



**NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

# **RESOURCES** *for the* **FUTURE**

**Volume 16 Number 1**

**September 2006**

## **Chapter Officials:**

Cal Thorson, **President**  
Jennifer Hegge, **President-Elect**  
Jackie Henderson, **Past President**  
Bob Bird, **Secretary-Treasurer**  
Lena Bohm, **Council Representative**  
Russ Jordre, **Council Representative**  
Myron Senechal, **Professional Erosion and  
Sediment Control Liaison**

## **Committee Chairs:**

*Nominations* – Todd Solem  
*Legislative* – Mark Anderson  
*History* – Fred Aziz  
*Membership* – Kristin Wild  
*Fundraising* – Mike Collins  
*Environmental Education* – Pam Copenhaver  
*Student Chapter* – Jennifer Hegge  
*Awards* – Dr. Stephan Schroeder  
*Newsletter* – Jill Howard  
*Webmaster* – Jon Stika  
*Publicity* – Kristin Wild  
*NDSWCS Foundation* – David Hopkins

## **Mark Your Calendar**

- **Joint Annual Meeting of the  
SD and ND Chapters of  
the Soil and Water  
Conservation Society and the  
Society for Range  
Management  
and the Professional Soil  
Scientists Assn. of SD  
Oct. 4-6, 2006 , Aberdeen ,  
SD**

## **Moving?**

Send your updated address to:  
[memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org)

Read the *Conservogram* at:

[WWW.SWCS.ORG](http://WWW.SWCS.ORG)

Joint Annual Meeting of the SD and ND Chapters of  
the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Society for Range Management  
and the Professional Soil Scientists Assn. of SD

Oct. 4-6, 2006 , Aberdeen , SD

**Wed. Oct. 4**

**6:45 pm** For those arriving Wed. evening, meet in hotel lobby by southeast door; carpool to Dacotah Prairie Museum, 21 South Main, for tour from 7 – 8 pm. Social gathering at Historic Ward Hotel after tour.

**Thurs. Oct. 5**

**9:00 – 9:30 am** Registration – Room C/G

**9:30** Welcome and Introductions Moderator: Arlene Brandt-Jenson

**10:00 – 10:45** Composting for Erosion Control – Russell Persyn, Asst. Professor, SDSU

**10:45 – 11:30** Integration of Prescribed Fire, Patch-burn Grazing, and Grassbanking into Traditional Grazing Systems – Pete Bauman, Director of Community-Based Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Clear Lake, SD

**11:30 – 11:50** Highlights of Activities of your organization: ND SRM and SD SRM

**11:50 – 12:40** Lunch on your own – use coupons for reduced prices at hotel restaurant

**Moderator:** Beaver Bartelson

**12:40 – 1:00** Highlights of Activities of your organization: ND SWCS and SD SWCS

**1:00 – 2:30** Carbon Sequestration/ Soil Carbon/ Soil Quality –Dr. Don Reicosky, Soil Scientist, ARS, Morris, MN, Susan Samson-Liebig, Soil Quality Specialist, NRCS, Bismarck, ND, and Jim Millar, Soil Quality Specialist, NRCS, Huron, SD

**2:30 – 3:00** Break

**3:00 – 3:45** Switchgrass as a Renewable Energy Source – Dr. Arvid Boe, Professor, SDSU

**3:45 – 4:10** Capture More Raindrops Where They Fall – Gene Goven, Rancher, Turtle Lake, ND

**4:10 – 4:30** Resource Mgmt. on the Vollmer Angus Ranch – Troy Vollmer, Rancher, Wing, ND

**4:30** Business Meetings of each organization

**6:30 pm** Cash bar

**Bring** auction items into banquet room and fill out bidding slips

**7:00** Awards banquet – Room C/G Moderator: Lena Bohm

**Fri. Oct. 6**

**8:00 am Meet in hotel lobby to carpool to Ordway Memorial Preserve –**

**Tour led by Mary Miller, The Nature Conservancy**

**Soils presentation by PSSASD**

**Break**

**12:00 Box Lunch Picnic in Wylie Park on NW edge of Aberdeen**

**1:00 – 2:30 Tour Heartland Grain Fuels Ethanol Plant west of Aberdeen**

**2:30 Drive safely home!**

See registration form at <http://www.ndswcs.org/nd.htm>

## 2007 NDSWCS Ballot

**1. Vote for one President Elect.**

Your answer:

Lena Bohm

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Vote for one Secretary-Treasurer.**

Your answer:

Kristin Wild

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**3. Vote for one Council Representative.**

Your answer:

Mike Collins

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Either vote by email to [todd.solem@nd.usda.gov](mailto:todd.solem@nd.usda.gov) or mail a hard copy of the ballot to: Todd Solem, 2493 4<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Room C, Dickinson, ND 58601 by **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.**

## 2007 Nominee Biographies

### President Elect Nominee:

**Lena Bohm** is a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bottineau, ND since April 2005. She has served with NRCS since August 2002 as a Soil Conservationist in Fessenden, ND and as a Soil Conservation Technician in Bowman, ND. Prior to her career with NRCS, Lena was the District Manager of the Renville Soil Conservation District. Lena graduated from Minot State University in May 1999 with a Bachelors Degree in English and Social Science. She returned to college completing a third major in June 2006 in Geology. Lena currently serves as a Council Representative of the North Dakota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. She and her husband operate a small grain farm north of Mohall, ND.

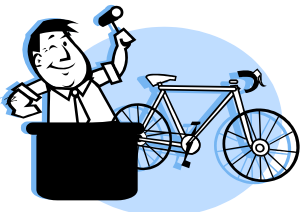
### Secretary/Treasurer Nominee:

**Kristin Wild** is a soil scientist at the MLRA 53B Soil Survey Office in Bismarck, ND. She began SWCS as a student member in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chapter from 2001-2004. During those years, she held positions as Field Project Coordinator for the Horicon Marsh Research Project and president from 2003-2004. Kristin graduated with a degree in Soil Science and began her career with the NRCS after completing two summer internships under the Student Career Experience Program. She currently serves as the Membership and Publicity Chair for the ND State Chapter of SWCS.

### Council Representative Nominee:

**Michael Collins** is employed by NRCS and stationed at the Jamestown Area Office. Mike has been a member of SWCS since 1987 and has held chapter positions most recently here in ND as the fundraising chair and previously WY- Chapter President, Director and newsletter editor. He has attended many leadership training meetings at national SWCS meeting and is the recipient of the 2001 Commendation Award from SWCS. Mike is a graduate from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Soils. He is married and has two kids. Mike has held NRCS positions in Wheatland, WY, Gillette, WY, Afton, Wyoming and Santa Fe, NM. Mike was on the SWCS Northern Plains Leadership Team as the Awards Chair from 2001 to 2005. His hobbies include producing videos, skiing, hunting and hockey.

## Auction Items Needed



Please donate items for the upcoming 2006 Annual SWCS Meeting Auction to assist our scholarship program. The ND SWCS has started giving out a scholarship to active college students majoring in an agronomic or environmental degree program. In order to maintain this program, we are holding an auction in conjunction with the SD SWCS at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Anyone can donate items. If you would like to donate an item, bring it to the upcoming meeting in Aberdeen or send it with another member who is attending the meeting. All items are accepted. Example items can include wall prints, homemade pickles, baskets of things, homemade beer or wine, decorative clocks, pottery, or anything you can think of.



**2006 INTERNATIONAL SWCS MEETING**  
**AWARD WINNERS**

The North Dakota Chapter was very successful at the 2006 annual meeting recently held in Keystone, Colorado, with four award winners as follows:

Harold and Kay Excellence in Conservation Award – Blake VanderVorst  
Fellow Award – Jon Stika  
Honor Award – Andy Mork  
Commendation Award – Jill Howard

Congratulations to all our award winners for putting in that extra effort over an extended length of time.

If you have suggestions for possible nominees for either state or national awards or information about the criteria for the awards, please contact Steve Schroeder or Bob Bird. Specific criteria and eligibility for the awards is available on the SWCS website at: [swcs.org](http://swcs.org)

**Thank You ND Chapter of SWCS!!**  
**Blake Vander Vorst**

I wanted to express my greatest appreciation to the ND Chapter of SWCS for nominating me for the Harold-Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award which Kathy and I were able to receive at the SWCS annual meeting in Keystone, CO. I particularly want to thank Dr. Stephan Schroeder for his work in compiling the application. Thanks Steve!!

The statement Dr. Maurice Cook, the Hugh Hammond Bennett award winner, made, “No man is an island unto himself,” is also so very true and applicable in my receipt of this award. I have had support of numerous partners in every conservation position and project I have had the privilege to work on. Farmers and ranchers, Ducks Unlimited, Extension and Universities, NRCS, Conservation Districts, private industry, ND State Soil Conservation Committee, NACD, NASCA, my family and many others have all been part of any accomplishments I have been involved in.

Again, thank you very much for your nomination and support and I look forward to many more productive years in the conservation arena.

**Stika Honored**

In late July, a dedicated member won the second most prestigious award bestowed on members of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Jon Stika was designated as a Fellow of the Society for illustrating exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on both national and international levels.

Nominations for this honor come from all over the United States and the world to compete against other Society members who are recognized for their expertise and excellence as professional conservationists. In 1953, the first Fellow was inducted into this honorary group. Since then, only 255 people have been chosen for this esteemed award. Stika received indoctrination at the Soil and Water Conservation Society international conference July 25, 2006 in Keystone, Colorado. A banquet is held in honor of the distinguished individuals who through their livelihoods have made a commitment to protecting our natural resources.

Stika works as an agronomist and soil quality instructor for NRCS in North Dakota. He has been a member of SWCS since 1978 while a student at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. He has been an active member of the North Dakota chapter and has served in a variety of capacities, including president. He has a variety of skill sets that serve the modern needs of soil and water conservation and the mission of the society. Stika developed a website for the North Dakota chapter and continues to serve as its webmaster. He has also been very active in developing educational materials and teaching their content in a way that inspire local conservationist, farmers and ranchers to change behaviors and improve the condition of their soil, protect it from the effects of wind and water erosion, and help them better understand how to be a better steward of our natural resources.

**Thank You from Jill Howard**

My sincere thanks go out to the chapter for nominating me for the SWCS Commendation Award. No one was more surprised than I when I received notice from Dr Steve Schroeder that I had been selected for the award. Thank you, Steve, for taking the time to put together my application along with all the nominations from North Dakota, we were certainly well represented.

# Member Update

## Deaths

### **TOM FLEMING**

A past member of the Society recently passed away. Tom Fleming was born and raised in Minden, NE, served in the Korean War, and graduated from University of Nebraska. He worked for the SCS in Lincoln Neb., Huron, SD, and Bismarck, ND. In ND he was Planning Engineer and retired as the State Engineer in 1984. Our sympathy goes out to Joan, his wife of over 50 years. After retirement they lived in Pelican Rapids, MN; then to Johnstown, CO till 2003; when they moved to Rochester, MN. Tom was a member of the American Legion and VFW. He was a past champion of the ND SCS annual golf tourney and they enjoyed golf and traveling in their retirement. Do I need to mention that he was an avid fan of the Cornhuskers. Tom died Sunday, July 16, 2006, at his home in Rochester, MN, at the age of 77.

### **CLAYTON QUINNILD**

Long time member of the Society Clayton "Quinn" Quinnild, age 96, died Monday morning, July 17, 2006, at Glen Oaks Care Center in New London, MN. He was born in Hickson, ND (near Fargo, ND); graduated high school in Fargo and graduated from NDSU in 1933 with a double major in botany and agronomy. He began working for the SCS in Lisbon, ND; then the US Forest Service at Yellowstone NP in Wyoming, returned to SCS in Steele, ND; served in the Army in India during WWII; returned to SCS and worked in McIntosh, SD, Finley, Dickinson, and Bismarck, ND. In the mid 1960's he became the ND State Range Conservationist in Bismarck. Marion, his wife of 36 years died in 1977 and he moved to Fargo, where he did consulting work with Dr. Warren Whitman of NDSU. They helped to insure proper range management on most of the Indian lands in ND. Clayton was a member of the NDSU Herbarium Endowment Committee which helped endow the NDSU Herbarium. He received the Range Society's Scientist of the Year Award in 1983 and several other recognitions for his Range Management contributions. He was past Commander of the Finley American Legion, member of VFW, TKE Fraternity, Toastmasters, Elks, and the Society of Range Management. Clayton was a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for over 50 years and was a current member when he died. He is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

## RETIREMENTS

### **GARY PUPPE**

Gary Puppe retired in May from Executive Director of the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts after 30 years in the position. In June there was a large turnout for a retirement party at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. Gary is a Past President and has received the Fellow Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Gary has always been very supportive of our Chapter and the Conservation movement.

Tom Hanson, of Ryder, has been selected as the new Executive Director for NDASCD. Tom has held positions as district director, sustainable agriculture coordinator and extension agent with NDSU Extension Service, executive VP of the ND Water Users Association and agriculture liaison with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. Tom will begin his duties on September 5.

## **Dr. Stephen D. Merrill**

Dr. Stephen D. Merrill, Soil Scientist, at the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan, North Dakota retired in April 2006 after 39 years of Federal service.

Merrill received his bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in biology at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire. Merrill continued his graduate work at the University of California at Riverside where he obtained his doctoral degree in soil science.

From 1966 to 1977, he worked at the USDA-ARS U.S. Salinity Laboratory in Riverside, California. He began work at the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in July 1977. His latest research interests included theory and measurement for multi-scalar soil erosion processes, response of diverse crop species to variant soil and land types and to variant soil quality properties, crop residue and soil surface roughness effects on soil erosion hazard, dynamics of soil hydrology and crop water use, root growth of alternative crop species including legumes, and wind erodibility of cropping systems.

Dr. Merrill's significant accomplishments include: (a) Demonstration with study of reconstructed mine soils that full and accurate quantification of soil productivity requires consideration of landscape factors; (b) Determination of effects of drought cycles on wind erosion hazards of generic Great Plains wheat-fallow cropping system and effect of residue and tillage management on modifying this; and (c) Determination of the characteristic differences in fine root growth patterns of multiple crop types and species and responses of root growth to management-driven changes in soil environment.

Dr. Merrill is a member of the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society; Manitoba-North Dakota Zero-Tillage Farmers Association; Soil Science Society of America; and Soil and Water Conservation Society. In 2001 he received the Professional Award from the North Dakota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Steve is currently working as a Collaborator at the Mandan laboratory, bringing forward to completion many current research projects and assisting other scientists with their work, studying new forms of soil and land science, writing about how soil and other earth sciences impact society, and spending time with certain current hobbies.

## **Dr. John D. Berdahl**

Dr. John D. Berdahl, Research Geneticist at the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND retired in June 2006.

Berdahl received B.S. and M.S. degrees from North Dakota State University and a Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Minnesota. He held positions at Oregon State University and the University of Saskatchewan before beginning work at the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in 1976.

Berdahl provided leadership in breeding and genetics to a team effort that resulted in development of two intermediate wheatgrass cultivars, Manska and Reliant, and a Russian wildrye cultivar, Mankota. Manska is the current intermediate wheatgrass standard for high nutritive quality and Reliant is recognized for resistance to leaf-spot diseases and high hay yields. Manska and Reliant are used for hay, pasture, and conservation purposes in the Great Plains and Intermountain-West regions and are the most widely grown intermediate wheatgrass cultivars in the United States. Mankota Russian wildrye is noted for improved seedling vigor, resistance to leaf-spot diseases, high forage yields, high nutritive quality, and persistence under grazing. Dr. Berdahl cooperated with USDA-NRCS in the release of one cool-season and five warm-season grass cultivars.

His latest research focused on doubling the chromosome complement of Russian wildrye, resulting in germplasm with improved seedling vigor and greater water-use efficiency. Other recent research includes development of alfalfa germplasm with grazing tolerance and adaptation to cold, dry regions of the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Berdahl is the author or coauthor of 70 publications in refereed scientific journals. He has held membership in the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, the Society for Range Management, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the American Forage and Grassland Council. He was recognized with Fellow Awards from the Crop Science Society of America in 2003 and the American Society of Agronomy in 2002. He was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Society for Range Management in 2000.

John and his wife Lois continue to reside at Bismarck.

### SWCS MEMBERSHIP

This situation just amazed me.

While helping president Thorson with a SWCS sponsored cook out for a meeting of Certified Soils Classifiers, one of the attendees commented about some of the things SWCS has done. The attendee was a staffer in a secretarial type of position and commented that it would be nice if "anyone could join SWCS instead of just professionals."

Boy did that set me back. All the time I had been trying to recruit and thinking I was doing an ok job of getting the word out, I was not being heard by the masses or was not saying the correct thing. ANYONE can join the Soil and Water Conservation Society. You do not have to be a professional by job classification or even have a career in agriculture. If you are concerned about natural resources – soil or water- the environment or anything between technical research and cartoon booklets on conservation, you are invited to join the Society. We need to do a better job of explaining this to our co-workers, associates, and partners. We truly do need to invite everyone to join SWCS. If there is interest at all, there will be follow up questions and you can explain member benefits more in response to those questions.

I can remember, when I joined in about 1972 or 1973, the Society was a huge social and technical group. NRCS State Office, DCs and SCTs, Extension and collegiate Professors relished their membership. The Society membership helped in the career path and provided access to subjects that schooling did not include, through the Scientific Journal. It is time to bring those days back! Invite someone today. Encourage payroll deduction as it is painless and there is nothing to remember to do at renewal time.

Rodney O'Clair