



LOWER ARK CHAPTER

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Chapter Happenings

WEBSITE – WWW.KAWS.ORG

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

Brenda Peters McPherson
Vaughn Weaver
Ron Graber
Lisa French

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:

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4/23/2008

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The Lower Ark Chapter meeting was held at the Cambridge Community Building in Cambridge on April 23, 2008. Members of the Flint Hills Chapter were invited to attend the meeting and tour of the Grouse/Silver Creek Watershed. The meeting started at 10 am.

Jennifer Carr, Water Quality Coordinator for Cowley County Conservation District scheduled the building and the group will be touring a Cedar Creek streambank stabilization project on Lawrence Holt's property and a EQIP project involving brush control, alternative livestock watering sites and managed grazing on Linda Bowlin's property. Jeni did an outstanding job in scheduling the tours, building rental and getting a caterer for lunch. The group was treated to a "chuck wagon" meal served in cast iron pots. Introductions were given, since we had several new people attending. A total of eleven people attended with Linda Bowlin and Lawrence Holt hosting the afternoon tours on the respective sites.

The minutes of the LAC meeting in Wichita on January 16, 2008 was reviewed with no changes.

Doug gave a short history of KAWS, our mission and function. Several Grouse/Silver Creek WRAPS members were in attendance.

An update on the Lower Ark Chapter was given by Doug. The Sanders Wetland is complete and paid out. The Thompson Wetland is nearly complete and awaiting final payment. We are waiting on final Board approval for the Jeff Bond project adjacent to Anthony City Lake in Harper County. For Flint Hills members present, the KAW Nation project has been cancelled. The Cottonwood Falls Streambank project is completed and payment submitted.

Doug gave an update on the Demo project that will be available from FY-08 KDHE 319 funds. The KAWS BOD will make funds available after August, 2008, KAWS BOD will approve projects as funds are

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made available. The Grouse/ Silver Creek WRAPS have funding available for a demo project located within the local watershed. Members were asked to be thinking of a good local project that KAWS chapter members and local Grouse/Silver Creek WRAPS members could approve to serve as a demo.

Members in attendance gave reports and updates on projects they are involved in. Kim Austin with Terracon Company gave an interesting report dealing with a small lake contaminated with goose manure. Plans are to remove the excess manure slurry and spread on crop fields. Future plans will be to utilize the lake water to irrigate crop fields once the excess manure is removed to utilize a self sustaining supply of crop nutrients. KDHE has approved this project.

Doug brought copies of the "Saving Money and Time" livestock publication funded through a Watershed Improvement Grant (WIG). Barry Barber, NRCS requested additional copies for his office.

The caterer arrived with lunch and Doug's agenda could not compete with the aroma of the "chuck wagon" lunch, complete with peach cobbler baked in a dutch oven. Lunch became a priority.

The group carpooled to the first streambank stabilization project on the south edge of Cambridge. This project involved bank restoration and vanes to direct water flows to the opposite bank. In a short period of a few weeks, the Lawrence Holt home on the bank of Cedar Creek lost over 9 feet of soil adjacent to their house. The water removed soil down to the footing of the basement. This was an emergency project in order to save the home. NRCS was the lead agency with Conservation District and TWI involvement. The

Chapter Business

project was complete and the Holt's home is secure. Bank sloping and tree planting will help hold the soil. A neighbor granted access across his land for equipment to complete the project.



Holt Streambank Stabilization Project, Cedar Creek a tributary to Grouse/Silver Creek Watershed. LAC/FHC Chapter Meeting Tour on 4/23/08

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

Next Chapter meeting: To be announced later.

The next stop was at Linda Bowlin property to look at livestock watering devices below ponds, brush control and riparian grazing management. Linda is very passionate about the projects to improve her property. Everyone could tell she was 100% into the conservation projects. Most of the pond sites were recently constructed with livestock exclusion fences. The group loaded onto a flatbed, took a tour of projects and the group got to see a local outlaw hideout stone house ruins on a high hill overlooking a spring fed creek. No doubt, it was true. The land has not changed much in the past 100 years.



Livestock Watering site and pond to control sedimentation on Linda Bowlin Property, north of Cambridge, KS. LAC/FHC Chapter meeting on 4/23/08