



WYOMING CHAPTER—SWCS NEWS

FALL 2014

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Our Mission

Foster the science and art of natural resource conservation.

Targeting conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on working land—the land used to produce food, fiber, and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities.

Working to discover, develop, implement, and constantly improve ways to use land that sustains its productive capacity and enhances the environment at the same time.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

I apologize for the brevity of this quarter's newsletter. It's becoming a little bit much for me to hold down my jobs, lead the chapter as President-Elect, and also put together a top quality, comprehensive newsletter on a quarterly basis essentially alone. We'll see how the winter shapes up. I do tend to have a little more time when not tied to the farm. That said, please consider taking a more active part in your chapter, even if to submit a blurb or photo here and there for the newsletter. (No one wants to just hear from me all the time!) Thanks!

I'd like to thank our dedicated Secretary and Area 4 Director Melanie Purcell and Area 1 Director Mark Opitz for collaborating on a Chapter Spotlight article for the upcoming SWCS Conservagram, highlighting the Area 1-hosted Technical Workshop on Stream Restoration, held in September at Casper College. Despite poor weather, attendance was quite good, and participants enjoyed a morning chock full of presentations and an afternoon tour of Nancy English Park and the North Platte River Restoration Project. In fact, we ate lunch while

presentations continued, the information was that vast.

I am shamelessly using the Chapter Spotlight article on page 3 to summarize the program so excellently coordinated by Mark.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled in conjunction with WACD again this year, later on this month, in Sheridan. Details can be found on page 2 in the calendar. We will have a supper social again this year, Jerry Schuman will announce awards for 2014 at the Awards Luncheon, and our Annual Business Meeting will be held from 4-5pm on Wednesday, November 19, at the Holiday Inn, Sheridan. I hope to see several members there.

Some items on the agenda include: Election of officers in the spring, raising the annual scholarship amount from \$500 to \$1000, and a debrief of the September Technical Workshop, as well as initial plans for next year's Area 2—hosted event.

Please do consider taking on a post as a Board officer or Area Director or Chair or member of one of our chapter committees. The winter newsletter will explain the nomination and election process, and will



list vacancies on committees (which are appointed positions, no election necessary).

All Board positions will be up for election or re-election in 2015 as well, each for a 2-year term. I hope you all will consider stepping into a leadership or volunteer role within the chapter. For our smallish size, we maintain a strong membership and a grassroots presence in the State of Wyoming and Society-wide. I encourage you all to be a greater part of the effort.

Hope to see you in Sheridan!

Thank you all for your continued membership and your commitment to natural resources conservation in this great State of Wyoming.

Lisa

Calendar of Events

- **Wyoming Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting**, to be held in conjunction with Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Annual Convention, **November 18-20, 2014, in Sheridan, WY.**
- **Dinner Social, Tuesday, November 18, 7pm, Powder River Pizza Pub.** A chance to get together for dinner, drinks and conversation, with other SWCS members and guests. This is a cash event.
- **Awards Luncheon, Wednesday, November 19, 11:30am, Holiday Inn.** Dr. Jerry Shuman, Emcee, will announce WACD and WY SWCS awards winners for 2014.
- **SWCS WY Chapter Annual Meeting, Wednesday, November 19, 4-5pm, Holiday Inn.**

Full program of events available at: http://www.conservewy.com/temp/Oct_14/agenda_102914.pdf

Registration information available at: http://www.conservewy.com/temp/Oct_14/reg_101314.pdf

There are several hotels and motels in Sheridan. The Holiday Inn, event destination, had sold out of rooms at press time.

Education Update

Amanda Preddice, University Student Chapter President, and Mike Kasten, WY Chapter Education and Outreach Coordinator, met in September in Laramie and discussed several ideas for activity and education for the Student Chapter. Amanda has proposed a project helping a landowner in the Dubois, WY, area with some land management decisions, and has taken soil samples. The Student Chapter would work on analyzing these samples and assisting the rancher with a land management plan based on results. Professor Pete Stahl, Director of the WY Reclamation and Restoration Center on campus has volunteered to help students with soil sample analysis. The chapter will pursue funding options for the project in an upcoming meeting.

Support Your Chapter!

Wyoming Chapter has hoodies for sale. They are a light, versatile sand color, with the SWCS logo on the chest. Quality Gildjian heavy blend 50/50 cotton/poly for warmth, durability and ease of cleaning.

Proceeds for these sweatshirts go straight to your chapter to fund workshops, scholarships, awards, and other Wyoming activities.

\$40.00 includes shipping to you.

Order your sweatshirt today! Specify quantity and size (M, L or XL).

We also have backpacks for sale with the SWCS logo, just in time for school. These packs are rugged nylon in a dark forest green, and are available for \$25 with shipping.

Contact Lisa Cox at betterwriter@gmail.com to place your order. Checks can be made to WY SWCS.



Wyoming Chapter Spotlight

To be featured in the November Conservogram

By Melanie Purcell and Mark Opitz

On September 11th, 2014, led by Area Director Mark Opitz, WY Chapter hosted a technical workshop on stream restoration, “Shaping Our Waterways for the Future”, in Casper, Wyoming.

Presenters included: Chris Gauthier, Civil Engineer with NRCS, speaking on natural channel design; Paul Starkey, Civil Engineering Technician, on Visual Stream Assessment Protocol; Clyde Bennett, TrueNorth Steel gave a presentation on geosynthetics used in channel restoration projects; Jolene Martinez, Special Projects Analyst, City of Casper, Brian Connely, District Supervisor, from the Natrona County Weed and Pest, Eve Spillman, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Al Conder, Casper Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Nathan Jean, Water Resources Engineer from Stantec Engineering combined to make a presentation about the North Platte Revival which included presentations on riparian and upland restoration and the proposed river restoration projects; and Chuck Schmitt, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS gave a presentation on the restoration of Garden Creek.

Despite cold, snowy weather conditions, a field tour ensued during the later afternoon to look at two of the stream restoration projects first-hand. SWCS members and practitioners were excited and interested to participate. Nine students from University of Wyoming were supported in a partnership with the Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center to attend the workshop as well.



Chris Gauthier opens the day's technical session, above left. Afternoon tour of the N. Platte Restoration project, above right.

Open up your Winter 2014-2015 newsletter for:

- **A summary of our Annual Meeting,**
- **Information on upcoming nominations and elections,**
- **Chicago Botanic Gardens lakeshore restoration project tour and photos from the July Society meeting in Lombard, IL, just in time to remove you from the winter doldrums**
- **And more.**

Spread the Word.

Talk with your fellow co-workers, students, and those individuals you know who have an interest in our natural resources. If you would like some brochures that answer the following questions...

Who Belongs to SWCS?

What does the Wyoming Chapter Do?

Why Join?

How Do I Become a Member?

Where Can I Learn More?

When did SWCS Organize?

contact any of the Wyoming SWCS Chapter leaders listed in this newsletter, and we will get some brochures to you.

WYOMING CHAPTER OF SWCS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
562 N. FIFTH STREET A
LARAMIE, WY 82072
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED