



SWCS COLORADO CHAPTER

Newsletter December 2003

President's Message

by Kristi Gay



❖ Hello! and....We Missed You!!

Hi everyone! If you weren't at the chapter annual meeting, I missed seeing you in November...but I plan to be communicating regularly, at the very least, forwarding Chapter Notes weekly as they arrive from the leadership at National Headquarters. Please find time to review Chapter notes as they arrive and remain aware of the important work your national leaders are doing.

My first thoughts as President of the Colorado Chapter are to **thank you** for being members of the Colorado Chapter and for the efforts you make on the job and especially as a volunteer to support conservation activities across the state. I'm hoping you will help to find ways the chapter can support more local activities. Last year, the chapter made an effort to sponsor local workshops in different areas of the state. All we asked is that the Colorado Chapter was mentioned as a sponsor. In most locations, we were able to set up the display. I would like to continue that effort to include more members in Chapter activities. I'll be asking the rest of the executive council to consider this at the January board meeting. If you have local activities planned for 2004 that promotes natural resource conservation, I'll hope you will forward information to a member of the board.

I have also been approached about the Chapter coordinating a training session for persons interested in taking the certified crop advisors (CCA) exam in the next year. I understand the Chapter was very involved in training for these exams about ten years ago and that there is a need for additional training for younger members. A training session would take some time to develop, if this is something members would like to see in 2004, I would like to hear from you.



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Finally, the chapter has given consideration to hosting the 2006 SWCS annual meeting in Keystone, Colorado. No formal agreement has been signed, but Chapter members would play a key role providing support for hospitality, breakout sessions, and tours. Please let a board member know if you're interested in participating on a committee.

THANKS for being a member of the Colorado Chapter!

❖ CACD Awards Luncheon

At the CACD awards luncheon the Chapter presented **Fred Velasquez** from La Jara in Costilla County the Soil and Water Conservationist of the Year award. Fred raises alfalfa and hay and practices a sound conservation plan for his farm. **Margie Wood**, reporter with the Pueblo Chieftain was our Reporter of the Year recipient.

❖ Awards Presented at SWCS Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting President Wendell Hassell presented President Citation Awards to **Tony Arnhold, Beth Fortman, Kristi Gay, Barbara Gohlke, Mary Miller, Charlie Pannebaker, Rich Rhoades**, and **Amy Sidener**. *(See photos on page 3.)*

Mary Miller was nominated for a National Commendation Award at our October meeting.



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❖ Colorado Chapter SWCS 2003 Chapter Annual Meeting: November 17, 2003 *Wyndham Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO*

Agenda

- Introduction of Executive Council and Committee Chair – *Wendell Hassell*
- Minutes from 2002 Chapter Annual Meeting, CO – *Rich Rhoades*
- Financial Report – *Rich Rhoades*
- National SWCS Activities – *Anita Nein*
- Summary of 2003 Activities – *Wendell Hassell*
- Colorado Chapter 2004 Membership Program – *Mary Miller*
- National Award Recommendations – *Beth Fortman*
- Award Presentations – *Beth Fortman and Wendell Hassell*
- Announcement of New Chapter Officers – *Wendell Hassell*
- Colorado Chapter SWCS President 2004 Comments – *Kristi Gay*

❖ Waste Management Workshop Held

The Colorado Chapter of SWCS held a workshop on Waste Management, providing attendees the opportunity to earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). The workshop was held November 17th, following the Chapter Annual Meeting. (See photos on page 3.)

A BIG THANKS to our Waste Management Workshop Sponsors!

- ☺ Colorado Chapter—Soil and Water Conservation Society
- ☺ Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
- ☺ Colorado Section—Society for Range Management
- ☺ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

❖ Colorado Chapter SWCS Conducting Membership Drive

In an effort to increase membership numbers and diversity, the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society began a formal membership drive earlier this fall.

The Chapter has already set up its display and membership information at two meetings this fall. At each of these sessions, if individuals filled out a membership form and paid dues on the spot, they were eligible to win a fleece or winter jacket with the Colorado Chapter logo on them. Drawings were done during the meetings. The Chapter gained six new members within one week.

The Chapter's website—www.ccswcs.org—has a special button that individuals can click on to see information and awards pertaining to the membership drive. For more information, contact Mary Miller, Colorado Chapter SWCS Membership Chair, mary.miller@co.usda.gov or 719-384-5408.

❖ Colorado Chapter SWCS 2003-2004 Membership Drive

Number of Chapter members in 2002 Chapter Report	152
Number of Chapter members as of Nov. 7, 2003	156



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Fleece

\$35

Jacket

\$50

Northern Plains goal for all NP Chapters
(11 net new members) 11
Number of Chapter members if we reach
NP goal by end of 2003 163

The Colorado Chapter SWCS goal needs to be more than 11 new members who will continue their membership and, more importantly, become active in the Chapter.

The Colorado Chapter SWCS **Membership Drive** will run from November 2003 through November 2004. Chapter members who recruit new members will send Mary Miller, Membership Chair, an email at mary.miller@co.usda.gov with the names of his/her recruits. Mary will then verify with SWCS headquarters in Ankeny that these individuals have joined. Awards, which have the Colorado Chapter SWCS logo on them, will be given when a member lets Mary know they are done recruiting.

Level	# of New Members	Award
Sunshine Peak Recruiter	1	Mug or Cap
Mt. Sneffels Recruiter	2	Denim Shirt
Longs Peak Recruiter	3-4	Fleece
Mt. Elbert Recruiter	5 or more	Jacket

The individual who has recruited the most members at the end of the Membership Drive will receive a **GPS Unit**. If a tie occurs, we will conduct a drawing at the 2004 Colorado Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting to see who receives this grand prize.

Anyone who recruits at least one new member is entitled to purchase any of the awards at the following prices. Contact Mary Miller to place your order. To view the awards, go to the Colorado Chapter SWCS web site at www.ccswcs.org.

Mug	\$2
Cap	\$10
Denim Shirt	\$20

❖ Call For Papers

Take a look at the attached flyer about the call for papers for the 2004 Annual Conference, planned to take place in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Some serious workshop learning going on!

While he still can, outgoing President Wendell Hassell hands out lots of awards and smiles to deserving recipients!



Tony Arnhold, above.



Charlie Pannebaker above, Beth Fortner below.



Kristi Gay, above, and Rich Rhodes below.



Mary Miller