Hugh Hammond Bennett “Father of Soil Conservation,” was a pioneer in the field of soil conservation in the United States of America. He founded and headed the Soil Conservation Service, a federal agency now referred to as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In 1941 Hugh Hammond Bennett, and a small group of visionary conservationists began discussions about the need for a society to support their relatively new profession. Those working in conservation had no common meeting ground, no medium for joint expression, and no collective means for advancing their cause. Existing organizations of the time provided little opportunity or encouragement for advancing the science and art of good land and water use.

While these meetings planted the seeds of what would become the Soil and Water Conservation Society, it was not until 1943 that the intent to organize was announced, and in late 1944 a council was formed and membership began to grow. The first meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America was held in Chicago on December 12-13, 1946.

WE ARE HHB!!

Several other SWCS state chapters try to claim Dr. Bennett as their own. His first soil survey job out of college was in Tennessee. Much later in his career, Dr. Bennett recruited a team that included Aldo Leopold, which led to the first watershed project in the nation, in Wisconsin. But we know Hugh was born, raised and educated in North Carolina. We know he created the first Conservation District right at home in Brown Creek in Anson County, NC. Big Hugh is all North Carolina’s and our namesake!

Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter
4001 Carya Drive
Suite D
Raleigh NC 27610

Find us on the web at:
www.hhbchapterswcs.org/

Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter
January 2018

Nominations Are In!
HHB Chapter preparing for upcoming Awards Luncheon

Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter awards committee is reviewing the nominations submitted for the 2018 Chapter Awards. John Beck and the committee are in the final stages of making selections for the upcoming awards luncheon. Members are encouraged to make plans attend. Check the chapter’s website, www.hhbchapterswcs.org/ for the registration form and the awards luncheon.

HHB Chapter Members enjoying the presentation of the 2017 Chapter Awards last February 2017. Please join us for the 2018 Awards Presentation.

REGISTER NOW: https://goo.gl/forms/EP1Zu9OYXxvsiS9k1

Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter
www.hhbchapterswcs.org/

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST
• 2018 Annual Meeting Planning Stages
• HHB Chapter Officers and Council Members
WHO WILL BE THE 2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS?

Please come and join the HHB Chapter as we recognize the 2018 Awardees for their accomplishments, their leadership, and their passion for conservation. The 2018 Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday February 23, 2018. Make your reservations to attend today! Submit your registration form at HTTPS://GOO.GL/FORMS/EPOZU6OXYYVIS04K.

Please contact Gail Hughes at hhbswcs16@gmail.com if you have any questions.

“I consider the soil conservation districts movement one of the most important developments in the whole history of agriculture.”

Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett

NOTES FROM OUR SWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SOUTHEAST REGION REPRESENTATIVE—DALE THREATT-TAYLOR

What an exciting time we are having in SWCS! Have you seen the new webpage? Stop and go look… www.swcs.org. It’s great. Have you met the new CEO? Clare is just what we need for SWCS in 2018! She is so energetic that even I can’t keep up. I know! right! You have got to meet her. (You should be making reservations for Albuquerque now.) www.swcs.org/18AC

What else is new in SWCS beyond the webpage and new CEO? Because Clare has strong ties to local chapters, you will begin to notice a grassroots emphasis in some of the changes. For example, the Southeast Regional Director (and active Chapter member) joined the CEO to talk about SWCS support for Districts and their staff.

Another change being implemented is the availability of a local chapter to apply for the Chapter Achievement Award every 3 years instead of 10 years. I have been talking with groups that provide conservation work across the southeast and would love to provide a first-time “All things SOUTHEAST!” training for Conservationist in the region. I have the feeling that it may be easier to get to a regional training in the southeast than across the nation. Let me know if you would like to help me with this professional development event. Contact me at dthreatttaylor@wakegov.com

MEET HHB CHAPTER NORTHWEST REGION REPRESENTATIVE—ROBERT MOORE

Robert Moore grew up on a farm in northern Orange County. His interest in soil and water conservation started while he was in high school. Robert is an NC State University graduate with a BS in Soil Science (2009) and a BS in Agricultural Engineering (2011). In September 2011, he accepted a position with NRCS as an agricultural engineer in Birmingham, AL. He worked there for 2 years before transferring to Huntsville, AL, in the same position. In April of 2016, Robert accepted an agricultural engineer position in Yadkinville, NC. While in AL, he received a Master’s of Civil Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Engineering from Auburn University in 2015.

“In AL and in western NC, my work has been heavily involved with poultry operations. I have done a lot of work with row crop farmers as well. Since moving to NC, I have had the opportunity to assist a few dairies,” said Moore.

“Away from work, I am fairly active in sports. Recently, my focus has mainly been on running, but I cycle and swim a lot too. I am glad to be back in NC and look forward to the opportunities here!”

We welcome Robert to North Carolina and to the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter!

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP AND GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHAPTER

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

The planning of the Annual HHB Chapter Meeting is underway. Bob Glennon, Present-Elect, is organizing a committee to plan the upcoming Chapter meeting. He would like to help with the planning and the organizing of the event, please contact Bob Glennon. You may contact Bob via email robertglennon@embarqmail.com

Newsletter Committee

Creative individuals are needed on the Newsletter Committee. We need your help in organizing, creating and publishing a Chapter newsletter 3 to 4 times per year. If interested, please contact Matt Kinane at kinanemj@gmail.com

HBB PRESIDENT-ELECT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Bob is currently a private lands biologist for southeastern Virginia assisting clients of NRCS and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with wildlife and pollinator habitat. Bob has volunteered for the Fish and Wildlife Service on refuges in North Carolina for 18 years and for the Office of Surface Mining teaching wetland delineation courses for 21 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Rutgers University and a Master of Forest Resources degree from Penn State University. He has lived in Hobbsville, Gates County for the past 18 years. Bob married his wife, Lorri, in December 2017. He has three grown children and two grandchildren. Bob has been an active contributor to SWCS over the past 40 years, including presenting at HHB events.