

## SHASTA COLLEGE EROSION CONTROL TRAINING FACILITY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

by John McCullah

A little while back, the Shasta College Erosion Control Training Facility (shameless plug: located in beautiful Redding, CA and available for all your training needs!) received some special visitors.

A contingent from the Department of Environment in Malaysia dropped by, accompanied by their tour guide: Eric Berntsen, CPESC, CPSWQ from the State Water Quality Control Board (and SWCS CA-NV Chapter Board Member), and Chris Bowles, owner of EcoEngineering out of the Sacramento area.

The purpose of the tour was to see some of the rather innovative techniques that we've been demonstrating at the ECTF over the past little while.

My students and I demonstrated a variety of Best Management Practices. And the ladies and gentlemen from Malaysia were not afraid to jump in and get a little dirty themselves.

Before the group arrived, the students took some time to prepare their test channel for the visit. Scour Stop (a polymer mat with voids for planting) was installed below the outlet pipe. The channel bottom was smoothed and a layer of decomposed granite (DG), which is highly erosive, was added, followed by a layer of compost over the DG. They installed Enka Mat (Turf Reinforcement Mat, or TRM) below the Scour Stop, and were securing the TRM when the Malaysian contingent arrived.

The group observed as the students seeded the test channel and sprayed Flexterra FGM (Flexible Growth Medium, a hydraulically-applied erosion control blanket) through the Enka mat. The visitors measured velocity at 12 ft/sec at the pipe outlet onto the Scour Stop and 7 ft/sec over the



Green Armor System.

We also did a little streambank protection. Shasta College students made and installed willow wattles on a slope above Stillwater Creek, and applied native straw to the disturbed soil area. Using the College's Finn T-60, the folks from Malaysia sprayed Flexterra over the mulch.

Our visitors also observed the beginning of a brand- new compost trial. Three plots were established on a 2:1 slope:

1st plot: commercial rye blend was applied and covered with 2" of compost.

2nd plot: *Elymus glaucus* (a California native grass) was applied and covered with 2" of compost.

3rd plot: 2" of compost was applied and *Elymus*

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Erik Beardsley*

I have been thinking about change lately, a lot.

I know change is constant. But of late it seems like it is more constant than usual.

In terms of change relative to the CA – NV Chapter we conducted a Member Survey a couple of months ago. The biggest change it revealed was that a lot fewer folks responded to the survey than in previous years. Eight people responded versus 35.

There is no real scientific way to divine meaning from such survey results. So I am going to go out on a limb and interpret the lack of response to tacitly mean the Executive Council is on the right track in terms of addressing membership training and professional development needs. The full unabridged results of the survey are published on Page 5 of this newsletter.

The Executive Council will hold its annual Planning Meeting November 20, 2009 from 9:00



am to noon in conjunction with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) at:

The Resort at Squaw Creek  
400 Squaw Creek Rd.

Olympic Valley, CA

If you happen to be in the neighborhood, please join us in shaping the direction of our 2010 Annual Training Program.

The speed at which information is delivered by high speed internet and wireless technology (Blackberries

and Netflix, etc.) has served to increase the rate and volume of information we receive daily. Making time to filter, sort, understand and assimilate information into knowledge is imperative.

The goal for the planning meeting will be to craft training venues that can successfully compete for your attention while respecting your limited time and providing value-added content you can use.

## CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER GAINS NEW MEMBERS

*by Walt Bunter*

We extend a GREAT BIG WELCOME to the following nine members who recently joined or rejoined the SWCS and our California-Nevada Chapter or transferred in from another state chapter. We have 160 members as of September 3, 2009.

Arturo Cerezo, Panama City, Panama

Jeanne Duarte, Venice, CA

Dale Groppe, Arroyo Grande, CA

Tim Keesey, Susanville, CA

Paul Piazza, Healdsburg, CA

Robert Roy, Madera, CA

Joe Schliessmann, Citrus Heights, CA

Katie Woznick, Lodi, CA

Ming Xiao, Fresno, CA

**SHASTA COLLEGE (CONTINUED)**

*glaucus* was broadcast on top of the compost.

The trial was established to determine two things:

1. Will the compost maintain its position on the slope through the rainy season? and 2. Will a 2" application of compost inhibit the growth of native grasses and commercial annual rye when the seed is sown below the compost?

A comparison will be made over time between the plots with native seed sown above and below the compost application – check future blog posts for results.

Mike Mangus, a reporter from the local TV news was on the scene to do a news story, check it out at the link below...

<http://www.watchyourdirt.com/watchyourdirt-erosion-control/2009/11/1/shasta-college-erosion-control-training-facility-goes-intern.html>

*Editor's note: This story adapted from a blog post, available at the web address above. Thanks to John for allowing us to reprint his story for RunOff readers. Also, the video mentioned above is well worth watching!*

**CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP TO BE OFFERED**

*by Tina VanderHoek*

The Scholarship Committee will soon be mailing application forms to colleges and universities in California to announce that the Chapter is offering one \$1,000 scholarship. Applications are due by January 31 and a selection will be approved and announced in March. The award will be made in time for the 2010/2011 school year.

The Chapter's goal is to encourage undergraduate students interested in soil and water conservation to obtain technical expertise and to pursue careers in soil and water resources. Application forms will also be available on our Chapter website at: [www.caswcs.org](http://www.caswcs.org).

Applicants must (1) have successfully completed two years of study at an accredited college or university, (2) be enrolled in an undergraduate curriculum related to soil and water resources, and (3) have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

*Chapter Executive Council Director Tina Vander Hoek, Soil Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at Templeton, chairs the Scholarship Committee.*



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

	<u>Lodi</u>	<u>San Luis Obispo</u>
Review Course	Dec. 2, 2009	Dec. 14, 2009
Exam	Dec. 4, 2009	Dec. 15, 2009
Registration Deadline	Nov. 25, 2009	Dec. 4, 2009

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

## CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL SWCS MEETING IN DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

by Tom Esgate

California/Nevada Chapter members were active participants in the International Soil and Water Conservation Society conference held in Dearborn, Michigan last July. Ladi Asgill represented the chapter at the House of Delegates, where two resolutions were introduced. The first, by the Wisconsin Chapter, proposed a change in the bylaws of SWCS to facilitate a change to a seven-person Board of Directors; four of whom to be elected at large and three to be selected by the Executive Director and then appointed by the Board. The motion to accept the resolution failed. The second, by the National Capital Chapter, recommended a proposal developed by the Chapter to establish "The Norman A. Berg Conservation Leadership & Policy Forum," the intent of which is to continue the Berg Fellowship. A motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Directors for its consideration passed.

Northeastern California's Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI) participated in two presentations in the NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant (CIG) Showcase. CSSRI has just completed a three year/\$3,000,000 Conservation Innovative Grant initiative that has restored over 5,000 acres of sagebrush steppe and eastside forest in Lassen County. They will soon be delivering a Technical Note for the NRCS Field Office Technical

Guide and a recommended prescription for western juniper restoration treatments. Chapter member and treasurer Tom Esgate serves as the Initiative's Project Director and new member Tim Keeseey is the wildlife, botanical and biological specialist. CSSRI is a partnership of the Pit Resource Conservation District, Lassen County Fire Safe council, Inc., Susanville Indian

Rancheria and the University of California Cooperative Extension in Lassen County. CSSRI is now continuing its restoration efforts under a four year cooperative agreement with NRCS through the new Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative program.

With one CIG project under his belt Esgate is now leading a second initiative as Project Director for the

Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative (CSI), another group with interests similar to those of CSSRI based throughout the western United States. New Montana SWCS member Jon Haufler of Ecosystem Management Research Institute is that initiative's science coordinator. CSI also made a presentation at the CIG Showcase that explained how their CIG will demonstrate a credit/metric trading system for getting sagebrush ecosystems restored throughout the west. CSSRI is a CSI partner and some of its work is part of the new CIG. They are planning a SWCS Chapter event on their South Knob project site in June of 2010. Stay tuned for more details.



*California Nevada SWCS members Mark Steffek, Tim Keeseey, Ladi Asgill, and Tom Esgate pictured in front of the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative's CIG Showcase poster at the SWCS International Conference held in Dearborn, Michigan last July.*

# Survey Results

## ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

7 out of 8 respondents said they had attended an annual conference in the last 10 years. Of those, the number of times attended ranged between 3 and 8.

The content of our annual conferences that attract attendees are professional development and training sessions. Of less importance were networking and tour features.

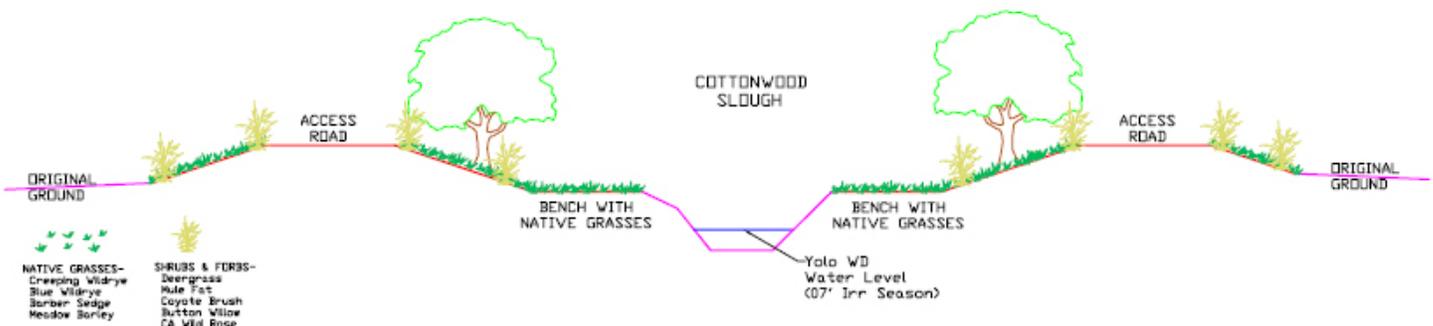
In future conferences, our members are looking for detailed information on specific topics (see topic rankings at right) and for continuing education credits. Our members are not necessarily looking for job recruitment opportunities or information on government programs. The registration fee was also unimportant to our members.

Our members, for the most part, are agreeable to the idea of trading in the annual conference for a series of half- or single-day technical workshops spaced throughout the year and throughout the state. Proceeds from registration fees for the workshops would support our scholarship program.

Locations preferred for next meeting or conference include Northern California, the North Coast, Chico, Sacramento, or Monterey.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST, RANKED:

Erosion Control	1
Water Quality	1
Watershed/Stream Health	2
Flood control	3
Bio-fuels/products	4
Native Plants	4
Storm Water Management	5
Land Use and Farm Protection	5
Air Quality	6
Forestry	6
Carbon Sequestration	6
Climate Change	7
Policy Issues	8
Wildlife Habitat	9
Soil Quality	9
Nutrient and Pest Management	10



Cross-section engineering drawing for riparian restoration on Cottonwood Slough, Yolo County, CA. By Ha Truong.

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### ***Inside RunOff...***

Shasta College hosts visitors	1
President's Message	2
Scholarship announced	3
CPESC exam dates in CA	3
CA-NV Chapter delegates attend International SWCS Meeting	4
Membership survey results	5

## **FIRST CLASS**

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

SUMMER-FALL 2009

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***Submit articles  
and photos for  
the next RunOff  
by: February 5,  
2010.***