



# Soil and Water Conservation Society New Mexico Chapter

P.O. Box 2142, Albuquerque, NM 87102

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Spring 2010



### Upcoming Events

NM Envirothon – April 23 & 24, Jemez Springs

NM SWCS teleconference – May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9AM

Annual SWCS meeting July 18-20 – St Louis, Missouri

NM SWCS Summer Meeting in Ruidoso with NMACD – date TBA

### *WORDS*

*from Chapter President Robert Abercrombie*

It's great to see the NM SWCS becoming active again, like the old days. The leadership of the last few years has done a great job of promoting the chapter. The technical workshops, field days and tours draw a lot of attention and have lead to new memberships.

We have all got to be thankful for the great news letter that Jean has been so graciously providing us, to toot our horn a little.

The organic forum held in Tucumcari was very well attended with 68 registrations. There has been a lot of feedback from attendees needing contact information for the Organic Board.

A group of people in Tucumcari are working on forming an Organic Co-op.

I hope to see you all at the Summer Meeting in Ruidoso.

**Robert**

The NM SWCS is currently updating our website. We would like to invite members to consider being our webmaster beginning immediately. Pres-Elect Wayne Robbie is working on the work plan for 2010.

The John Werner Scholarship will be awarded to a student at Eastern University for the 2010/2011 school year. Below is a photo of 2009/2010 winner Jenny Griffin (who goes by 'Nessa') accepting the award from Professor Mary Dowse at Western University.



**Professor Mary Dowse and Jenny Griffin**

### Notes from the NM Chapter

Elections were held in January, new officers are: President ~ Robert Abercrombie, President-Elect ~ Wayne Robbie, Secretary ~ Relissa Nials, Treasurer ~ Carol Moritz, Region I Rep. ~ Sue Hansen-Putze, and Mick O'Neill retains his position as Region II Rep. Welcome to all and thank you for serving on the Executive Board!

## 2010 and 2009 Executive Board Officers



Back row - Linda Scheffe, Juan Gauna, Matt Wiseman, Carol Moritz, Robert Abercrombie, Relissa Nials, and Wayne Robbie. Front row - Jean Foster, Mary Podoll, Mick O'Neill

### News from our Region Representatives

*From Matt Wiseman, Region III Rep.*

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the US Forest Service in Clayton hosted a Drought Decision Calculator demonstration presented by John Tunberg, NRCS SO. Neighboring NRCS offices participated in the one day training. On March 10, the Northeastern SWCD held their Annual meeting the day after a large snowstorm which affected the turnout. Peggy Johnson gave an overview of the aquifer mapping that was done for the Sacramento Mountains and offered insight on how to get started on a project for Union County. Eddie Jeffers was picked as Land Steward of the Year for implementation of a gravity fed center pivot irrigation system, and David Graham was picked as Conservationist of the Year for his lifelong work through the extension service. They will be competing for the Region 4 awards in June. Local Earth team volunteers will be handing out one gallon Austrian Pines (Donated by the NESWCD) to the kindergarteners in Union County and will be presenting a tree planting demonstration at Alvis Elementary in May.

*From Juan Gauna, Region IV Rep.*

We are planning an Earth Day celebration at Yarbrow Elementary School in Lovington, NM on April 29, 2010. We will be honoring Mr. Ron Houge for his volunteer work on the Nature Center and Mrs. Rhonda Norris for receiving the State Volunteer of the Year award from NRCS NM. Sureste RC&D is helping the Lovington School District with the construction of the roof over the amphitheater at the Nature Center. We will also be planting a piñon pine tree at the Nature Center to honor the late Mr. Shelby H. Gilmore for all of his contributions to the Nature Center and the RC&D. Students will plant seedlings.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, The Lea SWCD and Sureste RC&D will be hosting a No-Till field day to begin promotion of this practice throughout the area. We will be having a field demonstration of the new no-till drill that was recently purchased by the District. We will have several presentations on the management involved in making no-till farming a success.

*From Sue Hansen-Putze, Region I Rep.*

Besides being the SWCS Region 1 rep., I am Vice-Chair on the NM Envirothon Committee. This will be the 3rd annual NM Envirothon State Competition, to be held at Hummingbird Music Camp in the Jemez Mountains April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. We have 9 teams participating. Teams are: Hatch (2 teams), Socorro, T or C, Albuquerque, Lea (Tatum), Taos (2 teams) and Las Cruces. Support/donations have come from Edgewood SWCD, Taos SWCD, NM SWCS, Tierra Y Montes SWCD, East Rio Arriba SWCD, US Fish & Wildlife Services, LANL (pending) and 2 private citizens. If anyone would like to come to see the event, especially the outside stations testing on that Friday, you are very welcome to come. It is a great thing to see these kids work together as a team in the field!



**Of Interest**

**Master Naturalist Program 2010**

Pilot program starts in Bernalillo County

Starting this April, Bernalillo County Open Space is launching the first “Master Naturalist Program” to be offered in the state of New Mexico. This program is ideal for individuals who have a love for the outdoors, curiosity of the natural environment and desire to work with others and help support conservation measures that improve land health.

This is a three year pilot project being launched in 2010. Participants will be instrumental in shaping this program in its early development. Through this program, a select group of dedicated participants will experience a wide range of FREE classes and hands-on experiences including 55 hours of in-class training and field studies over a two month period (this June and July). A variety of topics will be covered during the training such as flora and fauna of New Mexico, local geology and hydrology, and investigating our connection to nature. Upon completion of the classes, participants will carry out a service project on Open Space properties.

**Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2010. There is only space for 25 participants, so apply today!**

To apply for the Master Naturalist Program, complete and submit the application form posted at [www.bernco.gov/openspace](http://www.bernco.gov/openspace). If you have questions contact the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department Open Space Coordinator, Colleen Langan at 314-0398, or e-mail [calangan@bernco.gov](mailto:calangan@bernco.gov).

**NM SWCS Mission**  
The objectives of this chapter shall be the development and advancement of the science and art of good land use and management, and the promotion of conservation of soil, water, and related renewable natural resources, including, without limitation, trees, grass, fish, wildlife, and other forms of beneficial plant and animal life, and for these purposes to employ education of the people and appropriate means, to the end that humanity may have the use and enjoyment of these resources forever.

***CHALLENGE!!! SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER THIS MONTH!!!***



**65th SWCS International Annual Conference July 18-21, 2010  
Saint Louis, Missouri**

Join your colleagues in St. Louis for the 65th annual international conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The conference, held July 18-21, includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to raise the awareness of conference participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management.

Special events this year include a 65/75 Dinner celebrating the 65th anniversary of the SWCS Annual Meeting and the 75th Anniversary of the creation of the Soil Conservation Service, the Exhibitor/Poster Reception on Sunday night, and a trip to the Cardinals game on Monday night. There are seven tours, five workshops, and dozens of opportunities to learn and make connections with attendees, exhibitors, and speakers in a variety of traditional and nontraditional settings and sessions.

(continued)

**Some Conference Highlights**

Sunday, July 18 – 4:00 p.m. 2010 Fellows Forum: Gulf Hypoxia – A Midwest Perspective  
Monday, July 19 – 8:30 a.m. Pritchard Lecture: Smart Resource Use by Valuing Nature’s Assets  
Speaker – Peter Kareiva, Ph.D. Chief Scientist & Director Science, The Nature Conservancy  
Tuesday, July 20 – 8:30 a.m. Tuesday Plenary: Ecosystem Services Panel

**Tours – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

**NRCS Plant Materials Center & Forest Keeling Nursery  
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site  
City Seeds/McMurphy’s Grill/Alberici LEED Certified Building  
National Great Rivers Museum & Confluence Point State Park  
Missouri Botanical Gardens  
Riverlands Bird Sanctuary and Wetland Restoration  
Henry White Experimental Farms**



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**There’s always a place for members on the Ex-  
Board. Please contact any of the above to get  
more involved with the NM Chapter SWCS.**