



April 2007 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

Nebraska Chapter President's message

This year, many of our members have been involved in SWCS activities. I am always impressed with the commitment given by these people. We've had conference calls and email discussions about our chapter activities and strategic plan, we've mailed letters to former members to update them on what's going on, we've been supporting the UNL student chapter by attending their meetings and other functions, we continue to maintain the native plant display at State Fair Park, and some have attended regional development meetings and/or participated in regional conference calls. Still others attended last year's International Conference and some may be planning to represent our chapters at the International meeting in July.

Time has sure flown these last several months. There has been a lot of activity in getting this year's annual meeting in place. As you can see by the information posted on our website, there will be a variety of topics and activities taking place this June. I encourage everyone to come – not only to support SWCS and make it a successful meeting, but hopefully to learn a couple of things you didn't know, to meet new friends, and to reacquaint yourself with friends you haven't seen for awhile. We've tried to provide an agenda that should be educational and informative to a wide variety of people.

If you get the chance, please thank those people who have helped put this meeting together. I will try to name them, but I'm sure there will always be people behind the scenes that don't get the recognition they deserve: Doug Garrison, Jim Harder, Corey Brubaker, Ross Scott, Steve Chick, Mark Kuzila, Paul Zillig, John Miyoshi, Dave Langemeier, Kris Reed, Dennis Schroeder, and Cam Loerch. This is a big undertaking, as many of you know, but it comes together with everyone's help! **[Visit our website for agenda and registration information!](#)**

Craig Romary

SWCS Scholarship Winners - UNL Foundation

The Nebraska Chapter and the Northeast Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society have a scholarship fund at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Foundation. The interest on this investment fund enabled us to give two \$700 scholarships in December 2006.

The year 2006-2007 scholarship winners are Weldon III (Jake) Marotz and Jared M. Mauler.

Jake is a UNL senior majoring in Agricultural Engineering with a focus in soil and water resources and is a native of Stanton. He has had summer jobs working in a Pollution Prevention internship through UNL and he is also working with UNL Extension on the Livestock Producers Environmental Assistance Project. He is also currently involved in a senior design project that is investigating water treatment options for the town of Bennet. Jake states that he has "a desire to work with environmental engineering specifically water and wastewater." He is planning on pursuing a Masters of Science degree in Environmental Engineering.

Jared is a UNL sophomore majoring in Agronomy with an emphasis on Integrated Pest Management and a minor in Agricultural Economics. He grew up on a farm and ranch operation near Sargent and still spends a lot of time helping with the family farm. He currently works in the greenhouses in the Agronomy and Horticulture Departments. Jared states that "With the ever-changing landscape of agriculture and the growing population and urbanization of the world, natural resource conservation will be on the forefront of all agricultural operations." After college, he plans on becoming a crop consultant, working part time as a commodity broker and perhaps pursuing production agriculture.

The Nebraska SWCS chapters are pleased to announce these two scholarship winners. Many of us had the opportunity to meet Jake at the SWCS Legislative Breakfast. Please congratulate them and encourage them as they pursue careers in the natural resources field.

NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL WORKSHOP

by Anita Nein

Nebraska representatives were Dallas Johannsen, Steve, Dan, Diane, and Anita Nein at the Regional Meeting in Red Lodge, Montana.

The sessions were very good. There were several that were outstanding. Most controversial was the information on coal bed methane extraction and the resulting potential environmental problems that can result as the extracted surface water can become more or less salty. Montana doesn't want to see some of that water put in the Yellowstone River to dilute the salts. Wyoming developers see it as a way to dilute the salty water and not be harmful. Most of the water is now stored in ponds as surface water on rangeland until it seeps back into the soil.

Carbon sequestration information was given in an interesting way by Ron Follet. Nebraska is adding land in with an Iowa aggregator for sale. Ron asked for addresses and processes Nebraska is using now.

The extreme make-over of corrals was a presentation of a project to get cattle off streams in that area. Pipelines and tanks are developed with the Montana Stockgrowers Association using EQIP and other moneys. One important thing to consider in getting corrals away from streams is to relocate the calving barns and EQIP doesn't help with that. Since barns are very important to the ranchers in the colder winter climate, other sources of funding such as grants are being utilized.

Social marketing and keeping volunteer organizations healthy were two other outstanding presentations relevant to conservation support groups, SWCS in particular.

A tour of the plant materials center in Bridger was a hit to all the participants. In addition to showing continuity of plants in the plant breeding arena, they showed the art of cleaning grasses & forbs to keep germination numbers high and the inert and weed materials low in the seed lots.

Montana SWCS did an outstanding job in hosting this well attended event.

24th ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Soil Water Conservation Society

NEBRASKA CHAPTER

January 24, 2007, 7:00am-8:00am

Nebraska State Office Building, Room LL-A

MC: Craig Romary, President, Nebraska Chapter

SPEAKERS: Scott Josiah, State Forester and Director of the Nebraska Forest Service, and Doak Nickerson, Northwest District Forester presented a program on the "Forest Fires of Nebraska - 2006". Introduction by Kris Reed

Rolls, coffee and orange juice served. Cost:\$2.00 per person. State Senators and students - free.

Coordinator: Program, coffee and room set-up: Kris Reed. Rolls and juice: Val Bohaty. Finances: David Langemeier.

The Nebraska Chapter SWCS student scholarship winner Weldon(Jake)Marotz was introduced.

Finances: Income	\$ 44.00
Expenses	<u>40.61</u>
Net	\$ 3.39

Attendance:

Nebr. Legis. Offices	4
Retired	6
NRCS Nebraska	6
Nebr. DNR	5
Nebr. Dept. of Ag	1
NRD's	1
Forest Service	2

Attendees at the Northern Plains Regional Meeting pause for a group photo.



Nebraska Chapter Strategic Plan

The following goals and objectives were developed at the annual meeting last year. Please review this list and consider where you can fit in or help. Contact the chapter officers or section directors if you have other ideas or suggestions for our chapter or for activities in your area.

Membership - Goal: Increase membership numbers from current 2006 level of 184 to 200 in 2007, 220 in 2008 and 240 in 2010 (membership, as of February 2007, was 167 – see section map).

Activities: Recruit former members, each member involved in recruiting, increase NRCS state office involvement, develop membership information packages, continue to support student chapters.

Professional Development - Goal: Increase the number of training opportunities (hosted/provided/ sponsored) for our members.

Activities: develop training/professional development activities for annual meetings, form a professional development committee.

Funds/Chapter development - Goal: Promote Chapter activities.

Activities: brown bag lunches, legislative breakfast, conservation tours, golf tournament, silent auction.

Function & Activities - Goal: Increase participation at meetings.

Activities: include topics of interest to variety of people that address a need or issue, offer CEUs.

Nebraska Chapters Board of Directors (member count):

Panhandle Section (13)

Robin Foulk, NRCS

Sandhills Section (4)

Mike Murphy, Middle Niobrara NRD

South Central Section (14)

Randy Gunn, South Central RC&D

Blue-Nemaha Section (7)

Roger Reichmuth, NRCS

Lincoln Section (91)

Ross Scott, NRCS

At-Large

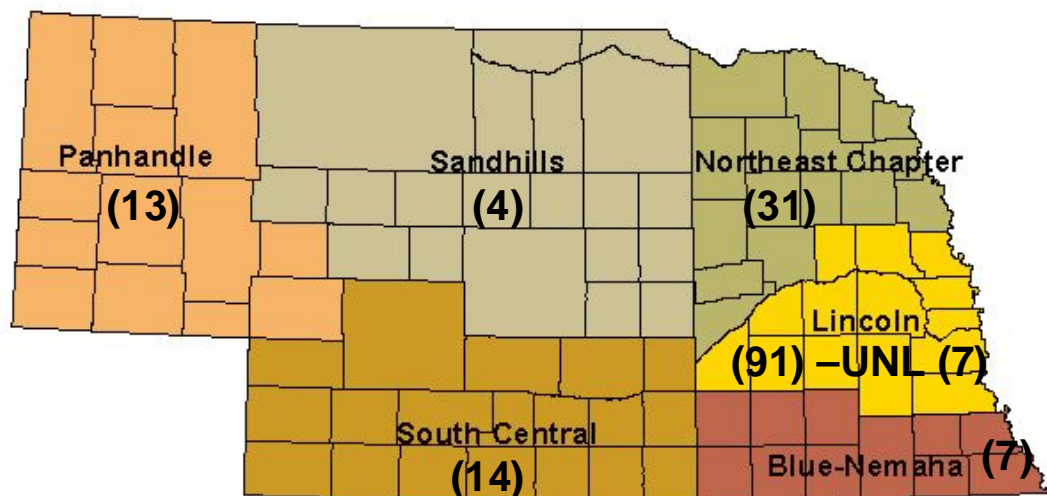
Corey Brubaker, NRCS

Northeast Nebraska Chapter(31)

Charles Reppert

UNL Student Chapter (7)

Jason Schaefer



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

For annual meeting election to replace expired term of Kris Reed.

Members of the S & W Cons. Society in Nebraska are eligible to vote for Board Members of the Foundation.

Ballot for one Board Member: Vote for one, for a 5 year term.

_____ Kris Reed

_____ Jim Culver

Ballots can be mailed to Paul D. Smith, 1024 Dale Dr., Lincoln, NE 68510.

Or vote by email to: PDSmith55@aol.com.

Silent Auction at Annual Meeting

Please be thinking about potential auction items for our annual meeting.

This is not only a good fundraiser for our chapter, but it is also fun to see who will walk (or run) away with the prizes.

More information will be emailed to you soon. If you don't have email and would like to donate or help solicit auction items, please call Craig at 402-471-6883.

Visit our website for the Annual Meeting Agenda and Registration Form!