



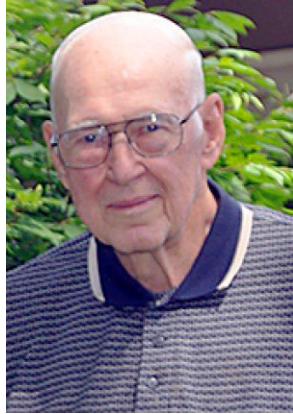
# Nebraska Society News

MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2014-2015

President	Scott Bohaty	scott.bohaty@ne.usda.gov
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Darwin Hinrichs	hinrichsdm@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Tim Weltmer	tim.weltmer@ne.usda.gov
Past President	Sarah Gray	sarah.gray@ne.usda.gov

## NEBRASKA SWCS FOUNDATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND NEBRASKA FOUNDATION TREASURER PAUL SMITH WILL BE GREATLY MISSSED



Paul Dee Smith, 77, of Lincoln, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015. Born April 21, 1937 to John and Grace (Gatewood) Smith in Walthill. He was raised on a farm five miles northeast of Lyons and attended Jefferson Country School and Lyons High School. He graduated in 1955 and was honored as co-captain of the football and basketball teams, setting scoring records and being chosen the 1955 Sports King. He spent several summers at horse racing tracks helping race family owned thoroughbreds and maintained a life-long interest in horse racing.

He graduated from UNL in 1959 with a BS in Agriculture with a major in Soil Conservation. He spent 35 years with USDA, Soil Conservation Service and lived in eight towns in Nebraska in 11 positions. He received two National Commendations from Soil and Water Conservation Society and five Certificate of Merit Awards from SCS.

He married Sharon (Sailors) June 21, 1958 and raised four children. One of his greatest joys was coaching his kids in various sports and also attending games and matches of all the grandchildren. He will be missed on the sidelines. In retirement, he enjoyed genealogy, photography and computers. Member: St. Teresa Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus for 50 years, Soil and Water Conservation Society and past SCS Retirees Club president.

Survived by wife, Sharon; children, Jody Cotton (Dwayne) of Omaha, Cheryl Bell (Mark), Kevin Smith, Lisa Andersen (Steve), all of Lincoln; 13 grandchildren

and three great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Irene Smith of Omaha, Elaine Mallette (Joe) of Homer and Carol Ostrand (Dwaine) of Rosalie. Preceded in death by parents John and Grace Smith and brother, Jim Smith.

Paul was a dedicated Nebraska SWCS chapter member and served in many roles. Most recently he served as scholarship selection committee chairman, Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation committee chairman and as Foundation treasurer. Paul will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be sent to Sharon Smith:  
1024 Dale Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510

### Memorials:

Craig Romary, Treasurer, NE SWCF  
6410 Huntington Ave  
Lincoln, NE 68507  
(402)464-1423

The Family will be notified of Memorials submitted directly to NE SWCF.

## SWCS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS - UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOUNDATION Tim Weltmer - Treasurer

Every year the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society gives out several scholarships from different sources of income and donations from members and those in the community that support soil and water conservation. Several recipients over the years have gone on to achieve their goal of graduating college with a little less debt and a dream of pursuing a career in the agricultural or natural resource field. Many have even pursued a career as a soil conservationist within the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Many of the NRCS student summer workers have benefited from these scholarships. The University of Nebraska Foundation of Soil Conservation Society of America, Nebraska Chapter, Scholarship Fund awards two scholarships to UNL students. This is an investment fund that generates interest from proceeds from the golf tournament and various donations to the foundation. SWCS would like to congratulate the 2014-2015 winners.

Karla Jarecke is a graduate student at UNL. She is a native Nebraskan. She has an enthusiasm to link environmental microbiology to global environmental concerns such as climate change, water quality and soil health. She has a passion and interest in science and



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natural resource management that has led her to seek a career as a research ecologist. She hopes to continue her education and obtain a Ph.D.

Colin Chatterton is a junior at UNL. He is a native Nebraskan from Scottsbluff. He is pursuing a career in natural resources and wants to apply his education to benefit the environment and the people that depend on natural resources. His goal of a degree in Environmental Restoration Science comes from his passion for the outdoors. He has worked with the North Platte Natural Resource District which has given him a start in conservation work.

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## 2015 NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**Craig Romary**

The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation awarded three scholarships to students this past winter – the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of such activity by the Foundation.

The inaugural David Langemeier Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Justin Herting, Omaha, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) majoring in agricultural engineering with an emphasis in soil and water resources.

The Tina Carlson-Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship recipient was Whitney Drahota, a senior from Lincoln, majoring in environmental studies and anthropology at UNL.

The third recipient, Nathan Garrison, Malcolm, is a sophomore at UNL majoring in fisheries and wildlife management.

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## 2015 CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

**Craig Romary**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast was held with 3 senators, 12 members, 4 student scholarship recipients and 5 interested non-members in attendance. The first speaker, Erin Ingram, with UNL's Entomology Department, provided an excellent overview of the issues which may affect honeybee health, including nutrition, parasites and pathogens, movement stress, pesticides and habitat. Our second invited speaker, Peter Berthelsen, with Nebraska Pheasants Forever, unfortunately was

unable to attend. However, both Erin's presentation and links to Pheasants Forever videos on wildlife and pollinator habitat, are available on the SWCS web site under the "past events" button at [nebraskawcs.org.](http://nebraskawcs.org/)



SWCS Legislative Breakfast speaker Erin Ingram, with UNL's Entomology Department, provided an excellent overview of the issues which may affect honeybee health, including nutrition, parasites and pathogens, movement stress, pesticides and habitat.



SWCS scholarship committee member Kris Reed (l) with 2015 student scholarship winners at the SWCS Legislative Breakfast (l-r): Nathan Garrison, Whitney Drahota, Colin Chatterton and Karla Jarecke.



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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Darwin Hinrichs



Darwin Hinrichs grew up on an irrigated/dryland farm southeast of Hastings near the town of Glenvil, Nebraska. He attended UNL in Lincoln receiving his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Soil Conservation and Soils. Following graduation in 1973 he started teaching at the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture in Curtis (NCTA) for the Ag Land and Water Technology Department. He became a member of SWCS in 1976 and a year later started a SWCS student chapter for the department. In 1986 they were notified that the student chapter won the National Student Chapter Award for SWCS and they went to the national meeting in Billings, Montana to receive it.

In 1987 Governor Kay Orr decided to eliminate three of the smaller programs at NCTA which included Darwin's department, so he went to work in North Dakota for their extension service as the Area Water Quality Specialist for southwest North Dakota working on the Bowman Haley Watershed Project. When the watershed project was completed he went to Fargo, ND to manage the Noxious Weeds and Mosquito programs for Cass County. While there Darwin kept looking for jobs back in Nebraska and in May 1973 he was offered the position of Resource Conservationist for NRCS in Hitchcock County Nebraska. Ironically he wanted to work for NRCS after graduating from college but there was always a freeze on hiring so instead of starting his career with NRCS he was able to end his career with them. Darwin retired in October 2014.

He really enjoyed the various fields of employment during his career but now he and his wife Marie are enjoying their retirement home between Kearney and Ravenna. They have four children (two boys and two

girls) and seven grandkids. Their newest grandson arrived in March in Anchorage, Alaska so everyone should know that a trip there is in the works. Darwin and Marie really enjoy having time now to see their family and watch them participate in activities. If you don't see them at this summer's state meeting for SWCS, it's due to Alaska being more important right now. Darwin's contact information is: 210 Snowy Ridge Road, Gibbon, Nebraska 68840. 308-468-5900 or 340-5226. hinrichsdm@hotmail.com.

## NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Craig Romary

I'm sure most of you by now, are aware of the passing of Paul Smith, longtime Nebraska SWCS member and Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation treasurer. I will do my best to fill his shoes and emulate his passion as treasurer of NSWCF. If you have not done so, please take a look at our brochure at [nebraskaswcs.org](http://nebraskaswcs.org). The NSWCF has been in existence since 1988 and largely functions because of continued donations from our membership. See the scholarship recipient article in this newsletter for one example of how funds are used by NSWCF to further the mission of the Nebraska Chapter.

There are many ways to contribute. One of the easiest, as well as one that also brings some recognition of SWCS and the NSWCF to others, is the use of tribute cards. Tribute cards come in two forms: "Congratulations" and "In Memory" cards. Both work the same: The card is sent to the person or family being recognized by the tribute, and the card insert, along with your donation, are sent to the NSWCF. The recipient of your card will also receive an acknowledgement of your gift and information about the Foundation, and you will receive a 'thank you' from NSWCF, which is a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Nebraska Secretary of State.

Donations can also be sent without the tribute card, if desired. All donations may be sent to me at: Craig Romary; NSWCF; 6410 Huntington Ave, Lincoln NE 68507. I also have tribute cards for your use. Simply send a request to [clrpkrne@windstream.net](mailto:clrpkrne@windstream.net) with your mailing address. (For those of you receiving this newsletter in paper form, I will sound out/spell out the address. It has become apparent that I didn't consider the potential for how hard this email address is to read, when I created it many years ago.... It's "see-ell-ar-pe-ka-ar-in-ee" @ windstream.net. Phone: 402.464.1423.



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If you have cards and inserts, I can send some small labels to replace the address found on them, or you can simply make a handwritten change.

## NRCS NEWS UPDATE - NRCS CHIEF'S PRIORITIES FOR FY 2015 AND BEYOND

**Craig Derickson**

NRCS Chief, Jason Weller, has identified four basic priorities for FY 2015 to guide the work of NRCS employees and all of them focus on the delivery of conservation services and the fulfillment of the NRCS mission. In addition, NRCS utilizes a Strategic Plan to guide the overall leadership and direction for the agency - see <http://bit.ly/NRCSstratPLAN>. The plan document outlines the Agency's mission and vision and sets a course for a five-year period to guide the work we do and the products and services we provide to the Nation as a whole. NRCS leadership teams across the nation strive to accomplish the priorities to allow the agency to assist producers in making sound natural resource management decisions.

To implement NRCS's mission, Chief Weller announced the agency will focus on the following operational priorities in FY 2015 and beyond:

**1. Deliver excellent and innovative service.**

NRCS is the nation's preeminent private lands conservation organization, and our hallmark for 80 years has been our ability to deliver high-quality technical advice and voluntary conservation solutions for America's farmers, ranchers, and communities. The agency will build upon our successes by fully utilizing the authorities and programs provided to us by Congress, as well as using innovative approaches for achieving the best conservation results for both our customers and taxpayers.

**2. Strengthen and modernize conservation delivery.**

The scope and programmatic responsibility of NRCS has grown significantly over the past two decades. At the same time, our customers are becoming more diverse and agricultural production and resource management is becoming more complex. In order to prepare the agency to continue delivering excellent service, NRCS must ensure it has the information technology, business operations, and workforce support that enable us to offer timely and cost-effective solutions to our customers.

3. **Enhance and expand the scientific and technical capabilities of NRCS.** The conservation science, technical standards, and decision support tools of NRCS inform and drive on-the-ground solutions. Improving, and expanding on, the scientific and technical capabilities of NRCS—including the development, acquisition, dissemination, and use of tools and knowledge—will ensure that the agency remains a leader for delivering conservation for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.
4. **Broaden our reach, customers, and partners.** NRCS has significant experience working with farming, ranching, and private forestry operations, but we have opportunities to increase access and opportunity by identifying new customers, reaching out to new partners, and building local capacity to plan and deliver conservation solutions.



Three previous SWCS scholarship recipients completed NRCS Conservation Planning Training in Lincoln in 2014 (l-r) Tad Judge, Range Management Specialist, Burwell NRCS; Bailey McKay, Range Management Specialist, North Platte NRCS; Justin Trout, Civil Engineer Technician, Holdrege NRCS along with Corey Brubaker. It is encouraging to see that SWCS scholarships are helping future employees in natural resources fields.



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## AG 40 GROUP

**Craig Romary**

I've had the opportunity at least twice over the last few years to attend a meeting of the Ag 40 Group and represent the Nebraska SWCS Chapter. Never heard of the Ag 40 Group? It's a group of approximately 40 individuals and organizations with a vested interest in Nebraska agriculture and the continuation of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska. In addition to the Nebraska SWCS Chapter, members include the Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Agri-Business Association, Nebraska Ag Builders, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Farmers Union and approximately 35 others. The Ag 40 Group has the purpose of providing "the IANR with broad-based support to increase its visibility, to create an environment allowing it to continue its leadership role and to promote policies that support IANR and those programs at the University that enhance the University's partnership with Nebraska's agricultural and natural resources interests." This group generally meets once per year or when a need arises.

Ronnie Green, University of Nebraska Vice President and Vice Chancellor of IANR, spoke to this group in the fall of 2014. Mr. Green's presentation highlighted the size and scope of the IANR, including the College of Agriculture Science and Natural Resources, university research and Extension – all of which are important partners to the Nebraska Chapter and the SWCS organization, as a whole.

The ability to meet with this group – even if only periodically – offers the Chapter the opportunity to provide information on, and emphasize the importance of, natural resources in agriculture and related industries, as well as potentially bring some recognition to the Chapter for our activities and the expertise of our members.

## FARMING EVOLUTION DRAWS BIG CROWDS

**Julie Elliott**

"It's not how much water you get but the amount you get into the soil."

This was just one of dozens of take home messages from the Farming Evolution 2015 event that was held in Holyoke on February 12 - 13. Gabe Brown and Ray Archuleta spoke to nearly 280 people on Thursday and

240 on Friday about a substance most people call 'dirt'. Gabe farms and ranches with his family near Bismarck, North Dakota. Ray, known as 'The Soils Guy', works for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. These nationally sought after speakers shared new insights into the foundation of agriculture – the soil.

When the soil is healthy this it is alive with underground creatures called micro-organisms. These underground creatures need to be fed. In fact, Gabe and Ray made the point several times that we should think of them as underground "livestock." Whatever happens to the soil impacts these critters. These critters effect how the soils behave.

One attendee commented that the most enlightening point was, "(the) Pictures of bacteria and plants by Ray (in the) afternoon session. WOW!!"

Another major topic was organic matter. Organic matter is what makes the soil able to soak in and hold moisture. Organic matter also holds the nutrients that feed the plants. Most farmed soils are really low in organic matter, less than 1 or 2% organic matter. Healthy native prairie sod has approximately 5% organic matter. Two thirds of organic matter is created by roots. The way to build up the organic matter is to maximize the time there are living roots in the soil. As one attendee noted, "Diverse mix of plants build(s) soil."

All eyes were glued to the front when Ray showed how tilled-soils respond differently to water compared to no-till soils. Using the same soil type, Ray had a clump of each soil set into a wire mesh suspended in water. The difference between the two was unquestionable. The tilled soil immediately began to disintegrate while the no-till soil held together. Even after standing in the tubes of water all day, the no-till soil was still intact. The tilled soil had all fallen through the wire.

Ray explained that biological glues hold the soil together. Biological glues are made by the underground "livestock". These glues also hold the soil particles together, which creates pore space. The more pore spaces a soil has, the better the infiltration. Tillage disturbs the soil profile, collapses the pore spaces and kills the underground livestock.

When asked what the most enlightening point of the meeting was, one person commented, "There were many, but every time I learn more about soils, I become more committed to making changes and learn more about the soil quality of our ranch and how we can improve it..."



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Another referenced Gabe's observation about insects. "For every one pest species, there are 1700 beneficial insects."

Longest distance traveled awards were given to a young couple from Calgary, Canada, and a father/son duo from Ruby Valley, Nevada.

If you would like to hear the presentations, you can go to [www.barnmedia.net](http://www.barnmedia.net). Type "farming evolution" in the search box, and then click on the header: 02-12-15 "The Farming Evolution 2015" in Holyoke Feb 12-13...WEBCASTS ARCHIVES.

The Farming Evolution was sponsored by the Haxtun, Sedgwick and Yuma County Conservation Districts, the Upper Republican Natural Resource District and a Colorado State Conservation Board Grant, Colorado Soil & Water Conservation Society, Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society and The Natural Resources Conservation Service.



2015 Farming Evolution held in Holyoke on February 12 & 13, 2015 drew a big audience.



2015 Farming Evolution participants with Ray Archuleta in between sessions.

## INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CENTER NEAR GRANT, NEBRASKA DEDICATED

Claudia Stevenson

The Henry J. Stumpf International Wheat Center near Grant was dedicated December 18, 2014. Marvin Stumpf donated the land and funds to build the wheat center, which will be a leader in wheat research through the University of Nebraska. Learn more at:

<http://bit.ly/wheatcenter>

<http://events.unl.edu/water/2015/06/23/94200/>

## CHARLES FENSTER - A GREAT CONSERVATIONIST

Edwin Harms

At age 95, Charlie Fenster is still promoting soil and water conservation. Charlie received a Commendation Award in 1973 and was granted the Fellow Award in 1982 for his exceptional professional achievement coupled with service to SWCS and UNL. A new office and laboratory building at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln High Plains Agricultural Laboratory (HPAL) near Sidney will be named the Charles R. Fenster Building in recognition of Charles Fenster, a pioneering UNL researcher in dryland cropping systems in the Nebraska Panhandle and High Plains region.

Charlie has focused on historic documentation of conservation subjects while serving as a board member and volunteer at the Legacy of the Plains Museum just west of Gering, NE. Located on the Oregon Trail, the Legacy of the Plains Museum features an impressive collection of pioneer and early community artifacts, antique tractors, farm implements and conservation subjects such as "stubble mulch." The museum includes an 80-acre working farm, historic farmstead structures and striking views of Scotts Bluff National Monument.

Charlie recently contacted Ed Harms relative to historic documentation of irrigation water management in the North Platte Valley. Ed had saved many conservation related news articles during the years he worked with SCS and NRCS within the North Platte NRD. Along with irrigation water management, his collection included news articles on tree planting, grass seeding and SCS/NRCS staff. Also, several of the range judging, land

<http://www.nebraskaswcs.org/>



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judging and stubble mulch contests were documented. Charlie was pivotal in arranging the stubble mulch contests. Ed donated the entire collection of news articles to the museum for future reference and safe keeping.



Charles Fenster, a pioneering researcher in dryland cropping systems in the Panhandle and High Plains region, inspects winter wheat stubble in a chemical fallow field in 1974.



Charles Fenster (right) and Edwin Harms reviewing news articles.



Legacy of the Plains Museum  
2930 Old Oregon Trail  
Gering, NE 69341  
(308) 436-1989  
Email: [info@legacyoftheplains.org](mailto:info@legacyoftheplains.org)  
Website: <http://legacyoftheplains.org>



The Nebraska Chapter SWCS was represented as a part of The Groundwater Foundation's Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network in January 2015 at the Nebraska state capital building. More information on the Network can be found [here](#). The display is available for other SWCS events as needed.

## CHECK THIS OUT:

Book Review: The Soil Will Save Us by Kristin Ohlson  
by Steve Chick in the Prairie Fire newspaper  
<http://bit.ly/chickSHbr>



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## DAVE LANGEMEIER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS Cam Loerch

**WHAT:** 19th Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Scholarship Fundraiser – Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament

**WHEN:** Friday September 4, 2015

**WHERE:** Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln, NE.

More details will be provided closer to the event.

## CORPORATE SWCS MEMBERSHIP Craig Romary

Do you belong to a business or organization? Check out the benefits of corporate SWCS membership at [bit.ly/SWCScorp](http://bit.ly/SWCScorp), including international exposure and identity at SWCS events, in publications and with social media.

## SOIL SCIENTISTS CREATE A SOILS EXHIBIT FOR SPRING CREEK PRAIRIE EVENT

Nebraska NRCS Soil Scientists and their retired counterparts worked together to create a soils exhibit for the Spring Creek Audubon Center's "Green Holiday Jubilee & Exhibit Grand Opening" in Denton, Nebraska in December 2014.

Bruce Evans, Soil Scientist at the Lincoln NRCS soils office, provided several older soil maps to use for the soils display. One item was an old original soil map made in Custer County, Nebraska. It was made using the standards of the 1951 soil survey manual.

The exhibit included soil monoliths, 9 large-size (30 by 40 inches) illustrations and an information book containing a copy of each illustration and associated talking points for their educational use during field tours.



NRCS Soil Scientists that helped create the exhibit include (L-R) Shawn McVey, Roger Hammer, Steve Scheinost, Norm Helzer, Jim Culver and Cam Loerch.



Roger Hammer, Cam Loerch, Jim Culver and Steve Scheinost at the exhibit. The soil monoliths and large illustrations all remain at Spring Creek Prairie for educational use.





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2015 Annual Conference



70<sup>th</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference  
Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel  
Greensboro, NC  
July 26-29, 2015

Follow developing conference details  
with the conference hashtag #swcsac.

## Annual Conference Theme Announced!

Coming Home to Conservation: Putting Science into Practice

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Conference will provide a forum to celebrate past conservation accomplishments as well as share and promote science-based knowledge on critical, current issues facing soil, water, and environmental sustainability.

## NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL STATE MEETING SILENT AUCTION

Darwin Hinrichs

It is time once again to ask for your help in soliciting items for our annual silent auction to be held during our state SWCS meeting. Details about the dates of the state meeting will be provided as available. Previous items that have been donated for this event have been crafts, wine baskets, books, pictures, gift certificates and plants. The money raised with this silent auction is used to help fund the annual scholarships.

Your help with the silent auction would be greatly appreciated. Please let Darwin Hinrichs know what you are bringing or if you need help getting your item the meeting. For any questions on this please contact Darwin at 308-340-5226 or email at hinrichsdm@hotmail.com.

## NEIGHBORING SWCS ACTIVITIES

Take a few minutes to explore neighboring SWCS chapter activities.

**MONTANA:** [HTTP://WWW.MTSWCS.ORG/](http://WWW.MTSWCS.ORG/)

**WYOMING:**  
[HTTP://WYSWCS.HOME.BRESNAN.NET/](http://WYSWCS.HOME.BRESNAN.NET/)

**COLORADO:**  
[HTTP://WWW.SWCS.ORG/EN/COLORADO\\_CHAPTER/](http://WWW.SWCS.ORG/EN/COLORADO_CHAPTER/)

**NORTH DAKOTA:** [HTTP://WWW.NDSWCS.ORG/](http://WWW.NDSWCS.ORG/)

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** [HTTP://WWW.SDSWCS.ORG/](http://WWW.SDSWCS.ORG/)

## NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Northeast – Patrick Cowser  
Sandhills – Vacant  
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 – Vacant\*  
Membership - Robin Foulk  
Elections - Paul Zillig  
Nominations - Wally Valasek  
History – Vacant\*  
Environmental Ed. (Student Chapter) – Tom Franti  
Student Chapter Liaison – Craig Romary  
Bylaws – Vacant\*  
Newsletter – Sarah Gray  
Website – Doug Garrison

\*Volunteers needed to fill vacant positions. Anyone interested please contact Sarah Gray for more information.



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