



Nebraska Society News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

January 1999 Newsletter

Officers 1998-1999

President	Ron Bauer	402-489-5050
Vice President	Ed Harms	308-262-0680
Secretary	Stephanie King	308-327-2141
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	402-486-1361

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

From the President's Desk

It's 1999, Happy New Year. I hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas and good times during the Holidays. We can now start counting days instead of years until Y2K. Likewise for activities for the Nebraska Chapter, SWCS. The first is the Legislative Breakfast scheduled for the morning of January 27th at 6:30. More details elsewhere in this newsletter. If you haven't done so already, Mark your calendars for our annual state meeting, June 16-18, 1999. The planning committee is working hard, the program is shaping up and I am sure it will be another excellent event. We will be meeting in Lincoln with many activities scheduled to be held at UN-L East Campus. I also hope that as many of us as possible will attend the annual conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, August 8-11, 1999.

During September 27-30, I represented the Nebraska Chapter at the "Peaks to Prairies: A Conference on Watershed Stewardship", held in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Northern Plains Chapters of the SWCS were one of the cosponsors of this conference. During this time, the presidents of the Chapters of the Northern Plains Region were able to meet with Area Director Myron Senechal from North Dakota. One item of discussion was chapter development. To aid in this effort, we started a schedule of monthly teleconferences. These teleconferences include Director Senechal and the chapter presidents. SWCS President Dennis Pate and EVP Craig Cox are also invited to participate. If any of you have concerns which you feel could be addressed at one of these conferences, let me know and I will bring it up.

Another item discussed was the Northern Plains Chapter Development Workshop. It is scheduled to be held March 4 & 5, 1999 in Gillette, Wyoming. These workshops are designed for the present and incoming chapter officers and all interested chapter members. I personally encourage you to consider attending this workshop. It will be conducted by Director Senechal and President Pate. Others from Headquarters have been asked to assist. Please let me know if you are interested in attending and I will be sure to get you

details of the workshop. Chapters are one of the strengths of our Society and these workshops help keep chapters viable.

It is also time to start thinking about Chapter leadership - i.e. the nomination and election of officers. Offices open for election are: president elect, secretary, treasurer, and directors for the Blue Nemaha Section and Lincoln Section and director at large. Please send your intent to run and/or nominations for these offices to Gus Highbanks.

Congratulations to the recipients of the scholarships awarded by the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation and the Nebraska Chapters. Three \$500.00 scholarships were awarded. The Foundation scholarship went to Coreen E. Dendinger and the Chapters' scholarships were awarded to Karen M. Faulkner and Jennifer Kay Kalson.

As a final note, I am asking each of you to reread Dennis Pate's "Presidents perspective" in the Nov/Dec 1998 Conservogram. Many of the items such as fund raising and chapter development apply as much to chapter as to the parent society. I encourage all of our members to become active in Chapter activities. Share your ideas and thoughts with Chapter officers. Conservation is not a one time effort but an ongoing endeavor and it's up to all of us to be active participants.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The 16th Annual legislative Breakfast with the topic "Discussion on confined feeding operations" has been scheduled. Plan to attend Wednesday, January 27, 1999 from 6:30 - 8:15 A.M. The breakfast will be held in the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. We will meet in Conference Room C in the lower level. Cost: \$ 2.00.

*Don't keep an idea all to yourself,
do something with it!*

Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation News

"...an investment in conservation and the advancement of..."

FUND RAISING! FUND RAISING!

Please ask your local retail outlets to sell pickle cards for us. The business must be one that holds a retail liquor license. Send responses to Paul Smith or Norm Helzer.

We can solicit endowments or find new money in order to reach a goal of \$150,000.00 in order to award several really good scholarships each year.

The Board of Directors is starting the process of locating pickle card operators who would sell pickle cards to the public for our organization, the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation. The Foundation qualifies as a nonprofit organization that can be licensed according to the Nebraska Pickle Card Lottery Act. All pickle cards sold to the public in Nebraska are sold on behalf of nonprofit organizations.

Scholarship Awarded

Coreen Dendinger, a student at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, was presented the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation scholarship for 1998. Coreen is a native of Harrington majoring in Environmental Studies.

The presentation was made by The Foundation's Treasurer, Paul D. Smith at a luncheon held in Lincoln December 15th. Ron Bauer, President of the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society, David Langemeier, Treasurer, and Krista Reed, Past President, assisted with the presentation.

Coreen worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Wahoo Office last summer. She is a member of the UN-L Natural Resources Club and the Wildlife Club. Selection was made from a list of seven applicants. Two others will be presented scholarships, to help with their education, by the Nebraska Chapter.

Scholarships are presented each year to students throughout the state who are majoring in natural resources related field of studies.

Nebraskan's Participate In Watershed Conference

The following are some highlights of a great Watershed Conference held in Rapid City, South Dakota in September of 1998.

Art Holsten gave an excellent presentation of conservation practices in the Central Platte Watershed for improvement of water quality while at the same time being a benefit to wildlife. Maggie Smith, GIS Specialist with NRCS, gave a presentation on her involvement with assembling GIS data layers for the Rainwater Basin area of Nebraska. These data layers were eventually published on CD-ROM for easy distribution to end users.

Stephanie King made it possible for two SWCS pictures to be displayed at the Watershed Conference. A winner of the pictures will be drawn at the Society for Range Management International Meeting in Omaha in February. Ron Bauer sold many tickets for the drawing to non-Nebraska people at the SWCS social held during the conference. Money from the drawing could provide funding for both Nebraska Chapter activities.

SWCS Nebraska Chapter President, Ron Bauer and Anita Nein attended the SWCS Northern Plains planning meetings for future activities. A future money making project to be promoted and operated from the Ankeny SWCS National Office will be Certifications for Professionals in Sediment and Erosion Control (CPESCP). The fees, training, and certification process is expected to yield participating states money for SWCS chapters to have worthy special projects.

At this Watershed Conference, a CPESC workshop was held to give interested persons an idea of the application procedure, what would be on the test, and to give needed information in the areas of soils, water, and wind erosion to those seeking it. Myron Senechal, Regional SWCS Representative from North Dakota, headed the workshop while YVonne Haeffner, South Dakota, and Anita Nein, Nebraska, presented the overview of water and wind erosion. The Northern Plains NRCS Soil Quality Team, Colorado, gave hands on demonstrations of measuring various aspects of soil characteristics and relating them to erosion. (cont. pg. 3...)

Would you like to receive the NE SWCS Newsletter electronically? Notify Doug Garrison at dougg@inetnebr.com with your interest. You will receive an e-mail notifying you of future newsletters as soon as they are available. This newsletter is now available in PDF (Acrobat Reader) or HTML file format. To view/download this newsletter in both formats visit: <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dougg/swcs/news.html>.

(from pg. 2...) Many examples of better watershed planning to overcome flooding and other problems were presented in the oral presentations, among them, an Oklahoma City delegation gave a terrific example of how people have worked together to change flood prone areas from housing developments in to public land and parks.

A highlight of the conference was a riverbank vegetation workshop. Not only did participants tour to see two sites that had been revegetated, but they also had opportunity to learn by doing. The leader had materials and site prepared so all could dig in on the project. Most of the materials were natural materials, but it took backbreaking work to get the matting set in the proper procedure. Most lost enthusiasm after about an hour of hard labor, but the project was a good study in riverbank revegetation, cooperation, and pounding, holding, and digging with someone you hadn't met before. - Anita J. Nein

Break In

A break in occurred at SWCS Headquarters, Ankeny Iowa, during the holidays. Web and e-mail service may be unavailable for a period of time. One can phone headquarters at (515) 289-2331.

Spring Cleanup?

The Soil and Water Resource Club of UN-L held an on-going fund-raiser in the fall where members of the club did yard work and other odd jobs for small contributions to the club's treasury. Though the club has not yet announced if they will again run this special in the spring, you may want to contact Dean Eisenhower at 472-1637 if you would be willing to support the club in such a project.

ISCO 99 Symposium at Nebraska City

(For additional information: <http://topsoil.nserl.purdue.edu/isco99/isco99.htm>)

A symposium on the Soil Survey Centennial will be held at the Lied Center in Nebraska City on Wednesday, May 19th, 1999. This symposium is part of the International Soil Conservation

Organization (ISCO 99) and kicks off the Pre-conference tour through Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. You are welcome to attend the one-day symposium in Nebraska City. Examine the agenda below and decide if you wish to attend the one-day symposium on May 19th. There will be a minimum fee collected for lunch.

8:00 - 8:30 am	Registration	NSSC Personnel
8:30 - 8:45 am	Welcome	John Rosenow, Lied Conference Center
8:45 - 9:15 am	Keynote Address	Pearlie Reed, Maury Mausbach, or Horace Smith
9:15 - 9:45 am	Settlement of the West	Robert Manley
9:45 - 10:15 am	Break	Lied Conference Personnel
10:15 - 10:30 am	Introductions	Participants
10:30 - 11:00 am	History of Soil Survey	Doug Helms
11:00 - 11:30 am	Science of Soil Survey	Dave Lewis or Berman Hudson
11:30 - 12 Noon	Current Techniques in Soil Survey	Bob Ahrens/Henry Mount
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch (on own)	Participants
1:30 - 3:00 pm	Current Applications, Interpretation Groupings, etc	Chuck Gordon
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Break	Participants
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Soil Survey Information, and Data Delivery, GIS, Modeling, & WWW	Dave Anderson (970-282-1968)
4:00 - 4:15 pm	Future Challenges - GIS	Dayle Williamson
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Precision Agriculture	JD Ag Rep
4:30 - 4:45 pm	Carbon Sequestration	John Duran
4:45 - 5:15 pm	Wrap-up	Paul Johnson
5:15 - 5:30 pm	ISCO Tour Orientation	Mount et al.

Golf Tourney

The Second Annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on September 4, 1998 at Pioneers Golf Course in Lincoln. Eighteen golfers participated. A two-person team, best ball format was used. Winners were: 1st - Scott Argabright and Wayne Manthei; 2nd - Jim Thomas and Joe Calder; and 3rd - Jim Carr and Bill Hayes. Flag prizes were given for all 18 holes plus special prizes for the lowest number of putts, most skips on water and closest to the portable toilet. On the scholarship hole (closest to pin from tee), money was raised for the scholarship fund. Flag prizes were donated by Jerry Bassinger of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Budweiser D & D Distributors, Nebraska Book Store, The Groundwater Foundation, Runza, Diamond Beef, NACD, NARD, State Farm, Bagel and Joe, and Nebraska Corn Growers Association. David Langemeier welcomes comments on the timing, location and format for the 1999 Third Annual golf event.

Options for Producers Featured

Management alternatives is the theme for two symposia at the 1999 SRM-AFGC meeting in Omaha. Management Alternatives in Semi-Arid Grasslands will convene on Monday, February 22, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Jim O'Rourke, the moderator, said, "We used to think growing grain and meat was a diverse operation. After a year like this one where both commodity prices are low, it's clear that producers need different businesses to survive."

"We designed both sessions to put ideas in front of producers," Jim explained. "The first presentations are on new plants for forages, weed control, turf, or roadside rehabilitation. People may want to grow the seed for sale or use it to alleviate a bottleneck on their places. Participants will also learn about agroforestry in arid land settings. Why

plant \$2.00 wheat along the creek instead of a \$5,000 walnut tree?" The agenda also features silvopasture management, critters beyond cows, recreational challenges, and conservation easements.

Jim added, "With the rush for everyone's piece of nature, how will ranching and wildlands survive the condominium and ranchette? What choices exist and what alliances can we build with conservation easements for protecting ranchland?"

Management Alternatives in Eastern Nebraska will run from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, February 23. Wyatt Fraas, the coordinator, is the Beginning Farmers sustainable Agriculture Project leader at the Center for Rural Affairs in Hartington, Nebraska. Wyatt commented, "This symposium has two objectives- to tell people from other states about forage management in our area and to attract producers who are looking to make better use of on-farm resources and increase profits."

"The presenters are innovative farmers and ranchers who are pushing the boundaries of what is known in research," remarked Wyatt. "They are cutting production costs, becoming more efficient, and raising income through marketing. This seminar is also an excellent opportunity for academics to learn from people who have real experience with what works and what doesn't." Topics include grazing alfalfa and standing corn; managing CRP land for grazing; EQIP assistance for pasture development; direct marketing of grass-fed lamb, beef and poultry; grass based dairying; hogs on pasture; and bison management and tourism.

Submitted by Heidi Carter, Education Coordinator
UN-L, (402) 472-0917 - csas007@unlvm.unl.edu.

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