



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

DECEMBER 2018

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President's Message

By: Maysoon Mikha



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Soil Water Conservation board and the Colorado board members for their hard work and service for the Colorado Chapter and, thus, to the farmers, ranchers, producers, and conservationists.

This year the Colorado Chapter hosted a "Soil Health In The West" workshop in honor of Mike Collins in Alamosa, Colorado. The workshop was a success with over 42 attendees. The morning sessions included a short introduction of Mike Collins' life and his passion for Soil Health followed by three speakers specialized in Soil Health and the value of including cover crops in management practices followed by a panel discussion. The speakers were Jay Fuhrer, ND NRCS State Soil Health Specialist, Rudy Garcia, NM NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist, and Steve Tucker, Imperial, NE Agronomist practicing no-tillage, crop rotation, and cover crop to increase land efficiency, soil quality, and reduce soil erosion. The afternoon session included a tour visit to the several farmlands implementing different management practices to improve soil health.

I had the opportunity to attend the SWCS National Meeting in Albuquerque, NM. The conference was not only educational, but also enlightening concerning my personal development and networking with the other attendees and the SWCS national leaders. It was encouraging to see so many graduate students participate in this meeting and presenting their research accomplishments. The breakout sessions were rewarding in respect to the devotion that the SWCS members have to the conservation efforts around the country, each in their state.

I would like to encourage you to get involved with the Colorado SWCS Chapter. For the Chapter to grow big, strong, and serve Colorado conservational needs, it requires everyone's efforts, even small involvement can make an impact. After all, "you must be the change you wish to see in the world"- Mahatma Gandhi.

Best Regards,
Maysoon Mikha
President

BETH FORTMAN
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

2018 CO SWCS Awards

BY: Amber Wyndham, Awards/Scholarship Chair



Junior Conservationist of the Year

This year's Junior Conservationist of the year is Leah Anderson. She is a Junior at Edison High School in Yoder, CO and lives on a ranch with her family near Rush, CO. Leah is active in her local 4-H club and has been very successful at her county fair and at the state fair for her range management projects. Leah has attended Camp Rocky for the past two years and is considered to be an exceptional student who participated in the Range Management group and in the Soil and Water Conservation group. She was also nominated to attend the Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum in Reno, NV. Leah is an outstanding youth who is dedicated to learning about agriculture and the conservation of our natural resources.

Visit the CO Chapter website at http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/ and click on Awards if you know of any college junior or seniors in natural resource related fields attending a 4 year Colorado College that may be interested in applying for our scholarship.

Conservationist of the Year

Glenn

Benjamin runs a diverse ranch operation in Elbert County and Sheridan County, Nebraska. The Benjamin Ranch began in 1913 when Glenn's grandparents Leonard and Mary Benjamin homesteaded in Elbert County. Glenn's parents, Leta and the late Harold Benjamin, installed terraces, ponds, cross-fencing, pipelines, stock water tanks and other management practices that implemented conservation on their land. Since Glenn has taken over the ranch, he has continued his family legacy of preserving the land. Glenn has installed solar pumping systems, livestock tanks, pipelines, cross fence and wells with NRCS EQIP and Agate Conservation District Matching Grants cost share assistance. Applying these conservation practices has provided a more uniform grazing that has enhanced the productivity and overall rangeland health. In 2006, he collaborated with CDOT, NRCS, Agate Conservation District and Don Moore Tree planting Service to install 6,580 feet of living snow fence which consisted of planting 822 Rocky mountain junipers to protect CO State Highway 86. In 2017, he installed the Ed Butler Memorial Living Snow Fence along State Highway 86 which totaled approximately 2,300 feet with 270 Rocky mountain junipers planted. Glenn's involvement with the Agate Conservation District and ability to work with multiple partners to implement various management practices to improve rangeland health has awarded him the Colorado SWCS Conservationist of the Year Award.



The Chapter did not have a College Scholarship recipient this year. Each year we have two \$500 scholarships available to a Junior or Senior attending a Colorado college or university in a natural resource field. The Chapter also offers grants. If you see a need where SWCS funds can help or encourage conservation please contact us.

CO SWCS 2019 Officer Elections

The end of the year is near and that means its time to consider election of new officers for the 2019 calendar year. Positions to be filled for 2019 are President, President Elect, West Slope Director and East Slope Director. We didn't fill Director at Large so that is also open.

The past couple of years have been hard for our chapter. We haven't had anyone step up to fill positions on the Board for a couple of years. Please, please, please consider one of these positions. It doesn't take much of your time in a year; monthly teleconferences, co-planning and implementing a workshop, tour or conference. Get involved!

President — Serves a 1 year term as president and a 1 year term as past president. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, the Board and shall appoint all committees and shall perform all other duties incident to his or her office.

East & West Slope Directors — Serve a 2 year term as a member of the board of directors. Attends regular and special meetings of the Executive Board. Represents the needs and interests of the membership in their respective areas. Works with the Executive Board to develop an annual plan and budget. Helps to carry out Chapter operations and

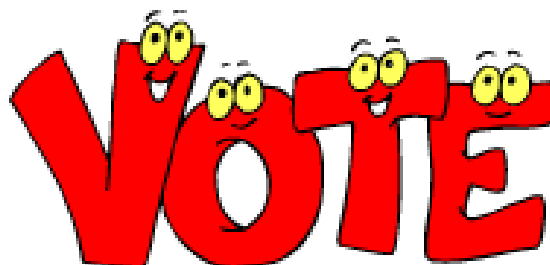
Director at Large — Serves a 2 year term as a director on the executive council. Shall represent the interests of all members of the Chapter, within each area. They represent public policy, advocacy, natural resource knowledge, and maintains contact with federal, state, and provincial agencies, other societies, environmental, agricultural, conservation and other groups.

For more information on the duties relating to each of these offices go to the Chapter website at please contact the current officer

The chapter is also looking for interested individuals to fill the positions of **Membership Committee Chair and Web Committee Chair**. Please contact Past President Beth Fortman for more information or if interested in either of these positions.

Any Colorado Chapter SWCS member is eligible for consideration on the ballot. Please contact Beth Fortman, Past President, at Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov or any member of the executive council with questions you may have and/or to notify the executive council of your interest. Ballots will be sent out the middle of December . Please be sure and vote!

The members in the currently held positions have all agreed to self-nominate and are willing to serve another term **IF** no one else steps up.



CO Chapter Activities



SOIL HEALTH TUNNEL

Chapter member, Laura Craven, headed up a soils exhibit at the State Fair again this year. They had the Soil Health Tunnel available for visitors to walk through and learn about the soil web, how to improve soil health and much more. She had several other activities visitors could take part in to learn about soils.

Other Chapter members who volunteered their time to help at the display were Amber Wyndham and Lana Pearson .

Workshop, November 14, Alamosa Soil Health in the West



The CO SWCS Chapter also helped to sponsor the following in 2018:

- ⇒ Farming Evolution Workshop in Haxton
- ⇒ 4th and 5th Grade Regional Science Fairs
- ⇒ The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum in La Junta



EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



☺ BEGINNER'S SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP
JANUARY 28, 2019, WICHITA, KS
www.notill.org

☺ NO TILL ON THE PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JANUARY 29-30, 2019 WICHITA KS
www.notill.org

☺ HIGH PLAINS NO-TILL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 5-6, 2019 BURLINGTON CO
www.highplainsnotill.com

If you have upcoming events, please email them to newsletter editor, Beth Fortman for placement in future newsletters.



2018 COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS



OFFICERS

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Director-at-Large
 Vacant

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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.