



SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

MI-SWCS Newsletter

Soil and Water Conservation Society
Michigan Chapter

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FALL TOUR

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010

The Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will host a Fall Farm Tour in Northwest Michigan on October 1st. The tour will visit several chemical free food businesses in Michigan's beautiful Leelanau Peninsula. The tour will begin at 10:00 am and conclude at 3:00 pm.

We will start at 10:00 a.m. at the [Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station](#), 6686 S. Center Hwy. Traverse City, Michigan. Established in 1979, this station is owned by the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation, operated with funding from the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station and staffed by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and M.S.U. Extension. There are currently approximately 70 applied research projects underway at the Station.

Then we'll board a tour bus and travel to Garthe's cherry and apple farm near Northport. Gene Garthe, the owner of Garthe Farms, along with Dr. George Bird, Professor Emeritus, and Dr. Mark Whalon, Professor, Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University, will discuss the current chemical free research being done on the farm.

From Garthe Farms we will travel to 9-Bean Rows Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm. There we will view an operating organic seasonal high tunnel (SHT) facility and observe the construction of new SHT.

Then we will have lunch made with foods grown in an SHT at [Black Star Farms](#) near Suttons Bay, MI. Following lunch we will tour the farm, another seasonal high tunnel facility and visit the [Black Star Farms winery](#).

Next, we will travel to [Light of Day Organics](#), a producer of bio-dynamic organic handcrafted teas near Cedar, MI. They have been growing organic herbs and flowers in the area since 1996. Tea will be available for purchase.

After browsing through the tea shop, we will board the bus and return to the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station by 3:00 p.m.

We hope you can join us for this tour through Michigan's beautiful Leelanau Peninsula. You can get a Tour Flier and a Registration Form on-line at www.miswcs.org. **The deadline for registration is September 17.**

THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT THE 2010 AWARDS LUNCHEON DURING THE SWCS 65TH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, IN JULY!



Aaron Lauster, Michigan Chapter Past President, received the Outstanding Chapter Award on behalf of the Michigan Chapter from Gary Steinhardt, Society President, (L) and James Guilliford, Executive Director.



Kelly Goward, Michigan Chapter Region 3 Director and 2nd Past President, was awarded the President's Leadership Award by Kim Worth, Awards Committee Chair, and James Guilliford, Executive Director.

The **Outstanding Chapter Award** citation included: *"The Michigan Chapter is recognized for its outstanding efforts in 2009 to provide professional development opportunities for both members and non-members. The most notable achievement was the Chapter's successful hosting of the 2009 SWCS 64th International Annual Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, with more than 500 individuals in attendance."*

The Chapter also continued its "A Matter of Balance" series with the Seminar entitled "A Matter of Balance: Soil and Policy / Economics / Climate Change / Public Demand."

In addition, Michigan continued great annual efforts in 2009 like Highway Clean-Up, Chapter Newsletter, FFA Land Judging and Chapter Awards presentations, plus they debuted the Michigan Chapter SWCS website."

Sarah VanDelfzijl, Michigan Chapter 3rd Past President, also received the **President's Leadership Award** but was not able to attend the Awards Luncheon. So, Sarah's Award will be recognized and officially presented at a future Chapter event.

The two awards included the following citation: *"As co-chairs of the Michigan Chapter's local arrangements committee, Kelly Goward (Ottawa and Allegan Conservation Districts) and Sarah VanDelfzijl (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) assembled and led an outstanding team effort to support the 64th International Annual Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, from July 11-15, 2009."*

These two Past Presidents committed more than two years of preparation to the event."

REGION 1 HOSTS OUTSTANDING SUMMER TOUR



A bright-eyed group was ready to take the trail at the Mary Murray Cultural Center on Sugar Island Friday Morning. Fifteen members, and 5 non-members and spouses attended the Michigan Chapter SWCS Summer Tour.



(1) Chapter member Kent Dankenbring (2nd from L) introduced Dr. Greg Zimmerman (far R), Chairman, Biology Department, Lake Superior State University, who is conducting research on pelletized Reed canary grass for bio-fuel.



(2) Dr. Zimmerman demonstrated his small pelletizing machine that he uses to make Reed canary grass fuel pellets. The grass is first ground in a hammer mill and mixed with a binding agent before pelletizing.



(3) Then Dr. Zimmerman took us on a tour of his seasonal high tunnel hoop house that he uses for instruction and student activities.



(6) Next we visited Bay Mills Community College West Campus to hear Larry Dyer, Tribal Extension Educator, MSU Extension, tell us about his efforts to help the Bay Mills Indian Community produce healthy organic foods.



(4) Our second tour site was at the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center where there is on-going research in woody biomass for biofuels. A willow plantation is shown above.



(7) Left is Jesse Bowen, Assistant Coordinator, and right is Justin Teeple, Coordinator, Bay Mills Cultural Program. They talked about their traditional three sisters garden.



(5) Dr. Raymond Miller, Director, Forest Biomass Innovation Center, discussed woody biomass research activities. He is shown in a poplar research plot here.



(8) On Friday we took to the trail at the Mary Murray Cultural Camp on Sugar Island. The trail was developed with assistance from the USDA-NRCS and the Upper Peninsula RC&D.

**CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING
PLANNED FOR WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 15TH
SAVE THE DATE!!!**

The Michigan Chapter SWCS annual meeting and technical session will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday, December 15, 2010.

The technical session will run from 1:45-4:50pm and the annual meeting from 5:00-6:30pm. The technical session topic will focus on current invasive plant species programs and projects in Michigan.

The annual meeting will feature an observance of the NRCS/SWCS 75/65 year anniversaries, including cake and refreshments. Look for more details in our next newsletter and on our website.

CHAPTER MEMBERS!

YOUR TALENTS ARE NEEDED!

The Michigan Chapter is always in need of members to step forward and volunteer to help. We need both new members and seasoned veterans to be involved in Chapter activities.

Officers on the Executive Council are particularly important! The positions of President-elect, Vice President, Region 2 Director and Region 4 Director will be open for election again this year, and we need candidates for all. Some incumbents may run again, but the President-elect position must be new. Talk to any officer about the duties of any position.

Contact any of the Nominating Committee members: Vicki Anderson, Scott Hughey, Marilyn Shy, Sarah Vandelfzjl, and Dan Kesselring, Chair, for information or to volunteer to run for an office.

Also, we have a number of committees that constantly need new vision and ideas. Go to <http://www.miswcs.org/6.html> for a list of committees, then contact President Dewind or President-elect Gagliardo to volunteer.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE
REQUESTS NOMINATIONS**

The Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has an Awards Program to recognize individual and organizational contributions to the science and art of soil, water and related resource management. We have many unsung heroes in the soil and water conservation field and taking time to recognize these individuals and groups is important.

The Michigan Chapter Awards Committee is looking for nominations for our annual awards. The nomination process isn't complicated, just tell us who you are nominating and why you think they deserve to be recognized. The award categories are:

Commendation - Awarded to the Michigan Chapter SWCS member who has made exceptional contributions to the science and art of wise land use in Michigan. May also be nominated for the National Society's Commendation Award.

Merit - Awarded to an SWCS member or non-member group, agency, business, product, etc. for accomplishments in or contributions to the natural resource field.

News/Media - Awarded to a SWCS member or non-member for their dedication and promotion of the natural resource issues in the news/media.

Education - Awarded to a SWCS member or non-member individual, group, agency, etc. for their contribution to the conservation education of adults and/or youth.

Award nominations are due to the Awards Committee Chair by November 1st. Go to www.miswcs.org or contact Sarah VanDelfzjl at 269-567-3515 for Forms.

**NEXT HIGHWAY CLEANUP IS
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010**

The next highway clean up project is Friday, September 10th. We will meet at the [USDA-NRCS State office](#) parking lot at noon. The address is 3001 Coolidge Rd., but you have to turn left on Abbey Rd., then right into the parking lot.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SWCS NETWORK?

The SWCS Network is a website that was created to allow SWCS members to create their own web page to share and discuss ideas with other SWCS members.

Signing up for the SWCS Network is easy. Go to: <http://swcsnetwork.ning.com/> and click on the "Sign Up" link on the right hand side of your screen. From there you will create a user name, a password and have the opportunity to input photos and information about you, then join a group. We recommend the Michigan Chapter SWCS group for starters.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kelly at kelly.goward@miswcs.org or 616-846-8770x5.

CHAPTER MEMBERS! UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DATA AT SWCS.ORG!

The SWCS Headquarters at Ankeny, Iowa, keeps a database on all SWCS members. It is important to the Society and the Michigan Chapter that you keep your data up to date.

If you move from one state to another, be sure to update your address. If you change your email address, be sure to update that also. Many people have more than one email address. Be sure the database reflects to email address that you would like SWCS email to go to.

Update your data by going to www.swcs.org and selecting "Members Only" from the menu.

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