



Buffalo Wallow Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

August 2002

Our Purpose:

The Chapter serves as a clearinghouse for wetlands and riparian areas information and activities, promotes educational opportunities with a variety of targeted audiences, and facilitates project implementation for wetland and riparian area projects within the participating counties.

Our Mission:

To ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape.

Our Vision:

A public that is well informed and involved in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas in Kansas.

Steering Committee

Kevin Nelson, NRCS, Tribune
Tom Norman, KDWP, Garden City
Debbie Ohman, Gray Co. CD,
Cimarron

Membership is free and open to any interested individual, organization or agency interested in wetland and riparian area conservation. For more information on KAWS and its activities please contact:

Tim Christian

KAWS State Coordinator
P.O. Box 236
McPherson, KS 67460-4401
(620) 241-6921, (620) 245-9618 (fax)
tdchristian@cox.net

John Bond

KAWS Chapter Coordinator
9146 SE Paulen Road
Berryton, KS 66409
(785) 836-3346 phone and fax
johnloribond@yahoo.com

May 8 Meeting Review

Stream Stabilization and Restoration Presentation

Phil Balch, State Conservation Commission, Topeka, provided a PowerPoint presentation on stream restoration techniques – planning and design considerations. He covered new and innovative techniques in stabilizing stream banks and adjusting stream channels mechanically to reduce the potential for massive erosion. He outlined work he and others are doing on the Little Blue River in Washington County. There are 30 sites and 7.6 miles of river being affected by the stream work – mainly bendway weirs – and bank shaping and re-vegetation. The land is being enrolled in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program as riparian forest buffers, so landowners will receive help with establishment and then annual rental payments for 15 years.

Balch also noted upcoming training a demonstration project on the South Fork of the Ninnescah River five miles west of Kingman using continuous-fill bags to serve as weirs. The bags will be filled with sand and laid into the stream bed to divert water just as rock weirs work. They can be filled to any length and stacked as need to meet design widths and heights. For more information on stream stabilization and restoration, contact Balch at 785.296.3600 or visit the web at www.ink.org/public/kssc.

KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Next
Buffalo Wallow
Chapter meeting
August 28, 9:30 a.m.,
Finnup Center, Lee
Richardson Zoo, Garden
City.**

Tim Christian, KAWS state coordinator, provided an update on activities noting the upcoming KAWS annual meeting May 15-16 in Pleasanton. He covered the funding situation for KAWS highlighting the Kansas Water Office/EPA Wetlands Protection Program grant where \$160,000 has been earmarked for demonstration projects in 8 of the 12 river basins in the state. He noted that 3 projects had been approved by the Project Management Team to date and that at least 2 more will be considered at the annual meeting. Tim would like for the BWC to identify a suitable project for consideration. Each demo is being funded up to \$15-20,000. He noted that a couple of previously listed projects could be potentials.

Tim covered the upcoming Year-Three budget for the KS Department of Health and Environment 319 Incremental Grant. If fully funded, it will provide \$300,000 for projects and will add a staff person or two. He noted other potential funding sources through EPA's WQCA and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture as well as a second phase of the KWO/EPA grant for another \$175,000 in demonstration projects. The discussion expanded to cover the long-term funding for KAWS and its activities. Tim indicated the Executive Committee will be approving a long-term funding plan in Pleasanton.

Administratively, Tim asked about the new Chapter newsletter, **Happenings**, and its effectiveness – in the mailing and on the web site. He handed out the mailing list for editing. The group determined that each county conservation district would see that the meeting summaries and other correspondence are provided to interested individuals, agencies, and organizations. Tim will continue mailing to Extension, County Commissions, City Commissions, and other key contacts. Delores Eberle asked to be added to the e-distribution list.

Tim noted that the zoo has prepared a project request for submittal to the Playa Lakes Joint Venture for \$25,000 to complete some display planning on their new "Waters of Kansas" exhibit. He has worked with Kathy to complete the application. PLJV Board meets in June to conduct business.



The continuous berm machine creates a magnetic field (not really) for those helping with the demonstration in Kingman County in June.

SCC photos

Once filled and stapled closed, the bag is placed in the stream. Bags are layered to form a weir. This system may work quite well for sandy-bottom stream systems common to western Kansas.



Kevin Nelson asked for member updates:

Nelson reported that the project he had described at the last meeting (county fair board facilities including a wetland as water treatment and educational site) has taken a turn and they are pursuing a different direction.

Kathy Sexson, Lee Richardson Zoo, noted that they had 711 students at the zoo on April 22 for their Earth Day celebration.

Dan Baffa, LRZ, discussed the feasibility study (\$100K) the Corps of Engineers is involved in on the Arkansas River and working with the City and others. He highlighted the recently organized Ogallala Aquifer Institute and its mission, and the fact that they are placing a coordinator to complete the needed work. The Kansas Geological Survey is helping underwrite the position and it will be housed at the zoo. Dan also covered the High Plains Aquifer Plan that is being supported by Senator Sam Brownback in the new farm bill.

Debbie Ohman, Gray Co. CD, described the upcoming three-county water festival that will cover Gray, Finney and Kearney counties. They estimate 1,500 5th-6th grade students will participate over the course of two days, May 20-21.

Phil Balch, SCC, noted the Little Blue River Project in Washington County where 33,000 trees were planted as a part of the bank stabilization and riparian forest buffer plans on nearly 20 sites. The work there when completed will cover almost 8 miles of stream stabilization involving over 25 landowners on over 30 sites.

Balch advertised for the stream training being put on by the SCC on June 4-7 and June 10-11. Several nationally known experts will be presenting and the last two days are a demonstration of a continuous berm machine that will be used to make sand-filled bendway weirs in Kingman County on the South Fork Ninnescah River. See photos to left.

Discussion ensued on web site links – to Phil's book, other publications such as Better Wetlands, and the chapter calendar. Tim asked the group to think about hosting the Fall KAWS Tour in late October. The next meeting date was set for August in Garden City. Kathy Sexson will check on the Finnup Center availability.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Buffalo Wallow Chapter meeting—August 28, 9:30 a.m., Finnup Center, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, KS.

Mid-Plains Chapter, September 5, Dodge City
StreamLink Blue Tie Social, September 13, Emporia
Flint Hills One-Day Seminar, October 2, El Dorado

KAWS Fall Tour/Executive Committee, October 14-15, Topeka
Lower/Little Ark One-Day Seminar, late October, TBA
KACEE Annual Meeting, November 1-2, Atchison