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Upcoming Events:

Annual Technical Conference - MT Chapter SWCS - January 29-30, 2009 at the Depot, Billings, MT. The subject of this year's conference will be soil quality and sustainability .

<http://mtswcs.org>

Northern Plains Regional Technical Workshop

February 2009 Rapid City, SD

SWCS Annual Conference

July 11-15, 2009 Dearborn, MI
"Delivering Conservation Today and Tomorrow"

Call for papers - Jan 22, '09

Call for Posters - March 1, '09

<http://www.swcs.org>



President's Message

Ann Fischer, Montana SWCS Chapter President

It's been nearly two years that I've been President of MT-SWCS. As I've said many times before, it has been a tremendous learning experience and I can honestly say that I've "taken" much more than I've "given". I don't mean that in a monetary sense, of course, but in a "human development" sense.

I've had the opportunity to meet and get to know people from all over Montana and all over the United States. It has opened up networking opportunities for me as well as provided me with a myriad of learning experiences, from leadership development to technical training. As incredible as those experiences have been, they don't hold a candle to the people with whom I've worked closely over the last two, (or more accurately, *four*), years. I have been fortunate to work with an incredible core group of people on the Board of Directors and many from the general membership. I appreciate all the help, guidance and tolerance you have shown me.

One of the last projects I have worked on as President is the Annual Technical Conference. I am very pleased that we've put together a program on Soil Quality & Sustainability. It has value for a large spectrum of professionals and I think you'll find we have an impressive agenda. Soil quality is still a relatively new science with lots of learning opportunities. I look forward to seeing you there to enjoy both the program, and welcome the incoming President of MT-SWCS, Kit Sutherland.

Thank you and Happy Holidays to all!

Ann K. Fischer



Editor's Message

Thomas Bass, MT Chapter Newsletter Editor

Happy New Year! I am pleased to present to you, this final newsletter of 2008. You will find some great stories of member experiences with projects of the Civilian Conservation Corps. As we close the 75th anniversary year of the CCC, think what these projects have done for conservation and outdoor recreation. My personal experiences are all related to the great recreation on public lands afforded by the CCC and related initiatives. Appreciation of the outdoors and access to recreation should never be overlooked as the "gateway" to a personal conservation ethic. It was my upbringing in the outdoors and a family heritage in agriculture that inspired me to pursue my current career.

In addition, please review the materials and slate of candidates for our upcoming elections. Thanks to everyone, once again, for making my job as editor easy. Your contributions are always excellent and inspiring.

-TMB

Tom Pick, President-Elect, Bozeman: As a youngster, my first exposure to the mighty works of the Civilian Conservation Corps was public works like covered picnic structures and trail bridges assembled from massive hand hewn logs. That many of these structures continue to exist today all across the country is testament to the quality work that was accomplished by the men and women who designed and built them. The CCC was created during the 30s to address natural resource issues as well as to put people to work. Many of us have heard the story of how the agricultural degradation of southern Great Plains in the Dust Bowl of the dirty 30s led to the creation of several conservation movements. One of these movements later became the Soil Conservation Service, lately known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Other creations of this era still with us are the conservation district and incentive payments to farmers; all ideas sprung from the creative genius of Hugh Hammond Bennett. With the creation of the Soil Conservation Act, 150 CCC camps were assigned to Bennett to work on demonstration projects aimed at anchoring prairie soil in place with plants and improved farming techniques. Over time, about 20,000 people were sent to the southern plains to toil in this restoration work.

The popular term 'Dust Bowl' doesn't really do justice to the profound affect this natural disaster had on the American psyche. In many ways, the high plains of Colorado, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma never fully recovered, at least in the social sense. Eighty million acres in the southern plains were stripped of topsoil while people breathed the foul air through muddy sponges and watched their children perish from dust pneumonia. The period enabled the Civilian Conservation Corps and also gave us Woody Guthrie and a phalanx of writers and photographers sent out to capture this raw place and time in letters and works of art. These recorded images and words help us to remember history and hopefully avoid repeating the same mistakes. Big Hugh paced the country during this time, counseling farmers to adopt new methods to keep the land in place. As German farmers who had spent 122 years to get to Texas by way of Russia watched their farms and ranches blow away in black storms and the fleets of thistles that immigrated with them to the New World go rolling by, east coasters watched the skies darken and predicted the end of the world.

President Franklin Roosevelt held on to a vision that a forest of trees planted north to south could abate the big storms. Planted in a belt a hundred miles wide and with interior rows miles apart, FDR's "Big Idea" forest would forestall erosion, break up the wind, increase humidity, and return employment to the region. At the President's direction and against the advice of Bennett and other scientists, the CCC planted 220 million trees between Amarillo, Texas and the Canadian border. To this day, isolated groves of cottonwoods, Chinese elms and walnut trees are all that is left of the futile effort to remake the climate of the plains.

For those who would like to learn more about the painful lessons of life and suffering experienced by several towns and families who stayed in the southern plains during this period, read, "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy Egan, winner of the National Book Award for this work. The book paints a heart-wrenching and unflinching picture of the hard times and stoic attitude exhibited by those who were either too poor or too stubborn to move away.

"Grab a root and hang on", admonished one diehard newspaper editor when excoriating members of his 'Last Man's Club' to stay put in the face of daily black dusters and season after season of failed crops. Indeed, this same tenacity is why many of us today continue to remember the lessons of history and advocate for the place of science in future natural resource management policy.

CCC Housing in WY

Roger Hybner, Bridger: My first experience w/ a CCC structure occurred when I moved in October of 1986 to Sheridan, WY, to become the Supt. of the University of Wyoming Experiment Farm near WYarno. The smaller of the two residences was built by the CCC in 1933. Structurally, the two bedroom/1 bath house was in good shape and had fir wood floors and moldings, walk-in closets and horsehair plaster walls. The floors were overlaid w/ 1" wide, oak shiplap in the 1940's or 50's.

(next page...)

My only complaint was the lack of insulation as in the winter I could tell which way the wind was blowing by lighting a match in the living room! The original, coal stoker furnace was still going strong and put out plenty of heat, even though it didn't stay in the house very long. Downstairs, the basement's cement walls had large cracks in them due to the coal trains shaking the frozen ground. I remember I had to straighten my wall hangings every day. In addition, when I watered the planters out front the next summer, I had to be careful to not overdo it as if I did, water would then literally shoot out of a large crack in the basement wall like a leak out of a dam. One other memory involved putting on a pair of jeans I had laying on the dryer downstairs and taking them off even more quickly due to a wasp taking shelter in one of the pant legs. The house had new windows, steel siding and blown in insulation installed in the 1990's and is still being used as a rental. I only lived in the house a little over a year before moving into the larger residence, but it was the beginning of an almost 18 year stay at the "Funny Farm."

Note: Roger was NOT alive when these structures were built. -ed.

Blue Ridge Parkway

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a National Parkway and All-American Road in the United States, noted for its scenic beauty. It runs for 469 miles (755 km), mostly through the famous Blue Ridge, a major mountain chain that is part of the Appalachian Mountains. Land on either side of the road is maintained by the National Park Service. It is the longest, narrowest National Park in the world and is the most visited unit in the United States National Park System. In many places, the park is bordered by land protected by the United States Forest Service.



Begun during the administration of U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt, the project was originally called the "Appalachian Scenic Highway." Most construction was carried out by private contractors under federal contracts under an authorization by Harold L. Ickes in his role as federal public works administrator. Work began on September 11, 1935 near Cumberland Knob in North Carolina; construction in Virginia began the following February. On June 30, 1936, Congress formally authorized the project as the "Blue Ridge Parkway" and placed it under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Some work was carried out by various New Deal public works agencies. The Works Progress Administration did some roadway construction. Crews from the Emergency Relief Administration carried out landscape work and development of parkway recreation areas. Personnel from four **Civilian Conservation Corps** camps worked on roadside cleanup, roadside plantings, grading slopes and improving adjacent fields and forest lands. During World War II, the CCC crews were replaced by conscientious objectors in the Civilian Public Service program.

Construction of the parkway took over fifty-two years to complete, the last stretch (near the Linn Cove Viaduct) being laid around Grandfather Mountain in 1987. The Blue Ridge Parkway tunnels were constructed through the rock -- one in Virginia and twenty-five in North Carolina. Sections of the Parkway near the tunnels are often closed in winter. (Due to dripping groundwater from above, freezing temperatures, and the lack of sunshine, ice often accumulates inside these areas even when the surrounding areas are above freezing.) The highest point on the parkway (south of Waynesville, near Mount Pisgah in North Carolina) is 6047 feet or 1845 m above sea level on Richland Balsam Mountain at Milepost 431, and is often closed from November to April due to inclement weather such as snow, fog, and even freezing fog from low clouds. The parkway is carried across streams, railway ravines and cross roads by 168 bridges and six viaducts. (next page...)

- Note: source ,Wikipedia (consider with caution). I assume that a non-contentious topic would be fairly accurate to cite here. -ed.



As a child, my family vacationed throughout the area. My parents continue to recreate along the parkway, and I have made many trips back. Cycling opportunities, trout streams and hiking trails abound along the entire length. The highest point east of the Mississippi, Mount Mitchell (6684 ft.), is a short spur off the Parkway. The historic stone bridge-work shows amazing craftsmanship, while the newest section and the Linn Cove Viaduct are engineering marvels. This section is elevated and skirts the mountains with minimal footprint on the land (photo previous page). Any trip "back east" would be made better by driving a section of this National park.

-T. M. Bass

Montana Conservation Corps and CCC in Montana

Source Wikipedia, Submitted by Valerie Oksendahl, Scobey - The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to equip young people with the skills and values to be vigorous citizens who improve their communities and environment. Each year the MCC engages more than 120 corps members in service projects. Collectively, MCC crews contribute more than 90,000 volunteer hours each year. The MCC was established in 1991 by Montana's Human Resource Development Councils in Billings, Bozeman and Kalispell.

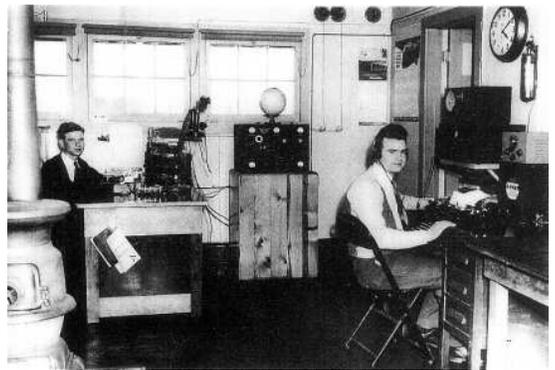


Originally, it was a summer program serving disadvantaged youth, although it has grown into an AmeriCorps-sponsored non-profit organization with six regional offices that serve Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and North and South Dakota. All regions also offer Montana YES (Youth Engaged in Service) summer programs for teenagers who are 14 to 16 years old. Home and info: <http://www.mtcorps.org>

CCC in MT: From 1933 to 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a part of the New Deal program of President Franklin Roosevelt. Originally referred to as the Emergency Conservation Work, the CCC was created by Congress for the conservation of natural resources and provide training and employment for unemployed young men. In an effort to "put Americans back to work" during the Great Depression, the CCC enrolled over 25,000 Montana men to perform a variety of conservation and reforestation projects. The buildings now occupied by the RMMH at Fort Missoula served as the training, supply and Administration building for those men as they were sent to individual camps around the state. Each year, an average of 24 different camps were operated within the Fort Missoula district. Each one of these camps were issued food, clothing, and equipment through Fort Missoula.



The Montana CCC planted trees, fought forest fires and constructed miles of trails, bridges, campgrounds and buildings. Their accomplishments also revitalized the state park system, and completed extensive work at Glacier National Park. The Daily Missoulian quoted one CCC recruit from Brooklyn NY back in 1933 of his experience: "We found a glorious country peopled with some of the most hospitable people in the World. It took a little time to become accustomed to trees instead of people. The sighing of the wind in the great trees was a sound of mystery and at first terrifying after the roar of the densely populated cities we came from... Coming out here was a great break for me. My muscles are as hard as iron and I have gained fifteen pounds in weight... we were given plenty of hard work, which, with regular meals, and rest, as a part of camp discipline, we became stronger" (Ober, 1976)



Photos provided by, and further information available at: <http://www.fortmissoula.org/exhibits/CCC/>

YOU are the BEST!

Dick Scheetz, Award Committee Chair, Terry: OK, now that I have your attention, it's time to recognize that you or someone you know is the best at applying conservation. Montana SWCS presents 2 annual awards based on nominations from the membership. The Conservation Professional of the Year award recognizes that professional person who goes the extra mile to serve our natural resources. The Conservation Steward of the Year award recognizes those individual land managers that are applying the practices and systems that we as professionals recommend.

The nomination form is very easy to fill out; I can help you. Simply tell me who you are nominating, it could be yourself, and why. It generally takes me about 10 minutes to complete the nomination that I submit. Isn't there someone you know who deserves a little extra recognition for their efforts? Let me know! Nominations for the International SWCS awards will be due in mid December. Last year Montana SWCS had no nominations for the first time in many years. Take a look at the SWCW website for the different awards categories and let's talk about getting some nominations sent in. Did you send in your nominations?

WE NEED NOMINATIONS!

Montana SWCS awards 2 college scholarships each year, valued at \$750. The long range plan is that someday, the interest from our funds in Montana Community Foundation will generate enough to pay the scholarships. But until that happens, we need to conduct an annual fundraiser to provide the money. Over the years we have sold popcorn, had live auctions, silent auctions, refreshment basket raffles and last year we sold candy bars. It seems like for most of these the Board of Directors provide the biggest share of the funds, and that's not all bad but I think we all gained 10 pounds from the candy last year, so I am asking for ideas for a fundraiser that could involve more of the membership. Maybe something as simple as each of the 80 or so members send in \$10, but that wouldn't be much fun.

I'm open for ideas. We generally try to have the fundraiser along with the annual conference, but that is not written in stone. If you have an idea give me a call, let's find a way to have fun while helping some students get through college.

MTSWCS Accepting Scholarship Applications!

\$500 and \$250 scholarships available for students pursuing courses on study to be applied in conservation. Complete details and application forms are available at the Montana Chapter website.

Contact Holly with questions: (406)994-6589 or hsessoms@montana.edu

Applications:

- Available on web site: <http://www.mtswcs.org>
- At the financial aid office
- Through SWCS contact

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by **January 15, 2009**

Applicants must include:

- Completed scholarship application with signature
- Two (2) letters of reference
- A copy of current transcript

Holly Sessoms
Montana State University
601 Leon Johnson Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717



Chapter Elections

Once again our Chapter is blessed to have an outstanding slate of candidates for the three elected positions on the Board. While this array of very qualified candidates makes our choices difficult, we are lucky in the realization that no matter the outcome, we are guaranteed that the future of the Chapter and Society will be held in good hands. New officers will be installed during the Chapter's annual membership meeting during the *Resilient Systems in a Changing Climate* Technical Conference in Billings.

Please exercise your membership voice by reviewing each candidate's bio and statement and then voting on the ballot provided!! Mail your ballot to Tom Pick. Ballots must be postmarked by **January 16, 2009**. See the ballot for details.

***** OFFICE OF PRESIDENT – ELECT *****

Thomas “Tommy” Bass - Tommy came to the MT Chapter in 2007 from Georgia where he had served as a state vice president; in 2007, he received the GA Chapter’s Honor Award for “his sustained efforts at helping agricultural producers manage animal waste in an environmentally sound manner.” He currently serves the MT Chapter as newsletter editor. Tommy’s favorite aspect of the Society is the diversity of professionals he encounters. “I appreciate a society where soil scientists, animal scientists, engineers, agronomists, environmental educators and many others come together to share good science and implement practical solutions to conservation issues”, said Tommy. He also believes quality outreach, education and technical assistance is based on efficient collaboration. SWCS is an excellent platform for such collaboration. Being raised with outdoor family activities in rural Georgia led to his interest in conservation. Tommy believes, “the future of agriculture will depend on conservation and detailed management, as more demands are placed on natural resources by an expanding and largely non-agricultural society.” Finally, Tommy says, “I would be honored to serve this very healthy chapter with a focus on expanding diversity of professional backgrounds and perspectives in membership.” He is the Livestock environment Associate Specialist for MSU Extension.

Suzanna Carrithers - Suzanna received her bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana and her master's degree in Education at MSU. She spent 3 years as an interpretive ranger in Grand Teton National Park before moving to Bozeman in 2001 to work for the MT Department of Agriculture Analytical Laboratory as a pesticide residue chemist. In 2003 she began her career with the Montana State University Extension Water Quality Program as the Water Quality Education Coordinator and a Research Associate in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. Suzanna’s Extension education focus has been in designing water quality and soil science educational materials for extension audiences, as well as develop and deliver online water quality and soil science courses for teachers and professional practitioners. Suzanna also serves as the program evaluator for the MSU Extension Water Quality Program and the USDA Northern Plain and Mountains National Water Quality Program. Outside of the office Suzanna enjoys spending time outdoors with her dogs and enjoying Montana’s fabulous landscapes. Suzanna would be honored to serve as the president elect of the Montana Soil and Water Conservation Society. Since working at MSU she has spent her career educating audiences of all ages about the importance of protecting and conserving Montana’s invaluable soil and water resources. In addition, growing up on a cattle and grain crop farm in Indiana instilled the values of hard work and dedication, as well as the drive to build a career that promotes rural agricultural values and the protection of our natural resources. If selected as president-elect of the MT Chapter of the SWCS Suzanna will utilize these values in serving the valued MT SWCS members and proudly represent and promote the chapter wherever the service will take her.

***** OFFICE of SECRETARY *****

Amy Kaiser - works as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Shelby Field Office. Her background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Soil and Water Conservation from the University of Tennessee and two and a half years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Montana. Amy has been a member of SWCS since March 2008 and would enjoy the opportunity to become MT-SWCS Secretary to help the organization achieve their future goals with soil and water conservation issues across the state. She supports professional judgment to maintain outreach and improve research for the quality of Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals, and Human resources.

Stacy Denny Eneboe - is your current MT SWCS secretary. Stacy thinks she has been the Secretary for three years. Even though Stacy is just as busy as everyone, she is still interested in obtaining the duties of the MT SWCS secretary. At the office, Stacy is the NRCS District Conservationist in the Conrad Field Office. At home, she is a wife and mother of two small girls, ages 3 and 5. That should tell you right there that (her words), “I must be crazy”. Stacy also says, “Please remember that your vote counts so mail your ballots back ASAP”.

***** OFFICE of TREASURER *****

Jane Holzer - is the Program Director of the Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA) located in Conrad, serving as agronomist on the technical field team. MSCA is a satellite program of Montana’s conservation district emphasizing saline soil and ground water investigations for individual farms and watershed-scale projects. Holzer graduated from Montana State University with degrees in Agriculture Production/Agronomy and Rural Sociology. Her focus at MSCA involves cropping systems for dryland salinity control. Jane has been involved with Soil and Water Conservation Society, and American Water Resources Association. Holzer has participated in two International Salinity Forums, in 2005 (California) and 2008 (Australia). have enjoyed serving as Treasurer and working with Stacy Eneboe as Secretary. With both of us located in Conrad, we have been able to make the financial procedures and reporting more efficient.

Additional TREASURER Candidate on back page.

***** OFFICE of TREASURER *****

Erik Suffridge - holds B.S. (Agriculture - Environmental Soil Science) and M.S. (Biology – Aquatic Ecology) degrees from Tennessee Technological University. He did post-Master's work at the University of Tennessee in Soil Science (Soil Biology). A four-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Erik has been with NRCS for eleven years serving in positions in Tennessee and Montana. Most recently Erik was a Resource Conservationist on the programs staff of the NRCS State Office in Bozeman where he specialized in CSP (2003-2005), EQIP (2003-2008), and CIG (2005-2008). Currently, Erik is the District Conservationist in the Bozeman Field Office. His most recent SWCS activities have involved serving as a manuscript reviewer for Journal and annual meeting abstracts (2005-Present). In this capacity Erik provides an anonymous review of articles assigned to him that have been submitted for publication in the SWCS' *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* or submitted as an abstract for presentation at the annual meeting.

Unlike political elections where voters are given opportunities to vote for one philosophical position or another, Society elections are about new ideas and perspectives from fresh voices in the big picture, and they are about an individual offering his or her time to make a commitment and become involved on an individual level. So, why am I willing to run for this position? I answer this question by first stating that I am willing to run for this office as an open acknowledgement that I am ready, willing, and able to devote some of my time to assisting the chapter in whatever capacity that I can. I also do not believe that one or two people should always bear the workload burden in professional or civic activities - we should all strive to participate at some level or another. Lastly, having been involved in other Societies (Soil Science Society of America, American Water Resources Association, Society for Ecological Restoration, and more) over the years I have always appreciated the fact that SWCS and it's members leave the classroom and lab for real-world applications that get the job done. I support SWCS wholeheartedly and look forward to further involvement in the chapter if selected by the members for this position or the Board for future opportunities.

Ballot attached to Newsletter Mailing

2007—2008 MT Chapter SWCS Officers

PRESIDENT: Ann Fischer - Baker, 406/778-2238 ext 109

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Kit Sutherland - Hamilton, 406/363-1444 ext 118

PAST PRESIDENT: Tom Pick - Bozeman, 406/587-6947

SECRETARY: Stacy Eneboe - Conrad, 406/278-3922 ext. 112

TREASURER: Jane Holzer - Conrad, 406/278-3071

DIRECTOR, EASTERN: Dick Scheetz - Terry, 406/635-5381 ext. 107

DIRECTOR, NORTHERN: Joyce Trevithick, Choteau, 406/466-5722 ext. 114

DIRECTOR, NORTHWESTERN: Angel Rosario, Kalispell, 406/752-4242 ext. 104

DIRECTOR, SOUTHERN: Roger Hybner, Bridger Plant Materials Cntr, 406/662-3579

DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN: Holly Sessoms, MSU Extension, 406/994-6589

REPRESENTATIVE: for Northern Plains on the Leadership Development Committee,

& WEBMASTER: Heidi Brewer - Bozeman, 406/587-6905



Please direct all submissions, comments and suggestions to: NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Thomas Bass, Montana State Extension, Animal and Range Sciences, 101 Linfield Hall—MSU, Bozeman, MT 59717 - 406/994-5733 - tmbass@montana.edu

The **mission** of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is to foster the science and art of soil, water, and related natural resource management through advocacy, professional development, and educational activities to achieve sustainability. The Montana members stand for a stewardship ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.

Your **support** can make a difference! It's individuals like you that make healthy land and clean water for life possible. If you are not already a member, please consider joining. SWCS members benefit from professional development opportunities, in-service training and quality publications. Formal recognition for good work, awards programs and fellowship are also enjoyed. For more information please visit:

www.swcs.org/en/join_swcs

OFFICIAL BALLOT
Montana Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society
2009 Election of Officers

** VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE FOR EACH POSITION **

President - Elect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Suzanna Carrithers	<input type="checkbox"/> Tommy Bass

Secretary	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stacy Denny Eneboe	<input type="checkbox"/> Amy Kaiser

Treasurer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Holzer	<input type="checkbox"/> Erik Suffridge

INSTRUCTIONS

Vote your choice for each office by placing an X over box,
Duplex (double side) print out,
tri-fold over to expose the return address on the back,
staple or tape closed,
and then mail the completed ballot
WITH YOUR FIRST CLASS STAMP ON IT
by **January 16, 2009**

No chads, please!!

**THANKS FOR EXERCISING YOUR MEMBERSHIP
BY VOTING!!**

Montana SWCS Ballot

Postage
Stamp
Here

**Tom Pick
28 Golden Trout Way
Bozeman, Montana 59715**