

# **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

## ***Inland Empire Chapter***

## ***January 2003***

---

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS



#### **2003 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The 2003 International Conference is fast approaching. We have lots to do. For those of us not yet involved, there are plenty of opportunities for sharing our talents on the local arrangements committee. After you read through the newsletter, please take the time to fill out the attached volunteer form. We are going to have a great conference - don't miss out!

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

It's time to vote for officers. The following positions are up for election:

Vice-President  
Secretary  
Northern Washington Director  
Southern Idaho Panhandle Director

Ballots have been inserted in member's newsletters. Be sure to get your votes in to Larry Cooke by January 31, 2003.



#### **Three Students Join Chapter**

Three students have recently joined the Inland Empire Chapter thanks to the generosity of Jerry Lemunyon, Nutrient Management Specialist from NRCS in FT Worth Texas. When Valerie Oksendahl, local recruiter, asked Jerry to join the SWCS, he sent her a check and note saying "find someone you are willing to mentor -- some young energetic conservationist -- and I'll pay for the membership". Valerie went out to the local colleges and here's who she found -- three for the price of one:

Eric Harwood, Soil Science, Washington State University, Pullman  
Cherie Johnson, Biology, Eastern Washington University, Cheney  
Roberta Winn, Natural Resources, Spokane Community College, Spokane

Congratulation Students and Thanks Jerry!

#### **CHAPTER CONTACTS**

**President:**  
Valerie Oksendahl  
(509) 323-2976  
email: [valerie.oksendahl@wa.usda.gov](mailto:valerie.oksendahl@wa.usda.gov)

**Vice President:**  
Larry Cooke  
(509) 323-2964  
email: [larry.cooke@wa.usda.gov](mailto:larry.cooke@wa.usda.gov)

**Treasurer:**  
Esther Paterson  
(509) 925-6255

**Secretary:**  
Ann Swannack  
(509) 648-3680  
email: [ann.swannack@wa.usda.gov](mailto:ann.swannack@wa.usda.gov)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your President

A Very Happy New Year to You All. The year has flown by and the Inland Empire Chapter is facing a great challenge in the coming year! The 2003 International SWCS Conference is only 7 months away! We also have a new election of officers, as well as a spring tour in April.

The Executive Council has been working diligently trying to improve membership relations, promote chapter membership and strengthen the chapter through membership diversity. It is you, the chapter members, that provide the support and foundation upon which we build our future.

Because you are so important to our success, the rest of this article will focus on ways we can all work to make this chapter and the upcoming conference a success.

Chapter Success Items:

- Update your membership information with Ankeny (address)
- Carry a membership application with you and give to others interested in conservation related issues
- Mentor a student who is majoring in a conservation -related field (\$25.00 student application)
- Contact your Area Director!
- Vote in the upcoming election for President-Elect, Secretary, NE Director and S. Idaho Panhandle.
- Help the Inland Empire Chapter with their local fund-raising efforts:
  1. Sell or Buy Raffle Tickets - ticket proceeds will allow student members to attend the 2003 International conference (contact Ann Swannack for details)
  2. Provide gifts for both Youth/Teens & Adults for the Silent Auction to be held on 7/28/03
- Help the Inland Empire Chapter make the 2003 International Meeting a success by:
  1. Solicit Exhibitors to attend the meeting and host their wares
  2. Inform other agencies/groups and private industry about the meeting- they too can sponsor the meeting and have their name in lights
- Volunteer to help with finance, registration, publicity, tours, membership, student services, facilities, hospitality, exhibits etc. We need your help!
- Plan on attending the 2003 Conference. Bring an associate!

Don't forget our web-page for the convention at <http://www.swcs.org>. It is an excellent site and will soon capture the program, technical tours, and social events our chapter is hosting. The conference theme is: "The Columbia- Conserving a Legacy to Life" and focus' on these four topics:

Integrated Watershed and Basin Management  
Water Supplies for Ecology and Economy  
Grassland Health for Sustainable Production and Biological Diversity, and  
Air Quality for Public Health and Economic Vitality

I thank you for your support during the past 8 months. It has been a pleasure working with you and meeting new faces. Contact me at any time with input on Chapter activities and how the Executive Council can better serve you.

Sincerely,

*Valerie Oksendahl*

President IESWCS

### HEADS UP

Spring tour to highlight research in Pullman and Moscow

Look for details in Spring Newsletter

### 2003 International Conference – Local Arrangements Committee

Co-Chairs:

Larry Cooke (509) 323-2964  
Dennis Roe (509) 397-4636

Facility and Transportation:

Steve Durgin (509) 323-2957

Finance:

Valerie Oksendahl (509) 323-2976

Activities:

Shelly Lassiter (509) 323-2987

Conservation Tours:

Larry Hooker (509) 522-6340

Exhibits:

Roger Veseth (208) 885-6386

Hospitality:

Jane Johnson (509) 397-4636

Media/Publicity:

Betty Schmitt (509) 323-2912

Registration:

Shawn Woodard (509) 323-2986

Technology:

Maggie Addington (509) 323-2945

Volunteer Coordinator:

Emily Smelser (509) 773-5823 ext.3

## Craig Cox Headlines Fall Meeting

Craig Cox, SWCS Executive Director, made the opening remarks at the October 7, 2002 Inland Empire Chapter. The meeting was held at the Oxford Suites Conference Room in Spokane, Washington.

Craig Cox shared information on the SWCS headquarters' activities. The national office is located on 20 acres in Ankeny, Iowa in an area that is surrounded by suburban development. There is a possibility of selling the property to an adjacent school and developing a conservation project.

Since 1998, headquarters' staff has been reduced from 20 to 10 positions. Just recently, 3 positions were combined into 2.

Craig spoke on the society's mission, funding, and participation in the 2002 Farm Bill and Policy. He feels it is important that the Society be based on science and technology and also work on projects for professional development needs through the annual conference and at a regional level.

Carbon sequestration and climate changes are an important issue to the society. A SWCS report indicating that precipitation patterns are becoming more extreme and the world is experiencing more extreme events is about to be published. According to the report, changes since 1970 are significant.

Demographics show that 70% of U.S. commodities come from 30% of the farmers. Corporate large farms are provided less conservation assistance. As more small farm total income is from off-farm wages, there is less time for conservation.



**COX continued on 4**

### Member Update and Conference Volunteer Data Form

Please complete this form and mail to: **SWCS Member Update, c/o Larry Cooke, 500 Forever Green Drive, St. Maries, ID 83861**

First Name
Middle Initial
Last Name
Company
Address 1
City
State
Zip
ZIP4
Home Phone
Work Phone
Email

List Volunteer Commitments

List Volunteer Interests

Information on this form will be used to:  
 Update chapter records  
 Help volunteer coordination for the International Conference

COX

continued from 3

One of the main topics for the 2003 SWCS annual conference in Spokane will be global water supply and management. Other topics will be integrated watershed management, grassland health, and air quality. The SWCS Board Program Committee will be planning plenary sessions, special speakers, oral presentations, posters, organize concurrent sessions, workshops and training. Craig is looking forward to the local flavor of tour and social events sponsored by the Inland Empire Chapter's Local Arrangements Committee. The Board is planning to reinstate the Pritchler Lecture as a major address at the opening plenary of the annual conference.

Craig talked about the nature of SWCS membership. In addition to practicing conservationists; SWCS membership includes academicians, program managers, and leaders of federal and state agencies. Less than forty percent of NRCS employees are members. Even fewer state agency professional employees are members. . It's hard to focus membership efforts on a specific group. Members are also needed who 'support' conservation, however, the Conservation Voices magazine for the general public was a major outreach effort that only obtained 300 subscribers. This showed that the primary makeup of SWCS should be as a society of professionals. The challenges are the same now as when the first journal was published in 1943 -- basic scientific knowledge transferred to the landscape.

Craig stated that a 20 percent turnover in membership is normal in professional societies. Technical service providers are a potential source for new members. Personal contact for membership recruitment is the best.

Craig believes the 2002 Farm Bill proves that the nation's taxpayer doesn't want to support agricultural productivity. They do not feel that their food supply is at risk and do not want to support farmers to increase productivity. The outcome of the 2002 Farm Bill is not to sustain farms; but improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and flood protection

Inland Empire Chapter, SWCS  
Ann Swannack  
P.O. Box 438  
Saint John, WA 99171



Our Chapter's Website is:  
<http://nacdn.net/org/inland-empire-swcs>