

WAEA News Update



Annual Meeting Information

Our annual meeting is being held June 24 – 26 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and Spa in Anchorage Alaska. Registration and Hotel links are available from the WAEA website front page at <http://www.waeaonline.org/>. If you have not registered, note the registration fee goes up after June 1, 2018. Also, the hotel is filling up quickly so if you have not made your room reservations I encourage you to do so right away.

The meeting format will be very similar to last year with a cash bar reception on Sunday night (June 24), paper sessions beginning Monday morning at 8:00 AM, and the Presidential Address and awards ceremonies beginning Tuesday at 10:00 AM followed by a catered lunch. A tentative schedule is now available at the meeting web page <http://www.waeaonline.org/meetings>. The times of the scheduled activities will not change, but we will be adding moderator names and titles for some of the Western Extension sessions as those become available.

Tour

The Western Extension Committee has organized a tour for all interested meeting attendees. Registration for the tour is an offered option when registering for the general meetings. Margaret Adsit will be the tour host and agricultural expert. The tour will start in Anchorage at the conference hotel after Tuesday's lunch. The tour will stop at a greenhouse farm, a garden and sod farm, and one of Alaska's largest vertically integrated cattle ranches. The last stop will be at the Bleeding Heart Brewery – Alaska's smallest production brewery tucked away on an original colonial homestead farm. Here, participants will enjoy a beer flight and dinner! The dinner will be family style Alaska grown and caught, and the tour will return to the hotel in Anchorage around 9:00pm.

Western Extension Group

We are meeting jointly with the western extension group again this year. We have a Western Extension track throughout the conference that includes both submitted papers and symposia. The group is also providing financial support for the meetings. This has been a successful relationship that we hope will continue in future years.

Meeting Planning

WAEA Directors and paper session co-chairs Karina Gallardo and Cory Walters received 130 paper submissions this year, up significantly from last year. They accepted 88 papers for presentation, also an increase from last

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Future Meetings

*2019 WAEA Annual Meeting
Coeur D'Alene, June 24-26,
2018*

year. Another 10 papers were accepted for the graduate student paper competition. In addition, we have two organized symposiums this year. Coupling these with the Western Extension's papers and symposiums provides for a great program.

Special thanks to Karina and Cory, and all the reviewers for their work in evaluating submissions and organizing the selected paper sessions. I also want to thank the Chairs and their committees focused on evaluating and selecting our award recipients this year, and Dawn Thilmany McFadden for leading the graduate paper competition.

Future Meeting

The 2019 meeting will be held in Coeur D' Alene Idaho. I anticipate a good turnout for that meeting as well. President Elect Lynn Hamilton has been scouting locations for the 2020 meeting and will share her findings with us in Anchorage.

Recreation Opportunities in Alaska

For those spending a few extra days in Alaska, there are a lot of recreational opportunities in the Anchorage vicinity. These include hiking, biking, both salt and freshwater fishing, riding up the ski lifts in nearby Alyeska, or visiting small communities on the Kenai Peninsula. If you are interested in seeking local help in organizing a fishing trip or excursion, the hotel has recommended the two following vendors:

Salmon Berry Tours - 907-278-3572

Premier Alaska Tours - 907-279-0001

For those renting a car and doing self-guided activities, the Sheraton has parking for \$15 per night.

I look forward to seeing you in Anchorage,



T. Randall Fortenbery
WAEA President