



Wyoming Chapter—SWCS News Winter 2016-2017

President's Message

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Calendar of Events	2
Your SWCS Board News	2
Education Update	2
SWCS Awards Info	3
Wyoming Chapter Leaders	4-5
Hoodies & Packs for Sale	6
72nd SWCS Conference	7
Who, What, Why...	8

The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness. -Dalai Lama

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.

Hello Everyone!

I hope the start to 2017 has been good for you all.

It's been an interesting start to the year. I'm excited to be leaving my post as President in July as we renew our focus on the future of our chapter, including reaching out to provide networking and technical education opportunities to professionals in different agencies and in the private sector.

If you have taken a cruise through the SWCS website at what other chapters are doing, or if you've ever attended an Annual Conference, you know that across our large and geographically diverse country we face different issues in soil and water conservation. The same holds true in our State, the ninth largest geographically. We are also challenged by having the smallest population. Reaching out to other professionals in Wyoming can help us all better conserve and manage our natural resources for now and the future. Please share our mission with like-minded friends and colleagues, and encourage membership in our Chapter.

We had a very productive Strategic Planning Meeting on February 11. Thanks to everyone who attended, either live or by phone. And thanks to Michelle Sutherburg, Trihydro and Bernie's Mexican Restaurant for setting us up!

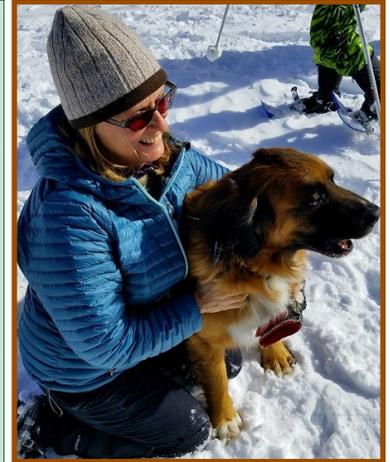
We discussed a number of topics, and you'll find a sum-

mary in this newsletter. The gist of the meeting was to strategize for the future: Improve outreach and interaction with other groups, which will aid our member recruitment, education, and financial goals; promoting the future of conservation by working closely with the Student Soil Science Club at UWYO (now an official SWCS Chapter); updating website and Facebook page to better communicate and facilitate event registrations, among other items.

As we move into this year with great plans for the future, I once again invite all members to step into a leadership role in the Chapter.

We will hold elections this spring. If you are interested in being an officer, please email a note regarding your position of interest and a brief biography to me at bebetterwriter@gmail.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 15. And please do vote when you get that ballot via email. You will find the complete election schedule on Page 2 of the newsletter on our Calendar. All offices are up for election: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Directors 1,2,3 and 4.

There are committee chair positions open as well: Fundraising and Nominations and Elections. Please contact your Area Director if interested. We can appoint you in Board teleconference. And if you are not ready to take on a Chair role, but see a committee of interest (list with contacts is in the sidebar on Page 4 of this newsletter), please get in



touch with that committee contact, or your Area Director, to become involved.

Also on the calendar is the deadline for nominations for Chapter Awards. You will find detailed information on these on Page 3. Please read through, and if you think of someone deserving of any of these awards, get in touch with your Area Director for the nomination forms. It's a quick and easy way to honor someone you know who has contributed to natural resources conservation or the Chapter here in Wyoming,

Finally, all members are invited to join in Board teleconferences throughout the year. We are updating or email lists to include a Members Only list, and our Secretary will send notices of these meetings so you can join if you have a question, suggestion, feedback, or simply want to hear first-hand how your Chapter is running.

And thank you all for your continued contribution to soil, water and natural resources conservation in our great State of Wyoming.

Lisa Cox, WY Chapter President

Calendar of Events

- **March 1st & 5th, 2017:** Dirt! The Movie, Laramie, WY, UW Soils Club
- **March 10, 2017:** Deadline for **Poster Submissions** for 72nd Annual Conference. (<http://www.swcs.org/>)
- **March 15, 2017 :** Deadline for **Biographies for Officer Election Ballot**. Email to bebetterwriter@gmail.com.
- **March 31, 2016:** Deadline for **WY Chapter Scholarship Applications**.
Officer Election Ballots emailed.
- **April 15, 2017: Wyoming Chapter Awards Nominations** due. (See page 3.)
Election Ballots due.
- **May 1, 2017: Election Results** announced.
- **June, 2017: WyRED.** June 5-9th. This year's camp will be held at Mallow Camp near Sundance, WY.
- **July 30 to August 2, 2017: SWCS 72nd International Conference**, Madison, WY. Theme: *Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability*.
WY Chapter Officers take office.
- **September, 2017:** WY Chapter Technical Workshop and Annual Meeting. Date TBA. Hosted by Area 4. TBA.
- **December 7 & 8, 2017: National Conference on Cover Crops & Soil Health: Harvesting the Potential.**

Your SWCS Board News

Your WY Chapter Board held a productive first teleconference of the year on January 23rd. Topics discussed included scholarships and awards, elections, the agenda for the February 11th Strategic Planning Meeting in Laramie, and our upcoming Area 4-hosted workshop, to be held tentatively in coordination with SRM in Green River this coming September.

Award season is upon us. The past couple years at International Conference, there has been a push to

encourage nominations, as the numbers are down from the past. You can find information about nominations for Wyoming Chapter awards on the next page, and for National Society awards at: http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/awards_for_individuals/ If you have any questions about nominations for awards, please be in touch with your Area Director or the Awards Committee Chair.

(Continued on page 7.)

Education Update: Scholarship Available

The Wyoming Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) wishes to announce that it will grant a \$750 scholarship during the spring semester of the 2017 school year. The recipient of this scholarship will be a deserving student preparing for a career in natural resource conservation or a related field at an accredited college, university, or vocational school in Wyoming. Scholarship applications and further information can be found electronically on our website at <http://www.swcs.org/scholarships>.

In order to be eligible for this scholarship, the following criteria must be met:

1. Successful completion of at least one year of study in an accredited college, university, or vocational school in Wyoming;

2. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0;
3. Enrolled in an agricultural or natural resource conservation related curriculum; and
4. Show reasonable need for financial assistance.

Previous scholarship winners are ineligible

Scholarship application form (enclosed), copy of transcripts (originals are not necessary) and one letter of recommendation (preferably from an employer or instructor) must be submitted no later than **March 31, 2017** to:

Wyoming Chapter SWCS Scholarship Committee
c/o Dicksie Michael
1017 Highway 14A
Powell, WY 82435-9234

(Continued on page 4.)

SWCS Awards and Nomination Process

SWCS awards season is now here. Award nomination forms are now all available electronically and can be found on our website at <http://www.swcs.org/awards>.

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

Wyoming Chapter Awards nominations are due by April 15th.

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

Wyoming Chapter Awards:

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.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Open to all Wyoming Chapter members for significant contributions to the objectives of SWCS at the Chapter level. The contributions must be specific to chapter leadership.

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 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 7.)

Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Committee Chairs:

Annual Meeting Program –
Area Directors and Board

Awards –
Bree Lind
208-681-5796
blind@sublettecd.com

Education and Outreach –
Lisa Cox
385-228-4135
bebetterwriter@gmail.com

Fundraising –
Vacant

History and Archives –
Roni Schadegg
307-233-6747
schadegg2@bresnan.net

Membership –
Melanie Purcell
mpurcell@sublettecd.com
307-367-2257 ext. 117

Vacant, Past President

Nominations and Elections –
Vacant

Public Relations & Media –
Bree Lind
208-681-5796
blind@sublettecd.com

Scholarship –
Dicksie Michael
307-754-9301 ext 101
dicksie.michael@wy.usda.gov

Conservation and rural-life policies are really two sides of the same policy; and down at the bottom this policy rests upon the fundamental law that neither man nor nation can prosper unless, in dealing with the present, thought is steadily given for the future.

– Theodore Roosevelt

(Continued from page 2.)

If you have questions concerning the Wyoming Chapter SWCS scholarship program, please contact Dicksie Michael at 307-754-9301 ext 113 or dicksie.michael@wy.usda.gov.

WY SWCS Strategic Planning Meeting:

On February 11th, Board Members, Area Directors, and the UWyo Soils Club met for a Strategic Planning meeting at Trihydro in Laramie, Wyoming. The purpose behind the meeting was to discuss the direction the Wyoming Chapter of SWCS is going and to update many aspects of SWCS. Topics discussed included Media and Public Relations, updating and being more active on Facebook, updating the website, and making payments for workshops online; Membership/Education and Outreach, started to think of organizations to reach out to and increase membership in the society along with our educational outreach which is starting well with the UWyo Soils Club; and By-Laws, updates or potential changes to by-laws.

The planning meeting also encouraged all who were there to reach out and let others know about the scholarship due **March 31st**, Award Nominations which are due **April 15th**, and Officer Elections in which bios are due **March 15th**.

Those present at the strategic planning meeting also discussed the 2017 Technical Workshop, which is tentatively planned to be in conjunction with the 2017 Wyoming Society for Range Management technical training in Green River, Wyoming September 12th-14th. Look for more information and an agenda on this throughout the Spring and Summer.



UW Soils Club News:

The University of Wyoming Soil Science Club has been revived and everyone is very excited to see it moving forward. The club is an official SWCS Student Chapter. The goal of the UWyo Soil Science Club is to be a platform to connect students with soil and water professionals through speakers and activities. The club consists of students majoring in soils and rangeland management who are trying to get more connected and active in soils and water. The Club has a soil judging team and will attend the National Soil Judging Contest at Northern Illinois University, April 23rd-28th, 2017. To better understand the water component, the Soil Club has been partnering with GUSH, which is the UW campus hydrology graduate student club.

The soils club was represented by three members at the Strategic Planning meeting February 11th. Soil club members discussed what they needed from SWCS which included help with getting speakers, setting up activities, getting ready for the soil judging contest, and much more. SWCS also looked at how students could help the chapter by recruiting student members, speaking at technical workshops, helping out with meetings, working to help raise funds, etc. SWCS is very excited to be working with the Soil Club.

Look for updates from the Soils Club in the SWCS quarterly newsletter. Also if you are in or near Laramie be sure to check out Dirt! The Movie which is being put on by the Soil Club in partner with UW Biodiversity Institute, UW Extension, and WY Reclamation & Restoration Center.

Earth Day Bracelets are now available. From Crystal Kellebrew, Campbell County Conservation District:

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is now offering the Circle of Earth bracelets to Conservation Districts (as well as other individuals and organizations upon request) for use with education activities, fairs, trade shows, Earth Day, and Stewardship Week to name a few.

The bracelets come individually packaged in a baggie with string, beads, and instructions. The first 100 bracelets are free for each entity, and then \$0.10/bracelet for anything over 100. Each order will be charged shipping and handling this year to help SWCS cover the costs of offering these bracelets for free.

Please put your order in with Crystal now to get your bracelets. Please provide the name of the organization, the total number of bracelets you wish to order, and a billing address. If you or someone from our organization will be attending the employee training this year for the Wyoming Association of Conservation District Employee Association, I can deliver them to you at that time. This could be the cheapest and most effective way to get them to you if possible.

Thank you and I hope you take the opportunity to use these bracelets. They are fun for all ages and teach a valuable lesson in the Circle of Earth.

Crystal can be reached at 307-682-1824.

Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Officers:

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

Melanie Purcell, President-Elect
mpurcell@sublettecd.com
307-367-2257 ext. 117
Vacant, Past President

Roni Schadegg, Treasurer
307-233-6747
schadegg2@bresnan.net

Michelle Sutherburg Secretary
307-343-0535
msutherburg@trihydro.com

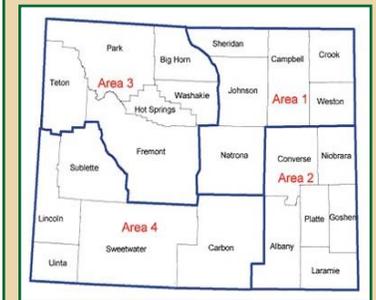
Area Directors:

Mark Opitz, Area 1
307-234-8019
mwopitz@gmail.com

Michelle Sutherburg Area 2
307-343-0535
msutherburg@trihydro.com

Dan Mattke, Area 3
307-856-7524 ext. 118
Dan.Mattke@wy.usda.gov

Melanie Purcell, Area 4
307-367-2257 ext. 117
mpurcell@sublettecd.com



Many Americans are trying to conserve energy as never before—they're now burning their morning toast on only one side.

— Anonymous

We're on the Web!

<http://wyswcs.weebly.com>

Only after the last tree has been cut down. Only after the last river has been poisoned. Only after the last fish has been caught. Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.

— Cree

SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER!

Wyoming Chapter has hoodies for sale. Contact Lisa Cox at bebetterwriter@gmail.com to place your order. They are a light, versatile sand color, with the SWCS logo on the chest. Quality Gildjian heavy blend 50/50 cotton for warmth, durability and ease of cleaning. Checks can be made to WY SWCS.

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. These packs are rugged nylon in a dark forest green, and are available for \$25 with shipping.



(continued from page 2.)

Your Board will teleconference again in late March to continue planning this year's Tech Workshop. If you have feedback, please let your Area Director know. And all are welcome to join teleconferences. If you would like to participate as a guest, just get in touch with Secretary Michelle Sutherburg (msutherburg@trihydro.com) to get call-in details. These are phone calls, so pretty easy to do.

Officer Elections:

Along with the Scholarship and Awards it is also that time of year for Officer Elections. This year the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Directors are up for election.

If you are interested in being an officer, please get your bio to Lisa Cox at bebetterwriter@gmail.com.

Election Timeline:

- March 15th– Bios Due
- March 31st– Ballot Sent Out
- April 15th– Ballots Due
- May 1st– Announcement of Election Winners
- July 2017– Officers Take Their Positions

If you have any questions regarding officer positions or elections please contact your Area Director (see page 5).

(Continued from page 3.)

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).

The award winners will be decided on by the previous years winner in consultation with the Award 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 72nd Annual Conference will take place in Madison, WI, July 30 through August 2. This year's theme focuses on an important trait that sets the SWCS annual conference apart from others: the number of disciplines who come together to share information, network, and form connections to forge best practices in soil and water conservation. The conference provides a forum for interdisciplinary discussions that are essential to the success of conservation, a field that depends upon understanding relationships and interconnectedness. Conference strands are: Benefits and Challenges of Public and Private Conservation Partnerships; Extreme Weather and Its Impact on Conservation; and Field to Watershed: Connecting Local Scale Influence to Larger Scale Significance .



Be sure to like our page on Facebook to keep up to date on what's happening

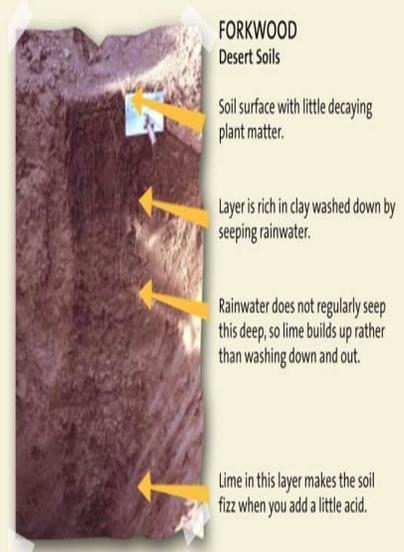
with WY SWCS!! <https://www.facebook.com/wyoswcs/>

Conservation Fun Facts:

- ◆ **45% of the water we use everyday is flushed down the toilet**
- ◆ **0.01% of the Earth's water is held in soil**
- ◆ **Forkwood is the state soil of Wyoming**

Official State Soil: Forkwood

What's in it?



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

