Meet the President!

Brenda Sanchez, Resource Conservationist
Marion SWCD

The days are finally longer, the sun is out more often, and for natural resource professionals field work will be ramping up. Finally more time outside the office! This year I have a new challenge as the current President of the Oregon Chapter of the SWCS. I was elected as our past president, Russ Hatz, takes time to understand what a well-earned retirement is all about! I look forward to working with the Chapter's membership, to provide member engagement opportunities, and to participate more actively. We are working diligently to offer a year of events tailored to our membership’s professional development as well as fun stuff to liven up our course.

Soil health and water quality are the two subjects I enjoy working on the most, especially in the context of riparian corridor improvements. I graduated from Montana State University with a B.S. in Land Rehabilitation. I have worked in several capacities, including a native grass DNA project lab assistant, a technician mapping weeds in the Gallatin Mountains, collecting native seeds on Catalina Island, as a soil and water quality program coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, to my current position with Marion SWCD. Give me a river and I am home.

I have a highly ephemeral background. I was born in Texas and spent my early childhood in Hood River, Oregon. After living my school years in the suburbs of Chicago, I left the Midwest to work in Yellowstone National Park for a summer; somehow I never made it back home. I traveled the west searching for dry summer trails, swift moving whitewater, and snowy winter runs. I landed permanently in Oregon in 2008. I currently live in Salem with the love of my life and greatest fan. I look forward to meeting all of you. I thank the SWCS Board and membership for this awesome opportunity to serve. Thank You!

2015 Workshop Plans

We are planning two professional development workshops to be held this year. One will be on stream restoration basics and the other is a succession planning train-the-trainer. We hope
to foster agendas that will benefit your professional skills as well as bring you up-to-date science.

SAVE THE DATE—August 19, 2015
Streambank Restoration Workshop
Barry Southerland, PhD., NRCS
Fluvial Geomorphologist
Barry will provide classroom instruction and lead a field trip to teach the basic concepts of stream degradation and repair measures. The field trip will visit a riparian site with active cutting and degradation. Participants will learn hands-on habitat and water quality assessment.

Volunteer Service Event
The SWCS Board plans to organize a volunteer service event such as partnering with Oregon’s SOLVE and/or join the Adopt-A-River program. This great opportunity will allow chapter members and their families to camp along one of Oregon’s fine waterways and volunteer to improve streamside habitat and water quality as well as create a perfect social opportunity for Oregon’s soil and water resource professionals to meet face to face and get to know each other.

Oregon Chapter Website
A 2015 board objective is to keep the Chapter’s website current. We will post workshop news and other pertinent information so check www.oregonswcs.org occasionally for updates. Of course, we will email a note or two with event details.

Society Activities Provide Right Place Opportunities Russ Hatz
Dear fellow SCWSers. At the last Oregon SWCS Chapter Board meeting the Board elected Brenda Sanchez as our new president. I want to express my appreciation to Brenda for stepping forward and taking the reins. We are going to be in good hands.

I have been a member of SWCS since the early 80’s and a member of the Oregon Chapter Board of Directors since 1998, twice serving as President. My time on the Board has been rewarding and fun. I’ve enjoyed getting to hang out with dedicated, passionate people willing to give their time and energy to support professional development. I’ve had

Continued page 3
Russ Hatz continued...

opportunities to travel and meet people from around the world as I’ve helped plan and execute local, regional, and national conferences, workshops and symposia. Those experiences helped me to learn new skills, stretch my comfort zone, and build my confidence.

I retired from NRCS just over a year ago. During my 40+ year professional career I met interesting people, saw much of the world, and earned more than I probably deserved. I worked hard to deserve the trust and confidence people put in me, but I’ll be the first to admit that I benefitted more than once from being at the right place at the right time. By actively participating in SWCS I was in more of the right places, and I frequently found myself befriending those who influenced hiring decisions.

Actively participating in SWCS won’t guarantee a successful career, but if you look closely at those who have had success I bet, more often than not, you’ll find evidence of active participation in a professional society. Belonging to a professional society like SWCS can be much more than getting a magazine once a month and having another check on your resume, but YOU have to be an active participant.

Annie Young-Mathews is the Manager of the NRCS Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Corvallis, Oregon. Her current work focus is on soil health activities, including cover crop and no-till trials, as well as species selection and establishment techniques for on-farm pollinator enhancements.

Annie previously served as a Conservation Agronomist at the Corvallis PMC for three years and at the Lockeford, CA PMC for two years. She earned a MS in Horticulture & Agronomy from UC Davis and a BS in Biology from University of Oregon.

The SWCS Oregon Chapter is YOUR professional society!!!
Active Board = Thriving Society

SWCS Oregon Chapter Board Members serve 3 year terms. Ideally, board members represent the following areas:

- Zone 1  Central OR  1 member
- Zone 2  Eastern OR  1 member
- Zone 3  SW OR     1 member
- Zone 4  NW OR     2 members
- At-Large 2 members

All members are invited to attend SWCS Board meetings in person or via teleconference. Email tmmatt0@rtdata.com to be added to the Oregon SWCS Board communication list. If you have questions or comments, don’t hesitate to contact any of the board members listed below.

SWCS Oregon Chapter Board Members

Brenda Sanchez, President
Brenda.Sanchez@marionswcd.net

Teresa Matteson, Secretary/Treasurer
tmatt0@rtdata.com

Russ Hatz, Past President
russ.hatz@frontier.com

Garrett Duyck—Zone 1
garrett.duyck@or.usda.gov

Tom Makowski—At-large
tom.makowski@or.usda.gov

Michael Merrill—At-large
michael.merrill@or.usda.gov

Annie Young-Mathews—Zone 4
anna.young-mathews@or.usda.gov

Share Successes and Lessons Learned

Conservation planners, resource managers and agency leaders will benefit from the informative documentation of our daily trials and tribulations. Help tell Oregon’s conservation story by submitting an article to My Sediments about a project, work-in-progress, upcoming event, or recognize a valued cohort.

It is easy to submit to the SWCS Oregon Chapter SWCS quarterly newsletter. Write 75 to 200 words and include a graphics to add visual interest to your story. Please include the following article components:

- Title
- Author
- Contact for more information
- Indicate if article includes time sensitive material and the deadline date.
- Graphics - for each article include at least one and up to three graphics.
  - Photos: include caption (important!) and photographer name and year.
  - Graph/Chart: brief data description and legible units.

Submission Schedule and target distribution:

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Submit articles, questions or comments to:
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541-840-3616