



Healthy Land  
Clean Water  
For Life

## Oklahoma Chapter

### Officers

Ryan Jones, President  
Josh Ketch, President Elect  
Larry Wright, Treasurer  
John Mustain, Secretary  
Jason Warren, Past President  
*Council Representatives*  
Joe Freeland  
Shelly Oliphant  
Steve Glasgow  
Stacy Hansen  
Corey Moffet  
Daniel Moriasi  
Debi Carnott  
Stacy Riley

### Links:

The international web site.  
[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)  
The Oklahoma web site.  
[www.okswcs.org](http://www.okswcs.org)  
Become a fan on Facebook.  
<http://www.facebook.com/okswcs>

### Committee Chairpersons:

Program, Josh Ketch  
Membership, Stacy Hansen  
Awards, Daniel Moriasi  
Scholarship, Josh Ketch  
Budget, Jason Warren  
Audit, Corey Moffet  
Nominating/Elections, Jean Steiner  
Fund Raising, Melanie Oliver  
Website, Joe Freeland  
Newsletter, Larry Wright

**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:*  
Chelsea Hofegartner

## The Update on Water Quality Projects in Sierra Leone

In the fall of 2011 the OK-SWCS awarded a grant to Liberty Galvin and Jessica Lay to perform water related projects in Sierra Leone through an Oklahoma State University study abroad class. Jessica started out drilling wells after attending training with Water4, an NGO based out of Oklahoma City. Liberty recruited several engineering students from the Engineers without Borders group at OSU to help create bio-sand water filters. To ensure longevity of the projects and research, Njala University (Sierra Leone) students, namely Josephus Borsuah, participated and continued various activities, such as maintenance and monitoring, after Jessica and Liberty returned to the states.

Since the visit in 2011, both girls have become very involved with water related projects at Njala and in surrounding villages. Recently, Jessica Lay received her master's degree and completed a Fulbright Scholarship for conducting research at Njala to create a first-flush rainwater harvesting system (right). The rainwater harvesting system consists of three 13,800 liter tanks that collect rainwater from the roof of Mokonde Primary School during the rainy season; during the dry season students can drink water from the system and not worry about contaminants because of the first-flush diverter.



Liberty at Bonganema Primary School getting ready to measure flow rate coming from a bio-sand water filter.

Liberty, recently completing her undergraduate degree, has been in the process of creating the most economically and environmentally sustainable bio-sand water filters for the region; the filters are constructed out of concrete and use sand

as the main filtration component. Through SWCS she has had the opportunity to present her research at the national conference in Dallas and received an award from the OK chapter for "exemplary leadership and conservation efforts supported by a SWCS grant". Now that she has completed her degree she plans to return to Sierra Leone for at least 7 months to continue her water quality research as well as address other causes of water borne diseases like poor sanitation and hygiene. She plans to mimic Jessica's project and build another rainwater harvesting system at Bonganema Primary School (above) along-side an existing bio-sand water filter. For more information about previous trips to Sierra Leone as well as links to photo archives and newspaper articles please visit [agecon.okstate.edu/GondwanaImports/](http://agecon.okstate.edu/GondwanaImports/). If you would like to learn more or donate to Liberty's upcoming trip please visit [igg.me/at/SLWaterisLife](http://igg.me/at/SLWaterisLife).



Above is the rainwater harvesting system at Mokonde Primary School. The first-flush diverter is located on top of the far right tank. Photo taken by Jessica Lay.

Chapter President Ryan Jones will be transferring to the Cordell NRCS Field Office this month to begin work with the Washita County and the Deer Creek Conservation Districts.

The Wildlife Department has recently released a complete "Oklahoma Quail Habitat Guide" to assist landowners. The 50-plus-page guide includes eight chapters covering the most important aspects of managing land for quail habitat. If you'd like a free copy, call (405) 521-3855.

**Chapter Leader Training Webinars** [Click here to watch](#)