



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2019-2020

President	Dave Bedlan	dave.bedlan@usda.gov
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Darwin Hinrichs	hinrichsdm@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Corey Brubaker	corey.brubaker@usda.gov

IN THIS ISSUE

2020 NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA AND REGISTRATION INFO	1
2019-2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS	1-2
37TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST	3
PRESERVING NEBRASKA SWCS ARCHIVES	3-4
HISTORY OF USDA'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS	4-5
YOUR CHAPTER AND FOUNDATION UPDATES	5



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

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 18-20, 2020 – OGALLALA, NE

NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING

CELEBRATING SWCS' 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Full Meeting Agenda and Registration Information Included in this Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION

Darwin Hinrichs

Please remember we will have a silent auction at Nebraska SWCS Annual Meeting as a fund raiser for the scholarships given out each year. Items donated in the past have included books, plants, wine baskets, crafts, pictures and miscellaneous collectables. Please consider donating items for the silent auction as a way to contribute to the annual scholarship fund.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Craig Romary

The Nebraska Chapter and Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation are pleased to announce 7 scholarship recipients for the 2019-2020 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 Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA). Each recipient was awarded \$1,000. Our scholarship recipients, major course of study, and university are:

- Tiffany Dickau, a Sophomore diversified ag/agribusiness major at NCTA, received the Tina Lorentzen Carlson Memorial Scholarship.
- Nathan Donoghue, a Sophomore majoring in agronomy at UNL, received the Dave Langemeier Memorial Scholarship.
- Ema Muslic, a Senior environmental sciences major at UNL, received a UNL Foundation scholarship.
- Travis Millikan, a Senior range/wildlife management and range ecology major at Chadron State College, received a NSWC Foundation scholarship.

- Cadence Hernandez, a Senior environmental restoration science/soil science major at UNL, received the Cam Loerch Memorial Scholarship.
- Taylor Sayer, a Freshman agronomy major at NTCA, received the Agnes/Ron Lorenzten Scholarship.
- Callie McCright, a Sophomore fish & wildlife/environmental science major at UNL, received a UNL Foundation scholarship.

A big thank you to the scholarship review committee, consisting of Mike Kucera, Jim Culver, Corey Brubaker, Dick Ehrman, Craig Romary, Doug Garrison, Kris Reed, Sarah Gray, Robin Foulk, and Ed Harms.



SWCS members and scholarship winners (front l-r): Ema Muslic, Callie McCright, Cadence Hernandez, Nathan Donoghue (back l-r): Jim Culver, Robin Foulk, Kris Reed, Corey Brubaker.



Alex Boyce, Middle Republican NRD Engineer/Hydrologist with scholarship winners Taylor Sayer (middle) and Tiffany Dickau (right).



SWCS member Robin Foulk with Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation Scholarship Winner Travis Millikan.



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

37TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST Darwin Hinrichs

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held its 37th Annual Legislative/Informational Breakfast February 4, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. In attendance were three senators/representatives, 12 SWCS members, two representatives from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and a student scholarship winner.

Britt Weiser, Nebraska State Resource Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began the program with a presentation on the agency's new source water protection initiative which is part of EQIP. The focus of the initiative is to provide conservation assistance to producers and others to protect the quality and quantity of water for community water systems. Priority areas for the initiative are for communities having at least 25 residents and 15 hookups since 99% of Nebraska's communities use groundwater as their source of drinking water. The next area of concern are high nitrate areas. Another area of concern would be areas having high nitrates and the chemical atrazine in the water causing a possible link to Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Key conservation practices for the source water protection initiative are:

1. Irrigation water management for the decline of water tables.
2. Nutrient management for rate and timing of fertilizer and chemicals.
3. Conversion of gravity surface irrigation systems to center pivot or subsurface systems.
4. Decommissioning wells.
5. Conversion of cropland around wells to CRP or trees.
6. Wetland restoration.

Tatiana Davila, Groundwater Geologist with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) discussed their agency's Source Water Protection program. Tatiana displayed the different types of aquifer bearing formations in Nebraska. She also discussed the areas in Nebraska of high nitrates in groundwater. These will be considered by NDEE in studying Wellhead

Protection for drinking sources. She really emphasized the importance of a plan for long term collaboration of all groups (NRD's, DNR, NRCS, NDEE, Consultants, Producers and the Public) involved in this program stating that public meetings are important.

Thank you to those who coordinated the Legislative Breakfast including Corey Brubaker, Craig Romary, Kris Reed and Doug Garrison.

SWCS OFFICER AND DIRECTOR NEEDED

Sarah Gray

The Nebraska SWCS is in need of nominations for an officer for 2020/2021 and director for the period from 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2023.

The officer position needed is a Vice-President. This is a one-year term however the vice-president is expected to move on to the presidency the following year.

There is a need for a director position in the Blue-Nemaha section. This is a three-year term and the director must reside in the respective section.

Anyone interested in these positions or wanting to nominate someone can contact Dave Bedlan at dave.bedlan@usda.gov. Please make contact by May 31, 2020. Thank you for your consideration and nominations.

PRESERVING NEBRASKA SWCS ARCHIVES

Doug Garrison

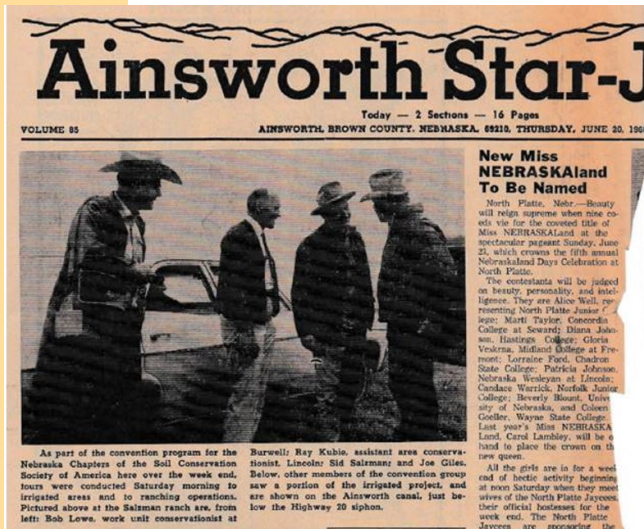
We need your help! Several members have taken on the task of scanning documents and pictures from our archives. But it became apparent that there are likely stores of historical documents in the far reaches of the state - from the individual chapters that made up the current Nebraska Chapter (the Blue-Nemaha, Lincoln, Mid-America, Northeast, Panhandle, Sandhills, Southwest, and South Central Chapters).

Do you or someone you know have a box of stuff hidden away? If so, please contact Robin Foulk (robin.foulk@usda.gov) or Craig Romary (craig_romary@nebraska.gov) to work out an arrangement to get them digitized!



Nebraska Society News

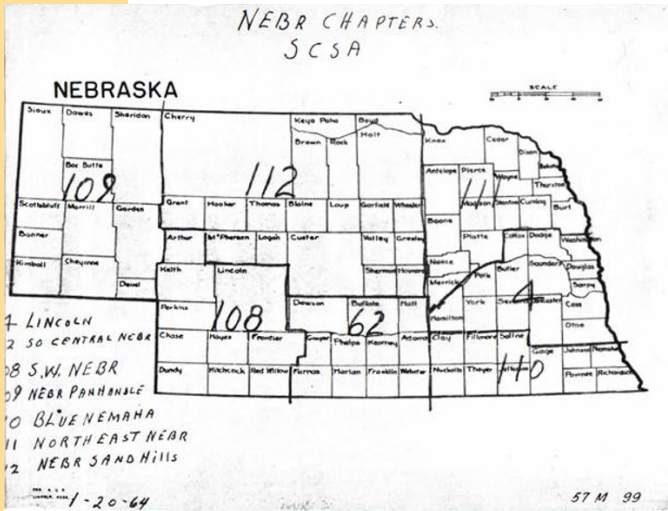
APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER



June 1968



Need your help! Can you identify any of these SWCSers? Jim Stubbendiek (?), Ron Bishop (?), ?, ?, ?



January 1964



1974 Nebraska Council SCSA newsletter header.

HISTORY OF USDA'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS Craig Derickson

At the recent NACD and NRCS meeting, Tom Christensen, recently retired USDA Deputy Director of Operations, presented 4 new publications he has compiled on the history of USDA's role in conservation on private lands. These publications can be found on our website at NRCS Nebraska Website.

The main publication is large, about 100 pages of print and 9 MB in size and is titled: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Role in America's Private Lands Conservation Movement - Chronology of Key Developments - 1933 Through 2019.

The publication covers the nearly nine decades from 1933 through 2019, with a central focus on highlighting the role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in furthering the private lands conservation movement that grew out of the Dust Bowl and economic crisis of the 1930s. It pulls together information from innumerable sources, including but not limited to, original source materials, scientific journals, web sites, textbooks, speeches and presentations, scholarly papers, agency publications, and many other written documents. Importantly, considerable information from the early decades, often specific to the Soil Erosion Service (SES) and Soil Conservation Service (SCS).



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

There are three supplemental documents that complement the main document:

Supp. 1 - Soil Conservation Districts: Perspectives on Their Success. This is a 2-page poster type document written by HH Bennett in 1946 when he established the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and his work with President Roosevelt to create Conservation Districts across America.

Supp. 2 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Role in Voluntary Conservation on Private Lands Conservation Planning Chronology. This is a brief 18-page chronology of key developments in America’s private lands conservation movement as directly related to, or relevant to, conservation planning and its evolution, including areawide conservation planning.

Supp. 3 - Voluntary Conservation on Private Lands Core Concepts Linked to Historical Quotes and References. This is a 24-page document with Tom Christensen’s personal perspectives on key concepts related to conservation and describes it as the “wise use and management” of natural resources, different and distinct from protection and preservation. Within a landscape or watershed, or on a farm/ranch, conservation, protection, and preservation can each play important and complementary roles.

Please feel free to share this message with others who would be interested in reading these publications. I think readers will find the historical information very interesting and it notes the key to success of America’s conservation movement has been the locally led effort of Conservation Districts and assistance by NRCS and other important conservation partners at the state and local level.

IN THE NEWS.....

- ❖ Nebraska digs in to offer remote instruction <https://ianrnews.unl.edu/nebraska-digs-offer-remote-instruction>
- ❖ Former scholarship (2015-16) recipient and UNL applied science graduate student Ethan Freese in the news! <https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/snr/10859/64671>
<https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/snr/10668/63125>

- ❖ Researchers testing ability of floating wetlands to survive winter. Includes former scholarship recipient and UNL SWR Club member Alexa Davis!
<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/researchers-testing-ability-of-floating-wetlands-to-survive-winter/>
- ❖ Nebraska Flooding: March 2019 Winter Storm Ulmer - Bombogenesis, Blizzards, Road Closures and Record Flooding
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9ce70c78f5a44813a326d20035cab95a>

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. Please consider a donation to help the next round of scholarship recipients and those in the years to come.

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.

2019-20 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 – Dave Bedlan (non-voting member)



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

#ImWithHugh

2020 Nebraska SWCS Chapter ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION - Due June 12, 2020

Pre-registration preferred to get a count for meals and tours

Meeting Registration (Includes all tours, breaks, and Friday Lunch).....	\$15 x_____ =\$_____
Thursday Evening Meal	On your own
Chapter Banquet - at the Urban Farmer	Order from menu
Foundation and Chapter Business Meeting and Breakfast	Pay at the door if not staying in hotel

Annual Meeting - June 18, 19, 20 - 2020

Please make checks payable to NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS	Mail Checks to
Name: _____	Corey Brubaker Federal Building, Room 152
Name: _____	100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, NE 68508
Address: _____	75th YEAR for SWCS
City _____	<i>If you plan to pay at the door, please contact Corey Brubaker so we have a count.</i>
State: _____ zipcode _____	nebraskaswcs@gmail.com 402-437-4164

Thursday June 18, 2020

- 12:30-1:00 PM **Registration** – Best Western Plus Ogallala Inn – 110 Pony Express Ln, Ogallala, NE 69153
1:00-4:30 PM **Tour Nebraska Game and Parks Visitor Center @** Lake McConaughy. Tour dam and hydro plant
4:30 PM **Optional tour** near Paxton
4:30 PM Head back to Ogallala
6:00 PM **Evening Meal** out on your own. Suggestions below

Friday June 19, 2020

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM **Registration** - Best Western Plus Ogallala Inn
8:00 – 9:00 AM **Silent Auction** Item Viewing
9:00 -11:30 AM **Grant Nebraska** – Tour Stumpf International Wheat Research Station - UNL
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM **LUNCH @** Research Station – brown bag provided with registration
12:15 – 2:00 PM Travel to Madrid and tour **High Tunnel** (EQIP project)
2:00 - 2:30 PM **BREAK @** Madrid Country Store
2:30 – 4:30 pm Tour and discussion of **Wellhead Protection** sites at Grant, NE
travel back to Ogallala

6:00 PM **Banquet** with Awards @ Urban Farmer
8:00 PM **Silent Auction and "Who is in that photo?" @** Best Western Plus

Saturday June 20, 2020

- 7:30–10:00 AM Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation **Foundation Meeting & Breakfast** – Location: Best Western Plus
10:00 AM–12:00PM Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society **Chapter Meeting** – Location: Best Western Plus

Eating Places

Ogallala: *Front Street Steakhouse*, *Open Range Grill* (fabulous hamburgers), *Peking Chinese Restaurant*, *Golden Village*, *Pizza Hut*, *Driftwood Grill* (and tap house), *Margaritas*, *Mi Ranchito*. In Paxton there is *Windy Gap* (great sirloin) and *Ole's* (a top destination for many people)

Lodging: A block of rooms will be reserved. This will be held until end of May. Ask for SWCS

Best Western Plus @ 110 Pony Express Lane, Ogallala, NE 308-284-7011 \$99/night plus tax

The Nebraska SWCS Annual meeting will be held in Ogallala on June 18-20. The location will be at the Best Western Inn located on the south side of the interstate and is newly opened. They have a block of rooms reserved for us under SWCS at \$99.

Registration will be in the meeting room at the motel from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. on the 18th and we will head to the Nebraska Game and Parks Visitor Center at Lake McConaughy. They will give us history of the dam and then a tour of their hydro plant and Morning Glory. There will be several options for people to do following this tour and suggestions on where you could eat on Thursday evening.

The second day (the 19th) will start with a tour of the new **Henry J Stumpf International Wheat Center** located east of Grant, NE. University of Nebraska at Lincoln has research for many different projects and not just on wheat. After lunch, is a tour of an EQIP High Tunnel for raising and selling vegetables near the town of Madrid. There will be a short stop after this tour at a unique store in Madrid for refreshments. Since there is a new program getting started in Nebraska by NDEE and NRCS to address the area near community drinking water sources we are looking into visiting the well site for drinking water for Madrid, Grant or Ogallala (The wellhead portion is pending at this time)



Nebraska Society News

Nebraska SWCS Chapter
4967 Lariat Loop
Torrington, WY 82240

SWCS MEMES Claudia Stevenson

I don't always write memes, but when I do...I ask Craig Romary for help.

About a month ago I looked back at my saved photos from favorite Facebook postings. I found one that just spoke to me, so I posted it to the SWCS Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/SWCSnebraska>

With the help of many shares the post was looked at by 28,000 people! We were amazed. I did not create the Soil meme, but it gave Craig and I an idea to do a series of posts for Facebook. We have eight created and looking for additional ideas. We plan to release a new post every 1 to 2 weeks. Release will depend on the current popularity of the post. This will be our first official homegrown meme.

