

SWCS COLORADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

September 2006



President's Message

By Ron Follett



Most important to our Chapter and our Society is to recognize and express a huge 'Thanks' to all of you who contributed so much to make the July, 2006 International SWCS Conference at Keystone the tremendous success that it was. Special thanks go to Kristi Gay and Mary Miller, the local arrangements Co-Chairs, to all of the Chairs of committees and those helping them, the Sponsors and Contributors, those contributing items to the Silent Auction, and all the rest who volunteered and contributed. This was a tremendous team effort and showed what a great Chapter we have here in Colorado. The attendance numbers I have for this years Keystone conference are that there were 557 registered participants and 746 total attendees. I've heard from many people around the country about how satisfied they were with the meeting. Besides the family activities, I've received many complimentary comments concerning both the technical sessions and tours, and also the accommodations.

As a chapter we are now moving into fall and on to our other annual activities. By now you should have received an e-mail from Mary Miller and John Knapp, serving as the nominations committee, calling on you to help identify a slate of candidates for the fall elections of next years Chapter Officers. I hope that you were able to respond and also that, at such time as you receive your ballots, you will vote for the candidate of your choice. Your vote and participation is important to our Chapter.

In closing I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and again express my personal appreciation to all for your hard work, team spirit, and dedication to our Society and our Chapter.

Ron Follett

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN RENDEZVOUS II

Thanks for Helping with a Successful Conference

THANK YOU to all the volunteers, moderators, silent auction donors, and other chapters for helping us make the 2006 Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference at Keystone a huge success. We especially thank our Local Arrangements Committee Chairs for all their work prior and during the conference.

Almost 750 individuals—registrants, exhibitors, family members, etc.—attended the conference. Many of them stopped us and have sent emails saying how much they enjoyed the conference.

Thanks, again, to everyone. Enjoy the many photos of the conference that are included in this edition of our chapter's newsletter.



Mary Miller and Kristi Gayr

Following from National Chapter Website:

2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

July 22 -July 26, 2006

Keystone Resort in Keystone, Colorado.

Another great conference comes to an end. This year's event that was held in Keystone, Colorado, presented attendees with many opportunities to learn and share knowledge with people from around the world.

[Print the final program \(pdf\).](#)

The attendees were honored with a Pritchard Lecture given by the Honorable Judge Gregory J. Hobbs. Judge Hobbs serves on the Colorado Supreme Court and has a wealth of knowledge on water use law, the environment, and land-use. He spoke about the scarcity of water in the West and gave a great overview of the different issues that are at play on the subject. He explained the early doctrines that govern water in Colorado—senior/junior rights. Also, the fact that 80 percent of the water that falls on Colorado is in the west two-thirds of the state, but in the east third, is where 80 percent of the people live. Hobbs described how Colorado has formed seven water courts that are really roundtables, whose charge is to monitor and plan for water use issues through 2030. [\(Read Judge Hobbs' Twenty Basic Water Policy Themes at the Start of the 21st Century\).](#)

Dana York, USDA-NRCS associate chief, spoke at the second plenary and fielded questions from the large group of attendees. She told of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) human capital initiative-

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the need for, the issues surrounding it, and how the Society can help the agency invest in its workforce for the future. York highlighted programs in NRCS that will help soil and water protection in the future. While answering questions from the audience with Craig Cox, she covered a wide range of topics from green payments, to how off-farm owners impact conservation. It was very informative.

Welcome Reception features Summit County pioneers

Conference attendees were welcomed by several long-time Summit County pioneers, Max and Edna Dercum, who founded Keystone on November 21, 1970, almost 30 years after they moved to the Snake River Valley. They learned a bit about the history of the area while browsing exhibits and items at the Silent Auction. Exhibitors were on hand to speak to participants about their products and services. The FSA exhibit even featured live raptors, snakes, and owls during one day of the event.



The silent auction featured many unique items to the area including Colorado wines, a gift certificate to the Keystone Resort and a mounted bull elk. Money raised will go to the Chapter's scholarship fund and to provide awards at local science fairs.

House of Delegates

Sunday, July 23, Society delegates came together from across the nation to discuss important environmental management issues in the upcoming year. The Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) Vice-President, Steve Oltmans called the meeting to order and discussed the role of the House of Delegates meeting. The Executive Director, Craig Cox, introduced the Board of Directors and gave an overview of the Society from the staff's point of view. SWCS' President Jean Steiner gave an uplifting address on the State of the Society. The House of Delegates then discussed the progress of the 2005 resolutions with input from the Board of Directors and staff.

The Georgia Chapter Delegate, Mark Risse, introduced three out of the four 2006 issues to be discussed by the Delegates. The issues included:

- Improved Estimates of Conservation Tillage
- Improving the Soil Conditioning Index for Peanut Rotations, and
- Improving Recognition of the Benefits of Conservation Practices in Water Conservation and Drought Mitigation.

The fourth issue discussed was introduced by the California Chapter Delegate, David Rose and pertained to the Partnering of the California and Nevada Chapters.

The Missouri Chapter's Delegate, Renee Cook, withdrew the resolution to create a new membership option. The resolution asked to create a membership option that would include all membership options except receipt of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

The vote was followed by a presentation from four of the Board of Directors on the roles and expectations that Chapters should expect from their elected Board of Directors. The presenters included: Theo Dillaha, Becky Fletcher, Peggie James, and Shannon Brown. ([Click here to view regional presentations](#))

Vice-President Steve Oltmans closed out the discussion.

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Fellows Forum debates competition for water

Members of the prestigious Fellows Forum met Sunday to discuss the topic, "Western Water for Wildlife and Farming – Is There Enough?" Competition for water is a major part of the issue, while the requirement for the state to deliver a set amount of water at the state line, the need to reconstruct endangered species habitat, concern about NRCS conservation practices reducing water availability for wildlife, and other interests complicate that in the West. Members listened to an expert presentation and afterward exchanged ideas and comments to address the problem.

SWCS award winners recognized

Thirty-eight individuals and groups were recognized Tuesday, July 25, at a special awards luncheon. Winners were selected for their outstanding contributions and leadership in conservation. To view all the award winners [click here](#). Photos are available to view or download at [dotPhoto](#).



Craig Cox Hands out Missouri Show Me State's Chapter Award



Craig Cox hands Peter Wright his Fellow award

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

The Colorado Chapter SWCS Executive Council asked John Knapp and me to serve as the Nominations Committee for our Chapter's fall elections. We are seeking nominations for the following positions:

President-elect
West Slope director

The **President-elect** goes on to become President then serves as Past President. This is a 3-year commitment.

The **West Slope director** is a 2-year term with the ability to run for re-election.

The individuals elected to these positions will take office at the Chapter's annual meeting this fall.

If you have someone you would like to nominate (please be sure to have their consent prior to nominating them) or if you are interested in running for one of these three offices, please email Mary Miller at mary.miller@co.usda.gov or call her at 719-384-5408 by **SEPTEMBER 20TH**.

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AWARDS NOMINATIONS ALSO SOUGHT

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present its 2006 conservation Reporter of the Year Award at the CACD Annual Meeting luncheon on November 15 this year. I am looking for nominations for this award. 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.

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 have 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.

It is also time once again to reflect on the significant contributions made in the recent past to the Chapter and the cause of soil and water conservation 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, yet to be determined.

Please send your nominations for media person or Jr. Conservationist to Beth Fortman (Chapter Awards Committee Chairman), 1626 Hwy 50 West, Pueblo, CO 81008 by October 6, 2006. Or email at elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov. Our office is moving Oct. 1 but I think the mail should still get to me.

For Commendations the deadline is October 17.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS FOR COLORADO CHAPTER

Chapter Board Meeting/Annual Business Meeting: November 13, 2005 @ CACD, Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs
Workshop at CACD Meeting: November 13, 2006, 1 pm – 5 pm Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs



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Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Soil and Water Conservation

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is undertaking a joint U.S.-Canada project that will follow up on the findings of its 2003 report "Climate Change: Soil Erosion and Runoff from Cropland." The project will focus on the Great Lakes as a model region of concern to evaluate options for incorporating effects of extreme weather events into conservation planning and pollution prevention efforts. A set of white papers and a bilateral workshop will highlight differences in planning approaches that address observed and projected trends of extreme weather events versus current planning for long-term average conditions. SWCS will develop specific recommendations for changes in policy, planning, and practice based on the white papers and workshop deliberations.

Status

Preliminary work on the project is underway, and the workshop and final report are slated for 2006. The Joyce Foundation, and The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation are providing major financial support to the project. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has provided financial support for project planning.

For the full article on this project, please go to the SWCS website (www.swcs.org) and look under the heading Special Projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Environmental Management Workshop



In October 2006, the Soil and Water Conservation Society is also organizing a workshop, which has the theme "[Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality, Strengthening the Science Base.](#)" It will be held October 11-13, 2006, at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

9/17/06-9/20/06	Water in the City; Victoria, British Columbia
9/21/06	Agricultural Research Farm Tour; Beltsville, MD
9/22/06	Iowa SWCS Annual Meeting and Conference; Summerset, IA
9/30/06	NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY
10/18/06-10/20/06	Water Quality, Drought, Human Health and Engineering Conference; Las Vegas, NV



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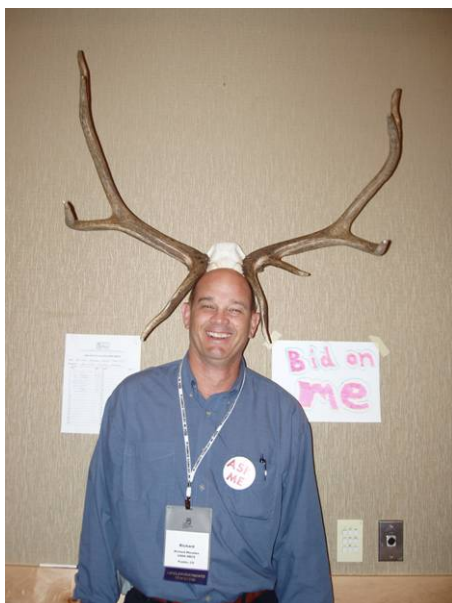
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THE END!!