



Nebraska Society News

SoilandWaterConservationSociety

November 2006 Newsletter Officers 2006-2007

President	Craig Romary	cromary@agr.ne.gov
Vice Pres.	Tina Carlson	Tina.Carlson@ne.usda.gov
Secretary	Cam Loerch	Cameron.Loerch@ne.usda.gov
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	dlangeme@inetnebr.com
Past Pres.	Doug Garrison	dougg@inetnebr.com

Welcome to our new members from Nebraska's SWCS chapters!

The following people have joined since August 2005:

Northeast Nebraska

Allen Mittan

U of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Quinn
Courtney Quinn
Austin Bontrager
Travis Yonts
Richard Wilson
Jason Schafer
Kara Niemeir

Nebraska Chapter - Lincoln Section

Jessica Harder
Jennifer Salak
Verlon Barnes

In this Issue:

Pg 1 - Pres. Message

Pg 2 - Annual Meeting Report

Pg 3 - 2006 Awards

Pg 4 - International SWCS Meeting Report

Pg 5 - Annual Golf Tournament Report

Pg 6 - Scholarships Explained

Nebraska Chapter President's message

First of all I'd like to say that I'm honored to serve as president of the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS and invite you to **plan now to attend the 2007 NE SWCS Annual Meeting in the Lincoln Area June 7-9th, 2007**. After visiting the last couple of years with many of the chapter's past and present leaders and seeing the list of officers from the past, I know that I have big shoes to fill. However, I also know the chapter is supported by many of these same people and that it functions as a unit with everyone playing a part.

I'd like to take some time to review what took place at our annual meeting in Sidney, June 1-3, 2006. For those of you unable to attend, all I can say is "You had to be there". The theme for this meeting could have been "back to the basics", in my opinion – an agenda filled with basic information about timely topics rather than just specific programs, policies, regulations and bureaucracy. Please read the article on page two of this newsletter for a complete overview of the Annual Meeting. A big thank you goes to Tina Carlson, Robin Foulk, Sean Brown, Ed Harms, Roni Schadegg, Anita Nein, and Tina Baker for organizing this event, and to the speakers and sponsors who made this meeting successful.

The last day was dedicated to chapter business and reports, and we discussed the continued development of a strategic plan and leader handbook. Both of these will be useful tools in guiding our chapter in the coming years. We've set some lofty goals for our chapter, such as increasing both the number and diversity of our membership, increasing the number of section activities, and, in general, increasing the benefits and value of our SWCS chapter to its members.

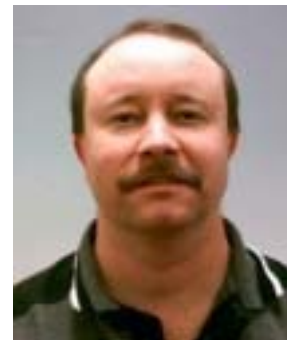
I encourage our members to become more involved in SWCS. Become familiar with our officers and section directors, ask questions, and offer ideas. One of the best benefits to becoming involved is meeting others across the state involved in conserving natural resources – outside of your normal work setting. Please take a minute to review this newsletter and associated information on the chapter and national SWCS web sites, and make it a point to attend an SWCS-sponsored event this year.

I look forward to serving as your chapter president, and also hearing from and/or meeting many of you in the coming year.

Craig Romary

Quick Bio: Craig Romary, Nebraska Chapter president, grew up in Humboldt, KS and received a Bachelor's and Master's degree in environmental biology from Emporia State University. From 1989-1991, he worked for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conducting riparian habitat evaluations. From 1991-1998, he worked for the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission developing long-term contracts with landowners for erosion control BMPs. Since then, he has been the environmental programs specialist for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's pesticide program, where he administers and coordinates the water quality, endangered species, and Nebraska Buffer Strip programs. Craig has been a member of SWCS since 1993, and served as our chapter's secretary from 2002-2006.

Craig lives in Lincoln, and enjoys spending time with his family, as well as hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors.



Craig Romary

NEBRASKA AND WYOMING CHAPTERS JOINT SUMMER MEETING

by Roni Schadegg, Wyoming SWCS Chapter

On June 1, over 40 SWCS members and interested producers from Wyoming and Nebraska gathered in Sidney, Nebraska, for the SWCS summer meeting. Sustainable Ag and Organic Farming was the theme throughout the meeting. Participants represented a wide variety of vocations and interests including local, state, and federal agencies, business owners, and land owners.



Nebraska SWCS members Tina Carlson, (Bridgeport), Robin Foulk (Chadron), Sean Brown (Scottsbluff), Tina Baker (Harrisburg), and Anita Nein (Chappell); and Roni Schadegg, Casper, Wyoming, coordinated the joint meeting of Nebraska and Wyoming Chapters.

The event kicked off at the Holiday Inn in Sidney, Nebraska, with Larry Glassburn, Lodgepole, Nebraska, organic farmer giving an overview and definitions (where needed) of organic farming, sustainable ag, natural beef, current research and local resources. Ken Disney, another organic farmer from Lodgepole, Nebraska followed with practical aspects of organic farming issues such as crop rotations and nutrient and pest management. Sam Welch, OneCert explained the National Organic Program issues in planning, record keeping, and compliance.

Claudia Stevenson, NRCS provided information on the organic farming component of the EQIP program. The afternoon ended with a farmer panel Shelly Elliot, Idle Thyme Farms, Wyoming; Kate Timm, Wyoming Salers Natural Beef; Larry Glassburn; yellow & blue corn, alfalfa, pinto beans; and Ken Disney, wheat spring peas, alfalfa; gave overviews of their operation.

That evening we carpoled to Chimney Rock and enjoyed 16 oz rib eye steaks at the Oregon Trail Wagon Train. We ended the evening singing songs by the campfire while we viewed the lumination of Chimney Rock.

Day two began with Aung Hla, UNL Panhandle Research Station reviewing UNL research into limited irrigation in the Nebraska Panhandle and Corey Brubaker, NRCS, teaching how to manage soil quality to reduce the effects of drought.

The afternoon we carpoled to the High Plains Research Station and the Sioux Army Depot munitions loading facility. The afternoon was spent examining the soil quality differences between no-till and conventionally-tilled land, and rangeland.



Corey Bruebaker, NE State Agronomist(r) demonstrates the Soil Quality Toolkit.

We also viewed the prairie near the original Sidney-Black Hills Trail at an historical marker.

The evening dinner and social hour included an entertaining video on the history of Cabela's with Ron Detlefsen, Lashley Land & Recreational Broker informing the group about Cabela's new venture into the real estate business with their Trophy Properties.

The Nebraska chapter should be commended for their great meeting and informative tours!



The evening moon shines over Chimney Rock.

**2006 President Doug Garrison
Presents Annual Meeting Awards**

Commendation Award: Tina Carlson has a long career in natural resources conservation. While serving as the Naval Academy's first program manager, Tina managed the Academy's natural resources on their undeveloped land. Tina managed an invasive weed control program on several hundred acres. Tina guided the development of a nature center for local schools and residents of the Naval Academy. The nature center included a trail system, educational programs, nature walks and indoor exhibits. Tina also supervised natural resource interns to run the nature center and to help manage Academy lands. Tina is currently employed by NRCS working with local landowners on water issues. Tina is very active in the Nebraska SWCS and serves as Vice-President.



Commendation Award: Natural Resource Conservation is an important goal for Steve Nein. Steve has served as the Panhandle Director of the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS the last three years, attending numerous annual, regional and international meetings of SWCS. Steve serves on the Board of Directors for the Northeast Colorado RC&D supporting alternative forms of energy and economic development. On his own farm and ranch, he has developed a very good rotational grazing system including cross fences and stock water development. Steve has installed terraces and maintained erosion control dams, developed wildlife habitat and numerous windbreaks.

Commendation Award: Wally Valasek's 35 years in Natural Resource Conservation work has impacted an enumerable amount of private landowners over this time period. Wally has served landowners in the Ord, North Platte, Auburn and Beatrice areas. During Wally's tenure in Beatrice he has worked closely with the NRD in the thirteen watersheds within the Lower Big Blue NRD. Wally was heavily involved in the establishment of the Bleakly-Grant Water Quality Area. This area was later expanded to become one of two pilot projects in Nebraska. The area was called the Central Blue Valley Hydrologic Unit Area. Wally has worked closely with the local work group to establish three EQIP priority areas in Gage and Saline County. Wally has served in many past SWCS positions and continues to promote the mission of SWCS.



Ron Timm (not pictured) received the **SWCS Honor Award in 2006**. Ron began his career in the earth moving business in March of 1988 at the young age of 21. On average, Ron builds about 200,000 feet of terraces each year. Following in the footsteps of his dad who put terraces on his land, Ron has done approximately 12,000 feet of terraces on the land he controls. Ron has also installed tree and grass planting through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program. Ron is recognized for the advancement of Natural Resource Conservation in the Nebraska Panhandle counties of Deuel, Cheyenne, Kimball, Keith, Garden, Scottsbluff and Box Butte.

2006 SWCS International Society Meeting Report - July 22-26, Keystone Colorado

Delegate Doug Garrison reports the annual meeting drew about 700 individuals to Keystone Colorado.

President Jean Steiner gave the "State of the Society" address at the Delegates Meeting. The SWCS Website has been revamped with the addition of a new SWCS Web Store. Grants are at an all time high for the organization (mainly due to Craig Cox's skills) but we don't want to rely on this source of funding. Membership is suffering. A chart of membership was circulated showing January 2005 membership at 5650. The chart showed a steady decline until just April of this year at 5250 members. Current membership is slightly above the April bottom now at 5275.

No resolutions were presented for delegates to consider.

Student Director Shannon Brown shared ideas on promoting and assisting student members. (We are lucky to have a student chapter here in Nebraska. We support this chapter by helping students with the cost of annual memberships, offering scholarships and representation from our State Chapter at student meetings.)

The incoming President is Theo Dillaha from the Southeast Region. He presented ideas on how to keep the board members active in their areas of representation.

Our Regional Director, Steve Oltmans held the Northern Plains Regional Breakfast. Each Chapter reported on activities over the past year in an idea sharing forum. Craig Cox attended the breakfast and reviewed the future direction of the society. Focus on long term activities such as publications and books to coincide with the ongoing Journal.

report continued top of page 5



Quick Bio: Tina Carlson, Chappell, holds the 2006 vice-presidential office. She is 46 and lives on a farm NE of Chappell where her husband farms dryland wheat and millet in Deuel and Garden counties.

She is currently the water management specialist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in the North Platte NRD. She was the Nebraska chapter SWCS secretary for 2005. She joined the SWCS upon employment with the NRCS in 2002.

Tina was born in Washington, DC, raised in suburban and rural Maryland, and finished high school in southern Mississippi. She graduated from Mississippi State University in 1982 with a B.S. in Agronomy. She worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Mississippi and Virginia. From 1990–2002, she worked at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland as a computer specialist and natural resources program manager.

Tina's hobbies are reading accounts of people's homesteading experiences (both during the western movement of the 1800s and up until today), hiking, plant identification, gardening, and taking long walks with her six dogs and a few cats in tow (and occasionally a husband). She has backpacked 900 of the 2100 miles of the Appalachian Trail, which runs from Georgia to Maine.

Hi everyone!

This is a message from your vice-president, Tina Carlson. I am struggling with a serious health problem and will continue to do so over the fall and winter, but I am determined to stay connected and active in our fine chapter. There is no better conservation organization than the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Both the Nebraska and Northeast chapters are run by dedicated, conservation-minded individuals.

I have two requests of you, fellow members:

1) Volunteer one or two hours to your chapter this year. Don't wait to be asked to help with some task. Your involvement is what makes this organization tick. Here are some ideas for volunteerism I hope you'll consider:

a. Write a short article for a newsletter (possible topics: a member spotlight, a photo montage of a conservation practice installation, something you or a group did for the environment (doesn't have to be farming-related ... for instance, I planted Legacy buffalo grass as an experiment on part of my lawn and it is doing fantastic despite severe drought).

b. Help out with the native plants garden at the State Fairground. Donate a native plant to your local plant club? in the name of the SWCS or favorite person.

c. Donate an hour to do some calling or planning for our next annual meeting. Phone up the present committee for guidance, contact Craig Romary, Jim Harder or Doug Garrison.

2) Take care of your health. Although my illness is not due to carelessness, it is hard to see others abuse theirs when folks such as me might give a million bucks to trade places. So, walk twenty minutes tonight, don't take a second helping of ice cream, or lift weights for ten minutes. You won't regret it!!

One last word from the father of soil conservation ... Hugh Hammond Bennett wrote in 1943:

"If we are bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known - not only for the war but for the peace that is to follow."

Ramp up special conferences using a new staff person dedicated to this effort (Duane Johnson). Increase our science direction with a new Science and Technology Committee. In next Farm Bill move our emphasis to supporting Technical Assistance (money is not always the answer). As for Membership, we have learned that the one-on-one contact is the best way to get new members (80% success rate). Ankeny is working on retention of current members with great success rate. The key is current members asking their peers one-on-one to become new members.

Steve Oltmans closed the meeting informing the group that he would be stepping down from his Regional Director position due to his change in employment. Steve is now with Olsson Associates, serving as their Business Development Manager.

The Honorable Gregory J. Gobbs, Jr. of the Colorado Supreme Court delivered the Annual Pritchard Lecture.

His presentation focused on the challenges of water issues in the Western U.S.

Numerous technical workshops, symposiums, breakout sessions and tours were available to attendees. A BBQ and Mountain Rendezvous was held one evening for all attendees. Great food, music and fun and games including tomahawk throwing was available for all.

Nebraska Members in attendance that I know of (there may have been others) included Robin Foulk, James Harder, Steve Oltmans, Bruce Wight, Gary Bentrup, Gary Wells, Dallas Johansen, Ron Bauer, Dave Lightle, Gus and Donna Dornbusch, Tony & Elaine Vrana, Doug Garrison.



Nebraskans enjoy a Colorado Mountain BBQ!

Nebraska Chapter SWCS 2006 Golf Tourney/Fund Raiser

The Tenth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on August 25, 2006 at Pioneers Golf Club of Lincoln. Forty seven golfers (15 SWCS members and 32 nonmembers) participated, compared to 39 last year. A team, best ball format was used. Winning teams were: 1st - Tom Keep, Doug Wagner, Ryan Kroemer, Jason Lorenzen, Jason Meyer; 2nd - Richard Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Glen Langemeier; 3rd - Jim Culver, Jim Harder, Steve Harder, Randy Epperson; 4th - Steve Nelson, Tim Hellman, Chuck Leinen, Robert Hall, Dennis Schroeder; 5th - Ed Svendsen, Mike Kucera, Scott Argabright, Marc Crouch; 6th - Dave Langemeier, Gary Wells, Joe Calder, Gary Muckel; 7th - Roland Langemeier, Bill Ruzicka, Kenny Neujahar, Don Muehlich; 8th - Cam Loerch, Roger Reichmuth, Phil Jones, Jason Sall; 9th - Marvin Thompson, Carl McReynolds, Wayne Manthei, Jim Carr; 10th - Tony Vrana, Don Vrana, Jim Barr, Jim Fortner, Earl Lockridge; and 11th - Rich Torpin, Trevor Torpin, JR Schmidt, Jim Reedy.

The individual low score was a tie between Jim Culver and Ed Svendsen. The individual low number of putts was won by Gary Wells. Kris Reed operated the chipping contest with winners being Gary Wells, Gary Muckel, Marc Crouch, and Carl McReynolds. Players were from Lincoln, Scribner, Fremont, Seward, Schuyler, North Bend, Norfolk, York, Tecumseh, Syracuse, Pleasant Dale, Kearney, and Omaha plus Shenandoah, Iowa, and Manhattan, Kansas.

Seven teams were winners of the 18 flag events. Everyone went home full of cookies and with more than one prize thanks to the sponsors listed below.

Prizes, including money for the UNL Scholarship fund, were donated by T.O. Haas Tire, Union Bank, Budweiser Distributor Double Eagle Beverage, LLC., Wal-Mart, Target, State Farm, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Pioneers Golf Club, Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, Papio-Missouri NRD, NARD, Nebraska Soybean Offices, Lincoln USDA Credit Union, Diers Ford, Austad's Golf, Stock Seed Farms, Lyle Steffen, David Langemeier, Gary Wells, Pinnacle Banks - Schuyler and Lincoln, Security First Bank, US Bank, Bank of Iowa at Shenandoah, Cattle Bank of Seward, Poultry Division - Nebraska Dept. of Agr. and the SWCS National Office. Please thank them when you see them.

The golf event will be able to make a donation of about \$1,000 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*

Nebraska SWCS Chapter
13550 W US HWY 34
Malcolm, NE 68402

SWCS NEBRASKA CHAPTERS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Nebraska chapters, Nebraska and Northeast, have two Foundations which provide scholarships to college students interested in the broad natural resources field.

University of Nebraska Foundation, Nebraska Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society. The University of Nebraska Foundation - Nebraska SWCS endowment fund was established in 1973 to provide a mechanism for providing scholarships to college students interested in the natural resources field. Dollars from our Nebraska chapters and from other donors are invested in this Foundation. Scholarships are awarded from only the earnings of this investment. The dollar amount of the scholarships (which can not exceed the amount of earnings) given each year is decided at the Nebraska chapters annual business meeting. Eligible students are “regularly enrolled undergraduate students in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney or NCTA campus.”

The fund balance as of April 30, 2006 was \$16,213.41. Of this total, \$1,370.41 was investment income that is available for scholarships.

The Nebraska Chapter for the 2006-2007 year has budgeted \$500 for the University of Nebraska Foundation SWCS Fund.

The Nebraska chapters at the annual business meeting at Sidney voted to provide two \$700 scholarships for the 2006-2007 year.

Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation (NSWCF). The NSWCF was created in 1988 with the purpose of promoting and supporting special activities in education, public

information and research. It is a part of the Nebraska and Northeast Nebraska Chapters. Dollars from our Nebraska chapters and from other donors are invested in this Foundation. The Foundation may use both principal and earnings for the projects which are selected by the Foundation’s Board of Directors. In recent years they have been giving a college scholarship which may be used at any Nebraska college, although the students have usually been attending the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

The Nebraska Chapter for the 2006-2007 year has budgeted \$500 for the NSWCF general fund.

The NSWCF at their annual business meeting at Sidney voted to provide one \$750 scholarship for the 2006-2007 year.

General Comments:

The amount budgeted by the Nebraska chapters for each foundation and the amount awarded to students each year are not necessarily identical amounts.

The method of presentation of the scholarships is different for the two Foundations. The officers of the NSWCF present the check in person to the recipient. The recipients of the UNL Foundation scholarship have the money deposited directly in their student account at the UNL.

In recent years, Paul Smith has led the committee that selects the students. Applications are generally due about December 1st. Selections are made and announced before the end of December. Both Foundations use the same scholarship applications and selection committee.

Dave Langemier

http://incolor.inetnebr.com/doug/swcs/Scholarship_Application.pdf