

CA-NV CHAPTER HOSTS CHINESE CONSERVATION DELEGATION AT UC DAVIS

by Erik Beardsley

December 11, 2009 – Victor Claassen, Assistant Research Soil Scientist at the University of California Davis, is pictured at right making a soil remediation presentation to Water District Directors from the Yuan Province of China. The presentation was part of program organized by CA-NV Chapter SWCS Director **Michael Hogan** and Chapter President **Erik Beardsley** (pictured seated to the right are Michael Hogan and **Mike Singer**, Soil Science Professor, University of California Davis and Former CA Chapter President). The 13-member delegation was organized by China's Yunnan Provincial Department of Water Resources. The main purpose of the group's visit to the U.S. was to gain a better understanding of soil and water conservation in the United States. The delegations contacted President Beardsley in October 2009 about being received by the CA-NV Chapter SWCS and hear about our experiences concerning:

1. Current situation of soil and water loss in California and the corresponding solutions;
2. Impact of soil and water loss to economic development;
3. Role that government agencies play in soil and water conservation.

President Beardsley, who is a Resource Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), opened the program



Visitors from the Yuan Province of China attend a presentation by Vic Claassen on soil remediation on December 11, 2009. Several members of the CA-NV Chapter hosted the Chinese delegation.

with a talk about the diversity of professionals that comprise the CA-NV Chapter and the complexity of California geography relative to the visitors' interests.

Director Hogan, a private soil remediation consultant, organized and moderated a presentation that illustrated how private landowners, non-profit organizations, local, state and federal agencies work together to address soil and water conservation issues at Lake Tahoe.

Also in attendance was CA-NV Chapter SWCS Director Eric Bernsten, with the California Department of Water Resources.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Erik Beardsley

As a devout conservationist I am on a mission to develop professionally. One skill I strive to hone is my power of observation.

It used to be an exercise in restrained passion to muster enough patience to watch the grass grow in the foothills in order to evaluate the effectiveness of different species for treating different resource concerns.

Nowadays, I've observed there is a widespread passion among government and non-profit organizations for holding teleconferences and net-meetings. The intended purposes of these electronic get-togethers are to conduct business meetings while saving money, fuel and travel time. Sometimes they are vehicles to provide clarity to exponentially growing sets of issues and emerging policy complexities. About half the time they achieve their intended purpose; the rest of the time they contribute to a phenomenon I call Mutating Confusion.

Basically people hear what they want to hear and not everyone wants to hear what others want to hear. Then you have teleconference notes that follow days or weeks later chock full of incomplete thoughts sprinkled with contradictions. What you get is Mutating Confusion.

Mitigating mutating confusion is my new area of interest for professional development. The first step in that direction is the ability to do email while listening on teleconferences while trying to figure out which teleconferences not to commit to. I really feel at the top of my game when I can have the same teleconference-free blocks of time as the land owners I need to meet with outdoors where cell phones don't get reception.



The good news is there will be no Mutating Confusion when it comes to CA-NV Chapter SWCS Annual Business Meeting.

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting in conjunction with a two day conference on sagebrush steppe restoration, biomass utilization, juniper treatments, and other methods of restoring sagebrush ecosystems. The conference will be June 24-25, 2010 in Susanville, California at the Diamond Mountain Casino. More details will be forthcoming. The cost will be low and the networking opportunities will abound. In attendance will be folks from more than a dozen local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit agencies in addition to individual conservation practitioners. So mark your calendars.

Now is the time to nominate candidates for CA-NV Chapter SWCS President-Elect and two Executive Council Directors. Please make your nominations to Lisa Hohholt, Past President, and Nominations Committee Chair. She will be getting contact information out to you all shortly (if you already know how to get a hold of Lisa don't wait).

See you in Susanville.

Erik Beardsley
Chapter President

Save the Date!
Annual Business Meeting
June 24-25
Diamond Mountain Casino
Susanville, CA

Society News

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SELECTED

by Tina Vander Hoek

This year again we had 8 very deserving scholars apply for the California-Nevada Chapter SWCS Scholarship. It's always so difficult to choose so I want to thank my committee members for all the help. I'm sorry there can only be one, and I want to commend all of the applicants for all their hard work, achievements, and contributions- past, present, and future.

All applicants must be a junior or senior enrolled in a soil or water-related major, with a grade point average of 2.5 or better. Offering this scholarship is our Chapter's way of encouraging undergraduate students who want to pursue a career in resource conservation.

Our applicants were from CSU Fresno; Humboldt State University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Hartnell College; CSU Chico; and Sierra College.

The Committee recommended Ariana Gehrig from Sierra College as this year's winner.

We will learn more about our scholar in the next Runoff.

NEW CA-NV CHAPTER MEMBERS

by Walt Bunter

We extend a **GREAT BIG WELCOME** to the following 17 members who recently joined or rejoined the SWCS and our California-Nevada Chapter or transferred in from another state chapter. We have 161 members as of March 22, 2010.

- Vanessa Alcantar, Los Angeles, CA
- Steven Ash, San Rafael, CA
- Barry Baker, Aptos, CA
- Livy Coe, Colusa, CA
- Stella Copeland, Davis, CA
- Dan Efseaff, Woodland, CA
- Meghan Euliano, Sonora, CA
- Rebecca Hale, Reno, NV
- Douglas Hanford, Sonoma, CA
- Kaley Jonsson, Santa Barbara, CA
- Benjamin Jurand, Las Vegas, NV
- Haytham Nabils, Riverside, CA
- Tim O'Halloran, Woodland, CA
- Stephen Roecker, Wrightwood, CA
- Brent Rouppe, Suisun City, CA
- Carol Shennan, Santa Cruz
- Hyrum Taylor, Provo, UT

Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control certification opportunities in California:



	<i>Sacramento</i>	<i>Petaluma</i>	<i>Anaheim</i>
Review Course	April 22, 2010	May 18, 2010	June 25, 2010
Exam	April 23, 2010	May 19, 2010	June 27, 2010

For more information, visit the Calendar tab at <http://www.cpesc.org>

HEDGEROWS: MULTI-TASKING FOR FARMERS AND WILDLIFE

by Diane Crumley, Yolo County RCD

Any story about hedgerows in Yolo County usually starts with John Anderson. Over the past 30 years, he has worked tirelessly to investigate, implement and educate land owners and managers about the benefits of hedgerows and native plants. John does not have to go far to observe those benefits, as he's installed over five miles of hedgerows on his 400 acre farm north of Winters.

His native plantings along irrigation canals stabilize banks and prevent erosion. The nearby trees and shrubs shade the water for improved fish habitat. The roadside plantings filter dust, reduce noise, and beautify the rural landscape. Anderson has recently been featured on the cover of California Farmer, where he is referred to appropriately as "California's hedgerow pioneer."



John Anderson speaks to a tour group from a grassed field border on his farm.

Some farmers had indicated an interest in using native plantings to serve as refuges for beneficial insects that could prey upon common crop pests, but they had little information on costs and installation. In 1996, the "Yolo County Hedgerow Project" brought together many partners to plan and install five demonstration hedgerows. The Hedgerow Project carefully tabulated all costs and produced the first well-documented estimates for establishing a hedgerow.

Beneficial insects vs. pests

The Hedgerow Project and subsequent hedgerow installations demonstrate that after three years, plantings are generally well-established, require little, if any, irrigation and maintenance, and compete well

with common weeds. They can be relied upon to perform a variety of beneficial services such as soil and nutrient retention, and can reduce air, water, and noise pollution. They also provide windbreaks for crops and produce a succession of blooms that create foraging habitat for beneficial insects. Despite these benefits, farmers expressed concerns about whether crop pests might also increase in abundance, due to the increase in high quality habitat that hedgerows provide.

To address these concerns, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor Rachael Long monitored insect populations in the farm hedgerows from the Hedgerow Project twice a month for two years. She also sampled nearby weedy areas for comparison. The study determined that in native plant hedgerows and native grass areas, beneficial insects significantly out-numbered pests by an average of 3-to-1. In contrast, the reverse was true in weedy areas, with crop pests consistently out-numbering beneficial insects.

How about pollinators?

Many researchers and farmers have expressed mounting concern over recent world-wide population declines of both managed and wild bee populations. Causes have been difficult to pinpoint, yet loss of habitat, intensive agriculture practices, pesticide use, disease, parasites, and invasive species are all potential contributors.

National expert Claire Kremen and colleagues, using research conducted largely in Yolo County, have documented both the economic and ecological benefits of providing foraging and nesting habitat for native bees. Kremen's work with watermelon crops has shown improved pollination in fields near landscapes with larger proportions of habitat. This could be replicated if areas such as field borders, equipment areas, canal sides, and roadsides were planted with native landscaping and hedgerows.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER SWCS LOGO SHIRTS & VESTS AVAILABLE (MAR. 2010)

Price includes sales tax. **Shipping costs are extra.** Proceeds after expenses go to the Chapter Scholarship Fund. Send your order to our Davis address or via email to Walt Bunter at wbunter@pacbell.net

Silk Touch Sport Shirt - \$25.00 (* \$30 for size 2XL)



So silky smooth, it's hard to believe these shirts are made from easy-care, wrinkle resistant poly/cotton blend! Lightweight pique is soft and supple for a comfortable fit; shrinkage is minimal. This one is a winner for the whole crew: a shirt that is as wonderful to feel as it is to look at, and flatters all who wear it.

Fabric/Style: 5-ounce, 65/35 poly/cotton pique; flat knit collar and cuffs, double-needle armholes and bottom hem, side vents; metal buttons with dyed-to-match rims.

11 Ladies Shirts:

Color: Bark	Size:	S	M	L		
Number on Hand:		1	2	2		
Color: Stone	Size:	XS	S	M	L	XL
Number on Hand:		1	2	1	1	1



8 Men's Shirts:

Color: Bark	Size:			L	2XL *
Number on Hand:				2	1
Color: Stone	Size:	S	M	L	2XL *
Number on Hand:		1	2	2	1

R-Tek™ Fleece Vest - \$35.00



Quality that goes the distance with a feel that's unbelievably soft. An anti-pill finish ensures this vest will look amazing long into the future.

Fabric/Style: 13-ounce, 100% filament polyester R-Tek™ fleece offers lightweight warmth; twill taping inside the neck with the armholes and waistband trimmed in Lycra; zip-close pockets.

4 Ladies Vests have Princess seams that offer a feminine fit in a style that's a natural for layering:

Color: Black	Size:	S	M
Number on Hand:		1	2
Color: Lt. Blue	Size:		M
Number on Hand:			1

3 Men's Vests:

Color: Black	Size:	M	L
Number on Hand:		1	2



CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER SWCS
430 "G" STREET #4172
DAVIS, CA 95616-4172



Inside RunOff...

CA-NV Chapter hosts Chinese delegation	1
President's Message	2
Annual Business Meeting date set	2
Chapter Scholar, New Members	3
Hedgerows: Multi-tasking for Farmers and Wildlife	4
Chapter Logo-Wear available	5

FIRST CLASS

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2010

RunOff is the official California-Nevada Chapter SWCS newsletter.

Publisher:

Walt Bunter- wbunter@pacbell.net

Editor:

Wendy Rash- wendy.rash@ca.usda.gov

Please submit articles via email to the Editor. RunOff reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Executive Council:

Erik Beardsley, President
Lisa Hokholt, Past-President
Andrea Casey, President-Elect
Tom Esgate, Treasurer
Pat Grover, Secretary
Ladi Asgill, Director
Eric Berntsen, Director
Bill Daily, Director
Michael Hogan, Director
Dan Martynn, Director
Tina Vander Hoek, Director

**SUBMIT ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR
THE NEXT ISSUE OF RUNOFF**

DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2010

Your News is Chapter News!