



# Oklahoma Chapter SWCS

January 2011

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New Members

## Officers

Larry Wright, President

Daniel Moriasi, President-Elect

Shelly Oliphant, Past-President

Melanie Oliver, Sec-Treasurer

## Council Representatives

Joe Freeland

Jamey Wood

Ryan Jones

Clark Williams

Greg Allen

Stacy Riley

Donna Neumeyer

Jean Steiner

John Mustain

## 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

[Larry.wright@ok.usda.gov](mailto:Larry.wright@ok.usda.gov)

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## Happy New Year

## Leadership Opportunity - 2011 Council and Officer Nominations

The Oklahoma SWCS has some big challenges ahead of us to help our organization meet the professional development and networking needs of our members and advance the conservation mission in Oklahoma. Our Council has initiated exciting initiatives to expand membership, reach student members, and increase networking and communication opportunities.

One of the most rewarding experiences you could have in SWCS is to join into the leadership team. If you would like to be considered for 2011 Nomination to the SWCS Oklahoma Chapter Council or to find out more about what this might entail, please contact Jean Steiner, 405-262-5291, [jean.steiner@ars.usda.gov](mailto:jean.steiner@ars.usda.gov)

## Council Meeting January—Stillwater

The Oklahoma Chapter SWCS is having a Council Meeting on January at Stillwater. The OSU Student Chapter of SWCS is invited to attend and to participate with the leadership of the Oklahoma Chapter. A field trip is also scheduled for the Agricultural Research Service Hydrological Laboratory.

## 2010 Conservation Innovation Grants

Dr. Jason Warren's proposal "Developing high quality carbon offset verification protocols and quantifying water quality improvements of best management practices to ensure the environmental benefits of agricultural carbon offsets" was awarded just over \$303,000.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack made the announcement - saying the grants will produce far-reaching results on a wide range of issues - including conservation management and bio-energy production - by facilitating the development and adoption of new approaches and technologies. These grants invest in innovative, on-the-ground conservation technologies and approaches with the goal of addressing water quality and quantity, air quality, energy conservation and environmental markets on a wide-scale. Vilsack says creative solutions that help producers conserve natural resources and reduce costs are an important part of the USDA's efforts to improve the quality of air, water and soil.

## Message from Jim Gulliford, Executive Director

As we close a very productive year, I am writing one more time to ask for your support of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. We have an ambitious agenda for next year, and your year-end, tax-deductible contribution is important to support our goals.

### **Goal #1: Reduce nutrient loss from healthy, productive agricultural lands**

We have worked this year to support research and outreach to address the challenge of nutrient enrichment of waters from agricultural sources. The Society published *Advances in Nitrogen Management for Water Quality*, edited by Jorge Delgado and Ron Follett, and have committed next year to additional efforts to advance the science and practice of nutrient management through proper application, utilization, and interception.

**Goal #2: Ensure a sustainable agricultural contribution to biofuels**

The expansion of the biofuel industry means that agricultural lands that have supported food and fiber production will feel increased pressure to support biofuel feedstock production as well. This past year, the Society hosted a workshop on biofuels, and in the coming year we will publish regional roadmaps for sustainable biofuel feedstock production.

**Goal #3: Engage and contribute to the discussion concerning the next Farm Bill**

Each Farm Bill since 1985 has included a conservation chapter that provides the framework in philosophy and support for US agricultural production and the protection of our nation's land and water resources. The Society's contribution to the debate that shapes the next Farm Bill will be to help all involved understand the importance of:

Farm Bill funding to assist farmers and ranchers protect soil and water resources

Public and private research and outreach to develop and utilize appropriate tools and programs to address erosion and water quality challenges

Conservation practitioners who work each day to assist farmers and ranchers address the unique challenges they face to be effective land stewards.

The work you do as a professional in your field is important for achieving these goals, and together we can continue to advance our important work to assure a productive, environmentally sustainable agriculture for generations to come.

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Welcome new member: Jeff Edwards

Congratulations to Brandy & Ryan Jones on the birth of Porter Riley Jones on 12/14/10.

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