



Soil and Water Conservation Society ~ New Mexico Chapter

P.O. Box 2142
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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From our Chapter President

It is with much excitement that I take on the role of Chapter President. I want to begin by recognizing the great work of our Past-President, Corinne Brooks. Corinne effectively led the chapter in one of its most successful and active years. Through her dedication to the chapter, we had a dynamic program that included a profitable workshop, development of the website, active scholarship committee, partnership building and a healthy attendance at the national conference. I hope all the best for Corinne as she begins her new position in California.

SWCS has a lot to offer. As a member of 18 years, I have seen SWCS provide many people with opportunities for training, leadership experience and networking. In my career, I have gained much that has helped me advance and keep technically sound. And as an unexpected bonus, SWCS has been a source of many close friends colleagues.

It is my pleasure to serve as your president. I want to invite all members to consider attending a chapter activity, being a member of a committee, or even running for an office. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me. I look forward to the next year and building on the successes of the past.

Steve Kadas
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▶▶▶▶ WE HAVE A WEBSITE ◀◀◀◀

The New Mexico Chapter recently launched its own website at www.nmswcs.org. This website is intended for all the chapter members. As we build our chapter, we build on the website. I encourage all of you to submit ideas, pictures, stories, and your thoughts on what you would like to see here. You can send them to ↗
Paul Vainio, dstomper@msn.com
Jean Foster, Jean.Foster@nm.usda.gov
Steve Kadas, Steve.Kadas@nm.usda.gov.

Chapter Membership

The New Mexico Chapter Board of Directors continues to look for ways to increase our membership. All current members are encouraged to identify potential interested individuals who may benefit from a membership. Let Ken Leiting, Membership Chair, know of these individuals so that a letter of invitation can be sent to them with a membership application. Corinne Brooks, who has been our representative on the National Membership committee, recruited Ken Leiting to take over those duties. New members will be encouraged to use their direct pay options at work, if available, and receive a free first year membership for signing up for direct pay. If you have additional ideas for increasing the New Mexico Chapter membership, please contact Ken or one of the Chapter Officers.
Ken Leiting 505-259-8681.
740 Rincon de Romos, Rio Rancho, NM 87124
Email: kleiting@cableone.net

Welcome to new members:
☞ *Karyn Ruiz-Toro and Susan Rich* ☞



Rocky Mountain Rendezvous II SWCS 61st Annual Conference July 22-26, 2006

The Soil and Water Conservation Society held its Annual International Conference in Keystone, Colorado this past July. A well attended event, conference registration saw 700 participants with guests from nine countries, six Canadian provinces, and 45 states. Attending from New Mexico were Corinne Brooks, Steve Kadas, Jean Foster and Ken Leiting.

The SWCS Colorado Chapter hosted this year's conference and planned a range of fun and educational events full of the history of Summit County. At the networking Rendezvous, held at Keystone Stables, everybody enjoyed throwing tomahawks (or watching), visiting a teepee, learning about Native American music and enjoying a delicious BBQ. Excellent fiddling music was performed by the Rocky Roads Gals (mothers and daughters), Kimberly and Karla Diller, and Kathy and Kelli Gaylord. Talent runs strong in both of these families!

The Pritchard Lecture was delivered by The Honorable Gregory J. Hobbs who has served on the Colorado Supreme Court for the past ten years. Justice Hobbs spoke to the group about the history of the region, scarcity of water in the West, and the various issues affecting supply, demand, and policies in the area.

Dana York, Associate Chief at USDA-NRCS highlighted the Plenary II, where she informed attendees of NRCS programs that will affect future conservation issues and answered questions, along with SWCS Executive Director Craig Cox. Ms. York also spoke about 2002 Farm Bill successes, the next 2007 Farm Bill, and the NRCS Strategic Plan for 2005-2010.

On Monday and Tuesday the large variety of offerings made it tough to decide which sessions and workshops to choose. New Mexico representatives attended diverse workshops and presentations, including; Leadership Training, "CRP - ARE we Motivating the Rest?", Drip Irrigation on Saline Soils, Sustainable Farming,

Using Compost for Mulching, Lining Ditches with Vegetation, Fire Rehabilitation in CO, Land Restoration after Mining, Best Management Practices for Vineyards in California and more. The Southwest Region Breakfast Meeting was a great chance to meet other SWCS members in neighboring states. Harold Klaege of Salina, KS, was welcomed as our new SW Region Representative.

The conference was a great experience and the majestic Rocky Mountains were an amazing sight. As is normal in the high country, the weather went from hot to hail, true mountainous weather.



Keystone Resort



Rocky Mountains near Leadville

At the opening lecture David Orr was quoted: "When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves" and this provided a common thread for the conference. To see the complete write up on all of the events at the conference and view photos, visit the SWCS Colorado Chapter website. Next year's conference will be held at the Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Florida July 21-25, 2007. Make plans today to attend this fun and informative networking opportunity.

The John Werner Scholarship will be awarded to Ms. Sabina Velasco who is attending NMSU, studying Environmental Science with a further focus on Wildlife Science. Sabina was born and raised in Bolivia and wants to return home to help educate people about natural resources. She will also receive a one year membership to SWCS.

**Soil & Water Conservation Society
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Immediate Past President, Vacant

August 17, 2006 Teleconference notes

The NM 2006 Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 1, in T or C. This will be a breakfast or lunch meeting, time & place TBA.

Website - Paul Vanio was commended by all for his work in getting the website up and running. He is requesting submission of ideas, pictures, and articles.

Elections - Corinne Brooks is moving to California before our annual meeting and tendered her resignation as President, effective at the end of the teleconference. Steve Kadas took over as president at the end of the meeting.

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

Look for a ballot by snail mail very soon. Although most positions are uncontested we still want to encourage all members to be active so please return the ballot to PO Box 2142, Albuquerque, NM, 87103-2142 - ASAP. If you do not receive an election/ballot envelope by September 29, please contact me immediately at 505-761-5445 or 505-286-3876. Voting will close on October 16 and results will be announced at our Annual Meeting on November 1st in Truth or Consequences. Officers and Regional Representatives will step into office one month after our annual meeting.



NM Chapter Newsletter

**Do you have suggestions for other places to
distribute our newsletter?**

Feedback? Articles? Information?

Please send!!!

Email to jefosternm@msn.com