



Nebraska Society News

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

UPCOMING SWCS EVENTS

February 2022 – SWCS Legislative Breakfast – Lincoln, NE. Details to come, watch the [website](#).

March 4-6, 2022 – SWCS Ski Trip – Snowy Range Laramie, WY. More details on page 9.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Claudia Stevenson

Nebraska SWCS is a great group of people. Being an active member of the society gave me confidence to do projects at work and projects at work gave me confidence to help more with SWCS. I have always been proud to be a member of SWCS. Helping the society can be monthly or for the special events like the Golf Tournament or Legislative Breakfast. These are great opportunities to meet new people and work as a team.

I have been a member of SWCS since 1987, my first day of work for Soil Conservation Service. My membership stayed with me when I transferred from Kansas to North Carolina and finally here to Nebraska. I was named membership chair about 10 years ago and then voted in to be a board member as Member at Large. I was asked and I said yes. Last year I said yes to being the Vice-President and now I am President. Thank you for this opportunity.

The membership should be very proud of all the scholarships that have been awarded over the years. Scholarships are made available through the work of the Golf Tournament, Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting, and through the SWCS Foundation. Have you been one of the recipients? Tell us what you are doing now. Where do you work? It would be great to highlight your new career. Contact me at bcjbs@msn.com or call 308-289-0434.

I hope you can attend the Legislative Breakfast this winter, the ski trip in March, the Annual Tour and Meeting in June or the Golf Tournament in August. We are an active chapter and look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,
Claudia Stevenson - President Nebraska Chapter SWCS



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DERICKSON, KUCERA AND NEBRASKA SWCS CHAPTER RECOGNIZED AS INTERNATIONAL LEADERS IN CONSERVATION



It is with great excitement that the NE SWCS Awards Committee congratulates Craig Derickson for being selected as the 2021 recipient of the prestigious International SWCS Fellow Award!

The Fellow Award recognizes SWCS Members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water and related resources. This award is given for professional excellence first and foremost. Craig is from O’Neil, Nebraska and retired from NRCS December 31, 2020, after 10 years of leadership as the Nebraska State Conservationist and a 35-year career with NRCS. Congratulations Craig!



It is with great excitement that the NE SWCS Awards Committee congratulates Mike Kucera for being selected as the 2021 recipient of the prestigious International SWCS Hugh Hammond Bennett Award!

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Mike is from Lawrence, Nebraska and was recognized for his years of service as the NRCS Nebraska State Resource Conservationist, State Water Quality Specialist, State Agronomist, and for his work training staff in other parts of the world in soil health concepts. Mike is currently serving in the NRCS National Soil Survey Center as the National Erosion Database Steward developing soil erosion prediction technology. Congratulations Mike!

Additionally, in recognition for the chapter’s success in carrying out its overall program during the past year the Nebraska SWCS received the Outstanding Chapter Award in 2021. The Chapter is one of nine chapters in the USA to receive the international award.

Details about the award winners can be found at swcs.org.

2021 NEBRASKA SWCS STATE AWARD WINNERS

Claudia Stevenson

The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society held its annual Technical Tours and Awards banquet on June 24- 25, 2021 in Ogallala, Nebraska. Each year the Chapter recognizes and honors work that honors its goals. In 2021 the chapter presented the following awards:

- **Dave Bedlan – Commendation Award**
- **Ryan and Lonetta Zimmerman – Innovation Award**
- **KOGA – Merit Award**
- **Twin Platte Natural Resources District – Merit Award**
- **Rowe Sanctuary – Merit Award**
- **Deke Jones – Merit Award**
- **Agnes Lorentzen and Doug Carlson - Honor Award**

The Commendation Award is given in recognition of SWCS members for service to their chapter or council or chapters. The Innovation Award is given in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business, firm, corporation, or organization that promotes natural resource conservation. The Merit Award is presented in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business firm, corporation, or organization that promotes the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.



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Details about each award winner can be found on the [Nebraska SWCS Chapter website](http://nebraskaswcs.org) (<http://nebraskaswcs.org>) under past events information.



Commendation Award – Dave Bedlan
Kris Reed (left), President of SWCS Foundation, presents the Commendation Award to Dave Bedlan, President of SWCS Chapter.



Innovation Award – Ryan and Lonetta Zimmerman
Ryan (above) and Lonetta Zimmerman of Madrid, NE recipients of the Innovation Award.



Merit Award - KOGA
Dave Bedlan (right), SWCS President, presents a Merit Award to Corey Anderson of KOGA.



Merit Award – Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Dave Bedlan (right), SWCS President, presents a Merit Award to Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Accepting for the TPNRD is Jim Meismer, TPNRD Board of Directors Treasurer.



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Merit Award Winner - Rowe Sanctuary
Accepting a Merit Award for Rowe Sanctuary is Darwin Heinrichs (left), a volunteer at Rowe Sanctuary. Dave Bedlan, SWCS President, congratulates him.



Merit Award - Deke Jones
Deke Jones of Keith County (left) accepts a Merit Award from Dave Bedlan, SWCS President.



Honor Award - Agnes Lorentzen and Doug Carlson
Dave Bedlan (left), SWCS President, sits with Honor Award winners Agnes Lorentzen and Doug Carlson.

During the banquet Anges Lorentzen and Doug Carlson were presented an Honor Award in recognition of all they have done to make sustained contributions consisting of scholarships for natural resource students in memory of Tina Carlson. Tina Carlson was a member of SWCS and an employee of Natural Resources Conservation Service. Anita Nein, Award Committee Chair, asked Tina’s mother, Agnes why they chose to support the scholarships. Agnes replied, "This is what Tina would have wanted. I feel this is a way to keep her memory alive. Conservation was very important to her." Anita Nein went on to say, “These scholarships are very helpful to students. This family has been very consistent in funding scholarships for us, and we can plan on it. More students are applying for them each year. The scholarship winners this year were, Lily Woitaszewski, Taylor Sayer, and Taylor Brumley.”

The Nebraska Chapter wishes to thank Agnes and Doug for their commitment to providing this scholarship funding over the last 15 years.

**2021 NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING
HELD IN OGALLALA
Claudia Stevenson**

The 2021 Nebraska SWCS Chapter Annual State Meeting was held June 24-25 in Ogallala, Nebraska. The meeting included the Annual Behind the Scenes Tours at Lake



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McConaughey. 35 people learned about the Kingsley Dam construction in the 1930's, toured the Morning Glory water release system and walked down five flights of stairs to see the turbines that create electricity from water. Additional meeting tour stops included the UNL Stumpf International Wheat Research Station at Grant, Nebraska, a high tunnel owned and operated by Ryan and Lonetta Zimmerman of Madrid, Nebraska and wellhead protection sites at Grant, Nebraska. The banquet and award presentations were held at Open Range in Ogallala.



SWCS annual meeting attendees walking on the Morning Glory, 200 feet above Lake McConaughey, Ogallala, NE.



Darwin Hinrichs and Robin Foulk check out the tools for the turbines inside the hydroelectric plant at Kingsley Dam Ogallala, NE.



Mike Kucera, Dave Bedlan, Corey Brubaker, and Jim Culver (right to left) take an extra tour along the shores of Lake McConaughey.



Tour group standing in front of the overflow from the hydroelectric plant at Kingsley Dam, Lake McConaughey June 24, 2021.

Minutes of both the 2021 Foundation Business Meeting and the 2021 Nebraska SWCS Chapter Business meeting have been posted on the "past events" page at <https://nebraskaswcs.org>.



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Member, Dr. Julie Peterson, explains to the crowd about the research at Henry J Stumpf International Wheat Center in Grant.



Craig Derickson, Kris Reed, and Anita Nein investigate the High Tunnel that is highly productive in Madrid.

25th ANNUAL SWCS DAVE LANGEMEIER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMNET Corey Brubaker

The 25th Annual SWCS Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln on Friday, August 27th, 2021. 38 golfers were in attendance and raised \$2,800 for the scholarship fund. Proceeds from the golf tournament will be used to fund two \$1000 scholarships. One in memory of Dave Langemeier and another in memory of Cam Loerch. The balance of the proceeds will be invested with the University Foundation and the Soil and Water Conservation Foundation. Earnings from those investments will allow for three more \$1000 scholarships to be awarded.

This year’s winning team was the team of Neil Dominy, Brian Baskerville, Carlos Villarreal, and Claudia Stevenson with a total score of 102. Members of the second-place team were Jim Culver, Darwin Hinrichs, Gary Wells, and Bryan Euse with a score of 104. First place for low individual gross was Gary Wells with a score of 67 followed by James Brubaker with a score of 68. First place for low individual net score was Neil Dominy with a 53. Second place went to Corey Brubaker with a net score of 56. Once again, no one won the putting contest so that prize money went into the scholarship fund.



Norm Bottger attempting the putt while Tom Johnson, James Brubaker, and Mike Kucera look on (Doug Wagner is behind Mike) at the 25th Annual SWCS Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament putting contest. In the background Dick Ehrman visits with retired Lower Platte South NRD Manager Glenn Johnson.



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The 10th place team at the 25th Annual SWCS Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament of Brian Stevenson, Mike Dosskey, and Greg Reisdorff (Claudia was also on that team but was taking the picture) are shown choosing their prizes.



Many nice team prizes were offered at the SWCS annual golf tournament thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.



25th ANNUAL SWCS DAVE LANGEMEIER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMNET TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



Individual Sponsors:

- Sandy Langemeier
- Roland Langemeier
- Beth O'Farrell
- Teri Loerch
- Becky Keep

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

**LINCOLN SCS/NRCS RETIREES CLUB
CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2021**
Jim Culver and Norm Helzer



Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club members enjoying a quality breakfast at Greenfields Restaurant in Lincoln Nebraska. This was the third “Live” breakfast since February 2020. Left to right - Craig Derickson, Norm Helzer, Paul Bartlett, Lou Buller, Dave Camper, Donna Dornbusch, Steve Scheinost, and Harold Klage.

The Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club formally “Lincoln SCS Retirees Club” celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. The first meeting to organize the club was April 21, 1971 at Scotts Pancake House in Piedmont. Art Marquardt, retired Assistant State Conservationist for Nebraska was the lead person in getting the organization started. He thought it would be very desirable to have a monthly breakfast of retired SCS employees who reside in the Lincoln area in order to maintain some association and social contact with those fellow workers with whom you had worked for many years. Eleven retired SCS employees were at this first organization meeting. There were 33 charter members of the club.

The Lincoln Club was the first one organized in the United States although many states have one. One interesting note is that the Club would meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday morning of each month. That tradition had held steadfast over the fifty years until the COVID-19 came. In 2020 the group had contact meetings in January and February. There were no meeting of any kind for the remainder of the year. Beginning in 2021 they started

having Zoom meetings and in June of this year they went back to having normal person to person meetings. Today the club is still meeting on the morning of the third Wednesday of each month.

The club has met at several locations around Lincoln over the year and currently meets at Greenfield’s Café located at 7900 S87th Street in southeast Lincoln. They have club officers, a calling committee to remind our members of the upcoming meeting. Meetings start off with a relaxed fun business meeting. Meeting agenda includes items such as: Welcome to members, guest or new members; Health Reports; Travel Experience; Special Activities; Old Business; and New Business. Minutes of the monthly meeting are provided to members. Currently there are 29 members in Lincoln and 4 members who are out of town. Thomas Reinsch is current Chairperson; Jim Culver, Vice-Chairperson; JoAnne Thiele, Treasure and Donna Dornbusch, Attendance.

For many years the club has had an annual banquet for spouses and others at the Cotner Center in Lincoln. The program at the 25th Anniversary included Master of Ceremonies – Charline Woodside, Invocation – Gus Dornbusch; Welcome, Clinton Johnson ; 25th Anniversary, JoAnne Thiele and entertainment – Broadway Dance Group. The club has also had an annual fall family style breakfast meetings.

The Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees club is still very active. If you are in the general area on the third Wednesday of the month please stop by and join us at the Greenfield’s Cafe at 7:30 in the morning except for December, January and February when we meet at 8:00 A.M. The business meeting is generally short and there is ample time for discussion of a wide variety of topics ranging from what the grandkids are doing, the weather and even occasionally the Nebraska Football team concerns - however Norm Helzer is quick to remind us our Nebraska Volleyball Team is ” A OK ” !!



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SWCS MEMBERSHIP

Claudia Stevenson

Thank you for being a member of Nebraska SWCS. Benefits of becoming a member of SWCS include gaining access to our membership directory (National and State), nominating individuals and local chapters for awards, and being eligible for some of the scholarships SWCS has to offer.

I have been a member of SWCS since 1987 when I started with the Soil Conservation Service. I joined my first day on the job back in Kansas. My membership stayed with me through North Carolina and here to Nebraska. Being a member gives you a connection to like-minded people that care about soil and water conservation.

This connection is most obvious at the Annual Tours and Meeting in late June. At the summer tours we get the opportunity to meet members that are new to the organization and those that have been involved in conservation for over 50 years! I had a great time catching up with people this past June especially since I retired at the end of January.

Another wonderful opportunity to meet and greet is at the David Langemeier Golf Tournament in late August. I was able to make time to be in the tournament this year. My husband and I are NOT golfers, as was evident in our game this past August. However, we were teamed up with some good sports and they guided through the 18-holes. We had so much fun, and the Chapter raised over \$2500 for scholarships.

As the current membership chair, I am looking for a second person to help once a month to review the membership records and reach out to members whose membership may have lapsed and help welcome new members to the society. Assisting with this important role will help create networking opportunities for you.

We are also in the planning process of a ski trip to Snowy Range near Laramie, Wyoming in March. Stay tuned! Please feel free to call me at 308-289-0434 or email to bcjbs@msn.com for more information or to volunteer.

JOIN US FOR SWCS SKIING IN 2022!



2000 Nebraska SWCS chapter ski trip group.

WHAT: Some of the original ski club members invite you to join them for a ski trip!

WHEN: March 4-6th, 2022

WHERE: Snowy Range near Laramie, WY.

WHY: Why for fun or course! Skiing for SWCS members, whole families and nonmembers of SWCS! Not a skier? Well there is also snowmobiling, hot tubbing, great food and conversation!

If you are interested in joining please email Claudia Stevenson bcjbs@msn.com or Robin Foulk Robin.foulk@usda.gov. We are securing a group rate for interested skiers. Deadline to secure group rate is unknown, however if you could let Claudia or Robin know by January 15, 2022 we would appreciate it.

IN THE NEWS.....

- ❖ Amanda Hefner, The Nature Conservancy, is a former SWCS scholarship recipient (2013-14) (see page 1 of [april_2014.pdf](#) (nebraskaswcs.org)). She has an article in the Center for Grassland Studies on research of forest resilience after fire in [2021SeptemberNewsletterFinal.pdf](#) (unl.edu)



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NEBRASKA SWCS CHAPTER LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK

Thanks to Claudia Stevenson for developing a Nebraska SWCS Chapter Leadership Handbook outlining important information regarding the chapter. The handbook can be found on the [NE SWCS website](#).

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Kris Reed and Craig Romary

There are two foundations associated with the Nebraska SWCS Chapter. The foundation related to the University of Nebraska can only provide scholarship funds to students at the university. The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation (NSWCF) was established later to allow wider use of funds than was allowed under the foundation connected to UNL.

NSWCF funds can be requested to help sponsor conservation meetings, demonstration projects, provide bridge funds to reserve meeting spaces, and to assist with other conservation related projects. The NSWCF also provides scholarships to students deemed worthy, in conjunction with other scholarships coming from the Chapter.

Requesting financial assistance is easy. Contact one of the board members listed below. Then provide background information to explain why the project is suitable to request funding from the foundation. The board members will review the request and determine if the project meets purposes of the foundation.

Turn-around on a request is pretty fast. There is no submission deadline: requests can be made at any time during the year. Put on your thinking caps and help promote soil and water conservation in Nebraska.

All members of the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS are members of this foundation. The board members for 2021-2022 are:

- President – Kris Reed
- Vice President – Ed harms
- Secretary- Mike Kucera

Treasurer and Registered Agent – Craig Romary
Director - Dick Ehrman
The Chapter President is a non-voting member.

Donations are accepted to the NSWCF in any amount and at any time. One way is to use the tribute cards (shown) to honor an event, such as a retirement or wedding, or provide a memorial to someone who has passed on. The card is sent by you, the donor, to the family or left at the funeral, and the card insert goes with the gift to the Foundation. The Foundation then sends a letter to the family acknowledging receipt, along with the Foundation brochure as an explanation of what we do. These cards can be requested from Craig.

A list of the Foundation’s historical “honor roll” can be seen online and is up to date just prior to the newsletter being published.

Donating to the Foundation is a great way to honor or memorialize friends and keep the work of the Chapter ad Foundation going generations to come.



To help assure that soil, water and related natural resources are conserved for Nebraskans to use and enjoy for generations to come, a contribution of \$ _____

has been made in memory of

to the
Nebraska Soil and
Water Conservation Foundation

by _____



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Do you belong to a business or organization looking to support natural resources and SWCS? Check out the benefits of corporate SWCS membership at <http://bit.ly/SWCScorp3> including international exposure and identity at SWCS events, in publications and with social media.

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 (clrpkrne@windstream.net) to work out an arrangement to get them digitized!

UPCOMING 77TH SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Elevating Conservation to New Heights
July 31-August 3, 2022
Denver, Colorado





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Nebraska SWCS Chapter
4967 Lariat Loop
Torrington, WY 82240

JUST FOR FUN

Test your Missouri River IQ

BY CURT ARENS
@HUSKERHOMEPPLACE

THE Missouri River has been known by many names — the Big Muddy, the Mighty Missouri or simply, the Mighty MO. Forming the eastern border of the state, the geographic, natural, cultural and historic heritage of the Missouri is also the history of that part of Nebraska. Early explorers like Lewis and Clark found the river to be challenging, and at times, unforgiving. Steamboat captains learned of its potential treachery. But Native Americans and early white settlers knew that the river also meant life, from firewood and logs for structures cut from the river valley woodlands, to wildlife for food, to providing a water route for fur trade and early goods and services to the region.

How well do you know the Big Muddy? Take our river IQ test. Information has been gleaned from sources like the Missouri River Basin Education Network at mri.usd.edu/education_network.

1. Near what Montana town is the confluence of three rivers that form the beginning of the Missouri River?

- A. Three Forks
- B. Three Creeks
- C. Three Spoons

2. The confluence of which three rivers in southwestern Montana form the Missouri?

- A. Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin
- B. Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria
- C. Larry, Curly and Moe

3. Missouri River proper has a total course of how many miles?

- A. 2,315
- B. 3,215
- C. 1,915

4. The Missouri River flows into the Mississippi about 10 miles north of what city?

- A. Kansas City

- B. St. Louis
- C. Omaha

5. During which years did the Lewis and Clark expedition explore and map the route of the Missouri?

- A. 1804-05
- B. 1799-1800
- C. 1850-51

6. In what year did the America Fur Co. begin to use steamers on the river?

- A. 1750
- B. 1944
- C. 1830

7. What was the name of the ambitious 1950s dam building, flood control and hydroelectric power-producing plant on the river?

- A. Pick-Sloan
- B. Lincoln-Douglas
- C. Clarke-McNary

8. Which dam is the smallest and last dam on the Missouri River?

- A. Oahe
- B. Fort Randall
- C. Gavins Point

9. Why is the river known as the "Big Muddy"?

- A. Lewis and Clark got their keel boat stuck in the mud on the river
- B. The amount of solid soil matter carried in suspension in the water
- C. Big Muddy was the name of a famous Native American chief

10. In what year was the mouth of the Missouri discovered by French explorers?

- A. 1673
- B. 1801
- C. 1999

ANSWERS:

1. A. 2. A. 3. A. 4. B. 5. A. 6. C. 7. A. 8. C. 9. B. 10. A.

Contributed by Edwin Harms.