



AgriSummit 2018 Presenter Bios



Natalie Allio, MA

Natalie is an owner/managing member of Badger Creek Ranch, a working cattle and guest ranch. She holds a Master's degree in Ecopsychology, a certificate in Collaborative Solutions, and is a certified life and business coach. She has completed HMI's training in Whole Ranch/Farm Planning and Whole Ranch/Farm Land Management.



Ed Berg

Ed Berg is a recovering petroleum geologist, shifting his focus from extracting mineral wealth from the Earth to helping the Earth produce nutritional wealth. He has a wife and three daughters, a dog, an interest in 30 chickens, and an occasional problem. He has been a resident of the Upper Arkansas Valley for 13 years, and hopes to open a path for ways to create a healthy future for the inhabitants here.



The Crest Academy Team: Jill Davis, Deb Bass O'Brien, and Samantha Bahn (L to R)

We teach middle school, 5-8, at the Crest Academy in Salida where we facilitate learner-centered inquiry, innovation and engage in our local community. We empower students to be future-makers that excel in school, career, and life! Our teaching is a hybrid of the best-of-the-best strategies for deep learning. Our approach to learning is to create an environment that pairs real-world issues and practices, and engages students in long-term inquiry based modules. We use design thinking and authentic community involvement, to help student's develop pride in their accomplishments and to empower them to overcome challenges.



Suzanne Ewy

Suzanne Ewy is the Executive Director of Coldharbour Institute in Gunnison, CO. Coldharbour Institute facilitates education, incubation, and demonstration of responsible personal, community and land practices in the arenas of agriculture, building, regenerative energy and wild land management. Coldharbour Regenerative Network houses the Colorado Savory Hub. Graduate students from Western's Master in Environmental Management (MEM) are instrumental in running the organization, and as Western State Colorado University's Coldharbour Chair in Environment & Sustainability, Suzanne also teaches Strategic Alliances at Western's School of Environment & Sustainability's MEM program.






Christy Fitzpatrick

Christy Fitzpatrick is the 4-H and Family Consumer Science Agent for CSU Extension in Chaffee County and has been in Extension in Maine and then in Colorado for over 20 years. Her 4-H focus has been on STEM projects such as robotics and engineering, developing youth leadership and supporting environmental and ag literacy. Under her FCS hat, Christy teaches food safety to Cottage Food producers and supports the Chaffee County Strong People Strong Bones program. Christy and her husband farmed potatoes in Maine for 35 years and therefore has a strong interest in helping youth learn about the science of agriculture and its impact on their lives. She is a member of the Hutchinson Homestead Steering and Education Committees.



Sara Rose Foreman

Sara Rose is a program specialist with the Colorado Department of Education Office of School Nutrition focused on administering the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Food Safety & HACCP and Farm to School. She joined the Farm to School task force in the fall of 2016 and looks forward to building a collective impact to ensure children across Colorado receive the nutrition, meals and education they need to succeed.

	<p>Bill Gardiner Bill is employed the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He works with farmers and ranchers to help them restore and conserve natural resources on their lands. He is committed to promoting conservation in the headwaters of the Arkansas River. He collaborates with many groups to promote local foods in Chaffee County including the Central Colorado Foodshed Alliance, Guidstone Colorado, the Central Colorado Conservancy, and The Upper Arkansas and Lake County Conservation Districts.</p>
	<p>Sally High Sally High has served on the board of Pagosa Springs' Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) since 2012. Sally teaches greenhouse gardening and environmental education, and promotes the Colorado Environmental Education Plan in southwest Colorado. Her career was recognized with the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Education in 2012. She advocates for local food security and sustainable agriculture through the GGP - "Growing food and community with local energy!"</p>
	<p>Jay Hirschfeld Jay Hirschfeld is a marketing expert and beginning farmer. He is the founder of 41North, a commercial, solar aquaponic farm opening in Hayden, Colorado this Spring. Jay is experienced and well-versed in media production, electronic lighting, hydroponic systems, and real estate/property development.</p>
	<p>Beth LaShell Beth LaShell works for Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. After serving as an instructor in the Agriculture and Biology Department for 17 years, she became the Coordinator of the Old Fort at Hesperus. Her duties include day-to-day operations, coordinating Fort Lewis College and community uses on the 6,300-acre property that is the site of the original Fort Lewis College.</p>



Kayla Maddox

Over the past 9 years, Kayla has dedicated herself to Chaffee County youth; first as a certified classroom teacher, then later as a certified prevention specialist. This work experience, paired with her love of growing and hunting her own food, helped Kayla realize the crucial role that healthy food, relationships and experiences play in our lives. She is thrilled to be working with Guidestone as the Director of Farm to School to further community education and connection to local food sources.



Terry Moran

Terry has worked for the Colorado Department of Agriculture in the newly created position of Industrial Hemp Certified Seed Specialist since December of 2015. He has a BS in Agronomy from Colorado State University, 1985 and has been a career Seedsman as a: Plant Breeder, Assistant Plant Breeder, Product Manager, and Purity & Multiplication Manager. The majority of his career was spent in the vegetable seed industry breeding sweet corn, with additional roles working with: strawberries, tomatoes and small grains in CO, CA, ID and FL.



Chelsea Nutter

Ms. Nutter, Project Manager and Assistant to the General Manager for the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, manages the District's portfolio of water projects, grants, leads education and outreach efforts, and assists the General Manager. She received her B.S. in Land Use and Geographic Information Systems from Metro State University and is currently pursuing her Master's in Business Administration from Adams State.



Elizabeth O'Rear

Elizabeth O'Rear is the Destination Development Manager for the Colorado Tourism Office and focuses on industry development. She is actively engaged in the development of the tourism industry through the Colorado Rural Academy for Tourism (CRAFT). Ever hopeful, she is constantly looking for a beet that will grow in abundance in her garden.



Kelli Parker

Kelli Parker is a rancher, Accredited Professional with the Savory Institute, and the Agriculture Programs Director for the Coldharbour Regenerative Network (CRN). CRN's mission is to advocate, teach, implement, research, and facilitate holistic management and regenerative agriculture practices in Colorado. Kelli and her husband Bill own Parker Pastures and practice holistic management to produce beef and lamb in a way that regenerates the land. They also offer Agritourism.



Terry Scanga

Mr. Scanga became General Manager of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District in 2001 after serving on the Board of Directors for 11 ½ years and co-chairman for 3 years. Mr. Scanga graduated with a Bachelor's in Economics and French from Adams State and served 4 years with the U.S. Coast Guard. A lifelong resident of Chaffee County, Mr. Scanga also co-owns Scanga Meat Company.



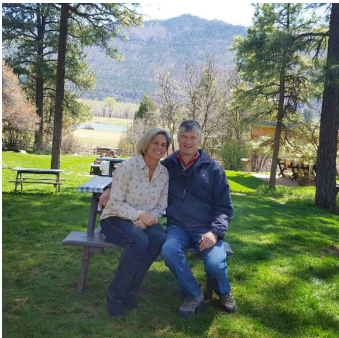
Dan Waldvogle

Dan is an active farmer/rancher and is committed to supporting family farms and community development. He is the owner/operator of Forestbird Farm and has worked as a manager for the Everett Ranch in Salida for the last five years. As Guidestone’s Director of Colorado Land Link, he is dedicated to coordinating farmer education while working to keep our rich agricultural lands in production.



Amy Ward

Amy Ward is the current Director of Academic Affairs for the Salida School District. As a proud educator and curriculum specialist, Amy’s focus is on student success through best instructional practices. She is an avid cheerleader for public education and loves to share that passion with others.



Joe and Jenn Wheeling

Joe and Jen met at Colorado State University 32 years ago. After being in the corporate world, they returned to the James Ranch in Durango in 1997. They started an organic vegetable and flower farm, raised two girls, gave tours and have been partners in James Ranch Beef for the last 9 years. For more information, visit: <http://www.jamesranch.net/families>