



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

SEPTEMBER 2017

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President's Message

By: Beth Fortman

Another year winding down. It is election time again. The positions that need to be filled are **President, President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Director at Large**. We also really need someone who would be willing to step up and take over as **Membership and Web Committees Chair**. You can find more information about the position in this newsletter.

The Chapter had 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.

Our Annual Meeting will be in November. We are looking to hold it in conjunction with the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts' Annual Meeting in Loveland, November 27-29. We will have a speaker from CSU, and possible farmer panel, updating us on a CIG cover crop project the Chapter helped to sponsor. This meeting will probably be the early afternoon of November 29th. We will send out more information as we get it.

Thank you for letting me be your President for a second year. Please consider stepping as our next President and President-Elect. I would hate to see the Chapter fizzle down next year.



SHERRI BRANDT—
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

2017 CO SWCS Scholarship Winner

BY: Amber Wyndham, Scholarship Chair

This year's college scholarship \$500 recipient is Diane Meraz. Diane attends Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Diane is studying Watershed Science with a minor in Soil Science. After graduating with her bachelors' degree she plans to pursue a masters' degree in either hydrology or pedology. Diane has assisted with the Loveland and Fort Collins Children's Water Festival, served as a STEM Institute mentor, and conducted research studying the effects of temperature and algal bloom biomass. Diane believes it is important to educate the youth on water and soil conservation and the earlier we educate kids on environmental issues the more active they will be with conservation. Her future plans include focusing on interdisciplinary solutions to mitigate erosion and land degradation on agricultural lands.

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.

2017 CO Annual Meeting & Program

Save the Date!

Colorado Chapter Fall Program/annual meeting November 29, 2017 – 1:00-3:00 pm Loveland, CO.

The Colorado Chapter is planning to host a program related to Soil Health-grazing multi species cover crops. The program will feature the highlights of a conservation innovation grant project led by CSU Professor Dr. Meagan Schipanski, Department of Crops and Soil Science.

The program will be held in conjunction with the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts annual conference in Loveland, Colorado at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 4705 Clydesdale Parkway.

The project website is: www.drylandag.org.

Please watch the website and email for further program information.



CO SWCS 2018 Officer Elections

The end of the year is near and that means its time to consider election of new officers for the 2018 calendar year. Positions to be filled for 2018 are President, President Elect, Director at Large and Secretary/Treasurer.

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.

Secretary/Treasurer— Serves a 2 year term as a member of the board of directors. Responsible for keeping accurate records of the meetings, ensure that all correspondence is carried out as directed and ensure that accurate financial accounts are maintained.

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, please contact the current officer or President Beth Fortman.

The chapter is also looking for interested individuals to fill the positions of **Membership Committee Chair and Web Committee Chair**. Please contact President Beth Fortman or current Chair Kristi Gay 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, 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 sometime in October 2017. Please be sure and vote!



Call for Award Nominations

BY: Amber Wyndham, Awards Chair

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present its 2017 awards at the CACD Annual Meeting November 26-29, 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 have been active in reporting the goings on you Districts for projects and programs in 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 on page 5). To learn more about National Awards visit the SWCS National website at http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/index.cfm?nodeID=11400&audienceID=1

Please send your nominations to Amber Wyndham (Chapter Awards Committee Chairman), 200 S. Santa Fe, 3rd Floor, Pueblo, CO 81003 by October 2, 2017. Or email to amber.wyndham@co.usda.gov.

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For Chapter Commendations the deadline is **October 16**. National Awards nominations deadline is **February 12**.

The awards program of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in 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 and plan application. Recipients of the award will be recognized at the Society's annual conference with a plaque and a one-time cash award.

CO Chapter Activities

SOIL HEALTH TUNNEL



Chapter member, Laura Craven, headed up a soils exhibit at the State Fair 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 .

IN MEMORY OF MIKE COLLINS

THE COLORADO CHAPTER OF SWCS, MIKE COLLINS MEMORIAL FUND, HELPED TO SPONSOR THE 2017 SAN LUIS VALLEY SOIL HEALTH TOUR & TRAINING HELD IN ALAMOSA, COLORADO THIS SUMMER.



The CO SWCS Chapter also helped to sponsor the following in 2017:

- ⇒ Western Slope Soil Health Conference in Delta
- ⇒ The Soil Revolution - It's More than Just Dirt Soil Health Conference in Longmont
- ⇒ The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum in Colorado Springs



EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



☺ CO SWCS PRORAM & ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2017 LOVELAND CO

☺ NO TILL ON THE PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JANUARY 30-31, 2018 WICHITA KS

☺ HIGH PLAINS NO-TILL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 6-7, 2018 BURLINGTON CO

☺ FARMING EVOLUTION
FEBRUARY 2018 HOLYOKE CO

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



2017 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.