



Wyoming Chapter—SWCS News Winter 2015-2016

President-Elect's Message

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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 2016 has been good to you all. Tough to believe it's already February!

We had a very productive first Board teleconference of the year earlier this week, and I am feeling really positive about our direction as a chapter. Look forward to the Technical Workshop being hosted this year by Area 3, spear headed by Director Dan Mattke of NRCS up in the northwest part of the state. We are looking at holding the meeting in Riverton, in conjunction with our Annual Business Meeting. The topic of the day's activities will be Soil Salinity and Issues on Irrigated Lands. If you have questions, suggestions, expertise you'd like to provide, please be in touch with Dan. You will find his contact info on page 5.

And while you are perusing the list of Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs on pages 4 and 5, please note the vacancies we are looking to fill. There will be no chapter elections this year, since we finally are all on the same biennial schedule for officer elections; however, committee positions are appointed, and you can take on a leadership role at any time. Just express your interest. We are all a great bunch to work with, and a lot of fun when we can get together in person.

I would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to Michelle Sutherburg for taking on the role of Area 2 Director. Michelle and I were charter members of the Student

Chapter of SWCS at University of Wyoming, and she served as Treasurer for that chapter. Michelle lives in Laramie and works at Trihydro. I am genuinely excited about having her on the Board with the rest of us, and serving as the point person for Albany, Laramie, Platte, Goshen, Converse, and Niobrara Counties!

Time commitments vary in duration or amount throughout the year. Please be in touch with your Area Director for more information. A committee or chapter officer position is good for professional growth as well as personal satisfaction, and helps keep our chapter alive and strong.

On that note, I am excited about the recent increased interest in membership. You can encourage colleagues and friends to join at: http://www.swcs.org/en/join_swcs/

There is also an application that can be downloaded and printed and mailed.

Whether completing an application or renewal online or through the mail, please remember to let Membership Services know you want to be listed as a WY Chapter member. Our chapter does receive a small amount of those dues to use right here in Wyoming.

A recent conversation with another member/leader in the chapter, and two professors who are interested in advising a reinvigorated Student Chapter at the University of Wyoming highlighted the diversity in professional development and mobility afforded by membership in SWCS as op-



posed to some other professional organizations that are tied more closely to a particular profession or geographic location. Student membership is only \$25.00 and offers a wealth of opportunities along these lines.

As a leader in your Wyoming Chapter as well as the Society, I firmly believe that our chapter and the Society are moving in a great direction as far as increasing professional diversity, and welcome your questions, comments and feedback on our direction at any time. I did commit to creating a survey to learn more about why you remain a member (if you are) or what would entice you to become a member (if you are not, or if your membership has lapsed.) Unfortunately, a plethora of great projects have kept me from accomplishing that task. So, please be in touch with your thoughts a little more informally for now. But do be in touch!

Happy Spring. It's on the way.

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

- **February 17 & 18: Farming Evolution No-Till Event**, Holyoke, CO. Details on pages 4 & 5.
- **February 29, 2016** : Deadline for **SWCS awards nominations and scholarship applications**. Please contact your Area Director (see page 5) if you have questions about or need assistance with submitting a nomination or application.
- **March 16, 2016**: Annual Chapter Report due to SWCS, Ankeny, IA.
- **March 31, 2016**: Deadline for **WY Chapter Scholarship Applications**
- **April 15, 2016**: **Wyoming Chapter Awards nominations** due. (See page 3.)
- **June, 2016**: **WyRED**. Dates TBA. This year's camp will be held in Meteetse, WY.
- **July 24 to 27, 2016**: SWCS 71st International Conference, **Louisville, KY**. Theme: *Managing Great River Landscapes*
- **September, 2016**: WY Chapter Technical Workshop and Annual Meeting. Date TBA. Hosted by Area 3 in River-

Your SWCS Board News

Your WY Chapter Board held a productive first teleconference of the year on February 8. Topics discussed included scholarships, and awards, leadership opportunities, student chapter, and planning this year's Area 3-hosted Technical Workshop, to be held in Riverton.

The Area 3-hosted Technical Workshop this year will be held in Riverton. The theme will be Soil Salinity and Issues on Irrigated Lands. Likely we will meet at the Library in a conference room, and will be

looking for sponsors of breaks and lunch, as well as to cover the registration costs of speakers and student helpers. If you, your company, or your agency would like to be recognized for contributing, please be in touch with Dan or with Lisa Cox.

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 Chapter awards on the next page, and for Society awards at: <http://www.swcs.org/en/>

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 2016 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.

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.
5. 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, 2016** to:

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

The student selected to receive this scholarship award will be recognized by the Wyoming SWCS Chapter at their annual meeting to be held late summer of 2016.

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SWCS Awards and Nomination Process

SWCS awards season is now here. 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.)

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.

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 consulta-

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Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Committee Chairs:

*Annual Meeting Program –
Area Directors and Board*

*Awards –
Vacant*

*Education and Outreach –
Vacant*

*Fundraising –
Vacant*

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

*Membership –
Vacant*

*Nominations and Elections –
Vacant*

*Public Relations & Media –
Lisa Cox
385-228-4135
bebetterwriter@gmail.com*

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

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

Earth Day Bracelets are now available.

From Crystal Killebrew, 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 the 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 me 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 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 would 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.

FARMING EVOLUTION NO-TILL EVENT IN HOLYOKE, CO

Ag Producers, have you been thinking about switching to no-till? Are already doing no-till and wonder if you can do better?

If you have questions about no-till or the recent changes in farming practices, plan to attend the 2016 Farming Evolution. The event will be on **February 17 & 18** at the Phillips County Event Center in Holyoke. Keynote speaker, Dr. Jill Clapperton, is a well-known lecturer and advocate for soil health. Learn more about her at www.rhizoterra.com. Other presenters include Lance Gunderson from Ward Labs, Clark Harshbarger, and NRCS Soil Scientist, and Paul Jasa from UNL.

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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

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There will be several no-till producers on hand to share their no-till experiences. Local producers include John Heermann, Holyoke, CO, and Steve Tucker, Grant NE. Michael Thompson of Almena, KS, Dietrich Kastens of Hendon, KS, and Nathan Pearce, Wallace, KS, will also share their experiences.

Wednesday, February 17's theme is "Thinking About or New to No-Till". Dr. Clapperton will talk about the 'Soil—a Living Community'. Her second topic will be 'Changes to Expect with No-till'. Paul will share how to transform existing equipment for no-till.

Lance and Clark will share how tillage impacts soil structure and how to soil sample. They will be available to lead 'hands on' soil health demonstrations and discuss you soil test results during the breaks and lunch.

'Park the Iron – How to Improve Your Soil and Profits with No-Till' is Michael's topic. John will share 'How and 'Why I went to No-Till'. Michael, John, Dietrich and Steve will be available for a question and answer panel.

Thursday, February 18, will be geared toward those "Experienced with No-Till & Looking for the Next Step". Dr. Clapperton will speak about 'Soil Biology and Soil Health – Tweaking the System'. She'll also help with 'Choosing Companion and Cover Crops that Work for You'. Lance will discuss understanding the Haney test.

Clark will explain 'Where and How to Soil Sample'. Paul will discuss

'Modifying the Equipment to Work with Additional Crops'.

Nathan will share how he brought livestock into his no-till system. He has also converted CRP to cropland using no-till. Dietrich will give a thoughtful look at 'Management Challenges in Long-Term No-till Systems on

the High Plains.' Michael will share his views 'If You Build It, They will Come - Taking the Soils to the Next Level'. John will share what he has learned about cover crops in Eastern Colorado.

Registration will open at 7:30 a.m. The presentations begin at 8:30 both days with ending times of 4:30 and 5p.m. respectively. Complete agenda, lodging, and registration information is available at-
www.farmingevolution2016.eventbrite.com.

If you prefer to pay by check, click on 'show other payment options' under the 'order now' button and follow the instructions. You may also call 970-854-2812 ext. 3 to register.

The Haxtun, Sedgwick, West Greeley, and Yuma County Conservation Districts and the Upper Republican Natural Resource District are sponsoring this event. The Colorado State Conservation Board and Phillips County Pheasants Forever are providing food.

Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Officers:

Lisa Cox, President-
307-760-0438385-228-4135
bebetterwriter@gmail.com

Vacant, President-Elect

Vacant, Past President

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

Melanie Purcell, Secretary
307-367-2257 ext. 108
mpurcell@sublettecd.com

Area Directors:

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

Michelle Sutherburg, Area 2
msutherburg@trihydro.com
307.343.0535

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

Melanie Purcell, Area 4
307-367-2257 ext. 108
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 [betteerwriter@gmail.com](mailto:betterwriter@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-poly 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, just in time for school. These packs are rugged nylon in a dark forest green, and are available for \$25 with shipping.



members_only/awards_for_individuals/ If you have any questions about nominations for awards, please be in touch with your Area Director or a Chapter officer. We are seeking an Awards Committee Chair for Chapter awards. Please be in touch if you are interested, as well. The time commitment for this position is predominantly at this time of year.

Two professors in the Ecosystem Science and Management Department at University of Wyoming met with WY Chapter leaders in Laramie for dinner recently and discussed reinvigorating the Student Chapter of SWCS at the University of Wyoming. Discussion was very positive. All agreed that the real impetus must come from students, but Professors Jay Norton and Karen Vaughan are

interested in collaborating as Faculty Advisors for the chapter. They are planning to have a pizza party-style meeting of interested students. Area 2 Director Michelle Sutherburg and President Lisa Cox will attend and talk to students about the benefits of student membership and how the WY Chapter can support the student chapter.

Your Board will teleconference again in early April 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 and Area 4 Director Melanie Purcell (contact info on page 5) to get call in details. These are phone calls, so pretty easy to do.

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on 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.

Additionally, Wyoming Chapter seeks an Awards Committee Chair who would announce awards categories and deadlines, solicit and accept awards nominations packets, and work with the Board to choose awards recipients annually. If you are interested in taking on this important, but marginally time consuming, role, please contact a chapter Area Director or Officer. Thank you.



The 71st SWCS International Annual Conference will provide a forum for exploring and promoting science-based knowledge about management practices that protect land and river ecologies and make them productive and more resilient. The conference will offer unique opportunities to showcase conservation efforts in both the uplands and bottomlands of great rivers and their tributaries, including nutrient management, erosion and sediment control, nonpoint source pollution and watershed policy, flood and drought management, and other issues influencing the health and functionality of our soil and water.

Annie Binder, SWCS Publications Director, says: I believe we'll have student moderator spots for the 2016 annual conference, and that might be a good opportunity to involve students at the national level as well.

Stay tuned!

Photos from the Field



Chapter Secretary Melanie Purcell having a successful day fishing.



Chapter President Lisa Cox shows serious kayak face while cruising a cenote in Mexico.

Get to know chapter members and share your photos from the field with us. Email yours to betterwriter@gmail.com for inclusion in a future newsletter.

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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

