



Healthy Land  
Clean Water  
For Life

## Oklahoma Chapter

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### Links:

The international web site.  
[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)

The Oklahoma web site.  
[www.okswcs.org](http://www.okswcs.org)

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**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:

*Jordan Davis, student member*

## Sinclair to deliver 2013 Plant and Soil Sciences Distinguished Speaker seminar

Dr. Tom Sinclair has worked for over four decades researching the physiological and environmental constraints of crop production. The author of Bread, Beer and the Seeds of Change and numerous scientific publications, including papers in Science and Nature, will outline some of the physiological, environmental, and political limitations that will affect modern agriculture's ability to meet these demands. The seminar will Monday, 16 September 2013 at 3:30 in Ag Hall 107. Come early to get a good seat and stick around afterwards for the come and go reception. Flyer attached.

## 2014 No-Till Oklahoma date change

The 2014 No-Till Oklahoma conference will occur on March 11 - 12 at the NCED in Norman Oklahoma (same venue as previous years). Mark your calendars.

## SWCS Contributions and Legacy Gifts

Now available on the SWCS website is information on multiple ways you can help support the long-term viability of the Soil and Water Conservation Society through contributions and legacy gifts. Help support the long-term viability of the Soil and Water Conservation Society through a legacy gift! Through charitable gifts from supporters like you, SWCS continues to be a unified voice for natural resource management on working lands, lands that have provided food, fiber, and fuel for generations. Leaving a legacy gift can be as simple as including SWCS in your will or trust or naming the Society as a beneficiary on your retirement accounts or your life insurance policies.

For further details on how you can make a lasting gift to SWCS, call Chrissy Rhodes at 515-289-2331 ext. 114

Further details of contribution and legacy gift opportunities are available online at [www.swcs.org/legacygifts](http://www.swcs.org/legacygifts).

## Thermal Ecology in Bobwhite Quail Habitat

Although the decline of northern bobwhites is a complicated issue with several factors, there are some things we do know.

Habitat and weather play huge roles in bobwhite survivability, function, and reproduction.

During the heat of the summer, one of the most important habitat components you can have on your property is thermal cover. Ideally, this would be in the form of shrubs. Species such as sand plum, shinery oak, sand sagebrush, and sumac are all utilized by bobwhites to escape the heat and provide refuge from predators. Research has shown that bobwhites avoid operative temperatures of over 102° F. The shade of a cluster of shrubs, called a "motte", can be as much as 5 degrees cooler than the surrounding area.

When looking at potential bobwhite habitat, shrub mottes should be scattered across native rangeland within "flushing distance" of each other, or 100 feet.

Mottes should be at least 30 feet across for maximum utilization with a 60-80% canopy cover to hide bobwhites from predators.

When bobwhites are flushed, they need to find the cover of the next motte quickly, especially in high temperatures. These clusters of shrubs benefit a variety of native wildlife, including small mammals, white-tail deer, and grassland songbirds.

Over time, shrubs can become too thick and begin to lose their beneficial use by bobwhites. Shrubs expand and grow taller, thereby reducing native grasses and forbs needed for bobwhite nesting and feeding. The successional process will turn prairie into woodland in a relatively short time. Undesirable trees such as eastern redcedar can begin to invade, thereby displacing native grasses and forbs and increasing predators. Therefore, bobwhite habitat must be maintained with prescribed fire. This will ensure a balance between herbaceous vegetation and shrubs for upland game birds.

For more information about maintaining thermal cover as well as providing other habitat needs for quail in Oklahoma, check out the Oklahoma Quail Habitat Guide issue of Outdoor Oklahoma magazine (May/June 2013) as well as the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation website, [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com).

## Chapter Leader Training

**Webinars** [Click here to watch](#)