



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2022-2023

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

IN THIS ISSUE

2022 SWCS AWARD WINNERS	1-3
2022 CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING	3-5
26TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT	5-6
SWCS PARTNERING WITH UNL SWRC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT	7
SWCS AND LINCOLN NORTHEAST GARDEN BED PROJECT	7-8
YOUR CHAPTER AND FOUNDATION UPDATES	9-10



CHECK IT OUT
NEBRASKA SWCS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

2022 INTERNATIONAL SWCS AWARD WINNERS **Craig Romary**

Six leaders in Nebraska resource conservation, as well as the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), were honored by the International SWCS at this year's international SWCS Annual Conference in Denver. The society is a nonprofit scientific and educational association dedicated to advancing the science and art of good land use and improvement of natural resources.

Congratulations to all 2022 award recipients!



Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award – Dave Bedlan accepts the Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award from SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, at the 2022 International Conference held in Denver CO.



Conservation Research Award – Julie Peterson (l) accepts the Conservation Research Award from SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, at the 2022 International Conference held in Denver CO.



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Conservation Professional of the Year Award – Steve Tucker accepts the Conservation Professional of the Year Award from SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, at the 2022 International Conference held in Denver CO.



Outstanding Chapter Award – Nebraska Chapter Members of the Nebraska SWCS Chapter accept the Outstanding Chapter Award from SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, at the 2022 International Conference held in Denver CO. From left, Steve and Anita Nein, Ovid, CO, Robin Foulk, Chadron, Dave Bedlan, Fairbury, Ed Harms, Bridgeport, and Clare Lindahl, Ankeny, IA.



Society Service Award – Ed Harms accepts the Society Service Award from SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, at the 2022 International Conference held in Denver CO.



International SWCS Annual Conference attendees from Nebraska (l-r) John Gilley, Steve Nein, Anita Nein, Keith Berns, Audrey Berns, Mike Kucera, Julie Peterson, Ed Harms, Robin Foulk, Steve Tucker and Dave Bedlan.

2022 NEBRASKA SWCS STATE AWARD WINNERS

The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society held its annual Technical Tours and Awards banquet on June 23-25, 2022 in Norfolk, Nebraska. Each year the Chapter recognizes and honors work that promotes its goals in the state. In 2022 the chapter presented the following awards:

- **Patrick Cowsert – Commendation Award**
- **Andy Keep – Commendation Award**
- **Stephen Kennedy – Commendation Award**
- **Jeff and Jolene Steffens – Honor Award**

The Commendation Award is given in recognition of SWCS members for service to their chapter or council or chapters. The Honor Award recognizes non-members for outstanding accomplishments reflecting the society's objectives.

Detailed information about each award winner can be found at <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2022/soil-and-water-conservation-society-honors-award-winners>.



Commendation Award – Patrick Cowsert
Patrick Cowsert accepts the Chapter's Commendation Award from Anita Nein, Awards Committee, at the 2022 Nebraska SWCS state meeting in Norfolk.



Honor Award – Jeff and Jolene Steffens
Jeff and Jolene Steffens accept the Chapter's Honor Award from Chapter President, Claudia Stevenson, at the 2022 Nebraska SWCS state meeting in Norfolk.

2022 NEBRASKA SWCS ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN NORFOLK

Darwin Hinrichs

The 2022 Nebraska SWCS Chapter Annual State Meeting was held June 23-25, 2022 in Norfolk, Nebraska. The meeting kicked off with a tour of the Norfolk Downtown Revitalization Project led by mayor Josh Moening. It was impressive to see the new agencies/merchants coming to downtown Norfolk as well as the existing businesses showing their improvements. At the end of walking downtown the tour stopped at the old mill site to see the north fork of the Elkhorn River. The city has many plans for this riverfront area including bringing in large rocks from South Dakota, walking and bicycling paths and to allow for canoeing.

On Friday meeting attendees visited a site south of Creighton, Nebraska on Dave Condon's farm located in the Bazile Creek Groundwater Management Area. This management area consists of 756 square miles which have a problem with high nitrates in the groundwater. UNL Extension Educator Jeremy Milander spoke to the group about projects taking place in the area and discussed some of the solutions being proposed to address the resource concerns. He is promoting education on farming practices to address high nitrates but with four NRDs involved on this project the task is not an easy one.



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The tour continued to the Niobrara River north of Niobrara, Nebraska to view a wetland easement project. The tour site was next to the new river bridge installed to replace the bridge that was destroyed due to flooding from heavy rains upstream. Theresa Smydra Reisinger, NRCS Area Easement Specialist, spoke about easement projects and explained program requirements.

Terry Julesgard, Lower Niobrara NRD Manager, provided a report on the amount of sand and silt that comes down the river when there are heavy rains upstream. Terry explained that the sediments keep moving and built up over time.

The tour stopped for lunch at the Niobrara State Park overlook and enjoyed an opportunity to view the Niobrara and Missouri River valleys from one spot. Participants were able to see the difference in water color where the Niobrara River meets the Missouri River. There was a lot more silt in the Niobrara River on this day.

The last tour stop was at the farm of Jeff and Jolene Steffens to view and discuss the variety of crops and practices they utilize. Becky Ravenkamp, Bow Creek Watershed Coordinator, showed some of the Steffen's plantings using soybeans and corn into rye stubble. She mentioned this land was tilled for 80 years and now has been no-tilled for the last 30 years and they have used cover crops for the last 10 years.

The annual meeting wrapped up with the awards banquet, silent auction and business meetings. The minutes of the annual Foundation business meeting and the annual Chapter business meeting can be found online at <http://nebraskaswcs.org/past-events---information.html>.



Nebraska SWCS 2022 Annual Meeting attendees pose for a group photo at Niobrara State Park.



Jeremy Milander, Bazile Groundwater Management Area Coordinator talks about the management practices at this irrigated field during the 2022 Nebraska SWCS annual meeting.



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



06/24/2022

Tour members standing on the Niobrara River overlook near Niobrara State Park. The town of Niobrara is in the background.



Becky Ravenkamp, Bow Creek Watershed Coordinator, led discussion on cropping practices on the Steffens farm.

26th ANNUAL SWCS DAVE LANGEMEIER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT Corey Brubaker

The 26th Annual SWCS Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln on Friday, September 2, 2022. 58 golfers participated this year raising nearly \$3,800 for the scholarship fund. Proceeds from the golf tournament will be used to fund two \$1000 scholarships next spring. 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 made available next spring.

A new addition to the tournament this year were yard signs placed on some of the tee boxes for sponsors who donated at least \$100 to the scholarship fund. The tournament had 10 signs this year. Six from businesses or organizations and four from individuals.

This year's winning team was the team of John Mayberger, Josh Mayberger, Sam Mayberger, and Gary Nichols with a total score of 102. Members of the second-place team were Frank Schmal, Eli Schmal, Doug Wagner, and Corey Carpenter with a score of 103. First place for low individual gross was Frank Schmal with a score of 67 followed by Clayton Raatz and Gary Wells with a score of 68. First place for low individual net score was Brett Shunkwiler with a 55. Second place went to Doug Wagner and Gary Muckel with a net score of 56. This year we had three women join us and awarded a sleeve of golf balls to Joyce Raatz for a low net score of 71. The long putt contest was won by Neil Dominy.



A sign from the 2022 SWCS golf tournament recognizing the contributions of Kevin and Beth (Langemeier) O'Farrell in memory of Dave.



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Kris Reed (r) and Tom Mountford (second from r) staff the registration table and collect the dough. Sean Elliott (l) and Daryl Anderson are lightening their wallets.



Will Adler at the putting contest. The hole is to the right near James Brubaker, putting contest official.



(l-r) Ryan Chapman, Jon Mohr, and Daryl Anderson. Something was funny.



Corey Brubaker hands out flag prizes and reads the list of winners at the SWCS annual golf tournament. There are no losers at this tourney! Many nice prizes were offered thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

SWCS PARTNERING WITH UNL SWRC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Craig Romary

Jim Harder and Craig Romary were able to recently assist the UNL Soil & Water Resources Club with a club project. Trash was picked up around the Whitehead Saline Wetland in Lincoln.

Stay Tuned for more opportunities for the Nebraska Chapter to help out.



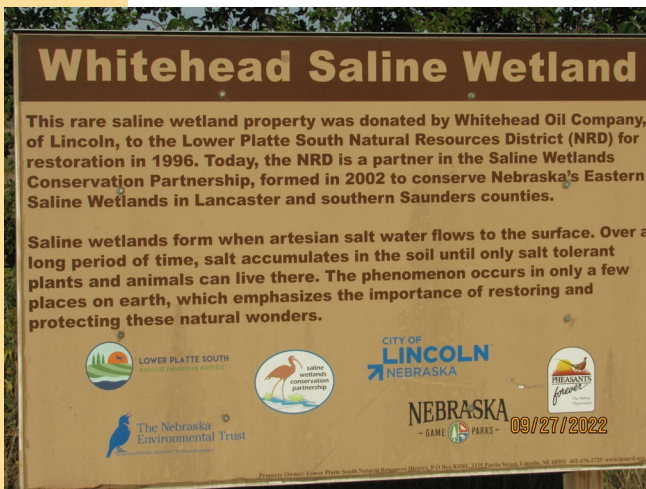
SWCS AND LINCOLN NORTHEAST GARDEN BED PROJECT

Mike Kucera

Nebraska SWCS members Craig Romary, Norm Helzer, Dayle Williamson, Mike Kucera, retired UNL soils specialist Charles Wortmann and Kiwanis members led construction of raised garden beds to bring Lincoln Northeast High School English Language Learner (ELL) students together through gardening. Garden bed panels were constructed indoors at Decks Unlimited's shop during the winter and were assembled on May 11 at Lincoln Northeast. Lincoln Northeast has started a new ag education program with UNL east campus and also started a garden club in 2022.

The four garden beds are located on the south side of Lincoln Northeast High School and each bed was planted to crops specific to countries of the world that students are originally from. The goal is to provide a sense of unity for students from other countries and help an area of Lincoln that's considered a food desert. Plans are to build additional beds and potentially a greenhouse to further learning and unity.

Dozens of students spent the day assisting Mike, Craig and others with building, filling the beds with soil, planting, watering and raking. English Language Learners (ELL) students came up with the idea last year. Civic Nebraska, Lincoln Center and Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis clubs were also integral in completing the garden bed project.





Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Craig Romary SWCS member, Chudier Makuach Lincoln Northeast ELL Student, and Mike Kucera SWCS member assembling raised beds at Lincoln Northeast High School.



Lincoln Northeast provided produce from the garden beds to the public during the “We are Lincoln Northeast” event held September 29, 2022.

LINKS OF INTEREST.....

- ❖ Kennadi Griffis, UNL SWRC president, Husker soil judging, and Team USA soil judging (UNL IANR News)
<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/currency-opportunity-propel-husker-to-international-championship/>
- ❖ Nebraska soil judging team digs ‘foundation for all life’ (farmprogress.com) (Nebraska Farmer)
- ❖ Nebraska Chapter member Gary Stone, UNL Extension Educator in Scottsbluff, authored a six-part series on the dams, reservoirs, power generation and some diversion dams located on the North Platte River. The series follows a chronological order of the history and construction of these projects. [The North Platte River - Multiuse Water Series | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](#)
- ❖ ICYMI, Gary also authored Water Law 101: A six-part series of articles covering basic water law in the United States, predominately in the western part of the country, and how it affects this finite resource. [Water Law 101 - the series | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](#)
- ❖ Nebraska Department of Agriculture feature on field peas, with Steve Tucker, 2022 SWCS Conservation Professional of the Year, as one of the farmers interviewed.
<https://nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/feature/2022-I-FieldPeas.pdf>
- ❖ SWCS Member Ray Ward: 2022 Nebraska Farm Bureau Silver Eagle Award
<https://ruralradio.com/krvn/news/2022-nebraska-farm-bureau-silver-eagle-award-honors-dr-ray-ward-nebraskas-advocate-for-soil>



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINING THE NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation was started back in the late 80s by becoming a 501c (3) nonprofit corporation with the main purpose of “promoting the science and art of good land use, with emphasis on soil, water, air, and related natural resources including all forms of beneficial plant and animal life; and, to receive and accumulate contributions, property, and bequests which can be utilized to achieve this purpose.”

Early on, the Foundation Board had a stated goal of reaching \$100,000 so that it could become more sustainable and provide more benefit to the conservation community and the Nebraska Chapter. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the NSWCF has funded approximately **\$47,000** in student scholarships in just the last decade or so. This has been the main expenditure over the years. But the Foundation Board believes it can do more by keeping that original funding goal in sight – with your help. The current board has approved the beginning of a multi-year campaign to encourage more giving. In addition, the board is looking for short testimonials from former beneficiaries of scholarships – what it meant to them and how it helped. We hope to use these in our campaign promotions.

In the meantime:

- Please continue to make use of the memorial and tribute cards provided by the Foundation by: Make a donation of any amount to the Foundation, send the family or colleague a card to let them know of that donation, and the Foundation will confirm your gift to you as well as acknowledge it to the family or friend. Requests for the cards and/or donations can be sent to the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation, c/o Craig Romary, Treasurer, 6410 Huntington Ave, Lincoln NE 68507 (or clrpkrne@windstream.net)

One benefit of the cards is the compounding effect – the card and brochure that is sent not only let them know about Foundation and SWCS, but many times,

recipients of the cards will in turn make a donation to the Foundation.

- Have you considered naming the NSWCF as part of your will? Estate donations, large or small, can be made in this way, and would be a lasting memorial for you and your family.

For estate considerations, please consult a tax advisor for determining the best option for you, whether that be a donation from the estate, estate “advancements”, or other options available for tax benefits.

- Consider sharing the Foundation brochure with colleagues (see the link at the top of page 10) or simply mention the fact that it exists in related conversation. Also, be on the lookout for upcoming promotions.

Scholarships are a great use of these funds, but with an increased investment, the Foundation could provide more supplemental funding for projects, too. This could be for a portion of a bigger project not covered or allowed by state or federal funding.

The Foundation Board thanks SWCS members for your continued support!

Ed Harms, President
Dick Ehrman, Vice-President
Mike Kucera, Secretary
Craig Romary, Treasurer
Tom Mountford, Director

UPDATED HONOR ROLL OF MEMORIALS

The Honor Roll of Memorials and Tributes to the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation has been updated through the end of October 2022. Take a look at <http://nebraskaswcs.org/nswc-foundation.html> to see who has been honored and memorialized through the years from donations made to the Foundation.



Nebraska Society News

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Foundation Tribute and Memorial Cards



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 _____

FOUNDATION BOARD CHANGES

Tom Mountford was elected to the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation board. He replaces Kris Reed, who was a longtime member and president of the board. Thank you, Kris, for your service!

The new board met and has elected Ed Harms as President and Dick Ehrman as Vice President. Mike Kucera remains as secretary and Craig Romary remains as Treasurer. The updated brochure can be found online at <http://nebraskaswcs.org/nswc-foundation.html>.

NAME THESE CONSERVATIONISTS

Name as many people as you can in the photo below, plus the year (in case of tie). Submit your answers to Sarah Gray at reece_sarah@yahoo.com. First to name the most correctly will get a prize (or at least bragging rights)!



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 78TH SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Healthy Land, Clean Water: Cultivating a Legacy of Conservation
August 6-9, 2023
Des Moines, Iowa





Nebraska Society News

Nebraska SWCS Chapter
4967 Lariat Loop
Torrington, WY 82240