



**Minnesota  
Chapter**

# **Soil and Water Conservation Society**

**February 2004**

## **President's Message**

**by Merle Anderson.**

I certainly have to thank Robin Martinek and all of the committee chairs and members for their preparation of the SWCS International Conference. The committee system is working well with many plans already finalized. When we host the SWCS International Conference July 24-28, 2004, all of the efforts of our members will result in a conference to remember. Please make plans to attend.

Thanks in advance to the members of the MN SWCS Chapter Executive Committee for their year-long efforts as they fulfill their duties and participate in our annual meeting. The agenda for our March 12, 2004 annual meeting is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. We feel that we are providing valuable information through presenters at that meeting. When you attend, bring along someone who can become an SWCS member.

Finally, I'm always open to suggestions for topics to be discussed or presentations you'd like to have at our MN Chapter Meeting.

See you on the 12th of March and July 24-28, 2004.

## **Minnesota Chapter Election Results**

The SWCS election for officers was held in November. The following were elected:

Leah Moore, President-Elect. Leah is the Agricultural Economist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in St. Paul, MN. Leah grew up on a farm in Georgia and attended college at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Where she received her BA in Economics. She then attended the Purdue University where she received her MS degree in Ag. Economics. Leah has been with the NRCS for a couple of years and is a recent member of the SWCS. She will replace Merle Anderson in 2005.

Shannon Bengtson, Secretary. Shannon is a Soil Conservationist with NRCS in Thief River Falls. She is a graduate of Southwest State University with a joint degree with the Univ. of Minnesota in Crops and Soils Resources Management. Shannon is currently serving as the Student Activities Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator for the Chapters upcoming International Convention. Shannon replaces Mike Appel who has served as secretary for two terms. Mike currently is serving as Conservation Tours Coordinator for the International Convention.

Steve Woltjer, Southern Representative. Steve is the District Conservationist for NRCS in Nobles County. Steve is a graduate of SDSU in Brookings, SD with degrees in Range Management and Agronomy. Steve has worked for SCS/NRCS since 1972. Steve was contested by Linda Meschke who was running for re-election. Linda has done a very good job as Southern Representative. She is currently serving the chapter as Family Tours Coordinator for the International Convention.

The number of votes was down with 68 ballots cast.

**Contributions to the Field of Natural Resources**

Come to the Annual Meeting March 12, 2004 to applaud for those of us who have accomplished great things! The Minnesota Chapter of SWCS will be awarding members, non-members and organizations for service and dedication. If you know of some hardworking person or organization who has contributed to the natural resource field, nominate them for an award any one of the following categories:

**Outstanding service** SWCS member (ten+ years of service to any state chapter of the SWCS) who has demonstrated outstanding service

**Commendable service** Minnesota Chapter SWCS member for service to our chapter.

Other awards requiring nominations of SWCS members, non-members and organizations include:

**Honor** for accomplishments in the natural resource field

**Merit** for accomplishments or contributions to the natural resource field

**News/Media** for the promotion of natural resource issues

**Education** for contribution to the conservation education of adults and/or youth

Show your pride in a co-worker, organization, or newspaper by filling out the nomination form on our web site or by emailing or calling Janell Miersch to submit a nomination. Day phone 651-905-6132 or email miers004@umn.edu. Deadline is February 13, 2004.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

2004 Minnesota Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting and Seminar

**Minnesota: Headwaters of Conservation**

*Friday, March 12, 2004*

**Cabella's, Owatonna, Minnesota**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and mail to:

**Linda Meschke**  
**923 N. State St., Suite 140**  
**Fairmont, MN 56031**

Registration deadline is March 5, 2004. Lunch and refreshments are included. Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs.

Method of payment: please check one  
Check enclosed (Payable to MN SWCS)  
Will pay at the door

**Member \$35.00**  
**Non-member \$40.00**  
**Student \$20.00**  
**Guest \$20.00**

Check the chapter website at [www.minnesotaswcs.org](http://www.minnesotaswcs.org).  
You may also email registration to Linda Meschke at [meschkel@berbi.org](mailto:meschkel@berbi.org) or fax to 507-238-4002 until March 5, 2004.

Exhibitors are welcome.  
Please contact Linda Meschke if you are interested in having a display booth.

Cabella's is located on Interstate 35 just north of Owatonna.  
The meeting rooms are on the 2nd level of the store.

2004 Minnesota Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting and Seminar

# Minnesota: Headwaters of Conservation

*Friday, March 12, 2004*

**Cabella's, Owatonna, Minnesota**

- 9:00 am**      **Registration, Exhibit Setup, Coffee/Rolls**
- 9:30 am**      **Welcome / Minnesota Chapter Business**  
Merle Anderson, Chapter President  
Mike Appel, Chapter Secretary  
Leah Moore, 2004 Chapter President elect
- 10:00 am**      **"Green Lands, Blue Waters" an upper Midwest initiative to improve water quality**  
Steve Morse, Endowed Chair in Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Minnesota and Former State Senator and Deputy Commissioner of DNR
- 10:30 am**      **Break**
- 10:50 am**      **2004 SWCS National Convention Update**  
Robin Martinek, Local Arrangements Chair
- 11:30 am**      **"Landscape Based Approaches for Conservation"**  
Gregg Johnson, University of Minnesota, Waseca SROC
- 12:15 pm**      **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm**      **2004 Minnesota Chapter Awards and Scholarships**  
Janell Miersch, Awards Chairperson
- 1:30 am**      **U of MN Drainage Research Update**  
Gary Sands, University of Minnesota
- 2:15 pm**      **Closing – Minnesota Chapter SWCS 2004**  
Merle Anderson, Chapter President

**This Meeting is Open to the Public**  
**Bring a Colleague Along for Fellowship, Fun and Food!**

**Exhibitors Invited!** Contact Linda Meschke for a space. 507.238.5449

# 2004 International SWCS Convention NEWS

## Conservation Technical Tours

Are you planning to attend the 2004 International SWCS Convention in St. Paul on July 24-28th. We are looking forward to see you in attendance. Please note that this year the Conservation Technical Tours are on Wednesday. We have lined up four interesting tours that should appeal to your interests. Tour #1 will be a 1/2 day morning tour of the University of Minnesota with stops at the Campus Varietal trials and Composting site. We will also be looking at urban "Rain Gardens" on the tour. Tour #2 will be a 1/2 day afternoon tour up the Mississippi on the Jonathon Padelford Riverboat. Several interesting features will be pointed out on this tour. Tour #3 will feature the Upper Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Brooklyn Center, the Arboretum in Chanhassen, Lake Minnetonka, Minnehaha Falls and the homes on Summit Avenue. This will be a full day tour. Tour #4 will first stop at the Research and Outreach Center in Rosemont featuring limited resource minority farmers and their truck garden crops. We then travel to the Whitewater Watershed project near Rochester to showcase activities in the watershed. This is also a full day tour. Please visit our website to find out more details. Hope to see you at the Convention. PS. We may need volunteers for these and other activities during the convention. Please contact one of the committee members.

## Student Activities

### Leadership Seminar

Sunday, July 25, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.  
A group of professionals will educate the audience on leadership building skills. Learn how to build confidence in personal abilities to be successful and how to work with others to accomplish a task. Don't miss out on the opportunity to build leadership skills and take a step closer to being a successful leader in today's conservation world.  
There is a \$5.00 charge to attend this session and the Career Opportunities in Conservation session.

### Career Opportunities in Conservation

Sunday, July 25, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., & 4 – 5:30 p.m.  
Representatives from governmental agencies, environmental engineering firms, universities, and various other soil and water conservation occupations will form a panel to discuss their careers and the available career opportunities within their line of work. Following the panel discussion, students will have the opportunity to break up into smaller groups to discuss resume writing, cover letter writing, job search hints, or interviewing skills.

### Recruitment Fair

Tuesday, July 27, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
First-time event! Representatives from universities and industry will provide information on graduate programs and job opportunities. Explore the possibilities of continuing your education or finding the career that best matches your goals. There is no charge to students for this activity, but students must be registered for the annual conference to attend.

## Poster Contest

Take advantage of this first-ever poster contest for both student chapters and individuals. Cash prizes and plaques will be presented to the winners in the different categories.

- ❑ **Group Poster Contest** - Topic: Group research or activities related to implementing soil and water conservation. 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$350.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$175.00
- ❑ **Individual Poster Contest** - Topics: Research or individual conservation work (volunteer, etc.). 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$250.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$100.00

The poster size is limited to 4' high x 8' wide or smaller. *The contest entry deadline is Friday, April 16, 2004.* Registration fee for a group poster is \$25.00 and for the individual poster contest is \$10. The registration fee is to ensure participation at the conference. All registration fees will be returned to those groups and individuals that bring their poster to the conference in St. Paul. All registration fees will be returned to the group or individual at the recruitment fair from 5 – 7 p.m.

Registration forms for the poster contest can be found on the Minnesota Chapter website at [www.minnesotaswcs.org](http://www.minnesotaswcs.org). Forms should be mailed to: Shannon Bengtson, 201 Sherwood Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701; or emailed to <[shannon.bengtson@mn.usda.gov](mailto:shannon.bengtson@mn.usda.gov)>.

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase what you or your chapter are doing or have done to help the cause of conservation.

## Volunteering for the 2004 International SWCS Conference in St. Paul!!

As most of you already know this year's International SWCS Conference is in Minnesota. As the volunteer coordinator for the Conference I am looking for volunteers to help this conference be a successful one!! We have volunteer opportunities that range from taking pictures throughout the conference, registration, working with kids, or many other opportunities to help out. If you would like to volunteer for the conference please contact me, Shannon Bengtson, at 218-683-7075 from 8 am to 4:30 pm, or you may email me at [shannon.bengtson@mn.usda.gov](mailto:shannon.bengtson@mn.usda.gov) and I will get back to you.

Even if you don't wish to volunteer, this conference is going to be the best ever!! So see you at the 2004 International SWCS Conference in St. Paul!!!

-- Shannon Bengtson

## Moderators for 2004 International SWCS Conference are needed!!

Moderators are being sought for the concurrent sessions at the upcoming annual conference. All interested in participating in this capacity are asked to contact Nancy Herselius at (515) 289-2331, extension 17, or [nancy.herselius@swcs.org](mailto:nancy.herselius@swcs.org). Please indicate which of the four topic areas you would prefer to act as moderator:

- 1) Soil and Environmental Quality
- 2) Agricultural Management and Environmental Quality
- 3) Assessing the Effectiveness of Conservation and Environmental Programs
- 4) Geo-spatial Technology for Conservation - Soil, Water, and Land

This is a great opportunity for chapter members to get involved in the meeting. Please consider being a moderator - we would like to have our Minnesota Members well represented at this conference, and show our warm Minnesota hospitality!

-- Robin Martinek, State Agronomist, NRCS St. Paul, MN

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**MINNESOTA CHAPTER**

[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)

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