

Soil and Water Conservation Society

# **April 2001 Newsletter**

Officers 2000-2001

President	John Beckwith	402-421-9274
Vice President	Steve Huber	402-564-8225
Secretary	Brian Weinhold	402-472-1484
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	402-486-1361
Past President	Corey Brubaker	402-486-3002

## From the Presidents Desk

This has been a fantastic experience to be president for the year that's coming to an end in June! For anyone that has not experienced first hand how a society such as ours operates - I encourage you to become more involved. What you will find out is, there are members out there who freely give their time, year after year, to see that we are successful. It has been a truly uplifting experience to have been associated with these leaders during my tenure as president.

The planning committee for the annual meeting in Nebraska City is a great example of this leadership. This is promising to be an exceptional event. It will take a look at the Missouri River from a historical perspective as well as plans for it's future, look at the science as well as aesthetics. All of this, along with an opportunity to socialize with our friends who share a common interest in soil and water conservation. We will all benefit if this is a record attendance year. It will be an outstanding meeting.

And it's not too soon to be making plans for the Society meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC. The conference will focus on how conservation of natural resources is linked to local, regional, national and global concerns. The major topics for the meeting include the conservation implications of climate change, conservation in the coastal regions, and water supply and conservation. I hope to see many of you there.

If I could, I would spend the next two weeks calling each of you individually to encourage you to return your input sheet addressing the long range plan, and to discuss how we can provide more benefits as a chapter. The Board of Directors has committed to work on this plan. Our only discussion on it was that it needs to result in something beneficial. That is one reason we are looking at the next three years instead of a longer time frame. Please help us in this effort by taking the five minutes it will take to complete the sheet. We will share the results as we go along.

Have a great spring and summer. I hope to see you all in Nebraska City.

- John Beckwith

## **Northern Plains Chapters** Meet in Spearfish, S.D.

Sixteen chapter leaders from the Northern Plains Region met in Spearfish, S. D., March 8 – 9 for the region's annual leadership workshop. The South Dakota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society hosted the meeting. "We were pleased that the weather cooperated this year," said Tom Quinn, South Dakota Chapter SWCS President. "Last year we canceled due to bad weather."

On Friday morning, Craig Cox, SWCS Executive Vice President, called in to the workshop to provide attendees with an update on the Society, including its two-year Seeking Common Ground for Conservation project. He said that interest in this project has been overwhelming.

Some of the other topics discussed during the session included how to recruit and retain members, hosting regional conferences and the international meeting, chapter successes and challenges, and professional development.

At the end of the meeting participants went home with many new thoughts and ideas to help improve and, as one individual said, "appropriately invigorate" their chapter.

Workshop organizers were Myron Senechal, SWCS Northern Plains Director, North Dakota; Tom Quinn, South Dakota; John Knapp, Colorado; and Steve Kadas, Wyoming.

Those attending the workshop included:

- South Dakota: Tom Quinn, Bob Drown, and Penny Galinat
- North Dakota: Jennifer Heglund and Myron Senechal
- Nebraska: John Beckwith, Ron Bauer, Anita Nein, and Robin Foulk
  - Wyoming: Dan Holden and Mike Collins
- Colorado: Kristi Gay, Tony Arnhold, Ron Ziehm, John Knapp, and Mary Miller

## **New Student Chapter Representative**

Steve Huber, vice president of the NE Chapter, has offered to assume duties of the Chapter's Representative to the Student Chapter. Steve will take over those responsibilities from Darla Juhl, who resigned the responsibilities due to a job transfer.

Steve will work to carry out three key objectives in this new responsibility. First, to advance the awareness and appreciation of resource conservation among students. Second, he will promote a broad interdisciplinary student membership. And last, to provide a communication link between student advisors, the Nebraska Chapter, and the Foundation.

## Change of 2002 annual meeting

The South Central Section has offered to host the 2002 Annual Meeting of the NE Chapter of SWCS. This is a change from the normal rotation, which would have had us visiting the Sandhills Section. So if you're a long-range scheduler, change your plans to visit South Central Nebraska. It promises to be a good time!

## 2001 Nebraska GIS Symposium

Nebraska SWCS is again cosponsoring the Nebraska GIS Symposium this year. The Symposium will be held May 7-10 in Lincoln. Visit Nebraska GIS/LIS Association website for more information at: http://www.calmit.unl.edu/nebgis2001/

## Ecospheres Conference - June 10-13, 2001

Take in the Ecospheres Conference in Lincoln prior to our Annual Meeting. The conference specifically aims to encourage holistic thinking by searching for the connections and relationships between the issues of land, water, populations and culture, technology and the environment. The primary goals/objectives for the conference are the following:

- To build awareness of the issues and interdependencies of the three topics: land, water and populations
- To provide a forum for international and national perspectives on the debatable theories of sustainable development
- To provide the attendees with foundations for public policy to support sustainability
- To provide local/regional attendees with information and strategies for change, especially concerning public policies
- To involve those members of the community whose voices are not usually heard and/or represented
- To involve local, regional and national youth, and to provide them an opportunity to help determine the direction for a sustainable future
- To provide UNL with the foundation for consideration of a changed paradigm for the continuation its landgrant mission and service.

More information can be found at the Ecospheres website: http://www.unl.edu/ecospheres/index2.html.

## Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation Notice of Annual Meeting and Ballot

The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation announces its annual meeting to be held about 2:00 P.M. Friday, June 15, 2001 at the Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska; following and upon return from lunch at Brownville, a part of the annual meeting of Nebraska Chapters of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

- Norm Helzer, President		
	<b>BALLOT</b>	
Co	il and Water Concernation Foundati	on

Soil and Water Conservation Foundation For Board of Directors **Vote for one** 

Ken Franzen		
Anita Nein	 	 

Mail ballot to:

Val Bohaty Nominating Committee Co-Chair 1132 Eldon Drive Lincoln NE 68510

## Help NE SWCS Develop A 3 Year Plan

The Board of Directors is developing a long range plan (3 years) for the NE Chapter. They hope to set a direction for the organization that best meets the needs of our individual members. Member input is critical for their success. This document, coupled with an annual plan should help the Chapter both in efficiency during leadership change, and help insure that we are providing meaningful benefits to our members.

The first step is for members to complete an Input Sheet. This information will go a long way toward priority setting and recognizing the desires of our members. It is one page, one side, and can be completed on a paper copy (included with this newsletter on page 4), or completed in an Excel file sent electronically to all members we have an address for. This input sheet and any additional comments can be shared with John Beckwith (402) 437-4090.

## **Annual Legislative Breakfast**

Approximately 50 individuals attended the 18th annual Legislative Breakfast on January 24, 2001. Paul Zillig moderated the event while Gus Hughbanks and Craig Romary updated us on: Aging Watershed Infrastructure, Grazing Lands Conservation On Private Lands, RC&D Authorizations, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning, AFO/CAFO, and Pesticide Management Plans.

# It Is Good To Be KING ... Or at least President

President of the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS, that is. It is also good to be Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer. In an effort to ensure a smooth transition, we are asking for self-nominations for Society officers for next year. Any member of the Nebraska Chapter



\$1000 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation scholarship recipient, Paul W. Woodward (center) from Doniphan NE. Paul is a senior Ag. Eng. major in Natural Resources at UN-L and an officer in the student SWCS chapter. Norm Helzer (left) and John Beckwith (right) are pictured with Paul.

of SWCS is eligible. The positions we are seeking are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are willing to serve the Society in any of these positions, please contact Gus Hughbanks at the address listed at the bottom of this article.

The officers serve a one-year term beginning immediately following the annual meeting (June 16, 2001), and can serve consecutive terms. They take guidance from the Board of Directors and are responsible for the routine and emergency operations of the Society. The Board of Directors will make the final selections based upon nominations. If you would like additional information, contact any of the current officers or Gus. Please submit your self-nominations by May 15, 2001 to: Gus Hughbanks, 6201 Chiswick Court, Lincoln, NE 68516 (402) 437-4111 - email Raymond.Hughbanks@ne.usda.gov

#### **FARM BILL WORKSHOP**

The Nebraska SWCS organized a workshop to compile recommendations to the 2002 Farm Bill. The workshop was held at UNL's Agricultural Research & Development Center (ARDC).

The morning session consisted of receiving special interest views and recommendations for the 2002 Farm Bill. The afternoon session consisted of three breakout groups to address three Farm Bill topics identified by a committee.

The results of the workshop were summarized and submitted to the National SWCS to be included with their recommendations to Washington D.C.

The workshop was very successful. Other than lacking somewhat in attendance, every aspect of the meeting went quite well. The Nebraska SWCS would like to thank all of the speakers and participants for their input to the workshop.



SWCS Members discuss issues raised during the Annual SWCS Legislative Breakfast presentations.

# Member Input To A Three Year Plan For The Nebraska Chapter Of SWCS

Please Provide The Following Information Regarding You As A Member:		
	Yes	No
Are you Currently a member of The NE Chapter of SWCS?		
Do you consider your level of participation in the NE Chapter right for you?		
Would you like to have a greater level of participation in the NE Chapter?		
Would changes in priorities or new activities encourage your increased participation?		
Are there activities you would like the NE Chapter of SWCS to become more active in?		
If yes, List up to three:		
1		
2		
3		
Would you be interested in having the NE Chapter host an Annual Meeting of the International Conservation Society in the next 5 years? Circle One: YES NO	Soil and	Water

# Should The NE Chapter Place A High, Medium, Or Low Priority On The Following Objectives?

	High	Med	Low
Present the professional soil conservationists' point of view to legislators	111911	1.100	2011
Identify and develop any needed professional standards			
Provide a friendly forum for professional soil conservationists			
Foster constructive debate on current natural resource issues			
Encourage soil and water conservation research			
Encourage soil and water conservation education			
Recognize especially meritorious contributions to conservation efforts			

## **Other Comments You Have To Share:**

# Name (Optional):

Return Paper: John E. Beckwith, NRCS - NPRO, MS-30, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508 Return e-mail to: john.beckwith@np.nrcs.usda.gov

## The Missouri River: Understanding a Resource A Symposium

Presented as Part of the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society June 14-16, 2001 - Lied Conference Center - Nebraska City, NE

#### **Background:**

The Missouri River drains one-sixth of the United States and encompasses 529,350 square miles including the entire state of Nebraska, most of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming, and parts of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and Missouri as well as a small part of Canada. It flows 2,341 miles from its headwaters at the confluence of the Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson Rivers at Three Forks, Montana, to its confluence with the Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri.

The pre-development Missouri River represented one of North America's most diverse ecosystems with abundant braided channels, riparian lands, chutes, sloughs, islands, sandbars, and backwater areas. These riverine and floodplain habitats were created and maintained by erosion and deposition, which continuously reshaped the channel and floodplain.

In order to lessen the effects of flooding in the lower basin and provide flows for navigation below Sioux City, Iowa six dams built in Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota transforming one-third of the Missouri River ecosystem into lake environments. In addition, the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project completed in 1981 channelized 735 miles of the Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa, to St. Louis, Missouri allowing urban and agricultural development of the floodplain.

Channelization shortened the river 72 miles, resulting in a loss of 127 miles of river shoreline habitat. In addition, 168,000 acres of aquatic habitat were lost due to sediment accumulation behind the wing dikes and nearly 354,000 acres of meander belt habitat were lost to urban and agricultural floodplain development. The damage to fish and wildlife habitat was acknowledged in 1986 when the Corps was authorized to implement the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project. The goal of the project is to acquire and restore 28,000 acres in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

The focus of this symposium is to explore some of the key issues related to the management of the Missouri River and learn about the ongoing efforts to restore some of the wildlife habitat along the Missouri River corridor.

#### **Program Sponsors:**

Program sponsored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society in cooperation with:

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-	US.	Armv	Corps	ot Eng	rineers

- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Humanities Council

Thursday, June 14, 2001 (day 1)

- University of Nebraska Water Center
- American Rivers, Inc.

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
- Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
- River Country Economic Development Corp.

#### **Professional Program**

# 8:30 – 9:00 Registration 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome – Chris Aden, Lied Conference Center 9:15 – 9:45 Overview of the Missouri River – Roger Patterson, Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources 9:45 – 10:15 Historical Significance – Nancy Hoch, River Country Economic Development Corp. 10:15 – 10:30 Break 10:30 – 12:00 Water Quantity Issues: In stream flower The Missouri Piver Moster Manuel - Page Hergreyo US Army Corps of F

In stream flows: The Missouri River Master Manual – Rose Hargrave, US Army Corps of Engineers Is the Missouri an Endangered River? – Chad Smith, American Rivers, Inc.

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Flooding –	Jeff McClenathan,	US Army	Corps of	Engineers

12:00 –	1:00	Lunch
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1:00 - 2:00 Water Quality Issues:

TMDLs for the Missouri River – Pat O'Brien, Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality The Missouri River's Contribution to Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico – Tom Franti, UN-L

2:00 – 2:30 Wildlife Issues – Mike LeValley, USFWS

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:15 The Missouri River Corridor Project – Steve Oltmans, Papio-Missouri River NRD

3:15 – 3:45 Missouri River Environmental Restoration Projects – Steve Rothe, US Army Corps of Engineers

3:45 – 4:15 The Hamburg Bend Project – Gerald Mestl, Nebraska Game & Parks

Dinner on your own

Evening: Board of Directors meeting

#### **Professional Program continued**

Friday, June 15, 2001 (d	dav	2)
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rinay, June 13,	2001 (uay 2)
6:30 - 7:30	Bird watching with Laurence Falk (optional)
8:00 - 11:45	Tour of projects along the Missouri River
11:45 – 1:15	Riverboat Lunch
1:15 - 2:00	Return to Nebraska City
2:30 - 3:30	Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation
	Foundation Meeting
3:30 - 5:00	Student Paper Competition
5:00 - 6:00	Perimeter tour of Arbor Day Farm
6:00 - 10:00	Family Night

#### Saturday, June 16, 2001 (day 3)

Morning: Business Meeting & Checkout Noon: Board of Director's luncheon meeting

#### **Spouses Program**

#### Thursday, June 14, 2001 (day 1)

9:00 - 12:00	Tour of Historic Nebraska City
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch at the Pie Garden

#### Friday June 15, 2001 (day 2)

6:30 - 7:30	Bird watching with Laurence Falk (optional)
9:30 - 2:00	Tour of Hamburg Popcorn Plant and lunch on
	the Belle of Brownville
5:00 - 6:00	Perimeter tour of Arbor Day Farm
6:00 - 10:00	Family Night

## **Programs for Children and Youth**

#### Thursday, June 14, 2001 (day 1)

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9:00 - 1:00	Trees are Terrific Program at Arbor Day Farm
	(Children ages 5-9 years.)
9:00 - 3:00	Challenge Course at Camp Catron (Children
	ages 10 and up)

#### Friday June 15, 2001 (day 2)

6:30 - 7:30	Bird watching with Laurence Falk (optional)
9:30 - 2:00	Tour of Hamburg Popcorn Plant and lunch on
	the Belle of Brownville
5:00 - 6:00	Perimeter tour of Arbor Day Farm
6:00 - 10:00	Family Night

#### <u>Tour & Program Descriptions</u> Thursday's Tours and Programs:

#### Spouse's Tour:

- Historic Nebraska City – This tour will feature a tour of the Wildwood House, a charming Victorian home restored to period elegance, the Old Freighters Museum the 1858 headquarters of the Russell, Major and Waddell Freighting Company, and a tour of Arbor Lodge. The tour will be followed by lunch at the Arbor Day Farm Pie Garden featuring a grilled chicken sandwich, fruit salad, chips and apple pie ala mode. The tour will leave the conference center at 9:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. Cost of the tour including lunch is \$17.00.

#### **Programs for Children and Youth:**

- Trees are Terrific (Children ages 5-9) – Children will learn how to identify trees by their bark, shape, seed/fruit, and leaves and take home a copy of the Arbor Day Foundation's What Tree is That? tree identification booklet. Activities include making bark

rubbings, leave prints, seed races and making and eating chocolate leaves. The program will be at the conference center from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will include a box lunch. Cost of the program including lunch is \$15.00.

- Camp Catron Challenge Course (Children ages 10 and up) — This program will be at the Camp Catron Retreat Center in Nebraska City and features confidence training and team building and a challenge course with both low and high elements. Participants will leave the conference center at 9:00 a.m. and return around 3:00 p.m. Total cost of the program including lunch is \$15.00.

#### Friday's Tours and Programs:

- Professional Tour – This tour will include a tour of the Hamburg Bend Habitat Restoration Project, the popcorn plant in Hamburg, IA, and selected wetland restoration projects. The tour will conclude with a lunch aboard the Belle of Brownville in Brownville, NE. Cost of the tour is included with the professional registration. This tour will leave the conference center at 8:00 a.m. and return around 2:00 p.m.

Interested spouses and children may also register for this tour. The cost would be the same as the abbreviated tour described below.

- Popcorn Plant and Riverboat Luncheon This is an abbreviated version of the Professional Tour designed for children and spouses. This tour will leave the conference center at 9:30 a.m. on Friday and return around 2:00 p.m. Cost of the tour including lunch on the riverboat is \$16.75 for adults and children ages 12 and up. Cost for children ages 4 to 11 is \$9.50.
- Family Night Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. with a perimeter tour of Arbor Day Farm aboard one of their open-air shuttles. Tour includes stops at the hazelnut field, soil conservation demonstration site, the living snow fence, the fuelwood plantation, the South Table Creek bioengineering project, and the preservation apple orchard. The shuttles will then drop you off at the historic barns for a barbecue dinner, awards presentations and family style entertainment featuring folk singer Chris Sayre, sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council. Costs range from \$8.25 to \$9.00 for children, depending on whether they want hot dogs or a hamburger, and \$18.50 for adults featuring a steak dinner with all the fixin's.

See Page 7 of this newsletter for further registration details.

Cut off and mail the registration form found on page 7 to:

S. Corey Brubaker 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Suite A Lincoln, NE 68528

#### **Registration Form For**

## The Missouri River: Understanding a Resource June 14-16, 2001 Lied Conference Center - Nebraska City, NE

Complete and return this registration form by May 16, 2001 to: S. Corey Brubaker, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528. Make checks payable to the Nebraska Chapter SWCS. Full registration includes lunch on Thursday, breakfast of Friday and Saturday and Friday's tour including lunch on the riverboat. It does not include family night. Registration for spouses and children includes breakfast on Friday and Saturday.

**Lodging:** A block of rooms has been reserved at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City for Wednesday through Saturday nights. Please make your reservations directly with the conference center by calling 1-800-546-5433 and indicate you will be attending the Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting. Room rates are \$55 single and \$70 double. There is no charge for children staying with parents. The deadline for making reservations is May 16, 2001.

#### **Registration Form** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_ BEFORE MAY 16, 2001 AFTER MAY 16, 2001 TOTAL **Professional Registration: Full Registration SWCS Members** \$ 65.00 \$ 75.00 Non-members \$ 70.00 \$80.00 Thursday Session only **SWCS Members** \$ 25.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 35.00 Non-members Saturday lunch (officers & board members) \$ 8.00 \$ 8.00 **Spouses Program:** Registration \$15.00 \$20.00 Thursday Tours: Historic Nebraska City Tour \$ 17.00 \$ 17.00 Pie Garden Lunch only \$ 10.00 \$ 10.00 Friday Tours: Professional Tour \$ 16.75 \$ 16.75 Popcorn Factory & Riverboat Lunch only \$ 16.75 \$ 16.75 Children's Program: Registration (Indicate number) \_\_\_\_ Children (4 to 11 years) 0.80 x age 0.80 x age \_\_\_\_ Children (12 years and up) \$ 12.00 \$ 12.00 Thursday Programs: Children (5 to 9 years) Trees are Terrific \$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_ Children (10 years and up) Camp Catron Challenge Course \$ 15.00 Friday Tours: (Indicate number) \_\_\_\_ Children (4 to 11 years) \$ 9.50 \$ 9.50 \_\_\_\_ Children (12 years and up) \$ 16.75 \$ 16.75 Family Night (includes perimeter tour of Arbor Day Farm) Indicate number of each. \$ 18.50 Adults – steak dinner \$18.50 \_\_\_ Children – Hamburger \$ 9.00 \$ 9.00 Children – Hot dogs \$ 8.25 \$ 8.25 **Grand Total** Make checks payable to: Nebraska Chapter SWCS Send Registrations to: S. Corey Brubaker

444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A

Lincoln, NE 68528

Nebraska SWCS Chapter 13550 W US HWY 34 Malcolm, NE 68402

## SWCS Student Scholarships - University of Nebraska Lincoln Foundation

The Nebraska Chapter and the Northeast Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society have a scholarship fund at the University of Nebraska Lincoln Foundation. The interest on this fund currently enables us to give two \$500 scholarships per year. Please encourage students to apply.

You are also encouraged to make contributions to the UNL Foundation. Contact David Langemeier if you have any questions.

#### LAPEL PINS

A new supply of Nebraska Chapter SWCS lapel pins has been received. The Nebraska Chapter decided at the 1999 Annual Meeting to order an additional 100 pins. Two hundred of these have been sold in the past few years. The pins sell for \$5.00 each. They make good gifts and at the same time serve as a fund raiser for the Chapter. The pins are available from David Langemeier.

### **SWCS CAPS**

The Nebraska Chapter still has caps for sale. They have "Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society" written on them. Sale price is \$10.00. We encourage you to buy and sell the caps to raise money for the Chapter. We also have golf tees left from last years SWCS golf event. Please contact David Langemeier. dlangeme@inetnebr.com

## **Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Event**

Mark your calendar, this years event is scheduled for August 24, 2001. A location has not been set. Watch for information later on and/or email me for more information. David Langemeier dlangeme@inetnebr.com

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