



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2011-2012

President	Tim Weltmer	Tim.Weltmer@ne.usda.gov
Vice President	Sarah Gray	Sarah.Gray@ne.usda.gov
Secretary	Stephen L. Young	syoung4@unlnotes.unl.edu
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	langemeier@inetnebr.com
Past President	Darwin Hinrichs	Darwin.Hinrichs@ne.usda.gov

2012 NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING Darwin Hinrichs – Past President

The 2012 Northern Plains Regional Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) meeting was hosted by the Colorado SWCS Chapter and held in Sterling, Colorado March 8-10, 2012. It was a good time to visit with colleagues from other states and learn new ideas.

Paul Weber from Colorado started the meeting off with Trimble Global Positioning System (GPS) training. He went through the steps involved as you are getting started using this Geo XT system with ArcPad. Following the Trimble GPS training, Richard Webb from North Dakota demonstrated his Trimble Yuma unit. This unit uses the GPS fieldwork and your entire laptop computer in the same instrument.

Jon Stika and Tim Steffans gave excellent presentations on soil health and how to increase soil-micro life. This was related to cover crops and recommended cover crop mixtures. Jon Stika has also applied no-till farming to his own garden in Dickinson, North Dakota, which results in a few looks from his neighbors.

It was my pleasure to represent Nebraska at the 2012 meeting and give the Nebraska report. Any members who have the chance to attend these meetings, I would really encourage you to consider it. The 2013 Northern Plains meeting will be held in Wyoming.

NEBRASKA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Paul D. Smith – Foundation Committee Chairman & Nebraska Foundation Treasurer

Krista Reed, President of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation, has announced winners of their college scholarships for 2011 – 2012 school year. The Foundation has been awarding scholarships every year since 1988.

Austin Baldwin of Center, Nebraska was selected as the winner of the Tina Carlson - Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship. He has sophomore status at University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) majoring in Grassland Ecology and Management.

Kathryn Pfaffle of Sioux City, Iowa was awarded a scholarship to begin graduate studies at UNL majoring in Geography, Geographic Information Systems and Water Resource Community Planning.

Corey Petersen, a senior at Chadron State College, was selected as the third scholarship winner. Corey is from Merriman, Nebraska and is majoring in Range Management with a minor in Plant Science.

Paul Smith, Scholarship Committee Chairman, noted that the quality of the students selected have been very high. "We meet with the students to present their awards and we have been impressed with the quality of students we have selected," he noted. "They seem to be dedicated to their studies and are setting goals for their future," he added.

The Foundation's program is a part of the objectives of the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Student must apply for scholarships and must be studying in the soil and water conservation or related natural resources fields.

SWCS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN FOUNDATION DECEMBER 2011

David Langemeier - Treasurer

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has a scholarship fund at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Foundation. The earnings on this investment fund enabled us to award two \$750 scholarships in December 2011. The year 2011-2012 scholarship winners are Tad Judge and Joshua Kounovsky.

Tad is an UNL junior majoring in Grassland Ecology and Management, with a minor in Grazing Livestock Systems. He grew up on a small family ranch operation and graduated from West Holt High in Atkinson, Nebraska where he was active in FFA, varsity football and was the AYSO Soccer Coach. He currently is a member of the UNL Traveling Rodeo Club. During the past two summers, he had an internship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), working out of the O'Neill and the Lexington Field Offices and would like to someday take on a permanent job with NRCS. Tad has



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recently become much more aware of the natural resources that are right here in Nebraska and commented “The real thing I would enjoy doing in my career is simply helping producers become more productive while conserving the land at the same time.”

Joshua Kounovsky is an UNL senior majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Management with a minor in Grassland Ecology and Management. He grew up in Plainview, Nebraska and loved hunting in the surrounding area with family and friends. Joshua is active, and an officer, in the UNL Wildlife Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the ECC Youth Group. The past two summers he has worked as a Conservation Technician for the Nebraska Game and Parks Northeast Division where he has been exposed to numerous techniques and the philosophy behind managing public lands. Joshua states that “All my great experiences and classes at UNL have helped me prepare for my future career in the natural resource field so I can do my part in conserving the great outdoors for future generations.”

The Nebraska SWCS chapter is pleased to announce these two scholarship winners. Please congratulate them when you see them and encourage them as they pursue careers in the natural resources field.



2011 – 2012 Scholarship winners. Left to Right: Austin Baldwin - Tina Carlson - Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship winner, Tad Judge - Nebraska Chapter SWCS - University of Nebraska - Lincoln Foundation Scholarship winner, Joshua Kounovsky – Nebraska Chapter SWCS - University of Nebraska - Lincoln Foundation Scholarship winner, and Kathryn Pfaffle - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation Scholarship winner. Not pictured: Corey Petersen.



29TH ANNUAL NEBRASKA CHAPTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST Sarah Gray - Vice President

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held the 29th Annual Legislative Breakfast on February 7, 2012. The meeting took place in the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln.

Corey Brubaker, Nebraska NRCS State Agronomist, and Eric Zach, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Ag Program Manager, were the guest speakers for the legislative breakfast. Mr. Brubaker led a discussion on the effects of sodbusting highly erodible lands, Food Security Act compliance requirements and conservation ethics. Mr. Zach provided a presentation on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conversion and threatened and endangered species in Nebraska. The topics prompted interaction from the group bringing up discussions on the increase of land being converted from non cropland to cropland, the impacts of high commodity prices, conservation practices, compliance requirements and Farm Bill programs including CRP.

In attendance at the breakfast were the Nebraska SWCS Foundation Scholarship winners – Austin Baldwin and Kathryn Pfaffle; and the University of Nebraska Foundation Scholarship winners – Joshua Kounovsky and Tad Judge.

A special thanks to Kris Reed, Craig Romary, and Dave Langemeier for the hard work and dedication that made the meeting a success.



Craig Romary served as the MC for the 29th Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Legislative Breakfast held February 7, 2012.



Representatives from NRCS, retirees, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, students, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission attended the legislative breakfast in Lincoln.

ROSS LAWRENCE RECIPIENT OF THE GEORGE E. CONDRA MEMORIAL AWARD

Mark S. Kuzila – Student Director

Ross Lawrence, President of the University of Nebraska Soil and Water Resources Club, recently received the George E. Condra Memorial Award. Ross grew up in Waverly, Nebraska and graduated high school in 2005. He attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln for two years before transferring to University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His major is Agricultural Engineering with an

emphasis in soil and water resources. Ross will graduate in December 2012.

The award of \$1000 commemorates the life of Dr. George Evert Condra who organized the Nebraska Well Drillers Association. Dr. Condra was a member of the University of Nebraska faculty for 52 years, serving as Director of the Conservation and Survey Division from 1918 to 1954; State Geologist from 1910 to 1954 and president of the National Conservation Congress. Dr. Condra, who died August 7, 1958, had discovered and named more geological formations of Nebraska than any other person. Candidates for the Condra Award are full-time University of Nebraska students in any major or degree program deemed to provide benefits toward a career in the water well industry or the sciences of hydrology, hydrogeology or geology. Congratulations Ross!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2012 NORTH AMERICAN INVASIVE PLANT ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SHORT COURSE

Steve Young - Secretary

Organizers of the 2012 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) have announced the availability of funds in the form of scholarships from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to help participants from Nebraska attend at a reduced cost. The 20 scholarships will be available on a first come, first served basis to the first five individuals representing the following four categories in Nebraska: landowner, state or national agency, weed superintendent and graduate student. Those in the last category must be registered in an approved institution located within the state of Nebraska. For categories in which the number of individuals exceeds the capacity, a waiting list will be started. After May 1, if not all categories are filled, participants on the waiting list will be contacted until all remaining openings are filled. For more information on the scholarships, please contact Linda Lehmann at 308-696-6712 or llehmann@unlnotes.unl.edu.

The second annual NAIPSC will be held June 26-28, 2012 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte, Nebraska. The NAIPSC is three days of intense instruction and learning for those interested in the basics of invasive plant ecology and management. The NAIPSC has been approved for CEU and CCA credits, and graduate student credits through UNL.

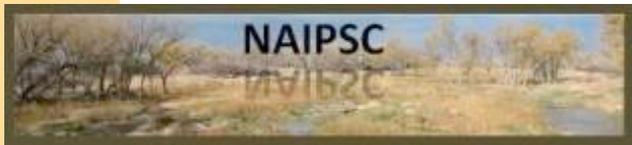


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The format of the NAIPSC includes a wide variety of venues and settings to engage participants in learning and applying the course material. Over a dozen instructors with expertise in restoration, GPS/GIS applications, plant identification and many other topics related to invasive plants have been invited from all across the US. The presentations, hands-on workshops, site visits and instructor-led discussion sessions will allow participants to interact with instructors on issues or challenges they might be addressing related to invasive plants. For the 2012 NAIPSC, a special session has been planned on the topic of water use by invasive plant species and will include research related information specific to introduced common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).

For more information and registration details, go to the NAIPSC website (<http://ipscourse.unl.edu>). Register now. Space is limited.



NEBRASKA SWCS RIFLE TEAM UPDATE Michael Lance

The Nebraska SWCS rifle team (formally the Northeast Nebraska SWCS rifle team) is planning another competitive summer by again participating in the .22 cal. rifle plate league at the Arcadia Marksman Club located near Wisner, Nebraska. Beginning in May and lasting to August on Wednesday evenings, teams of three shooters compete at 4 different distances trying to knock over steel plates of various shapes and sizes. This will be the 8th consecutive season of completion for this team and any SWCS member or their guest is invited to participate on the team. For more info contact michael.lance@ne.usda.gov.

ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION Darwin Hinrichs – Past President

It looks like an excellent Nebraska SWCS state meeting is being planned at Kimball this summer. I will be setting up the silent auction items for this meeting. Please consider bringing items for this meeting. Proceeds from the silent auction go towards scholarship funds. Five scholarships have been given by our chapter each year. I would appreciate knowing who is bringing items before

the meeting. Examples items donated for the auction in the past include: wine baskets, books, pictures, crafts and gift certificates. I can be reached at 308-334-5292 ext 3 or darwin.hinrichs@ne.usda.gov.

2012 ANNUAL SWCS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 67th Annual SWCS International Conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas July 22-25, 2012. The focus for the 2012 conference is Choosing Conservation: Considering Ecology, Economics, and Ethics. For more information related to the annual conference visit <http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm?nodeID=34487&audienceID=1>.





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NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

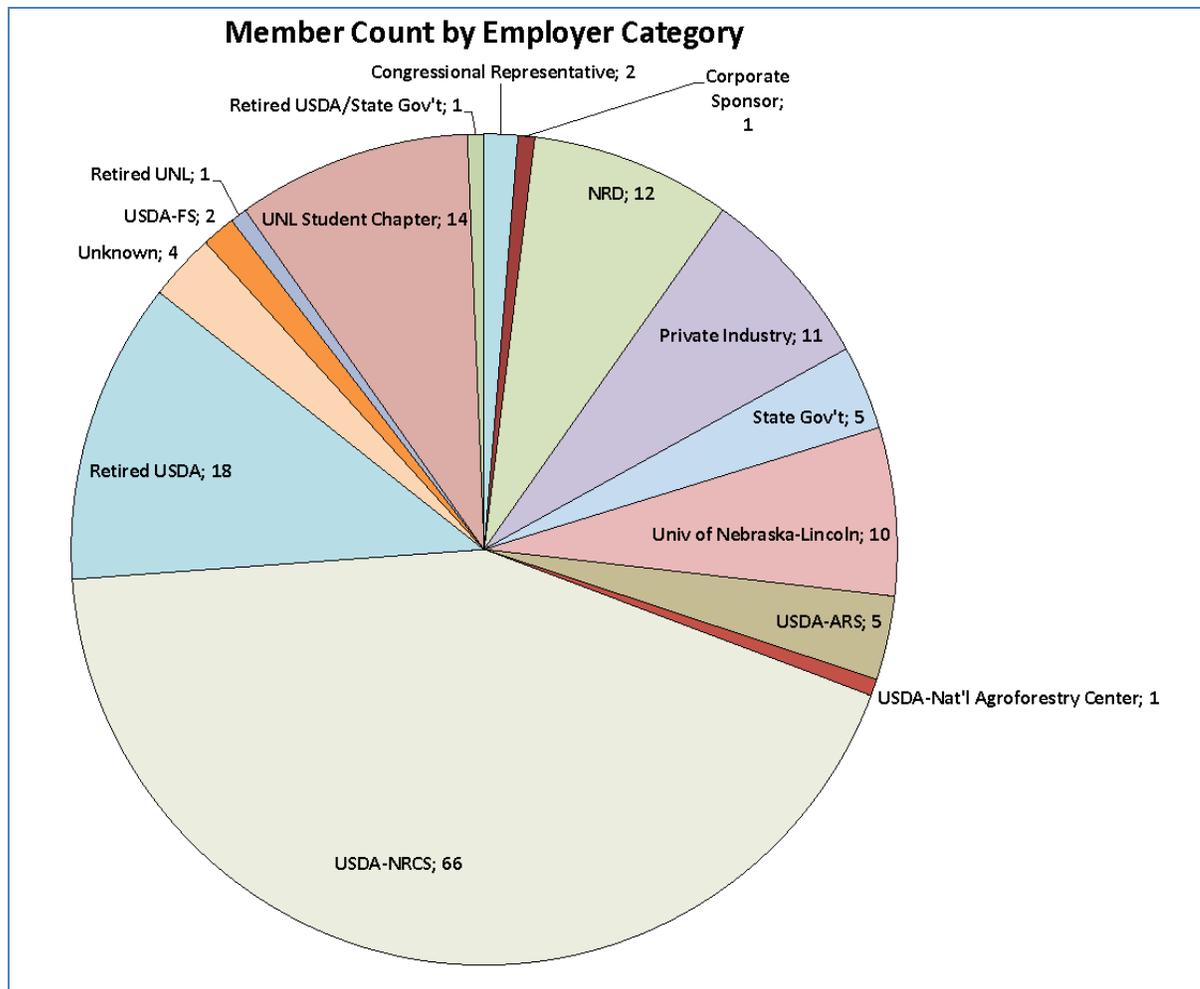
Northeast - Scott Bohaty
 Sandhills - Mike Murphy
 Lincoln - Corey Brubaker
 Blue Nemaha - Wally Valasek
 Panhandle - Ed Harms
 South Central - Randal Gunn
 Student - Mark Kuzila
 At Large - Claudia Stevenson

NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS 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 Gray
 Website - Doug Garrison

Nebraska Chapter SWCS: Who We Are

This is just a quick snapshot of our chapter membership. We have 153 members, including both the Nebraska Chapter and UNL Student Chapter.

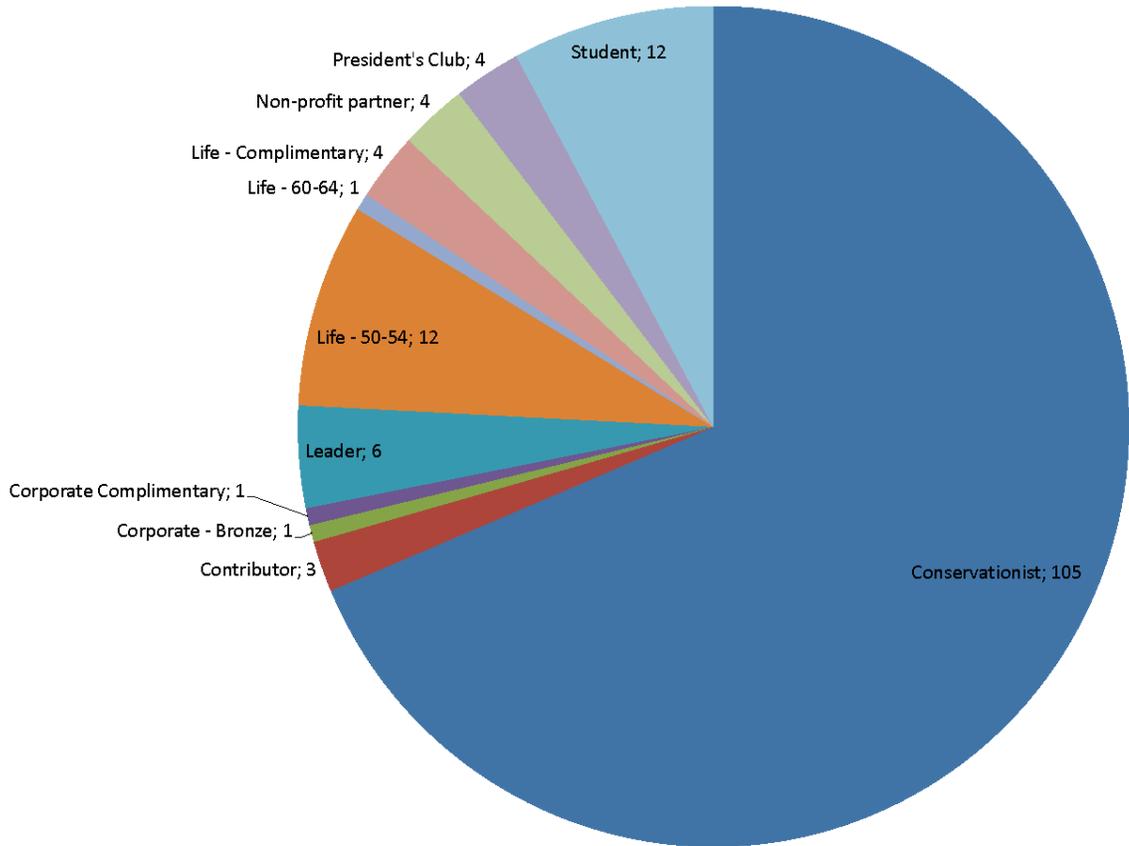




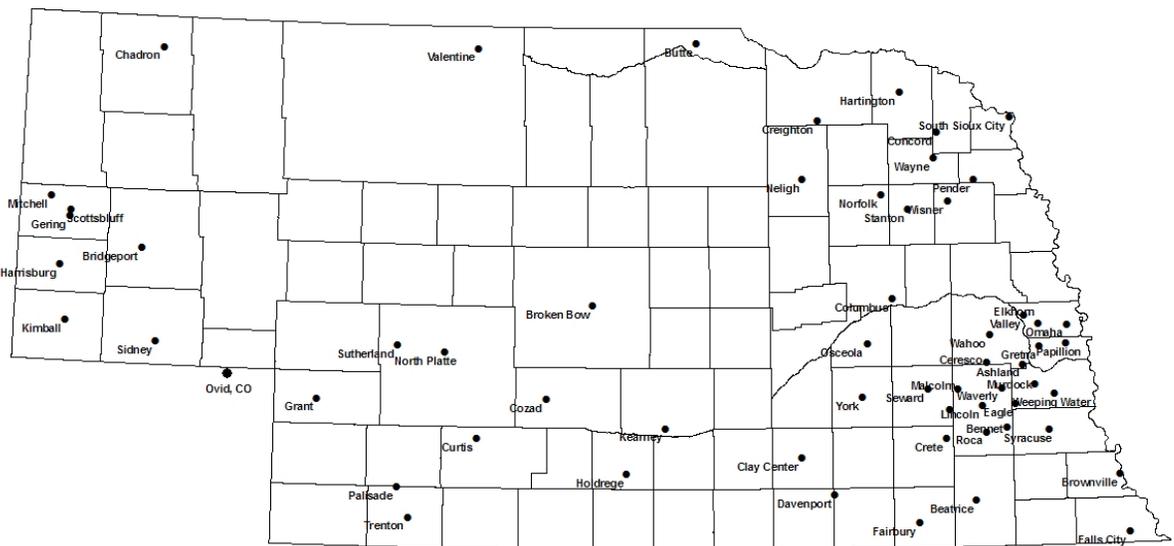
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Membership Level



Membership Distribution





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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!

Join

Click

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 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.

Thank you for supporting SWCS!



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KIMBALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA



**Mark your calendar for Nebraska State SWCS Meeting at
Kimball Event Center - Kimball, NE**

June 14th - 16th, 2012

People & Technology Creating a Green Environment



**SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

June 14th - Thursday: Kimball Event Center – Fawn Room

4:30 – 5:30 PM Registration

Pizza is planned

Bill Sydow of Nebraska Oil and Gas



Block of rooms will be reserved at Days Inn Motel, 611 East 3rd St., Kimball which is next door to Kimball Event Center (308-235-4671)

June 15th - Friday: Kimball Event Center - Meadowlark Room

7:30 – 8:30 Registration *Bid on Silent Auction items until 8pm*

8:30 – 8:40 Welcome - Edwin Harms, Panhandle Director

8:45 – 9:05 Craig Romary - Environmental Program Specialist

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Topic: Waste Pesticide Collections in Nebraska

9:10 – 9:40 A Representative from Clean Harbors – Jared Hansker or Diane Reader

http://www.cleanharbors.com/about_us/



9:45 Depart to Clean Harbor Facility

10 – Noon Tour Clean Harbors (Kimball facility is one of six in the US)

Company provides a broad range of hazardous material management and disposal services including the collection, packaging, transportation, recycling, treatment and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

12:30 - 1:30 Box Lunch at Oliver Reservoir \$6.00

2:00 - 3:00 Tour a Missile Silo which has been turned into a home



3:30 – 4:30 Planning Training: Recertification of conservation plans/CRP Mid-Contract Management planning (Staff will be made available for NRCS and TSP's)

Alternative session – for those not attending planning session - Golf

3:30 – 5:30 Golfing at Four Winds Golf Course – Best Ball Tournament Game

Friday Night Banquet Bidding on silent auction items stops at 8 PM

6:00 - Social – Cash bar

6:30 Meal



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June 16th – Saturday: Kimball Event Center- Fawn Room

7:30 – 11:30 AM Working Breakfast Meetings

Foundation and Business Meeting

*** Draft Registration. Final Registration will be in a future mailing.**

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration : \$ _____ /ea _____ (Adults-kids free) X _____ = _____

\$ _____ /ea _____ (College Students) X _____ = _____

Meals (Total): _____

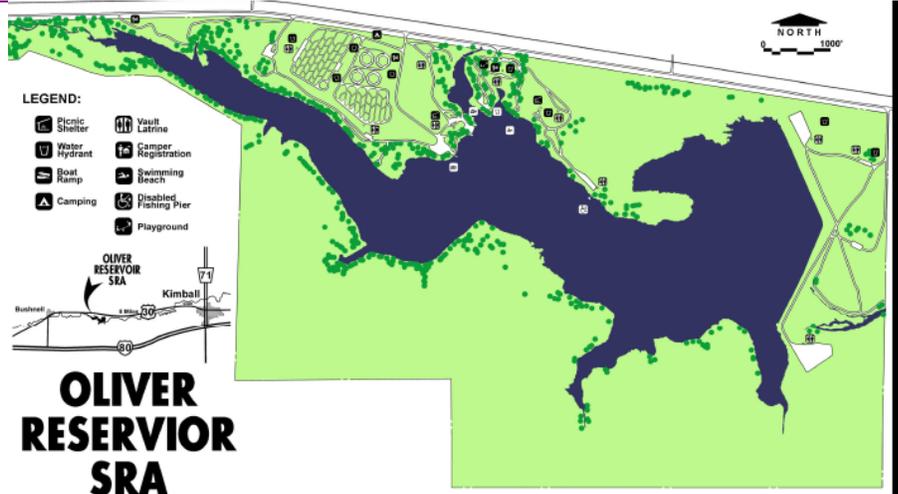
Total Included: _____

Write check to: **NE Chapter SWCS**

Send to: Dave Langemeier, 700 North 81st St, Lincoln, NE 68505

NRCS employees approved to attend on government time and expense registration will

be paid by agency. Other contacts: Edwin Harms (edwinoharms@gmail.com) OR Robin Foulk (robin.foulk@ne.usda.gov)



http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=255





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Nebraska SWCS Chapter
830 N 5th Street
Seward, NE 68434

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

Ballot must be received by June 1, 2012.

BALLOT – Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Board of Directors, 5-year term

VOTE FOR ONE – ALL SWCS MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

_____ **Robert Glidden** –Former President of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society and an active SWCS member for several years. Robert is an Area Resource Conservationist for the Nebraska NRCS.

_____ **Krista Reed** – Current President of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation. Krista is a long time member of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society and has served on several annual meeting committees. Krista is an Economist for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

_____ (Write in name)

Return Ballot by mail or email to:
Paul D. Smith
1024 Dale Drive
Lincoln, NE 68510.
PDSmith5@aol.com.