

Education, Innovation, Restoration... One Acre at a Time

The Quivira Coalition's 6th Annual Conference Featuring Wendell Berry

Between January 18 – 20th, 2007, over five hundred ranchers, farmers, conservationists, academics, public land managers, and others attended The Quivira Coalition's 6th Annual Conference, titled "Fresh Eyes on the Land: Innovation and the Next Generation," held at the Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque.

This year we tackled the important question of the Next Generation. Whether you live in the city or the country, own a large ranch or a small lot, are involved in agriculture or not, the issue of how to encourage the Next Generation to pick up where we leave off is a daunting and vital one.

We used "fresh eyes" to explore innovative ideas, practices, and relationships that give hope to, and receive inspiration from, the next generation. Creating hope and options for the future is the key to all our efforts. Whether the goal is staying on the land, exploring and understanding nature, or simply 'going home again', the next generation needs new op-

portunities to achieve their dreams. To accomplish this goal, the Conference featured 'take home' ideas for ranchers, conservationists, and public land managers alike.

We sought speakers who could not only explain WHY this work is critical to our future, but HOW to do it too. Of course, this included hearing from members of the Next Generation themselves.

Ranchers Patrick and Sharon O'Toole brought their son Eamon to the podium with them, kicking off the Conference, to explain his plans for staying on the ranch as the sixth generation. Miguel Santistevan, of the New Mexico Acequia Association, brought five teenage farmers and ranchers-to-be with him, each of whom introduced a short video they had made about why they wanted to stay on the land. And Taylor Selby, director of Earth Care International in Santa Fe, brought five young people to tell the audience about their hopes and fears for the future. It was

(continued on page 2)

Clarence Burch Award Goes to Navajo Nation Ranchers

The Quivira Coalition is honored to present its 2007 Clarence Burch Award to The Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee who, under the leadership of Watson Castillo and with the support of its growing membership, is setting an example of collaborative and progressive land stewardship on the Navajo Nation.

This \$15,000 award is made in honor of Clarence Burch, an innovative rancher and educator.

The Ojo Encino Chapter is located approximately thirty miles west of Cuba, New Mexico, and encompasses approximately 144 square miles of open rangeland. Once covered in grass, the land is now dominated by sage and bare ground. The Chapter faces notable challenges, including pervasive erosion, chronic lack of infrastructure, especially fencing and wa-

(continued on page 2)

To mark our 10th anniversary, we are very pleased to announce a new annual award dedicated to the "four legs" of The Quivira Coalition's original "chair" – ranchers, conservationists, civil servants, and researchers. We recognize 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.

The Quivira Coalition's 2007 Outstanding Leadership Awards went to:

- **David & Kay James** - Ranching
- **Curt Meine** - Conservation
- **Dave Stewart** - Civil Service
- **Gary Paul Nabhan** - Research

From left, Ranchers, Connie Hatfield, Rebecca Hyde and Linda Poole. Susan Holtzman, National Riparian Team Coordinator, USFS.



(Annual Conference -- continued from page 1)

a remarkable, and emotional, sequence of presentations – each of which ended in a standing ovation.

The hopefulness continued after lunch. David Kline – minister, Ohio Amish farmer, and publisher of Farming Magazine – provided an inspirational Keynote address on the challenges confronting traditional agriculture in America. He was joined by his son Tim and daughter-in-law Katie, who have taken over a worn-out dairy in Kansas and are successfully making a go of it.

Plenary talks continued on Saturday morning with compelling talks by Estevan Arrellano on the concept of ‘querencia’ (love of home); rancher Jim Stone and biologist Greg Nuedecker on the successful effort to keep the upper Blackfoot River watershed intact for agriculture and conservation (and keep out subdivisions); San Miguel (CO) county commissioner, Green Party member, poet, and performer Art Goodtimes talked about his transition from radical environmentalist to radical centrist collaborator; and rancher Sheldon Atwood presented a visionary new model of profitable conservation.

Concurrent sessions on both days cov-

ered issues as diverse as Conservation Easements, Protecting Water Resources for Future Generations, Custom Grazing on Leased Land, Family Dynamics, Outdoor Educational Opportunities, Five Ways to Value Working Landscapes, Intergenerational Dialogue, and Language and Story Telling for Conservation.

And despite the threat of a major snowstorm, we were delighted to see so many attendees stay all the way to the end of the Conference, which concluded with a Town Hall discussion in which event participants had an opportunity to express their opinions on what they had just seen and heard.

We were blessed to have Remelle Farrar and Bob Rogers, of Canadian, Texas, as our Conference moderators. Under their capable direction, the presentations flowed seamlessly.

Two pre-Conference workshops focused on marketing and grassfed food. Both events drew over 100 participants, most of whom were ranchers.

Another pre-Conference event focused on farms and ranches as Outdoor Schoolyards. It also drew over 100 participants, a significant number of whom

were students.

We were also honored to host famed agrarian and author Wendell Berry on Thursday evening for an informal discussion and reading that included questions from the audience. Over 550 people attended this event – which was also a benefit for The Quivira Coalition.

Wendell stayed for the full three days, participating in many portions of the Conference. He was moved by what he heard and saw and thanked us for hosting what he called “an important event.”

We want to thank Wendell, and all our wonderful speakers, in turn for helping create what we also consider to be a remarkable event. We couldn’t have done it without you!

And thanks too to everyone who attended. Our aim is to inspire, educate, share, provoke, and please. By all accounts, we seemed to have succeeded on all fronts – but we couldn’t have done it without you!

We’ll see you again next year!

The Quivira Coalition’s 7th Annual Conference will take place January 17-19, 2008, at the Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque.

(Burch Award -- continued from page 1)

ter sources, and ongoing overgrazing from feral and wild horses.

Additionally, the ranchers of Ojo Encino operate within one of the most

complex land ownership structures found anywhere. The Committee members utilize land with 11 different official land status designations, which means collaboration is critical to the success of

any endeavor.

In spite of these challenges, the progress of the Committee in restoring land health, in educating land users on how to use land sustainably, and in implementing improvements on the land has been exemplary.

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of ranchers, a grazing and land stewardship tradition that was getting smaller each year is now growing. Seven years after forming the Committee, the membership has grown to 20 member ranchers with a list of accomplishments and an ambitious agenda for the future.

It shows no signs of slowing down.



Congratulations to Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee Award Recipients: back row: Michael Benson, Steve Fischer; front row: Ted Mace, Lenora Mace, Lula Castillo, Watson Castillo and Joe Mace.

Sustainable Farming: Smaller is Better

The Quivira Coalition -- along with the ranchers and farmers who adhere to its sustainable, conservation-minded approach -- provides a "hopeful" sign that the small farm is alive and well, and that sustainable agriculture is gaining ground, Berry suggested.

The coalition, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, promotes what it calls the "new ranch" -- using practices like rotational grazing and rangeland health monitoring -- as an ecologically healthy and economically viable approach to ranching.

The Coalition's work is "an attempt to adjust land use to the land," Berry said. "It's to adapt the agriculture to the place."

Farmers and ranchers who are doing well are typically also those who are respectful of the land and their place in it, Berry said.

It's a simple matter of taking the best possible care of what you've been given," he said.

Berry, who has written that "eating is an agricultural act," also believes that consumers have a responsibility to support local farmers and ranchers and their

communities by purchasing locally grown food and knowing where their food comes from. The increasing popularity of farmer's markets, community gardens, and "urban agrarianism" is a positive trend, he said.

"When a clientele develops that wants the best possible food, then this good care toward the land begins to pay off economically," he said. "You can't separate ecological health from economic health."

And in Berry's view, the health of the land is essential for our own physical health.

"The way we treat the land is interestingly analogous to the way we treat our bodies," Berry said. "How can you be healthy if the air and water is polluted, the land is degraded, and communities are falling apart? There's a way to do this that ensures the welfare of everything from the land to the plants to the animals to the customers."

Asked whether it is practical to abolish large, corporate farms in favor of small,



Wendell Berry

family-run operations in the face of a growing population that is increasing the demand for food, Berry countered that local production is actually essential to meeting our future needs.

"With our growing population, we'd better depend on a non-corporate kind of agriculture, because corporate agriculture is a land-exhausting type of agriculture," he said. "If we don't have a land-preserving agriculture and a community-preserving agriculture, we'll probably all starve a lot quicker."

Berry finds hope in The Quivira Coalition, which attracted at least 500 people from various walks of life to its annual conference this year -- a number that continues to grow. "This meeting gives me hope," he said. "It's something no one dreamed of 10 years ago."

-- April Reese, reporter, in *Land Letter* (1/25/06) - excerpt.

2007 Conference Attendee Statistics

Rancher/ Land Manager	Conserva- tionists	Federal	State	Tribal	Academic	Restoration Contractors & Other Businesses	Media	Public	Total
150	87	41	30	21	74	43	6	71	523
29%	16 %	8%	6%	4%	14%	8%	1%	14%	

Take Home Ideas from the 2007 Conference (notes courtesy of Grady Grissom)

How does one manage watershed scale areas with multiple owners and interest for economic, social and ecological health?

- Gather diverse stakeholders to discuss their interests - develop a "Table of Trust" or non-profit organization
- Form a series of committees to confront watershed scale issues

How does one maintain a sustainable human presence on rural lands in the face of inflated land values and development pressure?

- Conservation easements - tax benefits & design to fit individual needs
- Management practices that create sufficient cash flow to compete with developers
 - Lease and manage out-of-production lands to improve diversity and habitat while generating an economic return and social benefit for land owners
 - Increase local consumption of local agricultural products - the exploding markets for organic, natural, and grassfed products provide optimism for this approach to conservation
 - Find a market for the ecological services provide by grasslands - healthy grasslands sequester a huge amount of carbon while providing catchment, storage, and purification of rainwater

The following speakers Audio CD's from the Conference are now available to order from our On-Line Store (www.quiviracoalition.org).

- Wendell Berry
- David Kline
- Patrick, Sharon and Eamon O'Toole
- Miguel Santisteven and young farmers
- Taylor Selby and young entrepreneurs
- Estevan Arellano
- Greg Neudecker and Jim Stone
- Art Goodtimes
- Sheldon Atwood

The Quivira Coalition
1413 2nd Street St., Ste #1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Job Opening:

Administrative Assistant

Initiative, creative problem solving and a team approach are vital to this position. Must be organized with excellent communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel and Access. 30 hrs/wk. with health benefits. Send resume to admin@quiviracoalition.org or mail to:

*The Quivira Coalition
1413 2nd St. Suite #1
Santa Fe, NM 87505*

Deadline: March 1, 2007

Practical Strategies for Rainwater Harvesting & Gray Water Utilization,
Saturday, March 10, 2007, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Eldorado Elementary School
Santa Fe, NM ~ Everyone Welcome~
\$20.00 Suggested Donation (per household)

Cedro Creek Restoration
Saturday, June 23, 2007
9:00 to 4:00 pm
Tijeras Canyon
Near Albuquerque, NM
FREE

Low Stress Livestock
Handling Clinic
Friday-Saturday, May 4-5, 2007
Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, NM
FREE

Our March 2007 Journal will be out soon and only Quivira Coalition Members will receive the next issue. Are you a member of The Quivira Coalition?

How to tell:

- Look at the address label on this bulletin. If the phrase: **"QC Member"** appears above your name, your annual membership is current.
- If nothing appears, your membership has lapsed or you have not joined.

How to become a member?

- On our website home page, click on "Join & Donate". You can use a credit card or print the form and send it with a check.
- Or, call or e-mail to the contact information below.

As always, all or part of contributions are tax deductible.

If you have questions please e-mail admin@quiviracoalition.org or call 505-820-2544, ext 0#. Thank you for your continued support!

Register for workshops on-line at www.quiviracoalition.org.

October 2006 Edition

