



# Nebraska Society News

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2011-2012

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## ROBIN FOULK RECEIVES FELLOW AWARD AT 2011 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL MEETING



The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) would like to congratulate Robin Foulk on being a 2011 Fellow Award recipient. Robin Foulk was awarded a Fellow Award at the International Meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in Washington, D.C. in July of 2011. The designation of Fellow is conferred on Society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. This award is given first and foremost for professional excellence. Professional achievement may be in practicing, investigating, administering or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields. Only Society members with at least 10 years of membership are eligible.

Robin Foulk was honored for her leadership and dedication to the mission of the Society. She is directly responsible for the success of several technical projects and conferences on carbon sequestration. Additional efforts on the carbon sequestration projects included an educational briefing to US Senate staffers on the economical benefits to agriculture.

Her Society activities include holding leadership positions at regional and chapter levels and participating as a moderator, presenter and staff member for a number of international Society meetings. She has chaired over 10 chapter and technical meetings. Foulk led efforts to develop two SWCS promotional videos aimed at recruitment and increasing Society membership and  
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serves as the SWCS liaison with Chadron State College to promote chapter-sponsored scholarships. Foulk is also a recipient of the SWCS national Commendation Award for 1997, as well as a number of chapter and regional commendation awards.

In response to receiving the Fellow Award Robin stated, "I would also like to thank all members for supporting me in my nomination and ultimate recipient of the Fellow Award - it was due in part to their support that I received this very special award ...thanks so much."

Congratulations Robin!



Robin accepting the Fellow Award at the International Meeting held in Washington, D.C. in July 2011. Presenting the award to Robin are Bill Boyer (l), President, and Jim Gulliford, Executive Director. (SWCS photo)

## 2011 NEBRASKA SWCS STATE MEETING Darwin Hinrichs – Past President

The 2011 Nebraska SWCS State Meeting held in Beatrice June 16-18, 2011 was another excellent annual meeting. Wally Valasek and his crew did a great job of organizing the event. A variety of speakers covered timely topics on wind energy, geology and cover crops. These presentations prompted good question and answer discussions.

My wife and I thought the tours involving a modern dairy, an ethanol plant and the wind energy farm were among

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

the best tours we have attended. To top off the activities Friday, the last stop of the day at the Schilling Bridge Winery Microbrewery for a tour, food and refreshments was excellent.

The banquet Thursday evening included a great meal and an interesting guest speaker presenting on storm chasing. Awards were also presented during the banquet. Congratulations to the following award winners:

**Ross Scott - Commendation Award**

**Darwin Hinrichs - Commendation Award**

**James Mathine - Commendation Award**

**Arlis Plummer - Honor Award**

**David Niedfeldt - Honor Award**

**Paul and Cyndie Rohrbaugh - Honor Award**

The commendation award is given to members of the Society for professional achievement and for service to the society at the state level.

The honor award recognizes non-members for outstanding accomplishments compatible with the objectives of the society.

More information on the award winners can be found in the SWCS chapter business meeting minutes. Minutes from both the Soil & Water Conservation Foundation business meeting and the SWCS Chapter business can be found at <http://bit.ly/qhgspw>.

I would like to thank Tim Weltmer and Sarah Reece for volunteering at the last minute to be our new president and vice president. They will do an excellent job. Thanks again for everyone who was able to attend our state meeting and a big thanks to Wally Valasek for all his hard work organizing the meeting. This meeting is a great way to exchange information, learn new ideas and visit with friends. Thank you to everyone for all the help provided to me during the past two years as the Nebraska SWCS President.



Doug Garrison with Commendation Award winner Ross Scott.



Anita Nein with Commendation Award winner Darwin Hinrichs.



Doug Garrison with Commendation Award winner James Mathine.



Anita Nein with Honor Award winner Arlis Plummer.



Wally Valasek with Honor Award winner David Niedfeldt.



Doug Garrison with Honor Award winners Paul and Cyndie Rohrbaugh.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Tim Weltmer – President**

I joined SWCS in 2008 after being recruited into this

organization by past President Kris Ethridge. It was apparent to him, as it is to me, that new active members are essential to a successful chapter. The Nebraska SWCS chapter has sustained active memberships throughout the years and I would like to ensure the success of this chapter continues for years to come. With that in mind current members and I have come up with a plan to implement a conservation planning initiative for our upcoming annual meeting to be held in the Nebraska Panhandle in June 2012. This is in its beginning phase but for young NRCS employees it may be a training opportunity that would allow them to participate in the annual SWCS meeting and join the efforts of the Nebraska SWCS chapter. The plan is that part of the annual SWCS meeting could be a refresher course for certified planners or the first step for potential certified planners. If this happens we could possibly recruit new members and have more participation from current members for our Annual Meeting. Wally Valasek has agreed to be a representative on the Nebraska State Technical Committee to work through the logistics and policies of NRCS to work towards implementation of this plan. I believe SWCS is a proud promoter of conservation planning and conservation implementation and should be great place to focus these efforts.

I grew up on a family farm in North Central Kansas and have enjoyed working with SCS/NRCS my entire life. I can remember going with my Dad to the ASCS office and SCS office and doing lots of paperwork but more importantly leaving there and working in the field on terraces, waterways, grass field borders and diversions. Since working on the farm I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2006. During college I participated in the NRCS Student Career Experience Program in Beatrice and Wahoo, Nebraska as a Soil Conservationist Trainee. I started my full-time career as a Soil Conservation Technician in Greeley, Colorado. After two years in Greeley I moved back to the "Good Life" and worked as a Soil Conservation Technician in Seward, Nebraska for another two years. I am currently the Resource Conservationist for the Area 7 Wetland Team in Blair, Nebraska. I help administer the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) along the Missouri River from Knox County to Richardson County. With the Flood of 2011 we have kept ourselves very busy and have WRP participants seeking assistance and hopefully potential participants come flooding in after the flood.

I would like to thank the SWCS members for supporting me as President. I look forward to another great year as a Nebraska SWCS chapter member. I would like to close with a quote that hits home for me with NRCS conservation efforts during fiscal year 2011.

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



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“We have found there is no blanket, short-cut method for getting the conservation job done. There is no quick and easy way out.”

– Hugh Hammond Bennett



2011-2012 Nebraska SWCS President Tim Weltmer

## **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS 2011 GOLF TOURNEY/FUND RAISER** **David Langemeier - Nebraska SWCS Golf Tourney Coordinator**

The Fifteenth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on August 26, 2011 at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln. Forty-one golfers (15 SWCS members and 26 non-members) played. A modified best ball team format was used. Winning teams were: 1<sup>st</sup> - Ed Svendsen, Bob Nielsen, Tim Weltmer, Kenton Weltmer; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kevin Ertz, Bob Batterman, Tom Keep, Dick Hayes, Rich Torpin; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Richard Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Carl McReynolds; 4<sup>th</sup> - Gary Wells, Lyle Steffen, Marc Crouch, Dave Langemeier; 5<sup>th</sup> - Dennis Schroeder, Tim Helman, Robert Hall, Dave Kohake; 6<sup>th</sup> - Norm Kempf, Russ Schultz, Cam Loerch, Craig Derickson; 7<sup>th</sup> - Bob Rathjen, Wayne Manthei, Marvin Thompson, Scott Argabright; 8<sup>th</sup> - Craig Romary, Dick Ehrman, Mike Dosskey, Gary Muckel; 9<sup>th</sup> Tie - Roland Langemeier, Glen Langemeier, Jim Carr, Steve Nelson; and 9<sup>th</sup> Tie - Keith Plummer, Arlis Plummer, Koren Plummer, Ian Plummer.

Gary Wells had the low individual score and Koren Plummer had the individual high score. The individual low number of putts went to Gary Wells and the individual highest number of putts to Craig Derickson. The team with the lowest number of putts was Gary Wells, Lyle Steffen, Marc Crouch and Dave Langemeier.

Kevin Ertz was the winner in the putting contest. Flag events were held on all 18 holes.

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

Everyone went home full of cookies and with more than one prize thanks to the following contributors: Nebraska Corn Growers, NARD, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD), Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri NRD, Nebraska Soybean Association, State Farm Insurance (Dean Hoy), Stock Seed Farms, Union Bank & Trust Company, Double Eagle Budweiser Distributor, Lincoln Wal-Mart South, Lincoln Wal-Mart North, Austads, Pinnacle Bank, Lincoln USDA Federal Credit Union, Security First Bank, Great Western Bank, Licorice International, Richard Langemeier, Glen Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Joe Calder and Lyle Steffen. Please thank these contributors 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 about \$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.



David Langemeier (r), Nebraska SWCS Golf Tourney Coordinator, posing with fellow golfers Marc Crouch, Gary Wells, and Lyle Steffen (l-r), during the 15th Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney held at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln August 26, 2011.



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Golfers enjoyed the good weather and company August 26<sup>th</sup> at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln during the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SWCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011 Anita Nein - SWCS Board of Directors, Northern Plains Region

Certainly, the plenary sessions and the concurrent sessions were fabulous! The new technology, the variety of applications of conservation, and the outlooks for the future were without match. It is so stimulating for me to engage in a conversation with another person after a learning session and see how the other person is reacting and how they will use the information in their job or in their organization. That is how you really get to know a person. The awards banquet is always uplifting. I enjoy seeing all the people and chapters who have performed so well in their individual ways receive recognition.

The highlight for me was the position statement on climate change in the agricultural community (view the statement at [www.swcs.org/policy](http://www.swcs.org/policy)). After being introduced in the House of Delegates last year by the New York Chapter, approved by the delegates, reworked, picked over, condensed, and debated in the Policy and Science Committee during the year, and then approved by the SWCS Board of Directors just before the SWCS Conference began was progress in action. The best part is that the issues can be addressed with normal conservation

practices. If you haven't read the statement, take a couple of minutes to do so. It is only two pages long.

I felt the excitement of the people there who strongly approved of the statement from a scientific basis. They said they had been looking for someone or some organization to step up to the plate and provide leadership in that realm. SWCS has done it. USDA presented its outlook for the future to meet the issues and have been planning implementation of the conservation practices at the field level within farm programs. Now there is a statement with science behind it for people in all conservation fields to generate new ideas and understand new information.

The only criticism I heard from the participants was that the statement was not more highly publicized. Having our own SWCS members be aware of it, think about the ramifications of it, and understand the science behind it will be a big step forward.



International meeting attendees enjoying a presentation.



Jorge A. Delgado, Research Editor and Chair of the Journal's Editorial Board (second from right) from Ft. Collins, Colorado, helped present the SWCS Best Research Paper Award for Impact and Quality to authors of the 2007 article, "Dynamics of phosphorus transfers from heavily manured Coastal Plain soils to drainage." Pictured, left to right, are Bill Boyer, Peter Kleinman, Arthur Allen, Andrew Sharpley, Jorge Delgado, and Jim Gulliford. (SWCS photo)



Richard Webb (middle) accepting the Chapter Sustained Performance Award and Chapter Achievement Award, for the North Dakota Chapter at the 2011 International SWCS meeting. (SWCS photo)

## NEBRASKA SWCS RIFLE TEAM PLACES AT ARCADIA SHOOT

**Mike Lance**

The Nebraska SWCS .22 cal rifle team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the recent Arcadia Shooting Club .22 cal plate shooting league held this summer at the range southeast of Wisner, Nebraska. Team members Patrick Cowsert, Pamela Bergstrom, Rod Angeroth, Dennis Smith, Scott Bohaty, Mike Lance and Rodger Ecktenkamp were on hand throughout the shooting season to shoot for the SWCS team and fill in shooting spots on other teams when they were short a full battery of shooters. Shooting rim fire rifles at stations of 40, 60, 77 and 100 meters, 3 member teams competed for the coveted 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy awarded at the end of the eight-week competition.

The SWCS team is one of the oldest teams still in existence in the league and was first started by Rod Angeroth in 2004. Shooting times begin after the required safety meeting(s) around 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and concluded by about 8:45 p.m. Losing teams of that night's shoot are required to pick up the steel plates (targets). Different styles of shoots, including "rattle battles," golf ball, animal silhouette, military and standard position shoots were held throughout the summer season with SWCS scoring 2<sup>nd</sup> place several weeks. Unfortunately failure to keep score on the last week of competition (by Dennis who bought a new gun and said the temperature was too hot) dropped the SWCS team to 4<sup>th</sup> place overall.

The season concluded with an ammo/gear swap and potluck meal served by all the league participants where everything from guns and ammo were traded and deer, hamburger, bratwurst, salads and desserts were consumed at the picnic area following the final shoot. Practice and

continuity has made the SWCS team one of the largest and most dependable teams in the summer competition and all the members cannot wait until next season.

## HAVE YOU EVER.....?

**Edwin O. Harms – Nebraska SWCS Panhandle Director**

Have you ever been to the highest point in Nebraska? SWCS members in Western Nebraska are making plans for the 2012 Annual SWCS Meeting and are considering Kimball, Nebraska as a meeting site. The city of Kimball has a conference center, golf course and several motels. There are a number of possible interesting sites including:

-The highest point in Nebraska (3 state corner nearby) - [www.highpointers.org](http://www.highpointers.org)

-A high tech incinerator - [http://clark.cleanharbors.com/ttServerRoot/Download/12540\\_FINAL\\_Kimball\\_NE\\_Facility\\_FS\\_010507.pdf](http://clark.cleanharbors.com/ttServerRoot/Download/12540_FINAL_Kimball_NE_Facility_FS_010507.pdf)

-Oliver Reservoir - <http://www.ci.kimball.ne.us/oliver.htm>

-An Atlas Missile silo which is now a home - [http://coloradorick.smugmug.com/Cars/Atlas-E-Silo-Tour/1416218\\_VJmkg/3/67150511\\_KBU25#67150511\\_KBU25](http://coloradorick.smugmug.com/Cars/Atlas-E-Silo-Tour/1416218_VJmkg/3/67150511_KBU25#67150511_KBU25)

We realize Kimball is a few miles away for many members, but once you are on I-80 you just keep heading west. Let Dallas Johannsen, Robin Foulk or myself know how you feel about our draft plans and we can hopefully have a great meeting. Ideas for a theme would be helpful. Feel free to email ideas to [Edwin.Harms@ne.usda.gov](mailto:Edwin.Harms@ne.usda.gov). Having the meeting in Kimball would make it convenient for our SWCS friends from Wyoming and Colorado to join us for the meeting.



The highest point in Nebraska near Kimball is a possible site of interest for the 2012 SWCS State Meeting. <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>



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## AN OUNCE IS GREATER THAN A POUND

Stephanie King

We all know the quote, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. These words are as true today as they were when Benjamin Franklin first stated them. They certainly apply when it comes to controlling noxious weeds.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been wildly successful and popular. CRP was authorized under the 1985 Food Security Act and reauthorized with each successive Farm Bill. The program retired over 35 million acres of highly erodible and environmentally sensitive farmland. At the same time, it created and enhanced wildlife habitat, reduced erosion, enhanced water quality, and reduced the damaging effects of flooding. However, one CRP issue has been debated for years – how to control both noxious and invasive weed infestations in both CRP grass stands and in shelterbelts.

CRP contracts are written with maintenance provisions. These specify that “Noxious weeds must be controlled according to State Noxious Weed Laws”. Under Nebraska law, it is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on their land. County boards or control authorities are responsible for the administration of noxious weed laws at the county level. So how do we best deal with the problem if it occurs? This is the “ounce of prevention” factor.

When considering enrolling land into a contract for general CRP (grass seedings) or Continuous CRP (shelterbelts and so forth), it is important to review what the weed issues were when the area was cropland. If there are currently noxious/invasive weeds in the field, they need to be taken care of before the grass is seeded or the trees are planted. Purchase seed that is not only free of noxious weeds but free of all weeds. You may not know where the seed originated from, and weeds that are identified as noxious can differ from place to place. What is noxious in one county/state may not be considered noxious in another county/state.

In the case of CRP shelterbelts, good land preparation and site selection can help a great deal. The success of a shelterbelt can be dependent upon many variables, some of which can be controlled or influenced. Weed competition is one such variable. Good weed control begins with good site preparation. Eliminating weeds is much easier to accomplish before planting. Take the time to investigate the area where you need a shelterbelt. If it has noxious weeds, either relocate the shelterbelt or treat

the area before you plant. Once trees are planted you are left with fewer alternatives to combat weed infestations.

In CRP shelterbelts and grass seedings, there are several methods of control available if you find yourself with a weed problem.

**Mowing:** This is a viable option depending on the weed species. CRP limits mowing to certain times of the year to avoid bird nesting and brood rearing. Perennial weeds reproduce by both seed and plant parts. Perennials should be mowed while in the early bud stage. This is the point in their lifecycle when carbohydrate movement from roots is at the highest level. Mowing at that time can reduce the viability of the plant and prevent seed production. However, relying on mowing alone rarely completely controls perennial weeds, especially with the timing restrictions specified by CRP.

**Chemical Control:** Herbicides can effectively control many weeds in CRP acres and may be less expensive than mowing. The primary disadvantage to chemical application is that most herbicides used to control broadleaf weeds in CRP acres will also injure or kill trees in the shelterbelt and the desirable legumes in the seeding cover. If spot spraying is all that is needed, this will not be an issue. Herbicide selection should take into account the weed species, CRP cover species, application method, and presence of water. Herbicide effectiveness is maximized if it is applied mid-September through October. This is when carbohydrate movement to the roots is at its highest level.

Mowing and herbicide treatment can be used very effectively in combination – mowing in mid-summer followed with a fall herbicide application.

**Biological Control:** There are biological agents available for several of the noxious weed species. Although environmentally sound, these creepy crawlers can be expensive and may not have a sufficient population established to control weeds immediately. When using biological control agents, you should also incorporate chemical control around the perimeter of the infestation area to help contain it. Once the agents are established, they will work 24/7. But you will need to have patience.

Noxious weed infestations in CRP acres come at a cost. Not only is this cost in the form of a monetary expense (fines for ignoring noxious weed infestations), but headaches as well (expense of ongoing weed control). This will affect the bottom line. In addition, the CRP plantings will not provide the benefits that the individual is trying to achieve.



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All weeds are not created equal. Many weeds are beneficial plants for our pollinator species. They also help the soil, provide diversity, and enhance wildlife habitat. A field with a variety of plant populations usually fulfills our wildlife's year-round needs. However, there is no room for noxious and invasive weeds in CRP ground or anywhere.

CRP can provide many opportunities today, but it does not come without its responsibilities. These responsibilities are easier to shoulder if we remember to implement the simple quote, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

## NO TILL PROMOTION IN THE NEBRASKA PANHANDLE

The North Platte NRD, South Platte NRD and Upper Niobrara-White NRD have been working together to provide no till information to Nebraska Panhandle producers. In addition, Panhandle No Till Educator Mark Watson writes a weekly column titled "No Till Notes." "No Till Notes" can be found on the North Platte NRD website <http://www.npnrd.org>. To be added to the "No Till Notes" distribution list contact Kay Grote Information/Education Coordinator North Platte Natural Resources District at (308) 632-2749. These weekly columns are a great source of information on no till which is an important conservation tool.

## JOIN SWCS - MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN Robin Foulk – Membership Chairperson

Your support can make a difference! Its individuals like you that make healthy land and clean water for life possible. Please consider supporting SWCS. Choose an option below that is the best fit for you!

Click [Join](#)  
or JOIN BY MAIL OR FAX

**Click here if interested in payroll deduction**

### How can you benefit?

- Support local, national and international conservation and land stewardship
- Be a part of the conservation community
- Share your work and be informed on other

- advances in the industry
- Enjoy professional development opportunities on current and emerging interdisciplinary topics
- Network with professionals from many disciplines through local, regional and international meetings
- Effective representation in policy circles on environmental, agricultural and conservation issues
- Interaction and education through local chapter membership in US and Canada

### All Members Receive:

- One year Subscription to the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*
- Monthly e-newsletter Conservogram
- Discount to the SWCS annual conference
- Discount on SWCS publications
- Discounts on Journal page charges
- Free book: *Relationship with the Land*

### Membership Levels- (in US funds)

Presidents Club*	\$200 annually
Leader†	\$130 annually
Conservationist	\$80 annually
Student	\$25 annually

### †Leaders also receive

- Special recognition in our annual report
- A gift from the Society and Membership Lapel pin

### \* President's Club Members also receive

- Special recognition in our annual report
- A gift from the Society and Membership Lapel pin
- Invitation to the VIP reception during our annual conference

Already a member? Renew your membership by clicking [HERE](#).

**Members:** Help promote membership by forwarding this newsletter and attachment about the society then do a follow-up call a week later asking the recipient if they have questions and need help in applying.

Prize given to the person who contacts the most folks in this campaign by January 1, 2012.



**NEBRASKA SWCS WELCOMES THE  
FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER:**

**Briana Brooks – NRCS, Hartington**

**EXCELLENCE IN AG SCIENCES DAY 2011:  
“EDUCATORS CONNECTING AGRICULTURE TO  
RESEARCH”**

**Mike Kucera**

Mike Kucera Agronomist and Charles Kome Soil Scientist at the National Soil Survey Center participated in the Excellences in Ag Sciences Day 2011: “Educators Connecting Agriculture to Research” sponsored by the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension Service. The field day and ongoing activities came about primarily through the efforts of Ed George a retired Extension Agent who has a zeal for soils education and felt it deserved more attention in the classroom. Two sessions were held, one on June 13, 2011 at the Extension Center in North Platte and the second on June 17, 2011 at the Agricultural and Research Development Center, near Mead. Nearly 130 Ag Educators from across the state of Nebraska attended the two sessions. Charles provided an update on NRCS soil quality resources and a hands-on demonstration of the soil quality test kit, including chemical, physical and biological tests. Mike provided hands on demonstrations and lesson plans for the teachers including Filtration – Soils can clean water; Soil Glue – Surface soil particles are held together by various organic substances; and Soil Water – when water touches the soil, it either enters the soil or it runs off over the soil surface.

In addition Dr. John Doran discussed the importance of soil education and background information on soil properties and soil testing, various University of Nebraska Extension educators provided information on web soil survey, nutrient management, looking at the rumen, alternative cropping systems and other soil related topics. The high school vo-ag educators received soil probes, spades, tape measures, CDs and a course booklet to utilize for soils education in their classrooms. The soils education project will continue for 3 years and educators will receive a soil test kit in 2012. The project aims to expand soil education to other states in the future.

More information on the project can be found at:

<http://neaged.org/soils-grant-project.html>

<http://southeast.unl.edu/>

<http://neaged.org/excellence-in-ag-sciences-in-service.html>



Mike Kucera working with the vo-ag teacher from Lawrence-Nelson High School demonstrating the Soil Water relationships with Charles Kome in the background.

**NEBRASKA NATURAL LEGACY PROJECT FIRST  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 4 – 5, 2011**

**“WHERE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT  
DISCUSSIONS IMPROVE FUTURE  
CONSERVATION ACTIONS”**

The first annual Nebraska Natural Legacy Project Conference will be held October 4-5, 2011 at the Midtown Holiday Inn 2503 S. Locust St. Grand Island, Nebraska. This two-day conference will include an overview of the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project and the project team will be introduced. Various groups will be presenting on topics including research, habitat management techniques and conservation practices. The conference will also include an outside tour of a site of interest. More information on the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project can be found at <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/newsroom.asp>.

To RSVP for the conference, contact Melissa Panella at [melissa.panella@nebraska.gov](mailto:melissa.panella@nebraska.gov); 402-471-5708 or Becky Knapp at [becky.knapp@nebraska.gov](mailto:becky.knapp@nebraska.gov); 402-471-5597.

## PASSING OF BILL GUBSER



William "Bill" Bruce Gubser, Lincoln, died August 17, 2011. Born February 9, 1931 in Ulysses. Graduate of Ulysses High School, attended Doan College, graduate of University of Nebraska with a degree in Technical Science. USDA, Soil Conservation Service employee for 31 years. Started in Conrad, Mont. then Broken Bow, then Palisade, then Lexington, then Bassett, and finally to Lincoln, where he retired in 1986. Bill organized the Blackwood Watershed which is now completed and organized the North Central Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Project in 1974. Bill was a True Big Red Husker Fan from 1943 to present time.

A friend and fellow SCS/NRCS employee Ron Hoppes, wrote of Bill ... "I have so many good memories of Bill. We were both active with the Soil Conservation Society and went to the State and National Conventions as well as local meetings. Even had some exciting times being out on camping trips that were arranged for Soil Conservation Society members in our area. The wind got so high and the rain and lightning was so bad on one camping trip that those of us in canvas tents had to gather up what was left of our tents and head home at midnight. Bill was a true conservationist and a great family man."

Memorials for Bill have been designated for the University of Nebraska Foundation Nebraska Chapter SWCS scholarship fund.

## WEB SITE UPDATE

The Nebraska Chapter web site now holds a copy of the minutes and handouts of the 2011 Annual Chapter Meeting for your information. Minutes from both the Soil & Water Conservation Foundation business meeting and the SWCS Chapter business can be found at <http://bit.ly/qhgspw>. If you missed this meeting, take a moment to find out what is going on with the Nebraska Chapter!

In addition, the revised version of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation brochure has been posted here. Feel free to share this with others!

## 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 - Ed Harms  
South Central - Randal Gunn  
Student Chapter - Ross Lawrence  
At Large - Claudia Stevenson

## 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 Advisor - Mark Kuzila  
Bylaws - Vacant  
Newsletter - Sarah Reece  
Website - Doug Garrison



# Nebraska Society News

Nebraska SWCS Chapter  
830 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seward, NE 68434

## 2011 SWCS STATE MEETING PICTURES



SWCS NEWS

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