



# Oklahoma Chapter SWCS

July 2010

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## Links

[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)  
*check out activities on the national web site.*

[www.okswcs.org](http://www.okswcs.org)  
*Check out activities on the Oklahoma SWCS web site.*

<http://envirothonok.com/>  
*Learn more about Oklahoma Envirothon.*

## Contact Us

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## Chapter Activities August 11<sup>th</sup>

The Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is planning a strategic planning and leadership development meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am at Redlands Community College, 1300 S. Country Club Road, El Reno. All members are invited to attend and participate.

## WINNERS OF THE 2010 OKLAHOMA STATE ENVIROTHON CHAMPIONSHIP

Ninnekah High School was the winner of the 2010 Oklahoma State Envirothon Championship. The Ninnekah High School Envirothon Team will compete at the National Envirothon Competition August 1-7, 2010 at California State University in Fresno, Oklahoma.

This year's theme is "PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER THROUGH URBAN, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING"

Access to clean and safe drinking water is essential to a healthy and thriving community. If a safe drinking water source is compromised or lost, there would be harmful consequences to human health, the environment, and the economy. These losses can be prevented or mitigated to protect current and future sources. Once groundwater is polluted, it will remain that way for decades. The potential for contamination and the high cost of treatment and expense of locating or developing alternate sources make it imperative for government entities to adopt and implement effective strategies for long-term protection. This is especially true for any area dependent on groundwater as its sole source for drinking water.



Many factors, including increasing populations and extensive development, put stresses on groundwater supplies. These include the use of pesticides, fertilizers, animal manure, and storm water runoff which contains metals nutrients, salts and other chemicals that can leach into groundwater basins. Local governmental planning agencies generally focus on priorities such as land use development (e.g., residential and commercial), infrastructure needs (e.g., roads, wastewater treatment, etc.), the local economy, and a good jobs-per-housing ratio. Planning for groundwater protection often receives insufficient attention for addressing periods of drought, water conservation and efficiency, pollution prevention, recharge zones, surface water management and conjunctive use, storm water management, and future water needs. Due to its nature, most communities have no clear understanding of how much groundwater is available.

The special topic for 2011 is "Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries". If you would like to volunteer to assist let me know.

