

SWCS COLORADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

May 2007



President's Message

By Tony Arnhold



Hello Colorado Chapter Membership! First I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work last summer during the 2006 Annual Meeting in Keystone! These events would not be possible and Successful without your help. Many of you know me and some do not I have been active in the chapter for nearly 15 years now and have had the opportunity to meet many of the wonderful people that make up our Chapter. During the remainder of my term as president I hope to guide the chapter and strengthen our working within the membership and through partnerships with other Societies and organizations with similar goals.

Some of the activities that your Board has planned for this year include a Joint Tour with the Colorado Section of Society for Range Management in early August at a Ranch near Fairplay, CO in South Park. The Tour/Field Day will focus on Riparian Management as a whole; including Grazing Livestock, Wildlife, and Restoration. More information on this event will be advertised soon. Another workshop that is coming up that your Chapter is sponsoring in Partnership with the Middle Park Conservation District; Topic to be covered dealing with nearly 90% Mortality of Lodgepole Pine – Soil Erosion, Weeds, Forest Stand Improvement Practices and the possibility of Fire; will happen June 2, 2007 in Granby. For More Information Check out our website- <http://colorado.swcs.org/> or Phone 970-724-3456.

Your Chapter is always looking for suggestions and Conservation Programs to Sponsor! Contact a Board Member or email your suggestions with a brief description of the Program. I am always open to your thoughts and my email is: anthony.arnhold@co.usda.gov

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MEET YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT, JORGE DELGADO



Jorge A. Delgado works for the USDA-ARS-Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he provides leadership in the areas of soil fertility and biogeochemistry. He completed his B.S. in Soil Science at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez (1982). He completed his M.S. in Agronomy (1984) and Ph.D. in Soil Fertility (1987) at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He conducted post-doctoral studies in biogeochemistry at the USDA-ARS-SPNR in Fort Collins, Colorado. His studies covered N cycling and transformations in cropland and grasslands of Wyoming, Colorado, Puerto Rico and other regions. Dr. Delgado is a faculty affiliate member with the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University and is a certified professional soil scientist and agronomist. He has authored and/or coauthored approximately 110 publications in journals, books, bulletins, proceedings, and other publications. He has conducted over 60 invited national and international presentations. Dr. Delgado serves on the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and Soil Water Conservation Society Liaison committee. Dr. Delgado is the research editor (2001-present) of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* and Chair of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Editorial Board. He is also a member of the SWCS Annual Conference Program Committee and the elected president of the SWCS Colorado Chapter. Dr. Delgado is Fellow of the SWCS, SSSA and ASA. Dr. Delgado is looking forward to cooperate with the Colorado Chapter and his members. Dr. Delgado will be serving as the 2007 Colorado Delegate for the 2007 SWCS House of Delegates Meeting. If you have any recommendation for the 2007 SWCS House of Delegates or question, contact Dr. Jorge Delgado at idelgado@lamar.colostate.edu.

MEET STORM CASPER, BOARD MEMBER AT-LARGE

Michael "Storm" Casper grew up in Southeast Colorado and has spent most of his life working on a farm and ranch. He received his BA in 1991 from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell Oklahoma. Following graduation he worked in Denver for 5 years while attending the University of Denver. In 1997 he returned home to devote more time to the farm and ranch. In 1999 he began working for the local conservation district to develop a noxious weed map. In 2000 he completed field checks on CRP and made recommendations for maintenance. In 2003 worked to develop conservation measures to protect ground surface water in the Southern High Plains. In 2005 he helped the local conservation district develop a noxious weed program. In 2006 he began working full time for the NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Springfield Field Office. Storm and his wife Larae reside in Springfield and have a daughter Rylee who is attending Colorado State University and a son Garrett who is 11.

NEWS FROM COLORADO CHAPTER

Colorado Chapter 2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual meeting was scheduled to be held in conjunction with the CACD annual meeting in Glenwood Springs. Due to significant bad weather, only 2 board members and a very small number of regular members were able to attend. Because there was not a quorum present, an official business meeting was not held. An informal discussion about the Chapter's year, topics included the Keystone International Meeting, chapter election results and various other topics.

2006 CACD Workshop

The Colorado Chapter SWCS along with the Southside, Bookcliff and Mount Sopris Conservation Districts sponsored a technical workshop on Monday Nov. 13, just prior to the CACD Annual Meeting. The workshop was well attended despite the weather. Thirty two individuals and four speakers braved the weather to attend the workshop titled "Noxious Weeds, A Silent Thief". Comments regarding the meeting were positive.

Northern Plains Regional Meeting

Six members of the Colorado Chapter attended the annual Northern Plains technical workshop in Red Lodge, MT, March 8-10th, 2007. The annual workshop had a great turnout with over 30 Northern Plains members in attendance, representing all states within the region. Agenda items included:

- Corral Extreme Makeover, by Noel Keogh – Beartooth Stock Association and Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. This is a locally led project with financial assistance from the GLCI to help landowners/ranchers who have AFO/CAFO issues within the Stock Association move corrals and build barns out of areas of concern, i.e. along creek bottoms. This project came about to help those landowners who couldn't receive EQIP dollars for construction of new barns and/or corrals; as these practices are not allowed to be cost-shared under the EQIP and are often the most expensive parts of projects to bring those landowners into compliance with the AFO/CAFO rules.
- Coal Bed Methane update – Dr. Jim Bauder, Montana State University
- Ag opportunities for carbon sequestration in the NP – Big Sky Partnership, Susan Capalbo, Montana State University
- Yellowstone River Cumulative Effects Studies – Warren Kellogg, NRCS/Yellowstone River CD Council

On Saturday, we traveled to nearby Bridger, Montana for presentations on history of Center and visited current projects to include greenhouse, native plant collection and propagation methods, National Park program, plant materials seed collections, evaluation trials, and seed increase plantings. We also reviewed and discussed recent PM releases made in the Northern Great Plains.



Colorado Attendees to NP Meeting:
Top row L-R: Jorge Delgado, Storm Casper, Tony Arnhold. Bottom row: Amy Sidener, Mary Miller, Ron Follet.



At Bridger Plant Materials Center, windbreak Species and watering system test plot

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WEBSITE UPDATE

We have changed web hosts!! We are now using the National Chapter's hosting service, so our web address is now <http://colorado.swcs.org>. We are still in the process of updating our information, so please be patient. If you have suggestions or things you would like to post on our website, please contact our Webmaster, Kristi Gay at Kristi.gay@co.usda.gov or (719)765-4676.

REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIRS JUDGED BY COLORADO CHAPTER MEMBERS

CCSWCS participated in 12 Regional Science Fairs and 1 State Science Fair. Response back from chapter judges indicated excellent projects that pertained to Soil and Water Conservation Topics such as ground water quality, soil erosion and the control of noxious weeds. As a total, Chapter members judged a total of 70 projects across the state for regional fairs.

Results for the State Competition are as follows:

Junior 1st place - Hannah Eckblad from Plant Sciences won for her project entitled, **"The effect of recycled newspaper on pea germination in a heavy clay soil."**

Junior 2nd Place - Brooke Grissom in Environmental Sciences for **"Soil erosion: A growing problem."**

Senior 1st Place - Eric Keeling in Environmental Sciences for **"A study on rhizofiltration with *Helianthus annuus* and its effect on coal bed methane produced water."**

Senior 2nd Place - Grant Slinger-Environmental Sciences on **"Effects of soil type on groundwater contamination."**

Reports from the Judges along the Urban Front Range indicated a drop in projects that pertained to Soil and Water Conservation, but in the rural areas, there were still plenty of good projects pertaining to this subject.





NEWS FROM ANKENY

From Sharing the Cost: Evaluation of Federal Spending on Working Land Conservation

Trends in USDA Conservation Spending:

- USDA conservation spending—in nominal dollars—increased 243 percent from 1985 to 2000. Even in constant dollars, conservation spending increased by 123 percent.
- A single program—the Conservation Reserve Program —accounted for 80 percent of the increased conservation spending.
- Financial assistance for land restoration and retirement, in constant dollars, increased from \$13 million in 1985 to \$1.76 billion in 2000—an increase of 12,000 percent.
- Financial assistance for land management and treatment, in constant dollars, declined from \$509 million in 1985 to \$317 in 2000—a decrease of 38 percent.
- Investment in research, scientific and technical support, and direct technical assistance was flat—increasing in constant dollars by about 8 percent.
 - o Research—10 percent increase.
 - o Scientific and technical support—9 percent increase.
 - o Direct technical assistance—8 percent increase.

Trend in USDA Staff

- Capacity to support research, scientific and technical support, and direct technical assistance declined, despite a slight increase in spending.
- NRCS and ARS staff available to support research, scientific and technical support, and direct technical assistance declined.
 - o NRCS—cut 2,201 staff years (-16 percent).
 - o ARS—cut 500 staff years (-6 percent).
- FSA staff available to support programming increased between 1985 and 1995, and then declined between 1995 and 2000. The net: an increase of 1,586 staff years since 1985.

Trends in Emphasis

- In 1985, 60 percent of the conservation budget was spent on scientific and technical assistance—40 percent on financial assistance.
- In 2000, 29 percent of the conservation budget was spent on scientific and technical assistance—71 percent on financial assistance.
- In 1985, 97 percent of the conservation financial assistance budget was spent on land management and treatment and 3 percent on land restoration and retirement.
- In 2000, 15 percent of the conservation financial assistance budget was spent on land management and treatment and 85 percent on land restoration and retirement.
- The proportion of spending allocated among research, scientific and technical support, and direct technical assistance has remained constant.

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2007 Annual Conference

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2007 annual conference will be held July 21-25 in Tampa, Florida.

The conference theme is "Conservation Challenges in a Changing Landscape." The conference includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to expose participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management on working land—the largely privately-owned land comprising working farms, ranches, forests, and rural and urban communities.

AUDIENCE: The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, business, and nongovernmental organizations to explore current issues in conservation and environmental management science, technology, practice, programs, and policy.

Online registration is now available; please go to the SWCS website at www.swcs.org for more information. We are in the process of printing and mailing the program. All SWCS members and recent conference attendees will receive a printed preliminary program soon.



NEW! Conference Message Board: For those of you who would like to connect with other SWCS members attending the conference (to perhaps coordinate with others on arrival times, for dinners, or search for a tennis, golfing or running partner), we have implemented an Annual Conference Message Board. Click here to post a message: [2007 SWCS Annual Conference Message Board](#)

PROGRAM TOPICS AND AREAS OF EMPHASIS

SWCS welcomes papers, posters, and symposia reporting the results of research, testing, monitoring, and evaluation projects, and/or lessons learned from professional experience working with conservation and environmental management systems, technologies, programs, and policies. Our primary focus is on the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management, but we welcome and encourage reports of knowledge gained from management of parks, wildlife refuges, and other land uses.

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS:

06/04/2007

[Environmental Education](#)

Location: Annapolis, MD: Chesapeake Bay Program Office Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room 410 Severn Avenue

06/10/2007 - 06/15/2007

[Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting](#)

Location: Sacramento, California

06/25/2007 - 06/30/2007

[5th International Congress of Europe Society for..](#)

Location: Palermo, Italy

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07/10/2007 - 07/12/2007

[INFOAG 2007](#)

Location: Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois

07/21/2007 - 07/25/2007

[2007 SWCS Annual Conference](#)

Location: Saddlebrook Resort Tampa, Florida

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