



# COLORADO SWCS

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

MAY 2010

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# President's Message

By: Charles Pannebaker



Time... everyone has the same supply 24 hours, 1440 minutes, 86400 seconds each day. Some people get so much more done each day than me. How do they do it?

The experts say to schedule and set priorities are the way to get the most of our time.

Here are two upcoming events that are worth setting as a priority and writing on your schedule:

June 11, 2010 is the SRM/SWCS joint tour at J & L Farms Kiowa County, Colorado. J & L Farms are operated by John and Laura Negley. They are the recipient of the SRM Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award. Both John and Laura are good operators. Laura operates the beef herd and the rangeland and John is the farmer. He grows the crops and manages the cropland. It's unusual to see both ends of a diverse operation managed so well.

Then throw in a talk on virtual fencing by Dr. Dean Anderson, ARS and who can resist seeing how to do that. Can't imagine how easy it is to draw a virtual line on a map compared to making fence. Think of the possibilities that could have on range management. Think of all the blisters, sweat and sore muscles saved.

July 17 – 21 is the 65<sup>th</sup> International Annual Conference of the SWCS in St. Louis, MO. It is always a great experience to go to the Annual Conference. The sessions are of the highest quality, it will update you on the latest soil and water technology and have a chance to make new friends and renew "old" friendships. If you are interested in attending the Annual Conference, talk to me or one of the other Colorado Chapter officers, we might be able help you attend. I would hate to see a few dollars keep anyone from going to the Annual Conference.

When making your schedules for this June and July remember and prioritize and schedule the upcoming SWCS meetings.

# SWCS & SRM TO HOST SUMMER TOUR

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management will once again be holding a summer tour. This years summer tour will take place on Friday June 11, 2010 at the J & L Farms Partnership headquarters south of Eads, Colorado. J & L Farms Partnership, owned and operated by John and Laura Negley, is the recipient of the 2010 SRM Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award.



Things you will see and learn about while participating in this tour include a Virtual fencing presentation by Dr. Dean Anderson, observation of short grass prairie ecosystems, the intensively managed prescribed grazing being applied, the rangeland monitoring being applied, small grain residue management and dry cropland terrace systems.

Registration for the tour starts at 8:30 am and at 9:30 am, Laura Negley will welcome the group to their operation. The tour is expected to wrap up by 3pm. To register for the tour simply detach and send the Registration Form below to the Kiowa County Conservation District. Tour flyers, location map and registration forms may also be printed from the CO SWCS website [www.swcs.org/en/colorado\\_chapter/](http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/). Preregistration is due by June 4 and is \$15



payable to the Colorado Section SRM; late registration or on site registration is \$25 and is also payable to Colorado Section SRM. Registration includes breakfast refreshment and a catered lunch to be served at the headquarters.

The map, on the next page, provides directions to the location as well as lodging information and area attractions. Questions concerning directions to the tour site or lodging may be directed to CO SWCS Chapter President, Charlie Pannebaker at

[charles.pannebaker@co.usda.gov](mailto:charles.pannebaker@co.usda.gov). We hope to see you on June 11, 2010!

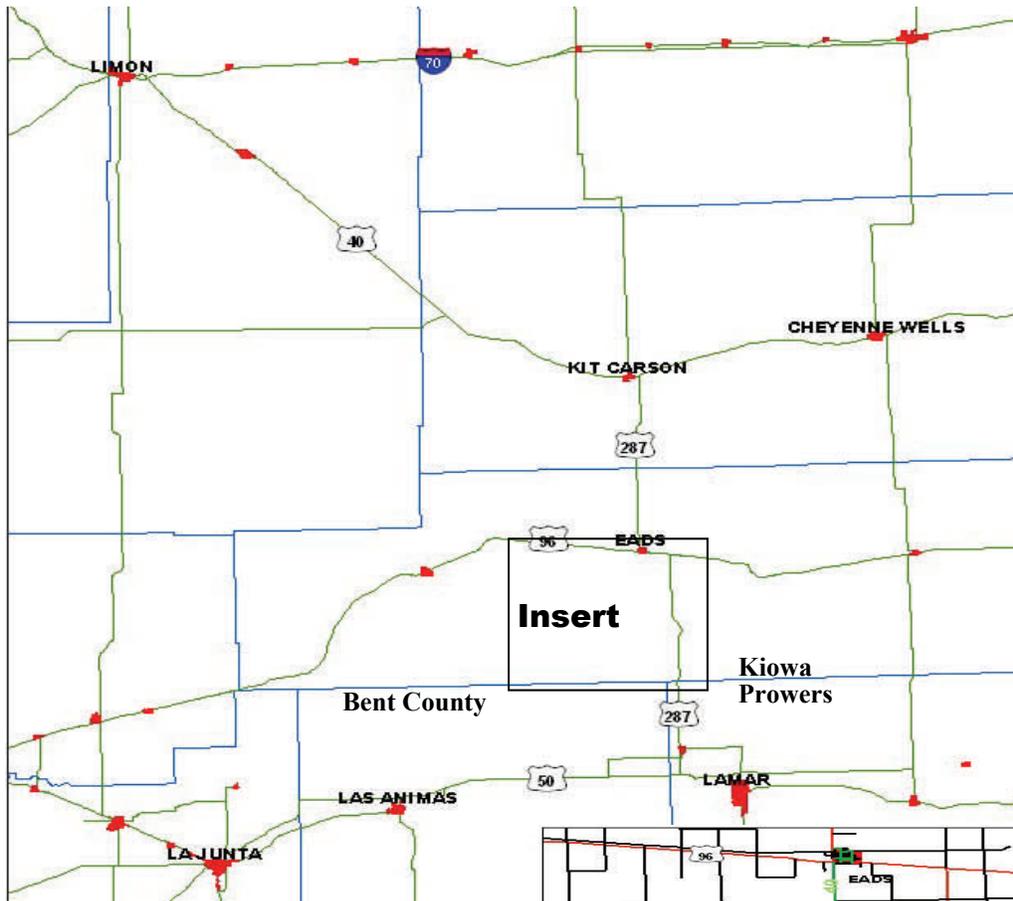
**Registration Form:** Please detach & mail this receipt along with your check made payable to the Colorado Section SRM to the: *Kiowa County Conservation District, P.O. Box 845, Eads, CO 81036.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 =  
 Payment Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Preregistration is due by **June 4<sup>th</sup>**; late registration is \$25. Registration includes breakfast refreshments & a catered lunch served at the ranch headquarters.

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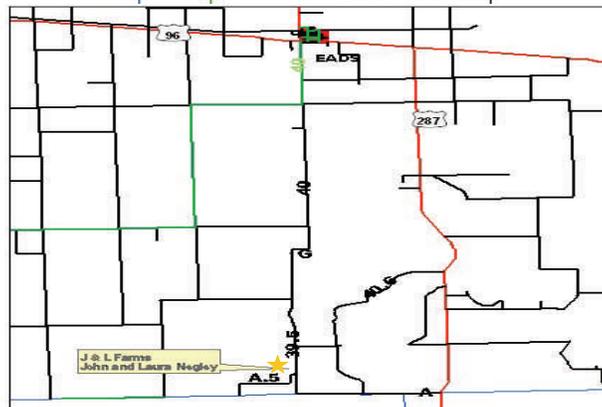
Map of SWCS/SRM Tour location Continued from Page 2



Map for SRM/SWSC Meeting



**J & L Farms Headquarters**



**Motels in Lamar**

- Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 1304 N. Main St., 719-931-4010; \$70 single or double
- Cow Palace (Best Western), 1301 N. Main St., 719-336-7753; \$65 single or \$70 double
- Super 8 Motel, 1202 N. Main St., 719-336-3427; \$55 single or \$60 double
- Country Acres RV Campground, 29151 US Hwy 285 (1 mile S. of Lamar)
- Kiowa Co. Fairgrounds, \$5 RV hook-ups (electrical only), northwest side of Eads

**Area Attractions**

- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, 5 miles NE of La Junta, 35110 St Hwy 194, La Junta; 719-383-5010
- Bogsville Historic Site located 1 mile south of Las Animas
- Koshare Indian Kiva & Museum, 115 W. 18th St., La Junta; 719-384-4411
- Queens State Wildlife Area, SE of Eads; fishing, boating & camping; for information call 719-336-6600
- Sand Creek National Historic Site, 10 miles NE of Chivington, CO; for information call 719-438-5916

## SCIENCE FAIRS— AN ANNUAL FAVORITE OF CO SWCS

By: Travis McKay—Science Fair Committee Chair

The Colorado Chapter SWCS recently participated in thirteen regional science fairs and a state science fair by providing judges, cash prizes, certificates and ribbons. These science fairs are organized by Colorado Science and Engineering Fair, Inc and are organized to honor excellence in science, engineering, and technology and promote professional skills and high ethical standards in Colorado high school students. The chapter awarded prizes to the outstanding junior and senior projects and second place projects at each fair. The awards went to projects that were related to the Society's goals of fostering the science and art of natural resource conservation. The Chapter received a variety of thank-you notes from students for our contributions. The Colorado Chapter would like to thank all of the volunteer judges for both the Regional and State science fairs and their commitment to contributing to the positive development of tomorrow's conservationists.



# HAPPY SPRING!



## CERTIFIED CROP ADVISORY STUDY SESSIONS

Colorado SWCS hosted a series of Study Sessions in Fall 2009 and early 2010 to help attendees prepare to take the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) exams in February. Ten people participated in the sessions with six deciding to take the exams in February and four successfully passing the exams.

The study sessions were primarily attendee driven from questions that would come after studying the International and Colorado Study Guides. The study sessions were held every two weeks. Colorado SWCS is planning to host another "CCA Study Session" that will begin this summer. These study sessions will be workshop or curriculum driven with only the last session being a review from the study guides.

Announcement of the Study Sessions should be coming out in June. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Jackson at [merinodj@gmail.com](mailto:merinodj@gmail.com).

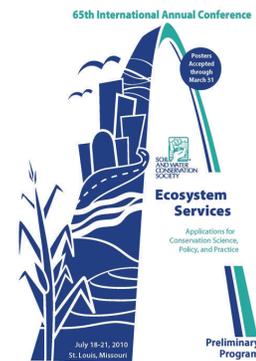
## 65th INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 65th International SWCS Annual Conference titled “Ecosystem Services—Applications for Conservation Science, Policy, and Practice” will be held July 18—21, 2010 in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions and technical tours designated to raise the awareness of participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management. The conference will take place at the Hilton at the Ballpark in downtown St. Louis.

Conference highlights include the 2010 Fellows Forum: Gulf Hypoxia—A Midwest Perspective; the Prichard Lecture: Smart Resource Use by Valuing Nature’s Assets presented by Peter Kareiva, Chief Scientist & Director Science The Nature Conservancy and the Tuesday Plenary: Ecosystem Services Panel.

Special events this year will include a 65/75 Dinner celebrating the 65th Anniversary on the SWCS Annual Meeting and the 75th Anniversary of the creation of the Soil Conservation Service, the Exhibitor/Poster Reception on Sunday night, and a trip to the Cardinals game on Monday night. There are seven tours, five workshops, and dozens of opportunities to learn and make connections with attendees, exhibitors and speakers in a variety of traditional and nontraditional settings and sessions.

For more information, a detailed agenda, lodging information and online registration, please visit [www.swcs.org/10ac](http://www.swcs.org/10ac).



## 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION REQUEST

The Silent Auction has been an anticipated and cheerful tradition at the SWCS International Conference for years. Each year, Chapters and sponsors donate unique and diverse items. All proceeds from the 2010 Silent Auction will be used to support the two scholarships the Missouri's Show-Me Chapter sponsors every year.

To contribute to the auction, you can either bring your Silent Auction item with you to St. Louis, or you can send your contributions directly to the Auction Coordinator, Marc Vanacht. Last year in Michigan, the gift baskets with local small items were a big success so we are looking for items to place in baskets again this year. Also popular are wines, preserved food, conservation books, sports tickets, shirts, caps, carvings, belt buckles, jewelry, etc. which all give the bidders a thrill to obtain and make excellent auction items. Your Chapter will be recognized as the item donor. Any printed information describing the donated item will be proudly displayed at the table.

If you are bringing your silent auction item instead of shipping it, please email Marc so he can have all of the bid sheets prepared prior to the conference. All items can be dropped off at the exhibit hall in the Hilton beginning at Noon on Sunday, July 18. If you have any questions, please contact Marc Vanacht at 314 616 3473 or at [marc@van8.com](mailto:marc@van8.com).

## NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL SWCS WORKSHOP

By: Beth Fortman

Charlie Pannebaker, Kristi Gay, Beth Fortman and Mike Collins attended this year's Northern Plains Regional SWCS Workshop, held in Chadron, Nebraska. The workshop was held March 18-20, 2010 and was hosted by the Nebraska SWCS Chapter.

Lee Messersmith gave a talk on Pollinators. He is a long time beekeeper. Nebraska use to be #1 in honey production but loss of habitat has caused the numbers of bees to decline. Another cause in decline was a parasitic wasp that feed on honey bees. He also told us that beehives should be less than ½ mile from food and water.

In 2006 a summer thunder storm caused several forest fires in Chadron State Park south of the town of Chadron. The wind fanned one of those fires north to the edge of CSC campus. The college and part of the town were evacuated. Chuck Butterfield and Doak Nickerson discussed forest fire-forest health and rehabilitation techniques. Fire is a disturbance and creates changes to the ecosystem. A hundred plus years ago there were fires naturally occurring every so many years on the plains, these actually benefitted the ecosystem. A STEP, who is also a CSC student, talked about the Chadron fire and is the team leader on a watershed assessment team studying the water quality aspects of the major fire of 2006.

There was a video conference with John Richards of the Nebraska Power Commission. The US is leading in wind energy development. Wind towers use no water, no emissions and no energy to produce 1.65 megawatt per tower. They have a 30 year life for a tower. Colorado is currently in 12<sup>th</sup> place for wind energy development but will move to 5<sup>th</sup> place once planned sites are constructed. There was also talk on small wind farm for home owners, 10 kilowatt/tower is needed for the average home.

We toured the biomass furnace (wood chip burner) that heats all 32 buildings and the swimming pool on the CSC campus. The furnace also produces steam that is 'chilled' and is able to currently cool 20 buildings on the campus. The system was recently inspected and passed an EPA spot check. The inspector even commented that the exhaust is so 'clean' it could operate in downtown Denver! The wood chips used for the furnace come from some of the burned wood from the fire and from landowners in the area doing tree thinning on their properties. The ash is composted and available free of use on campus and to the entire community.

We also toured a turf grass/buffalo grass lawn study using limited irrigation, hillside tree renovation and a rain harvest/capture storage and re-use project from the roofs, all this at CSC.



Charlie Pannebaker, Kristi Gay, Mike Collins and Beth Fortman at the Northern Plains Workshop in Chadron, NE.

## NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP FUNDING AVAILABLE

**D**o you have a natural resource related workshop that you need additional funding to make happen? As part of our mission to promote the wise use of soil, water and other natural resources through scientific, educational, and service-oriented functions, the SWCS Colorado Chapter created a grant program to sponsor individuals and groups organizing or participating in activities related to this mission. The award program offers up to \$200 per sponsorship 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 toward natural resource conservation.

This grant is available on a continuing basis. To apply, please complete the easy application form (available at [www.swcs.org/en/colorado\\_chapter](http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter), click on Awards) and email it to Dawn Jackson, Chairperson, CO SWCS Grant Program at [merinodj@gmail.com](mailto:merinodj@gmail.com).



## UPCOMING SWCS EVENTS



☺ **SWCS/SRM JOINT TOUR**  
**EADS, CO**  
**JUNE 11, 2010**

☺ **65TH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**ST. LOUIS, MO**  
**JULY 18—21, 2010**

☺ **SUSTAINABLE FEEDSTOCKS FOR ADVANCED BIOFUELS**  
**ATLANTA, GA**  
**SEPTEMBER 28—30, 2010**

☺ **CO CHAPTER ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**  
**NOVEMBER 2010**

☺ **CCA STUDY SESSIONS**  
**SUMMER/FALL 2010**

# 2010 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.