



Colorado Conservator

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting In Loveland

November 10-13, 2014

This past November, CACD held its 70th Annual Meeting in Loveland, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. The 2014 theme was "CONSERVATION – TODAY'S VISION IS TOMORROW'S REALITY", and our keynote speakers were NACD President, Earl Garber; Karen Budd-Falen, Wyoming Western Issues Attorney; Astor Boozer, NRCS Western Region Conservationist from Washington DC; Cindy Lair, CO Department of Ag Program Manager; and Randy Randall, CO NRCS Assistant STC Operations. Other speakers included Charlie Bartlett, CO Ag Water Alliance; Taryn Finnessey, CO Water Conservation Board; Terry Fankhauser, CO Cattlemen's Association; Don Shawcroft, CO Farm Bureau; Bill Midcap, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; and Aaron Derwingson, The Nature



Farmer of the Year: Nissen Farms LLC, Mosca – Hooper CD

Conservancy. Former CACD Executive Director, Dan Parker provided a very nice invocation and tribute to our veterans, on the morning of November 11th.

The Breakout Sessions contained information pertaining to the Big Thompson CD's Success Story in their response to the historic floods of September 2013, presented by Gordon Gilstrap; Wyoming's Teton Conservation District's Success Story, presented by their Executive Director, Randy Williams; and brief sessions on the CO Envirothon Program, the Northwest Arm Press Elementary Education Books, and Industrial Hemp within the commercial Ag sector.

During this year's Resource Committee hearings, there were four Resolutions that made it onto the Consent Calendar, nine Resolutions that were passed in Committee with amendments, and one Resolution that came forth in Committee. All of the Resolutions that came out of the RC's were



*Rancher of the Year:
Prewitt Ranch – Washington County CD*

CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting In Loveland cont.

passed by General Assembly on Thursday morning, 11/13, during the CACD Membership Business Meeting. The CACD Legislative Committee thanks those that Chaired and served on each of the 2014 Resource Committees!

Some of the conservation awards presented at the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday and the Banquet Dinner on Wednesday night were:

NRCS Earth Team Award

Fremont Conservation District

Conservation District of the Year

Branson-Trinchera CD

Conservation District Supervisor of the Year

Ray Owens, CO First CD

Small Acreage Landowner of the Year

Heather Riffel-Ridge, Boulder Valley CD

Farmer of the Year

Nissen Farms LLC, Mosca – Hooper CD



*Legislator of the Year:
CO House Representative, Bob Rankin*



*Conservation District of the Year:
Branson-Trinchera CD*



*Conservation District Supervisor of
the Year: Ray Owens - CO First CD*

Rancher of the Year

Prewitt Ranch, Washington County CD

Legislator of the Year

CO House Representative, Bob Rankin

Commissioner of Agriculture's Excellence in Conservation

Brendon Rocky, San Luis Valley

Overall, according to our after-the-meeting survey, most felt that this year's conference was a great success. The CACD Board of Directors would like to thank ALL of those individuals and partners that volunteered countless hours to help make CACD's 70th Annual Meeting a success!



Message from the President

Since the Summer 2014 publication of the CO Conservator, the Colorado Association of Conservation

Districts (CACD) has been very busy representing the private landowners through their respective Conservation Districts on a number of natural resource issues, along with hosting various functions, including CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting. The new year of 2015 is rapidly approaching, and with it comes a new Legislative session at the State Capitol in Denver. CACD is preparing for the challenges that this new legislative session is expected to bring. In a state like Colorado, with the majority of legislators coming from urban areas, educating legislators on the concerns of agriculture and private landowners regarding natural resource issues is a serious challenge, to say the least. Thanks to the hard work of our lobbyist, Brett Moore, and our Executive Director, Sharon Pattee, CACD looks forward to these challenges in 2015.

While there have been many natural resource issues that CACD has been working on, it is easy to identify the main issue that has required the most attention, both statewide and at the national level. That issue is the proposed Interpretive Rule and Regulations changes brought forth by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Clean Water Act. Conservation Districts nationwide, including those in Colorado, have made very clear policy opposing any expansion of the authority or jurisdiction by the EPA in connection with the Clean Water Act. While this is a complicated issue, it is very important that the Conservation Districts and private landowners of our state are aware of the potential impacts that these proposals would have on them. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has provided important comments, along with many individual states, regarding this issue. Through these comments, the EPA has been requested to withdraw these new proposals. Conservation Districts nationwide have concluded that these new proposals would expand the jurisdiction and authority of the EPA, which only Congress has the authority to do, and CACD's policy

clearly opposes.

Other issues that CACD has been actively engaged in include private water rights issues, including the pending CO State Water Plan. CACD has testified to the CO Legislative Water Committee regarding the issue of the US Forest Service's proposal to tie privately held water rights to permits, as a condition of issuing or renewing these permits on Forest Service lands. CACD's position is consistent with the Colorado Constitution in that the right to put water to beneficial use is a private property right. Any forfeiture of that right to the US government, as a condition of issuing or renewing a permit, is a taking of that private property right. Regarding the proposed CO State Water Plan, CACD has encouraged local Conservation Districts to participate at the local and watershed level, to provide input for the creation of this plan. As always, CACD's position is based on policy, which is approved by its membership statewide. And, that policy is that the State Water Plan must not violate the Colorado Prior Appropriations Doctrine, and also strongly supports the creation of necessary water storage plans.

Finally, I would like to thank all those that attended or participated in CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting this past November, in Loveland. I would especially like to give thanks to Brian Allmer of BARN Media for his radio Live Stream, NACD President Earl Garber, and the rest of the many general session speakers that volunteered their time and information. CACD very much appreciates the 2014 Sponsors and Exhibitors that provided us with sponsorship support. Additionally, we want to recognize the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Farm Bureau, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and The Nature Conservancy who participated in the panel discussion on how CO's Conservation Districts can partner with these organizations to address today's natural resource conservation issues together.

Sincerely,
Gary Moyer, President

2014 Fall/Winter Legislative Update



Hello CO's Conservation Districts and CACD's Partners in Conservation,

At the November 2014 CACD Annual Meeting in Loveland, the various Resource Committees worked to streamline and perfect language for new policy coming out of almost all of the Watersheds. As the winter's first nasty storm raged outside, 2014 Resolutions concerning renewable

and nonrenewable energy production, relations with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Conservation District funding levels were all discussed and most passed. These policy updates will guide CACD's policy and legislative strategy through the upcoming 2015 legislative schedule, and are crucial to our success.

Colorado's status as a swing state is firmly in place after this year's elections. In the Colorado Governor's race, incumbent John Hickenlooper defeated former Congressman Bob Beauprez by 3%, or around 60,000 votes. In the legislative branch, the 2015 General Assembly will convene with a 34 to 31 Democratic Majority in the House, down from a 37 to 28 Democratic advantage. An 18 to 17 Republican Majority will hold the majority in the Senate, where the balance of power flipped from an 18 to 17 Democratic advantage. Well-crafted, bi-partisan legislation will be needed to pass both chambers and receive a signature by moderate Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper.

In the US Senate race, Congressman Cory Gardner defeated Senator Mark Udall by just over 2%, or around 43,000 votes. Now, Colorado will be represented in the US Senate in the coming years by Michael Bennett (D) and Cory Gardner (R). Incumbents held their seats with comfortable margins in the US Congressional races, with Diana DeGette (D) in Congressional District 1, Jared Polis (D) CD2, Scott Tipton (R) CD3, Doug Lamborn (R) CD5, Mike Coffman (R) CD6, and Ed Perlmutter (D) CD7. Weld County District Attorney Ken Buck (R) will replace Gardner in CD4, covering the eastern plains and northern Front Range areas.

In the statewide constitutional races, CO Secretary of State (Wayne Williams), Attorney General (Cynthia Coffman), and Treasurer (Walker Stapleton) all remain in Republican Hands. Additionally, Amendments 67 (Personhood) and 68 (Expanded Gaming) and Proposition 105 (GMO-Labeling) all failed, while Proposition 104 (Sunshine in School Negotiations) passed.

In the weeks following the election, Department of Agriculture Commissioner John Salazar announced his plans to retire, resigning the position he had served in since 2011. Governor Hickenlooper praised his efforts in the position,

"His commitment and dedication to the farmers, ranchers and producers across the state is unparalleled and his successes will continue to benefit the agriculture community and all of the Colorado for years to come." A transition team is currently working to interview potential replacements, and they expect to have someone in place in the coming months.

In other leadership news, the Chairs of both the state Senate and House Ag Committee's will be new in 2015, due to Representative Randy Fischer (D) Fort Collins and Senator Gail Schwartz (D) Snowmass reaching the end of their 8 year terms due to term limits. They will be replaced by Jerry Sonnenberg (R) Sterling in the Senate and Ed Vigil (D) Fort Garland, in the House. Both have been allies of CACD in the past and should provide solid leadership of these important committees of reference.

As a Producer Member of CO Ag Council, and a voting member of Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA), CACD continues to participate with those organizations to advance the mission of Colorado's Conservation Districts. CACD was represented by me and CACD's Executive Director, Sharon Pattee, at a November 25th CAWA meeting where the group provided feedback to former Ag Commissioner John Stulp and Colorado Water Conservation Board Staff, regarding the first draft of the Colorado Water Plan, due to the Governor in early December. You can learn more about the plan at <http://coloradowaterplan.com>. This plan is designed to be a working model, and we will continue to provide input as it is developed.

Sharon and I also attended CO Ag Council's end of year meeting on December 3rd, where the CAC's membership discussed a number of issues that will come up in the next legislative session, including the sunset of the Pesticide Applicators Act, potential legislation coming out of the Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force, as well as other housekeeping items for the group. CACD has also been actively following the Governor-appointed Oil and Gas Task Force, including my attendance at and monitoring of the meetings, signing on to a coalition of surface owners and Ag interests to make the voice of the private landowner heard, along with a legislative brief for new and returning legislators. This process has the potential to yield legislation in the coming months, so we continue to monitor on behalf of the Conservation Districts of Colorado.

I hope that you all have a happy and safe New Year,

Brett Moore, Lobbyist

In his fourth year representing CACD, Brett is the principle of OnTheBallot Consulting, a Denver-based political consulting and lobbying firm.

THE "100% CLUB"

A big THANK YOU to those Districts that have sent in 100% of the 2014 dues!

CACD would like to profusely thank the following Districts that have paid 100% their 2014 Annual Dues to date--you all are now a member of The 100% CLUB! *Many thanks for your commitment to CACD--we value your support as a CACD team member! We appreciate that you have placed funding your statewide Association as a priority!*

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 Douglas Creek CD
 Debeque-Plateau Valley CD
 Turkey Creek CD
 Morgan CD
 Prowers CD
 Bent CD
 Branson - Trinchera CD
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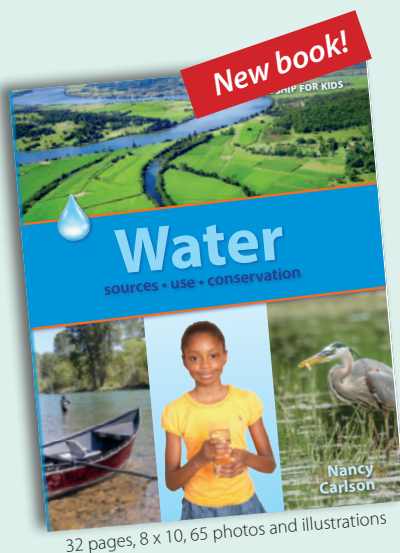
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COLORADO ENVIROTHON

SAVE THE DATE!

For the Colorado Envirothon

Who: *High School Youth Teams*

Grades 9th through 12th

When: *Saturday May 2, 2015*

Where: *To Be Determined, Stay Tuned!*

Colorado Envirothon 2015

Colorado Envirothon is a fun, academic event! Envirothon challenges high school students to think critically about the natural world and their roles in it, combining in-class curriculum and outdoor training in Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soil & Land Use, Wildlife, along with other current environmental issues.

The Colorado Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students, grades 9 - 12, in order to challenge them about the environment. The goal of Colorado Envirothon is not only to teach environmental facts and realities, but also to instill an understanding of the ecological and community factors that are involved in environmental decisions and actions.

In the field, the students are challenged to utilize critical thinking skills and work as a team. They answer written questions and conduct hands on investigations of environmental issues in five categories: Soils/ Land Use, Aquatics, Forestry, and Wildlife, along with a current environmental issue. In addition to a written test, teams also work together in a hands-on presentation that involves solving a specific natural resource concern.

Teachers and volunteer professionals guide high school students through this natural resource environmental education program that combines classroom learning

and outdoor activities exposing students to nature and study of human impacts on the natural world. CO Envirothon event provides invaluable lessons for understanding ecosystems and our environment for high school age youth.

The Colorado Envirothon program was established in 2012 by representatives of several natural resource and educational agencies and organizations throughout Colorado, including the West Greeley Conservation District, Future Farmers of America, the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, and the Colorado State Conservation Board.

For more information or to register, please contact Mark Cronquist: mark.cronquist@state.co.us
Colorado Envirothon: www.coloenvirothon.com
National Envirothon: www.envirothon.org

CAMP ROCKY 2015

What: *CACD's Summer Youth Conservation Camp*

Who: *High School Youth Ages 14 - 18*

When: *July 6th through 12th, 2015*

Where: *Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Divide, CO*

FFA Rangeland Judges Compete in La Junta

By Ben Berlinger, Society for Range Management, Youth Activities Chair

Future Farmers of America (FFA) students and their advisors from high schools across eastern Colorado arrived at Otero Junior College in La Junta on October 8, 2014. The purpose was to compete in a rangeland plant identification exercise and participate in judging the soundness of rangelands. This state-level competition attracted 98 students, representing 13 FFA Chapters, from as far away in Colorado as Merino & Peetz to the north and Hoehne & Branson to the south.



This image shows one group of students judging an Alkaline Plains site, one of two ecological sites located south of La Junta. The participating teams were Hoehne, Kim, Fowler, Prichett, Lone Star, Rocky Ford, Burlington, Arickaree, Stratton, Merino, Idalia, Peetz, and Branson.

Team awards and top scoring individuals were recognized at the awards ceremony which was held at the conclusion of the competition. The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) sponsored the individual honors while nineteen of the Conservation Districts across eastern Colorado and some local business sponsored the team plaques and provided a breakfast snack and a cafeteria lunch for the participants at Otero Junior College. The Olney- Boone, East Otero and West Otero/ Timpas Conservation Districts provided the local coordination for the activity. Nancy Aschermann, District Manager in Rocky Ford, handled the local arrangements for the three Conservation Districts in Otero County. Colorado Conservation Districts have always united to provide support for natural resources education for our youth in Colorado.

The Colorado Section of SRM individual awards were presented to Kolton Aubuchon, of Hoehne, for the high score on the combined site judging & plant identification (87% score); and to Anastasia Torres of Hoehne for second place honors with her combined score of 82% correct. Kolton Aubuchon & Mikaela Cushing of Hoehne were also recognized as the top individuals for the plant identification part of the contest. They both scored 91% correct in this exercise requiring the identification of 50 rangeland plants

and their characteristics. Kolton was presented with a \$200 check from the Colorado Section of SRM along with his plaque.

The winning high schools recognized at this year's state competition included:

Hoehne FFA Chapter, 1st Place Gold Team
Kim FFA Chapter, 2nd Place Gold Team
Fowler FFA Chapter, 3rd Place Silver Team
Prichett FFA Chapter, 4th Place Silver Team
Lone Star FFA Chapter, 5th Place Bronze Team
Rocky Ford FFA Chapter, 6th Place Bronze Team.

The FFA Rangeland judging contest is divided into two parts. The native plant identification involves the naming of rangeland plants common to eastern Colorado together with rating important plant characteristics such as life span, grazing response, and palatability for cattle. The second part of the contest takes place in the field and requires the students to judge the condition of two different rangeland sites. Here the students must determine the plant composition of each site, the range condition compared to the reference plant community, the suggested stocking rate, and range trend. Finally, based on their evaluation of the existing plant community, each student must select the appropriate management practice (or a suite of practices) that would be recommended to the land owner for improvement of the rangeland resource and livestock performance.



The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) presented the high scoring individuals with recognition for their outstanding achievement. From left to right are Mikaela Cushing from Hoehne, Kolton Aubuchon of Hoehne, and Anastasia Torres of Hoehne.

The CO Section SRM & Colorado's Conservation Districts congratulate all of the Colorado high school youth who participated in this year's SRM Rangeland Judging exercise and wish them continued success with their accomplishments to learn more about the conservation of our natural resources.

District Employees Meet At CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting

Submitted by Brenda Anderson

Members of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Employee Association met at the 2014 CACD Annual Meeting to conduct their 2014 General Business meeting, as required by the group's By-laws. Due to the fact that none of the Association's current Officers were present, the meeting was facilitated by Brenda Anderson, District Manager for the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts. There was immediate discussion by those present about the By-law changes that were said to have been made during the 2013 General Business meeting. Apparently, those changes had been retracted by the current Officers not in attendance in an email statement.

Since the By-laws state that an election of new officers shall be held during the CACD Annual Meeting on even numbered years, an election of new officers was the first order of business. There were 15 District Managers in attendance, and with 11 voting members present, a quorum was established, thus meeting the current By-law requirements. Brenda Anderson was elected as President, with Jonnalea Tortorelli

(Branson-Trinchera/Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire CD) as Vice President, and Madeline Newell (El Paso County/Central CO CD's) was elected to serve as Secretary. A Treasurer was not elected at the time. Additional volunteers were Debbie Mitchell (Fremont CD), Sharie Prow (Bookcliff/Mount Sopris/Southside CD's) and Cheryl Churchwell (Double El/Agate CD's).

There was a decision to review the current Employee Association By-laws in their entirety by a volunteer committee and the results would then be submitted to the entire membership for input sometime during 2015. No official changes would be made and voted on until the 2015 General Business meeting.

Any CO Conservation District Manager is welcomed and encouraged to engage with and provide input to the Employees Association, at any time during this upcoming year. For any membership and additional information, please contact Madeline Newell at 719-473-7104.

Center Conservation District's Small Acreage Landowners Expo

Submitted by Brenda Anderson

The Center Conservation District received grant funding from the 2014 Colorado State Conservation Board's Matching Grant program to help sponsor a Small Acreage Landowners Expo. These grant funds allow the District to provide information to small acreage landowners that is pertinent to their resource issues.

Our 2014 Expo was held on November 21st, at the Ski-Hi Complex, with 12 booths offering information on water issues, soil health, grazing management, noxious weeds, and small acreages. This year, there were four speakers that gave presentations, including: Craig Cotton, Division of Water Resources on water issues; Mark Cronquist, Colorado State Conservation

Board, on small acreage issues; Laura Archuleta, Findley Ranch, on livestock for small acreages; and Marvin Reynolds, CSU San Luis Valley Extension, on grazing management on small acreages. Each presentation was well received and concluded with a question and answer session.

If you are interested in participating in our 2015 Expo, please give Brenda Anderson, District Manager a call at: 719.754.3400 x104.

CACD wishes to thank the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Colorado State Conservation Board for their continued support in 2015!



White River Conservation District Develops Forest Health Video Spots

Submitted by Callie Hendrickson, White River CD



The White River Conservation District has developed five Forest Health video spots to air on Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting System (RMPBS). The videos emphasize the integral role active forest management plays in maintaining healthy forests. Watch your RMPBS station for these spots during November 2014 through February 2015. The videos are also available to view and share on our website at www.whiterivercd.com.

Forest Health is one of the White River Conservation District's natural resource priority issues. The videos highlight the need for forest thinning, harvesting, and controlled burns to reduce the effects of catastrophic fires and tragic floods following the fires. We recognize that many residents of rural Colorado already understand the problems with our forests and the need for active forest management. However, we see the need to reach beyond our local communities to those who may not be familiar with the problems we are currently facing. Therefore these videos not only target audiences on the Front Range of Colorado, but provide an opportunity for all Colorado residents to view them on RMPBS.

This project was possible due to a 2014 Matching Grant from the Colorado State Conservation Board.

2015 CACD Board of Directors

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Anthony Lobato - Director

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Sharon Pattee

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Email: jcarnahan@kiowaschool.org

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Vacant

Colorado State Forest Service Now Accepting Orders for Seedling Trees

Submitted by Ryan Lockwood, Colorado State Forest Service



The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting applications on a first-come, first-serve basis for more than 40 varieties of low-cost seedling trees and shrubs grown at its Fort Collins nursery. Seedlings ordered now will be distributed statewide next spring.

Coloradans who are interested in conservation goals such as creating natural windbreaks, improving wildlife

year,” Stolz said. “We have new species, more size options and good quantities to accommodate virtually any conservation need.”

The CSFS seedling tree program is designed to encourage Colorado landowners to plant seedling trees and shrubs for conservation purposes. Through a cooperative effort with Colorado State University Extension offices and county conservation districts throughout the state, approximately 5,000 Coloradans receive CSFS seedling trees each year.



habitat or reforestation properties impacted by wildfire or floods are eligible to purchase the low-cost seedlings. CSFS Nursery Manager Josh Stolz says Colorado-grown species are adaptable, hardy and ideal for a variety of conservation uses.

“We’re very excited about our inventory options this

Seedling trees have many uses and benefits, including:

- Wind/snow control to protect roadways and livestock
- Enhanced wildlife habitat and reforestation
- Increased property values
- Energy conservation through reduced utility bills
- Carbon sequestration
- Reduced soil erosion

To purchase seedling trees from the CSFS, landowners must agree to use them for conservation purposes only. There is no minimum acreage requirement.

For more information about the CSFS seedling tree program, contact a local CSFS district office, visit csfs.colostate.edu or call the CSFS Nursery at 970-491-8429.

Please Visit CACD’s Website!

CACD’s website underwent a facelift last spring and we encourage you to check it out. As always, we appreciate your feedback so that the site is as informational and accurate as possible, throughout the year. Our goal is for you to find useful information there! Please visit us at: www.coloradoacd.org

Colorado Becomes Third State to Achieve 100 Firewise Communities

Submitted by Ryan Lockwood, Colorado State Forest Service

More than 100 Colorado communities have now earned Firewise Communities/USA® recognition – an accomplishment achieved by only three states – for taking steps to reduce their wildfire risk. As of early December 2014, 106 Colorado communities have received the designation.

“Reaching the one hundred community benchmark is a major accomplishment,” said Cathy Prudhomme, the community outreach program manager for the National Fire Protection Association’s Wildland Fire Operations Division. “Until now, only two of the program’s 41 participating states have achieved that level of participation.”

The national Firewise Communities/USA recognition program is administered by the NFPA and provides a template for wildfire safety at the neighborhood level. The Colorado State Forest Service serves as the liaison between Colorado communities and the NFPA to help private landowners with wildfire mitigation and education efforts.

Under the program, communities develop an action plan that guides residential risk-reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging neighbors to become

active participants in building a safer place to live. To become a recognized Firewise Community/USA, communities must:

- Obtain a wildfire risk assessment from the state forestry agency or a local fire department.
- Form a board or committee, and create an action plan based on the assessment.
- Conduct a “Firewise Day” event at least once every year.
- Invest a minimum of \$2 per capita in local Firewise actions annually.

“Becoming a Firewise Community/USA helps communities learn about wildfire risks while working with local firefighters, forestry professionals and national researchers to reduce those risks,” said Courtney Peterson, wildfire mitigation education coordinator for the CSFS. “Neighbors build stronger bonds with each other when they rally toward a common cause.”

For more information about the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program or to view a full list of Firewise communities, go to www.firewise.org. To learn more about wildfire mitigation in Colorado, go to <http://www.csfs.colostate.edu/>.



Yuma County Conservation District Celebrates Barbara Clayburg, District Manager!

Barbara Clayburg, Yuma County Conservation District’s District Manager, was recently recognized at the organization’s 2014 Annual Meeting for her 35 years of dedicated service to the Board and landowners in the District. Her focused efforts on behalf of the District keep the Board’s activities and programs in the public eye.

During her tenure as District Manager, Barbara has been an integral part of numerous programs. She was instrumental in initiating the District’s tree planting program. She still enjoys going out with the crew to plant all of those trees! The Water Fest in her area is another program she has worked on through the years. Rangeland drought monitoring workshops, promoting cover crops, soil health initiatives, and irrigation field days are examples of some of her other recent accomplishments.

Congratulations, Barbara, for this amazing milestone!





CACD Thanks the Sponsors of Our 2014 Annual Meeting

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CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations CO's Fifth Graders!!

This Year's Theme: "Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil"

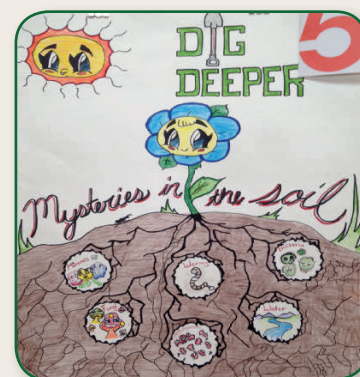
First Place: Brie Ann Valdez from Monte Vista and the Rio Grande CD
(Brie's poster to be sent on to the NACD competition!)

Second Place: Heaven Gurule from Antonito and the Conejos CD

Third Place: Talara Nittler from Kim and the Branson/Trinchera CD

Fourth Place: Jorja Wallace from Olathe and the Shavano CD

Fifth Place: Kenneth Gifford from Montrose and the Shavano CD



First Place: Brie Ann Valdez