



Colorado CONSERVATOR

Published Quarterly by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 4138, 901 Rampart Range Road, Woodland Park, CO 80866

Vol. 28 No 1
Winter 2012

In This Issue

Hutchinson Ranch Conservation
Easement page 1

New CACD Officers and Staff
page 3

CACD Award Winners
page 5

Conservationists of the Year
pages 6 & 7

Ben Delatour Scout Ranch
page 8

Watershed Workshops for
Teachers page 10

Thanks to CACD Sponsors
page 11

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 592

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 4138 901 Rampart Range Road
Woodland Park, CO 80866

Hutchinson Ranch Signs Conservation Easement

Edited by Jerry Schwien, CACD, from information provided by the Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), working in partnership with the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), lottery-funded Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and Chaffee County, has succeeded in permanently protecting a 223-acre high mountain meadow just outside of Salida.

The meadow is part of the Hutchinson Ranch, a working cattle ranch designated a "Colorado Centennial Farm". It has been in the Hutchinson Family since the 1860s before Colorado achieved statehood. The ranch, located between Salida and Poncha Springs on US Highway 50, is bordered by federal land and other private and public protected properties, includes frontage along the South Arkansas or "Little Arkansas" River and is important habitat for wildlife.

In 2003, the historic Hutchinson Ranch and homestead was listed in the top five of endangered places in Colorado by Colorado Preservation Incorporated. The Hutchinson's also previously donated their original 1860's family homestead that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to the Town of Poncha Springs.

In recent years, Chaffee County has grown in popularity as a tourist destination and location for second homes. Although property prices have stabilized, the boom years have left long-term ranchers facing land and inheritance taxes that their traditional ranching operations cannot support.

For the Hutchinson Family, that believes their working ranch is their key legacy, selling was not an option. Their solution has been to protect the property through conservation easements. Working with TPL, CCALT and their advisors, the Hutchinsons mapped out the details of a conservation easement that not only puts nearly half of the ranch under permanent protection, it also gives them the financial resources they need to continue to work the land.

"I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to work with the Hutchinsons to secure their family's legacy," says TPL Project Manager, Wade Shelton. "It's very rare to work with a family that's been in the Upper Arkansas Valley since Colorado was a territory and has played such an important role in the region's history."

Protecting the meadow completes the second phase of the conservation easement project. The Hutchinson's donated a conservation easement on 185-acres of the ranch in 2010 to CCALT. This easement was subsequently transferred by CCALT to the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas. Now, TPL and CCALT are working to secure

NRCS participated through the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.

funding for the final phase of the transaction, which is expected to close in 2013.

"NRCS is thrilled with this partnership," states Dawn Jackson, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Colorado. "The FRPP Program is designed to protect and keep productive farm and ranchlands in agricultural use for future generations."

TPL secured funding from GOCO, NRCS and Chaffee County to purchase the conservation easement and worked with CCALT to manage the transaction to ensure that the outcome would meet the needs of everyone involved – particularly the landowners.

"One of the Chaffee County Commissioners' objectives is to support our counties ranch and farm families," states Frank Holman, Chairman of the Board of Chaffee County Commissioners. "Another is to keep intact our agricultural properties and irrigation water. We are honored to be a part of the partnership that protected the 223-acre Hutchinson Ranch and water."

The Hutchinson's are cooperators with the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

CACD

President

Gary Moyer

The year 2012 is bringing many changes to the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts. I am humbled and honored to have been elected to serve as President of our Association. Leading CACD in representing the Conservation Districts of Colorado into the future is exciting. My history includes serving as a board member on the White River Conservation District for the past 5 ½ years, representing the North Platte, Yampa, White River Watershed on the CACD board since 2009, and serving as the CACD Vice President for the past year. My sincere gratitude to past President, Harley Ernst for his hard work and dedication in the past years.

CACD has elected Brian Neufeld from the Rio Grande River Watershed to serve as the new Vice President. Tom Hartnett from the San Juan Basin Watershed was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the organization. The 2012 executive board will be made up of, past President - Harley Ernst, President- Gary Moyer, Vice President- Brian Neufeld, and At large-member Tom Hartnett. I will continue as the Colorado Director to the National Association of Conservation Districts, and Bob Warner will continue to serve as Colorado's alternate director to NACD. Bob has term limited off of the CACD board, but remains on his district board. This allows him to continue to represent Colorado on the NACD board. Brian Starkebaum from the Lower South Platte Watershed will continue as the chairman of the legislative committee. Brett Moore has been contracted by CACD to provide lobbying services, replacing former lobbyist, Tracee Bentley. Tracee has accepted an offer from the Governor to serve as the Director of Policy and Legislation for the Governor's Energy Office. We are all looking forward to



working with Brett and are confident that he will represent our organization well at the Capitol.

Everyone is excited to have two new board members elected to the CACD Board. We welcome Sharon Pattee and Charlie Carnahan to the CACD board. Sharon represents the Upper Arkansas River Watershed, replacing Vern Vinson. Charlie represents the Upper South Platte River Watershed, replacing Bob Warner. I would like to thank Bob Warner and Vern Vinson for their many years of service to CACD. I would also like to thank Sharon Pattee and Charlie Carnahan for stepping up and serving on the CACD board.

CACD has also formally hired Jeanne Segars as Executive Administrator for the organization. Jeanne has been working with CACD, mostly as Financial Administrator, but has become quite active in CACD's other projects and programs and we are pleased to welcome her aboard. With the new faces and changes at CACD, it creates a challenging and exciting time for the Association. I am confident the results will be positive. As we move into the future, CACD is committed to implementing an increased focus in the following areas. First, we want to make sure that the Districts know who their CACD representative is and to utilize this relationship. We encourage you to get to know this person as he/she is your elected representative and your voice from your region to the State. Second, we are committed to focusing on the districts and will work to improve the communications between the districts and CACD. We want to develop these relationships and

Nonpoint Source Pollution in Colorado

News and Information that you can use about NPS in Colorado and the world



- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Outreach
- ✓ Handouts
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Stormwater
- ✓ Surveys
- ✓ Discussions
- ✓ Much More

This year's proposal deadline is December 15

<http://www.npscolorado.com>

npscolorado.com is supported by a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

be the voice of the districts and their landowners on natural resource concerns at the state and national levels through personal contact and utilization of new technology. Third, we will make sure that the CACD resource committee plays a more active role with the CACD board. We will work to address these resource concerns on

the state level and strive to keep everyone updated. As always, we will continue to raise the bar as a respected and professional organization in our efforts to be the districts' and landowners' voice.

Gary Moyer, CACD President



Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.



We sell seed for every project
Native Grasses, Forbs, Shrubs,
Wetland Species

- Fire Mixes
- CRP Mixes
- EQUIP Mixes
- WHIP Mixes
- Dryland Pasture Mixes
- Irrigated Pasture Mixes
- Alfalfa and Legumes

P.O. Box 100 • Greeley, CO 80632
 1-800-782-5947 • www.PawneeButtesSeed.com
info@pawneebuttesseed.com

CACD Announces 2012 Board and Staff

CACD is pleased to formally announce the 2012 Board. The new officers are Gary Moyer from the North Platte, Yampa, White Watershed is the new CACD Board President. Brian Neufeld from the Rio Grande Watershed is Vice President and Tom Hartnett from the San Juan Basin Watershed is Secretary/Treasurer. Directors on the Board include Harley Ernst of the Republican Watershed, Lanny Denham of the Gunnison-Dolores Watershed, Brian Starkebaum of the Upper South Platte Watershed and J.D. Wright of the Lower Arkansas Watershed. New Board member Directors include Sharon Pattee of the Upper Arkansas Watershed and Charlie Carnahan of the Upper South Platte Watershed. Please take the opportunity to contact your Watershed representative and invite them to your local district meetings to address your concerns.

Other new faces at CACD include Brett Moore who has been contracted provide lobbying services replacing former lobbyist, Tracee Bentley. Tracee has accepted an offer from the Governor to serve as the Director of Policy and Legislation for the Governors Energy Office. We are all looking forward to working with Brett and are confident that that he will represent our organization well at the capital. CACD has also formally hired Jeanne Segars as Executive Administrator for the organization. Jeanne has been working with CACD, mostly as Financial Administrator, but has also worked with CACD at the 2010 and 2011 Annual Meetings. CACD is moving forward with great optimism and vision for the future.



Jeanne Segars, Executive Administrator

Jeanne has been working with CACD, mostly as Financial Administrator, but has also worked with CACD at the 2010 and 2011 Annual Meetings. CACD is moving forward with great optimism and vision for the future.

CACD Seeking Volunteers and Donations

By Tom Hartnett, CACD Treasurer/Secretary

Join the team – make a difference today!

If you are interested in volunteering for a great organization and cause, please email us at:

CACD.contact.us@gmail.com
or contact Tom Hartnett [970-259-1126] or Jeanne Segars [719-686-0020] and tell us your area of interest. We are seeking volunteers with skills in the following areas:

- Grant Writing
- Fund Raising
- Advertising
- Public Relations
- Training/Facilitation
- Graphic Design
- Communications – personal and electronic
- Technology
 - SharePoint
 - List Servers
 - Microsoft Access
- Participate on a committee or working group:
 - Finance Committee
 - Technology Committee
- Event Planning and Management
- Creative Writing
- Legislative Research

CACD Annual Meeting

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts conducted its 67th Annual Meeting from November 14 -17, 2011 at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, CO.

The program director of this year's event was 2011 CACD Board of Directors Vice President, Gary Moyer. One of the primary objectives of the meeting was to provide positive direction, innovative ideas and motivational messages. With that in mind, the theme of this year's meeting was "Our Voice, Our Future – Locally Led Conservation."

The approximately 200 attendees heard informative and motivational presentations from various CACD Board of Director members, Phyllis Ann Philipps from the NRCS Colorado State Office and Gene Schmidt of the National Association of Conservation Districts during the opening session. Technical Break-out sessions included the following speakers and topics:

Jill Sump & Vince Luke, Colorado State University.....Agrabilities
Mark Cronquist, CSCB Conservation Specialist.....Small Acreage
Brendon Rockey, Rockey Farms.....Soil Health

(continued on page 9)

Conservator Via Email

Get your CONSERVATOR via email. Save paper, money, time and be happier.

If you would like to receive the CONSERVATOR via email only or via email in addition to hard copy, please email your request to: CACD.contact.us@gmail.com Tell us which alternative you are requesting: 'Email Only' or 'Both Email and Hard Copy'

Thanks much.

Tom Hartnett, Treas/Sect

Donations

CACD would like to find a storage container [ala Zircon] new or used to be used for on-site storage of supplies and event equipment. Remember – we are a Non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible. CACD.contact.us@gmail.com

CACD Auxiliary to Disband

◆ By Sally Fosha, CACD Auxiliary President



President Sally Fosha; V-P Darlene Lucore; Secretary Nancy Abbott; Treasurer-Historian Jolene Robinson and Past-President Jean Taylor.

It is with sadness that the CACD Auxiliary has decided to close its doors after 47 years. The Auxiliary formed in 1964 under the leadership of Mrs. Annie (Bill) Casselman from the Mosca-Hooper SCD. There were several districts that had their own Auxiliary and by 1970, the Colorado Auxiliary had grown to 132 members. Their first project was the promotion of Soil Stewardship Week followed by the sponsorship of the 6th grade Poster Contest.

These spouses met once a year at the annual CACD meeting. There was no membership fee; you were automatically a member of the Auxiliary if your spouse was a board member of a conservation district. The Auxiliary believed that sponsoring fund raisers like the Silent Auction and the Raffle would support and benefit the education of youth in every conservation district.

In the early 1990's, the Silent Auction began as a craft sale and then grew to be more than just crafts. The first recorded funds

from the Raffle were in 1994 with \$415 and income from the Silent Auction was recorded in 1996 with \$385. From 2006 thru 2011, these two events raised \$15,159 to support Camp Rocky, CACDE, Colorado Agriculture Foundation, Poster Contest, NACD and Beaver Creek Conservation Camp.

In 1997, a partnership between the CACD Auxiliary and the CACDE was formed in the spirit of working together in harmony to achieve their designated goals.

In the past several years, over 150 items, many of which were donated by the Auxiliary, conservation districts as well as individual parties, were sold at the Silent Auction. For the past decade, the Raffle was also co-sponsored by some of the Watershed Associations.

At the CACD Annual Meeting held in Loveland last November, a very small group of Auxiliary members attended. It was voted on by the Auxiliary members in attendance to disband the Colorado Auxiliary since the current terms for all of the

officers were completed and there were no volunteers willing to serve as officers in future years.

The Auxiliary would like to express its thanks to all who have supported the fund raising efforts over these many years.

2011 RAFFLE

The CACD Auxiliary would like to thank Mr. Lanny Denham of the Gunnison-Dolores River Watershed District for teaming up with us in donating this year's raffle item, a \$300 Gift Certificate from Home Depot.

Our lucky winner was Laura Quattrini, a Stewardship Biologist from The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in Fort Collins. Congratulations, Laura, and thank you for supporting this fund-raiser event for CACD to support Camp Rocky.



Laura Quattrini, winner of gift certificate

Rose Medina--Small Acreage Landowner of the Year

Small acreage land owner of the year Rose Medina is a fourth generation ascequia/vara strip farmer, the operation began when her great grandfather was deeded the ground in the 1800's by, Charles Beaubien. As part of his loyal work force they could chose any amount of land that Beaubien claimed, stunned by the generosity of such a gift the men chose only what they could work and employed the Vara strip farming method that is still in use today along the southern reaches of Colorado and the northern spur of what was once the New Mexico territory, and now is northern New Mexico.

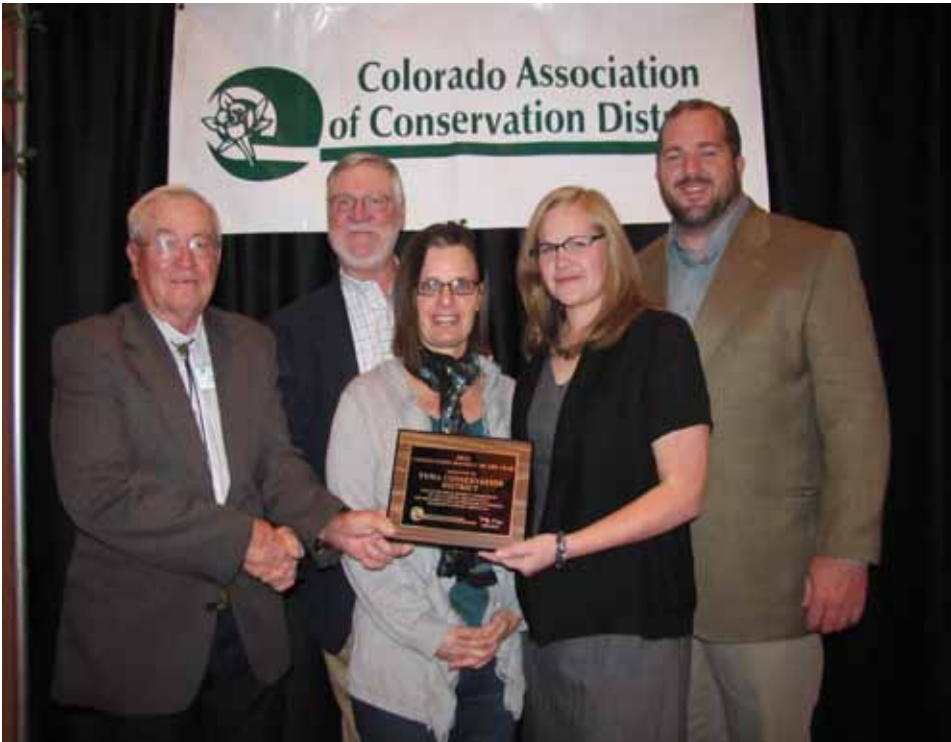
Rose got her farming ethic from her mother, Tonita and father, Del-fino. As a girl Rose would go with him as he planted, harvested and sold potatoes, cauliflower and alfalfa hay. Her charge as a girl was to handle all irrigation of the farm. She applied the traditional tarping method of changing and moving water through her land, but as Rose got older she was unable to lift and move the water laden tarps from one place to another in the ditch.

This went on until 2007, when she received a card in her mail box that told her about a new program sponsored by NRCS for small acreage land owners. The program was a product of the Costilla Conservation District and then State Conservationist, Allen Green, who lobbied for a cost share funding program for ascequia/vara strip farmers. Finally, farmers like Rose could cost share land improvements just like the larger operations around them. As Rose describes, "I went to the office with my card and I met the NRCS angels, who treated me like silk." Then 71 years old Rose was able to install fencing, 10 irrigation structures and replant her field with quality alfalfa.

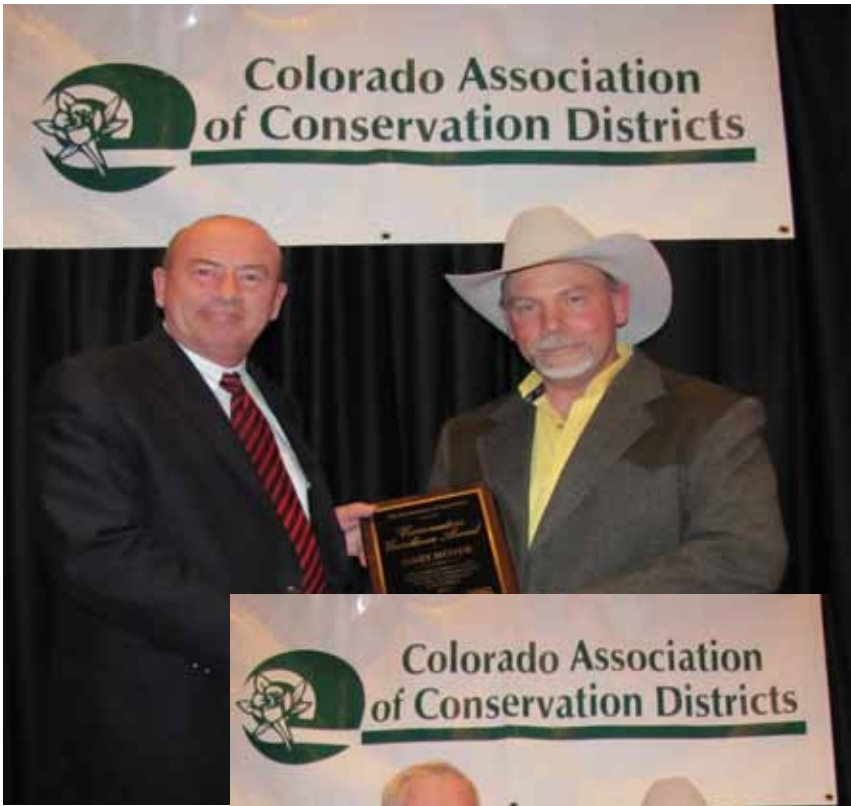
CACD is proud to honor Rose Medina with our Small Acreage Landowner of the Year Award.

CACD Award Honorees

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts honored many outstanding individuals at the CACD Annual Meeting in November. Pictured here (as space allowed) are some of the winners.



**Conservation District of the Year:
Yuma Conservation District**



Above: CACD President Gary Moyer receives the Commissioners Award from Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Miller. Gary also received the CACD Supervisor of the Year Award presented by past President Harley Ernst.



**Allen Green, Distinguished
Service Award Recipient**

**CACD’s Legislator of the Year
Awards were presented to Rep.
Jon Becker and Sen. Mary Hodge.**

**CACD also recognized the 2011
Conservation Leadership Class**



5 Conservator

Roberts Ranch--Conservation Ranch Family of the Year

Edited by Jerry Schwien, CACD, from information provided by Sharie Prow, Bookcliff Conservation District



Roberts family with Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar (left), Calvin Roberts, Mildred Roberts, and Warren Roberts and Gary Moyer, CACD President on right. The Roberts received their award at the National Western Stock Show. Photo by Mark Cronquist, CSCB.

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts is pleased to announce, the Conservation Rancher of the Year is the Roberts Family from the Bookcliff Conservation District and the Colorado River Watershed Association.

The Roberts Ranch, for 65 years, has been the early adopter of conservation technology. The families are great promoters of water conservation for irrigation and domestic use. They owned one of the first swathers in Garfield County and installed one of the first siderolls in the valley. They were convinced that that “thing” was not going to go up and down the lay of the land, but it worked and they have continued with conservation improvements every year.

They have installed three pivots with the fourth ready to install, 18 siderolls, and “big squirts” spread out around the properties.

They each have a current conservation plan and are working on conservation practices for 2011. Calvin is installing new pipelines and a sprinkler this fall. The entire ranch will now be under sprinkler systems. Warren will install another pivot on the home place to complete his system. They also are active with Bookcliff Conservation District



Warren and Carla Roberts with son and family friend.



Calvin and Kevin Roberts checking on lambs at family ranch.

programs. The district provides a small irrigation cost share program to assist landowners in projects that don't qualify for EQIP. They both have participated in that program as well as the noxious weed program.

Matriarch Mildred Roberts has always been in the ranching business, raised in Snowmass, Colorado. Elmer (deceased) was raised on a dry-land homestead in Carbondale. They met and married in 1947. After Millie's parents sold the ranch in Snowmass, Millie and Elmer came down to Silt and purchased the original ranch of 230 acres.

Over the years Elmer and Mildred added to their ranch by purchasing 720 acres where Calvin and Patricia now live. They purchased Warren's place of 130 acres. In 1963 they purchased the Buster Brown forest service lease of 5,000 acres for their 1,800 head of sheep operation. Mildred remembers that day well, the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

CACD and the Bookcliff Conservation District congratulate the Roberts families for being selected Colorado's Conservation Ranching Family of the Year.

Each year CACD honors two landowners (and families) with the Conservationist of the Year for Farming and Conservationist of the Year for Ranching awards. These individuals exemplify and demonstrate land stewardship through sound conservation and leadership in their community.



Rockey Farms--Conservation Farm Family of the Year

Edited by Jerry Schwien, CACD, from information provided by Judy Lopez, Rio Grande Watershed Education Specialist
Stock Show photo by Mark Cronquist, CSCB

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts is pleased to announce, the Conservation Farmer of the Year is Rocky Farms from the Center Conservation District and the Rio Grande Watershed Association.

A family operation since 1938, Rocky Farms has a total of 640 acres, 550 of which are under production. In 1998, Warren bought out his partner and brother Verlin; that same year Warren's oldest son Sheldon started farming with his father, followed the next year by his youngest son Brendon. Although Warren has almost retired from the farm management, he is still a partner in the operation.

They farm on a two year rotation, one year will be potatoes, and the following year will be a green manure crop. The green manure crops were added to the rotation as a replacement for the higher water consuming crop of barley.

In previous years they had only used sudan grass as their green manure crop, but this year they began using a multi-species green manure crop, which includes sudan grass, peas, common vetch, buckwheat, tillage radish, turnips, and oats. Switching to a multi-species green manure crop will have many benefits; first, it will improve the overall health of the soil, by introducing some diversity to the rotation and it will provide the biology in the soil with a complex diet when the residue is incorporated into the soil. One additional benefit of the multi-species green manure is the addition of legumes, which have the ability to add Nitrogen to the soil.

The philosophy of the farm has always been that "you need to take care of the soil before the soil can take care of you." In 1995 they took things a step further by reducing their dependency on commer-

cial fertilizers and pesticides. This change was prompted by the discovery of a product called Huma Base. It is a complex carbon source that is intended to feed the microbes in the soil. They felt that years of abusing the soil with chemicals was starting to have a long term effect on the soil, and they wanted to bring the soil back to life. At the time they were doing a potato/barley rotation, and the first two years of the new farming method did not produce the best crops, but they believed this was mostly due to the soils going through a transition. As the microbial populations came back to life they started to immobilize the available nutrient in the soil. In 1997 they started adding organic forms of nutrient back in to the soil by adding compost. The compost works as food source for the biology in the soil and also provides nutrient directly to the plant. This is when they started to really see the soil changing for the better.

The microbial populations were starting to come back into balance. One of the main differences they noticed was in the soil structure. The tilling of the soil greatly improved, the soil stopped forming a crust on the top layer, and the water infiltration rate increased, and the water holding capacity of the soil was enhanced. They have reduced water use to an average of 9" per acre of overall use, compared to the traditional 15" - 22" for a 2 year potato-grain rotation.

CACD and the Rio Grande Watershed would like to congratulate Rocky arms on their exemplary conservation practices and congratulations for being named the Colorado conservationists of the year!

Photos: Rocky Farms sign; organic soils; and students on educational field day at Rocky Farms.



Rockey Family (center) receiving Conservationist of the Year Award from Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar on left and CACD President Gary Moyer on right at National Western rodeo.



Land Conservation Agreement Preserves 3,200 Acre Scout Ranch in Larimer County

Edited by Jerry Schwien, CACD, from information provided by Ben Delatour, Scout Ranch Conservation Easement and by Ryan Lockwood, Colorado State Forest Service

In November, the Longs Peak Council of the Boy Scouts of America and The Conservation Fund announced the permanent protection of the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch, a 3,200-acre property located 40 miles northwest of Fort Collins. A conservation easement on the ranch, secured through funding administered by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), secures it as one of the last large, forested properties in the Cache la Poudre watershed and enables the property to continue to serve as an outdoor classroom for children and future forestry leaders.

The Ben Delatour Scout Ranch will continue to provide valuable programs for youth and forestry professionals.

Thanks to the dedicated support of past and current members of Congress, including Senator Mark Udall, Senator Michael Bennet and former Congresswoman Betsy Markey, \$4 million was provided for the purchase of the easement by the federal government through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Legacy Program. In Colorado, the Forest Legacy Grant Program is administered cooperatively by the U.S. Forest Service and the CSFS to support efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands in the state. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) provided an additional \$1.5 million in Colorado Lottery proceeds to complete the purchase.

“I’m proud to see the Forest Legacy Program put into practice for a worthy cause right here in Colorado,” Sen. Udall said. “By

permanently protecting an important tract of forest habitat, we can also preserve the multiple uses the community derives from it and foster the next generation of stewards for our natural resources.”

“The Ben Delatour Scout Ranch is a great example of how local communities and economies can benefit from open space and the protection of the ranch is a credit to the Forest Legacy Program,” said Senator Bennet.

The land preservation agreement between the Longs Peak Council and the CSFS forever protects the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch from the threat of development. Negotiated by The Conservation Fund in Boulder, the sale of the conservation easement allows the LPC to continue its valuable programs for youth and forestry professionals and maintain its proactive forestry management practices.

“The Colorado State Forest Service is extremely pleased to work with the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch to conserve this important property,” said Jeff Jahnke, state forester and director of the CSFS. “The CSFS and the ranch have had a long-standing working relationship that provides opportunities for students to conduct forestry work and for scouts from all over the world to see the benefits of that work firsthand.”

Established in 1958, the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch is used by boys’ and girls’ organizations for a wide variety of programs designed to develop respect for the natural environment and leadership and survival skills that children will carry with them into adulthood. The ranch serves as a training site for firefighters and emergency responders from across the state, as well as an outdoor classroom for forestry students at Colorado universities.

The proceeds from the easement

will be placed in the [Longs Peak] Council’s endowment fund as a long-term investment, ensuring that Scouting programs at the ranch will be available for future generations,” said Frank R. Ramirez, Council President.

The Forest Legacy Program has protected more than 12,000 acres in Colorado, using more than \$10 million in Forest Legacy funds matched by more than \$9 million from GOCO, landowner donations and other sources.



Getting Salinity Under Control

Edited by Jerry Schwien, CACD, from information provided by
Petra Barnes-Walker, NRCS State Public Affairs Specialist

2012 will witness one of the more significant milestones in the history of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act which was established in 1974.

As a result of high salinity levels, the Act was passed out of concern for the economic dangers to users of the Colorado River water, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Mexico.

High levels of salinity in water can reduce crop yields, limit the choice of crops that can be grown, and, at higher concentrations over long periods, can kill trees and make the land unsuitable for agricultural purposes.

Salinity increases the “hardness” of water, which can mean more soap and detergents have to be used or water softeners installed and maintained. This can also cause scaling in pipes and heaters.

In industry, high levels of dissolved salts can cause corrosion, scale, and poor steam quality and increase the need for chemicals for water treatment.

The passing of the Act provided the authorization for numerous salinity control projects in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada as well as planning studies in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Wyoming. Colorado’s projects include the Grand Valley, Lower Gunnison, McElmo, Mancos Valley, Silt, Deberque and Whitewater Units.

After a strong partnership and collaboration between NRCS, private landowners, the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado’s State Conservation Board, and numerous local Conservation Districts, 2012 will see the official closing of the NRCS portion of the Grand Valley Salinity Control Project.

To date, NRCS’ financial and technical assistance has been used to install irrigation improvements treating nearly 41,000 of the 47,600 acres in irrigated agricultural production. Improvements include the installation of pipelines, and lining of irrigation ditches and small laterals, as well as improvements to the delivery method and timing of irrigation water.

A 2010 survey of all irrigation systems in the Valley showed that 94% of all fields have some form of improved irrigation system which includes some 3,800 acres being treated without federal assistance.

As a result, not only has the Grand Valley Salinity Project reduced salt loading into the River by 147,344 tons per year (111% of the goal), per a USGA Scientific Investigations Report (2007-5288), the trend in salt loading below the Grand Valley Unit indicates a downward trend of 322,200 tons per year from 1986-2003.

The Grand Valley Salinity Control project has reduced salt loading into the river by 147,344 tons per year (111%) of the goal.

NRCS Funding Available

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 2012 funding opportunities to help meet natural resource goals are now available. NRCS encourages landowners to submit applications for enrollment into the various conservation programs they manage and administer, at any time while keeping certain significant deadline dates in mind, including:

- February 24, 2012 is the deadline for consideration for 2012 funding for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- March 30, 2012 is the deadline for consideration for 2012 funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiative as well as the Wetland Reserves Program (WRP)
- June 1, 2012 is the deadline for consideration for 2012 funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Energy, Organic, Seasonal High Tunnel, Salinity, Sage Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, and Ogallala Initiatives.

Landowners interested in receiving consideration for 2012 funding for any of the above programs and/or initiatives are highly encouraged to go the local NRCS field office located in the USDA service center that services their county as well as visit <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/> and select programs for additional information.

CACD Annual Meeting--con’t. from page 3

Sandy Cruz, Upper Arkansas Cons. Dist.....Permaculture
Ray Ledgerwood, Board Works by Ledgerwood.....District Supervisors Motivation
Amy Rodda, El Pomar Foundation.....Grant Writing / Fundraising
Mike Collins, NRCS.....Building A Successful CD Board
Jep Enck, Enck Resources.....Keynote: “Change is Inevitable, Growth is an Option”

Next year’s Annual Meeting will be held at the Vail Marriott.

Sharp Bros. Seed Co.

Not the Biggest.....Simply the Best!

50

1958-2008

Years

- Alfalfa
- Pasture Mixes
- Small Grains
- Turf Mixes

- Native Grasses
- Summer Annual Forages
- CRP Grasses
- Reclamation Mixes

Contact us for a Sharp Bros Dealer near you!

**101 East 4th Street Road
Greeley, CO 80631**

(970) 356-4710 Office
(970) 356-1267 Fax

Earning your business the old west way.....with hard work and a handshake.

Water Law in a Nutshell

Seminar sponsored by the Mount Sopris Conservation District

as presented by Mr. Aaron Clay, Attorney at Law

and former 26-year Water Referee for the Colorado Water Court, Division 4

Friday, February 17, 2012

From 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Glenwood Springs Community Center

Continuing Education Credits Available:

Realtors = 8 credits CFM = 6 credits; AICP Credits = TBA; ASLA Credits = TBA

This seminar will cover all aspects of the law related to water rights and ditch rights as applied in Colorado. Subject matter includes the appropriation, perfection, use, limitations, attributes, abandonment and enforcement of various types of water rights. Additional subject matter will include special rules for groundwater, ditch owner rights and responsibilities, mutual ditch company law, public rights in appropriated water, Federal and interstate compacts and more. Lunch will be served.

For more information call 970.945.5494 ext 105

Thanks

CACD thanks the following Colorado Conservation Districts for their payments towards the 2011 Colorado Association of Conservation annual dues. [82% of these districts paid the full \$1000 in dues.] CACD sincerely appreciates the support.

If there is a Conservation District that has not been listed below, especially if it is within your Watershed, please reach out to them and offer some encouragement and assistance. Sharing ideas and practices that have worked well for your District and community may be just what they need in order to meet their financial and land owner needs. CACD will be working with financially stressed districts during the year to see if we can assist. Hopefully, next year all districts will participate.

- ◆ Baca County CD
- ◆ Bent CD
- ◆ Big Thompson CD
- ◆ Bookcliff CD
- ◆ Boulder Valley CD
- ◆ Branson-Trinchera CD
- ◆ Burlington CD
- ◆ Centennial CD
- ◆ Center CD
- ◆ Central Colorado CD
- ◆ Cheyenne CD
- ◆ Colorado First CD
- ◆ Cope CD
- ◆ Costilla SCD
- ◆ Custer County – Divide CD
- ◆ Debeque-Plateau Valley CD
- ◆ Deer Trail CD
- ◆ Delta CD
- ◆ Dolores CD
- ◆ Double El CD
- ◆ Douglas Creek CD
- ◆ Douglas County CD
- ◆ Dove Creek CD
- ◆ Eagle CD
- ◆ East Adams CD
- ◆ East Otero CD
- ◆ El Paso County CD
- ◆ Flagler CD
- ◆ Fort Collins CD
- ◆ Fremont CD
- ◆ Haxtun CD
- ◆ High Plains CD
- ◆ Kiowa CD
- ◆ Kiowa County CD
- ◆ La Plata CD
- ◆ Lake County CD
- ◆ Longmont CD
- ◆ Mancos CD

Watershed Workshops for Teachers

Edited by Jerry Schwien, CACD, from information provided by Judy Lopez, SLV Education Specialist.

Some ideas are better than others (we have all certainly experienced these)—but ideas that are born from real life experience and a collaboration of committed partners, well, that's something special. This will be our 5th year of providing resource conservation education to K-12 teachers throughout the San Luis Valley and the state of Colorado.

Through a series of weeklong instructional field studies, we are able to offer three levels of teacher training. Level one—"Watershed to Cup"—is an introduction to a variety of watershed concepts from how a watershed works, to the difference in stream ecosystems, to the importance of water delivery methods. The workshop helps teachers study water beyond the water cycle, examining both consumptive and non-consumptive needs.

The second level, "Watershed to Sustainability", gives educa-

tors a more in-depth look at the connectedness of all resources and how important it is to work to sustain those resources. Again using the watershed approach, teachers come from the top of the alpine watershed down to the valley floor looking at all the resources and the things their managers contend with to why certain decisions are made.

The third level, "Watershed to Table", examines the role agriculture plays in the human scheme, ranging from forest agronomy to small farms to production agriculture. The workshop attendees carry out field studies about water availability, aquifer and soil health, carrying capacity, grazing, and the economics of food. Not only do educators build their background knowledge, but they learn ready-to-use techniques to get kids engaged and knowledgeable about the world around them. At each level, participants receive certification in Project Wet (Year One), Project Learning Tree (Year Two),

and Food, Land and People (Year Three), along with a host of classroom take-along books, supplies, ready-to-use curricula, and lessons. The workshop takes place on the pristine Trinchera Ranch.

The ranch provides all meals (three per day), lodging, and travel for the week-long workshop as an in-kind donation to conservation education. Upon completion of the class and the week's education project, teachers also receive three graduate credit hours, which go toward their recertification.

To date, the workshop has graduated its first set of teachers to complete all three sections of the watershed series, and the second set will graduate in 2012. We have a 97% return rate for teachers returning for the repeat years, and currently have a waiting list for those wanting to attend. To register for the workshop visit our website at www.rgwcei.org.

To Honor a Conservation Friend, Jim Isgar

CACD has joined with Other Agricultural Groups to support a Bone Marrow Registry Drive in honor of our friend, Jim Isgar. Jim was a state senator from Hesperus (6th Senate District-Democrat) who proudly represented rural Colorado and the Agriculture Industry from 2001-09. Senator Isgar was the Senate sponsor for numerous Bills to support Colorado's Conservation Districts and received a couple "CACD Legislator of the Year" Awards. Presently, Jim is the Director of the USDA Rural Development Agency in Colorado. Unfortunately, Jim is battling leukemia and will need a bone marrow transplant as part of his therapy. The good news is that his sister is a match for a family donor.



To honor the Senator, his many friends in the Agricultural industry will hold a Bone Marrow Registry Drive at the State Capital on "Colorado Ag Day" (TBA) for the Colorado Bone Marrow Program. This will add more people to the international "Be the Match" Bone Marrow Registry. All it takes is a moment to fill out the form and provide a swab of cells from the inside of the cheek. Registrants must be younger than 60 years old to participate. Donations will also be collected for those who are not able to donate.

There are many success stories to draw from as survivors of blood cancers are often able to live longer, quality lives because of this program. Please help CACD honor Jim Isgar and thank him for his many contributions to Colorado's agricultural heritage.

continued from previous page

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Mesa CD | ◆ South Pueblo County CD |
| ◆ Middle Park CD | ◆ South Side CD |
| ◆ Morgan CD | ◆ Southeast Weld CD |
| ◆ Mosca-Hooper CD | ◆ Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River CD |
| ◆ Mount Sopris CD | ◆ Teller-Park CD |
| ◆ North Park CD | ◆ Turkey Creek CD |
| ◆ Northeast Prowers CD | ◆ Upper Arkansas CD |
| ◆ Olney-Boone CD | ◆ Upper Huerfano CD |
| ◆ Pine River CD | ◆ Washington County |
| ◆ Prairie CD | ◆ West Adams CD |
| ◆ Prowers CD | ◆ West Arapahoe CD |
| ◆ Rio Grande CD | ◆ West Greeley CD |
| ◆ Routt County CD | ◆ West Otero Timpas CD |
| ◆ San Juan CD | ◆ White River CD |
| ◆ San Miguel Basin CD | ◆ Yuma CD |
| ◆ Sedgwick CD | ◆ Yuma County CD |
| ◆ Shavano CD | |



Colorado
Association of
Conservation
Districts

Sponsors

Many thanks!
2011 Annual Meeting

Diamond

Natural Resources Conservation
Service [USDA]

Platinum

Colorado State Conservation Board

Gold

Colorado Dept of Public Health &
Environment

Farm Credit Services of the Mountain Plains

Milk Creek

Southwestern Water Conservation
District

Upper Colorado Environmental Plant
Center

Warner Ranch

West Greeley Conservation District

Silver

Agri-Tech Consulting

Bank of Colorado

Center Conservation District

Penda Corp

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

White River Conservation District

Farm & Ranch Partners

- ✓ Alen Baer Agency
- ✓ Berthod Motors
- ✓ Pawnee Buttes Seed
- ✓ United Power – Brighton

Break Sponsors

- Burlington Conservation District
- Farm Credit of Southern Colorado
- Fremont Conservation District
- Grand Junction Pipe
- Harley Ernst Family
- La Plata Conservation District
- La Plata Electric
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy
- Southwest Ag
- White River Electric Association

Exhibit Donors

- ✓ Barlow Ag Sales
- ✓ Truax Company
- ✓ USDA/NASS–National Ag Statistics Survey – 300

Shared Break

- ◆ Basin Coop
- ◆ Costilla Conservation District
- ◆ Double El Conservation District
- ◆ Southwest Seed

Operational Partners

- Nein & Hart [payroll services]
- Rocky Mountain Promotions
- Waugh & Goodwin [Accounting Firm]

Please support these sponsors
throughout the coming year.
Thanks.



Rabbit Ears Native Grasses
Forbs, Shrubs & Wetland
CRP & Custom Mixtures

W-L Alfalfas
Forage First Pasture Mixtures
Forage Grasses
Grains



Call Us For The Dealer Nearest You!

Longmont, CO
877-907-3337

www.avseeds.com
rabbitears@seedsolutions.com

Denver, CO (877) 957-3337
Rocky Ford, CO (719) 254-7469
Monte Vista, CO (719) 852-3503

CACD Board of Directors

GARY MOYER –PRESIDENT

N. Platte-White-Yampa Watershed
P.O. Box 451
3313 RBC Road 33
Meeker, CO 81641
Office/Fax: (970) 878-3359
Cell: (970) 629-5136

Email: gary@whiterivertrees.com

BRIAN NEUFELD--VICE PRESIDENT

Rio Grande River Watershed
3690 Lane 10
Hooper, CO 81136
Phone: (719) 588-0550

Email: bri396@hotmail.com

TOM HARTNETT – TREAS./SEC.

San Juan Basin Watershed
254 Land Grant Lane
Hesperus, CO 81326
Phone: 970-259-1126

Email: rural_tmh@hotmail.com

CHARLIE CARNAHAN – DIRECTOR

Upper South Platte River Watershed
Kiowa, CO 80117
Phone: (303) 648-3280

Email: jcarnahan@kiowaschool.org

LANNY DENHAM - DIRECTOR

Gunnison Dolores Watershed
Address: 2070 5725 Road
Olathe, CO 81425
Phone: (970) 323-5461
(970) 209-7378

Email: patdenham@yahoo.com

HARLEY ERNST – DIRECTOR

Republican River Watershed
2860 Road QQ
Flagler, CO 80815
Phone: (970) 357-4258
Cell: (970) 554-1184

Email: jhe_farm@yahoo.com

SHARON PATTEE -- DIRECTOR

Upper Arkansas River Watershed
Fountain, CO 80817
Phone: (719) 382-0682

Email: smpattee@comcast.net

BRIAN STARKEBAUM

Lower South Platte Watershed
24949 CR17
Haxtun, CO 80731
Cell: (970) 630-5999

Phone: (970) 848-5605 office

brian-starkebaum@yumaconservation.org

MIKE WILDE -- DIRECTOR

Colorado River Watershed
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Phone: (970) 945-2747
Cell: (970) 456-3366

Email: micwilde@gmail.com

JD WRIGHT – DIRECTOR

Lower Arkansas River Watershed
15465 County Lane
Olney Springs, CO 81062
Phone: (719) 263-5449

Email: jdjoyw@gmail.com

JEANNE SEGARS--EXECUTIVE

ADMINISTRATOR (NON-VOTING)

Colorado Association of Conservation
District Office
Mailing address: P.O. Box 4138
Office location: 901 Rampart Range
Road
Woodland Park, CO 80866
Office Phone/Fax: 719-686-0020

Email: jmsegars1020@gmail.com

MARY SUE LISS – PRESIDENT

Upper South Platte Watershed
Elbert, Colorado
Phone: (719) 495-3927

Email: lissranch@yahoo.com

CAROL DUNN – VICE-PRESIDENT

Upper Arkansas River Watershed
La Veta, Colorado
Phone: (719) 742-3597

Email: carol.dunn@cad-a.com

BRENDON ROCKEY –SEC./TREAS.

Rio Grande River Watershed
Center, Colorado
Phone: (719) 754-9199

Email: bfrockey@yahoo.com

JIM (J.D.) AMICK – MEMBER

North Platte, White, Yampa
Meeker, Colorado
Phone: (970) 878-4460

Email: barybar@quik.com

VERNON LARRETTE -- MEMBER

San Juan Basin Watershed
Cahone, Colorado 81324
Phone: (970) 562-3011

MARGARET LENZ

Member at Large (Governor's App.)
Wray, Colorado 80758
Phone: (970) 854 3478

Email: lenzm@pctelcom.coop

MILTON (BUD) MEKELBURG MEMBER

Republican, Lower So. Platte
Yuma, Colorado
Phone: (970) 848-3411

Email: mgmekelburg@plains.net

LARRY SWEENEY – MEMBER

Colorado, Gunnison-Dolores
Rifle, Colorado
Phone: (970) 876-2854

Email: jdbreath@hotmail.com

HAROLD UNWIN – MEMBER

Lower Arkansas River Watershed
Pritchett, CO 81064
Phone: (719) 643-5274

Email: hpunwin@ghvalley.net

CINDY LAIR – DIRECTOR

Colorado State Conservation Board
700 Kipling, Suite 400
Lakewood, CO 80215-5894
Phone: (303) 239-4111

The Colorado Conservator

Providing Colorado with conservation news for 40 years
Jerry Schwien, Editor
(Circulation 8,000)

Printed on Recycled Paper by Signature Offset, Broomfield, CO

GOAL:

The Colorado Conservator informs residents of Colorado about natural resource conservation. Information from our sponsors will emphasize natural resources and conservation programs available to landowners.

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

PO Box 4138, 901 - Rampart Range Road

Woodland Park, CO 80866 (719) 686-0020

The Colorado Conservator is published quarterly by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) with technical and financial assistance from the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of these organizations. Email articles for publication to: jschwien@comcast.net.

Watershed Reference Directory



CACD 2011 Membership Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

AFFILIATION _____ DATE _____

AMOUNT PAID \$35.00 FORM OF PAYMENT:
CHECK# _____ CASH _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: CACD, PO BOX 4138,
WOODLAND PARK, CO 80866

Thank you for your support of the work of CACD