



# Idaho Chapter SWCS

Spring 2006

## Message from the President

The annual SWCS meeting is a great learning experience and has many training opportunities for our members and others interested in soil and water quality/quantity issues. One of the primary benefits of membership in a professional society is attending annual meetings to stay current on new ideas and technologies that we can bring back to Idaho.

The special emphasis areas for the annual SWCS meeting this year are:

- water use and management,
- the science of targeting,
- conservation and the 2007 Farm Bill.

These are all highly relevant topics to the work we are all involved in. The meeting also provides MANY training workshops in addition to the regular sessions: RUSLE2 (soil erosion), WEPS (wind erosion), nutrient management with NLEAP, NRCS Field Office tools, concepts of watershed hydrology, and targeting riparian buffers- placement and design. Some of this training is not readily available elsewhere.

Technical tours will give exposure to interesting and informative conservation work going on in the area. Anticipated tours will address high altitude reclamation and restoration, forest health and defensible space, water – the life blood of the west, sediment control and mitigation, and the impacts of ski slope development on stream stability.

A conference brochure and registration information are available at:  
[http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs\\_international\\_conferences/2006\\_international\\_conference/](http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_international_conference/)  
Please join SWCS members from across the nation and around the world for this “Rocky Mountain Rendezvous II.”

*Dee Carlson*  
President – Idaho Chapter

## Summer Tour

The technical tour this summer will be held in the Hagerman area. We plan to visit a variety of facilities and see how they deal with water quality and water quantity concerns. Potential sites and topics include:

- ◆ US Fish and Wildlife Hatchery
- ◆ Hagerman area vineyard
- ◆ Fish farm production
- ◆ Billingsley Creek Wildlife Management Area
- ◆ Thousand Springs Preserve

**If you have any additional ideas or inputs about what you would like to see on the summer tour, please contact John Kendrick ([john.kendrick@id.usda.gov](mailto:john.kendrick@id.usda.gov)) or Dee Carlson ([dee.carlson@id.usda.gov](mailto:dee.carlson@id.usda.gov)) ASAP!**

Make room in your busy summer schedule for this tour! Watch for more information to be released soon. Tour will probably be in July or August.

## **WANTED - NEW MEMBERS!**



Join current chapter members from federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. Help the chapter grow, and make a difference to conservation efforts in Idaho!

**If you are employed with the federal government, you have the option of automatic payroll deduction for annual membership. That's only a few dollars every pay period – a wise investment in professional development!!!! Call a chapter member today or apply for membership on-line.**

## **FREE MEMBERSHIP CONTEST!!!**

**(See details on page 3)**



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## Annual Meeting Highlights- November 2005

The annual meeting of the Idaho Chapter SWCS was held last year in November in conjunction with the IASCD annual conference. Items of discussion included a recap of the workshop and field tour in Twin Falls, recruitment efforts, recap of the international SWCS meeting in Rochester NY, and activities for 2006. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of chapter awards.

### *Chapter Recognition Award*

The Chapter Recognition award is presented to recognize a member who has provided outstanding service to the Chapter. This 2005 recipient was **Sue Ellis**, for extraordinary efforts in all aspects of chapter activities.



Sue served as Secretary on several occasions, and most notably for the past three years. During that time, she developed Chapter newsletters, helped organize special activities, assisted in elections and ballot preparation and accounting, and provided leadership in organizing annual meetings. She was always willing to

help with every Chapter activity and has encouraged and supported other members as well.

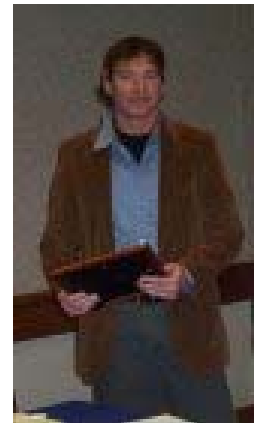
### *Merit Award*

The merit award is presented to recognize individuals or groups who have made extraordinary contributions and widely recognized accomplishments in soil and water

conservation. This year, two recipients were selected:

A merit award was presented to the **Agricultural Research Service – Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory** in Kimberly, Idaho. NWISRL has an excellent research program and has made significant contributions to the knowledge of soil and water management and water quality in irrigated agricultural systems.

Dr. Jim Entry, Soil Scientist with ARS, accepted the award on behalf of NWISRL. NWISRL was selected as a special emphasis watershed for the joint ARS-NRCS Conservation Effects Assessment Project because of their excellent research program. This project will provide important steps towards quantifying the impacts of resource management in Idaho. The Laboratory has participated several times in our Chapter's workshops and tours over the last ten years, giving our members the opportunity to stay current on important research findings.



A merit award was presented to the **Yellowstone Soil Conservation District**. The District has made significant contributions in addressing ground water quality concerns in the Ashton area. The District sponsored the initial preliminary investigation of water quality concerns in the area, and has received two Clean Water Act, Section 319 grants from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for successful project implementation of nutrient management and other conservation practices. Through these projects, the District has provided leadership in encouraging local



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producers to reduce commercial fertilizer application without impacts to crop yield.

Kent served as Chapter President in 1989 and as Treasurer from 1991-2000.



Ken Beckmann, District Conservationist with NRCS in St. Anthony accepted the award on behalf of the District.

A 2006 Award Nomination Form is attached to this newsletter. Please take the time to nominate a worthy Idaho Chapter member or a non-member group who exemplifies good conservation in Idaho!

## *Honor Award*

This award is presented to recognize a member who has outstanding achievements and/or accomplishments in soil and water conservation in Idaho. The 2005 recipient was **J. Kent**



**Foster**, Executive Director of the Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, for his many years of service to soil and water conservation. The list of his outstanding accomplishments is long, including:

- District Conservationist with SCS in Burley during the 1980's, where he initiated the Raft River Basin Study, and handled the emergency Goose Creek Dam project
- State Planning Specialist for seven years, where he coordinated/lead watershed projects, plans, and preliminary watershed investigations
- First Home\*A\*Syst Program Coordinator with the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts(IASCD)
- Executive Director for the IASCD since 1996, providing support and leadership for important conservation initiatives and programs, such as Idaho ONEPLAN.

## **FREE MEMBERSHIP CONTEST!!!!**

If you are interested in soil and water conservation in Idaho, or would like to nominate someone who is, please submit the short application attached to compete for a free one-year SWCS membership and free attendance at the Summer Tour! This is a wonderful opportunity for students and "younger" professionals to give our Society a try and see what great things we have to offer!

## **ARS and U of I - Twilight Tour**

The Agricultural Research Service and the University of Idaho Research and Extension will hold a Twilight Tour at the facility in Kimberly on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Check ARS's website for upcoming information about the tour:

<http://sand.nwisrl.ars.usda.gov/indexjs.shtml>

The Idaho Chapter website address is:

<http://www.plrcd.org/SWCS/>

Thanks to **Kathy Dingman**, Program Assistant, NRCS Panhandle Lakes RC&D for her assistance on our website!!!