



Nebraska Society News

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2021-2022

President	Claudia Stevenson bcjbs@msn.com	
Vice President		
Secretary	Darwin Hinrichs	hinrichsdm@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Corey Brubaker	corey.brubaker@usda.gov

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE ON MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHTS

Claudia Stevenson – President and Membership Chair

As Membership Chair, I began a Spotlight on Members campaign back at the end of December 2021. As of the end of April, we have had 18 Spotlight moments. I send these to members with email addresses. If you are not receiving the Spotlight on Members, please get your email address to me by calling 308-289-0434.

My goal is to complete one Spotlight each Monday until the end of December 2022. That should give us 54 members. I really need additional members to step up and send me their information. I have a few more through May. Please take 5 minutes, complete these questions and then attach a photo and send to Claudia bcjbs@msn.com.

Please join in and send me the answers to the following questions...

1. When did you join SWCS?
 - a. and in Nebraska?
 2. What is your favorite Natural Resource(s)?
 3. Places that you have worked in the field of Agriculture or Natural Resource.
 4. Are you Retired or Working (where?)
 - a. Do you volunteer for SWCS? (Have you had an officer, Board, or committee assignment in the present/past?)
- AND/OR**
- b. Please briefly describe your work with natural resources conservation.
5. Picture....

Lastly as a reminder please update your membership at www.swcs.org. If you are retiring soon or moving and will use a different email on your revised membership status, please remember to update your info.

SAVE THE DATE

NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 23-25, 2022 – NORFOLK, NE

Full Meeting Agenda and Registration Information Included in this Newsletter

REGISTER FOR THE MEETING [HERE](#)



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life



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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Craig Romary

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation (NSWCF), and the Nebraska Chapter SWCS-UNL Foundation are pleased to announce 8 scholarship recipients for the spring 2022 semester. Each recipient was awarded \$1,000. Scholarship recipients in alphabetical order, including major course of study, university, and hometown, are:

□ Abby Stalder is a freshman from Humboldt majoring in Grassland Systems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Abby received a Nebraska Chapter SWCS-UNL Foundation scholarship.

□ Ali Loker is a graduate student from Madison, WI, working toward a Doctorate of Plant Health at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ali received the Dave Langemeier Memorial Scholarship from the Nebraska SWCS Chapter.

□ Brolin Morgan is a junior from McCook majoring in Range Management with a Wildlife Emphasis at Chadron State College. Brolin received a Tina Lorentzen Carlson Memorial Scholarship.

□ Callie McCright is a senior from Lincoln with a double major in Environmental Science and Fish & Wildlife Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Callie received the Cam Loerch Memorial Scholarship from the Nebraska SWCS Chapter

□ Kate Krebs is a senior from Monticello, WI, majoring in Grazing Systems/Animal Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Kate received a Nebraska Chapter SWCS-UNL Foundation Scholarship.

□ KayLynn Miller is a sophomore from Valentine majoring in Range-Wildlife Management/Law Enforcement at Chadron State College. KayLynn received a Tina Lorentzen Carlson Memorial Scholarship.

□ Makennen Havlat is a freshman from Seward majoring in Range Management at Chadron State College. Makennen received a Tina Lorentzen Carlson Memorial Scholarship.

□ Parker Dillan is a junior from Imperial majoring in Range Management/Ecology at Chadron State College. Parker received a Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation scholarship.

The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation and the Nebraska Chapter SWCS-UNL Foundation are supported by Nebraska SWCS Chapter members and friends through an annual golf tournament, silent auction, and direct memorial donations. SWCS is a nonprofit, multidisciplinary organization for anyone interested in natural resource management and conservation. Its mission is to advocate the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources. More information about the Nebraska SWCS Chapter can be found at nebraskaswcs.org.

A big THANK YOU and recognition goes out to the members of the scholarship review committee: Robin Foulk, Sarah Gray, Kris Reed, Jim Culver, Corey Brubaker, Mike Kucera, Dick Ehrman and Doug Garrison. It is always fun to hand out money but it does take a bit of time and often picking one applicant over another is not the easiest thing to do.



Nebraska SWCS member Robin Foulk with scholarship winners (l-r) Makennen Havlat; Brolin Morgan; KayLynn Miller.



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Nebraska Chapter SWCS-UNL Foundation scholarship winner Abby Stalder.



Nebraska Chapter SWCS-UNL Foundation scholarship winner Kate Krebs.



Dave Langemeier Memorial Scholarship winner Ali Loker.



Cam Loerch Memorial Scholarship winner Callie McCright.



Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation scholarship winner Parker Dillan (right) with Nebraska SWCS member Robin Foulk.



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39TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING - NEBRASKA SWCS VIRTUAL BROWN BAG Corey Brubaker

The annual SWCS Legislative Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Corey Brubaker, State Conservation Agronomist for Nebraska NRCS led off the meeting by giving an overview of USDA’s Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy (CSAF). USDA is developing a comprehensive strategy to address the impacts of climate change centered on voluntary incentives that is inclusive for all agricultural producers, landowners, and communities. Targeted outcomes of the strategy include encouraging the adoption of practices that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, allow producers to adapt and build resilience to climate change, and sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes. To achieve these outcomes, USDA is leveraging existing programs to support CSAF strategies. One example is the EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC). These are 5-year contracts to address priority resource concerns such as sequestering carbon and improving soil health using practices such as no-till and cover crops.

Following Corey’s presentation, Brad Soncksen, Nebraska NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, discussed how Nebraska NRCS was planning to implement the EQIP-CIC program. There are 33 climate-smart ag and forestry (CSAF) mitigation practices available for fiscal year 2022. These practices are available to all producers applying for contracts through EQIP and CSP in FY2022. In Nebraska, the EQIP-CIC program will focus on soil health and drought mitigation. There are 13 “management” practices and additional “supporting” practices as needed to support the management practices eligible for EQIP-CIC payments in FY2022.

A total of 91 people attended the meeting including State Senator Tim Gragert from Northeast Nebraska. Approximately 15 of those attending the meeting are members of the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS. The following table shows the work affiliations of those that attended.

Row Labels	Affiliation
NARD	2
NRD	1
NRCS	82
Retired NRCS	2
Senator	1
State agency	2
UNL Student	1
Grand Total	91

The full meeting report and presentations are available on the [NE SWCS website](#). Thank you to those who coordinated the legislative meeting including Craig Romary and Doug Garrison.

UPCOMING SWCS EVENT

26th Annual Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament

September 2, 2022 (tentatively)

Highlands Golf Course
Lincoln, NE



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



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NAME THAT CONSERVATIONIST #1

75% is good, but 4 out of 4 will bring you fame & notoriety. Name all 4 people in this photo and win a prize! The first person to contact Craig Romary at (clrpkrne@windstream.net) with the correct answer wins. Guess the year in case of a tie...



NAME THAT CONSERVATIONIST #2

Who is this conservationist and what is he doing? (two-part question) Is that a laser rod in his hand? Is that a clinometer around his neck? The first person to contact Craig Romary at (clrpkrne@windstream.net) with the correct answer wins.



And save those 'member spotlights' so you can 'name that conservationist' in 30 years!

NEBRASKA SWCS AND SWRC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Craig Romary

The Nebraska Chapter had the opportunity to assist the UNL Soil & Water Resources Club (SWRC) with a community service project by cleaning up trash at Branched Oak State Recreation Area northwest of Lincoln. We picked up trash along both sides of the entrance road to the Middle Oak Creek camping area, and in the day use area near the beach on Liebers Point. The weather was good and so was the company! Last year the SWRC planted 40+ pine trees in tree breaks along entrance roads in Branched Oak.



The cleanup crew. 1st row, l-f: Tom Franti, UNL SWRC Advisor, Craig Romary. Back row: Craig Derickson, Norm Helzer, Corey Brubaker, Mike Kucera, and UNL SWRC members Von Fritsche, Max Hansen, and Thomas Hudson. Photographer: Kate Derickson.



Corey Brubaker Nebraska SWCS Chapter Treasurer serves the organization in many ways! Thanks Corey!

<https://nebraskaswcs.org>



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SWCS OFFICER AND DIRECTOR NEEDED

The Nebraska SWCS is in need of nominations for an officer for 2022/2023 and director for the period from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2025.

The officer position needed is a Vice-President. This is a one-year term; however, the vice-president is encouraged to move on to the presidency the following year. We do not have a current Vice-President. Claudia has agreed to stay on as President, if approved by the members.

Corey Brubaker currently serves as Director of the Lincoln area. His term is up at the 2022 meeting. He is encouraging another member to become Director of the Lincoln area. Darwin has agreed to stay on as Central Nebraska Director.

Directors are part of the Board and attend about 2 phone meetings a year. Directors serve a three-year term and the director must reside in the respective section. The directors help on the annual meeting committee when the meeting is held in their area.

Nebraska Chapter SWCS – Board of Director Sections



NEBRASKA SWCS DIRECTORS

Blue-Nemaha	Dave Bedlan	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
Central Nebraska	Darwin Hinrichs	7/1/2018	6/30/2022
Lincoln	S. Corey Brubaker	7/1/2018	6/30/2022
Northeast	Patrick Cowsert	7/1/2019	6/30/2023
Panhandle	Edwin Harms	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
At Large	Laura Rubeck	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
At Large	Sean Elliot	7/1/2019	6/30/2023

Anyone interested in these positions or wanting to nominate someone can contact Claudia Stevenson (bcjbs@msn.com). Please make contact by May 31, 2022. A ballot will be sent out to the members and the results announced at the June 2022 Annual Meeting. Thank you for your consideration on the officer and director positions.

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 SWCS' TWO FOUNDATIONS Craig Romary

Our Chapter's two Foundations have contributed 47 student scholarships over the last 7 years – each was approximately \$1,000. I've been compiling a list of all recipients from the start, and I see quite a few familiar names that are still involved in conservation here in Nebraska. This funding is possible because of the foresight and contributions of SWCS members in the late 1980s when these foundations were created, and the tremendous support of members over the last 30 years. The intent is to wisely invest these funds for conservationists to come, but your continued support through direct donations (see tribute cards below) and participating in the golf tourney (info to come for 2022!) ensures sustainable contributions to conservation in the future.

Would you like to honor a colleague's retirement or career accomplishment? Maybe a memorial for a respected friend, acquaintance, or colleague who has passed on? Maybe you'd like to make a donation from your own estate at some point. Would you like to show off your golf talents or just spend a day cursing at that little white ball and getting to know fellow conservationists? These are all great ways to further this legacy of conservation in Nebraska.



Request tribute cards from Craig, NSWCF treasurer, at clrpkrme@windstream.net.



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2021-2022 NSWC Foundation board members:

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

Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Ballot

Board of Directors 5-year term

_____ **Kris Reed – Member of SWCS since 1986. Has served in many positions in the Chapter and Foundation, including Chapter secretary and president, and Foundation director and president. Recently retired after 35 years with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.**

_____ **Tom Mountford – Member since 1994. For the past 35 years worked for Nebraska Natural Resources Districts; currently as the Assistant General Manager at the Lower Platte North NRD. Has been a designated Nebraska voting delegate at a few International SWCS Conferences, and has helped with golf tournament registration.**

_____ **Write-in candidate.**

Please email or mail your vote to Craig Romary, Foundation Treasurer, by May 21, 2022.

Email: clrpkrne@windstream.net

**Snail Mail: 6410 Huntington Ave
Lincoln, NE 68507**



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2022 SWCS ANNUAL TOUR & MEETING JUNE 23, 24 & 25, 2022 - NORFOLK, NE

It is 2022 and time for the SWCS Field Tours and Annual Meeting. This year we travel to Norfolk, Nebraska, home of Johnny Carson and good conservation! Join us at the Norfolk Visitor Bureau on Thursday June 23. Registration is from 3:30-5:00 where you will have time to make a bid on the Silent Auction Items and meet up with friends from across Nebraska. The Visitor Bureau will take us on a walking tour of the Norfolk Revitalization work and near the north fork of the Elkhorn River. Pick out your dinner destination along the way.

On Friday, June 24, we will meet at the Lower Elkhorn NRD at 7:45. We will then head out to Knox County where host, Jeremy Milander will talk about the work at Bazille Creek Groundwater Management Area. There are three locations with each having their own focus. The Soil Health site, southeast of Creighton has cover crop interseeded at around V4 or early June compared to winter drilling, with some fertigation and sensor-based fertigation treatments as well. The Nitrogen inhibitor site looks at nitrogen and irrigation rates, different nitrogen models and sensor-based fertigation along with nitrogen inhibitors and enhanced nitrogen products. The crop rotation site located east of Osmond is looking at inserting winter wheat into a corn and soybean rotation and a rotation of alfalfa and corn, compared to continuous corn and a corn soybean rotation.

Travel continues to the Niobrara River and see the circumstances of Wetland Reserve Easements on the Missouri and Niobrara River. One of the most concentrated areas of USDA wetland easements in Nebraska are along the lower Niobrara, lower Verdigris Creek and along the Missouri River in Knox County. Affecting the area has been the finishing of the Gavin's Point Dam in 1955(?) with sedimentation increasing the water levels and flood waters access across the lowlands. In addition, the great, extended flood event of during the spring/summer of 2011 impacted the area. Also, the Spencer Dam breach and flood of March 2019 sent a 20 ft wall of 11-inch ice through the valley, taking one human life and scouring as it traveled downstream. This took out farmsteads and livestock, buildings, bridges, etc. and leaving many articles strewn throughout the river bottom. Lunch will be at the Niobrara State Park where we will enjoy a boxed lunch and enjoy the beautiful overlook area. Park passes are required and can be purchased at the park office or at the main entrance (this depends on summer schedules).

After lunch we travel on to Bow Creek Watershed where host, Becky Ravenkamp is working with eight farmers who are part of a very active learning community/peer mentoring group. There will be a discussion about cover crops, nutrient management, and a stop at a field where earlier in the month soybeans will have been planted into a rye after it was crimped. We head back to Norfolk for the buffet and awards banquet. The buffet is at the Black Cow Fat Pig Pub & Steak. <https://www.blackcowfatpigpubandsteak.com>. The Silent Auction items will be available for final bids.

Saturday morning will start with the SWCS Foundation Meeting at 8:00 am and then at 9:30 the SWCS Chapter Meeting. These meetings will take place at the Lower Elkhorn NRD and a light breakfast will be available (included in your registration). Please consider joining us for the tour and meetings! **REGISTER ONLINE [HERE BY JUNE 12, 2022!](#)**



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2022 SWCS ANNUAL TOUR AND MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, June 23, 2022 - Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau, 609 W. Norfolk Ave., Norfolk, NE

- 3:30 PM Register at Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau
Make a bid on the Silent Auction Items
- 5:00 PM Tour of Downtown Revitalization project of Norfolk. This takes us to the riverfront and the north fork of the Elkhorn River.
- 6:00 PM Meet up with friends and enjoy dinner. Hopefully you will be inspired by the tour!

Friday, June 24, 2022

- 7:45 AM Assemble at Lower Elkhorn NRD building. 1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, NE 68701
- 8:00AM Travel to Knox County. Bazille Creek Groundwater Management Area. Host: Jeremy Milander.
- 11:00AM Knox County. Circumstances of Wetland Reserve Easements on Missouri and Niobrara River.
Host: Theresa Smydra, NRCS.
- 12:00PM Lunch; Niobrara State Park. Boxed lunch (included in registration). For those who do not have a Nebraska park pass already they are \$6 in-state and \$12 out-of-state. These will be available at either the main entrance or the Park office depending on their summer staffing.
- 1:00PM Cedar County. Bow Creek Watershed Host: Becky Ravenkamp, Lewis and Clark NRD
- 3:30PM Travel to Norfolk to get ready for meeting
- 6:30PM Buffet Dinner at Black Cow Fat Pig - 702 W Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701
Make a bid on Silent Auction Items.
Awards program and completion of the Silent Auction.

Saturday, June 25, 2022 - Elkhorn NRD Boardroom. 1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, NE 68701

Building opens at 7:30 am – Doughnuts, fruit, Juice available for all.

- 8:00 am SWCS Foundation Board Meeting; All Chapter members are invited to attend.
- 9:30 am SWCS Chapter Meeting – for all Chapter members – doughnuts, fruit, and juice available



Shhh 🤫 - It's Silent Auction time

All proceeds of Auction go to scholarships from Nebraska SWCS

6/23/22 – 3:30 – 5:00: Norfolk Visitor Bureau - meet & greet & Silent Auction
6/24/22 – 6:30: Buffet and awards & Silent Auction: Black Cow Fat Pig Pub & Steak



Paintings

Please feel free to donate items for the Auction!



Wine

**Nebraska SWCS
Silent Auction
June 23 & 24 - 2022
Norfolk, Nebraska**



Huch!



Paintings

Items listed represent many, many items.



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2022 SWCS ANNUAL TOUR AND MEETING REGISTRATION



#ImWithHugh

2022 Nebraska SWCS Chapter ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION - Due June 12, 2022

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



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

Meeting Registration (Includes all tours, breaks, and Friday Lunch)

Thursday Evening Meal

Friday Evening Buffet and Awards

Foundation and Chapter Business Meeting and Breakfast

attending #		x \$10	= \$
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On your own

attending #		x \$24	= \$
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attending #		x \$0	= \$0.00
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Total

\$

Annual Meeting - June 23, 24 and 25 - 2022. Norfolk, Nebraska

Please make checks payable to NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ zip code _____

Mail Checks to
Corey Brubaker
 Federal Building, Room 152
 100 Centennial Mall North
 Lincoln, NE 68508

If you plan to pay at the door, please contact Corey Brubaker so we have a count.
nebraskaswcs@gmail.com
 402-437-4164

MEETING REGISTRATION ONLINE [HERE!](#)