

2012 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, in 2012 we are honored to present the Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards to the following recipients:

RANCHING

Sweet Grass Cooperative was formed in 2010 as a marketing and production cooperative of several small family ranches in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Dedicated to the sustainable production of grassfed, grass-finished cattle, Sweet Grass Cooperative subscribes to the triple bottom line as a guiding principle:

All our business and land management practices are designed to be ecologically, economically and socially beneficial to our members, suppliers, communities and the planet. Cooperative members collaborate to create a truly sustainable and resilient future for small-scale agriculture that reconnects people to the source of their food: the people, plants, animals, land and ecological processes on which all life depends.

As individual ranches, co-op members had each been raising, finishing and marketing their own grassfed beef. Wanting to avoid competing with friends and neighbors, co-op members determined that working together, pooling resources and sharing expertise, would offer them a more reliable way to produce a consistent year-round product that could be marketed to larger entities.

From New Mexico, current Sweet Grass Cooperative members include: El Morro Valley Ranch, Ramah; Hobo Ranch, Las Vegas; Piojo Ranch, Watrous; and Soaring Eagle Ranch, Los Ojos. From Colorado they include: KW Farms, Alamosa; Maytag Mountain Ranch, Hillside; Salazar Ranch, Manassa; and San Juan Ranch/Blue Range Ranch, Saguache. Many of the member ranches are certified organic.

Cooperative members collectively created and agreed to the following guiding principles, to be sure business decisions are made within the framework of their values and purpose:

- Sweet Grass Cooperative obtains a sufficient return on our products to support the operations of the Co-op, to expand the reach of the Co-op, and to ensure the sustainability of small, family ranching;
- Sweet Grass Cooperative provides the highest-quality products to consumers at a fair price;
- Sweet Grass Cooperative uses objective measures of quality as implemented by the protocols that products must meet;
- Sweet Grass Cooperative maintains the highest degree of honesty and integrity in our marketing to our customers; and
- Sweet Grass Cooperative ensures all member-producers an equal opportunity to provide products to the Co-op.

More information can be found at the Sweet Grass Cooperative website at www.sweetgrasscoop.com



100% Grass-Fed

CONSERVATION

Seth Roffman is editor of *Green Fire Times*, a monthly newsprint publication devoted to issues of bioregional sustainability—the interrelationship of community, culture, environment and the regional economy of North Central New Mexico. This publication, now four years old, distributes 20,000 copies for free each month and is also available online at www.GreenFireTimes.com.

As a writer and photojournalist, Seth's work has also appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Native Peoples*, *Weekly Reader*, *New Mexico Magazine* and many other publications.

Seth has been involved in community development in the Southwest for many years. He is executive director of the nonprofit Southwest Learning Centers, Inc., which does cultural documentation and archiving, develops curricula, and publishes the acclaimed American Indian Art Series of reference books for the Center for Indigenous Arts & Cultures. Through SWLC, Seth co-founded a native food crop seedbank, which won an award from the United Nations Environment Programme in 1985; and from 1996 to 2008, he produced or co-produced *Native Roots & Rhythms*, a Native American performing arts festival at the Paolo Soleri Amphitheater in Santa Fe.



CIVIL SERVICE

For more than 23 years, Marcy Leavitt worked for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), primarily in the areas of water quality protection and environmental management. During her career at NMED she helped develop and implement many new initiatives. These include New Mexico's first groundwater investigation and remediation regulations for leaking underground storage tanks; the state's Voluntary Remediation and Brownfields program to facilitate cleanup and reuse of underutilized properties; improved regulations for better public access and involvement in water quality protection permits; and rules and associated policies for mine closure permits and Outstanding National Resource Waters. Marcy also led efforts to get the state's headwater streams approved as Outstanding National Resource Waters and oversaw implementation of the first years of the state's River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, which ultimately awarded more than \$8 million to more than 40 projects statewide. Marcy is currently employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division as the New Mexico/Texas Branch Chief where she oversees Clean Water Act permitting.



RESEARCH

Rick Danvir received an Associate's Degree in Fish and Wildlife Management from the State University of New York at Cobleskill in 1975. After working as a wildlife research technician for several years with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Rick received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science from Utah State University in 1982. He began his career as a wildlife biologist at Deseret Land and Livestock ranch in 1983 and has been the wildlife manager since 1990. His wildlife research experience includes studies of black bear, prairie dog, cougar, mule deer, elk, pronghorn and greater sage grouse ecology. He has managed wildlife on ranches and reservations throughout the Intermountain West; the Great Plains; Maine; Florida; Alberta, Canada; and Argentina. Rick has served as a Utah Fish and Game Commissioner, on the Utah Habitat Council, as a board member of the Utah Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit Association, on the Utah Foundation for Quality Resource Management, and on the BEHAVE (Behavioral Education for Human, Animal, Vegetation and Ecosystem Management) Advisory Board. His principal management interest is integrating agricultural production and wildlife management for ecological and economic sustainability.

