



# Nebraska Society News

OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2012-2013

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## NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND MEETING KIMBALL, NE JUNE 14-16, 2012 PEOPLE & TECHNOLOGY CREATING A GREEN ENVIRONMENT

**Tim Weltmer - President**

The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) chapter held their 2012 annual meeting and workshop in Kimball, Nebraska. The primary coordinators of the meeting were Edwin Harms and Robin Foulk. I especially want to thank the two of them for planning and implementing an eventful meeting. The panel of expert speakers, the clean harbor tour, the missile silo tour and each planned activity incorporated into the three day meeting kept members informed, active and amazed at the people, places and technology that help keep our environment "green" and our land a better place for future generations.

The meeting got underway Thursday evening with guest speaker Bill Sydow of Nebraska Oil and Gas providing a program. Edwin Harms the SWCS Panhandle Director and co-coordinator of the annual meeting started Friday's events with a "Welcome to Kimball." He made sure everyone had registered and also handed out a packet full of Kimball attractions, local news and brochures to the tour locations he had put together for the meeting participants. The accommodation at the Kimball Event Center was centrally located and the members attending had plenty to keep them busy during any down time.

Craig Romary, SWCS member and Environmental Program Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture presented on waste pesticide collections in Nebraska. Craig's presentation focused on household and farmstead pesticides labeling and disposing of pesticides properly after use or expiration. He presented on several actual cases of pesticide removal from old abandon farmsteads, pesticide collection events and household pesticides removal. Properly using pesticides according to the label is state and federal law and should be taken very seriously. He explained that the general consumer may or may not read the labels for the pesticides they buy at a local store and may not realize the potency or the proper way to dispose of the pesticide. His presentation was very informative and related to the everyday person who sprays their yard, garden, garage or foundation with herbicides, insecticides or fertilizers and the impact that they can have on the environment. When not used

according to the label or disposed of properly pesticides may be damaging to the environment. He noted that if you have pesticides that don't have their label the best thing to do is to take it to a local hazardous waste collection point and they will collect, sample and dispose of it free of charge. He also stressed not to leave it up to your garbage collection company! Craig's presentation was a great way to inform us of the great services that the Nebraska Department of Agriculture has for their citizens. Also it helped us gather a little understanding of the importance of Clean Harbors facility and got us prepared for our tour of their plant.

Jared Hansker from the Clean Harbors facility near Kimball gave us a short history of the site. The company provides service of collection, packaging, transportation, recycling, treatment and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. He explained that there is no medical waste, no radioactive waste, no acute poisons and none of the strongest pesticides handled at this plant. This is one of six hazardous waste disposal plants in the U.S. but each one handles different levels of hazardous materials. Typically the Kimball plants handles items found in old chemistry labs, farmsteads or abandon homes. It was stressed during the tour that every truckload of material is ran through a very strict screening process and everything is given a label before being disposed. The truck driver may not know what he is bringing in but before it is exploded, combusted or chemically reacted they know what it is from the chemist on staff doing the testing. The tour itself was very informative and interesting. The plant was very clean and well contained. EPA regulations and regulators made sure of that. A huge thank you goes out to Jared and his assistant for providing a tour around the facility.

[bit.ly/RxaNfi](http://bit.ly/RxaNfi)

The internet website link above of the Atlas E Missile Site Home Conversion tells the story of the Don and Charlene Zwonitzer four year home restoration of an abandon 1960s missile site to a self-sufficient home. Those attending the SWCS annual meeting got a close encounter with the Zwonitzer's home with a personal tour from Don and Charlene full of stories and pictures of the time, effort and planning it took to convert this concrete bunker into a home. It was the highlight of the trip and the Zwonitzers were more than willing to answer any questions we could think of asking. This was truly a unique opportunity to see how they can live up to one year without coming to the surface in this place they call home. I would like to



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send a special thank you from the Nebraska SWCS chapter to Don and Charlene for giving us an insightful view into their lives.

After the missile silo tour the group participated in break out sessions. Five members went to Four Winds Golf Course to play nine holes of golf while the others went on a CRP field tour for CRP mid-contract management planning training. I was one of the five that went to the golf course. We had fun playing a new game to four of the golfers of them called WOLF. The object of the game is to rotate who tees off first and that person gets to choose one partner to play best ball with after everyone tees off. Then it is two against three best ball for that hole. The second person then tees off first on the next hole and decides who their partner will be and plays best ball after tee off. It goes on until low ball and match play can be added up to determine the winner. The person who tees off first also has the chance to "WOLF" and play his own ball against four best ball players. It was fun and Dave won!!

Friday evening we were served an amazing banquet and were able to reflect back on a year of soil and water conservation through individual and group awards. Congratulations to the following award winners:

**William L. Kranz - Commendation Award**

**Edwin O. Harms - Commendation Award**

**Jane M. Wilmes - Commendation Award**

**Marjorie Lessman / Steve Schumacher - Honor Award**

**Stetson Shreve - Honor Award**

**South Platte Natural Resource District - Merit Award**

The commendation award gives recognition to members for their service to their own chapters and for professional achievement.

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

The merit award is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments by a group, business firm, corporation or organization that promotes wise land use.

The silent auction was also wrapped up during the banquet and each item went to the highest bidder. The scholarship committee would like to thank Darwin for

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organizing the auction, the members for donating items and the winners for their contribution to the future scholarship winners and soil and water conservationists.

Minutes from both the Soil & Water Conservation Foundation business meeting and the SWCS Chapter business meeting held Saturday can be found on the chapter website at [bit.ly/qhgspw](http://bit.ly/qhgspw).



Jim Johnson (above) accepted the Merit Award for the South Platte Natural Resources presented at the 2012 SWCS annual meeting banquet.



Edwin O. Harms was presented a Commendation Award at the 2012 SWCS annual meeting in Kimball.

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



Stetson Shreve along with his family were present to accept the Honor Award presented at the 2012 SWCS annual meeting.



Monica Cunningham (sister of Jane M. Wilmes) was present at the SWCS annual meeting to accept the Commendation Award for Jane who was not able to attend the meeting.



Nebraska SWCS Chapter president Tim Weltmer won the turd bird door prize during the SWCS annual meeting.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Tim Weltmer – President

I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society President for another year. This past year has been full of memories, commitments and progress in strengthening the Nebraska SWCS Chapter. The scholarship committee is in the process of giving out a record number and a record amount of scholarships to flourishing conservationists this year. If you know of anyone who would be interested please encourage them to obtain a scholarship application online at [bit.ly/qhgspw](http://bit.ly/qhgspw) or have them contact any officer or committee member to get a scholarship application.

We are also excited to be having the 2013 annual meeting and workshop in Lincoln, NE. I hope to see increased attendance and participation in the chapter activities this year. I am planning on having no less than six teleconferences to organize, update and gather information on SWCS roles and responsibilities to promote soil and water conservation. I would like for each and every member who has ideas and wants to participate to contact me and I will make sure you are aware of the next meeting time and meeting agenda.

I would also like to strongly suggest everyone tune in and watch PBS on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for a documentary of "The Dust Bowl" by Ken Burns. More information on this series can be found at [to.pbs.org/VQxjow](http://to.pbs.org/VQxjow) or you may also learn more from a blog from The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts at [bit.ly/RfvaAn](http://bit.ly/RfvaAn).

This event in history should be remembered but never be a potential future reality. Let us push forward and continue to promote soil health, condition, water quality, air quality and energy efficiencies while we share implementation strategies to public and private land users.



2012-2013 Nebraska SWCS President Tim Weltmer.

## DARWIN HINRICHS RECEIVES COMMENDATION AWARD AT 2012 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL MEETING

**Darwin Hinrichs**

My wife and I were pleased to represent Nebraska at the International SWCS meeting this past summer in Fort Worth, Texas. It was disheartening to see how dry it was as we drove through Central Kansas and Oklahoma.

My first item of business was to attend the voting delegate session, which is always held on the first day at noon. There were two motions to be discussed and voted on by the delegates. The first motion was to consider having this meeting as a biannual conference because of declining attendance and support. The motion failed. The second motion was passed in favor of having a committee study the possibility of combining our meeting with similar groups having similar objectives where we could combine resources.

Following this meeting I took the Nebraska silent auction item to the exhibit hall for display. I contacted the Nature Conservancy at Grand Island about a possible silent auction item from their program. They provided us with a private crane viewing out of their research blinds to use in the silent auction. This was won with a bid of \$120.00. The Texas Chapter told me thanks for an item that many

people travel to see.

I enjoyed listening to many speakers and visiting with people from many different places. It was interesting to listen to a young professional (compared to me) go over the differences between the house and senate versions of what they wanted in the new Farm Bill. He showed what would happen to funding for all the main conservation programs such as EQIP and CSP using each group's proposal.

The most disappointing part of this meeting was the decline in attendance relating to the decline in financial help from the agencies they work for. Steve Young and I were the only attendees from Nebraska that I can remember being there. Even our Northern Plains meeting during this international convention had no one from three of our states. I would like to personally thank our president Tim Weltmer for sending my application in so I could receive the 2012 Commendation Award at this meeting. I know Tim will enjoy going to next year's meeting.



Darwin receiving a Commendation Award at the 2012 SWCS international meeting held in Fort Worth, TX. ( Bill Boyer, Int'l SWCS Board (l) Darwin Hinrichs (center) and Jim Gulliford (r), SWCS Executive Director)

## NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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

“The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation has announced their 2013 College Scholarship Program,” according to President Krista Reed. This the 25<sup>th</sup>

consecutive year for the program that offers scholarships to natural resources students. Three scholarships will be awarded including the Tina Carlson – Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship.

The Foundation received 25 applications last year, a record high. Applications are reviewed and selections made by a committee made up of officers and SWCS members.

The Foundation's program is a part of the objectives of the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. Students eligible for the scholarships must be majoring in soil & water conservation or related natural resources fields.

The scholarship applications are available at [bit.ly/qhgspw](http://bit.ly/qhgspw) and will be distributed on college campuses throughout Nebraska. Officers of the Foundation or society members may also be contacted for a scholarship application.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Mark Kuzila, SWCS member and advisor to the UNL Soil and Water Resources Club and UNL Soil Judging Team, is mentioned in this article ([bit.ly/Sqw9Q0](http://bit.ly/Sqw9Q0)) about the UNL Soil Judging Team and their efforts at a recent competition. Good Job Mark!

## SIXTEENTH ANNUAL NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS 2012 GOLF TOURNEY/FUND RAISER

**David Langemeier – SWCS Treasurer, Nebraska SWCS Golf Tourney Coordinator**

The Sixteenth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tournament was held on August 24, 2012 at Pioneers Golf Course in Lincoln. Thirty-eight golfers (14 SWCS members and 24 non-members) played. A modified best ball team format was used. Winning teams were: 1<sup>st</sup> - Doug Wagner, Steve Grube, Ryan Kroemer, Don Preston; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Richard Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Tom Langemeier, Roland Langemeier; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Gary Wells, Dana Snyder, Rich Torpin, David Langemeier; 4<sup>th</sup> - Ed Svendsen, Bob Batterman, Wayne Manthei, Joe Calder; 5<sup>th</sup> - Tom Keep, Ron Christensen, Doug Garrison, Orell Piening, Mike Kucera; 6<sup>th</sup> - Dennis Schroeder, Chuck Leinen, Tim Helman, Robert Hall; 7<sup>th</sup> - Craig Romary, Dick Ehrman, Mike Dosskey, Byron Fischer, Rich Reiman; 8<sup>th</sup> - Neil Dominy, Cam Loerch, Matt Wehrbein, Gary Muckel; and 9<sup>th</sup> - Bob Rathjen, Marvin Thompson,

Kevin Ertz, Jim Carr.

Don Preston had the low individual score and Doug Garrison had the individual high score (ask Doug about his pink flamingo). The individual low number of putts was a tie between Larry Langemeier and Mike Dosskey and the individual with highest number of putts was Craig Romary. The team with the lowest number of putts was Bob Rathjen, Marvin Thompson, Kevin Ertz, and Jim Carr. Kevin Ertz was the winner in the chipping contest. Ryan Kroemer was the recipient of a current non-member gift SWCS membership. Flag events were held on all 18 holes. The golf players came from Shenandoah, Iowa; Manhattan, Kansas; Scribner, 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 NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri NRD, Nebraska Soybean Association, State Farm Insurance (Dean Hoy), Stock Seed Farms, Double Eagle Budweiser Distributor, SWCS National Office, Lincoln Wal-Mart Northeast, Lincoln Wal-Mart North, Pinnacle Bank, Lincoln USDA Federal Credit Union, Security First Bank, Licorice International, Richard Langemeier, Larry Langemeier, Tom Langemeier (Bank of Iowa), Joe Calder, Brian Schulz, Bob Rathjen, Jim Culver and Leon Langemeier (Bank of Bridger, Montana). 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 and James Harder, who did not golf, but came out and provided great assistance.

This year's golf event will again make it possible to donate about \$1,200.00 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 \$750.00 scholarships per year.



The Sixteenth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tournament was held on August 24, 2012 in Lincoln.



Dana Snyder, Rich Torpin, Dave Langemeier and Gary Wells were among the thirty-eight golfers who participated in the sixteenth annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS golf tourney / fund raiser.



2012 SWCS golf tourney participants taking a break in the clubhouse at Pioneers Golf Course in Lincoln.



Ryan Kroemer won the SWCS membership for a current non-member at the 2012 SWCS golf tourney / fund raiser.



Jim Harder running the “Chip Shot Challenge Jack Pot” and Mike Kucera preparing to chip into the basket at the 2012 SWCS golf tourney / fund raiser.

## HISTORY OF THE NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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

The idea of a Nebraska SWCSA foundation came from a contact that Lloyd Mielke ARS made with Paul Smith SCS in 1985. Both were officers of the SWCSA State Council at the time. Lloyd had served on national committees. He suggested that Paul select a steering committee to study and evaluate the possibility of creating a Nebraska Foundation. A foundation would mean that funds could be raised, invest and use according to the stated purposes of the Foundation.

A Steering Committee was appointed, meetings were held and details of incorporation and IRS nonprofit 501(c-3) applications were studied. The committee members were Paul Smith chairman, Lloyd Mielke, Tony Vrana NNRC (SCS retired), Keith Ticknor SCS, Alice Jones UN-L, D.E. Hutchinson (“Hutch”) SCS retired, Wanda Schroeder NNRC, & Val Bohaty SCS. Some of the early meetings were hosted by “Hutch” at the Care Center where he resided.

Tony Vrana worked with attorney Robert Crosby who was a society member and a former Governor. He donated his services. The Nebraska Foundation was chartered by the State of Nebraska on March 24, 1988 as a nonprofit cooperation. They later received IRS approval as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Bylaws were a part <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>



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of the applications and called for five board members. One board position would be elected each year. The first election was held in 1990. The Board consisted of Paul Smith - President, Lloyd Mielke - Vice President, Wanda Schroeder - Secretary, Tony Vrana - Treasurer & Registered Agent, and Val Bohaty.

Mrs. Chet Shaw made the first donation in memory of her husband Chet. He was a long time conservation contractor in Lancaster County. She donated \$2500.00 and later another \$2500.00 when the Foundation was organized. In December of 1988 the father of Paul Smith died. He was a pioneer Conservation District organizer and chairman for 22 years in Burt County. The family donated all of his memorials to the Foundation, over \$1200.00. These came from family, SCS employees, Conservation Districts and friends.

Many society members through the years have donated memorials and honors using the tribute cards furnished by the Foundation. These include memorials, retirements, weddings, anniversaries and other events.

The major use of funds has been to award college scholarships to natural resources students and related fields at college and universities across the state. Early on one \$300.00 scholarship was given. In 2012, \$2500.00 in three scholarships were awarded. Other funds have gone to support vocational agriculture, to sponsor meetings, for outdoor classrooms, for tree and shrub plantings at public sites; SWCS state fairgrounds plant display, to support ground water festivals and to send delegates to the National SWCS Convention.

Over the years Richard Leitschuck, Charles Reppert, Richard Bolli, Jim LaFleur, Ken Franzen, and Norman Helzer have also served on the Nebraska Foundation Board. All members of the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS are members of the Foundation. Current board members are Kris Reed - President, Craig Romary - Vice President, Corey Brubaker - Secretary, Paul Smith - Treasurer and Registered Agent, and Charles Reppert. The President of the Nebraska chapter, Tim Weltmer, is an ex-officio member of the board.

The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation has done great things in the past 25 years. You are invited to support it in the future, not only with your donations, but also by encouraging suitable groups to contact board members with opportunities to invest in the future of the natural resources of Nebraska.

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## **GREETINGS NEBRASKA SWCS** **Craig Derickson – Nebraska NRCS State** **Conservationist**

Every year that passes since 2001 makes us better understand how September 11, 2001, changed not only this country but the world as well. We do not need to look any deeper into world events to realize one of the reasons for today's somber reflections of 9/11 is to remember our veterans. We owe it to our veterans and veteran's organizations to honor their service to the citizens of this country and to the cause of peace throughout the world.

We understand that change is imminent for the traditional government workplace. The economy, technology and demographics are changing how NRCS and partner employees get their work done. The latest trends in business are telecommuting, flexible work hours and employees using a laptop or smart phones to get their work done. Technology improvements, advancements in service center modernizations and broadband service have reduced the reliance on brick and mortar NRCS facilities.

Looking beyond the stormy forecast for potential budget cuts, NRCS and state conservation partners have been actively participating in a comprehensive assessment of NRCS field offices -- that is, an evaluation of available personnel, and consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the current field office structure.

While much was learned in the past 2-3 months of conducting this field office study, it is obvious this effort is more of a journey rather than simply completing an assessment. We now realize this process will be ongoing and adaptive in nature for Nebraska, and it will help us prepare for uncertain budgets, new technology, a changing workforce and new priorities on the horizon.

One bright new light on the horizon for conservation planning and resource assessments is the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) which is a new field office computing and conservation planning system that will begin being implemented in 2013. The CDSI will be a more effective, efficient and sustainable business model for delivering conservation assistance throughout NRCS and across the nation. CDSI plans to improve how NRCS serves its customers and manage natural resources producers by:



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- Reducing the average number of trips clients will have to make to an NRCS field office;
- Enabling NRCS and clients to finalize conservation planning and decision making while in the field;
- Accelerating the timeline between applying for a program and having a signed contract;
- Accelerating the time between applying a practice and receiving payment for that practice; and
- Offering clients 24/7/365 access to their information via the web for many products and services.

In completing our assessment we found out that both clients and employees increasingly use email, text messaging and social networks as alternative modes of communication. NRCS is seeing more and more customers express an interest in email and web based communication. Additionally, NRCS plans to further investigate the potential for Facebook-type network communications that allow managers and employees to exchange messages and documents in the most efficient and expeditious manner.

Nebraska NRCS also plans to take greater advantage of web-based software and technology, rather than face-to-face meetings and communications. NRCS has invested in video teleconference communications (VTC) at four hub-office locations across the state in FY 2011 and is adding two more in FY 2012. Video and web-based conferencing allows employees to receive training, participate in special committees and collaborate on conservation projects while saving travel time and dollars.

I constantly remind our employees that we should be thankful for what we have in this country and the awesome potential that still lies ahead. I believe our future will be as good as it absolutely can be given the economic and budget constraints we face. We should be thankful for what we have and speak out loudly for the cause of voluntary, incentive based conservation of our private agricultural lands.

In closing, lets continue to stay on course with the promotion and protection of our great natural resources. I would like to stress the value of professional development and encourage everyone to be involved with professional organizations like SWCS.



## **THE DUST BOWL**

**A FILM BY KEN BURNS**

**Premieres November 18 and 19, 2012**

**8:00–10:00 p.m. ET on PBS**

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/dustbowl/>

The Nebraska Chapter and the UNL Student Chapter are planning to hold a discussion about this TV series and some of the major points raised. Chapter members should be on the lookout for more info and opportunities to promote this event.

## **GREEN TIP (FROM AUDUBON NEWS) - CFL RECYCLING**

**Ed Harms**

CFLs, those curled light bulbs, are much more energy efficient than their incandescent counterparts and last up to 12 times longer. However, they contain an average of 4 milligrams of mercury and qualify as a hazardous waste like oil-based paint and motor oil. Our local Home Depot offers to recycle them by furnishing a box at the front of the store where they can be dropped off. Keep mercury out of our environment by recycling your CFLs at Home Depot!



## **2012-2013 NAIPSC WEBINAR SERIES**

Stephen Young - Secretary

A new webinar series on topics related to invasive plants was hosted in August 2012 and was offered by organizers of the NAIPSC. The North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) is a three-day course consisting of intense instruction and learning for those interested in the basics of invasive plant ecology and management. The webinar series featured

<http://incolored.netnebr.com/doug/swcs>



speakers conducting research, working on projects or involved in activities related to invasive plant species. The first webinar was on integrated management of *Phragmites australis* by Dr. Ryan Rapp from the University of Wyoming. Additional webinars are being planned for 2012-2013 and will cover topics related to biocontrol, increasing stakeholder involvement, large-scale restoration efforts, new invasive plant species, invasive plant genetics and the latest in plant identification tools.

The webinar series was designed to inform participants who are actively involved in invasive plant management, research, and/or policy and provide an online venue for sharing resources, ideas and information. Signing up for the webinar series is more than just hearing speakers; participants will also have access to the discussion forum, information and technique updates and unique networking opportunities. The NAIPSC's Adobe Connect chat room, a real-time online meeting place, will be available to share documents, ideas and presentations.

The first webinar took place on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at noon (CST). If you participated in the 2011 and 2012 NAIPSC in North Platte, NE, click ([here](#)). If you have not participated in the NAIPSC and would like to view the webinars and join the NAIPSC community, please click ([here](#)) to register. In addition to the NAIPSC community and webinars, paying participants will also have the option of applying their registration fee towards their attendance at the 2013 NAIPSC in North Platte, NE.

For questions, go to the NAIPSC ([website](#)).

## RESPONSIBLE HORSEBACK RIDING

Stephanie King



Increasing numbers of horseback riders are finding both adventure and solace in our nation's backcountry. Whether riding the groomed trails of their State and

Federal lands or their neighbor's back 40, people are loving these places to death.

By breaking new trails and going into pristine and sensitive areas, riders can unwillingly cause lasting impacts on the backcountry. These scars can increase the probability of resource damage, encroachment of undesirable vegetation and the destruction of habitat. It can also make land management bureaucrats very mad. Horseback riders need to do their part to keep the land in good condition.

The idea is to leave the land in the same condition as you found it. These are some principles you can follow when enjoying the great outdoors:

- 1) Plan Ahead and Prepare: Know the regulations and special concerns of the area; ride only where permitted; always have your permit with you; Public lands require that livestock be fed Weed Free Forage. It is advisable to start horses on the WFF at least 3 days prior to the ride.
- 2) Camp and Travel Smart: Stay on Durable Surfaces: use established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow; protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet away from lakes and streams; contain horses with a highline using tree savers; concentrate use on existing trails and focus activity on areas where vegetation is absent; try to ride in groups no larger than 4 to 6; discourage horses from eating on the trail as this can spread weeds.
- 3) Pack it In, Pack it Out: Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash and spilled food. Properly dispose of what you cannot pack out.
- 4) Leave What You Find: Preserve the past. You can examine, but don't touch. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you found them; avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- 5) Minimize Campfire Impacts: Consider using a lightweight stove instead of a campfire; where fires are permitted, use established rings; keep fires small and burn all wood and coals to ash. Put fires out completely and scatter cool ashes.
- 6) Respect Wildlife: Observe wildlife from a distance; do not feed, follow or approach them; control pets at all times or leave them home;



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avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as: mating, nesting raising young or winter.

- 7) Be Considerate of Others: Ask permission to ride across private property; leave gates as you find them and respect private lands and livestock.

With these considerations in mind, you are ready to experience the pleasure and the challenge of a trail ride. With just a little effort, we can all enjoy the backcountry for many years without the threat of resource and habitat damage or encroachment of invasive or noxious vegetation.

## NEBRASKA SWCS RIFLE TEAM UPDATE Mike Lance

The SWCS .22 rifle team did not compete this year as the Arcadian Marksman Club did not have a competitive league. The owner thought a fall league might be in order but no news has been forthcoming. Stay tuned for more information.

## NEW SWCS MEMBERSHIP DUES RATES Jim Gulliford – SWCS Executive Director

The Soil and Water Conservation Society continues to be committed to providing the highest value information and services to its members and the agricultural, conservation community. Through the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, *Conservogram*, *Conservation NewsBriefs*, Facebook, Twitter, international annual conference, specialty conferences and numerous locally organized, chapter-led workshops, tours and meetings, we share the science and practice of conservation with our members and colleagues on a daily basis.

To continue to provide these high quality services, it is necessary for the first time in seven years to raise the annual dues of our Society members. The increase is small, and the value remains great. I hope that you will continue to support the Society through continued membership and contributions.

### New Membership Dues Rates:

- President’s Club - \$220.00/yr
- Leader - \$145.00/yr
- Conservationist - \$90.00/yr
- Student - \$30.00/yr

- Non-Profit Partner - \$110.00/yr

If you have questions concerning the Society, call me at 515-289-2331 ext 113. If you have questions regarding your membership, contact Cammie at 515-289-2331, ext 118. Again, thanks for all you do for conservation.

## WEB SITE UPDATE Craig Romary

The Nebraska Chapter web site now holds a copy of the minutes and handouts of the 2012 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! Feel free to share this with others!

## NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Northeast - Scott Bohaty
- Sandhills - Mike Murphy
- Lincoln – Corey Brubaker
- Blue Nemaha - Wally Valasek
- Panhandle – Ed Harms
- South Central – Darwin Hinrichs
- 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



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

## 2012 SWCS STATE MEETING PICTURES

