



Wyoming Chapter— SWCS News Fall 2016

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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's Message

Hello Everyone!

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in our Area 3– hosted Tech Workshop, *Soil Salinity in Irrigated Agriculture*, in Riverton this September. It was a pleasure to spend the evening and a day in Riverton. The Central Wyoming College campus was lovely, and I thank Dan Mattke, our Area 3 Director, for arranging a stellar slate of speakers and getting the word out so people could convene for a day of learning and networking.

I'm excited to say this will be my last newsletter for the Chapter, at least for a while. I have enjoyed preparing the newsletter quarterly for several years, and hope it has helped you all feel connected and involved with your Chapter across so many miles and varied terrains of this State. But we all must move on, and some of us require more variety in our lives. I remain committed to my chosen professional society, and have stepped into the role of Education and Outreach Chair for the Wyoming Chapter.

Some of you know, my very first real career was as a teacher and educa-

tional program director. As a kid growing up in rural Maine, I dreamed of teaching, of being able to offer others an opportunity to suck up new knowledge, gain new skills, and go out and use them to make the world better, more connected.

My primary goals in taking on Education and Outreach are: to create a better interface with students around the state who are interested in bettering their world through natural resources conservation, and to help agencies, professional organizations, private companies and citizens of Wyoming and the surrounding region connect in learning and networking opportunities, to work toward bettering the world now through natural resources conservation.

I'll put in a plug, while I have the floor for a little longer as your Chapter President, for any of you to join me on the committee, or to take on a Chair or membership position on any of the existing committees (see list, page 4.) And to please consider running for an Officer position in the spring, including Area Director. Our current ADs are dedicated and skilled volunteers, but we all on



the Board frequently discuss how wonderful it would be to have additional input and leadership on board. We're a pretty smart, fun and interesting bunch of people. Join us! Let your Area Director (see list, page 5) know if you are interested in a role, and we will put you on the committee or the ballot.

Happy holidays, and thanks as always to your commitment to natural resources conservation in our Great State.

Respectfully,

Lisa Cox

Calendar of Events

February 11: Strategic Planning Meeting, WY Chapter, Laramie, WY. Details to come.,

June 12-16, 2017: 1st WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION UNDER GLOBAL CHANGE (CONSOWA)

“Sustainable Life on Earth through Soil and Water Conservation”, Lleida, Spain. Details at

http://www.swcs.org/documents/filelibrary/temporary_images/1st_Announcement_CONSOWA_Lleida_201_9371CE885F77D.pdf

July 30– August 2, 2017: SWCS 72nd Annual Conference, “Conservation Connections, Creating Path-

Your SWCS Board News

Annual Technical Workshop was held this year in Riverton, on September 28. Thanks to generous sponsorships by Lower Wind River Conservation District, BKS Environmental Associates, Jerry Schuman and Lone Iron Site Assessments, breaks, lunch and student scholarships were covered, and the Chapter made \$86 for the Student Scholarship Fund.

Your Board met by teleconference on Monday, November 28 to debrief and discuss other chapter business, below.

A winter strategic planning meeting is tentatively set for February 11 in Laramie. The agenda includes diversifying and increasing membership, fundraising and website and other public relations and media improvement

for better communication.

The Board discussed possibilities for better facilitating credit card payments, and supporting the Earth Day bracelet program again this coming year.

Bree Lind stepped into the role of Public Relations and Media Committee Chair, and Lisa Cox took on Education and Outreach Committee Chair. The Board will plan to assist Scholarship Committee Chair Dicksie Michael in getting the word out about applying.

Elections will be held in the spring for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Area Director positions. Biographies of interested candidates will be due March 31, ballots will go out April 15, and will be due by April 30.

Education Update

Four students from the new Soil Science Club at the University of Wyoming met with Chapter President Lisa Cox and Secretary Michelle Sutherburg on October 31 in Laramie for a lunch discussion of how the Chapter can work with the club. After communication with the charter members of the original Student Chapter of SWCS at the University, it was decided to turn the bank account over to the new club with the specification that they would like to see the new club use some of the funds to help defray or pay the cost of student memberships in SWCS.

Michelle expressed concern that water conservation would not be properly addressed by a soil-specific club; however, there is already a Water Resources Club on campus. Lisa suggested that stu-

dent Soil Science Club leaders interface with that club to plan and promote activities that promote both soil and water conservation.

Lisa and Michelle committed to helping mentor the club and work with students to plan events that will enhance professional development and networking opportunities for students in the areas of soil, water and natural resources conservation. Further, Lisa has resigned from her long-time role as Media and Public Relations Chair for the Chapter, and has taken on the role of Education and Outreach Chair, hoping to work with students and other agencies and professional organizations across the state to provide learning and networking opportunities.

(Continued on page 6.)

Technical Workshop Summary

Soil Salinity in Irrigated Agriculture

The annual WY Chapter Technical Workshop this year was hosted by Area 3 at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, on September 28. Dan Mattke, Area 3 Director, of NRCS, put together a day of speakers dedicated to the topic of saline soils from an agricultural perspective, especially relevant to the region.

After opening remarks by Dan, State Irrigation Engineer Lynn Cornia spoke on Types of Irrigation in Wyoming and Leaching Requirements. Lynn presented some basic irrigation principles, that soil in the root zone acts as a reservoir to store water to be used by plants, and that the size of the reservoir depends on root zone depth of crop and soil texture within that root zone. Lynn discussed salts in the soil profile and the effects of irrigation, and talked about surface irrigation systems, including contour ditch, corrugation or furrows, and borders. He discussed in further detail the use of various sprinkler systems, micro irrigation for windbreaks, and subsurface drip irrigation, and some of the issues associated. Lynn concluded with a summary of the need for special considerations in designing irrigation systems that use saline irrigation water, the need for free draining soils or adequate drainage systems for irrigating saline soils, and the considerations that salts not be added to soils through irrigation or that drain-

age not cause negative impacts to other waters.

After coffee break, sponsored by the Lower Wind River Conservation District, State Agronomist Roger Stockton spoke about Agonomic Issues, Salinity and Plant Relations, and Amendments. Roger discussed origins, including geological, of salts in soils, irrigation water as a contributor, and properties of salt affected soils. He brought up salt tolerance of various crops, and soil amendments to ameliorate impacts of salts in soils.

Roger was followed by Regional Soil Health Coordinator Marlon Winger, who gave an energetic pre-lunch presentation on soil health, including the use of quizzing the audience, and demonstration with a rain simulator on two different soils. His primary focus was soil as ecosystem, and Marlon referenced several papers to use in helping understand and mitigate effects of salt-affected soils through soil health.

After lunch, with a partial sponsorship by WY SWCS member Jerry Schuman, Travis James, Colorado River Salinity Project Coordinator, presented a visual and historic account of work that has been done to mitigate the effects of irrigation on the Colorado River .

Travis was followed by former Bridger Plant Materials Center Manager and Agronomist Mark Majerus, who discussed Specific Cultivars and Salinity Tolerance and who showed participants a number of dried plant samples. Mark also shared a technical paper on plant materials for use on saline-alkaline soils.

Following break, sponsored by BKS Environmental Associates, the workshop adjourned, with the announcement of silent auction winners. Thanks to all who contributed items to the silent auction, and to the winning bidders, the Chapter earned \$86 this year to contribute to the Student Scholarship Fund.

Annual Business Meeting had been planned to follow the workshop, but in the interest of getting people home before dark, this was postponed. The Annual Business Meeting will instead take place in Laramie during a winter brainstorming and strategizing session, to which all members and officers are invited. Details will be provided in the Winter newsletter, and by email.

Next year's Technical Workshop will be hosted by Area 4, in the Southwest part of the state. Please let your Area Director, Melanie Purcell, know if you have thoughts about relevant topics. Melanie's contact info appears on page 5.

For pictures from this year's workshop, check out page 7.

The Ancient Rule -
 "Whatever is affixed
 to the soil belongs to
 the soil" - (Anglo-
 Saxon Law)

Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Committee Chairs:

Committee Chairs:
Annual Meeting Program –
Vacant

Awards –
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Nominations and Elections –
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“Nature is not a
place to visit. It
is home.”
— Gary Snyder

SWCS Awards and Nomination Process

SWCS awards season is approaching. Award nomination forms and Scholarship applications are now all available electronically. Log on to <http://www.swcs.org/awards> or <http://www.swcs.org/scholarships> for further details.

Chapter members are encouraged to nominate members, nonmembers and students for the various awards.

Wyoming Chapter Awards nominations are due by April 15.

Below are the award categories. If you have questions or need assistance submitting a nomination, please contact your Area Director (see page 5) or Awards Committee Chair Bree Lind (see page 4.)

Wyoming Chapter Awards Definitions

OUTSTANDING WYOMING CHAPTER MEMBER

Open to all Wyoming Chapter members for significant contributions to the objectives of SWCS at the Chapter level. The contributions could include leadership, long-term dedication, special workshops or conferences, officer duties, committee responsibilities or special contributions in conservation or education.

While many of our members are directly employed in the natural resource conservation field, accomplishments should be related to the Chapter with support and involvement with the Wyoming Chapter. In other words, although it may be part of one's job responsibilities, the nomination will be considered if the project or work involved the Wyoming Chapter. The nominee must be current in their membership, and member of the Wyoming Chapter. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION - WYOMING

Open to non-members with employment or activities in agriculture and natural resource conservation fields. Activities may be related to improvement or management of wetlands and riparian areas, erosion control, rangelands and grazing systems, cropping systems, water quality (surface or groundwater), wildlife and fish habitat or a combination of the above. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION EDUCATOR - WYOMING

Open to non-members for contributions to natural resource and conservation education. May be through the Wyoming School system, special workshops or conferences, agricultural organizations or other educational programs. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION NEWS REPORTER - WYOMING

Open to non-members in recognition of outstanding efforts in communicating natural resource conservation issues. May be the written word of newspapers and magazines or through the media of television or radio. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING 4-H AWARD IN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Presented annually at the Wyoming State Fair. The Wyoming Chapter provides the plaque. Judging by State Fair 4-H officials. (Continued on page 5.)

(Continues from page 4.)

RECOGNITION OF MANAGED NATURAL AREA

To recognize areas in which native vegetation is prominent. Eligible areas are those used for forestry, grazing, wildlife, recreation, nature center, watershed protection, scientific study or similar purposes. Recognition certificate and natural area directory listing. Nomination by Chapter.

CHAPTER HORIZON AWARD

Must be a member of the Wyoming Chapter. Must have been a member of SWCS for 10 years or less.

Candidate must have progressed satisfactorily within their profession.

Candidate must have been involved as an SWCS officer or on a committee.

(Current Officers and Committee Chairs are eligible).

One Award may be made annually at the Annual Meeting if there is a quality nomination or candidate. The award winner will be decided on by the previous years winner in consultation with the Awards Committee until we have three winners. At that point it will be decided on by a committee of the last three Chapter Horizon Award winners subject to review by the Awards Committee to assure the selection meets eligibility criteria.

The Award will be presented by the winner from the previous year with only the selection committee and the Awards Committee knowing who it is beforehand.

Awards nominations can be submitted to your Area Director (see page 5), and will be considered by the entire Board.



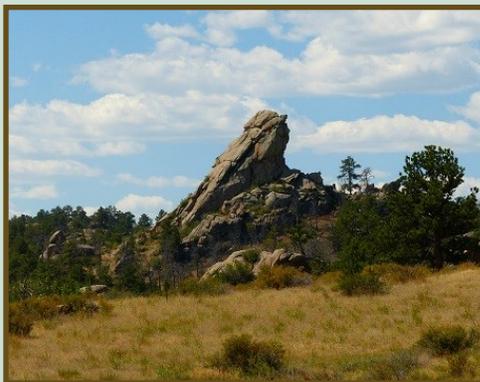
Elk Mountain



Near Split Rock



Sheep Mountain



Curt Gowdy State Park

Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Officers:

Lisa Cox, President
385-228-4135
bebetterwriter@gmail.com

Melanie Purcell, President-Elect
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Vacant, Past President

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Melanie Purcell, Area 4
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“Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants, and animals.” - Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* 1949.

We're on the Web!

[http://
wyswcs.weebly.com](http://wyswcs.weebly.com)

SUPPORT YOUR WYOMING CHAPTER SWCS!



**The soil is faithful to
its trust: Whatever
you have sown in it,
you reap the same.**

— Rumi

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 bebetterwriter@gmail.com to



place your order. Checks can be made to WY SWCS.



(Continued from page 2.)

Scholarship application time is on the way. Scholarship Chair Dicksie Michael will have application information available after the holidays. We had seen a decrease in applications over the past couple years, and voted in Annual Meeting 2014 to raise the scholarship amount to \$750, in keeping with increasing costs of a post secondary education.

Undergraduate students at Wyoming colleges can apply. If you have a student in mind, please share the scholarship information this coming year. The application process is quite easy, and worth the time and effort for the possibility of earning \$750 to help defray college expenses.

Technical Workshop Photos



Participants in the workshop begin the day.



Class is in session!



Lynn Cornia, State Engineer



An assortment of salt tolerant plants, from Mark Majerus's collection.



Marlon Winger and his rain simulator.



“I gave my heart to the mountains the minute I stood beside this river with its spray in my face and watched it thunder into foam, smooth to green glass over sunken rocks, shatter to foam again. I was fascinated by how it sped by and yet was always there; its roar shook both the earth and me.”

—Wallace Stegner

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
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