



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

JANUARY 2014

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President's Message

By: Kyle Franz



My name is Kyle Franz and I am honored to serve as President of the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. I would like to thank all Colorado SWCS members for the opportunity to serve as President.

As president of the Colorado SWCS I hope to provide leadership that encourages participation from all Colorado Members through attendance at programs, workshops, and other educational activities that have value for the membership. To do this I will try to keep all Colorado members informed of activities that Colorado SWCS is involved in or working on. If any of you would like get more involved and have voice in the direction we are taking let a member of the Executive Council or myself know.

I believe that much more will be accomplished by more people being involved. For this reason committees will be formed for a lot of the activities that SWCS does. As an example, at the December meeting the Executive Council filled the vacant Science Fair Chairmanship with volunteers. These volunteers currently are Barbara Gohlke, Donald Valdez, Sherri Brandt, and Kristi Gay. There are others that I know have been employed to assist with important assignment that I am not currently aware. Thanks to all for your energy and time.

I would also like to mention that a call for presentations has been issued for the 69th Annual International Conference that will be held in July in Illinois. This conference is a great way to get involved with the SWCS on an international level and doing a presentation is a great avenue to justify attendance. The submission deadline is January 14, 2014. The link to follow for the full Call for Presentation and instructions on how to submit your proposal is www.swcs.org/14ac.

In closing, I would like to thank all Colorado SWCS members for the work being done every day to conserve our nation's most valuable resources. I would like thank the executive board members and the volunteers for other committees that have been set up to address issues we have discussed at our last teleconference. If you have you have an idea on a workshop, training opportunity, or program let a member of the Executive Council or I know so we can put it on the agenda.

New Chapter Officers for 2014

At the Colorado SWCS Chapter annual meeting in November 2013, the chapter welcomed Kyle Franz as President for 2014; Richard Rhoades as President Elect; Sherri Brandt as Director –at-Large; Donald Valadez as West Slope Director and Barbara Gohlke as Secretary/Treasurer. You can get to know our new chapter officers a little better by reading their biographies below.

KYLE FRANZ — PRESIDENT 2014



Kyle Franz is the 2013 President of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation Society.

He grew up on a family farm in Western Kansas and after High School earned a degree in Agriculture from Kansas State University in 1980. He has been married for 34 years; has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. For 25 years after graduating from college Kyle was self-employed as a farmer/rancher where he managed 2500 acres of irrigated and non-irrigated cropland in addition to backgrounding 500 head of cattle yearly.

In 2002 he “got bored” with production agriculture and took a part time job with NRCS and the Burlington Conservation District. By 2004 his enthusiasm for conservation had evolved to a level that he elected to changed career path from a Farmer/Rancher to a Soil Conservationist and took an appointment with the NRCS in Cheyenne Wells, CO

Kyle’s passion is teaching sustainable agriculture through conservation to youth and to farmers and ranchers.

RICHARD RHOADES — PRESIDENT ELECT



Rich Rhoades graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. degree in Range/Forest Management. Rich has worked for the NRCS (SCS) for 38 years in the Sterling, Eads and Pueblo Field Offices. During this time he has been acting Assistant State Conservationist (Operations) and acting Area Conservationist (La Junta). He joined SWCS in 1984 and presented a paper on conservation tillage at the Oklahoma City International meeting. Rich served as Secretary-Treasurer and President for the Colorado Chapter in past years. He received the Society’s Commendation Award and is a Fellow of SWCS which was awarded in 1998. He served as the Chair for the 1996 International meeting in Keystone, CO and assisted with the 2006 International meeting also in Keystone, CO. Rich believes that SWCS and other professional societies provide an excellent opportunity for technical and leadership growth.

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SHERRI BRANDT — DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Sherri Brandt is the new Director-at-Large for the Colorado Chapter of SWCS. Sherri earned an Associate's degree from Northeastern Junior College in 1999 and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business from the University of Wyoming in 2001. She started working for NRCS as a WAE and then worked as a CO-OP Student Intern. In 2001, Sherri accepted a full time position as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS in the Montrose Field Office. She has since worked in the Montrose FO, the Akron FO and last year got the opportunity to accept the Soil Conservationist position in the Julesburg FO which is located in the county where she grew up.

Sherri has always held an interest in agriculture, conservation and working with farmers and ranchers. Sherri has been a member of the Colorado Chapter of SWCS since 2007 and has served as the chapter newsletter

editor since 2009. She was also a member of the Northern Plains Regional Meeting Committee when Colorado SWCS hosted in 2012. Sherri enjoys being involved in SWCS and looks forward to working for CO SWCS members as the Director at Large.

DONALD VALADEZ — WEST SLOPE DIRECTOR



Hello my name is Donald Valdez, I am the Western Slope Director for the Colorado Chapter SWCS, Soil Water Conservation Society. I have lived in the San Luis Valley most of my life. I was raised on a farm and ranch and I know that our soils are very important to us.

Our soil and water is a valuable resource to protect and learn about. If we don't educate one another on our resources on how to utilize them in modifications then we will deplete our main resources. I am here to learn and educate those that need assistance. I will continue to learn new and innovative ideas on this journey.

BARBARA GOHLKE — SECRETARY/TREASURER



Hi, my name is Barbara Gohlke, and I am the new Secretary Treasurer of the Colorado Chapter--Soil and Water Conservation Society. I have two amazing daughters - Kirsten who is in Fourth Grade and Nora who is in third grade.

I have learned much about SWCS during my past years of service and am looking forward to continuing to serve the Colorado Chapter. In the past I have held the positions of Director at Large and Secretary- Treasurer. I have helped the Chapter to review the by-laws and assisted with registration, etc. with several conferences. I have attended SWCS Northern

Plains Leadership Meetings and served on the finance and registration committees for the 2006 SWCS International Meeting in Keystone.

I have worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service since 1996. I am currently a Soil Conservationist in the Colorado Springs Field Office. I am also a member of the Society for Range Management, American Society of Agronomy, and I am a certified crop advisor.

2013 Technical Conference Highlights

Submitted by Donald Valdez

I attended a Soil and Water Conservation Society conference in Colorado Springs, CO and I was in for a great lesson with some great individuals that care and have a passion for our soils.

Soils Guru Ray Archuleta spoke on Soil Health and no-till farming. Ray's three key points were minimal tillage, infiltration of water in the soils and most importantly, cover crops.

Minimal tillage creates less compaction on the soils and less distribution to the soils as a whole. To build up the soil one must manage one's operation to a degree that carbon is a major factor in the soils. Carbon builds up soil fertility with glomalin which glues soil particles together and helps plants to grow. Second, infiltration of water in the soil is the key to eliminate runoff and erosion of soil. For water to infiltrate in the soil, plant roots need to be present to have root activity through particulate organic matter, which tiny bits of plant microbial debris that are encrusted on soil particles. Most importantly, cover crops to build diversity and maintain living roots in the soil as much as possible and keeping the soil covered with residue at all times.

Also at the conference was a farmer/producer Scott Ravencamp with his wife Becky, who farm near Hugo, CO. Scott gave a great presentation on his farming operation and how cover crops are increasing productivity in his farming operation. Scott has noticed the diversity of cover crops and residue increase in his farming along with soil moisture. Scott has eliminated fallowing in his operation and has turned to cover crops to build soil nutrients; also Scott has incorporated grazing into his operation to break down the biomass of the plants and into the soil. Scott has seen plants grow where at time past there was nothing growing due to no residue, no moisture, nothing. He has also seen with cover crops an increase with soil organisms such as earth worms.

Scott is a firm believer in cover crops and will continue to incorporate grazing into his operation, and protecting the earth surface from erosion or water, wind, and tillage.

Over all it was a great conference, more importantly learning more about our great resources; Soil, and Water. Before I let you go, I will leave you with a little saying. A management plan convincingly demonstrates that your chosen strategy will perpetuate the corporate mission while sustaining the resource.

Till next time.

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Technical Conference from page 4

Video Links from the Technical Conference

<http://youtu.be/Xq74D12QBkg>

Ray Archuleta speaking on soil health at SWCS meeting in CO 11-11-13

<http://youtu.be/LYJ0tYSY7ac>

Ray Ward speaking on soil testing at the SWCS meeting in CO 11-12-13

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIMMBkhcNDo>

Scott Ravencamp speaking on how his is using soil health on his farm at the SWCS meeting in CO 11-11-13

http://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=pfEbHqslgoQ

Terry Saffer, precision water mapping

CO SWCS Offers Scholarship

As part of our mission, the SWCS Colorado Chapter has created an Undergraduate Student Scholarship Program that offers two \$500 scholarships to juniors or seniors attending a four year Colorado college or university studying natural resource related fields. This scholarship was created to recognize student leadership, consistent academic achievement, and civil contribution related to natural resources, especially soil and water conservation.

Each scholarship consists of a certificate and \$500 honorarium. The \$500 scholarship is intended to assist the student in completing his or her degree. Scholarship recipients will be invited to attend the SWCS CO Chapter Annual Fall Workshop where they will be recognized for their achievements. Their registration fees for this workshop will be waived.

Application packages must include a completed SWCS Colorado Chapter Undergraduate Student Scholarship Program application form and supporting information (available on our website www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/colorado_chapter_awards/). Email completed applications and supporting documents to Beth Fortman, Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov, Chairperson of the Undergraduate Student Scholarship Committee no later than March 31, 2014. The committee will make selections by July 31, 2014 and the award check will be mailed to the scholarship winners after they provide proof of enrollment for the fall semester of their junior or senior year.

SWCS awards and scholarships for 2014.

Don't miss your chance to nominate and honor individuals and organizations that are leaders in the soil, water, and natural resources industry. Below, you will find a brief description of the available awards and scholarships. Full award and scholarship details and applications can be found at www.swcs.org/awards or at www.swcs.org/scholarships. All award and scholarship applications are due **February 12, 2014**.

Awards Available to Society Members

Fellow Award recognizes exceptional professional achievement coupled with service to the Society.

Outstanding Service Award recognizes distinguished service to the Society over a long and sustained period (10 years minimum).

Commendation Award recognizes members for service to their chapters (members having received other Society awards are also eligible).

Conservation Research Award recognizes SWCS members or teams of members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research.

Awards Available to Society Members and Nonmembers

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Harold-Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes individuals who creatively and effectively provide technical assistance in conservation planning and plan application.

Honor Award recognizes people for outstanding accomplishments compatible with Society objectives.

Merit Award recognizes noteworthy conservation activity or products of organizations, agencies, or firms.

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Scholarships Available to Society Members

The Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship is for SWCS members who are currently employed in the natural resource conservation field, but wish to improve their technical or administrative skills. Improving technical or administrative skills could be done through formal classwork through an accredited college or through a program of special study. \$1,000 scholarship.

The Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship is for SWCS student members who are full-time junior or senior undergraduates or graduate students pursuing a degree in the natural resource conservation field from an accredited college or university. Student members who are demonstrated leaders in their academics, volunteerism, and work are the focus of this \$500 scholarship.

The Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship is for SWCS members engaged in interdisciplinary graduate level research on a conservation topic that will extend the SWCS mission of fostering the science and art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. \$300 scholarship.

Get Your SWCS Gear

Bags, blankets, caps, jackets, t-shirts, polo shirts, long and short sleeved shirts for men and women, pullovers, sweatshirts, vests and youth wear with embroiled SWCS logo are now available at www.americanbus.com/swcs

Also available are window clings with the SWCS logo that are perfect for displaying on the car or office window. Memo pads with the SWCS logo and International Office address are perfect for conferences and workshops. Visit the SWCS website www.swcs.org and click on the Online Store and then SWCS products for ordering information.

Publications and books are also available in the Online Store.

Check it out today!!



EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



☺ WESTERN COLORADO SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE
JAUARY 23-24, 2014 DELTA, CO

☺ NO TILL ON THE PLAINS WINTER CONFERENCE
JANUARY 28-29, 2014 SALINA, KS

☺ COLORADO CONSERVATION TILLAGE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2014 BURLINGTON, CO

☺ NORTHEAST COLORADO NO TILL/SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 13, 2014 HOLYOKE, CO

☺ PANHANDLE NO TILL WINTER CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2014 GERING, NE

☺ SWCS 69TH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 27-30, 2014 LOMBARD, IL

☺ COLORADO SWCS SUMMER TOUR
MAY 30-31, 2014 PUEBLO/ CO SPRINGS, CO
(WATCH EMAIL & WEBSITE FOR DATES AND AGENDA)

2014 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.