



# COLORADO SWCS

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

SEPTEMBER 2016

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## President's Message

By: Beth Fortman

Is it Autumn already?! Where does the time go! It is election time again and you will find more information in this newsletter. I want to apologize that we did not have any tours this year. If any of you have an idea of a workshop or tour the Chapter could do this coming year please let me know!

Presently our Chapter has 61 members. This has been fairly steady the past couple of years. We'd love to have more of you become involved. There are various committees to help with at times throughout the year. Be sure to go to our website, [www.swcs.org/en/colorado\\_chapter/](http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/), and the International site for more information on upcoming events.

The Chapter did 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 fund can help or encourage conservation please contact us.



SHERRI BRANDT—  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

# 71st SWCS International Annual Conference - Great River Landscapes

BY: Cathy O'Neill

I was invited to attend this year's annual SWCS International Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in July because the late Mike Collins nominated me for a commendation award and I was selected. I believe he would have wanted me to attend to receive my award, and I was very glad that I did.

The conference was excellent. It provided an opportunity to showcase conservation efforts in both the uplands and bottomlands of great rivers and their tributaries, including nutrient management, erosion and sediment control, nonpoint source pollution and watershed policy, flood and drought management, and other issues influencing the health and functionality of our soil and water.

Chief Jason Weller of NRCS was there to speak of the national success of the Conservation Stewardship Program in relation to watersheds. But there were also plenty of presentations that were not directly related to watersheds. I sat in on a presentation put on by Kansas State Research and Extension about no-till pumpkin production using cover crops in the Great Plains. The Soil Health Institute also gave an informative presentation on the Soil Renaissance – a movement to make soil health the cornerstone of land use management decisions.

But I think the most compelling presentation came from Dana York of Green Earth Connection who's presentation was titled "From Farm to Table: A Continuum of Agricultural Evolution and Community Supported Agriculture." She discussed the need for training opportunities for budding agricultural entrepreneurs, community marketing strategies, agricultural literacy among the general public, nontraditional farmers and the local food movement in disadvantaged communities, and basically engaging our communities to produce and support healthy, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and meats for themselves and for profit.

I'm very grateful to NRCS for supporting my attendance of the conference, and to Mike Collins for the nomination.



# 2016 CO SWCS College Scholarship

BY: Amber Wyndham, Scholarship Chair

This year's college scholarship \$500 recipient is Stetson Raines. Stetson attends Otero Junior college in La Junta. Stetson is studying Agribusiness and Soil and Crop Science and plans on attending CSU in Ft. Collins to complete his bachelors and master's degree. Stetson is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa and is a Cum Laude Honor Graduate. He has implemented conservation practices by mitigating irrigation runoff while working on a farm in SE Colorado. Stetson is a motivated husband and father who hopes to pursue a career as a College professor or agronomist with the USDA.

Visit the CO Chapter website at [http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado\\_chapter/](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.

## CO SWCS 2017 Officer Elections

The end of the year is near and that means its time to consider election of new officers for the 2017 calendar year. Positions to be filled for 2017 are President, President Elect, East Slope and West Slope Directors.

**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.

**President Elect**— Serves a 1 year term as president elect and is asked to commit to 3 years to serve as 1) president elect, 2) president and 3) past president. Responsible for organizing the topic and speakers for the chapter's annual technical conference while president-elect.

**East & West Slope Directors**—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, please contact the current officer or President Beth Fortman.

Any Colorado Chapter SWCS member is eligible for consideration on the ballot. Please contact Beth Fortman, President, at [Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov](mailto: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 sometime in October 2016. Please be sure and vote!

# Call for Award Nominations

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present its 2016 awards at the CACD Annual Meeting Awards banquet on Wednesday, November 16, at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Conference Center in Loveland. I am looking for nominations for Conservation Reporter of the Year and Jr. Conservationist of the Year. Do any of you have reporters (TV or newspaper) you have worked closely with and who has been active in reporting the goings on of your Districts or projects and programs from your office?

The nomination consists of a letter giving the conservation reporting accomplishments of the nominee. Include the newspaper(s)/periodicals the reporter writes for or submits articles to, how much conservation publicity the reporter has provided and of his/her effectiveness. It is recommended that you provide a sample or two of the nominee's conservation reporting, also. The personal background of the nominee that is provided can be limited at this point because the awards committee can obtain additional information after selection of the award recipient.

If you know of any youth in your area who are outstanding or exceptional and active in their 4-H or FFA clubs and are an asset to their club and contribute much, please send a nomination or a contact name and number of the person I can get information from. Nomination should include involvement in activities, projects relating to natural resources, honors won and other related soil and water conservation experiences.

## OTHER

Other award nominations to think of are the significant contributions made in the recent past to the Chapter and the cause of soil and water conservation by one of our members and to nominate these contributors for a chapter award. Please submit a nomination (to the Chapter Award Committee as given below) for each Chapter member whom you feel is deserving of recognition with the **Chapter Commendation Award** (especially, but not limited to, a deserving member who has not been so recognized in the last several years). Generally, this award is presented to those members who have made significant contribution of their time and talents to Chapter activities and functioning. We will present these awards at our annual meeting.

I am also accepting nominations for National Awards (see categories below). To learn more about National Awards visit the SWCS National website at [http://www.swcs.org/en/members\\_only/index.cfm?nodeID=11400&audiencelD=1](http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/index.cfm?nodeID=11400&audiencelD=1)

Please send your nominations to Amber Wyndham (Chapter Awards Committee Chairman), 200 S. Santa Fe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Pueblo, CO 81003 by October 3, 2016. Or email to [amber.wyndham@co.usda.gov](mailto:amber.wyndham@co.usda.gov).

For Chapter Commendations the deadline is **October 17**. National Awards nominations deadline is **December 1**

The awards program of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in

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advocating the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

**Fellow**

The designation of Fellow is conferred on Society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This award is given for professional excellence, first and foremost. Professional achievement may be in practicing, investigating, administering, or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields.

**Outstanding Service**

The Outstanding Service Award is given to Society members in recognition of distinguished service in helping the Society to develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time. Accomplishments of the nominee should not be of a scope or significance warranting the degree of Fellow, but should be greater than those required for the Commendation Award.

**Commendation**

The Commendation Award gives international recognition to Society members for service to their chapter or council of chapters.

**Conservation Research**

Recognizes SWCS society members or teams of members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research. Recipients of the Conservation Research Award will receive a plaque and will be honored by their peers at an awards luncheon at the annual conference.

**Hugh Hammond Bennett**

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award is the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the Society. It is given for distinguished service in recognition of national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

**Merit**

The Merit Award is given in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business firm, corporation, or organization that promotes the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

**Harold-Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award**

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes and provides a yearly cash award to individuals who creatively and effectively provide technical assistance in conservation planning



## EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



☺ SRM/CSU GRASS-GRAZERS-FAMILY: FINDING COMMON GROUND  
NOVEMBER 1-3, 2016 COLORADO STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
PUEBLO, CO

☺ UNL FIELD PEA PRODUCTION WORKSHOP  
NOVEMBER 4, 2016 AG COMPLEX BUILDING  
CULBERTSON, NE

☺ NO TILL ON THE PLAINS WINTER CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 24-25, 2017 BICENTENNIAL CENTER  
SALINA, KS

☺ HIGH PLAINS NOT TILL CONFERENCE  
JAN 31– FEB 1, 2017 BURLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER  
BURLINGTON, CO

☺ FARMING EVOLUTION WORKSHOP  
FEBRUARY 2017 PHILLIPS COUNTY EVENT CENTER  
HOLYOKE, CO





# 2016 COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS



## OFFICERS

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**Vacant, President-Elect****Aaron Reynolds, East Slope Director**

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Amber Wyndham, Awards**

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**Barbara Gohlke, Financial, Science Fair**

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**Kristi Gay, Web/Membership, Science Fair**

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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.