



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

COLORADO SWCS

SEPTEMBER 2010

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President's Message

By: Charles Pannebaker



Summer is winding down and it will soon be over. The Colorado Chapter SWCS has several significant events coming up this fall.

The first is the chapter election of officers. When you get your ballot and candidate information, please take the time to look at the candidate information and cast your vote.

The next is the Colorado Chapter Annual Technical Conference and Annual Business Meeting. The conference and business meeting will be held November 15, 2010 in Colorado Springs at the Colorado Springs Crowne Plaza. There will be more specifics on the Annual Technical Conference, but get the day on your schedule before it gets filled up with something else.

Recently Kristi Gay sent out an email that had an attachment for a gift certificate for new members. Most of us can think of a person that we would like to join SWCS and be a member of the Colorado Chapter SWCS. The \$40.00 gift is a good bargain. It is just half price of a regular membership. The \$40.00 may be an expensive gift for some but I'll bet you can find some other members that would be willing to contribute part of the cost. So if you think of someone who would make a good new member but can't afford the \$40.00 yourself, pass the proverbial hat to some of the other chapter members and I'll bet that we can come up with the \$40.00 and a new chapter member. Don't forget to pass the hat this way.

The number of attendees at the SWCS/SRM summer tour was a very pleasant surprise. I would like to thank John and Laura Negley for their hospitality and an excellent tour. I would also like to thank the Kiowa County Conservation District, the Eads NRCS Field Office and Ben Berlinger for all the work they did to make the tour successful.

Joint SWCS/SRM Tour Held in June

Approximately 65 individuals toured John and Laura Negley's ranch, on June 11, 2010. The Negley's ranch, part of J&L Farms Partnership was awarded the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) Excellence in Rangeland Conservation award. Their conservation work was highlighted during the annual Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and Colorado Section SRM joint summer tour. Prior to touring the operation, Laura gave a brief over-view of the operation's prescribed grazing strategy, rangeland monitoring and small grain dry land cropping systems.

At the first stop on the tour, Ben Berlinger, retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Rangeland Management Specialist, and Marty Miller, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician in Eads discussed dry land residue management. They also talked about the Negley's residue management that is currently being practiced on the farm as well as the need for terraces to reduce erosion and trap valuable water.



Marty Miller talks to tour attendees about the importance of terraces.

The group also visited several range sites where Negley grazes yearling cattle and implements intensively managed grazing. Negley has three sets of pastures that consist of native range, expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land and State Wildlife Area land. She uses monitoring cages that have been in place as grazing tools for several years. Negley also uses Land EKG, the Grazing Response Index and permanent photo points to document grazing effects.



Laura Negley & Ben Berlinger speaking to the group about grazing management.

The final part of the tour was a presentation by Dr. Dean Anderson with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Dr. Anderson explained to the group the concept of virtual fencing which is used to reduce the time and labor it takes to install cross fences. He also reviewed a few of the virtual fencing field trials that he is conducting at the Jornada Experimental Range Station in New Mexico.



Dr. Anderson talking to attendees about his virtual fencing field trials.

These types of events are what help keep members from both societies in check with what is going on out on the land. If you have an idea for a great tour please contact a CO SWCS chapter officer.

Highlights from the SWCS National Conference

By: Mike Collins

The following are highlights of the 2010 SWCS National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri July 17 through 21 from Colorado Chapter Members.

Plenary Session: What is Ecosystem Services and what does that mean for conservation?

Ecosystem Services-Processes and products provided by natural systems and the species that make up the system that sustain and fulfill human life. Everyone has a connection with nature but the minority of the population is in rural areas. Conservation/environment always ranks lowest in the polls conducted by the Nature Conservancy. Disasters brings us closer to nature but only for a short time frame. Ecosystem Species is defined as – “The processes and products provided by natural system and the species that make them up that sustains and fulfills human life”. InVest Tier 1 and Tier 2 models are available for free at www.naturalcapitalprojects.org, tier 1 is simpler to use and they use a multi-services approach. Through GIS maps were made to show where conservation or where the best practices could be applied was identified. InVest, models I and II – sustainable master planning for counties.

The Leadership Workshop Saturday 7-17

- The session on how to make your meeting green was very interesting, I had no idea what this session was going to encompass but topics included asking for extra food to be donated to the homeless, keeping the inside air conditioned inside, recycling, asking for them to locate water in the back and leave it up to the attendee to get what they need, saving on washing cups, using local food, saving on washing towels and finally does the hotel have a green certificate? You have to be careful to not let the goal of a green meeting get in the way of the focus of the meeting. This session would have been good for administrative staffs to attend due to the arrangement and getting meetings organized. There is a free service for booking hotels and the arrangements thru Jill Stone at Helms Briscoe, jstone@HelmsBriscoe.com was one of the presenter at this meeting. Be sure to be detailed when sending RFP's. All requirements should be detailed and every expense listed in the contract.
- The three talks from ND, CO and MO Chapters were excellent to illustrate how to rejuvenate chapters, promoting conservation, ideas on workshops, getting new members, using CCA's for Chapter Membership and the Art of Collaboration. Some ideas include: adding annual membership fee to a conference/workshop registration for non members (with conference/workshop registration, receive membership), hosting summer bbq, student job fairs with resume reviews
- Core functions of Executive Officers, Board diversity, listening skills, state leadership programs, quiz for non-profits boards, different CD state structures, board functions and a priority worksheet given out.
- Parliamentary procedures were covered talking on the FFA competitions in the local area

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HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- Chapter planning session, involving all stakeholders, federal, state, private, NGO's to plan state functions

Sunday workshops and Fellows Forum, 7-18

Communicating Your Science – workshop designed for anyone who works in getting the message of conservation out effectively to either the public as a newsletter or via meeting via PowerPoint. Concentrated on repetition, repetition and repetition and without using lots of hard data, get your point across without busy graphs and no's. Only 15% of the US population is truly analytical, when in doubt go with the .350 batting average! Give them what THEY want, NOT what you want. Humans remember what they hear as the truth! Easy to understand message. Facts, facts, facts, repeat, repeat, repeat, and keep it simple, don't drown it out with specifics and tons of detailed data.

Tellin' Ain't Sellin' – discussed communication with customers and what it takes to be good at sales. To be good in sales you must #1 Know your product, #2 have good communication skills, and #3 understand the context in which you are selling (ie we need to know the business of farming). We discussed the differences between opportunity and need; and features and benefits. It is important to ask a lot of open ended questions, but most important to listen. You shouldn't ask question that you can find the answers to yourself (ie how many acres farmed). The customer should be talking 75% of the time. It is important to know your personality type (DISC) as well as the customers in order to communicate more effectively. Copy of full presentation email Roger Montague: Roger.montague@bayercropscience.com

Fellows Forum -subject matter of "The Gulf Hypoxia", the Midwest perspective from Chief Executive Officer Mark White of Environmental Resources Coalition, Director of the Missouri Natural Resources, Bryan Hopkins, Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Kathleen Smith and Environmental Specialist with the city of St Louis, Roland Biehl. They covered nutrients from all angles of the watershed from their perspective.

Gulf Hypoxia has had a large impact on the economy on the Gulf Coast states. Fishing (brown shrimp in particular) and recreation are heavily impacted. Agriculture is the primary contributor of nutrients to the gulf. Some believe the producers throughout the Mississippi River Basin are applying nitrogen at the maximum recommended rates or above. Others believe that the cost of fertilizer negates that as a reason.

Hypoxia is affecting more than just the Gulf of Mexico. There has been a decrease in fish diversity in many creeks with are tributaries to the Mississippi. Excess nutrients in the streams are also causing excessive growth of cyanobacteria which can be fatal to humans. Urban areas are also to blame for excessive nutrient loads. For example the City of St. Louis discharges water into the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Its sewer system is over 200 years old.

Hypoxia is being addressed through education and outreach to municipalities, public outreach and education, discharge detection systems, sediment control structures, and pollution prevention techniques.

Monday 7-19

- Opening Plenary from Dr. Peter Kareiva from the Nature Conservancy, an excellent talk on ecosystems services in conservation science and practice. These tools can foster consideration of nature's assets at local, regional and global scales. The tool being developed by the Natural Capital Project with 3-way collaboration. Giving a dollar value to ecosystem services puts natural resources into decision making arenas. One study done in India showed that the coastal wetlands and mangroves saved a considerable number of lives during a 1999 cyclone. Approximately 10,000 people were killed in the storm. Without the presence of the coastal wetland and mangroves, it is estimated that more than 30,000 people would have died. In a gulf coast study, the nature conservancy used flooding, economic, and demographic data to create models to determine which areas are most vulnerable. This data was mapped with different habitats to determine the value of those habitats for the vulnerable communities and link ecosystems to human life
- Tons of concurrent sessions to attend Monday and Tuesday, from themes of; new conservation tools to watershed water quality models. Other themes included herbicide transport, nutrient management and nutrient credit trading, farm models and conservation markets, different models of assessing ecosystem services and providing payments to producers, and remediating pesticide contaminated soil using supercritical fluid extraction.

Tuesday 7-20

- Morning session on the gulf oil spill and some of the items being used to clean up oil and prevent further habitat degradation. In Missouri the NRCS has a special initiative which pays producers to flood cropland and create habitat for migratory birds, thus slowing their migration to the gulf coast. To clean up oil, rice hulls and cotton gin waste are among the sorbents being used.
- Tuesday's Plenary was a question and answer session covering wide range of topics with Dr. Peter Kareiva, The Nature Conservancy; Carl Lucerne, USDA Office of Environmental Markets; David Miller, Iowa Farm Bureau; and Rick Linthurst, EPA.

Wednesday 7-21

National Great Rivers Museum Tour The Mississippi River has 27 lock and dams for navigation purposes. Lock and Dam #27 is near the confluence of Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. The Missouri flows twice as fast as the Mississippi, and carries more sediment. Downstream from the confluence the river is deep enough to not require lock and dams for navigation.

- A channel at least 9 feet deep is required to move barge traffic up and down the river. It is occasionally dredged to maintain depth. If the navigation channel was not constructed and maintained, the Mississippi River would be an average depth of 3-4 feet. Barges are moved up and down the Mississippi River all year. Barges are used to move grain, primarily corn.
- Visited Fort Belle Fontaine Park, the final campsite of Lewis and Clark on their return to St. Louis. The park is adjacent to one of the few small acreages of prairie managed by the St. Louis County Park District. It was a very nice warm season dominated prairie with a re-stored wetland. Management of native grasses is primarily by prescribed burns. Grazing isn't used as a management tool due to the small numbers of livestock in the area.

Past Presidents Receive Prestigious Awards

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is proud of the 2010 accomplishments of past Colorado Chapter Presidents, Jorge Delgado and Mary Miller, who were recognized recently by the awards committee at the SWCS National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.




Mary Miller & Jorge Delgado with their awards from the National Conference.

Jorge Delgado was the recipient of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award which recognized extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation on soil, water and related natural resources.

Mary Miller was the recipient of the President's Leadership Award which is given at the discretion of the SWCS President in recognition of exemplary assistance to the President in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Showing You Care is Simple

Introduce a friend to the benefits of an SWCS Membership with a discounted rate of \$40 for a first time member. Your gift will not only support local, national and international soil and water conservation, but will allow the recipient to receive professional education, networking opportunities and all the other great member benefits you enjoy! Plus, they'll receive an introductory welcome packet too!

APPLICATION	
Recipient's Name _____	Don't Delay! Mail or fax in your gift membership or contribution today! \$ _____ Gift Membership (\$40 each) _____ (gift recipient) \$ _____ I want to donate and continue to support SWCS. \$ _____ Total
Recipient's Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____	
Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____	
Your Name _____	
Your Address _____	 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY Return this form with payment to: Soil and Water Conservation Society 945 SW Ankeny Road Ankeny, Iowa 50023-9723 1-800-THE-SOIL, Ext 118 Fax 515-289-1227 www.swcs.org
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____	
Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____	
Checks _____ Please make payable in US funds to: Soil and Water Conservation Society	
Credit _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express	
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____	
Name on Card _____ Signature _____	
SWCS is a 501(C)3 organization. Your membership fees and donations may be tax deductible. Fill out one application per gift membership.	
Thank you for introducing someone to the professional support, networking and education offered through a membership in the Soil and Water Conservation Society.	
*Offer for new members only.	

New Northern Plains Regional Director

Anita Nein, Soil Conservationist in Sidney, Nebraska has been elected as the new SWCS Northern Plains Region 6 Director representing Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Anita has been a member on SWCS for 16 years and has served as Nebraska Chapter President, Panhandle Representative to SWCS Board, and on the International Professional Development Committee.



Anita graduated from Colorado State University and has worked for 23 years in six NRCS offices as a Resource Conservationist, Soil Conservationist, Water Management Specialist and Soil Conservation Technician. Anita and her husband Steve have implemented many range conservation practices, irrigation water management practices, dryland crop management practices as well as trees and CRP on their own farm and ranch.

Anita's volunteer and other activities include volunteering two years with the Peace Corps in Panama, Sedgwick County Medical Center Board of Directors, Chappell Rotary Club President and facilitating many activities with youth and adults in church and community projects.

The Colorado Chapter SWCS would like to welcome Anita as the new Northern Plains Region 6 Director.

2010 CO SWCS Scholarship Winner

This year's college scholarship \$500 recipient is Ryan Wagner. Ryan attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO. He will be attending CSU this year pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop Science and Agronomy. He has been a very active member in FFA, holding offices and receiving numerous awards, such as on the State and District Soils Judging Team, State Winner Forage Proficiency, State Winner Diversified Crop Production Proficiency and numerous others. Ryan is active in the El Pomar Youth in Community Service, Future Business Leaders of America and Americorps, sports and various community activities.

Scholarships are available to Colorado residents enrolled in a Colorado college or university entering their junior or senior year. Scholarship applications and further information is available on the CO SWCS website at www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter under awards and will be accepted until March 31, 2011.

Award Nominations Wanted

By: Beth Fortman

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present its 2010 Conservation Reporter of the Year Award during the Awards Luncheon at the CACD Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in Colorado Springs. I am looking for nominations for this award. Do any of you have reporters (TV or newspaper) that you have worked closely with or who has been active in reporting the goings on of your Districts or projects and programs from your office? They could be a newspaper reporter, TV or radio media person.

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.

I am also looking for nominations for an outstanding or exceptional Jr. Conservationist. If you know of any youth in your area who are 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 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 November 16, 2010

I am also accepting nominations for National Awards (see categories on next page).

Please send your nominations to Beth Fortman (Chapter Awards Committee Chairman), 200 S. Santa Fe, 4th Floor, Pueblo, CO 81003 by October 1, 2010. Or email to eliza-beth.fortman@co.usda.gov.

For Commendations the deadline is **October 15**. National Awards nominations deadline is **November 21**.

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AWARD NOMINATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

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.

***NEW* Conservation Research Award**

The SWCS Board recently approved a new award to honor Society members who achieve excellence in conservation 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. Up to three (3) awards will be presented annually with cash awards ranging from \$800 to \$1200. The number and value of awards will depend on the annual income from the Scholl fund.

CO Chapter Elections for Fall 2010

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be holding its annual fall election from September 20 to October 15, 2010. Chapter members will receive their ballots either by postal mail or electronically at the email address registered with the chapter. In the 2010 election, we will be voting for the offices of **President Elect, East Slope Director and West Slope Director**. The deadline to submit nominations for these offices is September 15, 2010.

Please be sure and vote! So far, we have a great group of members running for each office. Please be sure and say thank you to these members next time you see them for their professionalism and willingness to work for soil and water conservation. Our chapter works on local, state, regional and national level in activities related to soil and water conservation. With support from you (CO Chapter Members) and these individuals who volunteer to work for our chapter, we can continue to contribute to the community through professional activities geared toward conservation of soil and water resources.

Watch for instructions on the election in your inbox or mailbox. Please be sure and vote one time for each office and send your electronic ballot to coswcs@gmail.com with the subject line **Election 2010**, or send your paper ballot to Renee Koch 33461 County Road 46 Otis, CO 80743. New officers will be announced at our annual meeting November 15, 2010.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Renee or any member of the current officer team.

SRM/DOW Joint Annual Meeting

The Colorado Section, Society for Range Management (SRM) and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), Habitat Partnership Program will be having a joint annual meeting, Nov. 30-Dec. 2 in Grand Junction at the Doubletree Hotel. The theme is Wildlife Habitat Management.

There will be a nice line-up of speakers from multiple organizations and private business. A few speakers confirmed include: Chad Boyd (Oregon State University), Fred Provenza (Utah State University), Roy Roath (Colorado State University), Sandy Wyman (National Riparian Service Team), and John Fielder (Photographer). There will also be a joint banquet, silent auction and trade show.

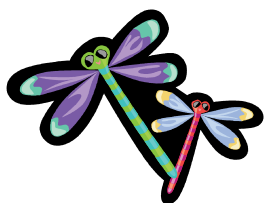
A block of rooms are reserved at the Doubletree for \$85.00/night, which is below the per diem rate of \$98.00. To make reservations call: 970-257-8129

Conference Registration be mailed in or completed on-line, through the "Colorado Section Society for Rangeland Management" website (www.cssrm.org/).

NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP FUNDING AVAILABLE

Do 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, click on Awards) and email it to Dawn Jackson, Chairperson, CO SWCS Grant Program at merinodj@gmail.com.



UPCOMING SWCS EVENTS



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

☺ **CO CHAPTER ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND**
ANNUAL MEETING
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
NOVEMBER 15, 2010

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

HAPPY FALL!!



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.