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## Upcoming Events

September 8

Judith Basin County Range School  
Phone: 566-2311 x 107

September 12-13

Governor's Range Tour  
Phone: 406-444-6619

September 16

[8th Annual River Fest](#)

September 18-20

[2006 Northwest Water Policy and Law Symposium](#)

September 22-24

[Climate Challenge: Strategies for Montana's Future](#)

September 26-27

[Women Stepping Forward for Ag Symposium](#)

September 28-29

[Montana Agriculture: Legal Issues Seminar](#)

September 29-October 1

[Young Ag Leaders Conference](#)

October 12-13

[Montana Section AWRA 23rd Annual Conference](#)

October 19-20

[6th Annual Montana Water Law Seminar](#)

October 27-29

[AERO Annual Meeting](#)

November 8-9

[MACD Annual Convention](#)



## President's Message

*Tom Pick, Montana SWCS Chapter President*

My motivation for doing conservation work was invigorated by attending the SWCS International Conference in Colorado. I think even the best of us get a little flat in our perspective as the wind is knocked out of our sails by time and institutional roadblocks. While the experience is fresh in my memory, I'll advocate that more Montana members take advantage of the experience. I have to say it's a unique experience to walk into the

venue and greet folks from around the country whose work and professional interests have brought us together to learn from each other. If you've been there, you know what I mean and if you haven't, I hope to give you several reasons to consider doing so in the future.

Always of interest to me, the topic of water (quantity and quality) was one of the primary themes. I learned from the thinking and experiences of many speakers during the 3-day event. Colorado, like the rest of us western states, is experiencing its own tribulations in the allocation of this precious resource. Perhaps it is further along in the search for answers or more deeply caught in the problem...I guess it depends on who you listen to. In any case, they've been at it longer than we have here in Montana. The more we learn from each other in conducting this Solomon-like exercise, the better off we'll all be, it seems.

I took the opportunity to learn about the basic capabilities of an image manipulation program called Can-Vis. This program is used to project the future appearance of land treatment practices with amazing detail and accurate perspective. A field trip up the west side of Loveland Pass along the I-80 corridor illustrated how engineers with the Colorado Department of Transportation are helping to prevent road-based sediment (and salt) from entering the stream that is the water supply for Dillon. They have made significant strides with structural and management practices to protect this critical water supply.

I also spent some time listening to one educator's thought provoking theories on a concept known as Resource Buffer Theory. I'd like to figure out a way to get him here so more of us could debate this concept and how it may apply to our work here in Montana.

Lots more wonderful and informative sessions were available. In fact, so many I couldn't get to all that I would have liked to hear. What struck me as important about this annual function is that it offers something for everyone from the carbon researcher to soil scientist to practicing soil conservationist or engineer.

When I waltzed forth from college with my sheepskin in hand some 31 years ago, my knowledge in my field of study was close to the cutting edge. I thought that I was pretty well prepared for what I was paid to do. But then, as now, it didn't take long for the pages of technology to turn faster than I could keep up while working hard to establish myself in a career. I think this paradox is true for most professions.

Without the SWCS and similar professional organizations and the opportunities provided for continuing learning, I hate to think how far behind the technological curve many of us may have fallen. I know that I would have. Our employers usually at best can only help us to meet current needs and apply the standard protocols and processes. Usually they don't have the personnel, time, and resources to develop the future knowledge critical to anticipating trends and watershed changes like those we now face in alternative energy, resource use, and land management in the west.

I'm happy to say that the Montana Chapter has always held the role of professional development and education in high regard as one of the most important roles we offer. It's one of the factors that makes our Chapter unique among many. To help us do a better job, we will be soliciting your comments in this regard in the upcoming member survey covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Please be frank, honest, and above all – heard - by responding in this effort to find what continuing education and professional development activities are needed. Help us prioritize our efforts and meet the needs of our members by taking part.

## 2006 SWCS International Conference in Keystone, CO

*Ann Fischer, Montana SWCS Chapter President-Elect*

The annual conference in Keystone was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual SWCS conference I've attended. Rather than reiterating what is available on the [national web site](#) I thought I'd give you my perspective.

There's always a twinge of trepidation and a lot of guilt for me when I attend meetings, conferences, and trainings. I don't think I was born with it. I think it has grown with me as I have been a part of the agricultural community. It comes, I think, from working with the people on the land. For most of them, there is no hour too early, too late, or too long. Therefore, any time I take away from the office to "cavort" around the country is fringed with guilt. Then, there's the tax dollars that sent me cavorting. Again, I can spend my own money quickly, easily, and without much guilt (and I do!). But this...this means I am accountable to someone else (pressure). And then, of course, I am away from my family. I *just about* wish I hadn't decided to go.

I don't want you to think I'm whining (you'll know when I do), or that I think I'm an invaluable, irreplaceable employee. I just want you to know that it is difficult for most of us to take time away from the office and family.

With that being said, I want to emphasize that it is worth it! These conferences host the latest in scientific studies, pull in speakers from all over the world, and consequently draw a crowd of people who have a desire to find new, different, and better ways to do their jobs. Being around this group of people helps fuel the passion that drives us in our careers and lives.

My experience at Keystone rewarded me with new acquaintances that hold very different positions than I, are from very different geographic locations than I, yet gave me a new perspective on things that I work with every day. I met people from all over the country, from many organizations, and very diverse work environments. It really gives you a feeling of being in touch with the rest of the world.

Before you start thinking that perhaps I was down there just to socialize, I will tell you what I thought were the largest issues discussed at the convention. The biggies: water issues in the West and farm bill speculations. Global warming was a recurring topic and, most surprising to me, carbon sequestration. I'm not sure why it surprises me, other than it seems to have quieted down considerably in the last couple years.

I found that we are fortunate to have some very valuable resources in the Montana SWCS Chapter. Dr. James Bauder was presented with the Fellow Award. This award is given to society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. It is first and foremost given for professional excellence.

The Montana Chapter received the Chapter Achievement Award as well as the Outstanding Chapter Award. Thanks goes out to every one of the members in Montana! You all made it happen.

In October 2006, SWCS is holding a workshop, "Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality, Strengthening the Science Base," in Kansas City, MO. Next year's international conference is in Tampa, Florida. Consider attending!



*Heidi Brewer accepts the Chapter Achievement Award.*



*Tom Pick accepts the Outstanding Chapter Award.*



*Dr. Bauder accepts the Fellow Award.*

## Producer Record Book Nears Completion

*Emily Guldborg, Montana SWCS Chapter Secretary*

The electronic version of a producer record book is ready for production and distribution. Within the next few days, we will be sending the CD to the printer for the production of 500 copies which will then be distributed throughout the state. We are planning to send copies of the CD to all of the Montana NRCS and FSA offices, the conservation districts, and other organizations with an interest in record keeping. The remaining copies will be available at the various conferences that the traveling display is set up at and as requested by individuals throughout the state. Links to the recordkeeping documents will also be posted on the [Montana SWCS website](#). Keep your eyes and ears open for news that the CD and website links are available. If you are a producer or know of a producer who might be interested in this project, you don't want to miss out on this handy CD!

## What's Happening Out There?

*Dick Scheetz, Montana SWCS Chapter Eastern Director and Awards Chairperson*

Is there any Conservation being applied in Montana this year? I know there are good things happening in Prairie County like long term grazing rotations, irrigation systems being improved for water conservation, and conservation tours being guided. I can nominate several individuals from my county for the Montana SWCS Conservationist of the Year award. But I think that this award and the Professional of the Year award should be presented to someone other than just the people that I work with.

As Chairman of the Montana SWCS Awards Committee, I am asking that while you are out in the field working with individuals and attending seminars or field tours, keep in mind the Montana SWCS annual awards. I know we are all swamped with field work at this time of the year. I am too, so just drop me an email with a person's name when you see someone applying conservation systems. This winter when things slow down a bit we can work on the application, but at least we won't forget someone who is very worthy.

Let the rest of the state know what good conservation is being applied in your own little corner. Nominate someone for a much deserved award recognition.

## Montana Soil Painting Kit in Development

*Tom Pick, Montana SWCS Chapter President*

After many months of discussion, the Chapter has embarked on a project to develop a Montana Soil Painting Kit for use by educators. Member Brian Kloster, Roundup, is heading up the effort and is being assisted by soil scientists, Ken Scalzone, Steve VanFossen, and Rick Bandy. The team is currently in the process of identifying appropriate soils, collecting them, and developing the descriptive materials for use in the classroom. Once collected, the soil materials will be sent to Bozeman for processing and packaging. A brochure will depict the nature of the colorful soils from around the state and provide suggestions for use in art projects. This effort is intended to provide information to students about Montana soils in a fun and creative atmosphere. More information will be provided once the packaging has been created. Products should be ready for distribution by the beginning of 2007. If you'd like to help in this effort, please contact Brian at (406) 322-1123 ext. 102.

## New Publications: Sediment Transport, Instream Flows, Streambed Monitoring

*Richard Schneider, Rocky Mountain Research Station*

The Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO. has a supply of these four water related publications available. There is NO charge for these publications. Order copies using the contact information below.

Email: [rschneider@fs.fed.us](mailto:rschneider@fs.fed.us) (include full mailing address)

Fax: (970) 498-1122, Phone: (970) 498-1392

Mail: Send your name and address in block format (as if you are addressing an envelope) to:

Publishing Services

Rocky Mountain Research Station

240 West Prospect Road

Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098 USA

1. Bunte, Kristin; Abt, Steven R. 2001. [Sampling surface and subsurface particle-size distributions in wadable gravel-and cobble-bed streams for analyses in sediment transport, hydraulics, and streambed monitoring.](#)
2. Schmidt, Larry J.; Potyondy, John P. 2004. [Quantifying channel maintenance instream flows: an approach for gravel-bed streams in the Western United States.](#)
3. King, John G.; Emmett, William W.; Whiting, Peter J.; Kenworthy, Robert P.; Barry, Jeffrey J. 2004. [Sediment transport data and related information for selected coarse-bed streams and rivers in Idaho.](#)
4. Hardy, Thomas; Palavi Panja; and Dean Mathias. 2004. [WinXSPRO, A Channel Cross Section Analyzer, User's Manual, Version 3.0.](#) (Updated software can be obtained at <http://www.stream.fs.fed.us/publications/winxspro.html>)

## Chapter Membership Committee Update

*Matt Crampton, Membership Committee Chairperson*

The chapter membership committee, with input from the board, has developed a membership work plan and questionnaire. Both the plan and questionnaire can be accessed on line at the chapter home page or contact me and I will send you a copy.

The work plan sets up goals, objectives, and some action items so as to try and be proactive in keeping membership numbers at a viable level for the chapter. The goal is to keep at least 110 active and diverse members in the chapter. There are several action items to help accomplish this task. If anyone would like to volunteer to take on a task, contact Stacy Eneboe, Tasha Gibby, or me.

The questionnaire was developed to try and gauge some of the interests of the membership and the direction the chapter should try to pursue. It is short and should not take too much time to complete. Please check it out, your input is important. As I mentioned, it can be found on the chapter home page. You can either go to "[Survey Monkey](#)" and take it on line, download the survey to your computer and fill it in and email it to me, or print it out and send it hard copy. My email address is [matt.crampton@mt.usda.gov](mailto:matt.crampton@mt.usda.gov) and my mail address is P.O. Box 189, Chinook, MT 59523. The fax number is 357-3597.

## Odds and Ends

Tasha Gibby, Newsletter Editor

There are a few things to think about -- and maybe even volunteer for.

1. There is an opportunity to join a committee that is looking into evaluating the chapter's endowment in the Montana Community Fund. This committee will develop an investment policy for the chapter as well as a long-range plan for raising the level of the endowment to the \$25,000 limit required to begin receiving income from the investment.
2. The chapter website located at <http://www.mtswcs.org> has lots of new information. You can visit the site to see the presentations from the Leadership Development Workshop at the International Conference in Keystone, Colorado; the newly developed membership plan and survey; and this is where the electronic producer record book will be posted.
3. Do you know of any opportunities for setting up the Montana SWCS Chapter display? As part of our membership plan, we would like to get more exposure at professional meetings and other conferences. If you know of any events happening where SWCS could set up a display, please contact Carla Lawrence at 406-587-6952 or [carla.lawrence@mt.usda.gov](mailto:carla.lawrence@mt.usda.gov).
4. Do you know of a potential new member? If you do, submit their name and address to Tom Pick at 406-587-6947 or [tom.pick@mt.usda.gov](mailto:tom.pick@mt.usda.gov) and they'll receive an invitation to join the chapter.
5. Remember that Matt Crampton is asking for volunteers to help recruit chapter members and provide opportunities for members to take part in chapter activities.
6. Congratulations go out to Ray Beck, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, who has been an SWCS member for 20 years!

## A Few More Photography Hints

Tasha Gibby, Newsletter Editor

Tom Pick has been kind enough to share a couple of his photos. These are good examples of two photography "rules" that anyone can use to make their photos more interesting.



This photo demonstrates the Rule of Thirds. Imagine the frame divided into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, like a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Placing your subject on one of the lines or intersections can make a photo more appealing than always centering your subject.

Could this photo be improved? If Tom's goal this day was to get an impressive photo of the windmills, he might have planned for better light. The best light is in the early morning, shortly after sunrise, or late afternoon when the sun is low. Noonday sunlight is harsh and less appealing, so if you have the option, take pictures early or late in the day. Also at these times of day, the windmills might cast interesting shadows.

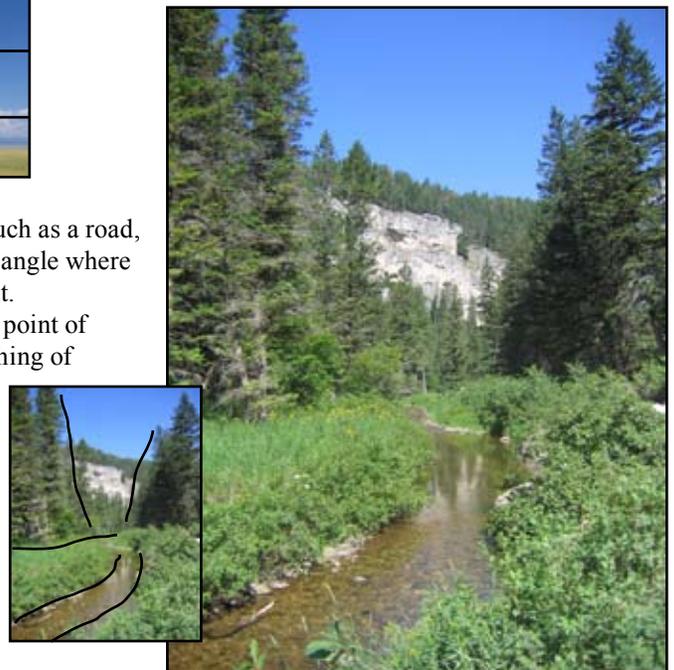


The second photo demonstrates the use of Leading Lines. Lines, such as a road, a river, or a fence, direct attention into your picture. Select a spot or an angle where major lines in the scene lead your eye toward the main center of interest.

What could have made this photo even better? How about a strong point of interest? Your eye needs a place to rest in the picture, so include something of interest—a clump of colorful flowers, a cloud in the sky, a mountain, a tree, a boat. An interesting object in the foreground such as a branch, boulder, or fence could also help to add depth to the picture.

Do you have any pictures that could beat Tom's in a contest? Do you have some that would be interesting to share with your colleagues? Submit photos for the 2007 SWCS annual photo contest to [Tasha Gibby](mailto:Tasha Gibby).

\*These tips come from the [Kodak](http://www.kodak.com) website.



To submit articles or photos to the Montana Chapter Newsletter, contact Tasha Gibby at 406-587-6971 or [tasha.gibby@mt.usda.gov](mailto:tasha.gibby@mt.usda.gov).

## Introduction to a Board Member

*Emily Guldborg, Montana SWCS Chapter Secretary*

I am currently the secretary for the Montana Chapter of the SWCS and have served in that position since 2004. I joined the society as a student in 2002. Originally from Pennsylvania, I made the move to Montana in August 2001 to attend the University of Montana. Prior to that I received my undergraduate degree from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania and worked for two years at a large law firm in Washington, D.C. I received my Master's degree in Resource Conservation from the U of M in August 2003. My husband, Kevin, and I remain true Griz fans to this day and enjoy our autumn trips to Missoula to cheer on our team!

We make our home in Brockway, Montana where my husband is a dryland farmer and rancher. I have worked as a Soil Conservation Technician out of the Jordan office of the NRCS since the summer of 2003. In my spare time, I enjoy helping my husband out with ranch chores and spending time working with the usual assortment of animals on an eastern Montana ranch. Although time does not always allow for it, gardening (experimenting with native plants!), reading, and hiking are also high on my list of favorite activities.



## Did you know...

*Tom Pick, Montana SWCS Chapter President*

August was named in honor of [Augustus](#). The month reputedly has 31 days because Augustus wanted as many days as [Julius Caesar's July](#). Augustus placed the month where it is because that is when [Cleopatra](#) died. Before Augustus renamed August in [8 BC](#), it was called [Sextilis](#) in [Latin](#), since it was the sixth month in the [Roman calendar](#) which started in [March](#).