



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

Oklahoma Chapter

Officers

Daniel Moriasi, President
Jason Warren, President Elect
Melanie Oliver, Secretary Treasurer
Larry Wright, Past President
Council Representatives
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Greg Allen
John Mustain
Jean Steiner
Clark Williams
Stacy Riley
Joe Freeland
Shelly Oliphant
Joshua Ketch

Links:

The international web site.
www.swcs.org

The Oklahoma web site.
www.okswcs.org

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

Become a fan on Facebook.
<http://www.facebook.com/okswcs>

Committee Chairpersons:

Program, Jason Warren
Membership, Stacy Hansen
Awards, Daniel Moriasi
Scholarship, Clark Williams
Budget, Daniel Moriasi
Audit, Sherwood McIntyre
Nominating/Elections, Jean Steiner
Fund Raising, Melanie Oliver

Vision: A multidisciplinary Society that advocates the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water and related natural resources in Oklahoma and beyond.

Mission: To promote through education and example, an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.

Welcome New Members:

Gregg Colby
Tracy Wilson
Kyle Risser

Oklahoma Chapter Annual Conference

The Oklahoma Chapter of SWCS will hold its annual conference June 6-7, Wednesday and Thursday, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Please note that the meeting will be held at the Wes Watkins Center on the corner of Hall of Fame St. and Washington Ave. Jason Warren, President Elect and program chairman reports that the central theme of the conference will be about natural resource conservation and Oklahoma local and direct market food. Learn more about small scale landowners and niche market producers.

SWCS to Sign on to 'Hold the Line' on Farm Bill Conservation Letter

SWCS will sign on to a letter drafted by The Nature Conservancy urging Congress to support a strong Conservation Title in the Farm Bill and to 'hold the line' on cuts to conservation programs. The Farm Bill is expected to be considered on the Senate Floor sometime in early June and in the House after that. SWCS will stand with TNC and other conservation and agricultural organizations to keep Farm Bill conservation programs viable and effective. We will circulate the letter after it is sent to Congress.

67th International SWCS Annual Conference

Hotel Reservations: Rooms have been reserved at a reduced rate of \$119 per night at the Conference site location: Renaissance Worthington Hotel. The Group Code for the discount is "soisoia."

Please feel free to contact Meredith Foley with any questions regarding conference registration or hotel reservations.

USDA announces results from Conservation Reserve Program sign-up

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept 3.9 million acres offered under the 43rd Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up. During the extended five-week sign-up, the department received nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres of land, demonstrating the CRP's continuing leadership as one of our nation's most successful voluntary efforts to conserve land and improve our soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources

The acreage announced Friday boosts total enrollment in the nation's Conservation Reserve Program to 29 million acres, but comes as a debt-minded Congress considers trimming 7 million acres from CRP.

The nation's largest volunteer conservation program pays farmers not to disturb environmentally sensitive lands for 10 to 15 years at a time. In turn, farmers seed the land with wildlife cover and native grasses that prevent soil erosion.

Thursday, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told The Billings Gazette that CRP remains a popular environmental tool, with more acres offered by farmers than the program could accept.

"We had offers in 42 states. We accepted acres from 40 states. So, there's interest across the country," Vilsack said.