



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

NOVEMBER 2021

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President's Message

By: Amber Wyndham



On behalf of the board, we would like to thank all our members and partners that have supported our chapter. As most of you know the success of the SWCS is strongly dependent on the members. Membership support allows our chapter to host workshops, provide scholarships, recognize landowners for their conservation practices, and provide junior conservationist awards to high school students who have been active in conservation. Membership also provides our chapter with funds to host workshops that focus on soil and water conservation within our state.

SWCS INTERNATIONAL 2022 CONFERENCE - We are excited that the 2022 International SWCS annual conference will be in Colorado this year! The annual conference will be in Denver, July 31 – August 3 and the theme is “Elevating Conservation to New Heights.” You can find more information about the annual conference at: <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2022-annual-conference/>

DUST ON SNOW WORKSHOP - Our chapter will be hosting a one-day virtual workshop on the topic of dust on snow and its impact on watershed function and on water deliveries within southwestern river systems. Much of the focus for our workshop will be on the upper Rio Grande and Upper Colorado River Basin watersheds. The workshop will be December 3, 2021, and more information can be found on the flyer below.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - I would like to encourage everyone to get involved with the Colorado SWCS Chapter executive board or committee so that we can continue to provide outreach and education regarding soil and water quality in our state. Over the last few years, the same 3-4 people have rotated positions on the board. We have several leadership positions that need to be filled. Serving on the board requires minimal time commitment and travel and we ask that you consider serving so that our chapter can continue to thrive and be a source for landowners and other conservationist. Below is a list of the current board and committee members as well as the vacant positions.

Current SWCS Officers

President – Amber Wyndham
Past President – Patrick O'Neill
President Elect – vacant
*Director at Large – Beth Fortman
East Slope Director – Maysoon Mikha
West Slope Director – vacant
*Secretary/Treasurer – Barb Gohlke

* Positions up for election this year.

Current SWCS Committee

Awards Committee Chair – Amber Wyndham
Membership Chair - vacant
Newsletter Editor - Beth Fortman
Webmaster - vacant

BETH FORTMAN
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Best Regards,
Amber Wyndham
President

Upcoming Events



Coming Together to Fix a Broken Water Cycle:
Dust, Snow and Flow in the Headwaters
of the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers

December 3, 2021 at 8:30 AM via Zoom
Free to Attend and Participate

[Register Here](#)

Brought to you by: Soil and Water Conservation Society –
Colorado Chapter and
Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies



CENTER FOR
SNOW & AVALANCHE
STUDIES

Additional sponsors:



Mosca-Hooper  **MHCD**
Conservation District
San Luis Valley Colorado

CO Chapter Activities

In September, SWCS-Colorado Chapter had the pleasure of combining efforts with the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management to sponsor a tour at both the 3R Ranch (near Beulah, CO) and the Brett Gray Ranch (near Rush, CO).

SWCS & SRM members, and participants from the broader Colorado conservation community, spent a day at each ranch learning about the unique ways each has adapted their grazing systems to increase wildlife habitat & plant diversity, improve cattle grazing opportunities, and build up the health of their soils in the process. Congratulations to Reeves & Betsy Brown, Chad Helvee, Lewis Martin, and the many hands who have thrown in their skill, sweat and finances to allow these operations to become examples of healthy, productive lands in our midst. And we are especially grateful to these ranches for being tireless collaborators and good neighbors, offering insights to the many who have come to visit or work on these operations over the years.

All-in, several dozen folks attended some portion of the two-day workshop. Thanks to Ben Berlinger, Emmett Jordan, and Josh Tashiro, and to Patrick O'Neill and to Beth Fortmam for helping guide discussions on these days.



SOIL HEALTH TUNNEL

Chapter member, Laura Craven, headed up a soils exhibit at the State Fair again this past summer. They had the Soil Health Tunnel available for visitors to walk through and learn about the soil web, how to improve soil health and much more. She had several other activities visitors could take part in to learn about soils.



The CO SWCS Chapter also helped to sponsor the following in 2021:

⇒ 4th and 5th Grade Regional Science Fairs

The National Soil and Water Conservation Society 77th Annual Conference



**The 77th Annual Conference will be July 31– August 3, 2022
in Denver at the Hilton Denver City Center**

This year's conference theme, "Elevating Conservation to New Heights," embraces the mountainous region of the location while emphasizing the shared vision held by conservationists around the world to scale our work, repair ecosystems, and create resilient working lands.

This year's event is situated on the Front Range, where the plains meet the Rocky Mountains and where one can see the vast impacts of a changing climate and increased populations on our natural resources. A central concern for much of this semiarid to arid region is water, most often the lack of water. The west depends upon irrigation for crop production, which depletes both surface water and groundwater supplies. Additionally, competition between urban and agricultural land and water uses has increased as populations and cities grow. Other challenges pressing to the region include wind erosion, high soil salinity, rangeland soil health, brush control, and wildfire impacts. Here, the possibilities for partnerships to elevate soil health and water conservation are not only endless, but necessary. Regional sessions and tours will provide a space to share the latest projects and tools addressing impacts of a changing climate and increased populations on the natural resources of the area.

In addition to working lands, many of the nation's most awe-inspiring parks and protected areas are present in the region, and the natural beauty serves as a reminder of the value of the conservationists' work. Colorado is a wild and scenic state where residents and visitors alike immerse themselves in the natural resources our professionals labor daily to improve and protect.

After two years of virtual conferences, this stunning conference location offers an opportunity for the global conservation community to come together and collectively share solutions, combat obstacles, and accelerate conservation efforts. This year's conference will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices and foster a dialogue around their scaling. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared.

Driven by the conservation community's need to be up-to-date on agriculture industry trends, economies, and technology, this conference will invite and engage farmers, agribusiness, and commodity groups. Current policies, practices, and research about climate change and climate-smart agriculture will be shared as well.

Join us on the frontier of conservation to share insights and advice on projects and partnerships that take meaningful action toward creating and supporting systems that sustain soil and water resources and serve people equitably.

This is a great opportunity. For more information go to www.swcs.org/22AC to view the draft agenda, costs, hotel and transportation information!

2020-2021 CO SWCS Awards



BY: Amber Wyndham, Awards/Scholarship Chair

Junior Conservationist of the Year

The 2020 SWCS Junior Conservationist of the Year was awarded to Bobbie Schreiner. Bobbie was a junior at Prairie High School located near New Raymer and has been very active in FFA and range judging. Bobbie placed 1st as the highest scoring individual during the 2020 Northeast Colorado Regional range judging event and understands the value of conservation and range management that promotes soil and water conservation.

Conservationist of the Year

The 2020 SWCS Conservationist of the Year was awarded to Michael Moss of Kilt Farm located in Boulder County. Michael started the farm by leasing a half-acre of private property and has since grown his farm to 30 acres of USDA certified organic produce. Michael has implemented a variety of conservation practices such as cover crops, crop rotations, and conservation tillage to improve soil health. Improving the physical and biological properties of the soil has resulted in high plant yields, nutrient dense vegetables, and minimal insecticides on his farm.

The Kilt Farm is heavily involved in the local community feeding 160 local families through their CSA with pickup sites around Boulder, Gunbarrel, Niwot, Longmont, and Louisville. Kilt Farm also supplies a multi-farm CSA, Go Farm, which focuses on food access, along with local restaurants and grocery stores. Michael and his farm also provide produce to low income and family assistance programs throughout the area.

Michael is an advocate for soil health and was part of the USDA Farm Mentorship Program as a mentee. He has also been involved in the Building Farmers Program, Soil Revolution Conference and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference. Michael's dedication to soil health and being an outstanding community leader regarding conservation has awarded him the 2020 Colorado SWCS Conservationist of the Year Award.

The Chapter did not have a College Scholarship recipient for 2019. Each year we have two \$500 scholarships available to a Junior or Senior attending a Colorado college or university in a natural resource field. The Chapter also offers grants. If you see a need where a SWCS fund can help or encourage conservation, please contact us.



This year, 2021, our recipient is pending notification.

Visit the CO Chapter website at http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/ and click on Awards if you know of any college junior or seniors in natural resource related fields attending a 4 year Colorado College that may be interested in applying for our scholarship

BY: Beth Fortman, Director at Large

CO SWCS 2022 Officer Elections



It's time to consider election of new officers for the 2022 calendar year. Positions to be filled for 2022 are President, President Elect, Director at Large and Secretary-Treasurer.

The past several years have been hard for our chapter. We haven't had anyone step up to fill positions on the Board for a couple of years. Those of us on the Board have served for a number of years because we didn't want to see it fizzle. We can't keep doing this.

Please, please, please consider one of these positions. It doesn't take much of your time in a year; monthly teleconferences, co-planning and implementing a workshop, tour or conference.

Get involved!!

President — Serves a 1 year term as president and a 1 year term as Past President.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, the Board and shall appoint all committees and shall perform all other duties incident to his or her office.

President Elect — Serves a 1 year term as president, a 1 year term as President, and a 1 year term as Past President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, the Board and shall appoint all committees and shall perform all other duties incident to his or her office.

Director-At-Large — Serves a 2 year term as a member of the board of directors; shall represent the interests of all members of the Chapter, within the respective area; represents public policy, advocacy, natural resource knowledge, and maintains contact with federal, state, and provincial agencies, other societies, environmental, agricultural, conservation and other groups;

Attends regular and special meetings of the Executive Board.

Works with the Executive Board to develop an annual plan and budget.

Helps to carry out Chapter operations and services.

Assists the President when Chapter meetings are located in their area of the state.

Secretary-Treasurer — Serves a 2 year term as voting member of the Executive Council; Attends chapter and Executive Council meetings and the Annual Meeting of the Chapter; Prepares minutes of all meetings and send to Executive Council.

Gives report on or reads minutes of previous Chapter meetings. Prepares financial report prior to all Chapter meetings.

Works with Executive Council to develop the annual Chapter plan and a budget plan that sets target maximum levels for "big ticket" items such as: Travel to meetings, workshops, display equipment and large contributions.

Maintains an orderly file of all Chapter meeting minutes, correspondence, financial records and other related information for the Executive Council.

Maintains detailed income and expense records for the Chapter.

Pays Chapter bills in accordance with the policy of the Executive Council.

Arrange for an audit of financial accounts and records in accordance with Chapter By-laws or as otherwise directed by the Executive Council.

For more information on the duties relating to each of these offices go to the Chapter website at <https://www.swcs.org/about-us/our-chapters/southwest/colorado-chapter/>.
please contact the current officer

Any Colorado Chapter SWCS member is eligible for consideration on the ballot. You can contact Amber Wyndham, President, at amason28@gmail.com or Beth Fortman, elizabeth.fortman@usda.gov or any member of the executive council with questions you may have and/or to notify the executive council of your interest. Ballots will be sent out the middle of December. Please be sure to vote! **(you may want to pay close attention to the ballots as YOU just may be nominated!!)**

The chapter is also looking for interested individuals to fill the positions of **Membership Committee Chair and Web Committee Chair**. You can contact any of the Board members for more information or if interested in either of these positions.

With the upcoming Annual Conference in Denver this next July there may be opportunities to be a part of it, such as room/meeting moderators, Silent Auction, Posters room, tour guides, etc. So being active in the Chapter can be a benefit to all.





EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



Dust-on-Snow Workshop
December 3, 2021
Virtual



2020 COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS



OFFICERS

Amber Wyndham,
President Elect
214-529-8906
amber.wyndham@outlook.com



Beth Fortman,
Director-at-Large
1510 Grand Ave.
Canon City, CO 81212
719-735-3023
elizabeth.fortman@usda.gov



Patrick O'Neill,
Past President,
West Slope Director
73 State Ave
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-588-0836
kpjoneill@gmail.com



Barbara Gohlke,
Secretary-Treasurer
5610 Industrial Pl., Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
719-
barbgohlke@gmail.com



Maysoon Mikha,
East Slope Director
40335 County Road GG
Akron, CO 80720
970-345-2259
Maysoon.mikha@usda.gov



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amber Wyndham—Awards
214-529-8906
amber.wyndham@outlook.com

Membership—Vacant

Beth Fortman—Newsletter Editor
719-735-3009
elizabeth.fortman@usda.gov

Website - Vacant

Barbara Gohlke—Science Fair
719-600-4712
barbgohlke@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Colorado Chapter of SWCS is to promote the wise use of soil, water and related resources through scientific, educational and service oriented functions. The members promote a stewardship ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and natural resources.