



# SHOW-ME CHAPTER

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Mike Morris

Wow, how the year is flying by! With September in full swing fall is just around the corner which means it's Fall Forum time again. Todd Higgins our Chapter President elect has put together a great tour of the Lincoln University farm and programs so I hope to see many of you there as it should be a great learning experience and a day out of the office. This reminds me of a District Conservationist I used to work for who was fond of saying "any day out of the office is a good day."

Another event on the near horizon is chapter officer elections. Someone, actually someone's need to step forward and take on some leadership roles for 2017. I'm sure we will be receiving some notices about this from the elections committee. Leadership positions in the society do not require a tremendous obligation and affords some opportunities not otherwise available. Besides, looks great on a resume and the fact that I have served as President twice now virtually guarantees my next career goal will be achieved, - retirement!!!!

Let me give you a heads up that I will again be sending raffle tickets out around Christmas for our annual Scholarship Fund Drive. Your participation is critical to our efforts especially if you will not be attending the MNRC. While attending the SWCS National Convention in Louisville this past July, I had the chance to meet David Speidel's wife at one of the banquets and when David introduced me she replied "oh, you're the one who sends us those tickets each year". Yep, that's me. She didn't want any autographs or anything.

Speaking of the scholarship fund reminds me that the scholarship committee will be publicizing the scholarship application and theme soon. If you know a High School Senior or Undergraduate who is studying in a natural resources/agriculture field, let them know about this scholarship opportunity. Reading the winning essay's each year sure makes me believe the kids these days are smarter than I was at their age. Luckily for me I had my looks.

MNRC this next February will be HUGE! Not only is our society the host society but the program will have a strong focus on cover crops which I hope will enable NRCS and the DNR Soil and Water Program to send bunches of employees, to the point where SWCS members are attending in record numbers!

So many opportunities in the upcoming months for SWCS members, I hope to see you involved. In the meantime, keep up your efforts in promoting good stewardship on the land.— *Mike Morris*



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### SEPTEMBER 2016

To contribute articles to the Show-Me chapter newsletter, please contact Sarah Szachnieski at [seszachnieski@gmail.com](mailto:seszachnieski@gmail.com)

## **Thoughts from the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Meeting in Louisville, KY.**

With another SWCS International Conference completed, here are some thoughts from your humble Chapter President. First of all, I must commend the arrangements committee for this event considering the location and the theme, "Managing Great River landscapes" at the Galt House Hotel located on the bank of the Ohio River. I mean really, from my room I could have thrown a rock into the Ohio River! Well actually, with my arm the rock probably would have hit a car on I-64 but then bounced into the river. And the programs were great, especially if you like water quality and nutrient management issues. I really enjoyed the conference; it was well worth my time to attend.

### **Here are some Big Picture points from this meeting:**

That Hypoxia issue down in the Gulf of Mexico we learned about in the 1980's, is still there, and accelerated soil erosion from farmland, which Hugh Hammond Bennet warned us about 100 years ago, is still a problem. In addition to these issues we have a growing world population, a changing climate, and possibly the worst of all, dwindling ground water supplies. When dealing with environmental research there continues to be many "uncertainties about the uncertainties!" Kind of makes you want to find a rock and hide under it. Yet, I left the conference upbeat.

There is a tremendous amount of research and tool development taking place. Granted I may not have completely understood some of the technical details, but what was clear to me is there are motivated, intelligent people working hard for the cause. I'm confident that new planning tools and improved BMP's are forthcoming. One tool in particular that intrigued me was the Nutrient Tracking Tool developed at Tarleton State University. I first heard about this program from district technicians, but was able to see it demonstrated in Louisville. That is one cool tool. You can check it out at <http://nn.tarleton.edu/NTT/> . Cover Crop successes and potentials for Soil Health improvements were key topics--no surprise. The research clearly shows cover crops can reduce erosion, capture nitrogen, reduce phosphorus runoff and increase organic matter. Dang, as I'm writing this, NRCS National Bulletin 450-16-3 just came to me. It urges planners to use caution when recommending cover crops to mitigate the potential to spread disease, insects and weeds. Great! Another example of the potential for a BMP to become a good idea gone wrong (sigh). Conservation can sure be complicated.

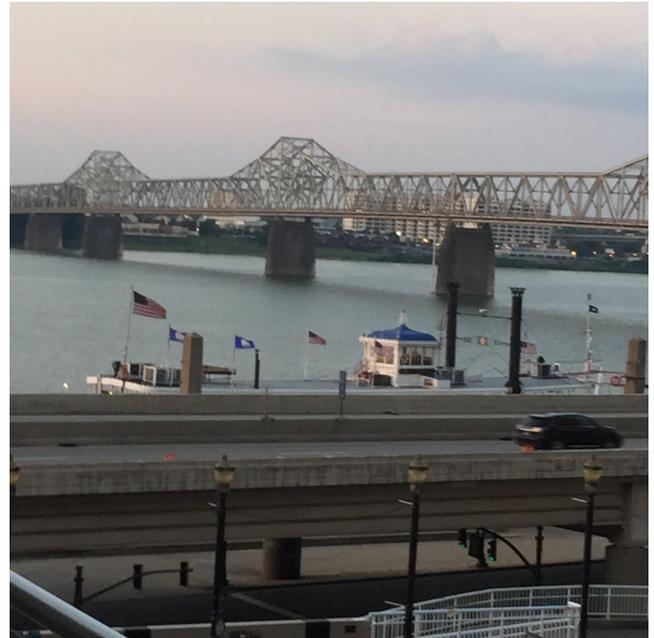
Conservation IS complicated - and challenging. That is why we are needed. But it's also something else, REWARDING! Granted, the bureaucracy of our society and the complexity of the practices can wear a researcher or planner down. But when landowners are able to make great improvements to their land, we are all recipients of the reward. Being a member of SWCS and attending conferences every now and then helps me keep that in mind.

*- Mike Morris, President*



The Galt House Hotel, site of the 2016 Soil and Water Conservation Society's Annual Conference.

The Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky from the Galt.



Chief Jason Weller addresses conference attendees on the subject of the Conservation Stewardship Program in Louisville, Kentucky.



# MISSOURI SHOW ME CHAPTER

## FALL FORUM EVENT

### September 22nd, 2016

Join us as we tour Lincoln University's research farms and learn about the latest research in organic production, composting, aquaculture, and cover cropping from Lincoln's research staff.

#### Agenda

- 9:00- 9:30 Meet at Lincoln University's Busby Farm
- 9:30-10:15 Tour Organic Research Farm
- 10:15-11:00 Tour Composting Facility
- 11:00-11:20 Travel to Lincoln University's Carver Farm
- 11:30-12:15 Lunch at Carver Farm (Catered by Bandana's )
- 12:15-1:00 Tour Aquaculture Research Facility
- 1:00- 1:30 Cover Crop Demonstration
- 1:30-1:45 Winter Canola Plots
- 1:45 Conclusion

Registration for the event is \$17 (to cover lunch and beverage costs). Please register by September 19th to ensure adequate food is available.

The Busby Farm is located off of US HWY 54W at 5124 Goller Rd., Jefferson City.



Fall Forum Registration

Please register by September 19th.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Participants you are registering for \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE: No. of Participants \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed

Mail this registration form and your check made payable to Missouri Show Me Chapter SWCS to Attn Sarah Szachnieski – SWCS 699 Pearl Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376. For more information or questions contact Todd Higgins at 573-694-2627.

Thank you for registering, we look forward to seeing you on September 22nd.

*Fostering the  
science and art of  
soil, water and  
related natural  
resource  
management to  
achieve  
sustainability.*



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### SEPTEMBER 2016

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