-18, 2004 in Stillwater. The theme for this years meeting was “SWCS For All Conservationist” which brought in a diverse number of speakers and attendees. More than 50 members, non-members, students, and exhibitors participated in the meeting. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Jean Steiner,

Research Leader at the USDA-ARS Grazing Lands Research Station in El Reno. Dr. Steiner is also the President-Elect for the International Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Sessions on Watershed Management, Wetland and Wildlife Management, and Advances in Technology provided an excellent technical program. The general session focused on working with other agencies, both public and private, and professional development. Technical tours highlighted the final day of the conference with visits to the USDA-ARS Hydraulics Laboratory and the Oklahoma State University Research Range.

It wasn't all business – the golf tournament was great fun as always and Family Night was a real treat. Attendees were treated to an authentic chuck wagon steak dinner in the beautiful surroundings of the Pawnee Bath House swimming area. There were many great door prizes given out throughout the session with the grand prize, a one night stay at Aunt Jan's Cozy Cabin Bed and Breakfast, going to Sheila Altom, wife of Wadell.

Chris Stoner

The Winning Team:
(from the left)
Tyson Morely,
Victor Slovik,
Chris Stoner, and
Kyle Stoner



2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The 59th Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society was held July 24-28, 2004 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The theme for this years meeting was “Headwaters of Conservation” and was hosted by the Minnesota Chapter of SWCS. The Minnesota Chapter took this theme because the headwaters of the Mighty Mississippi River are located in Northern Minnesota. In the St. Paul area, the Minnesota River joins the Mississippi to start its 2,552 mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the technical tours and speakers dealt with river ecology and conservation along the river. Conference participants also had the opportunity to attend symposia, concurrent with poster sessions and workshops that address professionals in the “conservation business”.

There were 10 Oklahoma Chapter members and 3 OSU student chapter members that attended this years meeting in St. Paul, did we have fun? To quote a popular Minnesota phrase “Yah, Sure, Ya Betcha!”

The 2005 Annual SWCS Conference will be held July 30 – August 4 in Rochester, NY where the theme will be “Great Lakes, Great Challenges, Great Opportunities.”

Brandy Pietz



ALL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER SWCS OFFICERS 2004 – 2005

OFFICERS

CHRIS STONER	<i>President</i>
MELANIE OLIVER	<i>Past President</i>
CLARK WILLIAMS	<i>President-Elect</i>
JOHN DANIEL	<i>Secretary Treasurer</i>

These officers began their term at the 2004 State SWCS conference in June. The President-elect will become next years Chapter President and the Chapter President will serve as the Past president, etc. Each council position is also a three year term, unless the council person was appointed to take the place a vacated position, then they will finish the term of the person they replaced.

All members should consider serving a term as an officer. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the society and its mission. Please contact Melanie Oliver if you are interested at Melanie.oliver@ok.usda.gov or 918-287-5384.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

JEFF BALL
BRANDY PIETZ
ANDY KINCAID

JAMEY WOOD
TYSON MORLEY
DONNA NEUMEYER

JOE FREELAND
MONTE JONES
Vacant (Becky Ross left us)

END OF TERM

2005

2006

2007

