

Michigan Chapter SWCS Plans for 2010

March 10, 2010 – Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, MSU, Michigan Chapter SWCS Professional Development Program

A Matter of Balance - Phosphorus - Balancing Demand, Supply and the Environment

“Peak Phosphorus”, like “Peak Oil” is a term used to represent the point at which the mining of phosphorus will peak and begin to decline, and is associated with increasing cost of extraction, decreasing availability and increasing costs to the consumer. There is no substitute for phosphorus. Current sources of readily available mined phosphorus will be exhausted in 50 to 130 years, according to many sources.

Phosphorus (P) is one of the key essential elements in modern agriculture. Yet phosphorus, along with nitrogen, is being discharged into surface waters from many sources and contributes to high phosphorus levels in lakes and rivers in Michigan and elsewhere. These high nutrient levels can result in major environmental damage such as the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

This program will introduce the issue of peak phosphorus, explore how phosphorus behaves in the environment, and discuss the soil and water quality implications of phosphorus and how management can reduce these impacts.

Spring 2010 – East-North Central Region Leadership Development Workshop, Hosted by the West Virginia Chapter SWCS

One of the roles of the regional team is to provide leadership training annually for current officers, committee chairs, council members, and for those who are interested in assuming a leadership position in the future. The West Virginia chapter is hosting the 2010 workshop, and although the agenda is not set, this workshop will be beneficial both personally and professionally to you and your employer for developing skills in advocacy, communication and leadership. Additional benefits include:

- Sharing ideas with neighboring SWCS chapters
- Learning how to motivate your members
- Networking with other SWCS leaders
- Bringing information back to make the Michigan chapter stronger and more effective
- Participating in discussions to shape the future of SWCS and the Michigan chapter
- Participating in a tour highlighting area conservation projects/issues

Stay tuned for more information about this excellent training opportunity.

July 18-21, 2010 – SWCS Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO

The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, business, and nongovernmental organizations to explore current issues in conservation and environmental management science, technology, practice, programs, and policy.

August 2010 – Michigan Chapter Summer Meeting and Tour

This year the Summer Meeting is to be held in the UP, but we may look at changing it to Northern Lower Michigan. The topic is To Be Determined. One idea is to look at Organic Farming.

December 2010 – Annual Meeting and Technical Session

Held in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Annual convention, the annual meeting and technical session offers an excellent opportunity to network with conservation professional while learning about timely and relevant topics in conservation.