



# Nebraska Society News

SoilandWaterConservation Society

## April 2003 Newsletter

### Officers 2002-2003

President	Wally Valasek	402-223-3125
Vice President	Dennis Schroeder	402-423-9683
Secretary	Craig Romary	402-464-1423
Treasurer	Dave Langemeier	402-486-1361
Past President	James Harder	402-423-9683

### *President's Message*

I would like to thank Jim Mathine and his committee for putting together an excellent agenda for the Nebraska annual SWCS meeting. The meeting will be in Ainsworth on June 11 to 13th. The theme this year is **“Where the Grass Meets the Trees”**. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for SWCS members and their families to “Enjoy The God Life” and learn about the History of North Central Nebraska. Further details on the annual meeting registration are in the newsletter.

In the last couple of weeks, those who have E-Mail should have received copies of the Chapter Notes. I have asked Doug Garrison to forward these and future ones. The Chapter Notes come out weekly and provides an excellent method of learning about SWCS activities on the national level. The officers and directors feel by receiving the chapter notes and the teleconference minutes, which were E-Mailed earlier, members will be better informed of local and national SWCS activities.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Northern Plains Chapter Leadership and Development Workshop. Nebraska had a good representation with 7 members in attendance. The workshop was held in Gering this year, and was hosted by the Nebraska Chapter. Robin Foulk and Anita Nein made the arrangements and set up the program. The program proved to be both enlightening and educational.

One item that was discussed extensively was how to increase chapter membership. Presently the Nebraska Chapter has 173 members and the Northeast Chapter 35. The regional membership goal is for a 9% increase. This may seem like a lot but if everyone makes an effort to bring at least one member into the organization this goal will easily be met. Nebraska has had nine new members join SWCS and two transfer in, since 4/2002. See who they are elsewhere in the newsletter.

During our last teleconference the officers and directors felt that the GIS Symposium in Lincoln, May 13-15th, would provide an excellent opportunity to promote SWCS membership. We will do this by sponsoring a booth and manning the booth, during the Symposium. We are also making efforts to promote memberships by Natural Resources Districts.

The leadership of Anita Nein, John Beckwith, Corey Brubaker, Craig Derickson, Julie Lamphere, Linda Green and Robert Glidden resulted in a very successful workshop entitled “Excellence in Conservation Planning,” at the Lied Center in Nebraska City on November 5-7, 2002. Many comments were received about the excellent program and facilities. Their dedication and leadership is what makes SWCS successful in NE. GREAT JOB

In order to save the chapter some postage money we are considering sending out the newsletter and other information in the future by E-Mail to as many members as possible. If you are not receiving Chapter Notes or the teleconference minutes, please provide Doug Garrison ([doug.garrison@ne.usda.gov](mailto:doug.garrison@ne.usda.gov)) with your E-Mail address. If you have any major concerns with the use of E-Mail please contact one of the officers or directors.

See you in Ainsworth at our Annual Meeting

*WALLY VALASEK*

### **TAKE NOTE:**

#### **“Where the Grass Meets the Trees”**

Plan now to attend the NE SWCS Annual Meeting, June 11-13, in Ainsworth Nebraska. Registration Form Due Date is Saturday May 17th, so don't delay. The Agenda and Registration Form is included with this newsletter. Return the Registration Form to Jim Mathine.

#### **Section Ballot Enclosed**

Those in South Central and Panhandle Sections will find enclosed a Ballot to vote for a new Director. Return the Ballot to Paul Zillig.

#### **NE SWC Foundation Ballot Enclosed**

All SWCS Members should complete the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation Ballot found on the last page of this newsletter. Return to Paul Smith by June 1, 2003.

## Northern Plains Chapters Meet in Gering NE

By Myron Senechal, Director, Northern Plains

“Plans pulled off as expected for a Chapter Development Workshop for Northern Plains (NP) SWCS Chapters on Thursday-Friday, March 6-7, 2003 at the Civic Center in Gering, NE,” according to Myron Senechal, Northern Plains Director for the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Co-keynote presenters were Kent Matsutani, NE past President and Dr. Lorenz Sutherland, CO Chapter Member, according to Senechal. Other program leaders were Robin Foulk and Anita Nein both from the NE Chapter and John Knapp from CO chapter and Mike Collins from the WY chapter.

Matsutani sits on the Conservation Title II Farm Bill Implementation team. He gave first hand experiences and challenges for implementing conservation farm programs. Sutherland presented Soil Conditioning Index and diversity and intensity cropping information. The NP Society Leadership team organized and conducted the technical/leadership workshop.

Northern Plains Chapters reported on local Chapter technical workshop successes and learning experiences for network sharing. Technical, as well as, leadership promotional material was shared. Chapters shared local natural resource information and SWCS promotional materials, such as mini-symposium, workshops, and flyers.

The program agenda was designed for technical presentations and leadership development. Local Chapter leaders and their committee leadership and aspiring members participated in the training. The Northern Plains Society includes state Chapters in MT, WY, CO, NE, SD and ND.

Benefits of Participation in Leadership workshop:

1. Collect ideas that work from neighboring chapters.
2. Learn how to motivate members to make your Chapter job easier.
3. Network with other leaders throughout the Northern Plains region.
4. Take home a plan to make your chapter more effective and stronger.
5. Participate in discussions to shape the SWCS's future and your Chapters' future.



*Our SWCS Leaders In Action....*

## NEW!! MEMBERS DISCUSSION FORUM

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has launched a discussion forum on our website at:

<http://forums.swcs.org/forum>

At this location, members will be able to give the Board of Directors and staff feedback on several issues. Hopefully, it will be a running conversation on topics of interest to the members, Board, and staff.

Staff has begun three forums to get things started. First, members are asked about what they see the role SWCS should be playing in the Technical Service Providers initiative. Second, members are asked how they think SWCS can strengthen EQIP. Third, members are asked to share or ask questions with other members on any topic they want. These forums will be monitored by the Board and staff to get a feeling as to what the membership wants.

The forum will be linked from the website from several locations or it can be accessed at the URL above. You must enter a user name and password to post anything on the forum. This can be anything you want. Then click on the “Welcome” or “Help is out There” to get into that particular forum. Accepting cookies is a good idea.

It is unclear how much of an interest is out there for a discussion forum like this. If you are not familiar with forum software, you may need to play with it to orient yourself. Please do! We want to encourage members to give the discussion forum a chance. Please share what you know with your fellow members! Thank you.

**Wednesday, June 11, 2003**

**Ainsworth Country Club (5 miles west of Ainsworth)**

1:30 – 6:00 Registration and Golfing  
6:30 – 7:30 Evening Meal  
7:30 – 9:00 SWCS Board Meeting

**Thursday June 12, 2003**

**Ainsworth Conference Center (606 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street)**

7:00 – 8:00 SWCS Foundation Board Breakfast Meeting  
(Ainsworth Inn Bed & Breakfast @ Corner of Main and Hwy 20)  
7:30 – 8:30 Registration  
8:30 – 8:45 Welcome and Opening  
Russ Moody – Mayor of Ainsworth  
Wally Valasek – SWCS President  
8:45 – 9:15 History of North Central Nebraska  
Sid Salzman – Area Rancher  
9:00 – 4:00 Family Program (please see family tour agenda)  
9:15 – 10:00 School Lands Policies on Grazing and Wildlife  
Cort Dewing – Area School Lands Representative  
10:00 – 10:30 Break  
View table displays  
10:30 – 11:15 Barta Brothers Extension Research Ranch  
Dennis Bauer – Extension Agent  
11:15 – 12:00 National Parks Service – Niobrara Scenic River Plan  
Paul Hedron – National Parks Service  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch at Conference Center (catered)  
1:00 – 1:30 Niobrara Valley Woodworking Products  
Sheila Chance – NVWP Chairperson  
1:30 – 3:30 SWCS Annual Business Meeting  
3:30 – 4:00 Meet and Travel to Sawle's Sawmill  
4:00 – 6:00 Tour of Sawle's Sawmill  
6:30 - ? Pitchfork Steak Dinner at Meadville Park; Annual Awards Presentation by Val Bohaty;  
Entertainment by Chris Gudgel

**Friday June 13, 2003**

**Niobrara Valley Preserve**

8:15 – 9:00 Meet at Super 8 Motel parking lot and travel to the Nature Conservancy Niobrara Valley Preserve  
9:00 – 12:00 Tour of Niobrara Valley Preserve including bison, cedar harvesting, burn areas and view 'post peeler' in action.  
12:00 – 1:30 Sack lunch at Nature Conservancy visitor center . Wrap-up Board of Director's Meeting

**Thursday June 12, 2003**

**Family Tour Agenda**

9:00 – 11:30 Visiting antique and gift shops in Ainsworth.  
11:30 – 12:00 Travel to Springview  
12:00 – 1:00 Enjoy lunch at Koyote Lodge  
1:00 – 2:00 View large wind turbines near Springview  
2:00 – 4:00 Tour log cabin homes made from local pine and/or cedar logs.  
4:00 – 6:00 Tour of Sawle's Sawmill

Wednesday afternoon golfing is on your own. Green fees for 9 holes is \$11.00 and with cart rental is an additional \$12.00. Fees for 18 holes of golfing is \$16.00 and with cart rental is an additional \$18.00. Be sure to take in the golfing event as there will be several fun prizes awarded to the lucky recipients.

Breakfast on Thursday and Friday will be on your own except for those attending the Foundation Meeting breakfast Thursday morning at the Ainsworth Inn Bed and Breakfast.

Besides our planned activities, there are many more exciting sites to visit and adventures to take. Canoeing the Niobrara River or visiting Smith Falls (Nebraska's largest waterfall) are near by attractions which you may wish to enjoy before leaving North Central Nebraska. If you have any questions, please call Jim Mathine at (402)-589-9019. Looking forward to seeing you at the 2003 Annual Meeting!

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NE Chapter 2003 Annual SWCS Meeting  
**June 11 - 13, Ainsworth, Nebraska**  
**Registration Form - Due May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Mail Today To: Jim Mathine, PO Box 103 Butte, NE 68722

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. (day): \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. (eve): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Full registration: member and nonmember. Children do not need to pay registration

By May 17, 2003

After May 17, 2003

Number of Adults x 15.00 = \$

Number of Adults x 25.00 = \$

Wednesday evening meal at Ainsworth Country Club

Burgers/hotdogs, chips, salad, baked beans, ice tea or coffee

Number of individuals x 6.00 = \$

Thursday Foundation Meeting Breakfast at Ainsworth Inn Bed & Breakfast

Number of individuals x 6.00 = \$

Thursday noon meal at Conference Center.

BBQ beef sandwich, macaroni salad, fruit, drink.

Number of individuals x 6.75 = \$

Thursday noon meal for individuals on the family

tour will be on your own at Koyote Lodge in

Springview.

Thursday evening meal at Meadville Park

Pitchfork Steak, baked potato, Niobrara toast, corn on the cob, salad, homemade ice cream and drinks.

Children 8 and under may have pitchfork steak for \$8.00 or select burgers/hotdogs for \$5.00.

Number of individuals x 16.25 = \$

8 years or under x 8.00 = \$

8 years or under x 5.00 = \$

Friday sack lunch at Niobrara Valley Preserve

Number of individuals x 6.00 = \$

Make checks payable to Sandhills SWCS. Total enclosed \$

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Make your plans now for a visit to north central Nebraska. A block of 30 rooms has been held at the Super 8 Motel in Ainsworth at the special group rate of \$43.99 plus tax. You will need to make your reservation by May 28, 2003 to ensure this rate by calling the local number listed below.

Following is a listing of Brown County Lodging Facilities:

Super 8 Motel	1 (800)-800-8000 or 1 (402)-387-0700
Comfort Inn	1 (888)-757-1050 or 1 (402)-387-1050
Ainsworth Inn Bed and Breakfast	1 (402)-387-0408
Skinner's Motor Court	1 (402)-387-2021
Upper Room Bed & Breakfast	1 (402)-387-0107
Pine Valley Resort, Long Pine	1 (402)-273-4351
The Pines, Long Pine	1 (402)-273-4483

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## Woody Plants for the Central and Northern Prairies

Walter T. Bagley, a member of the Nebraska Chapter, has co-authored a book dealing with identifying woody plants growing in the heartland of the United States. Descriptions and sketches are included for most of the native and exotic plants that you are likely to find or wish to grow. This book provides factual information to professional and amateur horticulturalists, landscape designers, foresters, students, farmers and urban dwellers.

For more information or to buy a book check the web site [www.blackburnpress.com/woodplanforc.html](http://www.blackburnpress.com/woodplanforc.html)

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## Master Gardener's Plant Fair May 2 & 3 Norfolk Nebraska

The Northeast Nebraska Chapter will again be hosting a booth at the Master Gardener's Plant Fair in Norfolk at Northeast Community College May 2 & 3.

There will be native grasses, birdhouses, birdseed, rocks and plant stakes for sale. The Lower Elkhorn NRD will be providing tree mats and possibly tree seedlings too. Free SWCS posters and wildflower seeds plus lots of good backyard conservation information will be available to those visiting the booth. Rod Angeroth, chapter member, will conduct a 45 minute educational seminar on "Woodland Botanicals - Pitfalls & Peaks of Getting These Plants To Grow". The talk will be geared to the novice backyard gardener.

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## 20th Annual Legislative Breakfast Held January 29, 2003

LOCATION: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Conference Room, State Office Building  
Opening: President Wally Valasek. MC: Dayle Williamson.

SPEAKER: Roger Patterson, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Topic: Water issues facing Nebraska

Steve Chick, State Cons, NRCS-USDA, update on NRCS issues

Rolls, coffee and orange juice served. Cost:\$2.00. State Senators and students - free.

Coordinator: Kris Reed. Rolls: Val Bohaty. Coffee and room set-up: Kris Reed. Finances: David Langemeier. Student scholarship winners were introduced.

Attendance: Retired	4
NRCS Nebraska	7
Nebr. DNR	4
Nebr. Dept. of Ag	1
Nebr. Legis. Senators	6
Nebr. Legis. Aid	2
UNL	1
Forest Service	1
U.S.Senator's Office	1
Students	2
Total	29
SWCS Members	17
Non-SWCS	12

Report by David Langemeier.

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## Make membership goals part of your chapter's annual plan

by Steve Smarik, Western Region Director

If you've been reading articles in the "Conservogram" and elsewhere, you know that the membership of SWCS is on somewhat of a downward slide. Simply put, we've had a 30% decline in membership in the last ten years. There are many perceived reasons for this trend. But rather than talk about that, I'd like to spend a few moments talking about reversing that trend.

SWCS can be categorized as a membership-based professional society, which typically means that a significant portion of the Society's income (and henceforth, operation expenses) is derived from membership dues. So as the membership numbers decline, so does the ability of the Society to provide member services and effect its goals and ideals. Paradoxically though, the expectations of the remaining members does not lower. The vacuum created by the passing freight train of exiting members pulls others into its wake.

Reversing this trend has been a daunting task. The exodus has appeared to slow, but we can't say we have yet reversed it. The task of reversing the trend lies on the shoulders of the chapters and the members themselves. As you develop your annual plans for the upcoming year, please consider membership recruitment as a priority. Chapters should develop a strategy to both recruit and retain members, and one of the easiest ways to do that is to develop activities and conferences that meet the needs of the membership.

Individual members must assume the role as advocate for the Society. However, asking one member to recruit dozens borders on the absurd. A more realistic approach would be to ask each member to goal himself/herself just one new recruit to SWCS. In a year's time, we could double our membership, be proud of ourselves that we accomplished our New Year's SWCS Resolution of reversing the trend, and collectively feel a whole lot better about the future of our Society.

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## SWC Foundation Scholarship Winner

Leah Bomberger has been selected as the winner of the Scholarship presented by the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Foundation. Leah is a Junior at UN'L majoring in Water Science. She is a member of the Soil & Water Conservation Club on East Campus.

She is a graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School and worked as an intern with DEQ last summer. She has interest in Water Quality Projects and the environment.

Leah Bomberger was presented with a check from the Foundation at a luncheon on January 8th attended by Val Bohaty, Foundation President, Wally Valasek, Dave Langemeier, Krista Reed and Paul Smith.

Paul Smith  
Scholarship Committee

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## Welcome New NE SWCS Members

### Blue Nemaha

Stephen Kennedy Brownville  
Tamela Timms Wilber  
Roger Reichmuth Tecumseh

### Lincoln

Kristine Nemece Bellevue  
John Zaugg Omaha

### Panhandle

Tina Lorentzen Scottsbluff

### Sandhills

Michael Murphy Valentine

### South Central

James Miller Alma  
Jennifer Sundberg Holdrege

### Transferred in members:

### Blue Nemaha

Terrance Newell Pawnee City

### Panhandle

Dallas Johonnsen Scottsbluff

## SWCS Student Scholarship Winners - 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 investment fund enabled us to give two \$750 scholarships in December 2002.

The year 2002-2003 scholarship winners are Brenda K. Woodward and Clayton J. Ridenour.

Brenda is an UNL Senior majoring in Fish and Wildlife and comes from Doniphan, Nebraska. She is Past-President of the UNL Soil and Water Resources Club. Brenda has worked for several government agencies where she has gained experience on fisheries and associated research. Her goal is to obtain a Master's Degree in the fisheries field and then focus on habitat use and alteration, and on related water quality issues.

Clayton is an UNL Senior majoring in Fish and Wildlife and comes from Lincoln, Nebraska. In college he has focused on water resources and water based systems. His goals include being a fisheries biologist or perhaps serving society as a public school teacher.

The Nebraska SWCS chapters are pleased to announce these two scholarship winners. Please congratulate them when you see them and encourage them as they pursue careers in the natural resources field.

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## 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](mailto:dlangeme@inetnebr.com).

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## SWCS International Headquarter Address Change

NEW ADDRESS:

Soil and Water Conservation Society  
945 SW Ankeny Road  
Ankeny, IA 50021

## Native Plant Display Gets a Touch Up!

Saturday, April 12 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.

One of the most prominent individuals associated with the State Fair, J. Sterling Morton, proposed the State Fair establish the first Arbor Day in 1872. It seemed appropriate that State Fair Park should be designated an arboretum to urge upon the people of the state the vital importance of tree planting. In 1981, groundwork was laid for the Nebraska State Fair Park Arboretum, and many other types of planting.

State Fair Park Arboretum serves as a valuable educational tool to the citizens of the State. The educational mission is achieved with demonstrations and examples of the teaching of sound, low maintenance procedures, good design, and thoughtful choices of hardy plant material. Plants are labeled and interpreted to encourage others to plant trees, shrubs, perennial flowers and grasses. Plant collections include hardy ornamental plants; however, most displays (like the Soil and Water Conservation Society sponsored Native Plant Display at the 4-H Bldg.) focus on plants that are native to the Great Plains. This reflects the culture of the State of Nebraska by demonstrating the unique plant community which is available for use in our region.

Initially designed and planted in 1967 with help from many Soil Conservation Service employees as members of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the Native Plant Display was redesigned and renovated in 1992, the 25th anniversary of the planting. Many of the original plantings still exist today. This plant display is a welcome sight of waving grasses and blooming flowers each year during the Nebraska State Fair. Its relaxation and educational values are immeasurable... throughout the rest of the year as well.

Julia A. Lamphere



## Student Pancake Feed Makes Good Dough!

Members of the UN-L SWCS Student Chapter (the Soil and Water Resources Club) would like to express their great appreciation to the many SWCS members who really came through and showed their legendary SWCS support for others by attending or contributing to the 2003 Pancake Feed. We even had people donating from the Panhandle! Thank you so much, everyone! (Yes, the pancakes were delicious.)

Warren United Methodist Church provided the close setting to UN-L's East Campus in Lincoln on March 7, 2003. The club cosponsored the event, for the first time, with the Society of Range Mgt. Student Chapter (the Range Mgt. Club), showing unity and mutual respect in the natural resources world. Over 120 people attended, and of course many just graciously donated ticket money. Profits were well over \$500 and split between the two clubs. Club treasuries welcomed the addition and the SWRC portion may be used for various activities including community service projects, membership recruitment, and natural resources educational tours. In fact, the SWRC then went to view the annual crane migration on March 29th, near Grand Island. It's a great group in which to be a member!

Julia A. Lamphere

## "Excellence in Conservation Planning"

This was the title of the recently held 2002 Northern Plains Professional Development Conference, Nov. 5-7 at Arbor Day Farm Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska.

The Conference was well attended by Conservationist from a number of States within and outside of the Northern Plains Region. Panel Sessions, Concurrent Sessions, Poster Sessions and Arbor Day Farm Tour highlighted some of the technical opportunities presented at the conference. Professional and Motivational Sessions wrapped up the three day conference.

Attendees had ample opportunity to relax and share their own special interests with others in the unique setting of the Arbor Day Farm Lodge. Comments from everyone involved from presenters, to attendees, to conference coordinators were overall positive!



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

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

NOTE:  
All SWCS Members should vote.

Vote for one:

Richard Leitschuck \_\_\_\_\_  
S. Sioux City, NE

Charles Reppert \_\_\_\_\_  
Pender, NE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Write In)

Return ballot by June 1, 2003 to:

Paul D. Smith  
1319 Eastridge Dr.  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Summary of candidates:

Richard Leitschuck is the incumbent and has served as Secretary of the Foundation for over 10 years. He is the retired District Conservationist from the S. Sioux City SCS Office. Since retirement he has done volunteer work for the local RC&D.

Charles Reppert lives on a farm near Pender. He retired from the BIA in Thurston County and is active in SWCS and farm organizations. He always attends the SWCS Annual Meetings.