

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear STWEC Members,

I hope this message finds you all well as we move into another season here in the Shasta-Tehama region. We have been fortunate to receive a strong rain year, and our snowpack levels are looking promising, which is encouraging news for our watershed, farms, and communities. Additionally, Tehama County is experiencing excellent grass growth following the most recent fire, a welcome sight for both our landscapes and livestock operations.

We also recognize the ever-evolving regulatory landscape in California and understand the challenges that come with staying in compliance. Please know that STWEC's Board and Staff are here to assist you however we can. Whether you need guidance on regulatory requirements or have concerns about implementation, we are committed to supporting our members and ensuring that our watershed remains healthy and sustainable for future generations.

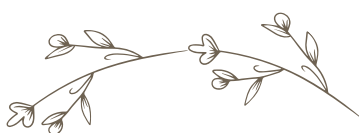
As always, we appreciate your dedication to responsible land and water management. If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out.

Best Regards,
Martin Spannaus
President, Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition



PO Box 933
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Upcoming Meeting:
Annual Membership Meeting, May 8, 2025
9:00 am @ The Cottonwood Community Center

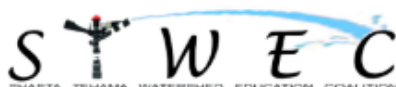


SPRING NEWSLETTER

SHASTA TEHAMA WATERSHED EDUCATION COALITION



STWEC Announcements



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A STWEC BOARD MEMBER?

If you or another STWEC member you may know are interested in serving on the STWEC Board of Directors, call the STWEC office at (530)527-4208 or email info@stwec.org for more information. Nominations for Incumbent seats will be voted in by STWEC members in attendance at the STWEC annual meeting.

Volunteer Board Member Responsibilities:

- Hold STWEC Bi-annual meetings on the second Wednesday of odd numbered months at 8:00 am
- Uphold STWEC polices and procedures

Board positions do not receive compensation, but they may receive reimbursement for related expenses.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join the board, members and staff of the Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition for our annual meeting

Starts @ 9:00am



MAY 8, 2025 COTTONWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER 20595 GAS POINT RD II COTTONWOOD, CA 96022

The RCDTC Mobile Irrigation Lab is Starting Soon!



Program Highlight: Mobile Irrigation Lab

The Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) is a free service that provides on-site evaluations of agricultural irrigation systems. The primary function of the MIL is to provide comprehensive reports to producers that detail how their irrigation system is performing, including tips, suggestions, and recommendations based on data collected during the inspection.



Details and Qualifications

- Available to producers in, Tehama, Shasta, Butte and Glenn Counties
- Must be on a pressurized system
- System must irrigate at least 3 acres
- Ability to run the pump between 7am and 3pm, M-F

NEW! 2025 Free Pump Tests

RCDTC is limited to 10 per year, so first come first serve!

Contact Kevin Greer to sign up for a free irrigation evaluation!
(530) 727-1297 or email Kgreer@tehamacountyrcd.org



What's Bugging You?



About 200 species of ladybugs call California home. As the weather warms, we will see these little helpers emerge. When temperatures drop, ladybugs overwinter under leaves, rocks and tree bark, and in the nooks and crannies of houses and buildings. Once the weather starts heating back up and the photo period shifts, the red beetles reappear in the sky.

Lady bugs provide a very valuable service in pest control:

- Eating thousands of pest insects in their lifetime, including soft-bodied insects like aphids.
- Protecting plants from aphids and diseases, which can harm crops.
- Contributing to overall crop health and yield, leading to better financial outcomes.
- Reducing the need for chemical pesticides, which harm the environment and contaminate soil and water sources.



CRYSTAL CLEAR AWARD

2025

Hat Creek Grown

Hat Creek Grown, managed by Henry and Pam Giacomini, embodies a rigorous conservation ethic through its commitment to sustainable farming practices that prioritize animal welfare, land stewardship, and ecological function. They emphasize sustainable grazing practices that protect the local riparian ecosystem and water resources, conduct frequent water quality monitoring, and integrate adaptive land management strategies to preserve native vegetation and foster wildlife habitats.

As advocates for sustainable ranching, the Giacominis continually adapt their practices to address evolving environmental challenges, from implementing drought-resistant mobile watering systems to transitioning their herd to an all-grass-fed program. They have invested in on-farm infrastructure projects, like irrigation pipelines and riparian buffers, to enhance water efficiency and soil health while reducing erosion. In addition to their conservation methods, Hat Creek Grown engages in community education and outreach to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable farming. They promote transparency in their operations, encouraging consumers to understand where their food comes from and the impact of their purchasing choices. Through collaborations with local organizations and support for regenerative practices, Hat Creek Grown is actively contributing to a more sustainable food system that benefits both people and the planet.

"Today only a tiny fraction of the US population is directly involved in the production of food and fiber, yet everyone relies upon it. Of these individuals, only a few have developed a direct

connection with land like the Giacomini's, who have worked to foster consumer connection with their food source," said Rob Wooten, President of the Shasta County Farm Bureau.

"Throughout their development of Hat Creek Grown they have implemented practices that have improved the integrity, stability and beauty of the lands entrusted to them."



Quick facts:

- The Giacomini's operation consists of more than 60,000 acres of leased, private, and federal lands where they produce grass-fed, pasture-raised cattle
- They use a goat herd to control invasive weeds and rent out to other properties for the same use
- The Giacominis rotate grazing across grasslands, riparian zones, and forested areas
- They partner with universities and conservation groups for soil health research



THE CRYSTAL CLEAR AWARD recognizes exemplary efforts to protect and address water quality in the Sacramento Valley

Pamela Ann Giacomini

OCTOBER 21, 1958 - DECEMBER 29, 2024



Pamela Ann Thompson was born October 21, 1958 in Redding. She grew up with her older brother and sister on the family ranch originally settled by her great-grandparents in 1903. In the summer of 1975 Pam first kindled a relationship with Henry Giacomini from Ferndale. They dated for three years and married on August 12, 1978, at the ranch in Hat Creek and celebrated their 46th anniversary this year. Their devotion to each other has always been apparent to everyone who has known them.

Henry and Pam were the first to introduce innovative pasture management systems that have now been widely adopted in the area. In 2007 they introduced Hat Creek Grown which they operated as a consumer direct beef sales business. In 2024 they were named one of three finalists for the California Leopold Conservation Award.

Pam's interest in agricultural advocacy and politics led her to rewarding work with the California Farm Bureau Federation, Regional Field Representative, and Governmental Affairs in Sacramento focusing on livestock, public lands and associated environmental issues. She also engaged in leadership and service including the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Pam was elected to represent District 3 on the Shasta County Board of Supervisors from 2013 to 2016. In 2016 she received the prestigious Common Threads North Award, "presented to a Northern California woman in agriculture who has made a difference in their communities and our world through service."

Pam is survived by her husband Henry, son Wade, sister Kathy (Howard) Lakey, mother-in-law Elsie Giacomini, sisters- and brothers-in-law Alice Thompson, Pete (Libby) Giacomini, and Dan (Pat) Giacomini, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Robert Thompson, Jr., and her father-in-law, Donald Giacomini. In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions in Pam's memory be directed to Mayers Healthcare Foundation, P.O. Box 77, Fall River Mills CA 96028.