



Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society

*Promoting the wise use of Soil,
Water and other Natural
Resources.....*

**Summer Issue
June 2007**

Presidents Message Kirk Iversen

This time of year I'm always impressed with the work that our Chapter has done over the year, both in the number of activities and in the quality of the efforts. We are truly a grassroots, roll-up-your-sleeves, do-what-needs-to-be-done organization, of which I'm proud to belong.

Since the last newsletter, we've had members from all parts of the state involved in a number of activities.

We sponsored four regional science fairs and the Alabama state science fair. We gave awards to students in several different grade levels for their excellent projects. I hope our involvement in these fairs will attract some young people into natural resource careers. Thanks to Heidi Richards, Anne Cross, Monday Mbila, Carl Pinyerd, Eddie May, and John Curtis for their efforts.

In our Area 4, Joyce Nicholas helped organize a high-residue conservation tillage field day in Monroe County. This drew a large crowd of farmers and others and was a big success.

Earl Norton's erosion and sediment control program continues its outstanding work. A CPESC review course and exam were held in Clanton, and a Spanish version of the erosion control field guide is about completed. Planning for next year's Red Water Blues and training seminars is well under way.

In April, the Alabama A&M student chapter presented an excellent Earth Day conference that was organized largely by the students. Congratulations to Dr. Monday Mbila and his students for this program.

We have more events coming up in the last month of our year.

The Alabama, Florida, and Georgia chapters are organizing a water conservation conference for the end of May in Quincy, Florida. Perry Oakes has been representing us on the organizing committee. This program is looking at the water we share in the Appalachian-Chattahoochee-Flint basin and how we can conserve it.

In June, Francisco Arriaga and Karen Wynne are putting together a tour of the Randle farm in Auburn. This farm produces vegetables, lamb, pork, and chickens and includes a CSA operation.

Finally, we are looking forward to the social and educational event of the year – our Annual Meeting. Steve Musser and his planning committee are putting together an excellent program for us in Mobile. Where else would you rather be in June?

Hope to see you there.

Stay well,
Kirk Iversen

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*Register now for the
Annual Meeting and help
the Student Chapters at
Auburn University and
Alabama A & M by pro-
viding an item for the
silent auction.*

*"Conservation is a state of
Harmony between Men
and Land"*

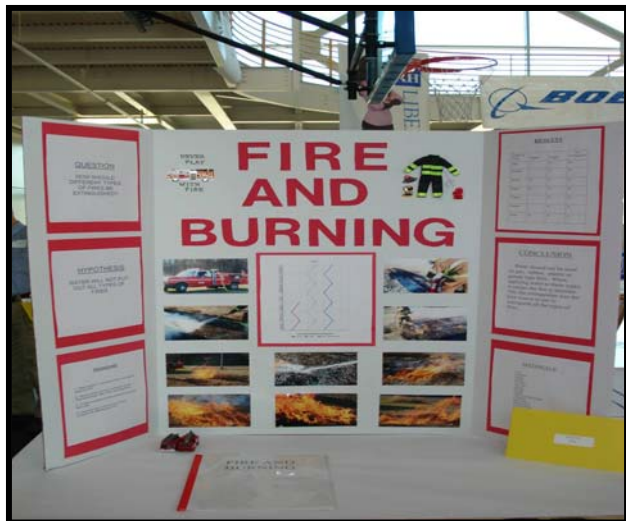
- Aldo Leopold

Alabama Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting

June 20–22 Mobile, Alabama

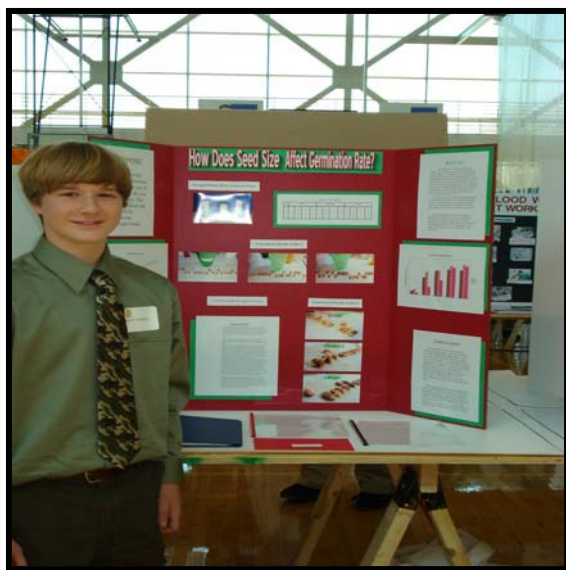
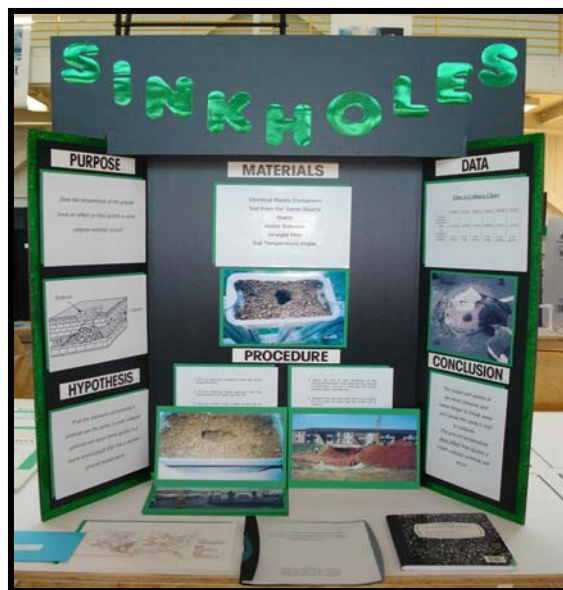
Regional Science Fair Held in North Alabama Alabama SWCS Serves as Sponsor

The 53rd North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held at The University of Alabama in Huntsville campus on March 7-9, 2007. Judges from the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society were Anne Cross and Monday Mbila. Listed below are the award winners for Best In Show sponsored by the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society.



Kelsi Young won the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society's Elementary Division Award for Best In Show in the Physical Science and Zoology category. Kelsi is a fifth grader at Falkville Elementary School in Falkville, Alabama. The title of Kelsi's project was "Fire and Burning". The project explored how different type fires are extinguished.

Ethan Hoback won the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society's Junior Division Award for Best In Show in the Environmental Science category. Ethan is an eight grader at Faith Christian Academy in Fairview, Alabama. The title of Ethan's project was "Sinkholes: Does the Ground Temperature Make a Sinkhole Occur Faster?" The project demonstrated how warmer soil temperatures contributed to cover collapse sinkholes.



Justin Coleman won the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society's Senior Division Award for Best In Show in the Plant Science category. Justin is a ninth grader at Brooks High School in Killen, Alabama. The title of Justin's project was "How Does Seed Size Affect Germination Rate?" The project studied how the size of a bean seed may or may not affect the rate of seed germination.



Field Day at Randle Farms, June 2

Randle Farms Field Day

Please RSVP by May 23 if you want to eat!

Call 256-751-3925 or 256-520-2400 or email Karen at wynnekaren@hotmail.com.

Directions

Randle Farms is located at 9215 Highway 54 in Opelika. From I-85, take exit 51 and head south on 29. Turn left at Highway 10 (Chevron station on corner). Go to the end of the road and turn right onto Highway 54. Randle Farms is not too far down the road on the left. You can follow the blueberry and field day signs.

Saturday, June 2 at 1 pm, Opelika, Alabama

For over 25 years, Frank and Pat Randle, and now their two sons, have managed Randle Farms just outside Auburn. There they raise vegetables and fruits using organic and sustainable methods, as well as sheep, pigs, and rabbits, which they sell mainly off the farm and through a CSA. Come visit their farm and learn about how they have grown and changed over the decades to meet market demands, how they are working to pass the farm on to the next generation and how they are dealing with the changing landscape of their neighborhood.

Plus sessions on drip irrigation, fencing, and transitioning land into production using livestock.
And of course sample their final products!

Farmers: Come on over after the farmers market - we will do a special tour for producers that come later in the afternoon.
\$10 at the gate

Sponsored by the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network, Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society, Auburn University's Organic Vegetable Production program, and the USDA's 2501 program.
As usual, there are many more events listed on our website.

Hope to see you there!

Karen Wynne
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network

email: info@asanonline.org
phone: 256-751-3925
web: <http://www.asanonline.org>

Silent Auction Supports Student Chapters

For the past several years, we have incorporated a Silent Auction into our Alabama Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual meeting. The proceeds from the auction go to support our Auburn University and Alabama A&M University student chapters. It's a great way to generate funds to enable these chapters to do some special projects. Whatever your craft or interest, your contribution would help make the 2007 Silent Auction a success. Bring your items to our meeting on June 20th, or get them to Julie Best (Auburn State Office, PO Box 311, Auburn, AL 36830, Phone: 334-887-4549) or Amy Bell (Gulf Coast RC&D Office, 107 Courthouse Square, Bay Minette, AL 36507, Phone: 251-580-0195) prior to the meeting. Thanks in advance for your support!

The 2007 National SWCS Conference will be July 21-25 in Tampa Florida.

"Conservation Challenges in a Changing Landscape.

Find More Details on the Web at:
www.Swcs.org



Promoting the wise use of Soil, Water
and other Natural Resources.....

We're on the Web!

www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/

Your Officers

**See Map on Page 9 for your
area**

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ALABAMA SWCS AND OTHERS SPONSOR CONSERVATION TILLAGE FIELD DAY IN MONROE COUNTY.

By

Joyce Nicholas

Area 4 VP

What a great way to spend one of those perfect spring days—halfway between Frisco City and Uriah—down on the farm with plenty of good friends and neighbors who have a common interest—Conservation Tillage. That is just what several NRCS employees along with ACES staff members from Auburn and the surrounding counties did on April 5, 2007. Attendance was GREAT—at the Jimmy Brooks Farm where there were over 55 Farmers and about 35 professionals on hand to enjoy the day's activities.

While the weather had been a bit stormy during the early a.m. hours, we worried about attendance being a bit diminished—imagine our delight at the number of those who came out to take advantage of this opportunity to gather information that we can apply on the farm.

Those on the agenda giving updates, program information, and or demonstrations included: Richard Petcher, ACES Regional Extension Specialist; Steve Yelverton, District Conservationist—Covington County stepped in for Bennie Moore, NRCS Agronomist; Randy Raper and Andy Price, USDA Soil Dynamics Lab, AU; Kirk Iversen was also on board—and by the way thanks to Kirk for bringing and displaying the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society display. Chemical Reps on hand included Rod Higdon with Monsanto and David Whitehead with Valent. Other AU participants included Dennis Delaney and Edzart van Santen, AU Agronomists; John Fulton AU Biosystems Engineering.

Last but certainly not least were our own farmers Eddie Nall and Jimmy Brooks who according to one specialist “have seen the light” in regard to high residue and conservation tillage. All in all they were delightful. Farmers from Mobile—Baldwin—Conecuh—Escambia—Washington and Clark Counties were there to observe some of the lessons learned by Mr. Jimmy and Mr. Eddie—who were excellent host for the day's activities. Even though the rain [which we are thankful for] prohibited the demonstration of the field equipment—the roller that crimped or rolled the cover crop was observed, as was other equipment that is required for a successful endeavor with this type of planting practice. Tim Mulleck, Baldwin county farmer was also on hand to share his method of broadcasting wheat seeds before he digs his peanut crop—for the last 2 years Tim has had excellent results on germination of the cover crop.

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society, Monsanto and Valent Chemical companies, NRCS, Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

I want to thank those who worked behind the scene to make the day so successful—especially Richard Petcher and the Monroe County Extension Office Staff under the leadership of Willie Williams, CEC. Most of all my gratitude to Monroe County Field Staff Reuben Hyde, SCT and our District Administrative Coordinator Robin Thames.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Exhibitor Set-Up
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Registration
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Opening Session/Exhibits
6:30 PM..... Reception

Thursday, June 21, 2007

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Registration/Exhibits
8:30 AM - 4:40 PM Field Tour
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Committee Meetings/Exhibits
6:30 PM..... Dinner

Friday, June 22, 2007

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Registration/Exhibits
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Business Meeting/Silent Auction
10:00 AM- Noon Technical Sessions

Check the website for a copy of the detailed program:

<http://www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu/>



Watershed Protection from Headwater
to Estuaries 2007

Registration Form

Name: _____

Organization/Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Category	Cut-off date	Member	Non-Member	Special	Enclosed
Entire meeting (includes field trip)					
Early Bird	May 18, 2007	\$90	\$115		_____
On-site	June 20, 2007	\$125	\$150		_____
Field Trip Only anyone (deadline May 9)				\$50	_____
Wednesday Only —Technical Sessions				\$45	_____
Friday Only —Business Meeting and Technical Session				\$45	_____

Additional tickets, with one registered participant, may be purchased for guests/spouse/children at the following rates:

Thursday dinner (Adult) # _____ @ \$25.00 _____

Thursday Dinner (Child) # _____ @ \$12.50 _____

(For selected items, indicate the number needed)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please enclose payment with your registration form and return to:

Make checks payable to: **Alabama Chapter of SWCS**

Mail checks and forms to: Alabama Chapter of SWCS

c/o Zona Beaty

P. O. Box 116

Auburn, AL 36830

Contact the Ashbury Hotel and Suites at (251) 344-8030

About the Meeting

Continuing Education/ Professional Development The workshop provides high quality technical sessions and a field trip that is relevant to Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control, Certified Crop Advisors, and Professional Engineers.

Conference Registration - Please register for the conference at your earliest convenience. The registration fee covers all meetings and scheduled events.

Exhibits and Sponsorships - Exhibit and sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Earl Norton for additional information at 334-728-4107.

Meeting Location - The 2007 Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting will be held at the Ashbury Hotels and Suites, 600

Hotel reservations for your stay during the meeting may be made by contacting the Ashbury Hotels and Suites, 600 West I-65 Service Road S, Mobile, Alabama 36608. Phone Number: (251) 344-8030. The lodging room rate is \$70 standard and \$80 deluxe per night. Be sure to indicate that you are attending the Alabama SWCS Annual Meeting.

May 20 was the deadline for reservations at the conference rate.

Questions? Contact Kirk Iversen, 334-844-4741 ext. 179 or Steve Musser, 334-887-4503, for more information about the meeting.



Co-Sponsors Include:

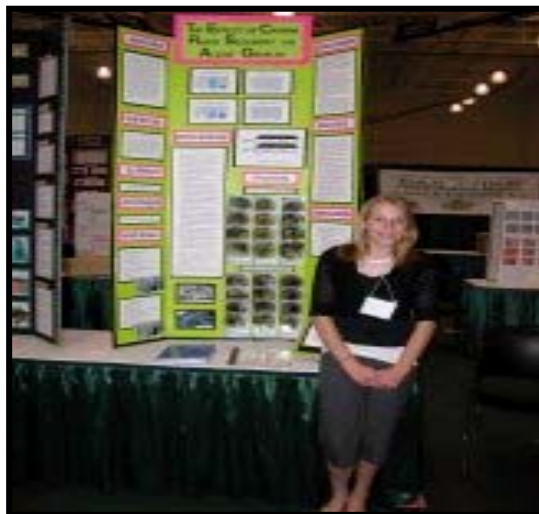
**Southeast Chapter of International Erosion Control Association
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Statewide 2007 Science and Engineering Fair Winners

The 2007 Alabama Science and Engineering Fair was hosted by The University of Alabama in Huntsville on April 6, 2007. Judges representing the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society were Anne Cross and Zach Adams. **Listed below are the award winners for Best In Show sponsored by the Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society.**



Courtney Cox won the **Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society's** Junior Division Award for Best In Show in the Environmental Science category. Courtney is a seventh grader at Patrician Academy in Butler, Alabama. The title of Courtney's project was "Acid Rain Go Away!" The project explored how adding varying amounts of limestone to Loblolly seedlings may in fact keep the seedling from being damaged by acid rain.



Lydia McCormick won the **Alabama Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society's** Senior Division Award for Best In Show in the Environmental Science category. Lydia is a ninth grader at Jefferson County International Baccalaureate in Birmingham, Alabama. The title of Lydia's project was "The Effect of Cahaba River Sediment on Algae Growth." The project analyzed algae growth in the Cahaba River based on the increased sediment loads received by the river.



*The Map to the right shows the different areas.
Get to know your Area Vice President.
They are your voice in Executive Meetings!*

Alabama Chapter SWCS
P. O. Box 116
Auburn, Alabama 36838



TO: