



# COLORADO SWCS

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

C O L O R A D O S W C S

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2012 National Meeting 2

CO Chapter Elections 3

Scholarship Winner 3

Awards Nominations Needed 4

Co Chapter Technical Conference 6

Events 7

Check It Out 7

Chapter Officers 8



### Greetings Fellow Conservationist Enthusiasts!

As this summer season draws to a close this week I want to send out this reminder to our membership that the best is still yet to come. Of course I'm talking about this year's technical conference in Vail during the second week of November. This year we have an excellent lineup of presenters that will provide an opportunity for many of us to enhance our knowledge and help us to gain a little job satisfaction along the way. As many of you may be aware the national NRCS leadership has recognized that the agency needs to expand the focus of our training on the topic of soil health. As a part of that process most of you will be required to attend at least one soil health training opportunity in the next twelve months as a part of your employee development plan. I would strongly urge all of you to let your supervisors know that you would like to attend this important technical conference. Included in this newsletter is the most recent copy of the draft agenda for this year's meeting and I would ask that each of us to make sure that every member and every office be made aware of this conference as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you in Vail for this year's conference!

Best regards,

Michael "Storm" Casper  
President

SHERRI BRANDT—  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR



# 2012 National SWCS Meeting

By: Storm Casper

This year's conference was held in sunny Fort Worth Texas. I was surprised to find that it was an excellent location and there were lots of things to do that were all in walking distance from the conference. The downtown atmosphere also had a surprisingly safe feel which is not always common in an urban setting.

We arrived at the conference on Sunday to attend a full day of soil health training from several presenters from the upper mid-west including Ohio, Indiana, and Minnesota. Dave Brandt is a farmer from Ohio who has been no-tilling on his farm for over forty years. He has also been working with cover crops for several years and Dave always provides lively and entertaining approach to his presentations. Don Rickosky a former ARS scientist from Morris Minnesota also gave a nice presentation on how they identified a way to measure tillage related carbon losses that were being volatized into the atmosphere. Dr. Islam from Ohio State University introduced a soil health testing kit as a way help verify soil quality and function in the field. Jim Hoorman was with extension in Indiana and he also shared some insights on the why and the how that cover crops make sense in a no-till system.

I was a little surprised to learn that many of the attendees were seeing his type of presentation for the first time.

For more information on the presenters or some of the materials presented go to [www.mccc.msu.edu](http://www.mccc.msu.edu) which is the website for the Mid-West Cover Crop Council.

We also had the good fortune to see Dr. Kris Nichols who had been selected to receive an award for her work at ARS on soil microbiology and function. We also had a chance to visit with William Kuenstler who is an agronomist stationed at the NRCS Central National Technology Center in Fort Worth. Bill is largely responsible for the development of our standards and specifications on NRCS agronomy management related practices. Bill's e-mail is [Bill.Kuenstler@ftw.usda.gov](mailto:Bill.Kuenstler@ftw.usda.gov).

Thanks for the SWCS support for both Joel and I as sending two people seems to make for a much better trip both professionally as well as financially.



Healthy Land  
Clean Water  
For Life



# CO Chapter Elections

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be holding its annual fall election October 15—26, 2012. Chapter members will receive their ballots either by postal mail or electronically at the email address registered with the chapter. In the 2012 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 ASAP. Nominations should be submitted to a member of the election committee: Tony Arnold at [Anthony.arnold@co.usda.gov](mailto:Anthony.arnold@co.usda.gov) or Cindy Crist at [Cynthia.crist@co.usda.gov](mailto:Cynthia.crist@co.usda.gov)

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 [Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov](mailto:Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov) with the subject line **Election 2012**, or send your paper ballot to Barbara Gohlke 5212 Stetson Meadows Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80922. New officers will be announced at our annual meeting November 12, 2012.

## Scholarship Winner!!

This year's college scholarship \$500 recipient is Ethan Beeman. Ethan attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO. He attends CSU and is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education. He has been a very active member in FFA, holding many different offices including the Pueblo County FFA Chapter President while at the same time holding the San Isabel FFA District President position. Ethan was active in 4-H and was a National Congress Delegate and a club officer. He is an Ag Ambassador at CSU. Ethan plans to be a high school Agricultural Education instructor.

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](http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter) under awards and will be accepted until March 31, 2013.

# Wanted: Award Nominations

By: Beth Fortman

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present its Annual awards during the Awards Luncheon at the CACD Annual Meeting at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa in Vail. I am looking for nominations for our 2012 Conservation Reporter of the Year 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.

## SWCS Annual Meeting Awards

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 12, 2012

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 November 1, 2012. Or email to elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

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 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.

# 2012 Technical Conference

*Colorado Chapter SWCS 2011 Technical Conference / Annual Meeting*

*November 12-13, 2012*

*Vail Marriott, 715 West Lyonshead Circle, Vail, Colorado*

## Monday, November 12

1:00 – 2:00	<b>What is Leadership?</b>	Boyd Byelich/John Lestina, NRCS
2:00 – 2:45	<b>Basic Soil Health/Demo's</b>	<i>CO Soil Health Instructors/Lorenz Sutherland</i>
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 – 4:00	<b>Ecosystems I</b>	<i>Tim Steffens, NRCS</i>
4:00 – 5:00	<b>How to design Cover Crop Mixes</b>	<i>Keith Burns, Green Cover Crop, NE</i>
5:00 – 7:00	<b>2012 Annual Meeting</b>	<i>Storm Casper, President</i>

*All workshop attendees are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and the social hour that will immediately follow the meeting.*

## Tuesday, November 13

7:30 – 8:30	<b>Cover Crops for Arid Regions</b>	<i>Keith Burns, Green Cover Crop, NE</i>
8:30 – 9:30	<b>Moisture Capture of Cover Crops</b>	<i>Andy Kwapinoski, Agronomist, KS</i>
9:30 – 11:00	<b>Round Table Discussion</b>	<i>All Featured Speakers</i>

**REGISTRATION:** To simplify the book-keeping we are partnering with CACD to take registration for this even. Go to: <http://coloradoacd.org/AnnualMeeting-> and use the annual meeting registration form- it is not necessary to register for the CACD conference to attend the SWCS Technical conference.

**LODGING:** CACD conference rates at the Vail Marriott are extremely competitive (hotels.com search 9/26/12), and offer the chance to be on-site. If you would like to stay on site, please use the link at <http://coloradoacd.org/AnnualMeeting->

*There will be 7.5 CEU's for CCAs available for attending this workshop. Questions; contact catherine.dix@co.usda.gov  
This agenda is subject to change*



## EVENTS TO WATCH FOR

☺ COLORADO CHAPTER TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12-13, 2012 VAIL, CO  
[WWW.SWCS.ORG/EN/COLORADO\\_CHAPTER](http://WWW.SWCS.ORG/EN/COLORADO_CHAPTER)

☺ MIDWEST COVER CROPS  
DECEMBER 13-14, 2012 ALTOONA, IA  
[WWW.SWCS.ORG/COVERS12](http://WWW.SWCS.ORG/COVERS12)

☺ NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING  
MARCH 2013 WYOMING

☺ 68TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SWCS CONFERENCE  
JULY 21-24, 2013 RENO, NV  
[WWW.SWCS.ORG/13AC](http://WWW.SWCS.ORG/13AC)



Here are some links for great articles and videos on soil health

Bismarck Tribune article featuring Gabe Brown and his efforts to improve [soil health](#).

KX News story about Gabe Brown's ranch and [soil health](#).

KFYR news story about Gabe Brown and [soil health](#).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcqs8Ct-2uE>

NORTHERN PLAINS REGION CHAPTER WEBSITES & NEWSLETTERS

MONTANA: [WWW.MTSWCS.ORG](http://WWW.MTSWCS.ORG)

NEBRASKA: [INCOLORINETNEBR.COM/DOUGG/SWCS](http://INCOLORINETNEBR.COM/DOUGG/SWCS)

NORTH DAKOTA: [WWW.NDSWCS.ORG](http://WWW.NDSWCS.ORG)

SOUTH DAKOTA: [WWW.SDSWCS.ORG](http://WWW.SDSWCS.ORG)

WYOMING: [WYSWCS.HOME.BRESNAN.NET](http://WYSWCS.HOME.BRESNAN.NET)



# COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS

## OFFICERS

**Michael "Storm" Casper, President**  
PO BOX 398, 27200 HWY 287  
Springfield, CO 81073  
719-523-6251 ext 118  
[Michael.casper@co.usda.gov](mailto:Michael.casper@co.usda.gov)

**Catherine Dix, President-Elect**  
101 South Craft Dr., Suite B  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
719-589-3486 ext 136  
[Catherine.dix@co.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.dix@co.usda.gov)

**Charles Pannebaker, Past President**  
318 Lacey Ave  
La Junta, CO 81050  
719-384-5408 ext 103  
[Charles.pannebaker@co.usda.gov](mailto:Charles.pannebaker@co.usda.gov)

**Barbara Gohlke, Secretary-Treasurer**  
5610 Industrial Pl., Suite 100  
Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
719-632-9598 ext 107  
[Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov](mailto:Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov)

**Daniel Palic, Director-at-Large**  
210 Elm Street  
Julesburg, CO 80737  
970-474-2518 ext 109  
[Daniel.palic@co.usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.palic@co.usda.gov)

**Anthony Arnold, East Slope Director**  
711 Walsen Ave., Suite A  
Walsenburg, CO 81089  
719-738-1171  
[Anthony.arnold@co.usda.gov](mailto:Anthony.arnold@co.usda.gov)

**Cynthia Crist, West Slope Director**  
628 West 5th Street  
Cortez, CO 81321  
970-565-9045 ext 114  
[Cynthia.crist@co.usda.gov](mailto:Cynthia.crist@co.usda.gov)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Beth Fortman, Awards**  
719-543-8386 ext 111  
[Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov)

**Kristi Gay, Webmaster/Membership**  
719-767-5648 ext 101  
[Kristi.gay@co.usda.gov](mailto:Kristi.gay@co.usda.gov)

**Travis McKay, Science Fair**  
970-522-7440 ext 127  
[Travis.mckay@co.usda.gov](mailto:Travis.mckay@co.usda.gov)

**Barbara Gohlke, Financial**  
719-632-9598 ext 107  
[Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov](mailto:Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov)

**Sherri Brandt, Newsletter Editor**  
970-474-2518 ext 112  
[Sherri.brandt@co.usda.gov](mailto:Sherri.brandt@co.usda.gov)

## 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.