



# Nebraska Society News

SoilandWaterConservationSociety

November 2007 Newsletter

## Officers 2007-2008

President	Craig Romary	<a href="mailto:craig_romary@nebraska.gov">craig_romary@nebraska.gov</a>
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Secretary	Cam Loerch	<a href="mailto:Cameron.Loerch@ne.usda.gov">Cameron.Loerch@ne.usda.gov</a>
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	<a href="mailto:dlangeme@inetnebr.com">dlangeme@inetnebr.com</a>
Past Pres.	Doug Garrison	<a href="mailto:dougg@inetnebr.com">dougg@inetnebr.com</a>

## SWCS MEMBER IN THE NEWS

SWCS Member Anita Nien's work with local landowner Harold Pidgeon was recently highlighted in a "Spotlight On Conservation" article on the Nebraska NRCS Website. Visit <http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/> and click the "Spotlight On Conservation" link. Mr. Pidgeon used a variety of conservation programs and funding sources, including a grant from the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation. The direct link to the article is:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NE/Outgoing/News/NebraskaSuccessStories/HaroldPegionCCRP.pdf>

## NORTHEAST CHAPTER NEWS

The Northeast Nebr. SWCS chapter again sponsored a 22 rifle shooting team. Several Northeast SWCS members, new members and some potential recruits' all participated on the team during the summer. The SWCS team came in fourth out of the teams that participated this year.

Members of the team shot at metal plate targets that ranged in size from 4 inches to 1 ½ inch in diameter. Each shooter each got 50 shells to shoot at 40 targets. There were four stations that each shooter shot at and each station had 10 targets. The first station was free standing with the targets at 40 meters. The second station was kneeling with targets at 66 meters. The third station was sitting with the targets at 75 meters and the fourth station shooters were able to bench the rifle and the targets were at 100 meters.

Three members comprised a team. And the team score was determined by the number of targets that each shooter hit. Targets at the 40 meter distance were worth one point. Targets at the 66 meter distance are worth 2 points. Targets at the 75 meter distance are worth 3 points and the targets at the 100 meter distance were worth 4 points. A total of 300 points for the three shooters were possible.

Mike "Mo" Lance - President  
Northeast Nebraska SWCS

## 2007 NE SWCS Annual Meeting Wrap-up

Another successful annual meeting was held this year in Lincoln. If you were unable to attend, please take the time to view presentations and photos available on our web site at <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs/>. Some interesting points from our biofuels presentations included:

- √ Ethanol production:
  - √ Brazil - directly from sugar to ethanol
  - √ USA – Corn starch to sugar to ethanol
- √ Production of one gallon of ethanol requires 3 to 5 gallons of water.
- √ Past 20 years there has been a 45% decrease in energy required to produce ethanol.
- √ One bushel of corn = 2.7 gallons (20 lbs) of ethanol, 17 lbs distillers grain and 19 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- √ A Cellulose ethanol production plant would require 2800 large bales daily (85 twenty ton trucks). In a 25 mile radius of the plant would require 10% of the land base to produce these large bales. In an area like Aurora Nebraska, just using the center pivot corners would supply the land required for a plant.
- √ When oil is \$60 per barrel, ethanol plants can pay \$4.80 - \$5.20 per bushel for corn.

Also, please take the opportunity to thank our meeting sponsors including: *CDM, Dow AgroSciences, JEO Consulting Group, Olsson Associates, Lower Platte South NRD, HDR and DuPont*. It would not have been as successful without their monetary support.

Preparation has already begun for the 2008 Nebraska SWCS annual meeting to be held next summer in the south central region. Topics are currently being discussed. Contact Randy Gunn with ideas you may have. Please watch for further announcements, and plan to attend this meeting the first part of June 2008!

## President's Message

I had the privilege of attending the 2007 International Conference in Tampa Florida last July. Wow! What a meeting. I think it's safe to say nobody walked away without learning something. My only complaint was there was too much going on at any one point in time – how was I supposed to choose which presentation to go to? There were sessions on CEAP, vegetative drainage ditches, watershed/riparian area assessments, estimating sediment delivery, water monitoring, partnerships and partnership building, invasive species, biological diversity . . . and the list goes on. Many of these presentations may be accessible soon on the SWCS web site at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org).

Nebraska's chapters were well-represented in Tampa – Steve Chick, Gus Dornbusch, John Miyoshi (and wife, Carol), Charles Reppert (and wife, Margaret), and Wally Valasek (and wife, Barb) were there, as well as many others from the Northern Plains region. It was great to see familiar faces and meet new friends.

Several things struck me while listening to some of the SWCS leadership workshop and business meeting presentations. 2006-2007 SWCS President Theo Dillaha summarized some of the information gleaned from a recent online member survey (see [http://www.swcs.org/en/about\\_swcs/state\\_of\\_the\\_society\\_2007/](http://www.swcs.org/en/about_swcs/state_of_the_society_2007/) for Theo's State of the Society Address). Approximately one third of our members completed the survey, and 60% listed the main reason they joined SWCS as being "they were encouraged to do so by an SWCS member". Forty-three percent responded they had not asked anyone to join in the last three years, and approximately one third had been a member for 5 years or less. There are likely many factors affecting declining national membership, but with all of the competition for our time and resources, it seems apparent that each member needs to consider the value of their membership and relay that value to others. And that applies to anyone with a potential interest in soil and water resource conservation – not just those within your own agency or organization. I believe if more people, including those in the private sector, were aware of the special projects and emphasis of SWCS at the national level, there would be interest in supporting this cause. Getting the Journal and becoming a part of a local network of conservationists is a benefit, too. Participation at our annual state meetings as well as regional or local activities are greatly encouraged. And your comments and ideas are most welcome – feel free to contact any of your officers or section directors.

## New, Improved SWCS Web Site

If you haven't visited the International SWCS web site recently, please take the time to do so. New features include online membership renewal, state chapter directories with officer/director contact information, and a member-only directory where you can update your contact information available online. Look for the "Information for members and chapters" button in the left-hand legend at [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org). Another notable feature is the "special projects" section, where published reports of many of the recent national projects are found, including the CEAP, CSP, and EQIP program evaluations and many more. More results of the member survey will also be posted at this site soon.

## Corporate Memberships Available

SWCS now has three levels of corporate membership which not only help our chapters with a little more funding, but also provide value to the company in the way of advertisements in SWCS publications, recognition on SWCS web page and conference programs, and depending on the corporate level, either one or two individual memberships, booth space at the international meeting, and registrations to several SWCS meetings throughout the year. Current corporate members include Agri Drain Corporation, Agren Inc., Erosion Tech Inc., Validus Services LLC, and The Nature Conservancy. This type of membership should be appealing to engineering or crop consulting firms, those producing erosion control, landscaping, or irrigation products, and plant material retailers. Interested companies should visit the SWCS web site at [http://www.swcs.org/en/corporate\\_membership/](http://www.swcs.org/en/corporate_membership/) to see the corporate membership brochure and detailed benefits document. From there, simply contact SWCS at 1-800-THE-SOIL or [sueann.lynes@swcs.org](mailto:sueann.lynes@swcs.org).

## New Members (since November 2006)

Nebraska Chapter, Lincoln Section -  
Dick Ehrman  
Dwight Hanson  
Robert Hall

UNL Student Chapter –  
Anthony Marshall

*Welcome to Nebraska SWCS!*

## NE Chapter SWCS 2007 Golf Tourney/ Fund Raiser

The 11th Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held August 24, 2007 at Highlands Golf Club of Lincoln. Thirty nine golfers (15 SWCS & 24 non-members) participated. Team, best ball format: 1st - Tony Vrana, Don Vrana, Joe Calder, Jack Olig, Dave Nichelson; 2nd - Tom Keep, Cam Loerch, Arlis Plummer, Ian Plummer, Mike Kucera; 3rd - Richard Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Glen Langemeier; 4th - Dave Langemeier, Steve Nelson, Lyle Steffen, Gary Wells; 5th - Paul Zillig, Mike Dosskey, Jim Fortner, Larry Brown; 6th - Chuck Leinen, Robert Hall, Dennis Schroeder, Tim Helman; 7th - Ed Svendsen, Wayne Manthei, Bob Rathjen, Marv Thompson; 8th - Roger Reichmuth, Bob Sullivan, Jason Sall, Gary Muckel, Craig Romary; and 9th - Rich Torpin, Trevor Torpin, JR Schmidt, Randy Epperson.

Tom Keep had the individual low score. The individual low number of putts was a tie between Gary Muckel and Larry Langemeier. The team low putt prize was won by Richard Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Larry Langemeier and Glen Langemeier. Flag events were held on all 18 holes and the chipping contest was won by Cam Loerch. Players were from numerous Nebraska towns plus Shenandoah, IA, and Manhattan, KS.

Everyone went home full of cookies and with more than one prize thanks to the following sponsors. 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, State Farm, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Highlands Golf Club, Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, Papio-Missouri NRD, NARD, Nebraska Soybean Offices, Lincoln USDA Credit Union, Licorice International, Diers Ford, Stock Seed Farms, Tractor Supply Company, Lyle Steffen, David Langemeier, Gary Wells, Cam Loerch, Dr. Kevin and Beth O'Farrell, Pinnacle Banks - 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 \$750 to the Nebraska Chapter - SWCS University of Nebraska Foundation Scholarship Fund. This represents a portion of the entry fees, mulligans, chipping contest, and contributions by the sponsors listed above.

*David Langemeier*

## FOUNDATION NEWS

The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation (SWCF), will be presenting a College Scholarship for natural resource students again this year. It will be the 20th straight year of presenting at least one scholarship. Applications are available on East Campus, from any Board member or the Nebraska SWCS website. Two scholarships will also be awarded by the Nebraska Chapter through the UN'L Foundation.

The Foundation is managed by a five member board: Val Bohaty President, Krista Reed Vice President, Richard Leitschuck Secretary, Paul Smith Treasurer and member Corey Brubaker. One board member comes up for election each year for a 5 year term. Applications for Scholarships can be requested by writing to: 1024 Dale Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510.

The Board will be electing one new member this next Annual Meeting to fill Richard Leitschuck's vacancy as he will be retiring from the board. Those interested can contact any board member.

The SWCF has benefited from Memorials made in memory of Tina Carlson. She named the Foundation as one of the recipients of her memorials and members and others have responded.

*Submitted by Paul D. Smith*

*Treasurer and Registered Agent.*

### Kris Ethridge New Vice President

Kris was raised on a wheat farm/cattle ranch in northcentral Kansas and graduated from Glasco High School in 1994. He attended Sterling College where he played basketball and graduated with a B.S. in biology in 1998. Kris coached basketball at Fairfield High School for a couple of years before attending Kansas State University where he focused research on nutrient loss from land applied cattle manure. He graduated with a master's degree in soil science in 2002.

Kris began working for NRCS in 2002 as a district conservationist in Yates Center, KS. In 2005, he moved to Seward, NE where he currently serves as the resource conservationist.

Kris is married to Brooke and has one son, Luke..



Nebraska SWCS Chapter  
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Malcolm, NE 68402

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### **Tina Carlson 1960 - 2007**

In case you have not heard, Tina Carlson, our 2006-2007 vice president, passed away Tuesday, September 4th. If you had a chance to meet her, I'm sure you would agree with me that she was full of life, and, despite her failing health, I'm sure that was the case right to the end.

Tina was involved throughout her life in natural resources activities, and even with her passing, leaves her mark by requesting the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation as one of her memorial recipients. I can't think of a better way to honor her life, friendship, and memory.

Memorial contributions to the Foundation, which provides grants for student scholarships and special conservation projects in Nebraska, can be sent to:  
Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation  
c/o Paul Smith  
1024 Dale Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68510



### **Note From Tina's Family**

A sincere THANK YOU from the family of Tina (Lorentzen) Carlson, Water Management Specialist in Bridgeport. The Carlson and Lorentzen families wish to thank employees of NRCS for the many expressions of sympathy and support at the loss of Tina on September 4th in her brave fight against cancer.

A memorial will be given to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Society. Also, her friends and associates in Maryland have received permission from the Naval Academy to plant a white oak, which will bear a plaque with her name in remembrance of her contribution to conservation in Maryland.

Again, many thanks to all friends in NRCS for your wonderful support during this very sorrowful time.

### **SWCS Member Investigating Book**

Nebraska SWCS Member Bob Koener is investigating publishing a book about the Great Plains which would include Counties of Sully, Huges, Potter, Walworth in South Dakota and parts of Nebr and Kansas. Interested folks can contact Bob at: rockoerner1@aol.com