

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kay Joy

First I want to say it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as the President of the California Chapter. My priority for the upcoming year is going to be increasing membership. We have an opportunity to recruit new members and see if there are others whose membership has lapsed, that we can get to rejoin. This is something that we will all have to do together. I am challenging each member to contact 5 people to see if they are interested in joining/rejoining our chapter. Working together, we will be able to continue rebuilding our Chapter. I am also looking for people interested in serving on committees. If you are interested, please contact me at kljoy@prodigy.net.

I want to thank all who made our annual meeting a success. I think we had outstanding speakers that generated a lot of good discussion. It was a very good technical training session. It was also beneficial to interact with the Nevada SWCS Chapter, the California and Nevada Grazing Land Conservation Initiative Coalitions and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. We are exploring a continuing relationship with the Nevada Chapter.

I hope you are considering attending the 59th Annual International Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting to be held July 24-28, 2004 in St. Paul, MN. This year's theme is "Headwaters of Conservation." The Minnesota Chapter has done an outstanding job of putting together a great looking meeting. Last year the California Chapter had 20 representatives at the annual meeting; it would be great if we could beat that this year.

I will close with a quote that one our speakers at the annual meeting used, "If you don't take change by the hand it will take you by the throat." – Winston Churchill



Outgoing President Tom Wehri from Roseville passes the gavel to officially install Kay Joy, Sacramento, as Chapter President during the Annual Business Meeting held at the Lake Tahoe Conference in May.

KAY JOY INSTALLED AS NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENT AT LAKE TAHOE

By Walt Bunter

Former President-Elect **Kay Joy** from Sacramento advanced to California Chapter President on May 8 at the Annual Business Meeting held at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Kay is the West Region Strategic Planning Staff Leader for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service headquartered in Davis.

Former President **Tom Wehri** from Roseville now fills the Past President position and becomes Chair of the Nominations Committee. Also installed was Hank Wyman from Davis as President Elect. Installed for two-year terms were **Mike McElhiney** from Modesto, **Phil Hogan** from Sacramento, and **Jason Jackson** from Escondido as Executive Council Directors.

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CHAPTER AWARDS PRESENTED AT LAKE TAHOE CONFERENCE

by *Walt Bunter*

Sixteen individuals and three organizations were recognized with awards at the annual Chapter business meeting held on May 8 as part of the Lake Tahoe Conference. The awards program was organized by the Chapter Awards Committee led by Chair **Nancy Stein** from Martinez, **Phil Hogan** from Sacramento, and **Mark Steffek** from Alturas.

MERIT AWARDS went to three Chapter members: **Tom Wehri** from Roseville for outstanding leadership during 2003 and 2004 while serving as Chapter President; **Erik Beardsley** from Red Bluff for outstanding leadership while serving on the Chapter Executive Council from 2001 to 2004; and **Nancy Stein** for outstanding leadership while serving on the Chapter Executive Council from 1997 to 2004.

CHAPTER RECOGNITION AWARDS went to four individuals for outstanding team building for the successful 2004 Lake Tahoe Conference: Incoming Chapter President **Kay Joy** from Sacramento; California GLCI Committee and RMAC representative **Chuck Pritchard** from Paso Robles; Nevada Chapter SWCS representative **Cub Wolfe** from Minden, NV; and NRCS CA State Resource Conservationist **Diane Holcomb** from Davis.

CHAPTER RECOGNITION AWARDS also went to: **Paul Robins** from Woodland for exceptional leadership in natural resources management and programs for the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD); NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist **Stephen Jaouen** from Woodland for outstanding innovative range management techniques in northern California; Cache Creek Conservancy Executive Director **Jan Lowrey** from Woodland for outstanding technical expertise in Tamarisk and Arundo control in Yolo County; and NRCS Resource Conservationist **Mark Parson** from Davis for outstanding delivery of the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program throughout California.

Four additional **CHAPTER RECOGNITION AWARDS** went to: NRCS District Conservationist **Rich Casale** from Capitola for his tremendous assistance and vision to the Santa Cruz RCD Integrated Watershed Restoration Program; California GLCI Committee member **Chuck Pritchard** from Paso Robles for his outstanding leadership of the California Grazing Lands Coalition; **Santa Cruz County RCD** for their



leadership and development of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program; and the **Yolo County RCD** for their development and implementation of a water quality monitoring and management program in the Lower Union School Slough Watershed.

OUTSTANDING NEWS MEDIA AWARDS went to: **Stuart Leavenworth** from The Sacramento Bee for excellence in reporting natural resource concerns within the

Sacramento River Watershed; NRCS Public Affairs Specialist **Paul Laustsen** from Riverside for his work as Editor of the official California Chapter SWCS newsletter "Runoff"; and to **Walt Bunter** from Davis for his work as Publisher of the California Chapter SWCS newsletter "Runoff".

The **CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARD**

went to the Walnut Creek based Lifegarden publication "**Gardens for Life**" for their outstanding public outreach program in ecological environmental education.



Again this year, the CA Chapter had a tabletop display of SWCS and Chapter materials that promote our mission through our members to create opportunities for improving soil and water conservation in California.

LAKE TAHOE CONFERENCE PROVIDED EXCELLENT PROGRAM

By Walt Bunter

Our California Chapter cosponsored the May 6-8 "Creating a Vision for Managing Grazing Landscapes in Transition" Conference held at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in Stateline, NV. Other cosponsors were the Nevada SWCS Chapter, California and Nevada Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Committees and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD). The conference featured 14 excellent speakers and a Friday afternoon field tour of Washoe Indian Tribal Lands in the Carson Valley featuring "Resource Management at its Best".

Participants were welcomed Thursday afternoon by California Chapter SWCS President **Tom Wehri** from Roseville; Nevada SWCS Chapter representative **Cub Wolfe** from Minden, NV; CARCD Executive Director **Hank Wyman** from Davis; USDA-NRCS CA State Conservationist **Chuck Bell** from Davis, and USDA-NRCS Nevada State Public Affairs Director **Liz Warner** from Reno, NV.

Keynote speaker was **Dr. Barry Perryman** from the University of Nevada-Reno addressing the "Historical Evolution of Grazing Landscapes".

First day speakers addressing the theme of "Historical Perspective of Grazing Landscapes" were **Dr. James Young** from the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Reno who reviewed the "Advent of Ranching" and **George Gruell** from Carson City, NV who presented "A Photographic Interpretation of Ecological Change Since 1849 Due to Fire in the Sierra Nevada Forests".

The first panel on Friday morning dealt with "Challenges Facing Grazing Landscapes Today" and included Pyramid Lake Piute Tribe Environmental Director **Gerry Emm** from Nixon, NV addressing "Vegetation Management" and USDA-NRCS High Sierra RC&D Coordinator **Daniel Macon** from Auburn discussing "Grazing Economics".

The second panel Friday morning concentrated on "Opportunities for Grazing Landscapes in the Future" and included CA Rangeland Trust representative **Devere Dressler** from Gardnerville, NV explaining "Conservation Easements"; Western Ranchers Beef CEO **Carolyn Carey** from Alturas presenting "Marketing Opportunities for Grass Fed Livestock"; and Work Family Ranch owners **Elaine and George Work** from San Miguel describing their experience with "Agrotourism".

The Friday afternoon field tour arranged by USDA-

NRCS Nevada American Indian Tribal Liaison Cub Wolfe from Minden, NV took 36 participants over Daggett Summit and down into the Carson Valley to the Washoe Indian Tribal Lands ranch managed by **Russell McDonald** from Gardnerville, NV. The cow-calf operation has mostly Black Angus and water is from springs protected by wildlife friendly fencing. Water developments at strategic locations have been used to improve grazing uniformity. Washoe Tribe Environmental Specialist **Dan Greytak** from Gardnerville led the group to the banks of the uncontrolled Carson River and explained the alternative streambank protection practices of Juniper brush mats and willow cuttings the Tribe has used in lieu of placing expensive rock rip-rap on the banks. USDA-NRCS RC&D Coordinator **Dan Kaffer** from Carson City, NV briefed the group on the 1997 flood and the subsequent public support and widespread participation in "Conserve the Carson River Workdays". The tour concluded with a Basque dinner at J.T.'s Basque Restaurant in Gardnerville and a pep talk by CA GLCI Committee member **George Work** from San Miguel on "Dealing with Transitions".

Total attendance was 58 including 23 California Chapter members. One participant was from Arizona, 17 were from Nevada, and 40 were from California.



Dan Greytak explains alternative streambank protection practices use on the Carson River including use of Juniper brush mats and willow cuttings.

Submit articles for next
RunOff by
September 17!

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

We extend a **GREAT BIG WELCOME** to the following five individuals who recently joined or rejoined the SWCS and our California Chapter or transferred from another state chapter. Chapter membership is now at 212.

Capitol Section

David Smith - Roseville
James Tillman - Davis
Hank Wyman - Davis

San Francisco Bay Section

Dan Larsen - Kelseyville

Kern Section

Daniel Meyer - Bakersfield

Thank you California Chapter Members

by Walt Bunter

For your contributions toward producing our training conference and annual business meeting at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Coordination: **Kay Joy**

Partnership and Speakers Committee:

Kay Joy and Diane Holcomb

Registration: **Pat Grover, Marija and Walt Bunter**

Logistics Support: **Cub Wolfe - Nevada SWCS**

Awards Committee: **Nancy Stein, Phil Hogan**

and **Mark Steffek**

Speakers: **Chuck Bell, Tom Wehri,**
and **Hank Wyman**

Moderators:
Colleen Schneider
and **Pat Grover**

Special thanks to supporter **Tom Share** for designing and printing the posters.



Chapter Secretary Pat Grover from Davis was the official hostess registering participants to the Lake Tahoe Conference held at Harrah's Casino.

SWCS 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE AT ST. PAUL, MN IN JULY

by Walt Bunter

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) conference will be held this July 24 - 28 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota. This SWCS conference is where the science meets the practice of environmental management.

Here's part of what the conference will offer:

Information on a new program that brings together NRCS and ARS to quantify the environmental benefits of conservation practices implemented under the 2002 Farm Bill. In a nutshell, assessing the effects of your work for policy makers. The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is featured in two symposia. Results will be announced from the 2003 CEAP farmer survey, such as EPIC/APEX results on soil loss, nutrient loss, and soil quality, and give plans for estimating instream concentrations of sediment and nutrients associated with agricultural activities using HUMUS.

Check the international SWCS website for more details: www.swcs.org

BYLAWS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS USE OF REGIONAL SUBDIVISIONS OVER SECTIONS

by Walt Bunter

Outgoing President **Tom Wehri** from Roseville presented the Chapter Bylaws Committee report during the Annual Business Meeting on May 8 at the Lake Tahoe Conference. The report was a complete revision of the California Chapter Bylaws that would eliminate the use of subdivisions we now call Sections based on the fact that there are no active Sections. Proposed Article VIII would authorize regional subdivisions to be known as "Partners" upon written petition of at least five members.

There was additional discussion of merging with the Nevada Chapter and a subcommittee was formed to explore this and submit comments by August 1. The next draft would be submitted to members for review and comments with adoption by the end of the year.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

by David Rose, District Conservationist, Willows, CA

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "conservationist" as: "one who advocates conservation, especially of natural resources." The definition of "conservation" is: "a careful preservation and protection of something; especially planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect." The Soil and Water Conservation Society fosters the science and the art of soil, water and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment.

The society is an excellent forum to enhance the professional capabilities of members. Society sponsored events, seminars, conferences and meetings allow exposure to technology advancements, updates on current political trends, and the opportunity to share experiences with other professionals. Much is learned just by having the opportunity to network.

With these advantages one has to ask; why isn't every professional conservationist a member of SWCS? Good question! Remember back when you joined the society, were you asked to join by an existing member, or did you just discover SWCS on your own? My guess is that most of us discovered SWCS on our own. We have a wonderful story of being advocates for natural resources. We should all be proud of our organization, what it stands for, the universal appeal of our message.

If asked, I would venture to guess that every member would say that they are proud to be a member of SWCS. Proud of the work we all do every day. My question is this: have you asked someone to join us? If we are such a great organization, which we are, what have you done to enhance our membership? The professional conservationist is the obvious member, but we should broaden our membership. This society has a solid appeal to anyone who cares about our natural resources. What about the local attorney who cares about clean water, the local teacher who is concerned about air quality, the local grocer who wonders about all the cardboard his business generates? Our society could benefit by contact with other concerned citizens, and they might like to join us.

We are advocates for natural resources and the wise use them. Many others share our passion and concerns, let's do what we can to share what we know and learn from them too. So, what have you done to promote the cause of conservation?

CHAPTER ELECTION WINNERS

Hank Wyman of Davis is our new President Elect as a result of the March-April mail balloting for new Chapter officers.

Mike McElhiney of Modesto will join the Executive Council for a two-year term as a Director. **Phil Hogan** from Sacramento and **Jason Jackson** from Escondido were re-elected to serve two more years as Executive Council Directors.

A total of 97 mail ballots were received including 9 without names on the envelopes but those votes did not change the winners. Here are the official election results:

President Elect - VOTE FOR ONE

44	David Rose - Willows
53	Hank Wyman - Davis

Executive Council Director - VOTE FOR THREE

56	Eric Berntsen - Placerville
72	Phil Hogan - Sacramento
70	Jason Jackson - Escondido
72	Michael McElhiney - Modesto

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE YOUR RUNOFF NEWSLETTER IN COLOR VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive the RUNOFF in color via email, please send a message to Walt Bunter <wbunter@pacbell.net> or to Paul Laustsen <paul.laustsen@ca.usda.gov> Twenty-three members have now signed-up including nine who signed-up at our annual business meeting during the Lake Tahoe Conference. Our Chapter can reduce its publication and mailing costs by delivering the RUNOFF electronically.



Participants at the Lake Tahoe Conference “Creating a Vision for Managing Grazing Landscapes in Transition”.



Outgoing President Tom Wehri observing the GLCI exhibit at the Lake Tahoe Conference.



The Friday field tour took participants over Daggett Pass and down into the Carson Valley near Minden and Gardnerville, NV.



Friday field tour to the Washoe Indian rangelands featured their cow-calf operation.



Thirty-six people participated in the Friday field tour.



Dan Greytak, specialist with the Washoe Indian Environmental Protection Group, presents an overview of ranch operations on the Washoe Indian rangeland to participants on the Friday field tour.



Black Angus is the predominant breed used in their cow-calf operation.



Chapter Past President Erik Beardsley (right) from Red Bluff and Chapter Executive Council Director Mark Steffek from Alturas discuss the bank protection work done by the Washoe Indian Tribe on the Carson River.



Field tour participants learn about the 1997 Carson River flood near Gardnerville and public support and participation in the "Conserve the Carson River Workdays" from NRCS RC&D Coordinator Dan Kafer from Carson City, NV.



The field tour concluded with a dinner at J.T.'s Basque Restaurant in Gardnerville and a presentation on "Dealing with Transitions" by GLCI Committee member George Work from San Miguel, CA.

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FIRST CLASS

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004

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All articles by Walt Bunter, except where noted. Please submit articles via email to the Editor. RUNOFF reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Tom Wehri, Past-President
Hank Wyman, President-Elect
Walt Bunter, Treasurer
Pat Grover, Secretary
Michael McElhiney, Director
Phil Hogan, Director
Jason Jackson, Director
Katie Banister, Director
Mark Steffek, Director
Ben Marshall, Student Representative

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.caswcs.org

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES AND PICTURES
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO PAUL LAUSTSEN BY
SEPTEMBER 17