



Nebraska Society News

SoilandWaterConservation Society

January 2005 Newsletter

Officers 2004-2005

President	Rob Glidden	Robert.Glidden@ne.usda.gov
Vice Pres.	Doug Garrison	dougg@inetnebr.com
Secretary	Craig Romary	craiglr@agr.state.ne.us
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	dlangeme@inetnebr.com
Past Pres.	Marvin Brown	Marvin.Brown@ne.usda.gov

2004-2005 SWCS Directors

Northeast Nebraska Chapter
Charles Reppert

Panhandle Director
Steve Nein
snein@ria.net

Sandhills Director
Mike Murphy
(402) 376-3241

South Central Section Director
Randy Gunn
Randal.Gunn@ne.usda.gov

Blue-Nemaha Section Director
Roger Reichmuth
Roger.Reichmuth@ne.usda.gov

Lincoln Section
Ross Scott
Ross.Scott@ne.usda.gov

At-Large Director
Corey Brubaker
corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov

Annual Legis. Breakfast

The Annual Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday January 26th. Contact: Kris Reed kreed@dnr.state.ne.us

SWCS NE Lapel Pins

We continue to have a good supply of Nebraska Chapter SWCS lapel pins. Two hundred of these have been sold in the past few years. The pins sell for \$5.00 each. They make good gifts and at the same time serve as a fund raiser for the Chapter. The pins are available from David Langemeier, dlangeme@inetnebr.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Involvement is the key to a fulfilling membership. Opportunities for involvement are available to ALL members. For 2004-5, members can become more involved with the Society by participating in the Strategic planning effort (contact Jim Harder), the technical workshop effort (contact Randy Gunn), the upcoming annual meeting (contact Ross Scott), the upcoming leadership workshop in Colorado (contact mary.miller@co.usda.gov), or local chapter activities (contact your chapter director).

For myself personally, involvement has been the key that has made my SWCS membership rewarding. Participating on a workshop planning committee was a great experience from which I got valuable insight on meeting planning and organization, not too mention making numerous new friends and professional contacts. Serving as the President of the Nebraska Chapters has also been a great experience (so far) from which I will undoubtedly gain additional insights on leadership, organization and networking.

These opportunities are not exclusive or limited to a select few individuals; if you want to become more active in SWCS, but don't know how to get started, please contact me personally (308-534-1047). I look forward to hearing from you. Have a great year.

LINCOLN CHAPTER TO HOST ANNUAL STATE SWCS MEETING

The Lincoln Chapter will serve as host for the Annual Meeting scheduled for June 8-10, 2005. The tentative site is Seward. Seward is located in the heart of Nebraska's Conservation Security Program watershed for 2005, the Big Blue. The theme will be Technology and Tools Behind the Conservation Security Program. More information will be forthcoming.

The current planning committee consists of Marvin Brown, Wally Valasek, Randy Gunn, Craig Romary, Corey Brubaker, Doug Garrison and Ross Scott. If you have any ideas or want to get involved with planning or logistics contact Ross Scott at 402-792-2297 or 402-202-2297.

NATIVE PLANT DISPLAY

With the resurgence of the Nebraska State Fair it is important that SWCS maintain, and even improve, the appearance of the Native Plant Display on the fairgrounds. In the past Julie Lamphere volunteered to coordinate efforts between SWCS and the fair board regarding maintenance and the annual Spring clean-up. For this we thank her and all the volunteers who helped. Now, Ross Scott has volunteered to take over the job. Ross is looking for individuals who know the history of what was planted where in order to get some of the more aggressive plants under control without harming the original components. Anyone with information or interest in helping, please call Ross at 402-792-2297 or 402-202-1523.

Member Alert!!!!

In the most recent tally of members who have terminated, reinstated, or just joined for the first time, Terminated outnumbered reinstated plus new by a margin of 4:1! Our greatest losses are from individuals who either work for NRCS or have similar positions. Close behind are students. We need to find out why. One way is become involved in the development of the strategic plan for the two societies in Nebraska. We need everyone's input. Let's develop a plan that sustains and increases the membership. A plan that outlines how SWCS will provide the needs of its members. Whether it is professional development/education, technology transfer, social activities, and/or employment opportunities.

I encourage SWCSers to attend the Northern Plains Regional Meetings March 19 and 20th. It is a rewarding opportunity to meet other conservationist, exchange ideas, and solve problems and gain leadership and technical knowledge.

Northern Plains Membership Chair:

Mary Miller, CO Chapter, mary.miller@co.usda.gov

Nebraska Chapter Membership Chair:

Robin Foulk, 308-432-4616 Ext. 3,
robin.foulk@ne.usda.gov

Northeast NE Chapter Membership Chair:

Dennis Smith, 402-329-4996 Ext. 3,
dennis.smith@ne.usda.gov

2005 Nebraska Ski Trip

A ski trip is tentatively set for March 19 and 20th. We are considering coordinating a ski trip with the Northern Plains Technical / Leadership Session scheduled for March 18th and 19th, 2005 in Loveland, CO.

Those interested in receiving further information on this can email robin.foulk@ne.usda.gov. We will ski at Eldora just outside of Boulder, CO. www.eldora.com.

Northern Plains SWCS Director Steve Oltmans

Steve Oltmans, Manager of the Papio-Missouri River NRD has been elected as the Northern Plains representative to the SWCS Board of Directors.

In a recent message to SWCS Members in the Northern Great Plains Steve indicated he "would like to hear from any member within the Great Plains Region. Please contact me at soltmans@papionrd.org or by calling 402-444-6222. Note: when emailing me please send copy to jtait@papionrd.org, prompting me to respond in a timely manner."

Nominations

The Nebraska chapter of SWCS is looking for potential officers and directors for the upcoming year. Elections will be held in May and new officers and directors will take over at the annual meeting, which will be in June. We are looking for the following officers. Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasure. These are all one year terms. Vice-President will become the President in 2006. We also have three directors' positions available. Vacancies are located in the Lincoln Section, Blue Nemaha Section, and the at large director. The at large position is open to everyone in the state. The new directors will serve a two year term. If anyone is interested or would like to nominate someone for one of these positions please notify Wally Valasek Chairperson of the nominating committee.

Eighth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS 2004 Golf Tourney

The Eighth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on August 24, 2004 at Highlands Golf Club of Lincoln. Twenty four golfers (14 members and 10 non-members) participated. A team, best ball format was used. Winning teams were: 1st - Jim Culver, Scott Argabright, Larry Langemeier, David Langemeier; 2nd - Jim Carr, Norm Kempf, Richard Langemeier, Glen Langemeier; 3rd - Lyle Steffen, Steve Nelson, Jim Fortner, Doug Garrison; 4th - Roland Langemeier, Bill Ruzicka, Gary Wells, Craig Romary; 5th - Tom Keep, Tony Vrana, Ted Vrana, Gary Muckel; and 6th - Dana Snyder, Dennis Schroeder, Tim Helman, Jim Harder. Players were from Lincoln, Scribner, Fremont, Seward, Schuyler, North Bend and Manhattan, Kansas.

Flag prizes were given for all 18 holes. Everyone went home with more than one excellent prize thanks to the following sponsors: T.O. Haas Tire, Bagel & Joe, Olsson Associates, Union Bank, Budweiser Distributor Double Eagle Beverage, LLC., Wal-Mart, State Farm, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Highlands Golf Club, Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, Papio-Missouri NRD, Diers Ford, Austad's Golf, Stock Seed Farms, Lyle Steffen, David Langemeier and the SWCS National Office. Please thank them when you see them.

Due to the golf event, a donation of \$600 has been made to the Nebraska Chapter - SWCS University of Nebraska Foundation Scholarship Fund. This represents a portion of the entry fees, mulligans from the golfers, and contributions by some of the sponsors listed above.

David Langemeier welcomes comments on the timing, location and format for the year 2005 Ninth Annual Golf Event.

SWCS Annual Meeting 2004

The Northeast Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society hosted the annual meeting in Norfolk on June 9 – 11. The topic “Enriching Lives through Alternative Agriculture & Industry” drew over 30 people.

The social evening on Wednesday at Ta-ha-zouka Park turned out beautifully. On Thursday members learned from Scott Josiah about the many opportunities that specialty forestry products offer to the rural landscape. They are easy to produce and markets are expanding. A discussion led by Dan Gillispie on the benefits of no-till pointed out some interesting comparisons between no-till and conventional farming.

The tour to Affiliated Foods Midwest gave everyone a new perspective on the complexity of the food system. Storage and delivery of more than 25,100 products come out of the Norfolk facility which employs 720 people.

Ed Swanson, owner and winemaker at Cuthills Winery in Pierce provided interesting information on growing grapes for wine and about the success they’ve had at their place of business. Bev Henkel shared her thoughts on reaching others through community gardens. An afternoon tour highlighted Timperly’s Truck Farm, Fore Quarters Inc. feedlot and DeGroots apple orchard.

At the evening banquet and awards ceremony numerous honors were handed out. Longtime conservation efforts were recognized by awarding John Fleming of Hartington, Sid Salzman of Ainsworth, James Foster of Broken Bow and Clinton VonSeggern of Scribner with 50-year conservation awards. Also receiving the award, but not present was Vince Kramper of Dakota City and Richard “Dick” Mercer of Kearney. A commendation award went to Doug Garrison of Lincoln, merit award to Doyle Lund of Sidney, and an honor award to Doak Nickerson of Scottsbluff.

After the annual business meeting Friday morning 25 people toured the Nucor Steel plant. This gave people the chance to see a steel mill in operation, which is not often available.



Clinton VonSeggern



John Fleming



James Foster



Sid Salzman

SWCS Scholarships - University of Nebraska - Lincoln Foundation

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has a scholarship fund with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Foundation. The interest on this fund currently enables us to give two \$650 scholarships. Encourage students to apply for the scholarships. The scholarship application form is available on the NE SWCS website at http://incolor.inebraska.com/dougg/swcs/Scholarship_Application.pdf. Contributions to this fund also increase the dollars available for scholarships.



Nebraskans for Food, Land &

Food, Land & People

People is a year old and a giant step has been made to provide its educational materials about agriculture and the environment to teachers and students in Nebraska. With fewer than two percent of Americans living or working on farms we felt a compelling need to increase the knowledge about agriculture and natural resources to a majority of students. Even in Nebraska the roles of farmers and ranchers need to be understood by today's generation who will make decisions regarding the earth's limited resources. The Food, Land and People science-based curriculum is helping them make informed decisions about food systems and natural resource use.

FLP in Nebraska has formed a 23 member diverse coalition of educational, agricultural, and environmental representatives. We have had three state coalition meetings. Our goal is to create a strong, cooperative statewide group to help us provide FLP materials to Nebraska students. Two national FLP instructors trained twenty facilitators in 2004. These 20, enthusiastic facilitators have excellent contacts in nearly all parts of the state.

Three major goals for Nebraskans for Food, Land & People were celebrated this first year:

- 1) The Northeast Nebraska Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) became the state licensee for FLP
- 2) Correlation to state standards was completed and available for teachers receiving the FLP training.
- 3) Heather Frances, a trained FLP facilitator was able to submit a syllabus to Chadron State College that offered college credit for teachers taking a two-day workshop at Sidney, NE. Progress is being made to accomplish the same with Wayne State College.

About 75 teachers have had workshop training on the 55 lessons with another 30 teachers/adults being exposed to mini introductory sessions. Thirteen science educators received a brief introduction to FLP at the NATS (Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science) Fall Conference in Fremont on October 28-30, 2004. FLP presentations have been given to several RC&D Councils. It is estimated that about 475 students and 110-120 adults have been exposed to some of the lessons this year. The possibility of these 75 teachers reaching another 6000 students across the state this school year is very real. The teachers seem to be evenly divided in the classes they teach between PreK and 12th grades.

The most exciting part of this year's work is that surveys show that the FLP lessons are being used for teacher training, 4-H groups, gifted programs, FCCLA, Envirothon and Science groups, PTA programs, Lang-Arts class and CCLA (Careers, Community Leaders of America) as well as in the classroom. Pretest and post-tests are given with each Facilitator training and at each teacher's workshop. The information has been compiled for this report and for newspapers that have been used in area papers and other publications.

Independent evaluations of FLP classroom use and facilitator trainings are being conducted with each facilitator and teacher. The Food, Land & People (FLP) program is definitely gaining momentum in Nebraska as more and more teachers and facilitators become aware of the materials

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Alternative Ag Enterprises Conference, February 4th & 5th - Grand Island, Nebraska

The Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society annual Healthy Farms Conference and UNL Extension's Rural Advantage Workshop have combined their efforts this year to bring an outstanding offering to Nebraska farmers and consumers.

This year's program will start off with a keynote presentation, "Faces of Sustainable Agriculture", by Jerry Dewitt of Iowa State University. Jerry spent over two years crisscrossing North America to visit and photograph producers that have built sustainable agricultural operations. This year's conference will be held at the Interstate Holiday Inn in Grand Island on the 4th and 5th of February.

For more information contact Paul Rohrbaugh at (402)869-2396, prohrbaugh@nebsusag.org or Gary Zoubek at (402)362-5508, gzoubek1@unl.edu.