



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 0 9

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President's Message

By: Ardell D. Halvorson



Congratulations to Colorado Chapter members for your active support and participation in Chapter activities. This effort was recognized by the National SWCS organization in awarding the Colorado Chapter four awards at the 2009 national meeting held in Dearborn, MI (see details later in newsletter). Congratulations are also due to Dr. Ronald F. Follett, who received the Societies highest award, the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award. Congratulations also go to Dr. Jessica Davis who received a Fellow Award. I received the Conservation Research Award. I would encourage all members to attend a national meeting, what a great experience interacting with other members, listening to presentations, discussing posters, visiting displays, participating in conservation tours, and the silent auction.

The summer has gone by rapidly. I hope you had a chance to attend our Summer tour and are planning to attend the Colorado SWCS Chapter sponsored technical workshop on how to convert CRP lands into profitable cropping systems while preserving our soil resource and soil organic matter. The technical workshop will be held in conjunction with the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting and will precede our Chapter's annual meeting on November 16, 2009 in Breckenridge, CO. I hope you will be able to participate in both of these events. The Colorado Chapter Executive Board will be putting together a ballot to elect Chapter members to the positions of President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Director-At-Large. Nominations for these positions will be accepted until September 14th, 2009. You can send your nomination to me or any other Board member. An election ballot will be sent out in mid-October to all members. Please respond with your vote.

If any Chapter member has suggestions for programs, comments about Chapter activities, or would like to volunteer to help with some of the Chapter activities, please contact one of the Chapter Board members or myself.

SWCS International Annual Conference

By: Charles Pannebaker

The 64th International Annual Conference was held in Dearborn, MI. The theme of the conference was Delivering Conservation Today and Tomorrow. Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture was the key note speaker.

The conference had many interesting sessions, was very well organized and is a great way to keep current on conservation research and issues. It is also a good way to make contacts with other conservationists and learn about the workings of the society. See the SWCS website for publications from this outstanding conference.

The Colorado Chapter was well represented at the annual conference. Here are some of the activities of our chapter members:

Jessica Davis – presentation and Fellow Award

Jorge Delgado – poster presentation, moderator and member of the 2009 Annual Conference Program Committee

Ronald Follett – Hugh Hammond Bennett Award. This award is the highest award presented by the SWCS for extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Ardell Halvorson – presentation and Conservation Research Award

Mary Miller – SWCS Northern Plains Director

Charles Pannebaker – presentation

Gary Peterson – represented Soil Science Society of America to coordinate activities with SWCS



Dr. Jessica Davis (center) receiving Fellow award from SWCS Past-President Peggy James and President, Gary Steinhardt.



Dr. Ardell Halvorson (center) receiving Conservation Research Award from SWCS Past-President Peggy James and President, Gary Steinhardt.

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The Colorado Chapter received 4 awards – Chapter Professional Development Award; Chapter Achievement Award; Outstanding Chapter Award and Sustained Performance Award.



Ardell Halvorson, CO Chapter President, receiving the four Colorado Chapter Awards from SWCS.



Dr. Ronald Follett (center) receiving Hugh Hammond Bennett award from SWCS Past-President Peggy James and President, Gary Steinhardt.

Make your plans to attend next years' SWCS Annual Conference July 18 – 20, 2010 in St. Louis, MO. Congratulations to the award winners and to the Colorado Chapter on their awards and for their outstanding commitment to SWCS!!

State Science Fair Awards Given Out

CO Chapter member, Dr. Ron Follett, and his colleague , Dr. Tom Trout had the privilege of judging the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair on behalf of CO Chapter SWCS. CO Chapter SWCS presented the following awards:

- *Certificate, Blue Ribbon and \$50 to Casey Campbell an 8th Grader at La Veta Jr/Sr High School for his project titled "Phytoremediation of Coal Bed Methane Produced Water".
 - *Certificate, Blue Ribbon and \$50 to Tawney Bleak, a 10th Grader at Otis Jr/Sr High School for her project titled "Evaluating Forage Soybean as an Alternative Dryland Crop for the Central Great Plains".
 - *Certificate, Red Ribbon and \$25 to Camery Garoutte an 8th Grader at Sargent Jr/Sr High School in Monte Vista for her project titled "Gone With the Wind".
 - *Certificate, Red Ribbon and \$25 to Rennie Winkelman a 9th Grader at Blevins Junior High School in Fort Collins for her project titled "Effect of Water Quality on Aquatic Invertebrates".
- Congratulations to the winners!



Back row: Camery Garoutte & Casey Campbell
Front row: Tawney Bleak & Rennie Winkelman

CO Chapter Annual Technical Conference

Mark your calendar for November 16, 2009!!!!

There will be hundreds of thousands of CRP acres that will be coming out of grass in the next few years in Colorado. Can all these acres of grass be replaced with crops? Can all these additional acres of crops be grown without causing another dust bowl? What the Colorado Chapter SWCS would like to have presented and learned at this years' Colorado SWCS Chapter Annual Technical Conference is: How can the CRP acres be used to create profitable cropping or grazing systems and protect our resource base. This year's annual technical conference will be at Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, CO on November 16, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. followed by Colorado Chapter SWCS Annual meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Be sure to check the CO Chapter website for a final agenda as the conference approaches.

CO Chapter Scholarship & 2009 Winner

The Chapter implemented a new Undergraduate Scholarship Program this year. It is available to juniors and seniors at a four-year Colorado state college/university pursuing a degree in a natural resource-related program. Two scholarships for \$500 each are available to be awarded each year.

This year's scholarship award winner is Ive Eddy. She is a junior at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins and is majoring in Soil and Crop Sciences with an emphasis in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, International Soil Science.

Grant Money Available From CO SWCS

Another program established this year was a Grant Program to sponsor individuals and groups organizing or participating in activities related to the SWCS CO Chapter mission. This award program offers up to \$200 per sponsorship and a maximum of \$500 annually 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 in conjunction with other institutions and organizations.

You can find out more about these award programs on the Colorado Chapter website under AWARDS.

CO Chapter Elections for Fall 2009

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be holding its annual fall election from September 18 to October 15, 2009. Chapter members will receive their ballots either by postal mail or electronically at the email address registered with the chapter. In the 2009 election, we will be voting for the offices of **President Elect, Secretary-Treasurer and Director-at-Large**. The deadline to submit nominations for these offices is September 14, 2009.

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 your (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 reneekoch@co.usda.gov with the subject line **Election 2009**, 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 16, 2009.

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

REMINDERS:

- ♦ **Leadership Development Resources available on the SWCS website www.swcs.org Click on “Members Only” then “Resources for Chapter Leaders”**
 - ♦ **Update your new email address by contacting Kristi Gay (kristi.gay@co.usda.gov)—CO SWCS Membership Chair**
- ♦ **Add memberservices@swcs.org to your address list in order to receive messages from national SWCS**
- ♦ **If you have article ideas or other information you would like to see in a future newsletter please email Sherri Brandt (sherri.brandt@co.usda.gov)—CO SWCS Newsletter Editor**

SWCS Hosts Managing Ag Landscapes II

As part of a continued effort to improve conservation effectiveness, the Soil and Water Conservation Society is hosting the Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality II: Achieving Effective Conservation (MAL II): Achieving Effective Conservation workshop April 28-30, 2010 at the Renaissance in Denver, Colorado. The workshop will build on the success achieved by Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality (MAL I) held in Kansas City in October 2006.

The new workshop is being organized around the following four themes which build on the original model:

- 1) Identifying Landscape Vulnerabilities and Managing Environmental Risks
- 2) Targeting Risky Behaviors in Vulnerable Landscapes
- 3) Designing Institutions for Landscape Conservation
- 4) Measuring Conservation Effectiveness Across Landscapes

As with MAL I, papers addressing these four themes will be written collaboratively by a multidisciplinary team of authors for inclusion in a post-conference publication. Each paper will be presented by the lead author and then supplemented by two “perspective papers” on topics that expand on the theme. Individuals can also contribute to the program by offering either an oral or poster presentation in one of the four theme areas above. Abstracts for these presentations will be reviewed and published. There will be poster breaks and receptions targeted for interactive discussion on each of the four themes.

There will again be roundtable discussions each evening to discuss the two themes addressed during the day. Workshop participants will interact and discuss the key themes with the lead authors, collaborators, and “perspective” paper authors. This discussion will also be captured and included for the post-conference publication.

The closing session for the conference will be a keynote presentation on Executing Effective Landscape Conservation: A Vision for the Future. Conservation action at the landscape scale implies discovering the appropriate set of behavioral patterns for specific landscapes that optimize outcomes across economic, social, and salient natural resource dimensions, such as water quantity or quality, soil conservation, wildlife habitat, or even aesthetic values. Thinking about conservation at the landscape scale is based on optimizing multiple factors within a systems perspective where nonlinearities, feedbacks, and surprises are the norm.

The intent is to organize a conference that will explore the scientific support and scientific gaps for each of those four steps of landscape conservation, provide examples that may guide future research or policy discussions, and generate the excitement that will encourage the rigorous debate and discussion of needed activities for achieving conservation at the landscape scale.

Visit the SWCS website www.swcs.org and click on conferences then on Managing Agricultural Landscapes II to obtain a draft agenda for this upcoming conference.

***Chapter members interested in helping as session chairs, moderators or technical support during this conference, please contact Mary Miller @ mary.miller@co.usda.gov**

Award Nominations Wanted

By: Beth Fortman

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present its 2009 conservation **Reporter of the Year Award** at the CACD Annual Meeting luncheon on Wednesday, November 16, at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, CO. I am looking for nominations for this award. Do any 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.

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, 2009.

I am also accepting nominations for National Awards (see categories on page 9).

Please send your nominations to Beth Fortman (Chapter Awards Committee Chairman), 200 S. Santa Fe, 4th Floor, Pueblo, CO 81003 by October 9, 2009.
Or email to elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov.

For Commendations the deadline is **October 16**. National Awards nominations deadline is **November 20**.

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AWARD NOMINATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The awards program of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is designed to recognize individuals and organizations that 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.

Summer Tour Held in Gunnison

By: John Scott

On August 14th, 2009, about 25 participants gathered in the Gunnison Basin for this year's Joint Annual Summer Field Tour between the SRM and SWCS. This year's tour was organized and sponsored in conjunction with the Gunnison Conservation District. The tour this year highlighted the Peterson Ranch, the 2008 recipient of the Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award given by the Colorado Section of SRM, and the Buckhorn Ranch, and their work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's - Partners for Wildlife Program.

The tour started out from Doyleville and headed out to the first stop to discuss some of the work that has been completed on the Peterson's BLM livestock grazing permit. Russ Japunich, BLM Wildlife Biologist, gave an overview of how they worked with the Peterson's to implement various sagebrush treatments to try and enhance Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat in the area south of Parlin. They discussed the importance of having a good on the ground working relationship with livestock permittees so that these efforts can move forward and be successful.

The second stop on the tour was on the Peterson Ranch to discuss a research project initiated by Joe Brummer, CSU, and John Scott, NRCS, in conjunction with Greg Peterson and the Gunnison Conservation District. The Draft of the paper titled "Improving Sagebrush Habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse in Combination with Managed Livestock Grazing" was presented to the group and an overview of the project was design, layout, implementation, and results were provided. This project compared sagebrush treatments with

Spike, 2,4-D and Dixie Harrow to see what the response of grass and forbs would be under the different treatments. This paper is soon to be published as a technical report.



Tour group at the 3rd and last stop on the tour to view and discuss the work that Jan Coury and Dave Nelson, Buckhorn Ranch owners are completing for irrigation and wildlife.



Tour group at the 1st stop viewing and discussing BLM sage-grouse habitat improvement projects on the Peterson Ranch grazing allotment.

The last stop after lunch at the Peterson's Hay Shed was at the Buckhorn Ranch along Hwy 50 for a hay ride to look over the Ranch. Jan Coury and Dave Nelson have worked for years trying to make improvements to their horse quality hay operation on Tomichi Creek. They have worked with Rick Schnaderbeck, FWS Partners for Wildlife Program Coordinator, from Monte Vista, and the local NRCS Field Office to implement fencing, water control

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EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

☺ CO CHAPTER TECHNICAL CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2009 BRECKENRIDGE, CO

☺ 2010 OFFICER ELECTION BALLOTS

☺ AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE

☺ CCA TRAINING/STUDY SESSIONS FOR NRCS EMPLOYEES
& EXISTING CCA'S

☺ TSP TRAINING SESSIONS ON WEQ & RUSLE2 PROGRAMS

☺ MANAGING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES II WORKSHOP
APRIL 28-30, 2010 DENVER, CO

☺ SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 17-21, 2010 ST. LOUIS, MO

SUMMER TOUR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

structures, and shallow open water habitat for wildlife. All of their work has improved the overall irrigation of the Ranch which in turn has helped to increase their hay production. Jan and Dave manage their place with wildlife and their fishery in mind and it shows.

It seemed like everyone on the tour had a great time and had good interaction and questions along the way. These types of events are what help to keep both Societies and their members in tune with what is going on out on the land and within our professions. A big thanks to the Gunnison Conservation District for coordinating this effort.

SNAP SHOTS



Mary Miller, Co Chapter Member and Northern Plains Region Board Member conducting a session at the Annual Conference in Michigan.



Gary Peterson & an unidentified SWCS member attending the conference in Dearborn.



Mrs. Jorge Delgado, Jorge Delgado, Charlie Pannebaker, Ardell Halvorson, and Gary Peterson attending the Northern Plains Regional meeting at the Annual SWCS meeting in Dearborn, MI on July 13, 2009.

2009 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.