

AWARDS NOMINATION REQUESTS

The Chapter's Bylaws allow for the recognition for outstanding work or ability in the field of natural resources. This year the Council has decided to take nominations for the Jim Smith Memorial Award and a Natural Resource Conservation Educator award.

The Jim Smith Memorial Award may be awarded to an individual that is employed by NRCS and is up to a GS-11. The award recognizes an individual's dedication to conservation and technical knowledge used to get conservation practices on the ground.

The Natural Resource Conservation Educator award may be given to an individual or group that promotes soil and water conservation education in formal classrooms settings and/or informal education.

IF you know someone that would honor these categories please forward your nominations with a brief description of their work to Melanie Oliver.

Melanie.oliver@ok.usda.gov or 1333 Grandview,
Pawhuska, OK 74056 918-287-5384

FUND RAISING AT THE NATIONAL LAND AND RANGE JUDGING COMPETITION

Each year the All-Oklahoma Chapter co-sponsors the National Land and Range Judging competition in Oklahoma City. This is a great event that attracts highly talented, agricultural minded students from across the country to our state. We are proud of our affiliation with the competition and look forward each year to meeting the next generation of conservationist.

Not only do we co-sponsor the event, but we also utilize the event as one of our main fund raisers. The Chapter sells T-Shirts, Caps, Clipboards, and other items for the participants as souvenirs or for use in the competition. Proceeds are used for scholarships as well as for maintaining Chapter operations.

To make the most of the event requires volunteers. If you would be interested in helping out for a morning or afternoon selling items, please contact Chris Stoner at (405) 742-1260 or email him at chris.stoner@ok.usda.gov for more details. The dates of the competition this year are May 3, 4, and 5.

2005 OKLAHOMA SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Start making plans for the 2005 Oklahoma SWCS Annual Conference on June 22 – 24 in historic Guthrie, Oklahoma. This year's conference will begin on Wednesday with some pre-conference activities including a Par 3 golf tournament and an educational trolley tour of Oklahoma's first capital city. Thursday's program will include numerous informative speakers from Oklahoma State University, Langston University, the Noble Foundation, and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Also, Thursday evening we will have our awards dinner and family night. On Friday, the conference will conclude with a morning technical tour of Langston University's goat, aquaculture, and cool-season forage research facilities. Information about conference registration and lodging will be made available in April. For more information or questions about this year's conference, contact Clark Williams at (405) 466-3469.

UP COMING SWCS EVENTS

April 6-8, 2005

Envirothon
North East Oklahoma

May 3-5, 2005

National Pasture and Land Judging Contest
OKC-Biltmore Hotel
We will be selling t-shirts again this year!!!

June 22-24, 2005

All Oklahoma Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting
Guthrie, OK

July 30-August 3, 2005

SWCS International Meeting
Rochester, NY

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

At last year's annual meeting, it was agreed to propose to the membership a change to the Chapter Bylaws that would officially change the name of the Chapter from the "All-Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society" to the "Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society." In addition, three typographical errors would also be corrected. Changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds vote for approval. Please vote regarding this change on the ballot at the end of this newsletter. Detach the ballot and send it to the address below before [enter date 35 days from publication of the newsletter]:

USDA-NRCS
Attn: Chris Stoner
100 USDA, Suite 206
Stillwater, Ok 74074

For a copy of the current and/or proposed Bylaws, contact Chris Stoner via email at: chris.stoner@ok.usda.gov.

(detach here)

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Do you wish to change the Bylaws of the Chapter thereby officially changing the name for the Chapter to the Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society?

Yes I am for the change

No I am against the change

OKLAHOMA SWCS NEWS RELEASE

The All-Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is accepting applications from college sophomores and juniors for the SWCS Scholarships in Conservation Program. The purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage qualified students to increase their interests in natural resource conservation and pursue a career in this area of study.

A maximum of three \$500 scholarships will be awarded to qualified applicants. Applicants must be current residents of Oklahoma and must be undergraduates who have completed three semesters at an accredited Oklahoma College or University. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) or better in their major field. Applicants must be enrolled or intending to enroll in an agricultural or natural resources related curriculum.

Applications must be received by April 30, 2005. Recipients of the award will be announced in June. Applications may be obtained from individual Oklahoma college and university agricultural departments, Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices, or by contacting Clark Williams, SWCS Scholarship Chairman, at (405) 466-3469.

NEWSLETTER

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY  ALL-OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

MEET THE OFFICERS



JEAN STEINER

Soil and Water Conservation Society President and At-Large Board Member

She is a Research Leader at the USDA-ARS Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno, Oklahoma, leading research programs related to climate, water,

and natural resource management. From April through July of this year, she will serve a detail as ARS's Deputy Administrator for Natural Resources and Integrated Agricultural Systems in Beltsville, Maryland.

Jean is a Kansas native and received a B.A. from Cornell College in Iowa and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Kansas State University. Following a short post-doctoral research assignment in Australia, she joined ARS in 1983 at Bushland, Texas, where her research focused on dryland agriculture, and was Center Director at Watkinsville, Georgia, from 1994-2001 focusing on integrated agricultural systems and agricultural impacts on water quality. Jean has been a member of SWCS since graduate school and has served on several committees and in society offices, including Georgia Chapter President, Southeast Regional Board Representative, and SWCS liaison to the American Society for the Advancement of Science. She and her husband, Bert Allen, live in El Reno, where they are active in a number of community activities and enjoy gardening, birdwatching, reading, and traveling.



LARRY W. WRIGHT

Weatherford, Oklahoma

Larry W. Wright of Weatherford, Oklahoma was raised on a farm in west central Oklahoma and began working with the local conservation district while attending Hinton High School. He began working with the Soil

Conservation Service as a student trainee while attending college at Oklahoma State University (OSU). In 1972 Larry became a member of the OSU Student Chapter of Soil Conservation Society of America (now SWCS) and as President helped it to become a recognized and self-supporting organization on campus. He graduated from OSU in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy. Larry continued to work for the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist and District Conservationist in 11 locations throughout Oklahoma for 28 years and the last four years as a Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator for the southwest part of Oklahoma. Larry has chaired and moderated technical conferences sponsored by the All-Oklahoma Chapter of SWCS, and held all positions of leadership in the local chapter. He was part of the local arrangements committee when the National SWCS meeting was in Oklahoma City in 1984. Larry was instrumental in the reorganization of the nine Oklahoma Chapters in the All-Oklahoma Chapter. The All-Oklahoma Chapter received the Outstanding Chapter and the Chapter Achievement Award during his Presidency in 1990-91. He received the Outstanding Service Award from SWCS in 1993. Larry served on the National Awards Committee from 1988-1999. He served numerous years as a Council Representative for the All-Oklahoma Chapter. Larry served on the Weatherford Public School Board of Education from 1989 to 1999. In 2000 Larry was elected to serve as the Southwest Region Director for SWCS and is in his second three-year term. Larry lists his primary interests as sustainable agriculture and would also like to see a greater emphasis on soil health.