



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS 2013-2014

President	Sarah Gray	sarah.gray@ne.usda.gov
Vice President	Scott Bohaty	scott.bohaty@ne.usda.gov
Secretary	Stephen L. Young	syoung4@unlnotes.unl.edu
Treasurer	David Langemeier	langemeier@inetnebr.com
Past President	Tim Weltmer	tim.weltmer@ne.usda.gov

NEBRASKA SWCS CHAPTER TREASURER DAVID LANGEMEIER WILL BE GREATLY MISSED



David L. Langemeier, 71, of Lincoln, passed away peacefully at home after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer on March 20, 2014. David was born to Edwin and Elizabeth (Meyer) Langemeier and grew up on the family farm north of Hooper. He graduated from high school in 1959 and attended the University of Nebraska, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics and his Ph.D. in economics.

David spent his career as an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was an avid golfer and gardener and enjoyed collecting hostas and daylilies. He gave generously of his time as a volunteer, especially to his church and the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. His children and grandchildren were the highlight of his life and he made many trips to Colorado and Texas to visit them.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandra; children, Matt (Linda) Langemeier of Littleton, Colo., Beth (Kevin) O'Farrell of Austin, Texas; grandchildren, Adam & Kaitlyn Langemeier, Caroline & Emma O'Farrell.

Memorials are suggested to American Bible Society or Lutheran Hour Ministries. Condolences, www.bmlfh.com.

David was very active in the Nebraska SWCS chapter and served in many capacities. Most recently he served as the chapter treasure up until his passing. He will be greatly missed.

SWCS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS - UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOUNDATION Sarah Gray - President

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has a scholarship fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. The earnings on this investment fund enabled us to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships in December 2013. The year 2013-2014 scholarship winners are Amanda Hefner and Bethany Brittenham.

Amanda is a UNL senior from Archer majoring in Environmental Studies. Amanda plans to continue her education and focus on soils and water quality health in her graduate studies.

Bethany Brittenham of Superior is majoring in Biological Systems Engineering at UNL. She is a junior and plans to pursue a career in water quality systems with engineering. Bethany serves as the SWCS Resources Club Vice President at UNL.

The Nebraska SWCS chapter is pleased to announce these two scholarship winners and encourages them as they pursue careers in the natural resources field.

NEBRASKA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Paul D. Smith – Foundation Committee Chairman &
Nebraska Foundation Treasurer**

The Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation has announced the 2014 winners of college scholarships. This is the 25th consecutive year the foundation has awarded scholarships.

The winner of the Tina Carlson - Lorentzen Family Memorial Scholarship is Nathan Pflueger. Nathan is from Staplehurst and is a sophomore at Chadron State College majoring in Natural Resources and Wildlife Management. Nathan plans to work in a natural resources or wildlife field after graduation.

Brandon Bankson of Juniata was awarded a Nebraska SWCS Foundation Scholarship. Brandon is a sophomore at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>

Curtis. His future plans include farming, ranching or working with organizations. This is the first scholarship to be awarded to a student attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

Kassandra McKinnon of Bushnell is a Nebraska SWCS Foundation Scholarship winner. Kassandra is majoring in Rangeland Ecology at Chadron State College. She is interested in working in wildlife management and working with an agency such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Natural Resources Districts or Game and Parks Commission.

Members of the Nebraska SWCS make scholarship funds available. Members of the society made the scholarship presentations. Congratulations to all the 2014 scholarship winners!



Darwin Hinrichs presenting Brandon Bankson with a SWCS Foundation scholarship.



Robin Foulk with SWCS Foundation scholarship winner Kassandra McKinnon.

CORPORATE SWCS MEMBERSHIP

Craig Romary

Do you belong to a business or organization? Check out the benefits of corporate SWCS membership at bit.ly/SWCScorp, including international exposure and identity at SWCS events, in publications and with social media.

SWCS OFFICER AND DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Wally Valasek – Nomination Committee Chair

The Nebraska SWCS is in need of officers for 2014/2015 and directors for the period from 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2017.

The officer positions that are up for election are vice-president, treasure and secretary. These are one-year terms and the vice-president is expected to move on to the presidency the following year.

Three SWCS director positions will expire in 2014. These are three-year terms. The three vacancies are in the Blue-Nemaha section, Panhandle section and the at-large position. Directors for the two section positions need to reside in the respective section. All SWCS members are eligible for the at-large position.

If anyone is interested in these positions or would like to nominate someone, please contact Wally Valasek at 402-223-2874 or WV84827@windstream.net by May 1, 2014. Thank you for your consideration and nominations.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Claudia Stevenson submitted this “Blast From the Past” photo of a SWCS ski trip. Anybody guess where and when? Could have been South Dakota in 2001?



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COVER CROPS AND SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE HELD IN OMAHA

Craig Romary

All of the presentations from the National Cover Crops and Soil Health Conference, held recently in Omaha, can be seen at bit.ly/CCconf2014. In addition, videos of the opening sessions and each of the farmer participants can be accessed from the left menu bar at this page. This conference was sponsored by SWCS and Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE), among others.

31ST ANNUAL NEBRASKA SWCS LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Sarah Gray

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held the 31st Annual Legislative Breakfast February 10, 2014 in Lincoln. Mike Kucera, Agronomist at the National Soil Survey Center (NSSC), provided an update on Soil Health in the 21st Century to Nebraska State Senators, SWCS members and others as the guest speaker at the breakfast. Mike explained what soil health is and highlighted efforts to improve soil health in Nebraska and across the country. The soil health initiative is a partnership involving agriculture and conservation groups; local, state and federal conservation agencies; agribusinesses; and many others.

The presentation included a mini-rainfall simulator and aggregate stability demonstrations using Hastings silt loam soils managed differently to illustrate the importance of applying soil health principles and the benefits of good functioning soil. The state senators were especially interested in the impacts on infiltration and water conservation associated with healthy soils from Mike's farm that has been in no-till and a diverse crop rotation for nearly 25 years.

Among those in attendance at the breakfast was a Nebraska SWCS Foundation Student Scholarship winner Bethany Brittenham.

A special thank you to Kris Reed, Craig Romary and Dave Langemeier for the hard work and dedication that made the meeting a success.



Mike Kucera (r), UNL Student Chapter members Bethany Brittenham and Tom Cowan and Doug Garrison (l) conduct an aggregate stability test on a no-till and conventionally tilled soil.



SWCS student chapter members demonstrating the mini-rainfall simulator at the SWCS Legislative Breakfast.



69th SWCS International Annual Conference

MAKING WAVES IN CONSERVATION

Our Life on Land & its Impact on Water
LOMBARD, IL • JUL 27-30, 2014



Join us for 4 days on the state of conservation and its future!

[Registration Online Now!](#)

Click [here](#) to view the [Preliminary Program](#)

NEBRASKA SWCS CHAPTER DISPLAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL



In March 2014 the Nebraska SWCS Chapter display was at the state capital for wellhead protection and groundwater awareness. Other displays that were at the capital can be seen at <https://twitter.com/groundwaterfdn>. Thank you to Craig Romary for setting up the SWCS display.

GREEN TIP Ed Harms

Glass never wears out and it can be recycled forever. It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it can be recycled an infinite number of times. A conservationist can save over a ton of the component resources for every ton of glass recycled: 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone and 151 pounds of feldspar. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100 watt bulb for four hours.

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN SOIL JUDGING TEAM

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) soil judging team participates in regional and national contests held annually in all parts of the US. Soil judging provides an opportunity for students to study soils through direct experience in the field. Students learn to describe soil properties, identify different kinds of soils and associated landscape features and interpret soil information for agriculture and other land uses.

As an activity within the American Society of Agronomy/Soil Science Society of America (ASA/SSSA), soil judging in the United States is divided into seven regions. Collegiate soil judging originated in the southeastern United States in 1956 and began in the Midwest in 1958. Today, students from over 40 universities are involved with collegiate soil judging through the ASA/SSSA.

Students from UNL have been participating in collegiate soil judging for over 50 years. Former coaches of the UNL team were Jim Drew, Dave Lewis and Bill Zanner. Currently the team is coached by Mark Kuzila. The last three years the UNL team has traveled to two contests per year, one regional and one national. The contests are a week long and the cost of transportation, lodging and food can be high depending on the number of students that attend. Participation on the team is not limited and last year 12 students participated.

In order to solidify financial support for UNL soil judging in the future, Mark Kuzila has proposed that a UNL Soil Judging Fund be established in the University of Nebraska (UN) Foundation. His goal is to have the fund in place in three years when it is time for him to hand over the coaching reigns to someone else. The fund will not be used while Mark is the coach.

The details in general are that in order for an account to be able to accrue interest it must contain at least \$25,000. UN Foundation funds containing over \$25,000 currently gain interest at about 4% per year and that interest can be used annually to support the team. It is simple, the more money that is donated to the fund, the more interest gained and the more support for the team. If you are interested in donating to a UNL Soil Judging Fund, or know of a potential donor, contact Mark Kuzila at (402) 472-7537 or mkuzila@unl.edu.



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

2014 ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION

Darwin Hinrichs

It is time once again to ask for your help in soliciting items for our annual silent auction to be held during our state SWCS meeting. This year the annual meeting will be held in Gothenburg. Ideas for the silent auction would be: crafts, wines, wine baskets, books, plants, pictures and gift certificates. The money raised with this event will be used to help fund the five scholarships given out each year by Nebraska SWCS. Your help with this would be greatly appreciated. Please let Darwin Hinrichs know what you are bringing or if you need help getting items to the meeting in June. Contact Darwin at 308-334-5292 ext.3 or Darwin.hinrichs@ne.usda.gov.

WEB SITE UPDATE

Craig Romary

The annual business meeting minutes for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation and Nebraska Chapter SWCS are now posted at bit.ly/1fTQCav. Take a look to see what your chapter has been doing! And if you missed it, take a look at the overview and links to additional info from the 2013 chapter conference at bit.ly/nescwsoct13, as well as other great info.

NEIGHBORING SWCS ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Take a few minutes to explore neighboring SWCS chapter activities.

MONTANA: [HTTP://WWW.MTSWCS.ORG/](http://www.mtswcs.org/)

WYOMING:

[HTTP://WYSWCS.HOME.BRESNAN.NET/](http://wyswcs.home.bresnan.net/)

COLORADO:

[HTTP://WWW.SWCS.ORG/EN/COLORADO_CHAPTE
R/](http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/) RECENT NEWSLETTER: [Click here.](#)

NORTH DAKOTA: [HTTP://WWW.NDSWCS.ORG/](http://www.ndswcs.org/)

RECENT NEWSLETTER: <http://bit.ly/1hMADY1>

SOUTH DAKOTA: [HTTP://WWW.SDSWCS.ORG/](http://www.sdswcs.org/)

The 2014 regional meeting will be held in Billings Montana May 28th and 29th. The full agenda can be viewed at <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Northeast – Patrick Cowser
Sandhills – James Mathine
Lincoln – Corey Brubaker
Blue Nemaha - Wally Valasek
Panhandle – Ed Harms
South Central – Darwin Hinrichs
Student – Mark Kuzila
At Large - Claudia Stevenson

NEBRASKA CHAPTER SWCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards - Anita Nein
Scholarship - Paul Smith
Membership - Robin Foulk
Elections - Paul Zillig
Nominations - Wally Valasek
History - Paul Smith
Environmental Ed. (Student Chapter) – Tom Franti
Student Chapter Liaison – Craig Romary
Bylaws – Vacant
Newsletter – Sarah Gray
Website – Doug Garrison

WEBMASTER WANTED

Are you a Webmaster or interested in getting experience as a Webmaster? The Nebraska Chapter of SWCS is seeking a new Webmaster to take over for Doug Garrison who has dedicated many years of service as the SWCS Webmaster. Please consider volunteering! Please contact Doug Garrison at doug.garrison@ne.usda.gov or Sarah Gray at sarah.gray@ne.usda.gov with any questions.



Nebraska Society News

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER



2014 ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 12-14, 2014 GOTHENBURG, NE

2014 SWCS Annual State Meeting Tours and Presentations will include:

- Invasive Plants on the Platte River System
- Water Research at the Monsanto Water Utilization Facility
- Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation System
- Brush Management / Control Burns in the Loess Hills
- Cover Crops
- Mac's Creek Winery & Vineyard

A block of rooms has been reserved under SWCS until June 1, 2014 at:

Comfort Suites – Gothenburg
 Located next to interstate I-80
 (308) 537-7378
 \$83.00 (state rate) per night

Thursday June 12, 2014:

- 12:00 – 1:00 Registration and Check-in – Conference Center directly west (in the same parking lot) of the Gothenburg Comfort Suites
- 1:00 – 4:30 Presentations / Tours / Break
- 4:30 Wrap-up / Final tour stop - Mac's Creek Winery & Vineyards

Friday June 13, 2014

- 7:30 – 8:00 Registration and Check-in – Conference Center
- 8:00 – 12:00 Presentations / Tours / Break
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (covered in registration cost)
- 1:00 – 4:30 Presentations / Tours / Break
- 4:30 Wrap-up – Conference Center
- 6:30 SWCS Chapter Banquet with Silent Auction – Nebraska Barn & Grill

Saturday June 14, 2014

- 8:00 – 10:00 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Meeting and Breakfast
- 10:00 – 12:00 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Society Chapter Meeting

2014 Nebraska Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting Registration – Due June 2, 2014

Meeting Registration (includes presentations, breaks and Friday lunch)...	\$18.50 X _____ = \$ _____
Chapter Banquet.....	Adults - \$11.00 X _____ = \$ _____
	Kids - \$5.50 X _____ = \$ _____
Foundation and Chapter Business Meeting and Breakfast.....	\$3.00 X _____ = \$ _____
	TOTAL = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Nebraska Chapter SWCS. Send Registration to:

Name: _____ Kris Reed
 Address: _____ 1629 140 Rd
 Phone: _____ Pleasant Dale, 68423



Nebraska Society News

Nebraska SWCS Chapter
830 N 5th Street
Seward, NE 68434

**BALLOT – Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation
Foundation
Board of Director, 5-year term**

VOTE FOR ONE

_____ **Dick Ehrman**, Lincoln, NE - is currently a Water Resources Specialist at the Lower Platte South NRD, and has worked throughout Nebraska for over 25 years with the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Department of Environmental Quality, and Central Platte NRD. He is a licensed Professional Geologist and an adjunct faculty member at Doane College and has been an SWCS member since 2007.

_____ (Write in name)

Ballot must be received by June 10, 2014.

Return Ballot by mail or email to:

Kris Reed
1629 140 Road
Pleasant Dale, NE 68423-9000
Keystone1447@windstream.net

All SWCS members are eligible to vote.

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>