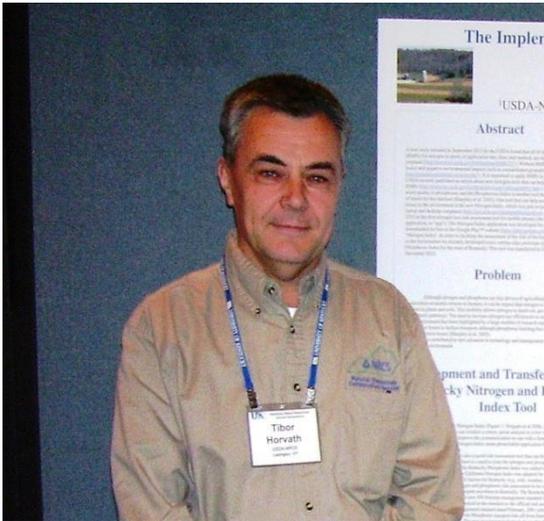




RUNOFF

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER SWCS – SPRING 2013

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – Tibor Horvath



Dear Chapter Members,

The California-Nevada Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is preparing for the 68th International Conference in Reno, NV on July 21 – 24, 2013 at the Peppermill Hotel.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us organize and deliver this conference and those members willing to volunteer will receive a reduced registration fee. Please contact Wendy Rash at Wendy.Rash@ca.usda.gov for more info.

Water quality is getting higher and higher attention from the regulators nationwide and especially in impaired watersheds where Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limitations for nutrient and other pollutant discharges are being exceeded.

This is very applicable to agricultural production especially for growing corn that is known to be a “leaky” crop. In 2013, the US will plant corn in a record acreage of close to 100 million acres due to the previous year’s drought and ever increasing demand from ethanol plants. Farms with corn-wheat-soybean rotations will grow straight corn for the next few years based on the above explained demands.

Corn crops have the highest potential for Nitrate leaching to the groundwater and, with conventional tillage, will pose the highest potential risk for Phosphorus runoff through soil erosion. The US had a similar acreage for corn in 1937 but the average yield was 29 bushels/acre then while today it is running around 160 bushels/acre average.

This high yield requires high nutrient inputs by fertilizer or by animal manure and a drought year results in low yields and the nutrients would not be fully utilized by the crop creating a high potential for nutrient pollution to surface and groundwater.

Our task is to promote conservation practices such as no-till, cover crops and conservation crop rotation to protect our most precious natural resource – our water. I just presented a poster on the new Nitrogen Index Tool that can measure the effectiveness of these conservation practices to reduce nutrient pollution. This Tool can help conservation planners and growers better understand the fate of nutrients in crop production.

Thank you for all of your hard work and keep in touch.

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.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



**RESILIENT
LANDSCAPES**
Planning for Flood, Drought & Fire
68th International Annual Conference
Reno, NV July 21-24, 2013
www.swcs.org/13AC



Help us to present critical conservation research and practical knowledge to an international audience. Topic areas are:

- Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts
- Agricultural and Conservation Economics
- Biodiversity Conservation and Management
- Conservation Policy and Program Design
- Conservation in Urban Settings
- Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies
- Outreach, Education and Community Engagement
- Soil Resource Assessment and Management
- Water Resource Assessment and Management

Volunteers are needed to moderate sessions, set up and manage audio-visual equipment, and assist with the silent auction. We expect a commitment of 6 hours of your time during the conference.

In return, you receive reduced-cost registration: \$237.50 for the 2-day conference (Savings of \$147.50 off the member fee!) or \$120 for a single day.

Commit early, and get “first dibs” to work the session of your choice.

Please send an email to: wendy.rash@ca.usda.gov with “SWCS conference volunteer” in the subject line to sign up. Please include your contact information.

Thank you for your commitment to conservation!

UC DAVIS CONFERENCE SETS AGENDA FOR CLIMATE-SMART AG RESEARCH

The March 20-22, 2013 Climate-Smart Agriculture Global Science Conference held at UC Davis generated an action-oriented scientific agenda for tackling global climate change and its impacts on agriculture.

The Conference, which drew some 300 participants from 34 nations on six continents, grappled with the need to dramatically ramp up agricultural production to feed a world that will tip the scales at more than 9 billion people by the middle of the century — a task severely complicated by global climate change. By the end of the conference, the participants had begun to sketch a road map to get there.

Highlights of the conference included strongly voiced commitments from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack and Undersecretary Catherine Woteki to pursue solutions to climate-change impacts for agriculture in the United States and abroad.

“Climate change, and particularly its impacts on agriculture, present the world with a very difficult challenge,” Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi said during the final session of the conference. **“We all know that the planet is getting warmer, the seas are rising and snowpack patterns have been changing. Fresh, reliable water is becoming scarcer.** “Of all the sectors of the Earth that must adapt and mitigate for climate change, none is more susceptible than agriculture — and none more crucial.”

Tradeoffs needed, chancellor says

The chancellor stressed that tradeoffs between increased food production and environmental protection will be needed as the global population expands and people become more prosperous — increasing per capita demand for food.

Developed in coordination with the World Bank and the Dutch ministry, the conference was designed to establish scientific priorities, building upon the broad science and policy agenda established during a 2011 international meeting in the Netherlands.

The conference examined farm and food systems, land use and ecosystem issues, and policies.

(Continued on page 4)

UC DAVIS CONFERENCE...continued

The goal: Make sure that science translates into practices that will ensure food security, alleviate poverty and provide multiple ecosystem benefits.

Due to the steep trajectory of global population growth, experts project that the world will have to increase food production by at least 70 percent by 2050. **Climate change is anticipated to make that challenge all the more daunting by reducing food crop yields throughout the next 50 years by 16 percent worldwide and by 28 percent in Africa.**

Focusing priorities

With these challenges in mind, conference participants used the three days of talks, panel discussions and informal conversations to better focus the priorities for research into climate-smart agriculture. As the meeting was drawing to a close, the following recommendations began to take shape:

- **Farmers, land managers, livestock producers and fishers** should be involved in making decisions about sustainable development, alleviating poverty and climate-smart agriculture.
- **Research that draws on many different disciplines** and involves multiple stakeholders at many different scales is essential for reducing poverty, greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to climate change.
- **Markets and financial mechanisms** can support farming practices that lessen and adapt to climate change, as well as food systems that increase food distribution and reduce waste.
- **Greater emphasis on landscape and regional analysis** will reveal tradeoffs as well as synergies between various climate-driven changes.
- **Innovation and transformative changes in behavior**, plus novel science-policy partnerships at local and global scales, are crucial for both mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts.
- **The impact of climate and extreme weather events on migration** from rural to urban communities needs to be better quantified in order to develop strategies for promoting healthier food chains.

Conference leaders began making tentative plans to convene the next Climate-Smart Agriculture conference in 2015 in Montpellier, France.

In addition, the Third Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change is scheduled to be held in December in South Africa.

Meanwhile at UC Davis, Katehi said, research on climate-smart agriculture will continue in collaboration with the global community:

“We at UC Davis are committed to remaining engaged in this crucial global dialogue, and look forward to participating in future efforts to continue laying the groundwork for the policy and research breakthroughs that will bring us tangible solutions.” (Excerpted from UC Davis Press Release)

POLLINATORS, COVER CROPS, AND SOIL HEALTH

Field tours featuring pollinator plantings and cover crops were offered at the USDA NRCS Lockeford Plant Materials Center (PMC) open house on March 27th.

Tom Moore, NRCS state biologist, led the pollinator group tour that visited hedgerows and other plantings that have been maturing at the PMC for a few years. Presenters were **Jessa Guisse**, Xerces Society; **Kimiora Ward** and **Neal Williams**, UC Davis Entomology Department; and **Dennis Frommelt**, PMC farm superintendent.

The cover crops tour was led by PMC Manager **Margaret Smither-Kopperl** and included **Dennis Chessman**, NRCS state conservation agronomist, who presented the 50 cover crop cultivars being evaluated including the tillage radish and **Ceci Dale-Cesmat**, NRCS state rangeland management specialist, who explained the 3 year Sainfoin trial of three cultivars for use as non-bloating rangeland forage.

Jim Briggs, NRCS Western Region Plant Materials Specialist and intern **Patrick Nicholson** described the national soil health study of ten cover crop species in four mixes and three seeding rates as part of the NRCS' new national soil health campaign. One of the species is oilseed radish (also called tillage radish) that has a thick taproot that can penetrate compacted soil layers and reduce nitrogen leaching.

“We’ve gotten through our first cover crop planting for the fall and winter. We’re going to roll it down, then plant sweet corn in April. In three years we hope to see a clear difference in weed control and soil health,” added Smither-Kopperl.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER MEMBERS

123 on March 21, 2013

If any of your colleagues are not listed, please encourage them to become a member of SWCS.

Robert Anderson	- Oxnard	Richard Hathaway III	- Hat Creek
Brian Andraski	- Carson City, NV	Michael Hogan	- Tahoe City
Andrew Andresen	- Kelseyville	Phil Hogan	- Sacramento
Augustine Avwunudiogba	- Turlock	Lisa Hokholt	- Livermore
Matt Baldzikowski	- Los Altos	Diane Holcomb	- Davis
Brad Barbeau	- Seaside	Tibor Horvath	- Lexington, KY
Erik Beardsley	- Red Bluff	Ray Hunter	- Fresno
Eric Berntsen	- Sacramento	Jason Jackson	- Grass Valley
George Borst	- Fallbrook	Leonard Jolley	- Napa
Colin Brown	- Mountain View	Zahangir Kabir	- Davis
Walter Bunter Jr.	- Davis	Stacy Kavanaugh	- Willows
Joel Butterworth	- Sonoma	Jeremy Kearns	- Vallejo
Richard Casale	- Aptos	Anna Keyzers	- Reno, NV
Andrea Casey	- Corning	Hyoungkyun Kim	- Dublin
Barry Cavanna	- Wooster, OH	James Kocsis	- Davis
Dennis Chessman	- Davis	James Komar	- Red Bluff
James Chidester	- Concord	Garrett Kooyers	- Reno, NV
Denny Churchill	- Quincy	Eric Larson	- Sebastopol
Richard Clark	- La Verne	Conor Lemmon	- Eureka
Duane Cornett	- Marysville	William Lincoln	- Hidden Valley
Dennis Corwin	- Riverside	Drew Mather	- Hollister
Christian Davis	- Sacramento	Sandra Mathews	- Hayward
Randy Davis	- Marysville	Kay Mercer	- Paso Robles
W. Denham	- Pasadena	Roland Meyer	- Davis
Mary Dirden	- Susanville	Robert Mikkelsen	- Merced
Jeff Dlott	- Soquel	Sonya Miller	- Galt
John Drumm	- Davis	Rachael Morgan	- Oroville
Michelle Du	- Hacienda Hts	Daniel Mountjoy	- Watsonville
RaeAnn Dubay	- Red Bluff	Haytham Nabilsi	- Riverside
Matt Dunnahoe	- Auburn	Louis Nagy	- Ventura
Jim Earsom	- Loma Linda	Sally Negroni	- Dixon
Norman Elam	- Palm Springs	Teri Nehls	- Visalia
Thomas Esgate	- Penn Valley	Son Nguyen	- La Mesa
Julie Fallon	- Santa Maria	Patti Novak-	- Silver Springs, NV
Clarence Finch	- Fresno	Tim O'Halloran	- Woodland
Josh Fodor	- Santa Cruz	Sajeemas Pasakdee	- Fresno
Alan Forkey	- Yuba City	Jeff Peters	- Richmond
Donald Funk	- Paso Robles	Roger Poff	- Nevada City
Thomas Gamette	- Folsom	Athena Pratt	- Hollister
Christoper Giovannoni	- Watsonville	Gil Pridmore	- Napa
Toby Goyette	- Vacaville	Wendy Rash	- Winters
E. Griner	- Bonsall	Floyd Rathbun	- Fallon, NV
Patricia Grover	- Sacramento	Kevin Roberson	- Orange
Brent Hallock	- San Luis Obispo	Stephen Roecker	- Victorville
Keith Hamblin	- Redding	Andrew Rosenau	- Sacramento
Douglas Hanford	- Sonoma	Brent Rouppet Ph.D.	- Lodi
Eric Harper	- Bartow, FL	Robert Roy	- Clovis
Howard Harris	- Ridgecrest	Jeffrey Rubin	- Oakland
		Diana Ruiz	- Riverside
		Carol-Anne Rutenbergs	- Auburn
		George Sato	- Rancho Cordova
		Charles Schwabauer	- Moorpark
		Carol Shennan	- Santa Cruz

- Michael Simmons - Goleta
- Michael Singer - Davis
- Steven Singer - Santa Cruz
- Robert Slayback - Lodi
- James Spear - Red Bluff
- Mark Steffek - Alturas
- David Steiner - Napa
- Floyd Stephens - _____, NV
- Mark Stowell - Irvine
- Ronald Taskey - Atascadero
- Julie Thomas - Morro Bay
- Lorin Trubschenck - Lompoc
- Tina Vander Hoek - Templeton
- Mark Weltz - Reno, NV
- Bridget Whitney - Turlock
- Ruth Wildman - Davis
- Joel Williams - Visalia
- John Wilson - Los Angeles
- Jane Wohletz - Berkeley
- Jeanette Wrynski - Woodland
- Henry Wyman - Davis
- Willard Youtz - Escondido

WILL MORE OF THE SAME PRODUCE DIFFERENT RESULTS?

Excerpted from message by Tom Prout, SWCS Canadian Region Director, in the April issue of Conservagram

I write this article with the knowledge gained from more than 35 years of experience in watershed management in southern Ontario and with the anticipation that it may generate some response from conservation practitioners, farm organizations, and farm leaders.

Canada and the United States are two of the world’s leading countries, but are our societies committed to changing our lifestyles to help improve the environment we all live in and appreciate?

For decades, farmers in southern Ontario have publicly said that they would spend more time and money on stewardship projects if they received a fair or higher price for their product. However, after two consecutive years of very high commodity prices and some record yields, I am observing the opposite reaction: less conservation tillage, higher fertilizer rates to achieve record yields, increased sales of moldboard plows, and the removal of windbreaks and forests to make larger fields. With record-high farmland prices and larger equipment, farmers seem to have less time for conservation.

Perhaps it is time to let farmers manage their lands as they see fit and, instead of offering stewardship grants, set water quality standards for them to meet. We must determine whether society can continue to afford annual payments to encourage voluntary stewardship.

I am not suggesting that the decades of conservation work are all for naught, and I am not suggesting that farmers intentionally pollute. However, I do believe it is time to stop and reflect on our current approach to watershed management and ask ourselves one more question: **will doing more of the same thing achieve the water quality standards we want to achieve, or will doing more of the same thing get us more of the same results?**

We as a society need to decide if we want maximum productivity from farms and some of the lowest food prices in the world **at the expense of degrading the air and water quality we need to survive.**



One of the goals of our Chapter is to provide opportunities for improving member’s technical skills at our Annual Conferences and Fall Technical Workshop/Tours. Chapter members benefit from the self-improvement value of participating in a professional society like SWCS.

Consider how the topics can help you do your work and prepare you for advancement. Also consider the opportunity to talk to other participants about how they handled situations that you are facing. Your decision to go to a planned event should not be based on going if your employer will cover your expenses.

2013 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Come and Share Your Knowledge to Advance
The Future of Our Soil and Water Resources**

**in RENO, NV for the
68th Annual International SWCS Conference**

**July 21-24, 2013 at the PEPPERMILL
Hosted by the
California-Nevada Chapter
Soil and Water Conservation Society**

RENO
2013
◀▶

Schedule in Brief

Sunday, July 21: Society meetings, House of Delegates, Chapter Leader training, Half-day workshops, Fellows Forum, Welcome Reception

Monday, July 22: Keynote Plenary, Symposia Sessions and Educational Presentations, Silent Auction, Exhibit Hall & Poster Presenter Reception, Movie Night

Tuesday, July 23: Plenary Session, Symposia Sessions and Educational Presentations

Wednesday, July 24: Conservation Tours

CONFERENCE TRACKS

The program committee has chosen the following five special areas of emphasis (tracks) for the Symposia Sessions and Educational Presentations:

1) Resilient Landscapes

Showing how land managing agencies and conservationists are coming together in their efforts to mitigate the effects of catastrophic landscape altering events such as flood, drought, and fire.

2) Adaptation and Mitigation Planning for Drought

The 2012 drought, one of the worst of the last 80 years, covered more than 75% of the contiguous United States and provides an indication that the conditions that spawned the dust bowl in the 1930's may commonly recur and become the new norm for this century.

3) Rangeland Conservation and Grazing Lands CEAP

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has undertaken a cooperative project with the Agricultural Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to document the status of knowledge regarding the effect of conservation practices applied to grazing lands across the United States.

4) Invasive Plant Species

“Invasive Plants: Managing Controversy, Creativity, and Conservation”, will focus on the challenges and issue associated with invasive plant species on how to develop and find innovative/alternative approaches to preserve our current landscapes and at the same time allow for dynamic change in these systems.

5) Water Resources Research, Education, and Outreach (NIFA Land Grant/Sea Grant 406 and NRI)

SWCS is pleased to be collaborating with USDA–NIFA pursuing a shared goal of highlighting quality water research, outreach and education to an audience of environmental and agricultural professionals, academics, and educators. Investigators and project managers will present USDA sponsored National Research Initiative and 406 projects in a special NIFA symposium.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER SWCS
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DAVIS CA 95616-4172

FIRST CLASS
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

President's Message

New Members

Earth Day

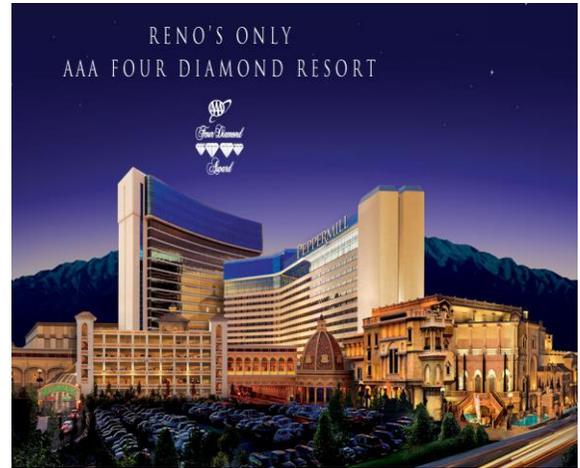
Seeking Volunteers for Reno Conference in July

Agenda for Climate Smart Ag Research

Cover Crops and Soil Health

Chapter Membership Roster

July SWCS Conference in Reno



See You at the Peppermill on July 21-24

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Tibor Horvath**, President
- Rob Roy**, President-Elect
- Andrea Casey**, Past President
- _____, Secretary
- Tom Esgate**, Treasurer
- Ladi Asgill**, Director
- Tina Vander Hoek**, Director
- Phil Hogan**, Director
- Zahangir Kabir**, Director
- Wendy Rash**, Director
- _____, Director

RUNOFF is the official California-Nevada Chapter SWCS newsletter.

Editor and Publisher:
Walt Bunter – wbunter@pacbell.net

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 30

EXPECT NEXT ISSUE BY SEPTEMBER 4

"We cannot depend on windshield surveys and office planning to carry out a job of the complexity and magnitude of safeguarding our farmland and controlling floods."

Hugh Hammond Bennett

Raleigh, North Carolina, June 1959