



# Nebraska Society News

Soil and Water Conservation Society

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Secretary  
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## May 2008 Newsletter Officers 2007-2008

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### Scholarship Winners

Justin Trout, Freshmen at Chadron State College from Franklin, NE was the recipient of one of the SWCS Foundation Scholarships. Justin is majoring in Range management with a Livestock Option.

He is also a member of the Chadron State Football team, AG Club and Wildlife Club member, Range Team Member and has a whole list of other awards and activities he was involved in high school and currently at Chadron State College.



*Robin Foulk and Justin Trout*

Renee Bowers is a sophomore from Arnold, NE majoring in Water Science. Some of her other interests and hobbies are; playing sports and being physically active, outdoor photography, hunting water fowl, and working with animals.

Her job experiences have been in construction, working for contractors in her hometown. Last summer she enjoyed interning for the United States Geological Survey and will continue to intern there during the summers until she graduates from UNL. Renee looks forward to having a career with the USGS after college.



*Renee Bowers*

Jessica Milby is a senior from Fullerton, NE majoring in Rangeland Ecosystems. Jess grew up on a farm where her dad grew corn and soybeans. She became interested in range management and ecology through range judging in FFA.

This summer will be her third summer working and helping with research at the University's Barta Brothers Ranch near Rose, NE. After graduating next December, Jess plans to continue on to graduate school to pursue a masters degree in range ecology.



*Craig Romary and Jessica Milby*

### NE SWCS Annual Meeting – June 5-7, 2008 – Holdrege, Nebraska

This years Annual Meeting will feature Invasive Species issues on Thursday June 5th. Speakers will include Annabel Major, NE Invasive Species Project Coordinator, Steve Rasmussen, Nebraska Forest Service, Vicki Wohlers, State Plant Health Directory, USDA/APHIS, Charlie Brooks, Pres. NE Weed Control Association, Kent Aden, Central NE Public Power & Irrigation.

Friday June 6th will consist of Water Issues and Water Management. Speakers will include Senator Tom Carlson - District 38, John Thorburn, Manager Tri-Basin NRD, Dave Ford, Central NE Public Power & Irr. District, Kevin Breece, DC, NRCS Holdrege, Brian Fuchs, Climatologist National Drought Mitigation Center, Gary Zoubek, UNL Extension, Curtis Scheele, NRCS Holdrege & Marcia Trompke, Central NE Public Power & Irr. District.

Registration & Agenda are on our website!

## Legislative Breakfast Held

The following is by Steve Chick, NRCS State Conservationist:

The Nebraska Environmental Trust has been a tremendous asset in Nebraska as a funding source for a wide range of very valuable environmental projects. The Trust released an outstanding colorful pictorial annual report that is a tribute to many outstanding ongoing projects. I was very pleased that the Trust recognized NRCS's contribution to several of the highlighted projects including Lower Missouri River WREP, Shell Creek, Cedar River, RWBJV wetlands restorations, Old Baldy and the Sargent Irrigation fish ladder. Since its inception in 1993 the Nebraska Environmental Trust has provided approximately \$116 million to more than 952 environmental improvement projects across Nebraska. I wish to express my appreciation to Executive Director Mark Brohman, all of the Trust's staff, to the Trust's Board and to the State Legislature for creating and maintaining this tremendous asset to Nebraska natural resources. It simply reinforces that there is no place like Nebraska.



*Mark Brohman*

The following is from Dave Langemeier:  
25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST  
**February 14, 2008, 7:00am-8:00am**

LOCATION: Nebraska State Office Building

MC: Craig Romary, President

SPEAKER: Mark Brohman, Executive Director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

Program: Craig Romary. Coffee and room set-up: Kris Reed. Rolls and juice: Val Bohaty. Finances: David Langemeier.

The Nebraska Chapter SWCS student scholarship winner Jessica Milby was introduced.

## SWCS Northern Plains Regional Meeting March 6-8, 2008 Rapid City South Dakota

The meeting was attended by 28 members from within the region and Craig Cox from Ankeny IA. Dallas Johannsen was the representative from Nebraska.

The first evening after the social gathering, was a presentation on Global Warming. The presentation covered the process of global warming and the various elements that affect the ozone layer and where those elements can come from. The presentation also covered the various ways these elements can be sequestered and programs and organizations that offer payments for BMP's that will tie them up.

The second morning started with a very interesting presentation on the ground water movement and ground water quality from the SD Dept of Environment and Natural Resources. The presenters covered where water enters the ground from snow and rain in the Black Hills and how they track it through the aquifers until it resurfaces as stream flow. Various pathogens and contaminants are tested along the stream route. Most of the coliforms in the streams are from avian wildlife, i.e. wild turkeys. After a stream flows through a city or town many suspended solids and dissolved solids are found. Other morning presentations covered the watershed planning process and how to involve all stakeholders. Specifics were presented of a watershed planning effort on the Cheyenne River.

The afternoon tour took us to the Rapid City Recycling Facility. This is a large facility that processes 225,000 tons of material a year. They also operate a landfill for overflow material that exceeds the capacity of the facility. Waste and trash is sorted into metal, plastic and glass and the remaining material is chopped/shredded and mixed with yard waste such as grass clippings or municipal sewage sludge and composted. The facility also chops and compost material made entirely from yard waste such as tree limb and leaves and grass clippings. We then toured a new business that is producing sediment and erosion control material. The material uses mulch from the Recycling center, blowing it into long tubes or soxs made of a mesh material of 9" to 15" dia.. The tubes substitute for silt fence and are biodegradable. The compost appears to be a better medium for vegetation to grow around and grass seed can be mixed into the compost prior to filling the sox. The sox's are placed at a closer interval than silt fence but blend into the landscape better.

Kudos to the South Dakota Chapter for arranging and hosting the meeting.



### **Attention!!!! The International Soil and Water Conservation Society Merit Award goes to:**

The Upper White Natural Resources District and manager, Lyndon Vogt, who are getting conservation on the ground through a variety of partnership efforts in Northwestern Nebraska. If the name sounds familiar, this NRD also won the state society award as well.

Due to diminishing budgets and common resource goals, Lyndon Vogt seized an opportunity to create several partnerships with various organizations to address natural resources issues. For example, the NRD formed an agreement with the NRCS and hired a No Till educator; partnered with the Nebraska Forest Service to financially support a forester in the region; developed a cooperative agreement with Nebraska Game and Parks to house a Private Lands Wildlife biologist in Chadron. This is just a short list of the many partnerships Lyndon Vogt and the NRD promoted and support in the name of natural resource management.

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### **NE SWCS First Corporate Member!**

The Nebraska Chapter wishes to welcome Stock Seed Farms of Murdock, NE, as its first corporate member. Dave Stock, owner, has been an SWCS member since 1984. Stock Seed Farms' mission is "to continually produce high quality products that meet or exceed our customer's expectations in a timely fashion. To remain a profitable, competent, reliable team working together to improve our individual and collective skills and technical abilities to create a long-term competitive advantage in the marketplace, thereby benefiting our ultimate partners... our customers."

Please take the time to visit Stock Seed Farms web site at [http://www.stockseed.com/about\\_us\\_default.asp](http://www.stockseed.com/about_us_default.asp), and consider using them for your next seeding project. And be sure to welcome them as our first corporate member!

Other businesses, firms, and companies wishing to look into the benefits of becoming a corporate member are encouraged to visit [http://www.swcs.org/en/corporate\\_membership/](http://www.swcs.org/en/corporate_membership/) and look for the "detailed membership level" link which shows the benefits received from the membership options available.

## **New SWCS Members, Welcome!**

Gary Stone, Mitchell NE, Brian Scroggin, Cozad NE, Mary Hanson, Ithaca NE

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### **Chapter Awards**

SWCS chapters utilize three awards to annually recognize conservation leaders within the chapter & state:

- The Commendation Award recognizes members for service to their chapters, and our 2007 recipient was Dave Langemeier, current treasurer for the Nebraska Chapter and longtime member. Dave was recognized for his treasurer responsibilities/activities since 1988, his work with the UNL SWCS Foundation student scholarship program, and dedication to conservation.
- The Honor Award recognizes people for outstanding accomplishments compatible with Society objectives. C. Dean Yonts, Panhandle Research & Extension Center, received this recognition in 2007 for dedication to research and outreach on irrigation efficiency and irrigation water management.



*Anita Nien and Dean Yonts*

- The Merit Award recognizes noteworthy conservation activity or products of organizations, agencies, or firms. The Upper-Niobrara White NRD board and staff received the 2007 award for their work in coordinating and partnering with other agencies on conservation activities, including the Panhandle No-Till Coordinator, the Northwestern District Forester position, private lands biologist position, and groundwater monitoring activities. The Nebraska Chapter recently received news that the NRD was accepted for a National SWCS Merit Award, and will be recognized at the 2008 International Conference to be held in Phoenix, AZ in July.

Please take the time to congratulate our 2007 award recipients! And plan to attend this year's annual meeting and banquet, when the 2008 award-winners will be recognized.

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

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Ballot for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Board vacancy for a five year term, vote for one:

\_\_\_ Charles Reppert

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(write in)

Ballots can be mailed to: Paul D. Smith, 1024 Dale Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510.  
or vote by email to: PDSmith55@aol.com.

PLEASE VOTE AND RETURN BY MAY 31, 2008.

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### **Silent Auction**

We will be holding a silent auction during our state meeting again this year. The purpose of this will be to raise money for our student scholarship programs and to help with the expenses of workshops and other activities related to this years state convention.

We are asking for items you would roughly value in the range of 10 - 50 dollars. If you are planning to attend this year's convention and would like to bring a donated item, please let Darwin Hinrichs know. We will need to know what the item is and who it is coming from so credit can be given while the item is displayed at the auction and so a thank you note can be sent to the donor. You may also send your donated item with someone else who is attending or give Darwin a call about it. Previous items have included: wine bottles, crafts, books, CD's, gloves, pictures and numerous other items. You may contact Darwin about questions for this auction or information about your donated items at:

Darwin Hinrichs, PO Box 487, Trenton, NE 69044 ( 308-334-5292 ) [darwin.hinrichs@ne.usda.gov](mailto:darwin.hinrichs@ne.usda.gov)

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If you would be interested in taking over the duty of Newsletter Editor for the Nebraska SWCS Chapter, please contact Craig Romary, Kris Ethridge or Doug Garrison. Thank you for considering this option to volunteer.