



Nebraska Society News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

December 2000 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 President's Desk:

Happy Holidays. What a great time of year! Sitting here, overstuffed yet from Thanksgiving and a birthday celebration, watching the neighbors put up their holiday lights, being questioned by my kids as to why I don't have our lights up yet - again, what a great time of year! I hope you are enjoying yourself as well.

With this season rushing past, it occurred to me that my time as president of the Nebraska Chapter is also trucking on by. I told Corey last week that by the time I pass the gavel to the next president I will have a general idea of what I was supposed to do. None the less, things are getting done and, due mostly to the people surrounding me, I am enjoying the job.

The key reason for that is that the Board of Directors, Committees, and committed members who make things work so well. But, I am especially in debt to Corey Brubaker. His experience last year, and willingness to make things happen for the Society has been a tremendous help to me, and that quickly translates to making SWCS much more valuable to you and all of our members. With this note, I thank you Corey.

At the Annual Meeting of SWCS in St. Louis, I was impressed by Dennis Pate's inclusion of what Ralph H. Musser listed as the role of the society in an editorial in the first issue of the Journal in July of 1946. What impressed me is that, in my mind, his first thoughts on our role are still so important today. Some of his thoughts include a need to:

- Stimulate, collect, and put to use the best scientific thought
- Present the professional soil conservationists' point of view
- Evolve certain professional standards
- Provide a friendly forum to professional soil conservationists
- Foster constructive debate on pertinent matters
- Encourage soil and water conservation research
- Encourage soil and water conservation education
- Recognize especially meritorious contributions to the science, and
- Guide and improve the science...that it will serve mankind in the greatest possible degree.

As the year goes by, and as you look at the activities reported on in this newsletter, I ask that you consider (and let a board of directors member know) how well the Nebraska Chapter is addressing these needs. Also consider how well you as a professional are helping to advance the science as it is described here. If you find a desire to help

the Chapter in any of these areas, I'm convinced that we can find people willing to work with you for all of our benefit. Give me a call.

That is the fun part. And, truth be known, I'm in the conservation profession, and here as president, for the fun, enjoyment, and satisfaction it brings! I hope many of you are too. A piece of that is to become acquainted with as many of you as possible, so help me out be attending one of the upcoming events! I look forward to seeing you there.

THIS YEARS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Thanks to the following individuals who I know are actively involved in the business of the NE Chapter:

Executive Committee

John Beckwith
Corey Brubaker
Steve Huber
Brian Weinhold Sec
David Langemeier

Finance Committee

David Langemeier

Nominations Committee

Gus Hughbanks, chairman
Bob Hilske, SH
Traci Bates, SC
vacant, PH (Kent is working on)
John Mayberger, BN

Elections Committee

Paul Zillig, chairman
Doug Christensen
Loyal A. Quandt
vacant (Paul is working on)

Annual Meeting and Program Committee

Corey Brubaker
Wally Valasek

Bylaws Committee/Representative

Gus Hughbanks

Awards Committee

Val Bohaty

Membership Committee

Craig Derickson

Environmental Ed Committee/Representative (grass Plots)

Nikolay Shapoval

Newsletter Committee/Representative

Doug Garrison

Scholarship Committee

Paul Smith
Tom Franti
John Gilley

History Committee/Representative (archives)

Bill Gubser

Student Chapter Committee/Representative

My apologies for any omissions and please let me know of any needed corrections so I can make the list current.

- John Beckwith

MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

An opportunity has presented itself as Darla Juhl has taken on a new job and promotion to Nelson, NE. She has asked that we find someone to liaison with the Student Chapter and carry out the role she has done so well in recent years. I have met with her and we have a description of the duties. Anyone interested in taking on this role can call John Beckwith to discuss what is expected. (402)437-4090. Many thanks to Darla for her work in this area in past years.

Farm Bill Workshop Planned January 31, 2001

The Nebraska Chapter of SWCS in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and USDA-NRCS is planning a workshop on the 2002 Farm Bill on February 1, 2001 at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Ithaca. The objectives for the workshop are to increase awareness of Farm Bill issues among SWCS members, NRCS personnel and Extension personnel; and to provide input to the National Organization on things that the Nebraska Chapter would like to see included in the 2002 Farm Bill. Hopefully, that input will be incorporated into the National Organization's position statement. Refer to page three of this newsletter for an agenda. Please mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend.

Plans for the 2001 Annual Meeting

Plans for the 2001 Annual Meeting to be held at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City on June 14-16 are well underway. The focus of the meeting will be the Missouri River and we will explore the various issues related to the use and management of this precious natural resource. A tentative agenda for the meeting is included on page 3 of this newsletter. A more detailed agenda and registration information will be included in the next issue.

Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation News

The Foundation presented an engraved plaque to Dayle Williamson at the Lincoln SCS Retirees/NRCS luncheon held last June 23rd. The event was attended by over 80 people.

The Foundation continued a loan to the Nebraska Chapter for the purposes of securing the meeting room/site for the next annual state meeting.

Scholarship applications are currently being processed.
- Norm Helzer, President

John Doran Recognized!

Nebraska SWCS Member John Doran recently traveled to Athens, Greece, to accept the International Prize for the Environment from the Onassis Foundation. This recognition is for his contributions to the development of soil health indicators and a soil health test kit.

A very nice article appeared in the International SWCS Conservogram's September-October issue concerning John's achievement. Congratulations John Doran!

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

NARD Thank You

The following note was received from the NARD:

"Thank you for the flag prizes at the 2000 Nebraska Association of Resources District's Annual Conference Golf Tournament."

The Nebraska Chapter provided a Nebraska Chapter SWCS logo golf ball, golf tees, lapel pin, and cap.

Nebraska SWCS Farm Bill Meeting
February 1, 2001
University of Nebraska
Agricultural Research and Development
Center
Ithaca, NE

— **Tentative Agenda** —

- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome by John Beckwith, Nebraska SWCS President
- 9:15 – 9:45 Overview of Farm Bill by Doug Christensen, USDA-NRCS
- 9:45 – 10:45 Special Interest Panel Discussion:
Moderator – Steven W. Huber, NE SWCS Vice President
Ag. Production – Bart Ruth, NE Soybean Association
Environmental – Duane Havoric, NE Wildlife Federation
Wildlife – Bill Baxter, NE Game & Parks Comm.
Farm Economics – Roy Fredrick, Extension Policy Specialist
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Nebraska SWCS Farm Bill Issues:
Moderator – Corey Brubaker, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Sustaining Small Farms – Chuck Hassebrook, Center for Rural Affairs
Land Use Conversion – Jim Barr
Stewardship Incentive (Harkin Bill) – Steve Chick, NRCS State Conservationist
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch, catered by Valentino's (\$8.00 paid at registration)
- 1:00 – 1:15 Charge of Breakout Sessions, John Beckwith
- 1:15 – 3:00 Breakout Sessions to address: Sustaining Small Farms, Land Use Conversion & Stewardship Incentive
- 3:15 – 4:00 Summary of Breakout Sessions
- 4:00 Adjourn –
Have a safe trip home

Nebraska Chapter – Soil and Water Conservation Society
2001 Annual Meeting
The Missouri River: Understanding a Resource
Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City
June 14-16, 2001

-- Draft Program Agenda --

Thursday, June 14, 2001 (day 1)

- Professional Program (all day)
- Overview of the Missouri River
- Historical Significance – Lewis & Clark Expedition
- The Missouri River Master Plan
- The Missouri River Corridor Project
- Water Quantity Issues:
In stream flows – impacts on navigation and wildlife
Is the Missouri an Endangered River?
Flooding – The flood of 1993
- Water Quality Issues:
TMDLs for the Missouri River
The Missouri River's Contribution to Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico
- Wildlife Issues:
The Value of Forested Riparian Buffers
- Spouse Program: Tour of Arbor Manor & Arbor Day Farms?
- Children's Program: Trip to Henry Doorly Zoo or Indian Cave State Park?
- Evening: Board of Directors meeting

Friday, June 15, 2001 (day 2)

- Riverboat Tour of Projects along the Missouri River
- Evening: Family night, dinner, awards & entertainment

Saturday, June 16, 2001 (day 3)

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

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

Ski Trip Planned For Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend

The annual Nebraska SWCS Chapter Ski Trip is planned for the Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend, January 13 to 15, 2001. This year's trip is planned for Terry Peak Ski Area (www.terrypeak.com) in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The annual event is family oriented and is open to members and nonmembers alike. A block of Rooms has been reserved at the White House Inn in Lead, South Dakota, for the reasonable price of \$39.99 per night. Group rates for lift tickets, rentals and lessons will be available. A group meal will be planned for Saturday night in Deadwood. Contact Karl Whitmore, SWCS Ski Trip Coordinator, at 308-385-1558 (H), or 308-754-4424x108 (W), or 308-750-6596 (C) for more information. See you on the slopes!

Fourth Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney

The fourth annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on September 8, 2000 at Whitetail Run Golf Course near Fremont. Sixteen golfers (8 members and 8 nonmembers) participated. A two-person team, best ball format was used. Winners were: 1st - Bob Rathjen and Norm Kempf; 2nd - Scott Argabright and Gary Muckel; and 3rd - Mike Kucera and Tom Keep. Other golfers were David Langemeier, Roland Langemeier, Ron Maaske, John Beckwith, Steve Huber, Bryan Euse, Joe Calder, Chris Langemeier, Glen Johnson, and Paul Zillig.

Flag prizes were given for all 18 holes plus special prizes for various events. The SWCS membership was won by Tom Keep. The Lower Platte North NRD donated the SWCS membership.

Prizes were donated by Jerry Bassinger of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, T.O. Haas Tire, Nebraska Lottery, Gaylen Most (Keebler Cookie Co.), Stock Seed Farm, Budweiser D & D Distributors, The Groundwater Foundation, WalMart, NARD, State Farm, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, SWCS, Whitetail Run Golf Course, Radcliffe and Associates, Lower Platte South NRD and Lower Platte North NRD.

David Langemeier welcomes comments on the timing, location and format for the year 2001 Fifth Annual golf event.

NE SWCS Newsletter On The Web & NE SWCS E-Mail List

For about the past year the SWCS Newsletter has been available on the world wide web at the website: <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs>. The "web version" of the newsletter maintains all the same formatting of the hard copy version if you select the Adobe PDF file type. The newsletter is also posted in regular web format (HTML) but loses some formatting. As soon as the newsletter is posted to the web we send a message to the NE SWCS E-Mail list.

- Please contact Doug Garrison (dougg@inetnebr.com) if you would like to be added to the E-Mail list. We also use the E-Mail list for quick notices of other SWCS related activities/events/happenings.
- For those wishing to save the chapter a stamp and would like to be removed from the hard copy mailing list, drop Doug an e-mail message. We will only remove names if there are enough to justify the effort.