

2:40 - 3:20

**Restoring Wildlife Habitat on a Wetlands Reserve Program Project - Mallard Room**

*A discussion of what goes in to planning and designing a WRP restoration including examples of projects before and after restoration.*

- Jeremy Jirak & Jon Myers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Effects of Landscape Context on Waterfowl Food Selection and Lipid Acquisition - Pintail Room**

*Research from the Rainwater Basin shows wetland distribution within the landscape has the potential to influence dabbling duck ability to forage on preferred food items and increase lipid levels during migration.*

- Lisa Webb, University of Missouri

**Sediment Removal in Playa Wetlands - Goose Room**

*Sediment removal in playa wetlands requires the historic soil profile and distribution of water storage be taken into consideration. This presentation will explore these variables and discuss how best to implement a restoration or enhancement plan on a playa wetland.*

- Ritch Nelson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

3:25 - 4:05

**Land Exchanges and Conservation Easements**

- Mallard Room

*Jeff Anderson will provide information on escrow, taxes, capital gains, property improvements and more with a brief question and answer time following his presentation. Landowners will want to attend his session to hear what Mr. Anderson has to say with his years of solid experience and expertise in this area.*

- Jeff Andersen, Contryman Associates, P.C. and Contryman Wealth Advisors

**Rainwater Basin Wetland Vegetation Response to Simulated Grazing - Pintail Room**

*This study evaluated effects of simulated grazing on forage production and plant species composition of reed canarygrass-invaded wetlands in Seward County.*

- John A. Guretzky  
UNL Dept. of Agronomy and Horticulture

**Integration of Herbicides in Long Term Management Strategies- Goose Room**

*Rainwater Basin wetlands are often degraded by the presence of noxious and invasive plants. This presentation will discuss incorporating herbicide application into long term management strategies to deal with these species.*

- Tim Smith, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

*The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks its funding partner for helping make this seminar possible . . .*



*The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks the Hastings Convention and Visitors Bureau for their assistance.*

# RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE

17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR  
FEBRUARY 8, 2012  
HASTINGS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER  
2205 OSBORNE DR. EAST  
HASTINGS, NEBRASKA



**8:15 - 9:15**      **Registration**

**9:15 - 9:20**      **Welcome** - Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Coordinator

**9:20-9:30**      **Opening Remarks** - Craig Derickson, Nebraska State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Plenary Session:**

**9:30 - 10:10** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)** - CEAP seeks to quantify USDA Conservation Practices and Programs impacts on select fish and wildlife species and their habitats by documenting habitat use, changes in habitat quality or population response.

- Ray Evans,  
Eco-Associates, CEAP Wildlife Contact

**10:10 - 10:50**

**Axe, Plow, Cow, Fire, and Gun - Revitalizing Private Lands for Wildlife Habitat by Innovative Use of Traditional Tools** - The Sand County Foundation builds partners' support for private landowner conservation through suggestions found in Aldo Leopold's writings. Some could be adapted to further improve waterfowl habitats in the Rainwater Basin.

- Brent Haglund, President  
Sand County Foundation

**Concurrent Sessions:**

**11:10 - 11:50** \_\_\_\_\_

**Jacobson/Ericson Project - Mallard Room**  
*Incorporating a wetland that has been set aside into your farming operation for the benefit of the farm and wildlife.*

- Landowners Bart Jacobson & Kevin Ericson with  
Laurel Badura, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**LiDAR Technology in Playa Wetland Management**  
*-Pintail Room*  
*Learn more about the Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) technology in playa wetland mapping, watershed delineation, depression identification, and drainage simulation.*

- Zhenghong Tang,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Adding Wetland Grazing to Farming Operations**  
*- Goose Room*  
*Grazing and forage production options on local farms will be identified and described that can take advantage of the additional grazing available in the Rainwater Basin wetlands.*

- Bruce Anderson,  
UNL Extension Forage Specialist

**12:00 - 1:00**      **Lunch & Award Presentation**

**1:10 - 1:50** \_\_\_\_\_

**Biester Wetland Restoration Project - Mallard Room**  
*A landowner's perspective on land use, motivations for wetland conservation, and the process of wetland conservation.*

- Angie Biester, Landowner  
Laurel Badura, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Modeling Variation in Springtime Presence/Absence and Flooded Area in Rainwater Basin Wetlands - Pintail Room**  
*This study uses Annual Habitat Survey data and weather related variables to examine variation in the presence/absence and flooded area of Rainwater Basin wetlands at peak spring bird migration.*

- Dan Uden  
UNL Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit

**Wind Energy Development Affects Settling of Breeding Ducks in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota and South Dakota - Pintail Room**  
*Expected density of breeding pairs of dabbling ducks in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Dakotas during 2008 – 2010 was lower on wetlands in wind developments than on wetlands in undeveloped sites.*

- Johann Walker, Ducks Unlimited

**1:55 - 2:35** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wetland Restoration - What to Expect - Mallard Room**  
*Explore a time line of wetland succession, including what a wetland looks like prior to a restoration and the years following. Discuss why management of post restoration sites is essential to the success of your investment.*

- Laurel Badura, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Ecological Site Descriptions in the Rainwater Basin - Pintail Room**  
*Overview of Natural Resources Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions in Major Land Resource Areas, possibilities for interagency collaboration to identify end-user needs, and incorporate information from external sources for improved decision support.*

- Stu McFarland, USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

**Wetland Management Options through Compatible Use Agreements- Goose Room**  
*An overview of how practices applied using Compatible Use Agreements can be beneficial to the wetland and the landowner. A review of some of the more typical compatible uses that have been requested by landowners will also be discussed.*

- Randy Epperson & Ritch Nelson,  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service