



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

What a year 2001 has been. We held a successful Society Annual Meeting in Nebraska City in June. The International SWCS held its Annual Meeting in South Carolina. There were the terrorist attacks in September. There has been the ongoing debate shaping a new farm bill. There has been the recent murder of international conservation leader, Peter Blake. These events have or will affect our cause and lives.

In the midst of all of this we go on. Our Soil and Water Conservation Society is and does nothing more than what we as members and leaders are and do. We are people who have a strong interest in "conserving" the soil and water resources we have been blessed with. We do what our individual priorities allow. As the pressures of increasing population demand use of these natural resources we must not shrink from the responsibilities we recognize. There are those who would use and abuse these resources with little regard for the future. We must educate and lead as individuals and Society members to make sure "conservation" gets done.

I am pleased with the work the Nebraska Chapter of SWCS has done since June. There are several activities planned for the remainder of this 2001/2002 program year that should be of interest to you. I encourage you to stay involved or get involved in the conservation movement through our Society Chapter. Invite a friend or acquaintance with a like interest to join us.

Committees are an important part of any organization. Following is a list of the Nebraska Chapter Committees and their Chairs. These people have volunteered to serve our Chapter. They have permission to solicit help from any member when needed. I hope you will say yes if asked. Please feel free to contact these folks with or for pertinent information. If you would like to help in any of these areas please let them know.

- Awards Val Bohaty
- Bylaws Ed Harms
- Elections Paul Zillig
- Environmental Ed. Marvin Brown
- Finance Dave Langemeier
- History Paul Smith
- Membership Craig Derickson
- Newsletter Doug Garrison
- Nominations Wally Valasek
- Scholarship Paul Smith

Sincerely,

James (Jim) Harder -President

Nebraska Chapter SWCS Board of Directors

(Seven directors, three-year terms, terms are staggered)

Terms end 6/2004

Northeast Chapter Representative
Charles Reppert
402 385 2790

Sandhills Section
Jim H. Mathine
402) 775-2341 work
james.mathine@ne.usda.gov

Terms end 6/2002

Lincoln Section
S. Corey Brubaker
402 441 6753 W
sbrubaker1@unl.edu

Blue Nemaha Section
Walter J Valasek
402 223 3586 W
wally.valasek@ne.usda.gov

Director at Large
David R. Speidel
402 439 2166 ext 121
david.speidel@ne.usda.gov

Terms end 6/2003

Panhandle Section
Kent Matsutani
308 254 4507 W
w.matsutani@ne.usda.gov

South Central Section
Randal Gunn
402 845 6678 W
randal.gunn@ne.usda.gov

Delegate Report – SWCS International Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Saturday – Left Columbus, NE at 4:30 am. CST. Left Eppley Airport in Omaha at 7:10 am. Arrived in Atlanta, GA, changed planes and flew into Wilmington, North Carolina at approximately 2:00 pm. EST. I picked up my luggage (it was all there) and rental car and headed for Myrtle Beach. Looking at the map, I thought it would take 1 to 1.5 hours. Everyone decided to go to the beach that day, so it took me 2.5 hours.

The Delegate meeting was getting over as I checked in at the SWCS Conference desk. Myron Senechal, Regional Director, filled me in on some items and provided me a bunch a literature to read that night. I got checked into the hotel and found out I was on the top floor – the 20th. Nice view!

Sunday – I signed up for a golf outing with SWCS. There are over 100 golf courses in the Myrtle Beach area! I had the privilege of golfing with J. Read Smith, National President of NACD, from the Palouse area of Washington State. Pretty good golfer for a farmer.

Monday – I attended conservation presentations, concurrent sessions, all day. I filled in for Darla Juhl and gave a 15 minute presentation discussing locally led conservation in the Lower Platte North NRD.

Tuesday – I attended the Northern Plains Breakfast with Steve Chick, John Beckwith, Craig Derickson & Norm Helzer. If I forgot someone from Nebraska that was there, I apologize. After breakfast, I attended a workshop on locally led conservation.

Wednesday – I left Myrtle Beach at 4:30 am. EST. This time it only took 1.5 hours to get back to Wilmington. Apparently, no one wanted to go to the beach at 5:00 in the morning. Odd. I was back in Columbus early that afternoon.

I met a lot of people from many areas. If you were wearing the SWCS name tag, other member went our of their way to make you feel like family. It was a good experience and I recommend the Conference to all conservationists.

Respectively submitted, Steven W. Huber, Nebraska SWCS Delegate



Some Nebraska Chapter Representatives pose in front of the Hugh Hamond Bennet poster at the International Conference in Myrtle Beach.



Nebraska Chapter Representatives pose along with other Chapters from the Northern Plains Region.

Nebraska Well Represented at 2001 International Conference

Among those attending the 2001 International Conference in Myrtle Beach were:

Gary Muckel, John Miyoshi, Craig Derickson, Stephen Chick, Linda Greene, Norman Helzer, Mark Kuzila, John Beckwith, Gus Hughbanks, Bahman Eghball, Michele Schoeneberger, Steven Huber, Anita Nein, Gerald Vap, Charles Reppert, Tony Vrana.

Membership Goals

I challenge Northern Plains Chapters to develop a strategy to increase their membership by 7 members. The Society's goal is to increase membership to 7000. The region's goal is to increase membership to 795. Given the 7 different chapters within the region and the estimated current membership at 747(9/2001) if we could increase each chapter by 7 the Northern Plains region would be successful in membership recruitment and retention.

I will be forwarding upcoming activities and events to assist chapters in completing this goal, but I challenge you to visit with your membership and discuss how you could accomplish your goal. Some things already happening are:

Nebraska sent out a simple survey via e-mail and in their newsletter on membership wants and needs. I will forward a copy with the results. The National Membership Committee has developed an action plan of items to follow up with in the next 6 months. I will forward a copy with progress.

The Northern Plains Development Workshop identified action items and I will forward progress and copy of that draft. (This was sent earlier to chapter officers.)

Finally, please e-mail me your membership contact for each chapter. I am concerned I am sending membership information to the wrong individual.

Thanks! - Robin Foulk
Northern Plains Membership Chair
308-432-4616 ext. 3 - robin.foulk@ne.usda.gov

Nebraska To Host Regional Workshop

The two SWCS Chapters of Nebraska were contacted to see if they would support hosting a regional workshop for professional development of SWCS Members and others wanting to be on the cutting edge of topics in natural resource planning.

Both chapters said they would give support to this endeavor. The Northeast Chapter offered to send a member to the planning committee. She is Julie Lamphere. Robert Glidden represents the Nebraska Chapter from the western part of the state. John Beckwith and Craig Derickson represent the eastern sector of that chapter. Cory Brubaker is a Nebraska chapter member who will bring a viewpoint from the University of Nebraska and members seeking certifications to keep their licenses valid. Anita Nein contributes from the Professional Development Committee.

Planning time has been devoted to brainstorming and selecting topics that will appeal to a great cross section of people interested in natural resources from all over the Northern Plains Region. The workshop will be November 5,6, and 7 of 2002. Committees have been formed to select the best location and program sessions. Grants are being submitted for the budget of the workshop. Chapter members will be asked to contribute in numerous ways, so watch for updates in future articles of this newsletter.

Northern Plains Chapter Development Workshop

The Northern Plains Region of SWCS is planning a Chapter Development Workshop in Spearfish, South Dakota, March 8 & 9, 2002. Any and all Society members are invited to participate in the workshop. Our Executive Director, Craig Cox will be with us to share current information related to the International SWCS activities and words of encouragement. Some of us are already planning to attend. Let me know if you are interested in going with us. It will be a great chance to improve your leadership skills through the workshops offered. You can also get better acquainted with other SWCS folks in the Northern Plains Region, meet Mr. Cox in person, and recharge your batteries.

There is no registration fee. We will try to keep our travel and lodging expenses to a minimum. Give this opportunity some serious thought.

SWCS Northern Plains New Leadership Team

Myron Senechal, Vice President and Northern Plains Director of SWCS has four new subordinate leadership positions. These new positions will bring information, new ideas and energy to the region.

Robin Foulk -NE, Leads with chapter membership.

John Knapp-CO, Leads with chapter development.

Anita Nien-NE, Leads with professional development

Michael Collins-WY, Leads with chapter awards.

Anthrax in the News

What does anthrax have to do with conservation? Anthrax is caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It occurs naturally in wild and domestic animals and animal waste (cattle, sheep, antelope, and other herbivores) and can survive for years in the soil. Although US animal infections are rare, typical risk groups include vets, tanneries, meat processors and livestock handlers. Until recently, anthrax was only a problem for third world countries. For info. <http://www.cdc.gov/>

**NEBRASKA CHAPTER OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

2001

JUNE

14-16 NE Chapter Annual Meeting

JULY

7/18 President and Past President planning/orientation meeting

- Annual Work Plan
- Committee Assignment Issues
- Long Range Plan Issues
- Transfer of Records

AUGUST

8/4-8 International SWCS Meeting

8/15 President contact agency leadership

- Introduction
- Encourage Support
- Tentative meeting schedules

SEPTEMBER

9/8 NE Chapter Golf Outing

9/5 NE Chapter Board of Directors Teleconference (consider a face to face meeting with committee chairpersons included)

9/23-25 NARD Meeting

OCTOBER

9-10/? 1st Newsletter goes out in October or November

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

12/5 NE Chapter Board of Directors Teleconference

12/19 Joint meeting with NSWC Foundation on scholarship selection

12-1/? 2nd Newsletter goes out in December or January

2002

JANUARY

1/10 NSWC Foundation luncheon scholarship presentation

1/30 NE Chapter Legislative Breakfast

1/? NE Chapter Ski Trip

FEBRUARY

2/15 Annual Report to Ankeny Due

2/20 Contact Agency Leadership with details of annual meeting to encourage participation

MARCH

3/6 NE Chapter Board of Directors Teleconference

3/7&8 NP Leadership Development Workshop, Spearfish, SD

APRIL

4/1 Start of Fiscal Year

4-5/? 3rd Newsletter goes out in April or May

MAY

TBD Possible NE Chapter Board of Directors Teleconference

5/ NE GIS Symposium, cosponsored by SWCS

JUNE

ASAP Send nominees for officer positions to current officers for vote preparation
A short bio would be helpful too

6/13-15 NE Chapter Annual Meeting

JULY

TBD President and Past President planning/orientation meeting

7/13-17 International SWCS Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana

AUGUST

8/ 15 President contact agency leadership

- Introduction
- Encourage Support
- Tentative meeting schedules

5th Annual NE Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney

The fifth annual Nebraska Chapter SWCS Golf Tourney was held on August 24, 2001 at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln. Twenty six golfers (10 members and 16 non-members) participated. A two-person team, best ball format was used. Winners were: 1st - Richard Langemeier and Glen Langemeier; tied for 2nd - John Beckwith and Don McCarthy, and David Langemeier and Roland Langemeier; and 3rd - Scott Argabright and Wayne Manthei. The best putting team was Kevin Ertz and Gary Muckel. Other golfers were Dana Snyder, Bob Rathjen, Joe Calder, Gus Dornbush, Tony Vrana, Don Vrana, Gary Wells, Bill Hayes, Jim Carr, Brad Soncksen, Earl Lockridge, Jim Culver, Jim Thomas, David Walker, Scott Wright and Dan Orecchio.

Flag prizes were given for all 18 holes plus special prizes for various events.

Prizes were donated by T.O. Haas Tire, Gaylen Most (Keebler Cookie Co.), Budweiser D & D Distributors, Wal-Mart, NARD, State Farm, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Highlands Golf Course, Lower Platte North NRD, Williamson Honda, Bagel & Joe, Diers Ford, Austad's Golf, and Nebraska Soybean Board.

David Langemeier (e-mail langeme@inetnebr.com) welcomes comments on the timing, location and format for the year 2002 Sixth Annual golf event.

NRCS Sponsors 8th Annual Nebraska Regional Science Bowl

Ever wish you had all the answers? Well, we have them...for the questions to be asked of the Science Bowl participants, and thank goodness we do! On February 2, 2002, 30 Nebraska High School teams will hope that they do but expect that we will. Nebraska NRCS has been hosting the Science Bowl since it came to Nebraska and Dave Langemeier, SWCS has volunteered as treasurer. **THANKS DAVE!**

Volunteers are what keep this event going. We need 100 volunteers on the day of the Science Bowl to ask the questions, time the competition, keep score, post the scores and a variety of other duties. Once someone has volunteered, they keep coming back year after year. It's a fun time, lunch is provided and so is a t-shirt. If you would like to help out for 2 hours or more we would love to have you and will put you to work.

Go to the web site http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/careerops/Science_Bowl/scibwl.html for the sign up forms or call Arlis Plummer at 402-437-4066. The competition is held on the University of Nebraska, Lincoln campus. Training sessions for competition officials are held Thursday, January 31st, 7-9 PM and Friday, February 1st, 8:30-10:30 AM at the Lower Platte South NRD office in Lincoln.

If you ever wonder how the next generation will be able to handle things after us...come and watch the competition and you might feel as I do, that I'm glad they can answer all the science questions because they are a lot smarter than I am. I'm just glad I have the answer sheet...at least for a day.

Northeast Chapter - Plant Sale Report

May 4th & 5th proved to be a lot of fun and also profitable for the Northeast Nebraska SWCS Chapter. This was the date for the Norfolk Annual Plant Sale.

Chapter members contributed native grasses from their own prairies and time to grow other native plants in their homes. The Wayne State College donated greenhouse space for growing the plants. The Lower Elkhorn NRD donated tree seedlings to give away. Other chapter members donated supplies and put together bird houses for sale.

The chapter earned a nice profit from the sale, as well as the opportunity to educate others. The chapter sponsored a booth, from which all of the above were sold or given away. Members also gave presentations on "Backyard Conservation". This is a program promoted by USDA/NRCS.

Thanks goes to the SWCS Ankeny Office. They donated 50th Anniversary posters, cups, caps and other supplies. While we promoted the Society, people were very interested in natural resources conservation.

Julie Lamphere

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.

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

Legislative Breakfast Scheduled

The 18th Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Legislative Breakfast will be held Wednesday January 30, 2002 from 6:45 AM to 8:00 AM.

LOCATION: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Conference Room, on 4th floor in the State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE.

SPEAKER: Steve Chick, State Conservationist, NRCS-USDA.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Rolls and coffee will be served. Cost is \$2.00

Questions: Contact Kris Reed
NE DNR, Phone 402-471-3946

Email kreed@drn.state.ne.us

Annual Ski Trip

If you are interested in having a *COOL* time, contact Claudia Stevenson NOW. The Annual Ski Trip is usually the middle of January. Call Claudia at: 308-352-4747 ext. 3 for details.

Planning Underway For NE 2002 Meeting

The 2002 Annual Meeting will be June 13-15, 2002 at McCook, NE. Although not refined and/or finalized, the theme will deal with the Use, Management, Impact, etc. of Ground & Surface Water in Nebraska.

Likely topics for presentation include the multi-state aspects of water use such as the Republican River Basin issue, various management practices such as sub-surface drip irrigation and similar issues. The committee will probably finalize the agenda in January. If anyone has input for the next meeting please contact: Randy Gunn at 402-845-6678.

Membership Renewal Reminder

USDA/NRCS Employees, Human Resources has a small supply of Form AD-1054, Request For Payroll Deduction for Association (Society) Dues. Each eligible employee may have a maximum of two union/association dues withholding in effect at the same time. Upon receipt of Form AD-1054 (signed by the Association), the withholding request will be processed through our National Finance Center (NFC) system.