



# NORTHERN PLAINS REGION

- UPDATE -

August 2007

## Mary's Musings

During the first teleconference I had with the Northern Plains Leadership Team and Chapter Presidents, I told the group my goals as your Northern Plains Director. Since I would like your Chapter leaders to share this with their members, I want to list them so that all Northern Plains SWCS members know what I want to accomplish during my term. My goals are as follows:

1. Help support Chapters any way I can.
2. Continue working with the host state to organize quality technical and leadership training conferences held in March each year. Work to get new participants to this each year.
3. Hold one regional technical conference.
4. Communicate to Northern Plains leaders and Chapters what the Society is doing.
5. Communicate to the Society any concerns that individuals or Chapters may have.
6. Attend at least one technical workshop sponsored by the different Northern Plains Chapters.
7. Serve as an ambassador and advocate for the Society in the Northern Plains Region.

I look forward to serving as your Northern Plains Director and will work with the Leadership Team and Chapter Presidents to continue the tradition of holding quality technical and educational opportunities in the Region. Please feel free to contact me at [ranchhand@triplebar.com](mailto:ranchhand@triplebar.com) or at 719-462-5255 (home), 719-469-2233 (cell), or 719-384-5408 (work).

## Membership Report

In spite of the national Membership Committee's hard work and continued recruitment efforts at the Chapter and personal levels, membership continues to decline. It's important that Chapters, especially Chapter Presidents and Officers, contact members when their membership lapses. Have your Chapter Membership Chair send a postcard or email when

memberships lapse. Or better yet, call them....contact by a friend or colleague can be vital. Ask why they dropped and what they would like to get out of a professional organization.

**The best way to recruit members is to invite them!**

### **Support the SWCS Program Development Fund**

**It takes money to make money.** Special projects and foundation grants make up a significant portion of the SWCS budget and they are a perfect way to increase the impact our Society can have on the environmental and legislative communities. The Program Development Fund was initiated to generate seed money for future projects.

All your contributions will be used for program development--seed money to help us develop new projects and initiatives to support the conservation profession and conservation movement. More and more we depend on raising funds from foundations and agencies to pursue our mission. But it takes money and time to put together proposals and secure funding.

If you'd like to help us do our work by donating money, contribute online at the SWCS Website or download a form to send it parcel post. You can also call at (515) 289-2331, extension 110. Someone will take your credit card information over the phone.

**Thank you for your generosity! Your support can make a difference!**

### **Northern Plains Region Individual Members Honored at the Annual Conference in Tampa**

**Maurice Mausbach**, Colorado, along with Allen Dedrick was recognized by the SWCS Board of Directors through a special resolution for his work in establishing the multi-agency Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) and in developing partnerships with SWCS and others to carry out of

the goals of CEAP and for documenting the goals of croplands CEAP in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in 2004. **Congratulations, Maury!**

**Gene Goven**, North Dakota, received an Honor Award. He was an original innovator of the well-documented planned rotational grazing systems currently utilized by livestock producers. Goven developed his expertise on his family farm in Turtle Lake, North Dakota, where he grazes beef cattle on 800 acres of native prairie. Goven has been a tireless presenter, has offered countless tours of his operation to guests from all over the world, and has published/co-authored over nine publications featuring his developed expertise. **Congratulations, Gene!**

**Stephen Merrill**, North Dakota, has been an active member of the North Dakota Chapter since 1979. He has contributed to the science supporting conservation through his research in fundamental and applied aspects of soil, wind, and water erosion; soil and water use; and root growth of diverse crops. Merrill has served the Chapter in numerous positions. He was instrumental in setting up soil exhibits at the North Dakota Heritage Center for viewing and education opportunities for visitors. He has published many scientific publications that support soil and land conservation and the mission of the Society. **Congratulations, Stephen!**

**Jennifer Hegge**, North Dakota, received a Commendation Award. Hegge was first elected to a two-year director's position in 2003. She has been actively seeking to establish a student chapter in North Dakota by researching steps and seeking out students and sponsors at North Dakota State University since March 2003. In her years on the board, she has worked on a variety of projects including updating the Chapter's display, serving on the planning committee for the Soil and Water Science Summit and the renewable energy symposium. Hegge has most recently served as Chapter president. We wish her well as she begins a new adventure in her life as a Peace Corps volunteer. **Congratulations, Jennifer!**

**Jorge Delgado**, Colorado, received a Conservation Research Award. Delgado is an expert in the fields of nitrogen management and in the use of isotopes, biogeochemistry, and nitrogen fate and transport. He has made significant contributions in the areas of site-specific and regional scale evaluations of best management practices on nitrogen fate and transport

and nitrogen efficiencies. Delgado has held workshops and teaches nutrient management techniques to national and international groups of cooperators. He has also helped develop workshops and other training activities with CEUs for over 300 participants. Delgado has authored numerous abstracts, technical publications, and manuscripts. **Congratulations, Jorge!**

### **2007 Annual Meeting in Tampa a Huge Success**

The Annual Meeting in Tampa was well attended with one of the largest audiences that we have had in several years. The Conservation Innovation Grants showcase added a lot to the conference and brought in many new faces. Read all the highlights in the next Conservogram or look at meeting highlights on the Society's website.

If you attended and haven't filled out your post conference survey, please do so now. We are very interested in improving the Annual Conference.

### **Regional Technical Conference Scheduled for 2008**

The Northern Plains SWCS Chapters will sponsor a technical conference that is tentatively set for September 2008. The conference topic will be biodiesel/ethanol production in the Northern Plains. Look for updates in future Northern Plains newsletters.

### **Northern Plains Calendar of Events**

October 4-5, 2007

"Advances in Conservation Conference"  
Joint Annual Meeting of the South Dakota and North Dakota SWCS Chapters, Professional Soil Classifiers Association of North Dakota, and Professional Soil Scientist Association of South Dakota—Best Western-Doublewood Inn,

Bismarck, ND—Contact: Richard Webb,  
NDSWCS, 710-252-1460 ext. 110 or Jason  
Miller, SDSWCS, 605-224-8870 ext. 131.

November 15, 2007

"Soil and Water Conservation for Viable  
Biofuels Systems"  
Colorado Chapter SWCS Annual Workshop and  
Meeting—Antlers Hilton, Colorado Springs,  
Colorado—Contact: Jorge Delgado, 970-492-7260

### Northern Plains Leadership Team

The Northern Plains Region Leadership Team consists of:

**Jon Stika**, Awards Committee, [jon.stika@nd.usda.gov](mailto:jon.stika@nd.usda.gov)

**Heidi Brewer**, Leadership Development Committee, [heidi.brewer@mt.usda.gov](mailto:heidi.brewer@mt.usda.gov)

**Yvonne Haefner**, Professional Development Committee, [yhaefner@wccenet.com](mailto:yhaefner@wccenet.com)

**Kristi Gay**, Membership Committee, [kristi.gay@co.usda.gov](mailto:kristi.gay@co.usda.gov) (until October)

**Kristin Wild**, Membership Committee, [kristin.wild@nd.usda.gov](mailto:kristin.wild@nd.usda.gov) (after October)

**Anita Nein**, Nominations Committee, [anita.nein@ne.usda.gov](mailto:anita.nein@ne.usda.gov)

These Northern Plains members participate in national standing committee meetings. To provide input or assistance contact them directly.