



**10<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
CONFERENCE

# **NEW AGRARIANS**

**HOW THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS TACKLE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHALLENGES**

**NOVEMBER 8-10, 2011**

ALBUQUERQUE,  
NEW MEXICO

**QUIVIRA**  **COALITION**

*Cover artwork by LoaTree ([www.loatree.com](http://www.loatree.com))*

**NEW AGRARIANS**

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We also thank Beezhan Tulu for creating the conference promotional video.

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During the banquet dinner, visit with friends while enjoying a delicious, local meal.

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# An Essay from Courtney White and Avery C. Anderson

**S**ustainability. Adaptation. Mitigation. Local. Grassfed. Resilience.

These words, so much in the news today across the globe, barely registered on people's radar 15 years ago. For example, when we founded the Quivira Coalition in 1997, we were focused on peace-making, collaboration, land health, and good stewardship. Issues such as climate change, local food production, grassfed meat and other modern concerns were rarely discussed, if at all. That's not the case anymore. Soon, these words will require a new conservation paradigm, one that combines the ecological, the economic, and the social.

Fortunately, one is emerging, and it has a name: "a new agrarianism."

What is this new agrarianism? Here is Wendell Berry's definition: "There is another way to live and think: it's called agrarianism. It is not so much a philosophy as a practice, an attitude, a loyalty and a passion — all based in close connection with the land. It results in a sound local economy in which producers and consumers are neighbors and in which nature herself becomes the standard for work and production."

Across America, there is a resurgent interest in local, family-scale, sustainable food, fiber and fuel production. It began slowly, but has gathered speed recently. Local food is the focus and key to this new movement, but it's more than just food systems. New agrarians have a vision of resilient food production from farms and ranches that are managed for land health, biodiversity and human well-being. It means working to sequester carbon in soils, improving water quality and quantity, restoring native plant and animal populations, fixing degraded creeks, developing local energy sources, and replenishing the land for people and nature alike. It is a vision of coexistence, resilience, and stewardship — a place for people in nature, not outside it.

This new agrarian movement is being led by young, energetic, and passionate people — as every movement before it has been. The difference, however, is that today's new agrarians can stand on the shoulders of their predecessors and thus see



farther. Fortunately, the toolbox at their disposal is full of ideas and practices that have been tried and tested in the field already. And, undoubtedly they will innovate new ones to go along with what we know already works.

## **But who are these new agrarians?**

In the U.S. today, for every farmer under 35 years, there are six over 65, and the average age is 57. In 2007, there were only 118,613 farmers under the age of 36 — only 6% of the 2 million farmers nationwide (down from 6 million farmers in 1910). The National Young Farmers' Coalition (NYFC) reports that between now and the year 2030, half a million (one-quarter) of American farmers will retire. Unless we plan to stop eating, these facts give urgency to mentoring, training and creating policies that help young people get a start on a farm or ranch.

## **Where do new agrarians come from and what motivates them?**

New agrarians come from communities across America, urban as well as rural, and are motivated to take care of the planet and feed their neighbors. In contrast to the back-to-the-land movement of their parents' generation, they are tech-savvy, business-minded, well-educated and highly collaborative.

*continued page 4*

They are also quite aware of the challenges they face, including that of climate change. Many do not come from agricultural backgrounds, but instead entered agriculture because of an interest in local foods, environmental values, renewable energy, a desire to be physically active outdoors or an interest in exploring new economic models.

**What works and what are the biggest obstacles ahead?**

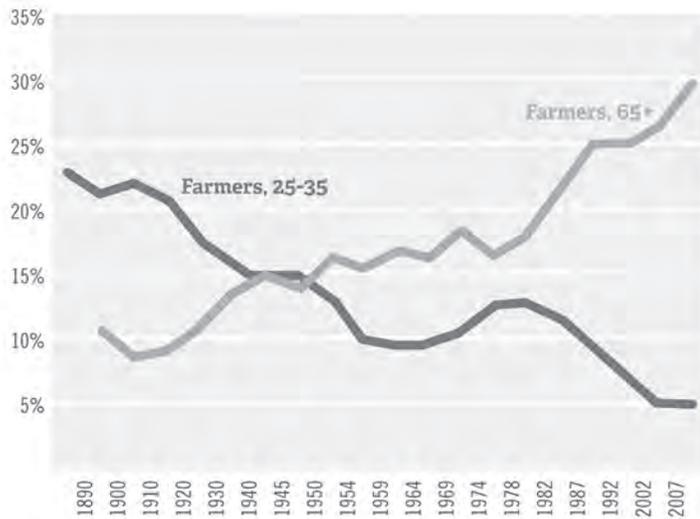
A national survey conducted by the NYFC identified five programs/institutions that are successfully serving the needs of new agrarians: apprenticeship programs, local (community-scale) partnerships, the community supported agriculture (CSA) model, land-link programs that connect landowners with young people, and diverse educational/training programs. On the flip side, the five biggest obstacles standing in the way of new agrarians are lack of access to: start-up capital, land, health care, credit and marketing/business planning skills.

New agrarians need our support. In the words of

young farmer Severine von Tscharnher Fleming: “The need is urgent, and the message is clear—America needs more new agrarians and more new agrarians want a piece of America. We know it will take millions of these rough and ready protagonists of place to care for our ecosystems and serve our country healthy food, but we are equally confident we have the skill sets and perseverance to tackle the challenges ahead.”

*Courtney Amy C. Ash*

PERCENTAGE OF FARMERS OVER 65 AND BETWEEN THE AGES OF 25-35, 1890-2007 (USDA)



Demographic trends suggest that the farming population will continue to decrease: since 1950, the average age of principal farm operators has gone up, while the number of young farmers has steadily fallen. In 2007, there were only 118,613 U.S. farmers under the age of 36, just 13 percent of the 956,318 young people that operated farms in 1950.<sup>7,8</sup>

**National Young Farmers’ Coalition - 2011 Policy Platform**

**Citations:**

Alan L. Olmstead and Paul W. Rhode, Farm Operators by age: 1890-1997, Table Da501-512 in Historical Statistics of the United States, Earliest Times to the Present: Millennial Edition, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), <http://hsus.cambridge.org/HSUSWeb/search/searchTable.do?id=Da501-512> (accessed May 2011).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Census of Agriculture: Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Operation, 1978, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007), [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Data\\_and\\_Statistics/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Data_and_Statistics/index.asp) (accessed May 2011).

## History/Future



**F**ounded in 1997 by two conservationists and a rancher, the Quivira Coalition is a nonprofit organization, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, dedicated to building economic and ecological resilience in western working landscapes.

We do so through four broad initiatives: 1) improving land health; 2) sharing knowledge and innovation; 3) building local capacity; and 4) strengthening diverse relationships.

Specifically, our projects include: an annual conference, a ranch apprenticeship program, a long-running riparian restoration effort in northern New Mexico on behalf of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, a capacity-building collaboration with the Ojo Encino Chapter of the Navajo Nation, various outreach activities, and the promotion of the idea of a carbon ranch, which aims to mitigate climate change through food and land stewardship.

Background: In 1997, our goal was to expand an emerging radical center among ranchers, conservationists, scientists and public land managers by focusing on progressive cattle management, collaboration, riparian and upland restoration, and improved land health. Our original mission was “to demonstrate that ecologically sensitive ranch management and economically robust ranches can be compatible.”

We called this approach The New Ranch and described it as a movement that “operates on the principle that the natural processes that sustain wildlife habitat, biological diversity and functioning watersheds are the same processes that make land productive for livestock.” The principles of The New Ranch were disseminated through workshops, lectures, publications, grants, consultations, collaborative land and water demonstration projects, a journal, the New Ranch Network, a small loan program, and an annual conference.

From 1997 to present, at least 1 million acres of rangeland, 25 linear miles of riparian drainages and 12,000 people have directly benefited from Quivira Coalition’s collaborative efforts. We have organized over 100 educational events on topics as diverse as drought management, riparian restoration, harvesting water from ranch roads, conservation easements, reading the landscape, monitoring, water

harvesting, low-stress livestock handling, grass-banks and grassfed beef. We have published numerous newsletters, journals, bulletins, field guides and books, including a rangeland health monitoring protocol and a 258-page manual on riparian restoration titled *Let the Water Do the Work*. And lastly, we managed the innovative Valle Grande Grassbank, located near Santa Fe, eventually becoming producers of local, grassfed beef ourselves.

But most importantly, Quivira has lit sparks across the West that grew over time into small bonfires of change. Through our work, we’ve convinced ranchers to adopt conservation practices, environmentalists to value ranching, agencies to be more open to innovations, scientists to get more involved and the public to support all of the above.

Despite our success, the world kept changing — which meant we needed to keep changing too. Although no one knows precisely what the decades ahead will bring, there are enough indicators of change to say with confidence that the 21st century has inaugurated a new era. Whether the concern is climate change, peak oil, ecosystem service decline, overpopulation, species extinction, or food and water shortages, the challenges ahead are daunting and varied.

We believe that one response to these multiple challenges is to increase ecological and economic resilience of communities and landscapes. The dictionary defines “resilience” as “the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” In ecology, it refers to the capacity of plant and animal populations to handle disruption and degradation caused by fire, flood, drought, insect infestation or other disturbance. Resilience also describes a community’s ability to adjust to change, such as shifting economic conditions, or a steady rise in temperatures.

In 2005, the United Nations published its *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, a global evaluation of ecosystem services on which human well-being and environmental health depend. These

education,  
innovation,  
restoration —  
one acre  
at a time

services include the provision of food, fresh water, wood, fiber, fuel, and biodiversity; climate, flood, pest and disease regulation; nutrient cycling, soil stability, biotic integrity, watershed function, and photosynthesis; and spiritual, educational, recreational, and aesthetic experiences. According to the Assessment, nearly all of these services are in gradual or steep decline.

To help address these issues, in the fall of 2007 the Quivira Coalition Board adopted a new mission statement: *to build resilience by fostering ecological, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.*

We implement our mission through the following projects:

**Outreach.** From its inception, the Quivira Coalition has engaged in a variety of educational outreach activities, including conferences, a publications program, workshops, websites and public speaking engagements.

**Annual Conference.** This upbeat event, which regularly draws over 500 people—a third of whom are ranchers—has become a successful forum for a ‘radical center’ of ranchers, conservationists, public land managers and members of the public. Themes have included: *Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide, Innovation and the Next Generation, and Building Resilience.* Speakers have included: Wendell Berry, David Kline, Bill deBuys, Patty Limerick, Richard Louv, Deborah Madison, Jonah Western and many others. The theme of our 2010 Conference was *The Carbon Ranch: Using Food and Stewardship to Build Soil and Fight Climate Change.*

**Conservation and Ranch Leadership and Youth (CARLY).** Our food system is at a crossroads. Enthusiastic young farmers and ranchers are ready to take part in the sustainable food movement, but how will they receive the mentorship they need? The CARLY Apprentice Program has responded to this challenge by creating a comprehensive leadership-training program for new agrarians—the only one of its kind in the West. Since 2008, apprentices have been trained and graduated in fields that include sustainable ranching, grass-based dairy and artisan cheesemaking, and locally-sourced fiber production. CARLY apprentices represent the essence of “agrarian” and the hope for the future of the sustainable agriculture movement. **By the beginning of 2012, the CARLY program will have graduated seven new agrarians.**

**Tribal Partnerships.** Since 2005, the Quivira Coalition has been collaborating with the Ojo Encino Chapter of the Navajo Nation to rebuild resilience in both the biological and cultural environments of the Navajo Nation. What started as a focused effort to develop grazing plans for severely degraded rangelands has since blossomed into a holistic effort to restore iconic features of the landscape, manage a feral horse population, manage erosion, reengage youth, learn from elders, grow a local food system and build capacity in a Navajo-run nonprofit called Hasbídító. Our ultimate goal is to empower Hasbídító and the Ojo Encino Ranchers’ Committee as they work to create a bio-cultural landscape that will be resilient in the face of climate change.

**Comanche Creek.** Since 2001, we have directed an innovative, collaborative restoration effort in the Comanche Creek watershed of the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest. Our goal is to improve the chances of survival for the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, New Mexico’s state fish. Comanche Creek is typical of many areas that have experienced adverse human impacts historically, including poor timber management, overgrazing by livestock, and mineral extraction. Today, the few remaining populations of Rio Grande cutthroats face a significant new challenge: global warming, which includes a likely reduction in the abundance of clear, cold water that the trout require for survival. To build resilience for the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Quivira, with key partners, is working to expand the current habitat restoration work from selected segments of Comanche Creek to its entire 27,000-acre watershed.

**Red Canyon Reserve.** RCR is a 320-acre property south of Socorro, New Mexico, willed to the Quivira Coalition in 2002 by Mike Belshaw. The Reserve has become a successful demonstration of how to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of small land parcels. Members of the Quivira Coalition Board and the Red Canyon Reserve Conservation Team provide oversight of management goals and objectives including wildlife habitat improvement, upland and riparian restoration, reserve road improvements, infrastructure maintenance, ecological surveys, land health and production monitoring and project development.

### **New in 2012... Courtney's Sabbatical**

The Board and Staff of the Quivira Coalition are pleased to announce that starting February 1, 2012, Courtney will be taking an eight-month sabbatical from his role as Executive Director, principally to research and write a book based on last year's Annual Conference, titled *The Carbon Puzzle: Reassembling Land and Livelihoods in the 21st Century*. It is part of the Carbon Ranch Project, which Courtney is directing. The mission of the project is to explore and share climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in soils and plants, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and produce co-benefits that build ecological and economic resilience in local landscapes. In addition to writing the book, Courtney will be working on a new website ([www.carbonranching.org](http://www.carbonranching.org)) and continuing his outreach activities. This is timely and important work and Courtney would like to thank Staff and Board for granting him this opportunity, as well as the Compton, Lydia B. Stokes, and New Cycle Foundations, among others, for supporting the Carbon Ranch Project.

During Courtney's absence, Avery C. Anderson (currently Quivira's Capacity Building and Mentorship Program Director) will become Acting Executive Director of the Quivira Coalition. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for Avery and we know that she'll do a fantastic job!

### **In other exciting 2012 news...**

1) We are anticipating an Organizational Effectiveness grant from the The David and Lucile Packard Foundation that will enable Staff and Board to begin a comprehensive **strategic planning** process for Quivira's future. We're not changing our mission but we need to be realistic about the financial, political, social, and even planetary challenges for all nonprofits coming down the road in the next decade. Some of these challenges will also be opportunities—and we are committed to re-analyzing our strengths and weaknesses at a critical moment in our history and then developing a strategic plan that builds resilience for the organization and our Quivira community.

2) In 2012, we will be giving one of our successful programs a facelift! The program formerly known as CARLY (Conservation and Ranching Leadership and Youth) will be rebranded as the **New Agrarian Program**. We are making this change in order to do justice to the existing goals of the program and be more openly supportive of new agrarians of all sorts. Resilience in the 21st Century will mean that sustainable ranching and sustainable energy production are synonymous. As such, we need to support a diverse spectrum of new agrarians today. We believe that Quivira's New Agrarian Program is uniquely positioned to do just that.

3) There is a serious problem in America today: We are land illiterate. When it comes to reading a landscape, we might as well be studying a foreign language. Too many of us don't know our perennials from our annuals, what the signs of poor water cycling are, what an incised channel means, or, simply by looking, whether a meadow is healthy or not. To address this issue, Quivira will be developing a new **Land Literacy Project** that will include various publications, a website and reading the landscape walk-about.

4) Lastly, we are pleased to announce that a second printing of *Let the Water Do the Work*, by Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier, will be available early next year. **The first printing sold out!**

We will continue with our core work, including: the Annual Conference, land and water restoration activities, the New Agrarian Program, maintaining tribal partnerships, workshops at Red Canyon Reserve, the journal, and various outreach and outdoor educational activities. Stay posted for upcoming 2012 events through our website, [www.quiviracoalition.org](http://www.quiviracoalition.org).

See you on the land!

**Quivira Coalition Board and Staff**

Tuesday Evening

## Bill McKibben and Bill deBuys

***Is It Getting Warmer Out There, or Is It Just Me?***  
Climate, Land and Livelihoods in the Southwest

Tuesday, November 8, 7–9 pm, Sandia Ballroom

If the Southwest is due to get hotter and drier, as predicted, what are our options? What can we expect? What can we do in the short and long run to adapt to and mitigate a changing climate? What are the economic and ecological opportunities and challenges? For answers to these and other questions, please join us for an evening of lively discussion with two of the nation's leading experts as we explore global and local topics of interest to all. After their presentations, an audience discussion will be moderated by Courtney White of the Quivira Coalition. Don't miss this important event. And bring your questions!

There will be a book sale and signing after the talk.



BILL MCKIBBEN is the author of a dozen books about the environment, beginning with *The End of Nature* in 1989, which is regarded as the first book for a general audience on climate change. He is a founder of the grassroots climate campaign 350.org, which has coordinated 15,000 rallies in 189 countries since 2009. *Time Magazine* called him "the planet's best green journalist" and the *Boston Globe* said in 2010 that he was "probably the country's most important environmentalist." Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, he holds honorary degrees from a dozen colleges, including the Universities of Massachusetts, the University of Maine, the State University of New York, Whitier College, and Colgate College. In 2011 he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



BILL deBUYS' seven books include *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American West* (released by Oxford University Press), *River of Traps* (a 1991 Pulitzer finalist), *The Walk* (an excerpt which won a Pushcart Prize in 2008), and *Salt Dreams* (winner of a Western States Book Award in 1999). He was a 2008-2009 Guggenheim Fellow. As a conservationist, he has helped protect more than 150,000 acres in New Mexico, Arizona and North Carolina. From 1997 to 2004 he directed the Valle Grande Grass Bank in San Miguel County, New Mexico, and from 2001 to 2005, he served as founding chairman of the Valles Caldera Trust, which administers the 89,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico. He lives on the farm he has tended since 1976 in the remote village of El Valle in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains between Santa Fe and Taos.

▪ Wednesday Evening

## New Agrarian Career Connection

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30–8:30 pm, Sierra Room

*There is another way to live and think: it's called agrarianism. It is not so much a philosophy as a practice, an attitude, a loyalty and a passion—all based in close connection with the land. It results in a sound local economy in which producers and consumers are neighbors and in which nature herself becomes the standard for work and production.* —Wendell Berry

**Are you eager to get out on the land, but don't know where to start?**

**Or, do you already have land, but are looking for an extra hand, or someone from the next generation to mentor?**

If you answered YES to either of these questions, then come to the New Agrarian Career Connection.

Quivira recognizes the urgent need to connect experienced landowners/managers and conservation leaders with the next generation of people who will be responsible for growing our food and stewarding our planet. At this event, we will pack the room with agrarians of all sorts—new and old, urban and rural, cowboy boots and Birkenstock—and create the ideal conditions for conversing with like-minded people, contemplating apprenticeships, exploring partnerships, learning about land transfer programs and more! We will start the evening with a short presentation by Julie Sullivan and George Whitten (San Juan Ranch), experienced new agrarian mentors. They will walk us through the “do’s and don’ts” of mentoring new agrarians, and then we will kick off the meet and greet.

Prospective employers/mentors will include—but are not limited to—private ranches and farms, conservation groups, food advocacy organizations, government agencies, land use service consultants (i.e. Holistic Management) and related private-sector businesses.

Employers/mentors will be represented at tables grouped according to type and interested new agrarians will make three-minute rounds to establish interest and make connections.



# Agenda

## TUESDAY november 8

7 am

Check-in | LOBBY

8:30 am – 5 pm

### CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

#### *Managing Rangelands for Success in the 21st Century*

*Jim Gerrish*; instructor, May, Idaho  
SANDIA BALLROOM

#### Opening Remarks

*Courtney White*; Executive Director, Quivira Coalition

#### Part I

##### *Why We Can't Continue Business as Usual*

1. We don't live in the same world as our parents and grandparents:
  - different economic climate
  - different social climate
  - different environmental climate
2. We have more than just one climate change taking place in our world!

#### Part II

##### *The New Ranch Manager: Managing for Healthy Ecosystem Processes, Not just Manipulating Inputs*

1. There are only three necessary ingredients for making meat, milk and fiber:
  - solar energy
  - water
  - soil minerals
2. Our business should be built around these ingredients, not iron and oil!

Noon – 1:30 pm

Lunch | SANDIA BALLROOM

#### Part III

##### *Marketing the Whole Ranch*

1. There is a lot more coming from the ranch than just cows:
  - complementary and diverse enterprises
  - repopulating rural communities
2. Sell your products and your story!

#### Part IV

##### *We Are the Government, So Why Do We Battle Public Land Agencies?*

1. We need proactive dialogue with the agencies, not conflict:
  - We share similar goals through different means.
  - Range management is time management not a numbers game.
  - Ignorance is not bliss! Ignorance is our doom!
2. We create our own destiny, don't let someone else run your life!

*(Breaks at 10 am and 3 pm in Lobby)*

5 pm

#### Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance (SWGLA) Annual Meeting

SIERRA ROOM

7 – 9 pm

#### FUNDRAISER FOR QUIVIRA COALITION *Is it Getting Warmer Out There, or is it Just Me?*

*Bill McKibben and Bill deBuys*

SANDIA BALLROOM

## WEDNESDAY november 9

7 am

Check-in | LOBBY

8:15 am

### PLENARY SESSIONS

SANDIA BALLROOM

#### Introduction

*Courtney White*; Executive Director, Quivira Coalition

8:30 am

#### *Looking Backwards to go Forwards — Food Struggles from the Sixties and Beyond*

*Deborah Madison*; chef and author; Santa Fe, N.M.

9:15 am

#### *Farming as Direct Action: Young Farmers and the New Agrarian Spirit*

*Severine von Tscharner Fleming*; director, provisional producer, agrarian of the Greenhorns; Hudson, Valley, N.Y.

10 am

Snack Break | LOBBY

10:30 am

#### *Cultivating the Seeds of Tomorrow for Future Generations: Hopi Tutswka Permaculture*

*Lilian Hill*; Hopi Tutswka Permaculture; Kykotsmovi, Hopi Nation, Ariz.

continued next page above >>>

11:15 am

**Baseball to Bison**

Jeff Gossage; ranch operations manager, Zapata Ranch; Mosca, Colo.

Noon – 1:30 pm

**Lunch**

SIERRA ROOM

1:30 pm

**Becoming a Family Farmer: Performance and Body Knowledge Across Generations**

Nikiko Masumoto; Masumoto Family Farm; south of Fresno, Calif.

2:15 pm

**Purveying The Good Life at New Belgium Brewing**

Katie Wallace; sustainability specialist, New Belgium Brewing Company; Fort Collins, Colo.

3 pm

**Snack Break** | LOBBY

3:30 pm

**The Prairie Dog Ate My Research! — Newfound Realities of Agricultural Resilience in Northern New Mexico: Youth, Community and Climate Change**

Miguel Santistevan; farmer and educator; Taos, N.M.

4:15 pm

**Quivira's New Agrarian Apprentices**

Amber Reed; past apprentice; Springbrook Farm; Reading, Vt.

Sam Ryerson; past apprentice; Spur Lake Cattle Company; Luna, N.M.

Daniel Escutia; past apprentice; Tapetas de Llana; Holman, N.M.

Laura Hoffman; apprentice, 47 Ranch; McNeal, Ariz.

Amy Wright; apprentice, San Juan Ranch; Saguache, Colo.

Timothy Prow; apprentice, 47 Ranch; McNeal, Ariz.

Jo Myers; apprentice, James Ranch; Durango, Colo.

6:30 - 8:30 pm

**New Agrarian Career Connection**

SIERRA ROOM

**THURSDAY november 10**

7 am

**Check-in** | LOBBY

8:30 am

**Report from the Front Lines of the Climate Fight**

Bill McKibben, author and environmentalist; Middlebury, Vt.

9:15 am

**Building Abundance Through Soil Health: Carbon Banking on a New England Farm**

Dorn Cox; farmer; Tuckaway Farm, Lee, N.H.

10 am

**Snack Break** | LOBBY

10:30 am

**Dry Cottonwood Creek: Ranching, Restoration and the Nation's Largest Superfund Site**

Bryce Andrews; Ranchlands Program Manager; Missoula, Mont.

11:15 am

**Fifty Years Later, Freedom Rides Return—With a Twist**

Hải Võ; co-founder, Real Food Challenge; Irvine, Calif.

Noon – 1:30 pm

**Lunch**

SIERRA ROOM

1:30 pm

**Tomato Town: the Growing Urban Farming Movement**

Annie Novak; Growing Chefs; Brooklyn, N.Y.

2:15 pm

**Turning Red to Green (A Million Acres at a Time); Regeneration in the Australian Rangelands**

Ben Forsyth; manager, Three Rivers Station; Meekatharra, Western Australia

3 pm

**Snack Break** | LOBBY

3:30 pm

**From Rivers to Radishes: a Young Farmer's Journey from the Farm and Back Home Again**

Sarahlee Lawrence; Rainshadow Organics; northeast of Sisters, Ore.

4:15 pm

**Building Resilience on the Eastern Navajo Checkerboard**

Tyffany Herrera, erosion control crew leader; Ojo Encino Chapter of the Navajo Nation, N.M.

Rochelle Vandever, Hasbidito Youth Advisory Council

6:30 pm

**AWARDS BANQUET**

Clarence Burch and Radical Center Awards Dinner of all local foods; beef provided by Weaver Ranch

SIERRA ROOM

# Speaker Information

- **Bryce Andrews**  
Manager, Clark Fork Coalition's Ranchlands Program  
Galen, Mont.  
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# The Clarence Burch Award

The Clarence Burch Award is given by Andrew Dunigan and the Dunigan Family to honor the memory of Andy Dunigan's grandfather, an innovative and enterprising rancher who courageously embraced new ideas and methods of doing business. The award recognizes individuals, organizations and others who have led by example in promoting and accomplishing outstanding stewardship of private and/or public lands. The goals of the Burch Award are consistent with the mission of the Quivira Coalition and its New Ranch paradigm, i.e., to explore innovative ideas in ranch management and build bridges between ranchers, environmentalists, public land managers, scientists, and others with the goal of restoring western rangelands collaboratively.

## 2011 NOMINEES:

- Clark Fork Coalition  
Missoula, Mont.  
[www.clarkfork.org](http://www.clarkfork.org)
- Cliff Garrison, Ranch Manager, Hearst Ranch  
San Simeon, Calif.
- The Diablo Trust  
Flagstaff, Ariz.  
[www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org)
- Diane Snyder  
Bozeman, Mont.
- Jack and Tuda Libby Crews, Ute Creek Cattle Co.  
Bueyeros, N.M.  
[www.utecreekcattlecompany.com](http://www.utecreekcattlecompany.com)
- Livestock and Land Program  
Central Coast of California  
<http://livestockandland.org>
- Orella Stewardship Institute (OSI)  
Gaviota, Calif.  
<http://orellaranch.com/OR/Welcome.html>
- Three Rivers Alliance  
Republican River Basin, Colo.  
<http://threeriversalliance.org>
- Yager/Van Duzen Environmental Stewards,  
Fortuna, Calif.

## CLARENCE BURCH (1906-2000)

Rancher, teacher, conservationist, activist, international diplomat and public servant to five governors, Clarence Burch lived an enviable career full of innovation, dedication, curiosity and good humor. He was a man very much of his time, and yet miles ahead of it as well.

The eldest of nine children, Clarence was born in Bromide, Oklahoma, in what was then Indian Territory. Raised on various farms and ranches, he developed a love of the land that grew to become a passion for a lifetime. "My grandfather had an innate sense for natural forces," says Andy Dunigan. "Land was in his blood. Every discussion always started with a question about the weather."

One area to which Clarence applied his "can-do" attitude was water. While serving as director of the Division of Water Resources in the 1940s, he traveled to every seat of Oklahoma's 77 counties to assess municipal and rural water needs. Shortly thereafter, with Clarence's encouragement, and over the objections of the oil companies, Governor Roy Turner signed the state's first groundwater restrictions into law.

He was a careful steward of his own land as well.

"He knew that all he had to sell on his ranch was grass," recalls his son Tom. "So, he took care to do the job right." His grandson agrees. "He understood that land has its limits," recalls Andy. "And he emphasized collaborative solutions to natural resource problems."

Clarence's people skills extended to his family as well. Andy remembers him as an "extremely warm, charismatic man who got along with people from all walks of life." A son-in-law, Jim Wilson, says Clarence could "carry on a conversation on any topic" and did so right up to the end of his life.

Perhaps Andy sums up his grandfather's qualities best: "Clarence embodied what we call today 'The Radical Center.' He was more than just a rancher. He was a public servant, an activist and a man very concerned about the land and sustainable practices. He was a remarkable man."

Quivira Coalition is proud to honor Clarence Burch with an Annual Award presented in his name.



# 2011 Clarence Burch Award Winner: Three Rivers Alliance

The mission of the Three Rivers Alliance (TRA) is to sustain the vibrant natural and human communities of the Republican River Basin by promoting good stewardship of its land, water and wildlife. The Three Rivers Alliance serves and welcomes landowners as members from the 6,000,000-acre Republican River watershed in northeast Colorado. Yuma County, which lies at the heart of the watershed, supports the second largest number of mother cows in the state. The watershed also overlies the Ogallala Aquifer and is facing severe interstate compact issues on the flow in the Republican River as well as real physical limitations of the aquifer's ability to supply irrigation and drinking water over the long term.

TRA was formed by six ranchers from the Republican River Basin on July 9, 2008, as a Colorado nonprofit corporation, and the organization received its 501(c)3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service in January 2009. Today the organization has over 40 members and is delivering on-the-ground results. TRA's purposes are to:

- provide education and information concerning the Republican River Basin;
- assist with the science, technology, and resources needed to conserve, preserve and restore range conditions, wildlife habitat, riparian areas and agricultural land in the basin;
- promote good stewardship of the basin through funding projects and consensus-based partnerships; and
- promote understanding and respect for the critical role ranching and agriculture play in conservation.

TRA is accomplishing its purposes by advocating for landowners in the Republican River Basin to help them gain access to resources in order to remove invasive species, manage their range more effectively, and protect wildlife and plant habitat in riparian and rangeland areas. TRA members and partners help landowners to apply for government and private grants to serve these purposes.

In a larger sense, TRA is demonstrating its ability to convene important discussions to find common

ground and develop constructive approaches to some very difficult issues facing the Republican River Basin.

Specifically, TRA is involved in several current projects that demonstrate its concrete contributions to directly improve: ranch management and range conditions, youth and adult education, fundamental business conditions for ranch success, and long-term prospects for a robust agricultural economy and healthy environments in the Republican Basin. The following are short accounts of these projects and programs and the resources and partners TRA helped leverage for them.

**Water Conservation.** The Ogallala Aquifer, which underlies the Republican River watershed and sustains the community ecologically and economically, is a limited and stressed resource. As a result, the water issues facing the Basin are complex, difficult, contentious and long-term in nature. There are no quick or easy fixes, but TRA is working with partners on an ongoing basis to convene decision makers and stakeholders to identify, develop, and deploy constructive technologies and practices that will aid in the conservation of their precious groundwater resources. This issue is at the core of the organization and is a common thread in many of their other projects.

**Holistic Management Mentoring Program.** Working with the Savory Institute and local conservation districts, TRA is promoting and helping to implement a 2011 Savory Institute Holistic Management seminar series in the Republican Basin to improve the critical thinking skills and decision making rigor of local ranchers. At least one rancher is seriously evaluating the opportunity to more fully implement a Holistic Management program and is open to sharing the experience as a demonstration project.

**Ranching and Wildlife (RAW).** The Three Rivers Alliance launched its Ranching and Wildlife program on May 11, 2011, to raise awareness in urban and suburban communities of where food comes from and now farms and ranches also support wildlife. The program brought 36 grade-school students from Colorado Springs to the McArthur

Ranch on the South Fork of the Republican River to experience a four-part program on birds, soils, wildlife and ranching. Fourteen high-school students from the local Bethune School District ran the program and taught the program. The curriculum for RAW was developed by a group of ranchers near Karval, Colorado and adapted by TRA and the Bethune School District. TRA plans to continue the program and help support its expansion in Colorado.

#### **Branded Beef Supply Chain and Market**

**Analysis.** TRA hired an intern from the University of Michigan MBA/MS-Environmental Studies joint degree program for the summer of 2011 to help it better understand the branded beef business opportunities available to its members and the organization and how pursuing those opportunities might improve their financial and environmental performance. The intern spent 11 weeks on the ground in Colorado working with TRA members, feed lots, processors, wholesalers, retailers and other partners to develop a robust and business-oriented understanding of the social, health and environmental attributes of the beef produced by TRA members, the markets that might exist for the beef, and what the supply chain challenges are in the non-commodity beef business. The intern is currently completing her work, and TRA members are evaluating the preliminary results of her work and how they can use them to improve the performance of their operations.

**Russian Olive and Salt Cedar Removal.** Under TRA's leadership, Russian olive and tamarisk were removed over the last three years from well over 500 acres along more than 30 river miles in the Republican River Basin at a cost of more than \$400,000. Removing these non-native trees improves wildlife habitat, restores pasture and enhances the hydrologic function of riparian zones. On its way to effectively eradicating these invasive species from the watershed, TRA intends to treat another 1,200 acres in the basin by continuing to work with Yuma County Pest Control District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Wyoming Groundwater Management District, and the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

**Ranch Plans and Improvements.** TRA facilitated the allocation of more than \$44,000 from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Habitat Partnership Program for new fencing and water source projects on three properties, impacting more than 300 acres and improving riparian habitat.

**Dead Wood Removal.** TRA is helping landowners recognize and address the range and weed management challenges posed by dense falls of dead cottonwood trees in the riparian zones of the Republican River system. Because these dead tree falls are so dense, they preclude livestock grazing, reduce the effectiveness and raise the cost of weed control, and deter some wildlife use. To help landowners address this problem, TRA helped landowners obtain \$23,500 from the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the Wild Turkey Federation to consolidate fallen timber on approximately 40 acres of river bottom on two pilot properties. Based on the pilots, the program is expanding to other properties with good prospects for success.

**Summary.** Three Rivers Alliance and its members are putting valuable projects on the ground and effectively setting the stage for improving the fundamental conditions for agriculture, wildlife and community in the basin. Their work is a testament to the vision of the members, their openness to new ideas and their willingness to engage with partners in ways they might not have just a few short years ago. That is also a testament to both the need and opportunity to work in new ways—ways that improve practices and conditions necessary to sustain the productivity of grazing lands in the Republican Basin and across the western United States.



# 2011 Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards

The Fifth Annual Recognition Awards for Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center are dedicated to the “four legs” of the Quivira Coalition’s original “chair” —ranchers, conservationists, civil servants and researchers. We wish to recognize those individuals in each category who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center — the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences, as described by author and conservation leader Bill deBuys.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens. As Aldo Leopold said it happens on the “actual landscape of the back forty.” But change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We continue to honor those who have advanced the cause of the radical center with integrity, vision and determination – sometimes against long odds. Each has inspired us with their dedication to family, community, healthy lands and advancement through their teaching, writing, research, service, work and good humor. Through their efforts and leadership they have been a strong voice for the common bonds that unite us. We are proud to recognize these fine individuals.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Quivira Coalition, we are honored to present the “Outstanding Leadership” Awards for 2011 to:

**RANCHING.** *Guy Glosson* is a friend and mentor to the Quivira Coalition. He has managed Mesquite Grove Ranch, Snyder, Texas, for 20 years and teaches low stress livestock handling clinics on ranches in Montana, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Hawaii and in Africa. The core of low stress livestock handling is patience, kindness and respect toward animals. Guy initially learned the necessary skills from Bud Williams, a Canadian rancher and innovator.

Attending one of Guy’s clinics is as entertaining as it is informative. As Craig Conley, says, “Guy generously shares his profound wisdom, most of which seems to have been acquired while staring at the tail end of a cow or a steer. He has taught innumerable neophyte city slickers how to thread a herd of 30 jumpy steers through a four foot gate or to perform the impossible feat of a figure eight. His lessons in low stress livestock management transcend just moving cows but provide invaluable lessons for how to live in this world. He is a true master teacher who captures the essence of the Quivira spirit. Perhaps his most enduring lesson is to ask “why” which must be pronounced in west Texan so it sounds like ‘whaaaa’ in order to be fully understood and appreciated.”



**CONSERVATION.** *Robin Seydel* is a consumer and a health and environment community organizer. For more than 25 years she has worked on building the alternative economic system at La Montañita Co-op as newspaper editor and coordinator of membership, community development and education. La Montañita Co-op is a consumer cooperative owned by over 17,000 New Mexican households, with stores in Santa Fe, Gallup and three in Albuquerque.

Since 1999, she has been a registered organic grower of medicinal and culinary herbs, fruit, and nuts; has taught at the Southwest College of Botanical Medicine; and has a private clinical herbal practice. Her writings have appeared in numerous periodicals, newspapers and books. She speaks regularly on a variety of food and cooperative issues at regional and national meetings and facilitates for communities that seek to design their own co-ops. She is the director of the new La Montañita Fund, a grassroots investment and microloan cooperative created to grow the regional food system and strengthen the New Mexican economy. Robin made it possible for the hotel to purchase local products for conference meals.



**CIVIL SERVICE.** *George Long* was raised in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Colorado State University in 1978 with a degree in Forest and Range Management. After graduation he worked as a Reclamation Specialist for the BLM in Northwest Colorado reviewing energy mineral applications and writing reclamation specifications for oil shale development, coal mine permits, pipeline permits and oil/gas well permits.

In 1989, George began graduate studies in Wildlife Management at the University of Arizona. In 1992, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, Carson National Forest, Questa Ranger District as a Wildlife Biologist. Partnerships and grants became his main focus to accomplish wildlife habitat objectives on the Questa Ranger District. In 1999, George was part of a team of biologists who received the USDA Secretary Honor Award for native Rio Grande trout habitat restoration and partnership work.

Today, 17 years after the start of his Forest Service career, this focus on partnerships and wildlife habitat restoration is more important than ever. Together with key partners, including the Quivira Coalition, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Trout, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation and others, George is making a difference for the fish.



**RESEARCH.** *Bill deBuys, Ph.D.*, has long been active in environmental affairs. From 1982 to 1986, he directed the North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; and, from the late 1980s through the 1990s he represented The Conservation Fund in the Southwest. His efforts have led to the permanent protection of more than 150,000 acres of wild lands in North Carolina and the Southwest.

From 1997 to 2004, he developed and directed the Valle Grande Grass Bank, a cooperative effort involving ranchers, conservationists and public agencies in the rehabilitation of rangelands in northern New Mexico. The Quivira Coalition continued the project from 2004-2010. In 2000, the effort earned the National Range Management Award of the U. S. Forest Service. From 2001 to 2004, by appointment of President William Clinton, he served as founding chairman of the Valles Caldera Trust which administers the 89,000 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve under an experimental approach to the management of public lands.

DeBuys' current publication, *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*, examines the precariousness of life in the Southwest and the likely impact on the region of climate change, which promises to transform the Southwest as emphatically as it is already altering the Arctic.



# Conference Extras

## EXHIBITORS

American GrazingLands Services LLC  
Ariolla Sunshine Farm  
Bat Conservation International  
Earth Works Institute  
Green Fire Times  
The Greenhorns  
Hasbídító  
Holistic Management International  
Horizons Sustainable Financial Services  
National Young Farmers' Coalition  
New Mexico Land Conservancy  
New Mexico Society for Range Management  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
- Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative  
Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee  
Rangeland Hands, Inc.  
Rio Grande Community Farm  
Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust  
Shining Horizons Land Management  
Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance (SWGLA)  
Taos Land Trust  
Tooley's Trees  
University of New Mexico Sustainable  
Studies Program  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife

## SILENT AUCTION

All items are located in the Ocotillo Room where books and products are for sale. Bids are submitted in writing starting noon Tuesday and ending at 1:30 pm Thursday. Highest bidders will be announced at 3 pm Thursday, during the plenary session. Settlement time is between 3-5 pm at the registration desk. Our appreciation and gratitude goes out to those who have donated services or products for this fundraiser. All proceeds benefit the Quivira Coalition.

### *Highlights:*

Art  
Guest Ranch Lodging  
Stream Restoration Consultation  
Water Harvesting and  
Erosion Control Consultation  
Holistic Management Consultation  
Grassfed Beef Packages  
Artisan Cheese  
Gift Baskets  
Guided Fly Fishing Trip  
And more!



## BOOKS AND PRODUCTS SALES OCOTILLO ROOM

### \* Bill deBuys

- *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American West*
- *River of Traps*
- *The Walk*

### Bradley, Ellis and Phillips, editors

- *Rodale's Ultimate Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*

### Kirk Gadzia and Nathan Sayre

- *Rangeland Health and Planned Grazing Field Guide*

### Kirk Gadzia and Todd Graham

- *Bullseye: Targeting Your Rangeland Health Objectives*

### Shannon Hayes

- *The Grassfed Gourmet Cookbook*

### \* Sarahlee Lawrence

- *River House: A Memoir*

### Katherine Leiner

- *Growing Roots: The New Generation of Sustainable Farmers, Cooks and Food Activists*  
- featuring the James Ranch, etc.

### \* Deborah Madison

- *Local Flavors: Cooking and Eating from America's Farmers Markets*
- *Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone*

### \* Bill McKibben

- *Deep Economy*
- *Eaarth*
- *End of Nature*
- *The Bill McKibben Reader*

### Jeff Moyer

- *Organic No-Till Farming*

### Dr. Gary Nabhan

- *Where Our Food Comes From*

### Quivira Coalition and Dryland Solutions, Inc.

- *Erosion Control Field Cards*

### Michael W. Robbins, editor

- *Whole Green Catalog*

### Burt Smith

- *Moving 'EM - A Guide to Low Stress Animal Handling*

### Maria Rodale

- *Organic Manifesto*

### Rae Taylor

- *The Land: Our Gift and Wild Hope*

### Courtney White

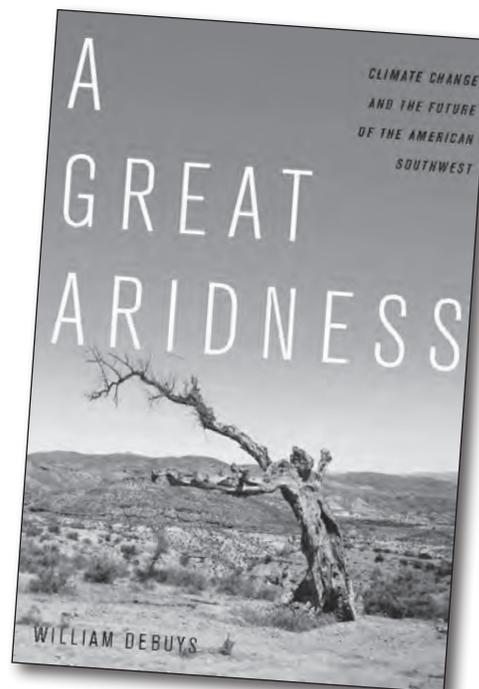
- *Revolution on the Range*

### Bill Zeedyk

- *Introduction to Induced Meandering Field Guide*

### Bill Zeedyk and Jan-Willem Jansens

- *Introduction to Erosion Control Field Guide*



### \* 2011 Conference Speaker

# Acknowledgements

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McCune Charitable Foundation  
Karen Menetrey  
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New Cycle Foundation  
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New Mexico Environment Department  
- Surface Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Office

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Barbara Roastingear/Henry Oliver III Family Foundation  
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Santa Fe Garden Club  
Santa Fe Watershed Association  
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Southwest Grassfed Livestock Association  
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The Sulica Fund  
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Zia Diner

We want to acknowledge all 121 volunteers who participated in Quivira Creek Restoration workshops and other projects in 2012. You contributed 1,254 volunteer hours...Thank You!

AND TO THE ENTIRE QUIVIRA COMMUNITY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

# Quivira Coalition Board of Directors and Staff

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- Tim Sullivan, The Nature Conservancy

\*Affiliations are for informational purposes only.

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*Board Chair, Joan Bybee, stands among a thriving group of willows growing from a one rock dam in Mesteño Draw.*

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