

NWCA Times Winter 2012



President's Message to Nebraska Weed Control Association

It has been a very busy and interesting two years as President of the Nebraska Weed Control Association. Here is a recap of the many things that have been going on the last two years in the association;

The Nebraska Weed Control Association's Weed Strategy Committee worked with the NDA and the Nebraska Invasive Species Council to design a new approach for the Nebraska Noxious Weed Program. This new approach is proactive and involves all those with an interest and/or a responsibility in preventing and controlling invasive plants which have a high potential to enter, spread, and cause harm in the state. The process identifies these high risk invaders, designating them noxious before they enter the state, or soon after they enter the state. They can be detected, eradicated, and have a strategy implemented to contain large established infestations. This new approach includes:

1. Noxious weeds designation of highly invasive plants in early invasion stage.
2. Control strategies for each state and county noxious weed
3. Early Detection/Rapid Response Program

The first step in accomplishing step one is to develop a predictive tool to determine what is highly invasive. This was accomplished with the APHIS Weed Risk Model, modified to fit Nebraska. The knotweed complex was then run through the weed risk process, and found to be highly invasive. Recommendations from NWCA and NISC were taken to the Nebraska Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. Director Ibach then added Japanese and Giant Knotweed to the Nebraska list of noxious weeds.

To address step three, an early detection/rapid response system was developed by Nebraska Invasive Species Council and a website is available for the general public to report invasive species.

A new noxious weed classification system has been developed, and is presently in use. *Sericea Lespedeza* was the latest invasive weed to be put through the APHIS weed risk assessment.

Step two is the last thing that needs to be accomplished to complete "the new approach".

In addition to the effort required to offer four trainings per year, the NWCA Education Committee successfully set up a complete recertification training session in 2010.

The NWCA Mapping Committee received a \$50,000.00 grant to upgrade NE weed-mapper. That process is still under way, and has required several meetings and a lot of effort. The NWCA also developed their own Weed Free Forage site to address the NWCA member's needs.

Other developments of note during my term was the passing of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting law, affecting herbicide application on/or around water, and a law suit was brought against NWCA, resulting from a WMA project.

The last thing I will mention was the development of a WMA strategic plan for Nebraska, which will be reviewed at the WMA Summit coming up Jan. 17th and 18th in Kearney.

I have enjoyed serving as your President the last two years, hope to see everyone at Conference.

Bruce Rumsey, NWCA President

Updates from your NWCA Regional Directors

Region I, Lyle Weber – Director

Happy New Year from Region 1. Everybody should be getting their reports done and sent off if they haven't already. The Lower Platte WMA said goodbye to Russ Schultz as Grant Manager and Coordinator for the Lower Platte Weed Management Area, as he retired from his position recently. Russ's contributions to Weed Management Areas extend well past the LPWMA borders. His efforts will have a lasting impact for our state and for WMAs and their partners. All of the counties in the Lower Platte WMA are receiving the remote sensing analysis for upland phragmites which will lead to ground follow-up surveys and 2012 control efforts. The 5 Rivers Weed Management is continuing with its cost share program to help landowners control troublesome weeds in southeast Nebraska. We have recently received an extension into next year so more landowners can apply to participate. A weed brochure is in the works to help control 12 troubling weeds in southeast Nebraska. It will help landowners to ID certain weeds and what recommendations to control them. We are strategizing the best way to maximize our distribution efforts in getting the brochures delivered.

Good luck with the reports and hope to see everyone in North Platte.

Region II, Rod Stolcpart - Director

Happy New Year to one and all. Seems like an eternity that we were worrying about Y2K. Thank goodness that is all behind us and now we can focus on 2012. If the world ends this time we'll just have to hope that all the weeds will see their demise as well.

In the meantime, now is the time to reflect back on 2011 and begin making plans for the upcoming season. While it may seem like a long way off right now it will get here before you know it.

As like other parts of the state, Region 2 will be anxiously awaiting to see the results from our efforts in 2011. I know that Perspective was used in several areas in Region 2, and I for one am excited about its' prospects.

Lynn Strong's cabin was the site for the annual Region 2 Christmas party and a good time was had by all that attended. With our calendars being filled up earlier and earlier, this year's party was held the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Region 2 will be the site for the 25th annual Nebraska Leafy Spurge Working Task Force tour and conference. The dates have been locked in for August 1 and 2, 2012 with the headquarters being in Ainsworth. I hope you will all mark this one down on your calendar - it promises to be a good one.

Another good one coming soon will be our annual conference to be held in North Platte. I hope you all are planning to attend. As chairman for the Necrology committee I would encourage any and all of you to send me any info you might have of a person you would like recognized at the conference. I have several on file right now but (don't take this wrong) there is always room for more.

One final item - I would GREATLY appreciate it if ALL of you would get me some information. I would like to have an updated list of your LEGAL county newspaper, the address and phone number, a contact person and an email address. Bring it to me at conference or you can always drop me an email. See you in North Platte.

Some of Rod's photos from the LSTF Tour last summer!



Update from Region III, Doug Smith – Director

Happy New Year from Region III. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. WOW what a great time of the year for a drought, that is if we are going to have one. We had 5 to 6 inches of snow in the first part of December and nothing since then. The weather has been great but the lack of moisture is a little scary. We haven't had any amount of rain over ¼ inch since the middle of August.

Our last Region meeting was held at the Knotty Pine Bar and Grill in Petersburg. Russell Stokes of Boone County was the host for the meeting. Even with the threat of some bad weather we still had a pretty good turnout of Counties.

The next Region III meeting will be hosted by Bruce Ofe of Antelope County in May, date and location is yet to be determined. Region III was well represented at the NACO conference in Kearney with 11 of the 17 Counties represented. Good job guys.

Mike Smith from the Middle Missouri Weed Management Group reports that they had a meeting on December 21st before the Holidays. The WMA discussed NACO, Weed Free Forage crossing state lines, and problems with the flooding areas along the Missouri River. Kent, the coordinator finally got his placement in Walthill, as he has been waiting for almost a year. The Video is done and will be delivered this month. Next meeting for MMWMA will be January 25th, 10:00 a.m. at Walthill.

Region III just wanted to thank all of the **Education Committee members** for the great job that they do for us, at our 4 continuing education meetings.

Region IV, Mark Goebel – Director

Whoever said weed superintendents don't have anything to do in the winter? It seems that we are all as busy as ever, with the annual reports, making plans for board meetings, landowner meetings, conference, etc. I think we are all wishing for some "slack time"!

Region IV had a meeting recently, and re-elected me as Director and Todd Boller as Alternate. Hope to see everyone at Conference, beginning with the President's Reception on Monday evening.

Region V, Brian Hiett – Director

Here's hoping Santa was good to everyone and your belt did not have to have extra notches put in it. This may sound redundant, but Winter, what Winter? As I write this, the temperature is 55° and it seems more like Spring than January 9th. I for one would like to see some snow. The moisture is much needed.

Once again, we had a very successful Fall Training and a good turnout. Thanks to everyone who is involved in the planning and also to those who attended.

Region 5 had its annual Christmas Get Together at the Skyport Restaurant in Scottsbluff. We said goodbye and thanks to Larry Kelly and Jerry Robbins who are both retiring (lucky ducks). Good Luck and Happy Trails to each of you and don't be strangers. Larry Gibbens, the new BELF Western Representative, also attended.

PWCA met Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in Sioux County (Harrison) hosted by Nick Sanderson. We had a great turnout and excellent discussion. Thanks to Nick for cooking dinner for our crew! Our meetings have been changed from the fourth Thursday to the second Tuesday of every month due to conflicts with other Regions, WMA meetings, BELF and NDA. We were pleased to have Dave Hottell, the new Highway/Weed Superintendent for Kimball County join us. Welcome aboard, Dave.

Our next meeting will be March 13 in Banner County, hosted by Dick McGowan. A new secretary and Vice-President will be elected at this meeting.

Hope to see you all at conference in North Platte.

Region VI, Randy Bartlett – Director

The calendar says it's winter, but the weather sure has been nice so far. It's been a real open winter here in southwest Nebraska, Chase County. The older some of us become, the less we care for snow and cold, but we'll sure need some rain this spring!

Region 6 superintendents are staying busy with winter projects, visiting landowners and finishing their yearly NDA reports due in Lincoln on January 31st. It was great to see most Region 6 superintendents at Fall Training in Hastings.

- Upcoming events for Region 6 are:
- Nebraska Weed Management Area Summit, Ramada Inn, Kearney, January 17-18.
- **Region 6 meeting: Ted Bethell of VanDiest Supply will be our host on Thursday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. CST. In McCook.**
- NWCA Annual Conference in North Platte Feb 6-8, 2012
- NWCA Spring Training at Central Community College in Hastings, April 3-4, 2012

Region 6 has lost one superintendent in Dundy County. Bobbi Nelson is no longer there, and they are in the process of finding a replacement. Here in Chase County the NRCS and landowners are again removing Russian olive trees on the Frenchman River, below Enders Dam. The Southwest WMA is to provide some follow-up treatment in that area. Aaron Sison from NRCS says he is still working on a Russian olive removal project west of Champion. Another proposed Russian olive removal site is where the Rock Creek meets the Republican River in Dundy County.

I would encourage everyone to set the new goal of inspecting more farm ground in 2012. Seems like CRP, pasture, idle acres and river bottoms take up most of our time in a usual year. Some of us have many acres in our counties we've never set foot on, so get on that 4-wheeler and do some exploring! Always keep an eye out for those Watch List weeds while making inspections. Might keep some invasive species from getting out of control.

Hope to see all of the Region 6 superintendents, as well as those state-wide in North Platte this winter, and Hastings this spring. Here's wishing all a prosperous and enjoyable New Year.

65th Annual NWCA Conference, North Platte, NE

Monday, February 6

- 1:00 p.m. *CMIP Testing*
 - 2:00 p.m. *Board of Directors Meeting*
 - 5:00 p.m. *President's Reception*
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Tuesday, February 7

- 7:30-8:25 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:25 a.m. *Roll Call & Welcome*
Moderator:
- 8:30 a.m. *Grassland Recovery & Responses After Wildfire—Jerry Volesky*
- 9:30 a.m. *Break – Visit Trade Show*
- 10:00 a.m. *Native/Non-Native Plants—Steve Rolfsmeier*
- 11:00a.m. *MRWC Wild Dakota & Public Relations—Kelly Sharp*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1:25 p.m. *Roll Call & Announcements*
Moderator:
- 1:30p.m. *Nebraska's Dynamic Vegetation—Jim Stubbendieck*
- 2:15 p.m. *Break – Visit Trade Show*
- 2:45 p.m. *Industry Task Force on 2,4-D—Jim Gray*
- 3:45p.m. *Web Sites Used for Job Enhancement—Rod Stolcpart*
- 4:15 p.m. *Exam*

Wednesday, February 8

- 8:55 a.m. *Roll Call & Announcements*
Moderator:
- 9:00 a.m. *Bailey Yards—Brian Baxter*
- 10:00a.m. *Break – Visit Trade Show*
- 10:30a.m. *ERD Maps & iPhone Applications—Karie Decker*
- 11:00 a.m. *Prairie Restoration—Tom Sherman*
- 11:30 a.m. *NWCA Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon*
- 12:55 p.m. *Roll Call & Announcements*
Moderator:
- 1:00 p.m. *Prairie Plains Resource Institute—Bill Whitney*
- 2:00 p.m. *Break—Visit Trade Show*
- 2:30 p.m. *What's Happening in Kansas—Darin Banks*
- 3:30 p.m. *Endangered & Threatened Species Review Process—Michelle Koch*
- 4:30 p.m. *Exam*

Tuesday evening...Banquet, Awards, and Casino Night!

Dates to Remember:

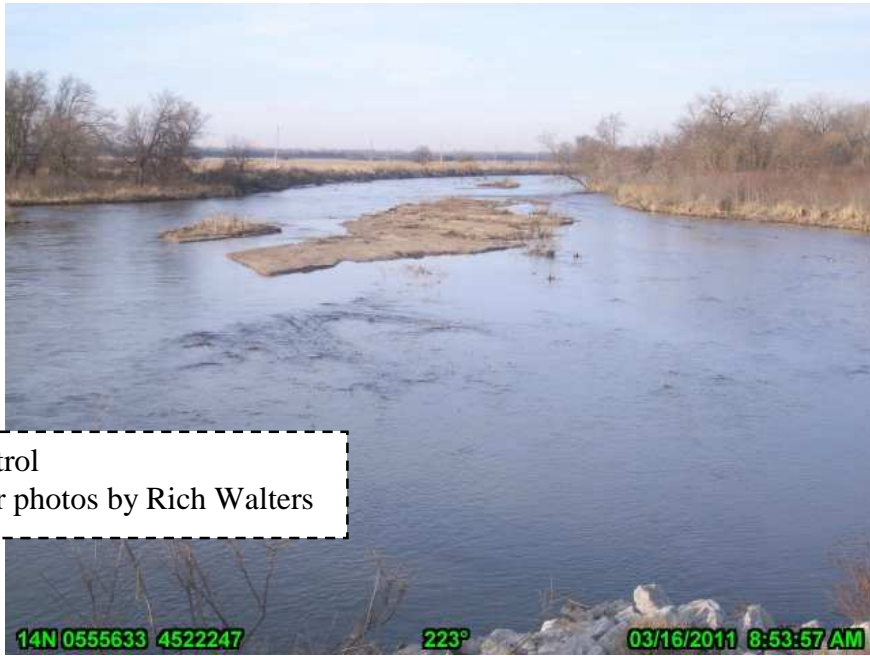
WMA Summit, January 17-18, Kearney Ramada Inn

NWCA Conference Feb 6-9, North Platte, Sandhills Convention Center

NWCA New Superintendent Training, April 2, Central Community College, Hastings

NWCA Spring Training, April 3-4, Central Community College, Hastings





Phragmites Control
Before and After photos by Rich Walters

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