



RUNOFF

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER SWCS – SPRING 2012



Water Quality

Preserving Water Quality to Secure Our Future

California-Nevada Chapter SWCS Annual Conference

May 9-10, 2012

Asilomar Conference Grounds, 800 Asilomar Ave., Pacific Grove, California 93950

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON- May 9, 2012

- 1:30 PM Registration – *Hearth Living Room*
- 2:00 PM Welcome – **Tibor Horvath**, President Elect – CA-NV Chapter SWCS – *Kiln Room*
- 2:15 PM Opening Remarks from **Ed Burton** CA NRCS State Conservationist – *Kiln Room*
- 2:30 PM Methodology for Quantifying the Efficiency of Agricultural Water Use – *Kiln Room*
Manucher Alemi, Ph. D., P.E. – CA Department of Water Resources
- 3:30 PM BREAK – Refreshments served
- 3:45 PM Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (Win-PST 3.1) Presentation and Demo – *Kiln Room*
Giulio Ferruzzi, Ph. D. Agronomist, NRCS West Technology Support Center, Portland, OR
- 5:30 PM Networking Reception – Dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 PM – *Crocker Room*
- 7:00 PM Scholarship and Awards Presentations (Tina Vander Hoek and Ladi Asgill) - *Kiln Room*
Installation of CA-NV Chapter SWCS Officers and Executive Council Directors
Raffle - proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund (Tina Vander Hoek)

THURSDAY MORNING- May 10, 2012

- 7:30 AM Chapter Executive Council and Committee Chairs Breakfast Meeting - *Crocker Room*
- 8:00 AM CA-NV Chapter SWCS Business Meeting - *Kiln Room*
- 9:45 AM **BREAK**– Refreshments served
- 10:00 AM California Nitrogen Index Workshop - *Kiln Room*
Dr. Jorge Delgado USDA-ARS Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit, Fort Collins, Colorado
- 11:45 AM Conference Summary and Adjournment - *Kiln Room*
Tibor Horvath, President, CA-NV Chapter SWCS
- NOON **LUNCH**

ANNUAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE NOTES

Mail your Registration form in to our Davis address by April 25 and SAVE \$25.00.

You can mail or FAX your registration form to our Davis address/phone and promise to pay at the door.

One day registration is available.

CEUs for CCAs are offered as follows:

2.0 Continuing Education Units for California Certified Crop Advisers can be earned by attending the first day (Wednesday afternoon) including:

1.0 CEU for Soil/Water Management and

1.0 CEU for Integrated Pest Management

1.5 Continuing Education Units for Nutrient Management can be earned by attending the second day (Thursday morning).

Make your own room reservations at Asilomar.

Asilomar will not accept reservations over the phone.

Suggestions for the preferred location and theme for our Annual Conference in 2013 will be accepted during the business meeting Thursday morning.

CHAPTER CAP TO DEBUT AT ASILOMAR



MISSION STATEMENT

The Chapter is a multidisciplinary scientific and educational organization dedicated to natural resource enhancement through an ethic which recognizes the interdependence of human communities and natural systems. The Chapter achieves its mission through its members using mutual cooperation and understanding to create opportunities for improving soil and water conservation in California and Nevada.

NEW CA-NV CHAPTER SWCS MEMBERS

We extend a **GREAT BIG WELCOME** to the following seven members who recently joined or rejoined the SWCS and our California-Nevada Chapter SWCS:

Zahangir Kabir - Davis

Jeremy Kearns - Vallejo

Paul Mader – Placerville

Daniella Mazaroli – Larchmont, NY

Son Nguyen – La Mesa

Robert Roy – Clovis

Anthony Sunseri – Grass Valley

We have 123 members as of March 28, 2012.

JOURNALS GO TO BUTTE COLLEGE

Extra copies of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation from January 2007 to October 2011 Volumes 62 to 66 offered in the last newsletter went to Professor **Michael Williams** in the Biology Dept. at Butte College in Oroville. He said: “We will be using them for the parking lot biofiltration project the students are interns for. They need to research how biofilters work and much of what is in the Journal is very applicable. They will also be preparing presentations on our biofiltration system to public outreach groups esp. for K-12 student field trips.”

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PARTICIPATION

This year nine undergraduate students participated by applying for the Chapter’s 2012 Scholarship. The students who applied are attending Colleges or Universities which include: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CSU Chico, CSU Stanislaus, Humboldt State, and Hartnell College. The scholarship recipient will be announced and awarded the \$1,000 scholarship at the Chapter Annual Conference in Asilomar on May 9th.

Please show your support for our future leaders in Natural Resource Conservation by participating in the raffle held at the Asilomar Conference to support our scholarship program.

Thanks and see you there.

Tina Vander Hoek, Scholarship Committee Chair
California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

Tina.vanderhoek@ca.usda.gov

2012 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



[Registration](#) is open, [hotel reservations](#) can be made and the [Preliminary Program](#) is available for the 2012 SWCS International Annual Conference in Fort Worth, TX on July 22-25. Please help spread the word and invite your colleagues to join you.

Keep in mind that your Chapter will host the 68th SWCS International Annual Conference in Reno, NV at the Peppermill in the summer of 2013. This should prove to be a major event and well worth attending. Dates and agenda will be provided in this newsletter once the final agenda has been determined. Thanks for your support.

CHAPTER ELECTION BALLOTS

All members received a ballot with a return envelope. Please return your Election ballot by April 23.

Past President **Andrea Casey** had a difficult time finding candidates and was assisted by President Elect **Tibor Horvath**. They were unsuccessful finding even one candidate for Secretary so you have an opportunity to vote for a write-in – someone you know would do the job.

Our By-laws require a mail ballot but an effort will be considered to allow voting by email, mail, or FAX and not needing a ballot if there is only one candidate for each vacancy.

To help on the By-laws Committee Chaired by Mike Simmons, please contact Pres-Elect Tibor Horvath.

Tibor.Horvath@ca.usda.gov

CHAPTER PRESIDENT RESIGNS

James W. (Bill) Daily, Chapter President since May 2011, resigned on February 17th with the following message:

After much liberation and considerations I must submit to you all my resignation as your Chapter President. Why? For a long time now my wife and I have desired to move to the central coast of Oregon and for us that time has been put off, for too long now. So toward that end, we plan to sell our house and find a new beginning in Oregon.

I would have liked to have passed the gavel to Tibor at Asilomar, but saved funds that I have for that and other Chapter activities will now need to be channeled into the personal priority of preparing our house for sale and moving expenses. I know that some will see this as selfish, and perhaps it may be, but we don't wish to wait any longer in for this transition in our lives. After about six months I'll email again to let everyone know where we finally settled.

It has been a pleasure working for and with all of you and I hope you don't think too badly of me for my early departure, but now is the time that will work best for my wife and me. I'm confident that the Chapter will do fine without my presence, since my term is almost over. Move forward and do great things. Thank you, one and all and best wishes."

President Elect **Tibor Horvath** has assumed the duties of the Chapter President and will be formally installed as President at the Asilomar Conference.

CHAPTER SECRETARY RESIGNS

Chapter Secretary **Rebecca Hale** resigned on February 6th due to a conflict of interest with a non-profit she is affiliated with - WeCareAboutKidsNV.

Rebecca wrote to the Chapter Executive Council that "I valued the chance to have worked with all of you. I'm sure I have improved my note-taking greatly over these past years and appreciate your understanding and patience. I wish you the much luck."

Pat Grover, former Chapter Secretary, agreed to be Acting Secretary up through our Annual Conference in Asilomar when we will have the election results and new officers will be installed.

NRCS TO EXPAND CONSERVATION IN THE MONTEREY BAY REGION

DAVIS, Calif., April 5, 2012 – The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California will provide \$925,000 in technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to protect the Monterey Bay Region. The Monterey Bay Conservation Program is being made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to improve water quality and quantity in this important region. The application deadline is April 16, 2012.

“I am thrilled that NRCS is making this additional funding available to help our local farmers and ranchers take the necessary steps to address water quality and use, forestry and other agricultural concerns this year,” said **U.S. Representative Sam Farr** (D-17). “This is a win for both our innovative agriculture and our spectacular environment we enjoy on the Central Coast because it will reduce nutrients, pathogens and sediment loads entering Monterey Bay.”

This program was created as a result of the Obama Administration announcing, in fiscal year 2011, that the Monterey Bay region was selected as one of the three special America’s Great Outdoors initiative areas. NRCS worked directly with local partners, over the following months, to determine how best to invest additional technical and financial resources in this region.

NRCS staff will work with farmers and ranchers to develop conservation plans to address excessive runoff, flooding, wind erosion, water quality and a handful of other issues on farms, ranches and private non-industrial forestland. Those that implement the highest levels of conservation can qualify for financial assistance.

“NRCS is committed to protecting the Monterey Bay region and this expanded assistance allows us to work in partnership with local agricultural producers to help them be good stewards of the land, and protect wildlife and natural resources,” added **NRCS California State Conservationist Ed Burton**.

Eligible counties include: Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and San Luis Obispo. Interested farmers and ranchers should visit <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> or contact their local NRCS office for additional information.

NRCS COMMITS \$1 MILLION TO PROTECT DECLINING WILDLIFE SPECIES

DAVIS, Calif., March 30, 2012 – The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California will provide accelerated technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to improve or enhance aquatic or wildlife habitat on agricultural land. This Wildlife Initiative for Declining Species is being made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The application deadline is April 16, 2012.

“NRCS has been committed to protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat for decades and this new initiative helps our agency provide expanded assistance for those species that depend on a higher level of habitat and care,” said **NRCS California State Conservationist Ed Burton**.

NRCS staff will work with farmers and ranchers to determine which conservation practices are appropriate on individual properties. Hedgerow planting, fish and wildlife structures, mulching and conservation cover are a few of the multitude of eligible conservation practices that create additional or expanded habitat for species.

Eligible species include, but are not limited to, the Tricolored Blackbird, pollinators, the Western Burrowing Owl and the Western Pond Turtle. Farmers and ranchers who provide the highest levels of benefit for one or more of these species can qualify for financial assistance to implement approved conservation practices. One million dollars is available in financial assistance funding.

Eligible counties in California include: Alameda, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura and Yolo.

Interested farmers and ranchers should visit <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> or contact their local NRCS office for additional information on eligible species and to submit an application.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send a message to:

Walt Bunter – wbunter@pacbell.net

USDA CONSERVATION CORPS TO GO MOBILE AND ADD WEB TOOLS

by Alice Lipowicz in the Mar 27, 2012

Issue of Federal Computer Week

The Agriculture Department's field conservationists will be more accessible to customers under a new initiative to redesign business processes and equip the workers with mobile technologies and Web tools.

The USDA's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has about 11,000 employees, most of who work in the field as conservationists. The field staff meet with millions of property owners to develop and implement plans for protecting soil, watersheds and air. Under the new "streamlining" initiative that began in January, the USDA hopes to more than double conservationists' time with customers, according to a customer service improvement [plan](#) recently published by USDA.

Currently, the USDA field conservationists report spending as little as 20 to 40 percent of their time in the field working with customers. The expected outcome of the initiative is for field staff to be able to spend up to 75 percent of their time in the field with customers, the plan said.

The initiative will free up the equivalent of an additional 1,200 to 1,500 field technical staff that will be redirected back into customer contact, the USDA said in its plan.

The conservation service's "current business model and processes overburden the field technical staff, and often leave inadequate time for on-site planning and technical assistance, the foundation for USDA's conservation programs," the USDA plan stated. "In addition, NRCS' information tools used by its field staff are often time-consuming and not integrated in a manner that helps planners to be efficient."

The department intends to equip its field staff with unspecified mobile technologies to improve efficiency and communications with customers.

"By implementing mobile technologies for its conservationists, NRCS will not only reduce the number of trips for NRCS between the office and the field, but will completely eliminate the need for customers to travel to NRCS offices," the plan document said.

Another tool in the works is new Web-based Client Gateway that will allow the employees and customers to communicate with the agency around the clock.

NEW CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER & HABITAT IN CENTRAL VALLEY

DAVIS, Calif., March 29, 2012 - The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California announces four new focus areas where \$8.5 million will be made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help producers undertake water quality and water conservation projects. Applications are due April 20, 2012. "All of these new project areas are being made possible through an NRCS national landscape conservation initiative that is helping us to provide voluntary incentives to farmers and dairy producers to improve the Bay Delta ecosystem," said **Ed Burton, California State Conservationist for NRCS.**

The four areas targeting water quality/water conservation include:

- Walker Creek portion of the Colusa-Glenn subwatershed in Glenn County;
- Lower Snake River in Sutter County;
- French Camp Slough Watersheds in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties;
- Eastern portion of the San Joaquin River watershed in Stanislaus and Merced Counties.

Each project has its own set of specific goals, management practices and borders which will be described locally. On irrigated cropland these will typically include a mix of irrigation efficiency improvements including irrigation water management, vegetative filtering practices, nutrient management, pest management, cover crops, sediment basins and tail-water return systems. On dairies, practices will include structures and management to capture, store, measure and distribute manure nutrients in a safe and useful way.

"Our intention is to tackle focused project areas through partnership and leveraging resources," added Burton. "We want to demonstrate beneficial changes in these targeted landscape areas that can be achieved with voluntary, science-based conservation practices." In addition to the water conservation and water quality work noted above, the NRCS Bay Delta assistance also includes a focus area where landowners are enhancing waterbird habitat in six counties in the Sacramento Valley; the opportunity to voluntarily enroll lands in the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP); and a partnered opportunity between NRCS and DOI's Bureau of Reclamation to combine irrigation infrastructure improvements with on-farm improvements in irrigation.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER SWCS
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DAVIS CA 95616-4172

FIRST CLASS
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Annual Conference May 9-10

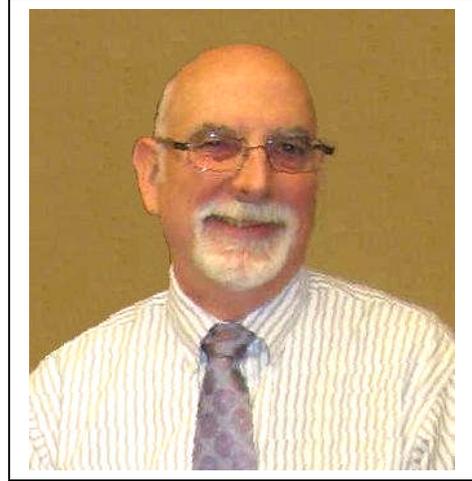
New Members

New Chapter cap

Chapter Scholarship

President Resigns

**More Conservation in the
Monterey Bay Region**



THANK YOU, BILL, FOR SERVING
AS OUR 2011-2012 PRESIDENT

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tibor Horvath, President
Tibor Horvath, President-Elect
Andrea Casey, Past President
Pat Grover, Acting Secretary
Tom Esgate, Treasurer
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RUNOFF is the official California-Nevada
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Please submit articles via email to the Editor.
RUNOFF reserves the right to edit all submissions.

YOUR PHOTOS ARE WANTED
FOR THE CA-NV CHAPTER SWCS
WEBSITE

www.caswcs.org

**PLEASE SUBMIT PHOTOS, NEWS
ITEMS, AND FEATURE ARTICLES
TO THE EDITOR FOR THE
SUMMER ISSUE OF RUNOFF**

BY JULY 15

EXPECT NEXT ISSUE ON AUGUST 3
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*“From every conceivable angle—
economic, social, cultural, public health,
national defense—conservation of
natural resources is an objective on
which all should agree.”*

Hugh Hammond Bennett

Raleigh, North Carolina, June 1959