

President's Message

by Wendell Hassell



❖ **National Chapter Notes**

In the last couple of months, chapter members with email addresses should be receiving copies of the National Chapter Notes. I asked Mary Miller to forward copies to members. The Chapter Notes are sent out

weekly and provide an excellent method for learning about SWCS activities on the national level. The officers and directors feel that members will be better informed of local and national SWCS issues when they receive the chapter notes and teleconference minutes.

❖ **Leadership and Development Workshop**

I was fortunate to attend the Northern Great Plains leadership and development workshop March 6–7, 2003. The workshop was held in Gering, Nebraska this year. Colorado had a good representation with six chapter members attending. The program was educational and enlightening. We had an outstanding conference and enjoyed traveling to the workshop together.

❖ **Science Fair Volunteers**

Charlie Pannebaker has done an excellent job as our Science Fair Chairman. For this coming year of 2004, we need a science fair judge in the Boulder area. This is a fun opportunity for members to get involved with youth conservation activities, and a very rewarding event. If you are interested in being a judge in 2004, please contact Charlie.

❖ **Joint Workshop/Chapter Meeting**

Plans are in progress for a mid-November 2003 Chapter meeting and technical sessions. The technical sessions will include AFO/CAFO workshop for landowners, with concurrent technical sessions for private and agency professionals. The topics will include Waste Management and Air Quality. We plan to offer CEU credits for Technical Service Providers and professionals. More information will be posted on the chapter web site. Watch for the dates!

❖ **SWCS Web Site**

SWCS chapter members and perspective members interested in conservation should click on this web-site:

http://www.swcs.org/f_advocacy_grassroots.htm.

Grassroots is a great site for information on National conservation issues, and is also has links to state SWCS activities.

❖ **Range Drought Workshops**

Colorado Chapter assisted with the local range drought workshops at Flagler, Springfield, and Rocky Ford. We have received several thank you letters. We want to thank our chapter members who helped with the display and represented the chapter at these meetings.

❖ **The National Soil And Water Conservation Society 2003 Annual Conference**

The 58th Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be held July 26-30, 2003, at the Spokane



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Convention Center in Spokane, WA. The theme is ***"The Columbia River: Conserving a Legacy of Life."***

Further information is in this newsletter, and for even more detailed information on the program, registration, reservations, family activities, etc., go to www.swcs.org and click on the 2003 *Conserving a Legacy of Life* icon.

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THANK YOU

Thanks to the Colorado SWCS Chapter for contributing **\$500** to help offset the costs of the 2003 Conference in Spokane!

*Myron P. Senechal,
Director, Northern Plains
Soil and Water Conservation Society*

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***Soil And Water Conservation Society
Will Hold Their Annual Conference In
Spokane, WA***

Conservation researchers, practitioners and policymakers at all levels of government, private industry, and a broad cross-section of interest groups and individuals will meet in Spokane on July 27-30, 2003 for the Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) annual international conference.

SWCS is a non-profit organization promoting conservation professions from around the world in science-based conservation policy of our renewable natural resources. The Society is comprised of

chapters from across the Nation and Canada. The local Inland Empire Chapter is sponsoring this year's conference.

The theme of this year's conference is ***"The Columbia: Conserving a Legacy of Life,"*** focusing on issues and concerns in the Columbia Basin. The Columbia River watershed encompasses portions of seven states: Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Oregon, Nevada and Wyoming, and the province of British Columbia, Canada. The Columbia River and its tributaries are a part of the history, heritage and culture of the Pacific Northwest. Forestry, agriculture, hunting and fishing, recreation, mining and industry are the primary resource activities of the Columbia. Four key topics of concern for professionals working to conserve natural resources locally and globally will be addressed:

- Integrated watershed and basin management
- Water supplies for ecology and economy
- Grassland health for sustainable production and biological diversity
- Air quality for public health and economic vitality

The conference provides professional development opportunities and continuing education credits from professional organizations through several workshops being offered. Conservation tours will focus on resource issues in the Columbia Basin. There will be several exhibit booths featuring the latest technology in conservation methods and many posters on various conservation topics related to air, water and watershed issues.

The Spokane Convention Center and Doubletree Hotel in the heart of the city on



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the Spokane River are the headquarters for this year's conference.

For additional information on the conference and to register logon to www.swcs.org. Or contact Betty Schmitt at (509) 323-2912 or at betty.schmitt@wa.usda.gov.

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### **Annual Meeting and CACD Seminar Planned**

*By Barb Gohlke*

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society tentatively plans to hold its 2003 Annual Meeting on **November 17, 2003** at the Wyndham Colorado Springs. At that time, the Society will also host a Seminar prior to the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) Annual meeting. There will be two concurrent sessions, one geared for conservation professionals and another geared for landowners, small acreage to large acreage. Our intention is to provide information related to Animal Feeding Operations/Confined Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) with the session for conservation professionals providing CEUs. The programs for each session have not yet been finalized. Additional information will be made available on the chapter website ([www.ccswcs.org](http://www.ccswcs.org)) as soon as it becomes available. Please mark your calendars for November 17. We look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs!

#### **Hotel Information:**

<http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/COSCO/main.wnt>

5580 Tech Center Drive  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919  
Phone: 719-260-1800

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2006 Annual Conference Set For Colorado!

The Soil & Water Conservation Society board has voted to hold the 2006 meeting at Keystone, Colorado. It was unanimous!

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### **New address for headquarters**

The Ankeny home office for headquarters staff has a new address. With the recent residential construction surrounding the headquarters building, the City of Ankeny has annexed our land into the city, causing us to get a new mailing address. Please use the following address from now on:

Soil and Water Conservation Society  
945 SW Ankeny Road  
Ankeny, IA 50021

We will begin transitioning our envelopes and letterhead as our existing supplies are depleted, so you may see us use the old address. The old address will continue to be deliverable for a few more months.

*Myron P. Senechal*  
*Director, Northern Plains*  
*Soil and Water Conservation Society*

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Science Fair Report

The Colorado Chapter of SWCS judged approximately 150 projects at 10 of the 13 Regional Science Fairs. All the projects were related to natural resource conservation, and were judged as two divisions: junior high and high school. Most of the judges had very positive remarks about the quality of the science fair projects.



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There were 20 science fair projects judged for the junior high and 9 from senior high at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair. The winners at the State Fair were **Dailey Kluck**, Junior division, for a project named "Wind Blocks." **Levi and Harold Klausner** won the Senior division for a project named "Wheat Variety Response to Drought."



The Colorado Chapter of the SWCS presented \$355.00 in cash prizes, ribbons, and lithographs to the Regional Fair first and second place winners.

We also distributed \$140.00 in cash prizes, ribbons, and lithographs to the State Fair first and second place winners.

A judge is needed for the Boulder Valley Regional Science Fair next year.



Chapter Awards News—HURRAH!

by Beth Fortman

Once again our outstanding **Colorado Chapter** did a bang-up year last year! The chapter, including a member, will receive several awards at the Annual National Conference in Spokane, WA this summer. We will be awarded with the **Chapter Achievement Award** and the **Sustained Performance Award!**

The Chapter Achievement Award recognizes up to five chapters for significant achievement through a single activity conducted during the year. We also received this award last year! The Sustained Performance Award recognizes one chapter for continuing excellence and



overall programming over more than two years.

Chapter member **Kristi Gay** will receive a **National Commendation Award**—congratulations, Kristi!

As we hope you can see, we are a very active chapter. We would love to have more members involved with ideas for workshops or tours or helping at these activities. We have lots of fun!



Colorado Chapter Cosponsors Rangeland Drought Workshops

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) cosponsored three rangeland drought workshops that were attended by more than 300 ranchers. The workshops were held in Seibert, Rocky Ford, and Springfield.

Topics covered included stocking strategies after drought, prescribed grazing concepts following drought, and rangeland monitoring methods. Dr. Roy Roath, Colorado State University (CSU) Cooperative Extension Range Specialist, Fort Collins, and Nolan Doesken, Assistant State Climatologist, Colorado Climate Center at CSU, were two of the featured speakers. The workshops also included speakers from local CSU Cooperative Extension, conservation districts (CD), and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Other sponsors of the workshops included the East Otero Conservation District (CD), Olney-Boone CD, West Otero Timpas CD, Bent CD, South Pueblo County CD, Branson-Trinchera CD, Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River CD, Baca County CD, Prairie CD, High Plains CD, Burlington CD,



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Flagler CD, Colorado Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Committee, Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

Chapters contributing to conference Helping to make it a success

After a challenge from the Society's Western Regional Director, Steve Smarik, chapters across the United States have been donating money to the Inland Empire Chapter for use in hosting the 2003 conference in Spokane, Washington. The Inland Empire Chapter would like to thank the following chapters for contributing to the local arrangements committee: the Arizona Chapter; Hawaii and Pacific Basin Chapter; **and the Colorado Chapter.**

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Notes from the President

by Myron Senechal

From the Conservogram

(http://news.swcs.org/e_article000142302.cfm)

April 11, 2003

We are being bombarded with new information every day. It is nearly impossible to stay on top of all existing and new information on natural resources. That is unless you are a student of the discipline. My wife and staff tell me that I have seen, or should have seen, much information or a certain document. They occasionally remind me, 'you already have it.' Email is a wonderful tool of electronic communication, but the messages are easily 'not read.'

That is why you must bookmark sites (i.e. <http://www.swcs.org>), or save those important forwarded pieces of information. The point I am trying to make is similar to the old saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink." Thinking about this issue makes me wonder about the value of Chapter Notes, delivered weekly but not read, which are emailed each Friday to Chapter Presidents and others, as well as the value of the "Conservogram" (<http://news.swcs.org/>) when delivered but not read.

It is hard to know everything that is on the Society web site. The Chapter Notes have been placed on our web site every week for about the last two years (find them at http://www.swcs.org/f_aboutSWCS_chrel.htm). Some chapter presidents are forwarding the Chapter Notes through local newsletters or attaching the Chapter Notes to emails. That is great! Better to get the information twice and read it once, than not at all. However, the website gives every member access to these without the bottleneck of going through the chapter president. This is just a reminder for members to check the Chapter Notes on the web site. People also need to take responsibility for staying "connected."

Regarding readership of the C-gram: the Society headquarters gets reports from every newsletter sent out that tells us how many C-gram emails are opened. No secrets any more! You need to read the Soil and Water Conservation Society information as distributed, rather than hit the delete button.

The Society can't be certain every person is opening the email to reading it. But that is



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all SWCS has to go on. The percentage of people opening each newsletter hovers between 50 and 60%, which is good. Most publications do not get 100% readership. It would be very rare to get above 75% of members reading a publication. I would like you to prove the survey wrong. When the Society had only a paper copy of the C-gram, low readership of the hard copy newsletter was also an issue.

Members just don't read everything or they forget what they have read. Just like me. It's a frustration, but I don't think it is something that can be solved completely. It is one of those items that in an organization like SWCS, reminding must be diligent. Others might not agree with me that it can't be solved, but that is how I look at it. Just some thoughts for your consideration—please remain in contact with Soil and Water Conservation Society happenings.

Many regions had successful chapter leadership training technical sessions. The energy and enthusiasm that everyone expresses during a development workshop is revitalizing. This is another way to stay in touch with the Society activities on an

annual basis. A workshop is not the same as reading the Chapter Notes and "Conservogram" on a weekly or quarterly basis.

I am interested in your thoughts how the Chapter Notes and "Conservogram" can be made more accessible to members. Please email your suggestions to me at myron.senechal@nd.usda.gov.

In conclusion, stay in touch. Always read your local chapter newsletter, the "Conservogram" and weekly Chapter Notes.

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### ***Membership Invitation to the Soil and Water Conservation Society***

"We'd love to have you as a member! SWCS brings together conservationists from around the world who are dedicated to the art and science of caring for the land. Working together, we can do more for our land and water resources - and our profession - than we can do as individuals."

*Craig Cox, Executive Vice President  
Healthy Land, Clean Water -- For Life!*