



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

JANUARY 2017

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President's Message

By: Beth Fortman

Happy New Year!

It's me again for another year! The Chapter didn't have a President Elect last year to be President this year so I volunteered to do another year. I am anticipating to have a more active year for the Chapter and hope to see more of you at the activities we will have.

Things are just in the idea and planning stages but one thing we will look into is possibly having a workshop/tour related to forest health. We would also like to look into projects NRCS or other agencies are doing on the West slope and do a tour there. If any of you on the West slope have a project or idea please let me know!

There will be a one day conference dealing with soil health (I know! We've all heard this term till it sounds driven to the ground but it's still one of the big things) in May or June. It was postponed from February due to a shortage of registrations. You can read more about it further in the newsletter.

We do still need someone to step up and volunteer to be the President Elect this year and then move into the President position in November for 2018 so please consider it.

I want to thank the Board of Directors: Sherri Brandt, Barbara Gohlke, Aaron Reynolds, Cathy O'Neil; and the committee chairs: Kristi Gay, Amber Wyndham, Barbara Gohlke and Sherri Brandt for their moral support this past year.

The SWCS International Annual Conference, Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability is July 30 – August 2, 2017 in Madison, Wisconsin. You can find more information on the website, www.swcs.org.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

At the Colorado SWCS Chapter annual meeting in November 2016, the chapter welcomed Beth Fortman as President for 2017; Patrick O'Neill as West Slope Director and Maysoon Mihka as East Slope Director. President Elect for 2017 is vacant at this time. If you think you may have an interest in serving the Chapter in this capacity, please don't hesitate to contact one of the current chapter officerS listed on the last page of this newsletter.

COLLINS QUEST 2017

**Soil Health Event
Dedicated to the Memory of Mike Collins**

**Science to Practitioner
Building Soil Health in Dryland Cropping Systems**

Mike was planning his dream for a regional soil health event that would facilitate the connection between soil health researchers and the producers practicing soil health. As a tribute to his dedication to soil health, a one day event will be held in May or June. Dates and location to be announced at a later time.

AWARD NOMINATION REMINDER

Please submit your nominations by April 17, 2017 to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. Award recipients will be announced at the Society's annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on July 30 – August 2, 2017. A list of National awards and nomination information can be found at http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/awards_for_individuals/

2016 CO SWCS Conservationist of the Year

By: Amber Wyndham, Awards Chair

The Colorado SWCS Conservation of the Year was awarded to Dave and Julie Epple of Roggen. Dave and Julie are fourth generation producers that have instilled a passion for land and water use that was passed down through the generations. From the windmills and windbreaks established in the 1940s and 1950s to rotational grazing management in the 1990s, the Epple's continue to strive to improve their land management practices. To minimize soil erosion the Epple's rotate primarily wheat through no till, low till and tilled acreage depending on soil condition, moisture and weed manifestation. Additional conservation practices include adding water tanks supported by windmills and creating smaller pastures to move cattle more often. To conserve water, the Epple's have installed a solar pumping station to reduce evaporation due to continuously pumping water from the windmills. Congratulations Dave and Julie!

2016 CO SWCS Jr. Conservationist of the Year

By: Amber Wyndham, Awards Chair

This year's Junior Conservationist of the Year is McCrae Rider of Burlington. McCrae is a member of the Burlington FFA Chapter and has outstanding achievement in FFA Rangeland Judging. In 2015 McCrae was the high scoring individual on the plant ID contest at the State FFA Rangeland Judging Career Development Exercise (CDE) held in Akron. In 2016, McCrae was the high scoring individual on the combined plant ID and ecological site judging at the State FFA Rangeland Judging Career Development Exercise held in Burlington. McCrae was selected to be a delegate to the SRM international convention held in Corpus Christi in February of 2016. He presented a paper on Planned Rotational Grazing at that convention as a participant of the SRMs High School Youth Forum. McCrae is a senior and has made outstanding achievement as a member of the Burlington FFA Chapter! Congratulations McCrae!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

FARMING EVOLUTION 2017

Keynote Speaker: Odette Menard

Also Presenting: Don Day, Clark Harshbarger & Rudy Garcia

No-Till Farmers: Jacob Miller, Jerry Doan, Steve Tucker, Ken Miller, & Kyle Kautz



Event Center, Phillips County Fairgrounds, Holyoke, CO

Wednesday, February 15th – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 16th – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Check-in, coffee & rolls: 7:30 a.m.

Registration By 2/3/16, \$25 single day, \$35 both days

Registration After 2/3/16, \$35 single day, \$45 both days

Odette Menard is a world recognized expert advisor in soil and water conservation for the Ministry of Agriculture in Quebec, Canada. Menard will give three presentations: *The complex soil life and why no-till brings out the best in the soil, *The soil food chain and *10 ways to get into no-till.

No-Till farmers Jacob Miller, Jerry Doan, Steve Tucker, Ken Miller, & Kyle Kautz will all give first hand information about their no-till journey: Why and how they converted to no-till, why they've stuck with it over the years, and changes they've made over time. Jerry and Ken will discuss incorporating livestock into their cropping system and grazing management on rangeland.



For complete workshop, lodging and registration information:

www.farmingevolution2017.eventbrite.com

Or email yccd77@gmail.com, haxtuncd@gmail.com or call 970-854-2812 ext. 3.

Supported and Sponsored by: Haxtun, Sedgwick, West Greeley & Yuma County Conservation Districts, Upper Republican NRD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Phillips County Pheasants Forever



SUBMIT A POSTER

Submission Deadline:
March 10, 2017

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

Creating Pathways to Sustainability

SWCS 72nd International Annual Conference
July 30 - August 2, 2017 • Madison, Wisconsin



EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



😊 HIGH PLAINS NO TILL CONFERENCE
JAN 31– FEB 1, 2017 BURLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER
BURLINGTON, CO

😊 FARMING EVOLUTION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 15-16 2017 PHILLIPS COUNTY EVENT CENTER
HOLYOKE, CO

😊 COLLINS QUEST SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP
MAY OR JUNE 2017

😊 CO SWCS SUMMER TOURS
SUMMER 2017

😊 SWCS 72ND INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 30—AUGUST 2, 2017
MADISON, WI

2017 COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS



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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.