



# Nebraska Society News

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2017-2018

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## SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 21-23, 2018  
2018 NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING  
GERING, NE**

**SEE AGENDA AND REGISTRATION  
INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**



**[CHECK IT OUT](#)  
[NEBRASKA SWCS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK](#)**

## **YOUR CONSIDERATION AND VOTE NEEDED: BYLAWS REVISION PROPOSED**

Robin Foulk

Because of a decline in membership in the Sandhills section of the Nebraska Chapter, the Chapter Board has discussed options for easing the need for finding director volunteers in that area of the state. Proposed changes to the Chapter's bylaws are posted on the Chapter website (<http://nebraskaswcs.org>). There is a brief summary of the proposed changes at the top of the document (and pasted below) as well as the specific changes highlighted within the document. Summary of proposed changes:

- Minor changes throughout were made to remove or change formatting or update language.
- Article V. Section 1. Board of Directors: proposing to add an additional at-large director to the board.
- Article V. Section 2. Regional Sections: proposing to create a new section consisting of the old Sandhills section and the old South Central Nebraska section. This reduces the total number of sections to 5, however, with the addition of the new at-large director, the number of directors will remain the same.
- Article V. Section 3. Board Members: Changes are made to the order or cycle of board member elections, to accommodate the new at-large director and the reduction in director sections.
- Article VIII. Section 1. Regional Sections: deletes the word "chapter" in reference to "sections" – an edit likely missed during the last revision of the bylaws.
- Article VIII. Section 7. Meeting Attendance: this section is deleted because it is no longer relevant with the deletion of the chapters several years ago.

A 2/3 majority vote of the members voting is required before this proposal can be adopted. Please cast your vote by contacting Paul Zillig, either by mail at SWCS Election, LPSNRD, P.O. Box 83581, Lincoln, NE 68501-3581 or by email at [pzillig@lpsnrd.org](mailto:pzillig@lpsnrd.org). **Please cast your vote by June 10, 2018.**



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## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Craig Romary

The Nebraska Chapter and Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation are pleased to announce 8 scholarship recipients for the 2017-18 school year. Initially, the Chapter and the Foundation approved 3 scholarships apiece, but after reevaluating golf tournament proceeds and the fact that it was a very close cut-off at the top of the list of applicants, Chapter leadership decided to extend the number by one scholarship. Then, a very timely and gracious gift from Agnes and Ron Lorentzen allowed us to extend the number by one more. Many of you will remember Tina Lorentzen Carlson, former Chapter member and officer. Annual donations from her parents, Agnes and Ron, and husband, Doug, have helped us keep her conservation spirit thriving by assisting student conservationists for several years, and this magnifies that effort even more.

Each recipient was awarded \$1,000. Our scholarship recipients, major course of study, and university, in no particular order, are:

- Alexa Davis is a Junior majoring in Environmental Restoration Science at UNL, awarded a Nebraska-UNL Foundation scholarship.
- Kortni Burnett, a Junior Range Management and Ag Education major at Chadron State, awarded the Agnes and Ron Lorentzen Scholarship.
- Moriah Heerten, a Senior Ag Economics and Agronomy major at UNL, awarded a Nebraska Chapter-UNL Foundation scholarship.
- Sydney Hancock is a Graduate student majoring in Natural Resources Science and Human Dimension at UNL, awarded the Dave Langemeier Memorial Scholarship.
- Alissa Sweley, a Sophomore Range Management major at Chadron State, awarded the Tina Lorentzen-Carlson Memorial Scholarship.
- Paige Wacker, is a Senior majoring in Agronomy at UNL, awarded a NSWCF scholarship.

• Samantha Teten, is a Junior Agronomy major at UNL, awarded a Nebraska Chapter-UNL Foundation scholarship.

• Kolby Grint is a Junior Agronomy major at UNL, awarded the Cam Loerch Memorial Scholarship.

A huge thank you to the scholarship review committee, consisting of Doug Garrison, Sarah Gray, Robin Foulk, Kris Reed, Dick Ehrman, Ed Harms, Corey Brubaker, Jim Culver, Mike Kucera, and Craig Romary. This is a huge commitment but a very rewarding one.



A portion of the scholarship review committee discussing the final applicant rankings to determine scholarship recipients.



5 of the 6 Lincoln-area scholarship recipients were able to join NSWCF members for dinner last fall. Pictured, l to r, are Kris Reed, Sydney Hancock, Alexa Davis, Moriah Heerten, Kolby Grint, Samantha Teten, and Corey Brubaker.

## 2018 SWCS LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Corey Brubaker

The annual Legislative Breakfast sponsored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society was held Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at the Federal Building in Lincoln. The Breakfast was attended by 13 individuals, 10 members and 3 guests. While the purpose of the Breakfast is to provide information on conservation related topics to State Senators and their staffs, unfortunately, none were able to attend this year.

Doug Garrison served as MC for this year's Breakfast and presented Tom Mountford from the Lower Platte North NRD with a distinguished service award. Tom has worked for multiple NRDs in Nebraska during his career and was recognized for his dedication and commitment to conservation.

Corey Brubaker, State Conservation Agronomist with Nebraska NRCS provided the program. Corey discussed ephemeral erosion and methods for controlling it.



Corey Brubaker presenting on ephemeral erosion during the 2018 SWCS Legislative Breakfast.



Doug Garrison presented Tom Mountford the 2017 SWCS Commendation Award during the Legislative breakfast.

## PASSING OF PHIL RICKEY

March 16, 1935 - April 16, 2018

Phillip L. "Phil" Rickey, 83, of Gering, Nebraska, passed away Monday, April 16, 2018 in Loveland, Colorado, after suffering heart complications. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held at First United Methodist Church in Gering at 10 AM on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 with Pastor Seth Leyboldt officiating. Burial will follow at the Fort Laramie cemetery in Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Memorials may be made to the church or the Nebraska Children's Home in Omaha. Online condolences may be left by visiting Phillip's Tribute Page at [www.geringchapel.com](http://www.geringchapel.com)

Phil was born on March 16, 1935 to Leslie Rickey and Viola Ferrell-Rickey in Gainesville, Texas. He lived in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas before moving to Fort Laramie, Wyoming in January 1949, where he went to high school, found his high school sweetheart Carolyn Fintus, and graduated in 1953. He then proceeded to extend his education at Chadron State College from 1953 through 1957 where he received his Bachelor Degree of Science in Biology. During his college years he and Carolyn were married on August 19, 1956.

Phil served in the U.S. Army in 1958 and the Army reserves from 1959-1964. While in the Army Reserves he was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1959) in Soil Conservation Services. Where he worked



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his way up through the ranks to be a District Conservationist and was in charge of 3.2 million acres in five counties. He also supervised 14-16 employees in four of the five counties. After working at the USDA for forty years he retired in 1998. During his employment at the USDA he received numerous awards for outstanding service and dedication; held membership in the society of Range Management and Soil Conservation Society of America.

In 1971 Phil and Carolyn had adopted a little girl and named her "Tiffany" and in 1974 they adopted a little boy and named him "Travis". Tiffany and Travis were the joys of their lives. Phil spent many days and traveled many miles to support his children in the sport of competitive swimming.

Phil served on the Board at the Farm and Ranch Museum as well as a Trustee at the First United Methodist Church in Gering. In his free time he loved traveling, camping, hunting and fishing, and spending time with his family and friends. He was a dedicated son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather. He always put other people's needs before his own; he was a kind gentle man.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents and sister along with many cousins. He is survived by his wife Carolyn (Fintus) Rickey of Gering, son Travis Rickey (Allison) grandkids Hailey Rickey, Theodore Rickey, Rylee Hazen, and his unborn grandson Jackson Rickey of Gering, and daughter Tiffany Rickey of Arizona **2017**—

## HONOR ROLLS OF MEMORIALS AND RECOGNITION

Craig Romary

The Honor Rolls of Memorials and Recognition have been updated through 2017. These are the people who have been memorialized or recognized by friends, family, and colleagues through donations to the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation. The Foundation Board would like to thank all of the donors through the years. Without this support, many of the student scholarships could not be awarded. Thank you!

As a reminder, Memorial cards and Recognition cards are available from the Foundation, which can be sent directly by the donor. Donations are made to the Foundation, and the family, in the case of a memorial, or the individual being recognized, receives a letter from the Foundation.

Please consider donations, in any amount, as a way to continue the conservation spirit for generations to follow. The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation is a nonprofit corporation and donations are tax deductible.

## SWCS OFFICERS AND DIRECTOR NEEDED

Wally Valasek

The Nebraska SWCS is in need of the following officers for 2018/2019, and directors for the period from 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2021.

The officer positions that are up for election are President, Vice-President, Treasure, and Secretary. These are one year terms and the vice-president is expected to move on to the presidency the following year.

We have two director positions that will expire this year. These are three year terms.

The two vacancies are in the Lincoln section and the South Central section. Directors for the two section positions need to reside in the respective section.

Anyone interested in these positions or wanting to nominate someone can contact Wally Valasek at [wbvalasek@gmail.com](mailto:wbvalasek@gmail.com) or 402-223-2874. Please make contact by May 31, 2018. Thank you for your consideration and nominations.

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Kris Reed

All Nebraska SWCS Chapter members are members of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation, and the Foundation Board of Directors would like to hear from you regarding ideas for educational or demonstration type projects. Look around your office or those you associate with to see if you know someone who would benefit from a grant or scholarship.

If you have not done so, please help promote these scholarship opportunities to students and colleges in your area. The Scholarship Committee will be reviewing student applications in December. See how our donations are working in the scholarship article in this issue, and consider a donation to help the next round of scholarship recipients.



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As always, Foundation “tribute cards” can be used to make a donation to the Foundation by recognizing someone with a memorial or to recognize a memorable milestone in their career or family life. Please see the updated Foundation brochure at [nebraskaswcs.org](http://nebraskaswcs.org) for more information.

2017-18 NSWC Foundation board members are:

- President- Kris Reed
- Vice President - Ed Harms
- Secretary – Mike Kucera
- Treasurer and Registered Agent – Craig Romary
- Director – Dick Ehrman
- Chapter President – Robin Foulk (non-voting member)

## BECOME A CORPORATE MEMBER

Do you belong to a business or organization looking to support natural resources and SWCS? Check out the benefits of corporate SWCS membership at [bit.ly/SWCScorp2](http://bit.ly/SWCScorp2) including international exposure and identity at SWCS events, in publications and with social media.

## SWCS ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION

Darwin Hinrichs

It is time once again to ask for your help in soliciting items for the annual silent auction to be held during the state SWCS meeting. 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 our annual scholarships. Please let Darwin Hinrichs know what you plan to bring or if you need help getting your item to the meeting. Please contact Darwin at 308-340-5226 or [hinrichsdm@hotmail.com](mailto:hinrichsdm@hotmail.com) with any questions.

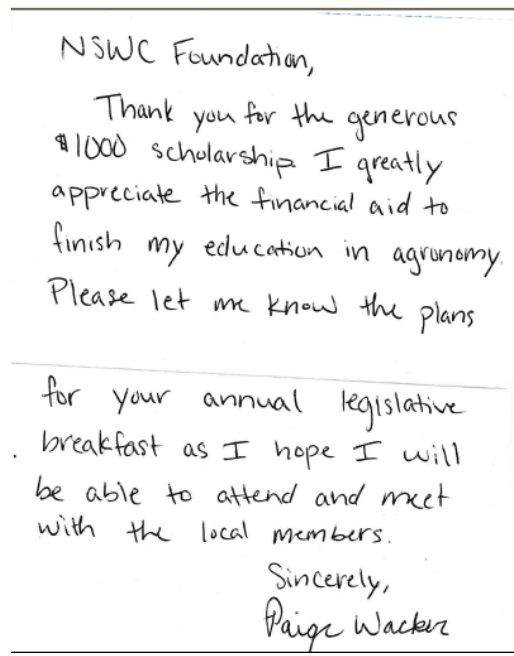
## IN THE NEWS.....

- SWCS member Ray Ward recognized for creating an endowment with Nebraska FFA Foundation. [READ MORE HERE](#)

- SWCS Scholarship winner, Samantha Teten, a University of Nebraska–Lincoln agronomy major minoring in agribusiness, has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Independent Professional Seed Association.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FROM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Dear Mr. Romary,

I wanted to thank you again for the scholarship and dinner at Cheddars. This enables me to fulfill my academic goals in natural resources. I hope to see you again soon, maybe at the legislative breakfast!

Alexa Davis



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Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society -

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of a scholarship through this organization. It is an honor to be chosen for this. Thank you also for taking the time to personally meet with all of the other recipients and for supper; I really enjoyed being able to meet and visit with everyone. Again, thank you so much for your time as well as being chosen for this scholarship!

*Miriam Kewster*

SWCS,

Thank you so much for granting me this scholarship. It's going to go a long way in helping me pay for next semester's classes. It will help me achieve my next goal of obtaining my masters degree. Thank you so much again.

Bests,  
*Sydney Hancock*

Dear Craig,

Thank you so much for selecting me for the Tina Lorentzen Carlson Scholarship! I was very excited to learn that I was selected. I am honored to receive this scholarship and I am very grateful for the opportunities it will provide me. This scholarship will help play a key role in achieving my educational goals. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Alissa Sweley



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## 2018 SWCS Annual State Meeting

### Conference Theme:

**"Water is the driving force in Nature" - Leonardo Da Vinci**

The conference will be at the [Legacy of the Plains Museum](#) in Gering, Nebraska which features a collection of pioneer and early community artifacts, antique tractors, and farm implements. A tour of the facility will be part of the meeting.

**Irrigation will be the conference focus.**

**Presentations will include:**

Gary Stone, UNL Extension Educator, presentation: *The North Platte River: Surface Irrigation Projects and Power Generation- a basic history of and information about the project which started back in 1909.*

Rick Preston, Gering-Ft. Laramie Irrigation District Manager, field tour of irrigation projects.

Kevin Hutsell, NRCS, Irrigation Water Management training, properly calculating water efficiencies plus a review of proper NRCS enhancement and practice documentation associated with irrigation water management.

## 2018 SWCS ANNUAL STATE MEETING JUNE 21-23, 2018 ~ GERING, NE

### Thursday June 21, 2018

- 12:30-1:00pm Registration - Legacy of the Plains Museum - 2930 M St Gering, NE 69341
- 1:00-2:30pm Kevin Hutsell, NRCS - Irrigation Water Management Training
- 2:30-3:00pm Break
- 3:00-4:00pm Gary Stone, UNL - History of Irrigation in North Platte Valley
- 4:00-5:00pm Registration
- 5:30 pm Evening Meal - [Gering Civic Center](#) - 1050 M St Gering, NE 69341  
/ Entertainment - Wildcat Hill Shooting Sport Complex & Nature Center\*  
<http://outdoornebraska.gov/wildcathills/> \*Park passes required

### Friday June 22, 2018

- 8:00-9:00am Registration - Legacy of the Plains Museum / Silent Auction Item Viewing
- 9:00-10:30am Tour of Legacy of the Plains Museum / Break
- 10:30-11:00am Barb Cross, NPNRD- Greenhouse Project Presentation
- 11:00-12:00pm Water Issues or Farm Bill Discussion – Speaker TBD
- 12:00-1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00-5:00pm Rick Preston, Gering-Ft. Laramie Irrigation District – Irrigation Field Tour
- 5:30-6:00pm Banquet Social Time – Gering Civil Center
- 6:00pm Banquet with Silent Auction and Awards – Gering Civic Center

### Saturday June 23, 2018

- 7:30–10:00am Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Meeting & Breakfast – Location TBD(Cobblestone or Monument Inn Motel)
- 10:00–12:00pm Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society Chapter Meeting – Location TBD(Cobblestone or Monument Inn Motel)

**Lodging: A block of rooms will not be reserved, options near the conference include:**

[Cobblestone Hotel and Suites 960 M St, Gering, NE \(308-633-7660\)](#)  
[Monument Inn & Suites \(Microtel\) 1130 M St, Gering, NE \(308-436-1950\)](#)

### **2018 NEBRASKA SWCS CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION – DUE JUNE 8, 2018**

**PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED TO ALLOW FOR MEAL PLANNING**

Meeting Registration (includes presentations, breaks and Friday lunch)...\$20.00 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Thursday Evening Meal.....\$10.00 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Chapter Banquet.....\$14.00 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Foundation and Chapter Business Meeting and Breakfast.....Pay at the door if not staying at hotel  
**TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to Nebraska Chapter SWCS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Registration to:**

Corey Brubaker, NRCS  
 Federal Building, Room 152  
 100 Centennial Mall North  
 Lincoln, NE 68508  
[corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov](mailto:corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov) (402) 437-4164

NOTE: If your registration will be submitted later than June 8<sup>th</sup> or if you plan to pay at the door please let Corey Brubaker know so proper meal planning can be completed.



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Nebraska SWCS Chapter  
4967 Lariat Loop  
Torrington, WY 82240

PLAN TO ATTEND THE  
2018 SWCS ANNUAL STATE MEETING  
JUNE 21-23, 2018 GERING, NE ~ [LEGACY OF THE PLAINS MUSEUM](#)

