



# Nebraska Society News

SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2010-2011

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## 2010 ANNUAL STATE MEETING

### Darwin Hinrichs – President

Thank you to Northeast Nebraska for hosting the 2010 State Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Chapter meeting at the Ponca State Park. Special thanks to Scott Bohaty and his colleagues for a great meeting. Ponca State Park and surrounding area offered SWCS members and guests a variety of natural resource tours and topics. Jan Jorgensen – Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development Coordinator - started the meeting with an overview of rural improvement projects in Northeast Nebraska. Projects presented were the Prairie Chicken Bus Tour, recycling projects, weed management areas, organic farming, and grant writing just to name a few.

Doug Smith – Dixon County Weed Superintendent – led a tour to display test plots for controlling leafy spurge. A variety of leafy spurge control combinations, both chemical and biological, have been used on the test pastures since 2000 in order to evaluate effectiveness, economics, and efficiency.

A tour of the Game & Parks restoration area along the Missouri river was led by Ponca State Park Superintendent Jeff Fields. This tour included the history of the Missouri River and a review of restoration projects. Participants enjoyed a wagon ride through the park and a great view from the outlook over the Missouri.

Theresa Smydra let a tour in of a dirt slide, Ionia “Volcano”, and a visit with a landowner passionate about historical / cultural resource protection and collection. Following Theresa’s tour participants enjoyed a tour of Powder Creek Watershed area with Steve Grube and Jim Joachimsen.

The meeting also included a banquet and awards ceremony. Congratulations to Kris Ethridge, Scott Bohaty, Dallas Johannsen, Dayle Williamson, Scott Wessel, Lucas Negus, and Bekka Jessen for receiving awards. The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation (SWCF) and Nebraska SWCS Chapter meetings were held the final day of the annual meeting. The minutes for the meetings can be found on the Nebraska SWCS website

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>.



President Darwin Hinrichs presenting a Commendation Award to Kris Ethridge.



President Darwin Hinrichs and Commendation Award winner Dallas Johannsen.



Northeast Director and Commendation Award recipient Scott Bohaty.  
<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>



President Darwin Hinrichs with Merit Award winners Lucas Negus, Bekka Jessen, and Scott Wessel.

Information and criteria for the awards presented can be found at [http://www.swcs.org/en/members\\_only/awards\\_for\\_individuals/](http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/awards_for_individuals/).

## 65<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN ST. LOUIS

**Darwin Hinrichs – President**

My wife and I would like to thank the Nebraska SWCS Chapter for providing financial help to attend this meeting. We really appreciate it. Having the meeting located between the Arch and the new baseball stadium, what more could you ask for at a great meeting? I especially enjoyed listening to our current Chief David White and Past Chief Paul Johnson speak at the banquet honoring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) / Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and 65<sup>th</sup> national SWCS meeting. The highlight of the trip was networking with colleagues at the social where we enjoyed a meal and attended the Cardinals/Philly's game. It helped to have the Cardinals win and hit five home runs. The 2011 meeting will be in Washington D.C. This will be a great opportunity to see and visit many important sites and network with our national conservationists. A "Dig It" display was included at the meeting in St Louis and it got a lot of interest during the meeting.

On Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> I attended the House of Delegates session as the Nebraska voting delegate. There was only one resolution presented and this came from the Empire (New York State) Chapter. It was titled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change." They were recommending that SWCS develop a position statement on the evaluation, development and promotion of

agricultural practices to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Following discussion on the resolution, a vote was taken from the attending voting delegates. The resolution passed and discussion followed about the importance of the period we are moving into with respect to energy, water and global climate change issues.



Nebraskans and former Nebraskans attending the International SWCS meeting this year in St Louis pictured above are Steve and Anita Nein, Robin Foulk, Darwin and Marie Hinrichs and Mr. & Mrs. Rich Duesterhaus.

## PIONEER OF FOUNDATION BOARD RETIRES Paul D. Smith – Historical/Scholarship Committee Chairman / Foundation Treasurer and Registered Agent

Valerian Bohaty retired from the Nebraska SWCF Board after 21 years of service by not running for re-election. He was one of the organizing members of the Board being a member of the steering committee for SWCS, beginning in 1985. Val has been a member of SWCS for 50 years.

The Nebraska SWCF is a nonprofit, privately-supported organization dedicated to the conservation and wise use of soil, water, air, plant and animal life – our renewable natural resources. Created in 1988, the Foundation provides financial and professional support for conservation education, public information and research. This is done through educational workshops, programs and activities, public seminars, scholarships and achievement awards. All members of the Nebraska Chapter are members of the Foundation.

Val Bohaty, a farm boy who lived near Bruno, graduated from David City High School and the University of Nebraska. He began his career with USDA, SCS in 1956 in Wahoo. He then served in the military in Germany for two years. In July of 1959 he became a Soil Conservationist in Syracuse and in Auburn in 1962. He

became a District Conservationist (DC) in Auburn in 1963. Val, a father of 2 boys, moved to Nelson as DC from 1967 to 1970 and became the DC in Lincoln in June of 1971. He supervised that office for 26 years until his retirement from NRCS in November 1997.

Val & his wife Darlene live in east central Lincoln. He remains active by doing some on the farm conservation engineering. He also provides 'transportation to school' service for his four grand daughters. He serves on the Ag Committee of the Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club. He also manages the family farm in Butler County.

It would be difficult to find a more dedicated conservationist, supporter of SWCS, and supporter of NRCS. Proof is in his hard work, over 54 years of public service, which shows on the land to conserve our soil and water resources.



Val Bohaty at the 2010 Nebraska SWCS Annual Meeting in Ponca, Nebraska.

## **SMALL STARTS TO BROAD SOLUTIONS** **Anita Nein - SWCS Northern Plains Director**

My father got a soil conservation district award in 1971 based on the conservation work he did on the family farm/ranch. I grew up actively engaged in the activities of cow/calf and dairy operations on rangeland, corn and alfalfa on irrigated crop land, plus wheat, barley, oats, millet, sorghum on dry crop land, I applied conservation practices on a daily basis. In the summer we rode a half an hour by horse to go get the dairy cows that were rotated in various range lands away from the barn. I never crossed the level terraces in an attempt to keep them in place longer, used crop diversity and maintained as much crop residue as possible. The conservation ethic rubbed off on me.

My mother was a teacher in a one room country school in the Sand Hills between Lewellen and Arthur, Nebraska and she rode a horse eight miles to get to and from school. She instilled a love for learning and high esteem for education. She was proud of me and encouraged me to complete college at Colorado State University. The learning bug bit me and made me a life-long learner.

I am now retired from 25.5 years of NRCS work. Not only does that mean I have time to devote to SWCS work, but also that experience showed how farm programs work and further how conservation is applied. Like many of you, I've seen many ways to shape policy and apply conservation.

The experience of being an active member of SWCS has really broadened my scope by visiting other places and conservation applications in Nebraska, attending tours and workshop presentations at international meetings and taking in leadership development with the SWCS Northern Plains Regional Meetings. By attending a committee meeting on the Science and Policy and updating the Mission and Goals Statements for SWCS I am motivated to evaluate problems on a broader scope.

The last International Conference in Saint Louis, Missouri was a very exciting time. Following the giant oil spill in the Gulf people were really "gung ho" about trying to protect our environment. Who is the lead agency, how is USDA responding, what kind of mulches are being put down to absorb the oil to reduce damage to the sensitive barrier islands? There was such an urgency and timeliness never before noted in SWCS.

In the end, the scientist from a research boat in the Gulf told us that hypoxia is going to have more devastating effects than the giant oil spill. The oil spill will actually make the damage from too many nutrients worse. It was as if the jury had just returned a guilty verdict. In listening to all bad news about the oil spill, how can non-point source pollution have an even worse effect? (Yikes! I just spend half my career on non-point source pollution. I thought we had the major part of that problem licked.) With all that SWCS and the farms bills have done to reduce the hypoxia issue we have only just begun. SWCS has had hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico as its prime goal to alleviate for at least a few years now. Surely, we can and must do better.

Never before has it been more important to be a SWCS member to put all of our concerns and solutions to good use. Creative and collective problem solving and policy making is going to be our map steering us out of the messes in which we find ourselves. Good people with <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>





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conservation ethic and application skills, the science and farming knowledge can make it happen. You may think there are plenty of other people out there that can know and do as you can. Unfortunately, it's not true. You are the ones who can do it!



Anita Nein – SWCS Northern Plains Regional Director

## NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS 2010 GOLF TOURNAMENT/FUND RAISER

**Dave Langermeier – Treasurer / Nebraska SWCS Golf Tourney Coordinator**

The Fourteenth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on August 27, 2010 at Pioneers Golf Club of Lincoln. Thirty-nine golfers (18 SWCS members and 21 non-members) played. A modified best ball team format was used. Winning teams were: 1<sup>st</sup> - Gary Muckel, Lyle Steffen, Gary Wells, Dave Langemeier; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ed Svendsen, Rob Glidden, Bob Nielsen; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Richard Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Roland Langemeier; 4<sup>th</sup> - Steve Nelson, Jim Car, Carl McReynolds, Kevin Ertz; 5<sup>th</sup> - Bob Rathjen, Wayne Manthei, Ryan Kroemer, Marc Crouch; 6<sup>th</sup> - Dewayne Johnson, Gus Dornbusch, Kris Ethridge, Kurtis Harris; 7<sup>th</sup> - Dennis Schroeder, Chuck Leinen, Tim Helmen, Dave Kohake; 8<sup>th</sup> - Ian Plummer, Matt Pelton, Norm Kempf, Tom Keep; 9<sup>th</sup> - Jim Gulliford, Darwin Hinrichs, Craig Romary, Paulo Zillig and 10<sup>th</sup> - Rich Torpin, Richard Hayes, Cam Loerch, Arlis Plummer.

Ryan Kroemer, Gary Wells and Ed Svendsen, in this order, had the low individual scores and Craig Romary had the individual high score. The individual low number of putts went to Ed Svendsen, Ryan Kroemer and Paul Zillig, in that order and the individual highest number of putts to Craig Romary. The team with the lowest number of putts was Gary Muckel, Lyle Steffen, Gary Wells and Dave Langemeier. Paul Zillig and Jim Gulliford were winners in the chipping contest. Flag events were held on all 18 holes.

Jim Gulliford, Executive Director of SWCS, and Dewayne Johnson, SWCS Professional Development Director, both of National SWCS Headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa were special guests. Their participation is much appreciated.

The golf players came from Ankeny and Shenandoah, Iowa; Rapid City, South Dakota; Manhattan, Kansas; Clay Center, Scribner, Schuyler, Seward, Trenton, Omaha, Kearney and the Lincoln vicinity in Nebraska.

Everyone went home full of cookies and with more than one prize thanks to the following sponsors: Nebraska Corn Growers, NARD, Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri NRD, Nemaha NRD, Nebraska Soybean Association, State Farm Insurance (Dean Hoy), Stock Seed Farms, SWCS National Office, Diers Ford Fremont (Chuck Strand), Union Bank & Trust Company, Lincoln's Budweiser Distributor, Lincoln Wal-Mart South, Lincoln 84<sup>th</sup> Wal-Mart, Austads, Pinnacle Bank, Lincoln USDA Federal Credit Union, Nebraska Department of Agriculture Poultry Department, Security First Bank, Great Western Bank, Licorice International, Richard Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Tom Langemeier and Lyle Steffen. Please thank them when you see them. A big thank you goes to those who provided assistance on the day of the tournament including Paul Smith who did not golf, but came out and handled the registration.

This year's golf event will be able to make a donation of approximately \$1,100 to the Nebraska Chapter SWCS University of Nebraska Foundation Scholarship Fund. Our investment in this fund has grown to an amount which produces enough earnings for us to give two \$750 scholarships per year.



Gary Wells, Lyle Steffen, Gary Muckel, and Dave Langemeier (l-r) show their colors.



Kris Ethridge, Craig Romary (an honest scorekeeper), and Darwin Hinrichs (l-r) waiting for the prize ceremony.



Great weather for the event!

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

**Paul D. Smith – Historical/Scholarship Committee Chairman / Foundation Treasurer and Registered Agent**

The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation (SWCF) will have scholarship applications forms available on college campus locations in September 2010. This marks the 22 year that scholarships for natural resource students have been available by the Foundation.

Two scholarships will be awarded by the SWCF including the Tina Carlson - Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship of \$1000.00. Two also will be awarded from the Nebraska Chapter UNL fund through the same application and selection committee process.

President of the SWCF Krista Reed stated, "We are very proud of our scholarship program to help natural resource students with their education as they provide a pool of future employees in conservation, water quality and environmental related fields. We have been able to continue this program the past 22 years thanks to the support and generosity of our members and others."

Application forms can be made available by contacting the Scholarship Committee, Paul D. Smith, 1024 Dale Dr., Lincoln, NE 68510 or email [PDSmith55@aol.com](mailto:PDSmith55@aol.com). Application forms can also be found on the Nebraska SWCS website: <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>.



Pictured above on the right is Sara J. Winslow of Kearney the 2010 winner of the Tina Carlson – Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship. On the left is Ethan J. Teter of St. Paul the 2010 winner of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation Scholarship.

## SWCS MEMBERSHIP

**Robin Foulk – Membership Chairperson**

Membership Chairperson, Robin Foulk, asks you to check out the SWCS website under Chapter Leaders for information concerning membership. If you have any of the following questions you are sure to find information in one of the two membership videos that can be found on the website.

Do you know someone who is not a member of SWCS and need information on how to promote membership in a professional society?

Do you want to become more active in SWCS or how SWCS can be more beneficial to your career?

How does SWCS provide more networking and training opportunities and training compared to your employer?

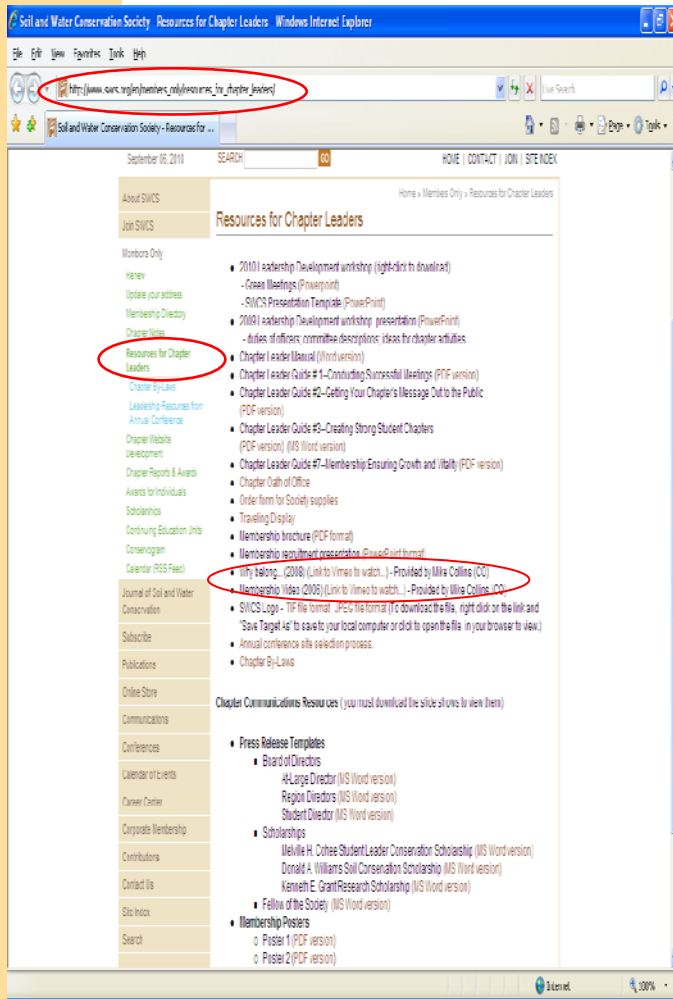
I put a link to the 2006 & 2008 Membership Videos on the Resources for Chapter Leaders page:

[http://www.swcs.org/en/members\\_only/resources\\_for\\_chapter\\_leaders/](http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/resources_for_chapter_leaders/)



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## SWCS INVOLVED IN NEBRASKA NRCS ALL EMPLOYEE MEETING Doug Garrison

The Nebraska SWCS Board took advantage of the recent Nebraska NRCS All Employee Meeting to get our organization's name out in front of this large group of current and potential members. When we took a look at the proposed agenda for the meeting we saw a great opportunity to provide a social function on the second night of the conference. Enter the fun and simple game of "Horse Chips" in a tournament format with the funds raised to benefit the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society Scholarship fund.

Prior to the event we had about 40 people interested in participating in the tournament and were feeling that the event would be successful. As the evening event began

we were overwhelmed with the response from folks who came out to participate, observe and socialize. In the end, 33 teams (66 individuals) donated the \$1 entry fee to participate and it is estimated that well over that many additional individuals watched and played pickup games following tournament play. A number of folks donated above the registration fee and others who were not participating donated just for the opportunity to be involved with the fund raising event. In all, \$95 was raised for the Scholarship Fund.

As for prizes, the SWCS Board approved funds to be used toward two SWCS Gift Memberships for first time members only. Here are the results; the two teams eliminated in the Semi-Final round were the teams of Kevin Hurt & Greg Havlovic and Briana Brooks & Cassidy Gerdes. This placed the teams of James Reedy & Brach Johnson versus Steve Grube & Doug Wagner for the Championship. Team Grube and Wagner took the final game to claim bragging rights.

Steve Grube being a long-time SWCS Member immediately announced that he was selecting Tyler Specht to be the recipient of his SWCS Gift Membership. When asked later how he had made that selection so quickly Steve replied: "The event was a lot of fun and provided a good opportunity for people to meet their coworkers. Before the tournament started, Tyler and I were doing a little bantering back and forth as to who would win. I told him that if I win he needs to become a member of this professional organization and get involved. I will hold him to that statement."

The other winner of the SWCS Gift Membership, Doug Wagner, had previously been recruited by a number of current SWCS Members. Doug's response was a smile with the comment that it looked like the SWCS Members "finally got me". Those of us who have been recruiting Doug are already looking to him to get involved with SWCS and encouraging Doug to take on leadership opportunities within the organization.

Please take some time to welcome Tyler and Doug as new SWCS Members. Doug Garrison and Dave Bichmeier, who coordinated the event, would like to thank everyone for coming out and having a good time. With a special thank you to all who donated toward the Scholarship Fund.





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33 teams took part in the Horse Chip tournament held at the Nebraska NRCS All Employees Meeting in Kearney September 1, 2010.



From left to right: Second place Horse Chip tournament team James Reedy and Brach Johnson along with tournament champions Steve Grube and Doug Wagner.

## COMMIT TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Steve Chick – Nebraska NRCS State Conservationist

There are few things I would have done differently in my career, but one for certain is that I would have committed to be a more active member of SWCS and other professional societies. My lame excuses were that I gave 110% to the job, so I did not have time to fully engage in SWCS or that my wife did not appreciate me committing the additional time when I already traveled extensively.

For most of us conservation is our life's calling and not just a job. Hugh Hammond Bennett did not confine his commitment to conservation to 5 days per week. He dedicated every waking moment to conserving our nation's soil and water resources.

We all need not be as committed as Hugh Hammond Bennett, but through professional societies we can engage

with others outside the workplace to hone our leadership skills and promote the principles of conservation. I encourage you to be active in SWCS and other professional societies throughout your careers, so you do not harbor regrets like I do for not fully committing to the opportunity for professional development.

## DIG IT! THE SECRETS OF SOIL IS COMING TO OMAHA! ASSISTANCE FROM SWCS MEMBERS REQUESTED

Craig Romary & Kris Ethridge

**DIG IT!**  
**THE SECRETS OF SOIL**

October 2 - December 26, 2010

THE DURHAM MUSEUM



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The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation is proud to be involved with an exciting national event right in our own back yard! *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*, an exhibit displayed at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum in 2008 and 2009, will be featured at the Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, beginning October 2 through December 26, 2010. It looks to be a great way to educate children and adults alike about what soil is, how it functions, and the diversity of soils across the nation.

Members of the Nebraska and Iowa Chapters have met with personnel at the museum, and are happy to report that there are opportunities for SWCS members to assist in the successful showing of this exhibit.

First, the Durham Museum has been kind enough to give us a *Dig It!* promotional banner stand and promotional handouts to display at various meetings and functions. To make a reservation to have this for your use, contact Craig Romary at [craig.romary@nebraska.gov](mailto:craig.romary@nebraska.gov) and we'll work out arrangements to get it to you.

Next, does the idea of answering questions about soil and the *Dig It!* exhibit, and possibly interjecting how soil factors into your job seem like a good way to kill a couple of hours? Then Durham is looking for you! Docents (tour guides) are needed at the museum opening weekend (October 2-3). The museum will be open 10AM – 5PM on Saturday and 1- 5PM on Sunday, and docents will serve 2-3 hour shifts with 2 people on each shift, for a total of 10-12 volunteers needed. If you're interested, please contact Shawna Forsberg at the Durham (402.444.5071 ext. 560 or by email: [sforsberg@durhammuseum.org](mailto:sforsberg@durhammuseum.org)). She can give you more information, answer your questions, and get you signed up!

Third, the Durham Museum makes travel scholarships available for schools with limited travel funding who wish to visit the exhibit. Your donation to the museum will increase the opportunity for schools to educate students about this important resource! Contact Craig if you are interested in more information on how to donate to the museum for field trips and contact Durham for more information. Along this line, Durham will also be offering a teacher night for educators on Friday, October 8, 2010, 5 to 8 pm. This festive, after-hours open house, gives teachers a chance to hear what's new at The Durham and other regional institutions. Highlighting this year's event will be educators from the Smithsonian Institution presenting lessons from the *Dig It!* exhibit. Participants will enjoy a cocktail reception, live entertainment and

take home free classroom-ready materials and information about field trips and programs available to students.

Are you acquainted with a teacher in your hometown who might be interested in attending this? Schools should be receiving a notification directly from Durham through various sources, but it might make a difference if they were encouraged by someone locally who is involved in soil or natural resources conservation. Teachers' Night is free but requires registration. Registration opens on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at [www.teachersnight.org](http://www.teachersnight.org). Questions can be directed to [mhale@durhammuseum.org](mailto:mhale@durhammuseum.org) or (402) 444-5027.

And lastly - help spread the word! Perhaps there are individuals, organizations, or businesses outside SWCS who would be interested in assisting with this event. Feel free to forward this information on to others. More information will be forthcoming on the Durham's web site ([www.durhammuseum.org](http://www.durhammuseum.org)).

Thanks for your consideration with this important educational event!

## Admission

Adults: \$7.00  
Seniors (62+): \$6.00  
Children (3-12): \$5.00  
Children 2 and under and Members are free

## Hours

Wednesday - Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Tuesday: 10 AM - 8 PM  
Sunday: 1 PM - 5 PM  
Closed Monday and major holidays  
Open Monday, 10AM - 5PM, Nov. 29 – Dec. 20

The Durham Museum  
801 South 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68108  
(402) 444-5071 • [www.durhammuseum.org](http://www.durhammuseum.org)

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## Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Board of Directors

Northeast - Scott Bohaty  
Sandhills - Mike Murphy  
Lincoln - Corey Brubaker  
Blue Nemaha - Wally Valasek  
Panhandle - Robin Foulk  
South Central - Randal Gunn  
Student - Mark Kuzila  
At Large - Claudia Stevenson





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## Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Committee Chairs

- Awards - Anita Nein
- Scholarship - Paul Smith
- Membership - Robin Foulk
- Elections - Paul Zillig
- Nominations - Wally Valasek
- History - Paul Smith
- Environmental Ed. (Student Chapter) - Mark Kuzila
- Student Chapter Liaison – Craig Romary
- Bylaws – Vacant
- Newsletter – Sarah Reece
- Website – Doug Garrison



Jeff Fields with Ponca State Park provided a tour on the Missouri River for 2010 Nebraska SWCS annual meeting participants.



During Theresa Smydra's tour SWCS annual meeting attendees viewed a dirt slide North of Newcastle, Nebraska.



SWCS annual meeting participants enjoyed the beautiful Missouri River while in Ponca State Park.



Doug Smith gave SWCS meeting participants a tour of Leafy Spurge control test sites.



SWCS annual meeting attendees were treated to a wagon ride along the Missouri River with Jeff Fields from Ponca State Park.



A group picture of the 2010 Nebraska SWCS annual meeting participants.



"DigIT" display at the International SWCS meeting.



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Nebraska SWCS Chapter  
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