



Nebraska Society News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

May 2002 Newsletter

Officers 2001-2002

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| President | James Harder | 402-423-9683 |
| Vice President | Steve Huber | 402-564-8225 |
| Secretary | Dennis Schroeder | 402-423-9683 |
| Treasurer | Dave Langemeier | 402-486-1361 |
| Past President | John Beckwith | 402-421-9274 |

President's Message

There are many things happening in SWCS today. Our Headquarters staff has been doing an outstanding job providing technical information to our national leaders. I can not over emphasize how important this job is to all of us. It makes no difference who we work for, or if we are retired and not working, we all have a deep interest in the cause of soil and water resource protection. Most of us have heard or seen what is happening related to the consideration of a new farm bill. While the commodity title has gotten a lot of press coverage the conservation title will also be very important to private land owners and to us. There will likely be some major innovations in the new farm bill that could have a significant impact on the soil and water resources we work with. These are a direct result of the work done by SWCS members, Chapters and the Headquarters Staff for at least the last two years. Our Society and leaders have built a great reputation as the place to go for information needed by legislators and others for soil and water conservation policy development. Our membership numbers, involvement, and financial support is what makes all of this possible.

There are many other things happening in SWCS at the local chapter, regional and national level. Look for other articles in the newsletter for the ones that may be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

James (Jim) Harder

Northern Plains Chapters Meet in Deadwood South Dakota

By MP Senechal, Director, Northern Plains

Nineteen Soil and Water Conservation Society Chapter (SWCS) Leaders from the Northern Plains Region met in Deadwood, South Dakota on March 7-8, for their region's 2002 leadership workshop, according to Myron Senechal, Director, Northern Plains Region, SWCS. Presenters and workshop organizers were the Northern Plains Leadership team consisting of John Knapp, CO; Robin Foulk and Anita Nein, NE; Mike Collins, WY; Craig Cox, Ankeny, IA; and Senechal.

Craig Cox, Executive Vice President, SWCS, keynoted the workshop by explaining the 2002 Farm Bill legislative process. He referenced the Society's advocacy role and efforts in the *Seeking Common Ground for Conservation – An Agricultural Policy Project*. Farmers and Ranchers said that the next Farm Bill should strengthen existing conservation programs and build a farm policy on the role that they have as stewards of natural resources. Therefore, farmers and ranchers want a policy that supports all agricultural producers. The report contained recommendations for the 2002 Farm Bill, which were based on five SWCS regional workshops. Participants told the Society what they wanted in the 2002 Farm Bill. "Interest in the *Seeking Common Ground...* has been overwhelming," according to Cox.

In addition to the technical presentations on Farm Bill activities, Professional Developments, and Chapter Development, participants discussed Membership and Awards. Appropriately invigorated, workshop participants went home with many new ideas, a new network of contacts, and desire to be an advocate for the natural resources.

"South Dakota SWCS hosted the leadership workshop at the First Gold Motel and Casino in Deadwood," according to Tom Quinn, Past President of the South Dakota SWCS Chapter. He continued, "the weather could have cooperated better, with all the snow-predicted, attendees departed early." "States within the Society's Northern Plains region are CO, WY, MT, NE, SD and ND" said Senechal.

Those attending the workshop included:

- SWCS Headquarters Ankeny, IA: Craig Cox, Society, Executive Vice Pres.
- South Dakota: Tom Quinn, Darrel Vig, and Yvonne Haefner
- Colorado: Mary Miller, John Knapp, Tony Arnhold, Kristi Gay, Amy Sidner, and Beth Fortman
- Nebraska: Jim Harder, Anita Nein, and Robin Foulk
- Wyoming: Steve Kadas and Mike Collins
- Montana: John Rouane
- North Dakota: Rodney O'clair, Mark Anderson, and Myron Senechal.

See Related Article and Photo on Page 6 of the Newsletter...

Leaving Northern Plains for new challenge in Missouri

Due to taking a new position as District Conservationist position in Missouri I will be vacating the Director-at-Large position for the Nebraska Chapter effective on May 6. I would like to share my thoughts on our chapters and service. It has always been a privilege to serve whether in a professional position or as an advocate of our chosen discipline, conservation of natural resources. The satisfaction gained from seeing your work put to use; the leadership opportunities that can be realized by supporting our chapters, are the important benefits from this work. While I have gained much from our chapter I have not been able to repay as much as I would have liked in the last two years due to other civic callings. Sharing some of my observation here is one last opportunity to pay a debt for the growth I have gained from supporting the work of the Society.

Our chapters can grow and prosper from its member's involvement in the decisions and activities. Why is that important? I believe that part of the answer can be found from the observations I made while on two recent trips.

In China you can still take a trip down the Yangtze River and see the Three Gorges, but not for much longer. The central government has started a dam project that will raise the water level 600 feet. It is clear that the county needs the power to create jobs for the multitudes and to replace the acrid coal fired power plants. These plants that provide meager employment, dot the countryside and belch smog that on the right days will hug the peaks of the mountains when trapped in the river valley. It is hard to imagine the pressure on government officials to be responsible for over a billion people. But it is equally hard to grasp the unilateral decision to move over a million people out of their homes along the river's edge, close businesses, communities, and entire small cities to make way for the project. As well as it appears that the needs of the people are being cared for how could such a decision be made without the individual consent and participation in the decision? This was my first SWCS trip to see how other countries managed their conservation programs. In our country, the history of one public park's creation shows a different approach.

The Shenandoah National Park in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia was created out of one of many "dirty thirties" works projects. It was developed to protect a nature area from commercialization and as a retreat to be shared with the general public. The project, which required the movement of 220 families from their homes in the mountains, created such uproar that one of the Virginia Senators caused congress to put a moratorium on the project until a satisfactory debate could be conducted. It took two years of study and debate to protect the rights of the 220 families. Still, after all discussion was exhausted and the conclusion reached that this was the right choice, the one Senator resigned rather than be a part of taking the individual rights of his constituents. Today, this is one of the most beautiful drives you can find on the East Coast, and while you can feel for the loss of the original landowners, the fact that our form of government goes to such great lengths to protect individual rights is gratifying.

As chapter members we need more advocates to stand up and grasp the opportunity that being a part of and representing the positions of the Society can do for our communities. As individual members this is an avenue where we can make small contributions which have the potential to make significant advancements for our society. But only if we exercise that prerogative.

My association with the chapter members in Nebraska and the projects we worked together on has been one of the finer points to remember.

David R. Speidel

Native Plant Display Gets a Sprucin' Up!

Saturday, April 13 was a fine day in Lincoln for a nice, hard-working group of local SWCSers to get together for a good cause. The group provided much-needed assistance to the State Fair Park Arboretum by removing last year's plant debris and uncovering many healthy, emerging native perennial forbs and grasses in the SWCS-sponsored Native Plant Display.

The display is located on the south side of the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds and has provided many visitors with an educational and aesthetic place to learn Nebraska's native plants since 1967. Thanks to all those that helped!

Phil White, the new Curator of the arboretum, wanted to pass along his gratitude to the group as he is settling into his 325 acres of responsibility as groundskeeper.

If anyone really feels they wanted to contribute a few hours, but just couldn't, there'll be another chance! **Watch for an SWCS announcement of another morning of fun at the display helping to straighten fenceposts and take care of a few other items.**

Julia A. Lamphere

437-5178, ext. 40

Email: jlampere@fs.fed.us

**Nebraska Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
2002 Annual Meeting
Republican River Review
June 13-15, 2002
Best Western Chief Motel – McCook, Nebraska**

Thursday, June 13 – Country Kitchen

- 7:00 Board of Directors Breakfast
NE SWCS Foundation Meeting
- 8:00 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome
- Linda Taylor – Mayor, City of McCook
- Jim Harder, SWCS President
- 9:15 History of the Republican
- Gene O. Morris, The White Man Settlement
- Jerda Garey Svengalis, Republican Valley
Conservation Association
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Republican Basin Geology
- Jim Goeke, Hydrogeologist, UNL Conservation
Survey Division
- 12:00 Lunch – Best Western Courtyard
- 1:00 Republican River Issues
- Roger Patterson, Director – Nebraska
Department of Natural Resources
- 1:45 Kansas v. Nebraska v. Colorado
- Dave Cookson, Asst. Attorney General
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Republican Basin Water Study
- Matt Landon, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey
- 3:30 – 4:00 Open Forum
- 6:00 Family Picnic – Norris Park
- 7:30 Jim Salestrom in Concert – Norris Park Band Shell
Sponsored by McCook National Bank
Bringing your lawn chairs or blankets!

Friday, June 14 – Country Kitchen

- 8:00 Registration desk opens
- 8:30 Republican Basin Water Mgt Panel Discussion
- Robert Hipple, Manager, Upper Republican NRD
- Dan Smith, Manager, Middle Republican NRD
- Mike Clements, Manager, Lower Republican NRD
- John Thorburn, Manager – Tri-Basin NRD
- 10:30 Valmont Industries Tour - Valley manufacturer
- 12:00 Lunch - Best Western Courtyard
- 1:00 **Tours (choose 1)**

Irrigation

- **Swanson or Red Willow Reservoir**
- Roy Patterson, Manager – Frenchman Cambridge
Irrigation District
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- **Refreshments**
- **Irrigation Demonstration**
- Ben Hardin & Jennifer Sundberg, NRCS Irrigation
Specialists

Industry

- **Growing Meat, Milk & Money**
- Jeff Keown, Professor & Ext. Dairy Specialist, UNL
- Frank Potthoff, Southwest Nebraska Dairy
Development Partnership
- Jim Huffman, Red Willow Dairy
- Gale Schafer, Sand Systems
- **Refreshments – Bieroc Café**
- **Parker-Dayco Hose & Rubber Manufacturing**

In Town

- **Nebraska Department of Corrections Work Ethic
Camp**
- **Refreshments – Country Whimsey –old fashioned
soda fountain**
- **Olson’s Ag Lab**

6:30 Banquet – Best Western Courtyard

7:15 Award presentations

7:30 Senator Ben Nelson (Invited)

Saturday, June 15 – Country Kitchen

- 8:00 Business Meeting
Board of Directors Meeting

Nebraska Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
2002 Annual Meeting
Family Program

Thursday, June 13th

- 8:00 Registration – Country Kitchen
8:15 Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center
We will be traveling to Welfleet to experience the Native American culture at the Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center. Les & Jan Hosick have recreated an earth lodge and have an extensive collection of Indian artifacts. This day-long adventure will include a tour of the museum, earthen lodge and medicine wheel, a nature hike, and canoeing. Lunch & snacks included.

Tips: Wear comfortable clothing that can get wet & dirty. They have a great gift shop!!

- 3:00 Return to McCook
6:00 Family Picnic – Norris Park
7:30 Jim Salestrom in Concert
- Norris Park Band Shell
- Bring your lawn chairs or blankets

Friday, June 14th

- 9:00 Meet in the Best Western Courtyard
9:15 Fishing & Hiking - Barnett Park
On the banks of the Republican River

- 12:00 Lunch – Best Western Courtyard

1:00 Choose 1 Tour

Join General Session Tour
OR

Family Tour

- Visit the unique shops of downtown McCook
- Museum of the High Plains
- Country Whimsy Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlor
- George W. Norris Home

- 6:30 Banquet – Best Western Courtyard

Registration Information
Nebraska Chapter SWCS
2002 Annual Meeting
June 13-15, 2002 McCook, NE

Conference Location

Best Western Chief Motel & Country Kitchen
612 B Street (Highway 6 & 34), McCook,
Nebraska.

The general session will be held at the Country Kitchen with meals served poolside at the Chief Motel.

Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Best Western Chief Motel (308-345-3700)** at a rate of \$44/ 1 bed, \$50/ 2 beds which includes a full breakfast at the Country Kitchen. Let them know you will be attending the SWCS Meeting. Other motels are listed below. Please make your own lodging arrangements.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Cedar Inn 4 Less | 308-345-7091 |
| Days Inn & Suites | 308-345-7115 |
| Holiday Inn Express | 308-312-4505 |
| Red Horse Motel | 308-345-2800 |
| The Sage Motel | 308-345-4310 |
| Super 8 Motel | 308-345-1141 |

F-Y-I

- You will receive a nametag with your registration packet upon arrival. Nametags are required for admission to all meals and tours.

- Thursday Evening – Transportation will not be provided. From the Motel, go east on B Street to Norris Avenue, go north 5 blocks to Norris Park. Please bring your own lawn chairs or blankets for the concert. The concert is open to the public so you may want to 'set up camp' when you get to the park.

- Tour size is limited. Tours will depart from the Chief Motel.

For more information, contact:

Claudia Stevenson at; 308-352-4747

Registration Form - NE SWCS - 2002 Annual Meeting - June 13-15, 2002 - McCook, Nebraska

Name _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Wednesday, June 12

Heritage Hills Golf \$ 32.50 \$ _____

(18 holes with cart - 2 per cart)

MUST be off the course by 6:00 p.m.

| General Session: | Before May 25th | After May 25th | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Full Registration - all meals, programs & tour | | | |
| SWCS Members | \$60.00 | \$70.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-members | \$70.00 | \$80.00 | \$ _____ |
| Thursday Only | | | |
| SWCS Members | \$35.00 | \$45.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Members | \$45.00 | \$55.00 | \$ _____ |
| Friday Only | | | |
| SWCS Members | \$35.00 | \$45.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Members | \$45.00 | \$55.00 | \$ _____ |

FRIDAY TOURS - Please select one tour - Space is limited.

Irrigation Industry In Town

| Family Program | Before May 25th | After May 25th | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Thursday | \$30.00 Adult | \$40.00 | |
| | \$25.00 Child | \$35.00 | \$ _____ |
| | (Age 5-12) | | |
| Friday | \$20.00 Adult | \$30.00 | |
| | \$15.00 Child | \$25.00 | \$ _____ |
| | (Age 5-12) | | |

Please select one Friday tour:

Irrigation Industry In Town Family Tour

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please return your registration form with payment by May 25th to:

Claudia Stevenson
 Nebraska Chapter SWCS
 PO Box 40,
 Grant, NE 69140.

Northern Plains Leadership Workshop

The Northern Plains Regional Director, Myron Seneschal, led a Leadership Development Workshop on March 7 and 8 in Deadwood South Dakota. Anita Nein, Robin Foulk and I represented Nebraska. There were about 20 SWCS Chapter representatives from Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming in attendance. The workshop included Chapter and Committee reports, fun activities and fellowship. The highlight of the Workshop was spending over half a day with Craig Cox, our Society Executive Vice President.

Craig is, I believe, one of the most effective leaders the Society has ever had. He discussed the roll of the Society as a highly respected source of information related to conservation of soil and water issues at all levels. He explained the many twists and turns the proposed new farm bill has taken and how our Society has played a key roll in helping to shape it with information the legislators and their staff need. We can be proud of the work Craig and the Society Headquarters Staff is doing with our help.

I want to mention briefly one of the statements Craig made at the Workshop. In a discussion about membership he said being a member of the Society is important for many reasons if we believe in the cause of soil and water conservation. Even if we feel we can not always be an active Chapter member. I will write about this in more detail in another section of the Newsletter. Please look for and read it.

Jim Harder, President



Jim Harder, Craig Cox, Anita Nein and Robin Foulk.



Brenda Woodward, Jim Harder, Lisa Stahr, Sam Mortensen

Scholarship Winners Announced

The Nebraska Chapter of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) has announced the recipients of their scholarship winners for 2002. The three winners are all students at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. The students were introduced at the SWCS Legislative Breakfast January 30 to attending State Senators, SWCS members and other guests.

Selected for the \$1000 Nebraska SWCS Foundation Scholarship is Brenda Woodward. Brenda is the daughter of Duane and Sharon Woodward of Doniphan Nebraska. Miss Woodward is a junior at UNL majoring in Fish and Wildlife. Brenda was recently elected President of the Soil and Water Resources Club, the student section of the Nebraska Chapter SWCS.

Selected for one of two \$500 scholarships offered by the Nebraska Chapter SWCS is Samuel (Sam) Mortensen. Sam is the son of David and Collen Mortensen of Curtis Nebraska. Mr. Mortensen is a senior at UNL majoring in Diversified Agricultural Science.

The second recipient of a \$500 scholarship is Lisa Stahr. Lisa is the daughter of Jerry and Susan Stahr of York Nebraska. Lisa is a senior majoring in Biosystems Engineering.

SWCS NE Lapel Pins

We continue to have a good supply of Nebraska Chapter SWCS lapel 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, dlangeme@inetnebr.com.

SKI TRIP DOMINATED BY YOUTH

The SWCS Ski Trip was fun for all! It was really enjoyable to get acquainted with people there for the first time and to renew past SWCS acquaintances. Ski conditions were good with recent new snow and good weather for driving.

Those attending with Karl Whitmore were his sons Aaron & Bryan, and friends Nick Carville, Chris Boub, and Chris Luth. Don Foulk brought his kids Chelsey & Trevor with a friend Nate McMaster. Rich Weber skied with his wife Denise and daughters Jennifer & Jessica. Chris & Barb Jensen drove up from Scottsbluff. Steve Nein helped as the reservations coordinator for the weekend and brought his wife Anita.

The group all had an enjoyable supper together in Deadwood and discovered many interesting sites around the historic little town.

Excellence in Conservation Planning

Please mark your calendars! The Nebraska Chapters of Soil & Water Conservation Society will host the "Excellence in Conservation Planning" conference, Nov 5-7, 2002, Arbor Day Farm, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. The conference will address three areas of concern to conservation planners: Greater Scientific Understanding; Professional and Organization Certification; and New Tools and Technology.

Suggested conference topics include Pest Management Issues, Comprehensive, Nutrient Management; Carbon Sequestration and/or Soil Quality; Urban Area Planning; Sustainable Agriculture; Environmental Compliance (e.g., NEPA, wetlands, cultural resources); Planning Certification Requirements for Agency and Non-Agencies; Soil and Water Management; Impacts of New Farm Bill; Ecological Site Descriptions; GIS and GPS Technology; Toolkit and Role of the Internet."

6th Annual SWCS Golf Tournament

The sixth annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, August 23, 2002 at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln. Watch for information later on and/or email me for more information. David Langemeier, dlangeme@inetnebr.com.

SWCS Scholarships UN-L Foundation

The Nebraska Chapter and the Northeast Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society have a scholarship fund with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Foundation. The interest on this fund currently enables us to give two \$500 scholarships. Encourage students to apply for these. Contributions to this fund also increase the dollars available for scholarships. David Langemeier, dlangeme@inetnebr.com.

Craig Cox and Membership

Craig Cox, Executive Vice President of the our Soil and Water Conservation Society was asked about membership at the Northern Plains Leadership Development Workshop meeting last month in Deadwood South Dakota. He made what I thought was a startling statement about his membership history in the Society. He said he has been a member of the Society for many years, starting when he worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and later in Washington DC. He stated he had never attended a Chapter meeting until he became our Executive Vice President.

Craig went on to explain his statement. He said he felt strongly in the mission and cause of the Society but never felt he had the time or a need to be involved in the activities and opportunities a local Chapter has to offer. He did feel the cause of soil and water conservation was important enough that he was going to support it some how. He went on to say that without membership numbers the Society does not have the financial and staff resources to do what needs to be done. As membership continues to decline it becomes increasingly difficult to balance the Society budget.

He did not mean that local chapter involvement is unimportant at all! It simply means that chapter membership is important for many reasons. Some members will want to be involved in the Chapter for the personal development opportunities, socializing, networking or feel a need to make the Society stronger at that level. Other members will just want to add their support to the cause of Soil and Water Conservation without being any more involved at this time.

I told Myron Seneschal, our Northern Plains Director, that the Nebraska Chapter would try to increase our Chapter membership by a net gain of 10 new members. At this point we are about even with gains and losses. I would challenge each of you to ask someone who you think would support the cause of soil and water conservation to become a member of the society. Think of the reasons stated above and ask them. You are not asking them to commit all of their free time or all of their financial resources. You are just asking them to express an interest in the cause.

James Harder

Back Issues JSWC

Interested in back issues of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation? Gerald Montgomery (NP NRCS Regional Office) is doing some cleaning and has issues going back to the early 70's. Contact Gerald directly if you're interested or know of someone who might be.

Gerald Montgomery 437-4091

[email gerald.montgomery@np.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:gerald.montgomery@np.nrcs.usda.gov)

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

Membership: Nebraska Chapters need to be finishing up with their plan on membership retention and recruitment. I provided Chapter Presidents and Membership Chairs information on what needs to be included in the plan. The plan does not need to be more than 2 paragraphs addressing actions the chapter will take to:

1. Get a handle on chapter demographics (map previously sent, small copy below)
2. Addressing membership professional development needs
3. Membership recruitment/retention ideas (Ex. provide discounts to attend workshops or student discounts to encourage involvement of the student chapter/s)

Contact Robin Foulk @
robin.foulk@ne.usda.gov or call 308-432-
4397(HM) or 308-432-4616 ext. 3.

