



Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2018-2019

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| President | Robin Foulk | robin.foulk@ne.usda.gov |
| Vice President | Dave Bedlan | dave.bedlan@ne.usda.gov |
| Secretary | Darwin Hinrichs | hinrichsdm@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Corey Brubaker | corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov |

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|------------|
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | 1 |
| BLAST FROM THE PAST | 1-2 |
| 2018 GOLF TOURNAMENT | 2-3 |
| STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS | 3-4 |
| 36th ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST | 4-5 |
| 2019 NEBRASKA FLOOD AND BLIZZARD | 5 |
| PASSING OF DON THOBER | 5 |
| UNL SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES CLUB | 6 |
| OUTREACH / IN THE NEWS | 6-7 |
| CHAPTER AND FOUNDATION UPDATES | 7-8 |

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 30, 2019

2019 NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING
AND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

LINCOLN, NE

More details to come soon!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Robin Foulk

Happy Spring from President Robin Foulk! It is really good to see the sun and green grass in Western Nebraska. Spring always energizes me to get some things completed. With that said, I really want to encourage members to reach out and invite nonmembers to become members. New folks bring new ideas and energy to the society. Newer members, I encourage you to become actively involved in the society like Sean Elliot offering

to be a new at large director and Conor Ward offering to go to the international meeting!

I offered to help scan old pictures and documents so past SWCS history is preserved. Yes, it takes time but it is important. It helps me acknowledge and appreciate the work our past deceased members accomplished and seeing current members continue to accomplish. Some had a lot more hair back then!!! GO Nebraska SWCS Chapter!!!!

BLAST FROM THE PAST



RANCHING OPERATION — Martin Viersen, North Platte, center, describes his ranch operation to those attending the tour of his ranch Friday afternoon. Slim Nielsen, district conservationist is at left and Leonard Thye, range conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, both of North Platte, is at right.

117 tour NP ranch

One hundred and seventeen persons from over the state attended the joint annual meeting of the Nebraska Society of Range Management and the Nebraska Chapter, Soil Conservation Society of America, which opened Friday at North Platte.

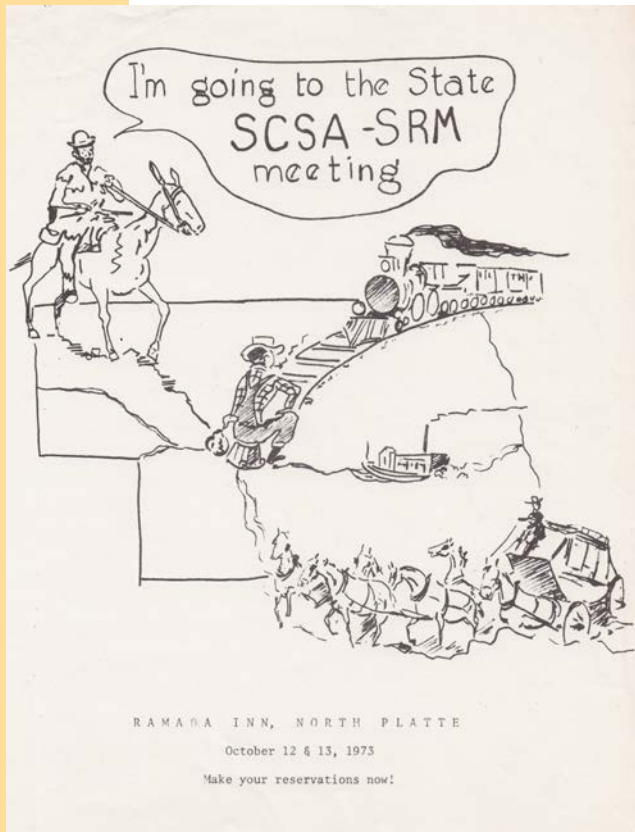
Each group held business sessions in the morning with headquarters at Ramada Inn, lunched together, then toured the Martin Viersen ranch north of North Platte.

The tour featured interseedings of a mixture of sand bluestem, switchgrass, Indian grass, sand lovegrass, little bluestem and prairie sandreed, which the Twin Platte Natural Resource District had seeded for Viersen.

A Buffalo till planter was used to interseed the native grasses in 40-inch rows in 100 acres of "go-back" land at Viersen's. The till planter was demonstrated.

Also seen on the tour were improved pastures from fair and poor condition to good and excellent condition through many range improvement practices and upland hay production which was rotated to have grasses mowed every three years.

An awards program was presented at the Friday night banquet. Today at 9 a.m. there will be a tour of the North Platte Station including the eco-fallow system, cattle research and irrigated grass pasture for the men, and a flower tour for the women.



A handful of Chapter members are trying to scan our historical archives. It's been slow-going, but hopefully someday we'll have these files uploaded on an accessible web site, or available on thumb drives for members. Until then, the occasional image will be published in the newsletter. You might see more on our Facebook!

2018 DAVE LANGEMEIER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Corey Brubaker

The 22nd Annual SWCS Golf Tournament was held on October 5, 2018 at the Holmes Park Golf Course in Lincoln, NE. The golf tournament was begun in 1997 by former Nebraska SWCS Chapter treasurer Dave Langemeier to raise money for scholarships for students pursuing degrees in natural resources related fields.

A total of 37 golfers registered for the event which raised \$2,536 for the scholarship funds. Even though the weather was less than ideal, and the tournament was interrupted by a 1-hour rain delay, most of the participants took the

weather in stride and enjoyed the day. Doug Wagner, Ryan Kroemer, Steve Grube and Radley Breuer made up the winning team. Second place went to the team of James and Corey Brubaker, Neil Dominy and Mike Burgert. The low gross individual score went to James Brubaker and the low net individual score went to Doug Wagner. The long putt contest was won by Bob Batterman and the winner of the Cam Cup Competition was Norm Bottger.

Raffle winners were: Bob Sullivan - \$100 Austad's Gift Card; Tom Schleif - \$50 gift certificate from Stock Seed Farms; James Brubaker and Tom Johnson - \$50 Gift Cards from Lincoln Golf Courses; Norm Kempf and Gary Wells - \$25 restaurant gift cards donated by Midwest Labs; Neil Dominy, Mike Kucera, Jason Sall and Carl McReynolds - \$25 Starbucks gift cards donated by the Nebraska Agri-Business Association.

A special thanks to our sponsors for the tournament:

- Arrow Seed
- Aurora Coop
- Green Cover Seed
- Lincoln USDA Credit Union
- Lower Platte North NRD
- Lower Platte South NRD
- Midwest Laboratories
- Nebraska Agri-Business Association
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture – Entomology Program
- Pallas Seeds Inc. – Stromsburg, NE
- R.O. Youker Structural Engineering – Lincoln, NE
- Stifel Investment Services
- Stock Seed Farms
- USDA – NRCS
- Sandy Langemeier
- Roland Langemeier
- Teri Loerch
- Beth O'Farrell
- Becky Keep
- Jim Culver
- Joe Calder
- Gary Muckel
- Gary Buttermore



Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER



Norm Bottger won the Cam Cup Competition.



Craig Derickson competing in the Cam Cup Competition.



Gary Wells announcing the winners of team and individual awards for the golf tournament.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Craig Romary

The Nebraska Chapter and Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation are pleased to announce 6 scholarship recipients for the 2018-19 school year.

The Scholarship Committee once again had the difficult choice of choosing recipients for this year's scholarships. A total of 17 applications were received from students attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chadron State College, and University of Nebraska-Omaha. Each recipient was awarded \$1,000. Our scholarship recipients, major course of study, and university are:

- Michaela Cunningham, a Junior agronomy major at UNL, received the Dave Langemeier Memorial Scholarship.
- Alexa Davis, a graduate student majoring in hydrology at UNL, received a NSWC Foundation scholarship.
- Aaron Doxon, a Junior agronomy/integrated crop management major at UNL, received a UNL Foundation scholarship.
- Travis Millikan, a Junior range/wildlife management major at Chadron State College, received the Agnes & Ron Lorentzen Scholarship.

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



Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

- Cadence Hernandez, a Senior environmental restoration science/soils major at UNL, received the Cam Loerch Memorial Scholarship.
- Alissa Sweley, a Junior range/wildlife management major at Chadron State College, received the Tina Lorentzen Carlson Memorial Scholarship.

A big 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.



SWCS scholarship winners (L-R): Aaron Doxon Cadence Hernandez, Alexa Davis, and Michaela Cunningham.



SWCS scholarship winners Lincoln (L-R): Alissa Sweley and Travis Millikan.

36TH ANNUAL SWCS LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST Darwin Hinrichs

The 36th Annual Nebraska SWCS Legislative Breakfast was held January 29, 2019 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The speaker for the event with Ritch Nelson the Nebraska NRCS State Wildlife Biologist and State Forester. Ritch gave a presentation on the Eastern Red Cedar (ERC) in Nebraska.

There were 25 registrations for the meeting which included two of the newest Nebraska state Senators, Myron Dorn from Adams, Nebraska and Tim Gragert representing Northeast Nebraska. Also, present was Sam Bauman from Senator Cavanaugh's office. The SWCS student chapter from UNL (Soil and Water Resources Club) was well represented with President Ema Muslic, Vice President Samuel Hansen, Treasurer Alexa Davis and Past President Mathew Greiner in attendance. Of the 25 registrations 17 registrants were members of Nebraska's SWCS Chapter.

Ritch began his presentation with some history of ERC. It is actually a juniper, an invasive one in some areas of Nebraska. Another similar juniper is Rocky Mountain Juniper. In Nebraska ERC covers the eastern ¾ of the state and Rocky Mountain Juniper in the western ¼.

Ritch indicated that a major concern with ERC in Nebraska is the rate it is expanding. It is estimated 25,000 acres of grasslands are invaded each year and 13,000 acres of forest land. Presently there are about 300,000 acres impacted by ERC in Nebraska.

There has been work done to reduce the size of our affected acres using NRCS's EQIP program. It has removed 225,000 acres with brush control and 170,000 acres controlled with fire. These methods are more expensive and difficult to use for control than it would be if producers would recognize the problem sooner. Control is a lot easier when ERC are small.

There are some research projects working on ERC. One is UNL's Science Literary Project (a link to this page is found in Ritch's presentation at the link below). There is also work being done in Kansas on cloning male ERC. Other research is examining the ability of grafting to get only male plants. Presently there is no way to identify a very young cedar tree as to its gender, economically.



Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

NRCS is looking at the possibility of controlling lower densities in grasslands.

A special thanks to Ritch for being the speaker and everyone in attendance for the Legislative Breakfast. The presentation from the breakfast can be viewed at http://nebraskaswcs.org/uploads/3/5/4/4/35448149/2019_swcs_lb_erc_nelson.pdf.

2019 NEBRASKA FLOOD AND BLIZZARD IMPACTS

Craig Derickson

This spring has brought much damage to our soil and water resources in Nebraska with the devastating “cyclone bomb” and blizzard of the week of March 10, and the historic flooding that followed. The flood water levels on the Elkhorn, Platte and Missouri rivers all set new record high flows.

As difficult as it is to look for silver linings at times of disaster, there are new opportunities for land users to consider. We all know there are conservation practices that can improve soil health, improve water infiltration, and help farmers be more resilient to the effects of climate.

The floods brought many damages to homes, ag lands, stored grain, livestock and streams. The time and expense it will take to recover and rebuild from those losses is difficult to comprehend. Traveling around the flood impacted areas it is easy to see sand and sediment deposited on cropland fields and gullies caused by sheet and rill erosion.

Aaron Hird, NRCS State Soil Health Specialist recently responded to the question: Where to you start? In an article in the Progressive Farmer, Aaron stated: “What we’re seeing is a lot of erosion in the uplands where water has come off of frozen soil or snowmelt.” Hird went on to say: “They’re going to need to do some repair work before they can get in the field this spring. A lot of the major flooding damage was isolated to the floodplains. A large percentage have experienced either massive erosion or deposition of debris, sediment and sand.”

State Senator Tim Gragert of Creighton told the Agriculture Committee that a lot of producers need more information about how to improve their soil and to how to

use practices to regenerate their soil. Gragert said that current outreach on the issue of soil health is fragmented and not well enough coordinated. Gragert is a retired employee of NRCS with 31 years of service in soil conservation.

Gragert introduced LB243 this legislative session, titled “Create the Healthy Soils Task Force.” Part of the soil health bill reads: “Healthy soils are a limited natural resource and fundamental for healthy and sustainable food production. Improving soil health means increasing soil’s organic matter and diversifying its microbial activity to enhance agricultural productivity and environmental resilience. A commitment to healthy and productive soils and clean water is critical as world population and food production demands rise.” You can read more about Senator Gragert’s bill on Soil Health at <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB243.pdf>.

Thank you to all the hard working and caring citizens who help each other during times of disaster like the blizzard and flood of 2019.

Sincerely,
Craig Derickson

PASSING OF DON THOBER



Don Thober, former SWCS member and retired Nebraska NRCS employee passed away in 2019.

https://journalstar.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/don-gilbert-thober/article_52d02cc2-c869-504d-8e32-1018f18d9d56.html



Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

UNL SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES CLUB UPDATE

Emma Muslic

The UNL Soil and Water Resources Club has gained a few new members this year which we were very excited about! This year, we spent time trying to focus on making professional connection by inviting speakers from the NRCS, SWCS, Food for Water Institute, and UNL. We were even able to attend a tour of the LiCOR facilities in Lincoln to learn about everything from medical equipment to field research and lab equipment.

We continued to stay active in University events with the club, including going to the movie showing for "Follow the Water" where we also were able to fundraise for the club. Also, we managed to complete two wetland cleanup events for the Whitehead Saline Wetlands! The highlight of our year was last week's kayaking trip at the Big Blue River. We enjoyed taking time before finals week to unwind and appreciate the nature Nebraska has to offer!

Lastly, the club elected new officers. President: Emma Muslic, VP and communications officer: Ken Oathout, Primary Programmer: Juan Arellanes, Treasurer: Matthew Greiner. I've attached some pictures from the events over the year! We want to thank the SWCS for their continued involvement with the club and for encouraging students to be active in the community!



UNL Soil and Water Resources Club members completed two wetland cleanup projects.

SWCS AT HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT SPRING LIVE EVENT

Dave Bedlan

A Spring Live Event was held at the Homestead National Monument near Beatrice, Nebraska April 20, 2019 to welcome in Spring with a wide variety of activities promoting and celebrating citizen science involvement. The event included various organization booths including the Nebraska Chapter SWCS which was staffed by Dave Bedlan, chapter Vice President. The booths include information on the mission of each organization and the ways in which citizen scientists can participate. As part of the event Dave gave away some old journal of soil and water conservation issues, comic books, and applications for SWCS membership.



SWCS booth at the Homestead National Monument Spring Live Event held April 20, 2019.

Below: Dave Bedlan attending to the booth.





Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

IN THE NEWS.....

More on UNL Soils Judging: Our November newsletter contained a link to an article on the 1st place finish for the UNL Soils Judging Team at the regional competition. The results from that competition are posted here (<https://www.agronomy.org/undergrads/contests/soils-contests>)

The 2019 National Collegiate Soils Contest was held in California, April 14-19, 2019. The UNL team placed 3rd in that competition! Full listing of results are found here: <https://www.soils.org/undergrads/soils-contest>.

Nebraska Crops Judging Team takes second at NCTA competition (<https://agronomy.unl.edu/news/nebraska-crops-judging-team-takes-second-ncta-competition>) This team is comprised of three current and former SWCS scholarship recipients.

Nebraska SWCS chapter sponsored the 2019 Farming Evolution conference held in Holyoke, CO: <https://livestream.com/BarnMedia/FarmingEvolution2019>

Nebraska Chapter SWCS member Ray Ward conveys the benefits of soil microbes and soil health at Nebraska Vindemia (<https://vindemiane.com/>), a conference of the Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Association. <https://www.facebook.com/SWCSnebraska/photos/a.162694114263907/413010539232262/?type=3&theater>

Nebraska Chapter SWCS member Ross Scott, is an Audubon director, find out more here: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cd9e45_15a51196a46a4ba2b3ffeee4c8cba00c.pdf

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 November. 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.

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. Tribute cards can be requested from any Foundation member. Please see the updated Foundation brochure at nebraskaswcs.org for more information. In addition, take a look at the Honor Roll of Memorials and Recognition.

2018-19 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)

HONOR ROLLS OF MEMORIALS AND RECOGNITION

Craig Romary

The Honor Rolls of Memorials and Recognition have been updated through 2018. 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!



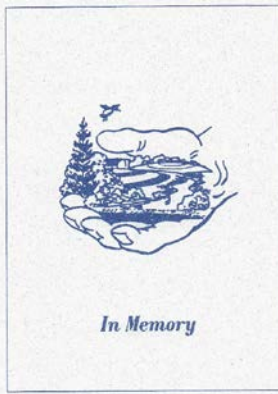
Nebraska Society News

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

As a reminder, Memorial cards and Recognition cards (see below) are available from the Foundation. These are sent directly to the family or the individual, by you, the donor. You'll also send the Foundation the card insert, with the family or individual's address, along with your donation. The family, in the case of a memorial, or an individual being recognized, receives a letter from the Foundation acknowledging your gift in their name

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 501(c)3 corporation and donations are tax deductible.

Donations and requests for cards can be sent to Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation. 6410 Huntington Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507. Or contact Craig @ clrpkrne @windstream.net or 402.464.1423.



Nebraska Forest Service
Page Liked · April 25 ·
#ThrowbackThursday #TBT We're not sure about the year, but we do know the Beaver City Tree Board's Arbor Day Program sold trees at a "very reasonable rate." Ira Flannigan was the first to pick up his tree from Jim Harder of the Beaver City Tree Board.
#ArborDay #Nebraska #Trees
You, Mike Kucera and 22 others 4 Shares
Like Comment Share
Write a comment...

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 including international exposure and identity at SWCS events, in publications and with social media.