



# COLORADO SWCS

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

C O L O R A D O S W C S

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# President's Message

By: Charles Pannebaker



Here it is 2010, a brand new year with lots of potential to do great conservation work.

If you have an idea for a spring, summer or fall tour that would highlight some of your conservation activities I would like to hear your ideas we will have at least one chapter sponsored tour this year.

The Colorado Chapter also has a Grant Program that can award \$200 to \$500 to help support workshops, training programs or other activities that support activities that are related to SWCS Colorado Chapter mission. If you go to the chapter web site under awards you can find the complete details and application.

Here is an opportunity to help the SWCS: Volunteers are needed for the SWCS Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality II meeting April 28 – 30, 2010 in Denver. About 20 volunteers are needed from the Northern Plains region. The greatest need is for people who can setup audio/visual equipment for the sessions. Since the meeting is going to be in Denver, I would like to see the Colorado Chapter well represented. If you have interest in helping with this session please contact Mary Miller at:

[mary.miller@co.usda.gov](mailto:mary.miller@co.usda.gov)

For anyone interested in chapter leadership, there is the Northern Plains SWCS Technical Leadership meeting going to be held in Chadron, NE on March 18 – 20. This is always an excellent meeting to learn about chapter development and learn the successful activities the other Northern Plains SWCS chapters.

I would like to thank all the chapter officers and committee chairs and chapter members for the willingness to help the Colorado Chapter SWCS. I hope that we can have a very good year promoting and highlighting the wise use of our soil and water related resources.

# New Chapter Officers for 2010

In November 2009 at the Colorado Chapter SWCS annual meeting the chapter welcomed Charles Pannebaker as President for 2010, Dawn Jackson as President-Elect for 2010 and Lorenz Sutherland as Director-at-Large. Travis McKay was also welcomed at the Science Fair Committee Chair. You can find out more about our new officers and new committee chairs in their biographies below.

## **CHARLES PANNEBAKER—2010 PRESIDENT**



Charlie grew up on a small dairy farm in SE Pennsylvania. He has earned an AAS in Agronomy from the State Univ. of New York at Cobleskill and a BA from the U of Georgia, also in Agronomy. Charlie has worked for SCS/NRCS since 1974. He has worked as Soil Conservationist in two Field Offices and District Conservationist in three Field Offices in PA from 1974 through 1992. Charlie joined SWCS in 1976 and belonged to the Keystone Chapter and served as Sect/Treasurer for several years. Charlie came to Colorado in 1992 and has worked as a Resource Conservationist in the La Junta Area Office since then. Charlie has been a member of the Colorado Chapter of SWCS since 1992 and served as the Science Fair coordinator for several years.

He has been married to his wonderful wife Fran for 32 years and they have 2 grown children. Fran is a Resource Management Specialist for the Park Service at Bents Old Fort.

Charlie believes that he can use his career experience and ability to listen to and work with people to be a good president of our chapter.

## **DAWN JACKSON— 2010 PRESIDENT-ELECT**



Dawn is currently employed as a District Conservationist at the Sterling NRCS Field Office, and has been with NRCS for 20 years. She has worked as a conservationist in the Burlington, Fort Morgan and Yuma field offices, and also served as the Resource Conservationist for Programs and the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

Dawn is married and has a daughter that attends Merino High School. She and her husband have a small farm/ranch in Logan County. Dawn is also involved on the Merino School Board, Northeastern Junior College Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the Merino FFA Advisory Board.

Dawn has been active in the Colorado Chapter SWCS serving as Director-At-Large, and serving as a committee chair for the Northern Plains Technical Conference.

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2010 OFFICERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

### LORENZ SUTHERLAND— 2010 DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



Dr. Lorenz Sutherland is a Colorado native, reared on a ranch near Woodland Park, Colorado. Lorenz attended Colorado State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy in 1974 and Masters of Science degree in Soil Science (1978).

Lorenz continued his graduate education at Colorado State University and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Soil Science/Applied Soil Physics with an ancillary skill in water legal principles and public policy (1980). He then conducted a post doctorate study for two years with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins, developing computer simulation modeling methodologies.

In 1981, Lorenz moved to southeast Colorado as an Assistant Professor of Agronomy for Colorado State University. He worked in research and extension splitting his time between the Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford and the Plainsman AgriSearch Foundation Center near Walsh.

Since 1988, Lorenz has served as Conservation Agronomist and currently as Area Resource Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

Dr. Sutherland is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America. He is a Past Secretary/Treasurer, Past-President of the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and served a one-year term as a member of the International Program Committee for the Society. In 1995, he was named a SWCS Berg Fellow on public conservation policy.

### TRAVIS MCKAY— SCIENCE FAIR COMMITTEE CHAIR



Travis is a Soil Conservationist at the Sterling NRCS field office. He has been employed with the NRCS for 5 years and enjoys helping producers improve their operations. Travis is a new member to SWCS. He is looking forward to expanding his activities to the Colorado science fairs for 2010 and beyond.



Welcome 2010  
Officer Team!

# 2009 Technical Conference on CRP

By: Charles Pannebaker

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held its annual technical conference on November 16, 2009 at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado. The conference theme was "Creating Profitable Cropping Systems – Post CRP". An excellent group of speakers informed the 44 attendees on the best way to convert CRP back to crop production while protecting the resource base. Most of the eastern plains counties of Colorado have 25 – 30 percent of their cropland enrolled in CRP and a significant portion of the current CRP acres are scheduled to end in the next few years. Land use planners need guidance on how to return the land back to cropland after being in CRP for the last twenty years. This year's technical conference provided that knowledge. I would personally like to thank Wendell Hassell, Dr. Ronald Follett, Dr. Allen Schlegel, Dr. David Nielsen, Eric Blinka, Jeffery Tranel and Seth Gallagher for being presenters.

# 2009 Annual Meeting and Awards

On November 16, 2009 following the Technical Conference, CO Chapter SWCS held its annual business meeting. There were several CO SWCS members in attendance. President Ardell Halvorson went over chapter activities for 2009 and a follow up discussion to the Technical Conference was had. Charlie Pannebaker gave the Northern Plains Regional Director's Report on behalf of Mary Miller who was unable to attend. It was reported that CO Chapter SWCS has 121 active members. New officers were announced and welcomed then President Ardell and Awards Chair, Beth Fortman gave out CO Chapter awards for 2009. The following is a list of awards given to CO Chapter Members.

## COMMENDATION AWARDS

### RENEE KOCH

In recognition of your outstanding service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as Secretary/Treasurer during 2009.

### SAMMIE MOLINARO

In recognition of your continued outstanding service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as Science Fair Chairperson and dedication in obtaining Science Fair Judges and managing the Awards in 2009.

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AWARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

**BETH FORTMAN**

In recognition of your superior service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as Awards and Scholarship Committee Chairperson in 2009, your continued dedicated service to the Chapter as East Slope Director, and your assistance at the Northern Plains Technical Conference in Rapid City, SD.

**SHERRI BRANDT**

In recognition of your outstanding service in producing two excellent quality Newsletters in 2009 for the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

**KRISTI GAY**

In recognition of your continued, dedicated and diligent service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as Webmaster and Membership Committee Chairperson during 2009.

**DAWN JACKSON**

In recognition of your continued, dedicated and diligent service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as Webmaster and Membership Committee Chairperson during 2009.

**CINDY CRIST**

In recognition of your dedicated and diligent service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as West Slope Director, and for your assistance at the Northern Plains Technical Conference held in Rapid City, SD.

**PRESIDENT'S CITATION****JOHN SCOTT**

In recognition of your continued, dedicated and diligent service to the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society as Webmaster and Membership Committee Chairperson during 2009.

**CHARLES PANNEBAKER**

In recognition of your leadership efforts in organizing the Technical Conference "Creating Profitable Cropping Systems – Post CRP" for the Colorado Chapter SWCS that was held at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, CO on November 16, 2009.



# 2009 Colorado SWCS Conservation Awards

At the 2009 Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Breckenridge, Colorado, the Colorado Chapter SWCS presented the Outstanding Conservationist of the Year Award and the Outstanding Junior Conservationist of Year Award.

## JACK AND DEBBIE GILLELAND — GILLELAND FARMS OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jack and Debbie are Colorado natives and were raised in Manassas and LaJara respectively. Jack began farming 240 acres his father and grandfather owned and over the years acquired more land to expand the farm operation. They raise alfalfa, canola and small grains, much of which is irrigated with center pivots. Their cropping system rotation helps them prevent soil erosion and build soil tilth.



They have an extensive irrigation water management plan and upgraded their sprinklers with re-nozzling and re-bowled irrigation pumps. Jack is very energy conscience and improved his efficiency, even installing solar power on one of his pivots. They work closely with the NRCS and have had several program contracts and conservation planning over the years to help them better manage their irrigation water for better crop production.

Congratulations Jack and Debbie!

## AVERY HOLLINGSWORTH OUTSTANDING JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Avery is a first year student at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO, where he is majoring in Range Science. He grew up in Kim and has been a member of the Kim FFA for four years and the Villegreen 4-H Club for 10 years. He participated on the FFA range judging team for 4 years, placing every year individually, and tied for the top individual his junior and senior years.



He was a Colorado delegate in the High School Youth Forum sponsored by the Society for Range Management and presented a paper on the impact the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site would have on the rangeland.

Avery has also been a very active camper/participant at Camp Rocky for 4 years. This next year he will return as a Junior Leader as he showed exemplary leadership qualities.

Congratulations Avery!

# Pride in Being a Professional Conservationist

By: Mary Miller, Northern Plains Regional Director

In the fall of 2007, I hosted two Argentinean range specialists. They were visiting selected Western states in the United States to learn firsthand how conservation professionals protect, preserve, and improve our rangeland resources. Juan and Guillermo worked for the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (National Institute for Agricultural Technology), a federal agency, in Argentina.

After saying good bye to them, I walked away feeling very proud of being a conservation professional whose role is to help others learn better ways to take care of the land and other natural resources. Juan and Guillermo were very appreciative of what we had helped them see and learn about our conservation efforts and techniques. They were also thrilled with the technical publications and resource materials that we had shared with them.

I think we conservation professionals sometimes forget how important what we do really is. At the May 2007 SWCS Board of Directors strategic planning session, we discussed why we--the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)--are a professional society, a topic that has been discussed before. Max Schnepf provided the board with some history on this. Past boards have looked to the intent of the Society's founders. The founders felt that the position of a professional conservationist was just as important to society as a whole as that of a doctor, lawyer, and other professionals. The founders wanted to have an organization that brought conservation professionals together.

In the first *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* published in July 1946, Ralph H. Musser, then the president of the Soil Conservation Society of America—now SWCS—wrote an article titled “Why Another Society?” In it he wrote “it is now abundantly clear that conservation of soil and water resources has become one of the prime objectives and one of the major fields of sustained endeavor in our country.” Musser said that our country was looking more and more at ways to protect our soil and water resources. He added that at the core of this work will be the professional conservationist and that as a natural progression of what was going on was the need for professional conservationists to be unified on professional standards and scientific objectives.

As professional conservationists and members of the Society, we need to remember how important our chosen profession is to our country and to the world. We help protect and preserve the natural resources in our country. We also educate others in the U.S. and foreign countries so that they can do the same.

Next time someone asks you what you do, be proud to say that you are a **Professional Conservationist**. You serve a critical role in protecting the natural resources of our country and our world for future generations!

I encourage all of you who are members of the Colorado SWCS Chapter to attend Chapter sponsored workshops, tours, and conferences. They are great professional development opportunities. In addition, these are a good way to see old colleagues in the conservation profession and to make new ones. After attending these workshops, tours, and annual meetings, I go away reinvigorated and excited about being part of such a great profession and professional society.

# NP Regional Technical Meeting

The Northern Plains Region will hold a Technical Meeting in Chadron, Nebraska March 18-20, 2010. Technical topics to be covered on Thursday afternoon and Friday will include fire & forest health and rehabilitation techniques, water shed assessments, biofuels and alternative energy, straw bale homes and more. Saturday's session includes topics on membership development, and campaigns, how to rejuvenate a chapter, motivating members and getting them involved, meeting the professional development needs of members and building partnerships.

SWCS's new Executive Director, Jim Gulliford has been invited to attend, speak at the banquet and give a Society update and his vision of where the Society is going. Please visit the SWCS website at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org) or contact NP Regional Director, Mary Miller at [mary.miller@co.usda.gov](mailto:mary.miller@co.usda.gov) for more information as this Technical Meeting gets closer.

## New Executive Director for SWCS

On November 2, 2009, SWCS welcomed Jim Gulliford as you SWCS Executive Director. Jim is excited to rejoin soil and water conservation colleagues — the SWCS Board of Directors, staff, our chapter leaders and members. Jim joined SWCS in 1982 when he came to the state of Iowa, and has been a member ever since. The Society faces many challenges and opportunities to have a significant impact with the issues of energy, climate, water quality, and the sustain production of food and fiber. Jim looks forward to working with you as the Society moves forward.

## Grant Money Available From CO SWCS

In 2009, a Grant Program was established to sponsor individuals and groups organizing or participating in activities related to the SWCS CO Chapter mission. This award program offers up to \$200 per sponsorship and a maximum of \$500 annually to an individual or group. The purpose of this grant program is to help support workshops, training programs or other activities that contribute to the spread of knowledge in conjunction with other institutions and organizations.

You can find out more about the grant program on the Colorado Chapter website under AWARDS.

# Student Scholarship Available From CO SWCS

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 (available on our website [www.swcs.org/en/colorado\\_chapter](http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter) click on awards) and supporting information. Email completed applications and supporting documents to Beth Fortman, [Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov), Chairperson of the Undergraduate Student Scholarship Committee no later than March 31, 2010. The committee will make selections by July 31, 2010 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.

Any Colorado resident enrolled in a four-year Colorado college or university pursuing a degree in a natural resources related program is eligible. Student must be entering their junior or senior year in fall of 2010.

## Scholarship Available to SWCS Members

Would you like to continue your education or update your skills as a conservation professional who has been a member of SWCS for one year or more?

Financial assistance is available to members of SWCS who want to pursue higher education and professional development through the following scholarships:

### **Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship**

Provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are currently employed but wish to improve their technical or administrative competence in a conservation related field through course work at an accredited college or through a program of special study.

***At least one scholarship, up to \$1,000, is expected to be awarded in 2010.***

**MEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9****Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship**

Provides financial aid to members of SWCS for interdisciplinary graduate-level research on a conservation topic that will extend the SWCS mission of fostering the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability.

***One research scholarship of \$1,300 is expected to be awarded in 2010.***

**Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship**

Provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of full-time undergraduate study or are pursuing graduate level studies with a natural resource conservation orientation at a properly accredited college or university.

***At least one scholarship, up to \$500, is expected to be awarded in 2010.***

Scholarship applications and additional information on requirements for each scholarship is available on the SWCS webpage at; ([http://www.swcs.org/en/members\\_only/scholarships/](http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/scholarships/) ).

Members may also contact their regional representative on the SWCS Professional Development Committee or SWCS Headquarters (515-289-2331) for more information.



The SWCS On-line Store has a lot to offer members, from the bi-monthly publication, *The Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, to books and educational resources about conservation, the Soil and Water Conservation Society is committed to learning and bringing soil, land and water conservation issues to everyone.

Publications range in content and audience types but never fail to convey our mission learning from one another. Be sure to check out the SWCS On-line Store at <http://store.swcs.org>.

Bags, blankets, caps, jackets, t-shirts, polo shirts, long and short sleeve shirts for men and women, pullovers, sweatshirts, vests, and youth-wear with embroidered SWCS logo are now available at [www.americanbus.com/swcs](http://www.americanbus.com/swcs).



## EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

- ☺ POLLINATOR CONSERVATION PLANNING ON WORKING LANDS  
FEBRUARY 3-4, 2010 BISMARCK, ND  
<http://www.ndswcs.org/workshops.htm>
- ☺ NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING  
MARCH 18-20, 2010 CHADRON, NE
- ☺ MANAGING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES II WORKSHOP  
APRIL 28-30, 2010 DENVER, CO
- ☺ CCA STUDY SESSIONS  
APRIL 2010
- ☺ SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JULY 17-21, 2010 ST. LOUIS, MO
- ☺ CO SWCS & CO SRM JOINT SUMMER TOUR  
SUMMER 2010
- ☺ CO SWCS TECHNICAL CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING  
FALL 2010
- ☺ AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE
- ☺ TSP TRAINING SESSIONS ON WEQ & RUSLE2 PROGRAMS

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# 2010 COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS



## OFFICERS

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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.