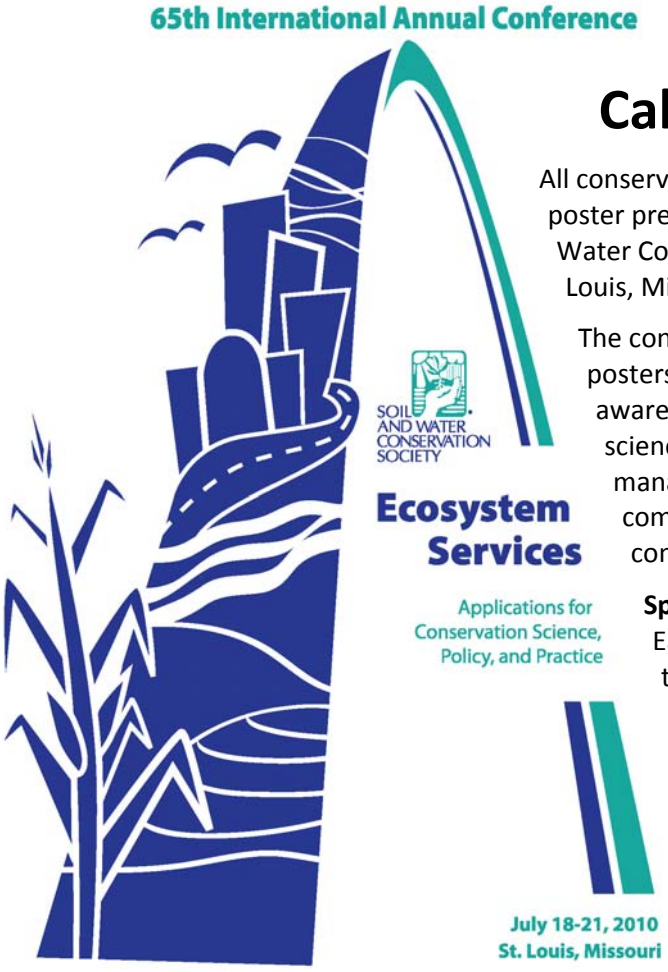


2010 SWCS Annual Conference
Call for Presentations and Symposia

All conservation professionals are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations as well as symposia descriptions for the 2010 Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference to be held July 18-21 in St. Louis, Missouri. **Abstracts must be received by December 17, 2009.**

The conference includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to raise the awareness of conference participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management on working land — the largely privately-owned land comprising working farms, ranches, forests, and rural and urban communities.

Special Emphasis for 2010

Each year SWCS identifies topics or a theme for special attention at the annual conference. The emphasis will apply to ALL of the general topic areas for the conference and we encourage you to tailor your presentation to include the conference theme. This year the overarching theme of the conference is:

Ecosystem Services:
Applications for Conservation Science, Policy, and Practice

Ecosystem services, simply put, are the benefits that society receives from soil, water, air, organisms, and the processes that govern their interactions. Nourishing food and clean water in sufficient quantities are two examples of human needs that would not be met without ecosystem services such as soil formation, nutrient cycling, and regulating the earth's climate. Other services include meeting the recreational, aesthetic, and cultural amenities that are essential for human well being.

The concept of ecosystem services is not new, but is gaining momentum as we seek to prioritize, measure, and communicate the value of conservation impacts in agricultural and urban settings. Abstracts for oral presentations, posters, and symposia should address the role of ecosystem services concepts in the technical, outreach and education, and public policy aspects of conservation.

General Topic Areas

We welcome proposals for symposia, oral presentations and poster presentations that address one or more of the ongoing areas of emphasis outlined below. These ongoing areas of emphasis comprise the core work of SWCS: to foster the science and art of conservation. Please choose one of these areas when submitting an abstract. Special consideration will be given to new insights, techniques, or approaches in addressing each of these general topics:

- Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts
- Biodiversity Conservation and Management
- Conservation and Environmental Policy and Program Design
- Conservation Outreach and Education
- Conservation in Urban Settings
- Conservation Tools and Technologies
- Soil Resources and Management: Soil Resource Assessment
- Soil Resources and Management: Soil Resource Management and Conservation
- Water Resources and Management

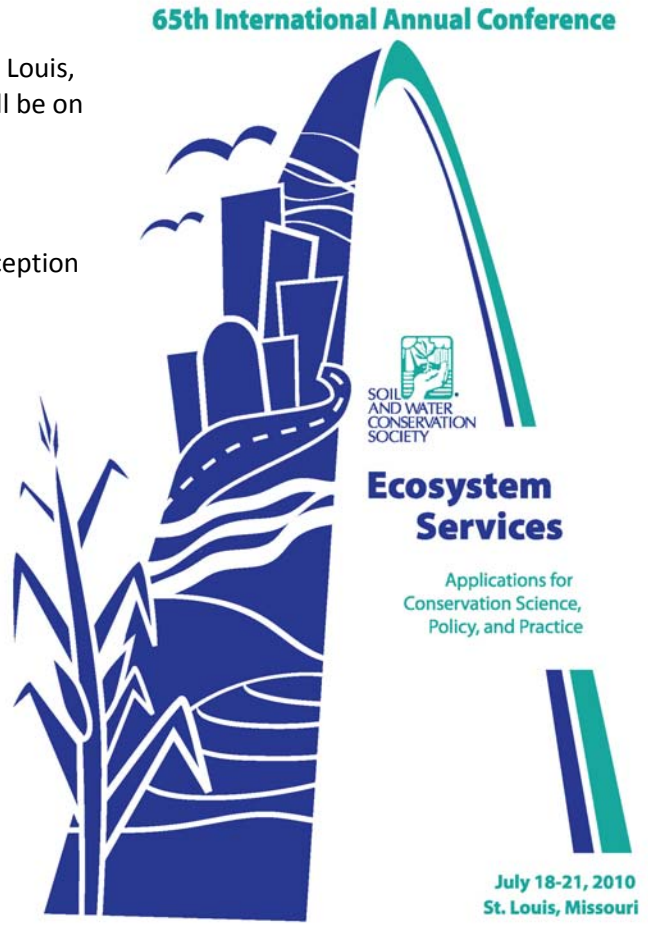
Before submitting an abstract, please review detailed descriptions for the topic areas and guidance from the Program Committee. The full call for presentations is online at: http://www.swcs.org/10ac

About the Conference

The 65th International SWCS Annual Conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. Primary conference dates are July 18-21, 2010. Tours will be on July 21st. The headquarters hotel is the Hilton at the Ballpark.

Condensed Schedule

Saturday, July 17: Board Meeting, Leadership Training
Sunday, July 18th: Society meetings, Fellows Forum, Welcome Reception
Monday, July 19th: Symposia and Educational Presentations
Tuesday, July 20th: Symposia and Educational Presentations
Wednesday, July 21st: Conservation Tours



General Notes

SWCS welcomes papers, posters, and symposia reporting the results of research, testing, monitoring, and evaluation/demonstration projects, and/or lessons learned from professional experience working with conservation and environmental management systems, technologies, programs, and polices.

Our primary focus is on the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management in agroecosystems. We also welcome and encourage reports of knowledge gained from management of parks, wildlife refuges, and other land uses that contribute to earth's ability to provide the necessary complement of ecosystem services. Proposals will be transmitted to reviewers for consideration. All proposals are reviewed anonymously and are rated individually.

Proposals from students and from all professional sectors and students addressing the program topics areas are encouraged. Reports of conservation in developing countries are particularly encouraged.

We will only accept submissions made through the SWCS website at www.swcs.org.

SWCS does not reimburse presenters for expenses incurred for travel to the annual conference. This includes authors, symposia organizers, and individuals invited to present as part of a symposium.

All presenters and/or organizers (oral, poster, or symposia) who indicate intent to participate in the annual conference imply agreement to register for the conference at the appropriate fee, attend the conference, and make the presentation in person.

Submittal Instructions

Information required for oral presentations and poster presentations include:
* Selected topic area
* Title of presentation
* Complete contact information
* Presenting author and affiliation
* Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
* Abstract of 250 words or less

Information required for a symposium includes:
* Selected topic area
* Title of session
* Description of session (250 words or less)
* Names and affiliations of intended presenters
* Contact person and complete contact information
* Number of 90-minute sessions requested

An abstract is indicative of final paper quality; therefore, authors are urged to prepare quality abstracts. The abstract should include 1) a statement of current relevance or need, 2) general methods and data analysis information, 3) results or predicted results if the work has not yet been completed, and 4) how the results or outcomes contribute to science and society. Inclusion of tentative or final conclusions will greatly strengthen paper proposals and abstracts.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically at www.swcs.org/10AC

Guidance from the Program Committee:

The SWCS mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. This mission is grounded in a deep understanding of the value of natural resources in our own lives, for our families, friends and communities, and for future generations. However, we live in a diverse world of competing interests. Many of those interests are less connected to the land, and are unaware of the long-terms costs of their choices. For those that are aware, current economic and public policy drivers frequently disincentivize conservation and the focused use of limited resources to achieve meaningful conservation gains.

This is a challenging environment - one that needs to be addressed strategically. The 2010 conference is an opportunity for dialog among the SWCS community about the value of an ecosystem services framework for conservation science, policy, and practice. Our intent is for symposia and presentations to address the following kinds of questions:

- Does the concept of ecosystem services aid conservation planning, implementation, and funding?
- How are research agendas in the natural and social sciences contributing to our understanding of practices and policies that will maintain food, water, fuel, and fiber resources while protecting soil, climate, security, social quality of life, and cultural amenities?
- How are community, watershed, farm, and field-scale conservation activities maintaining soil, water, air, wildlife, and energy resources?
- What are the drivers – attitudes, messages, incentives, regulations – that lead to individual and community engagement in practices that maintain or improve ecosystem services?
- How are federal, state, and local policies supporting or limiting our ability to provide ecosystem services?
- How are individuals and organizations outside of government utilizing ecosystem services concepts?
- What role should trading mechanisms for nutrients and carbon play in maintaining ecosystem services?
- What levels of uncertainty surround the quantification or valuation of ecosystem services? Is this uncertainty being conveyed in ways that allow agencies, organizations, and communities to use them in a meaningful way to prioritize, measure, and communicate the value of conservation impacts in agricultural and urban settings?
- How do we integrate the valuation of ecosystem services with inherently different attributes? How do we optimize the provision of ecosystem services, given the inherent tradeoffs among some services (e.g. water for livestock, water for in-stream flows)?
- How can ecosystem services be maintained or improved in urbanizing and urban environments?

Options For Participation

There are three ways you can propose to be part of the 2010 conference program.

Symposium: Organize a symposium that provides more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic.

Oral Presentation: An individual oral presentation reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.

Poster Presentation: Prepare and display a poster reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.

Symposia Sessions

Symposia sessions take place on Monday and Tuesday simultaneously with concurrent sessions for oral presentations. The purpose of symposia sessions is to provide a more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic. They are organized by an individual(s) and incorporate multiple speakers or presenters, panel discussions or other formats as determined by the organizer. A total of 90 minutes is allotted for each session. Proposals to organize symposia sessions that require two or more 90-minute sessions may be submitted. Organizers should include a tentative list of presenters and the individual topics presenters will cover. Sessions integrating research with practice and allowing for interaction with the audience are strongly encouraged.

Oral Presentations

Concurrent sessions for oral presentations will take place on Monday and Tuesday during the conference. Oral sessions are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned through professional experience with conservation projects, systems, programs, and technologies. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes - 15 minutes to make the presentation and five minutes for questions. To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters. Please submit no more than three proposals per author.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display throughout the conference. Presenters are expected to be present at their boards during the Sunday evening welcome reception in the exhibit hall to answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees. A poster presentation entails affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) on a specific topic to a four-foot high by eight-foot wide (4'x8') poster board.

General Topic Area Descriptions

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

In adaptive management, means are adjusted in response to measures of the end-conditions sought. Adaptive management for soil and water conservation means finding indicators of changes in the conditions of the soil, water, and biodiversity, and relating them back to natural resource management practices. Papers are sought on projects that have utilized adaptive management strategies to enhance the provision of ecosystem services. Specific topics may include but are not limited to: improvement of soil and water quality; techniques for measuring changes in soil and water quality in response to management actions; how traditional measures have changed in the light of climate change and the presence of more extreme weather events; the development and use of indicators of change in resource/ecological condition including biodiversity conservation and management, scientific and technical advances in targeting conservation and in precision conservation; building the human dimension into conservation; and environmental risk assessment and management.

Biodiversity Conservation and Management

Fish, wildlife, plants and other life forms are essential components of earth's ecosystems. They provide food, fiber and energy; they process nutrients and chemical pollutants; they provide economically important hunting, angling and ecotourism opportunities; and they provide cultural and aesthetic benefits that cannot be replaced. Examples of topics in this section are: restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitats, impacts of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitats; conservation of native pollinators; the risks and effects of climate change on fish, wildlife, and biodiversity; and methods and methodological challenges in biodiversity valuation. We welcome papers addressing agricultural, urbanizing, and urban landscapes.

Conservation and Environmental Policy and Program Design

Conservation and environmental policies influence the provision of ecosystem services. Policy and decision makers, planners and land owners rely upon evaluation of programs and policies to provide valuable information to stimulate change and reform of existing conservation and environmental policies. Topics may include but are not limited to: policy evaluation and reform of voluntary, regulatory, and market-based approaches; program evaluation and reform; use and effectiveness of international conventions and agreements; conservation implications of trade agreements and dispute resolution processes; quantifying benefits of policies and programs; nutrient trading and programs for implementation; biodiversity conservation; implications of the farm bill; monitoring and assessment of conservation needs and benefits; accountability and performance measurement.

Conservation Outreach and Education

Conservation outreach and education submissions should address the focus and delivery of information and incentives that promote and maintain ecosystem services. Topics may include but are not limited to: programs and practices for engaging farmers and rural property owners, including absentee property owners; opportunities and challenges associated with social marketing and other targeted behavior change methods; programs that foster watershed and landscape scale decision-making; and conservation outreach and education programs for K-12 audiences in rural and urban settings; and research on the effectiveness of conservation outreach and education efforts.

Conservation in Urban Settings

The majority of our population lives in urban and suburban areas, which are growing at a rapid pace worldwide. Conservation practices in these settings are primarily designed to reduce erosion, create and conserve green spaces, and preserve or improve habitat and water quality. Presentations in this topic area may describe research and demonstration projects, new designs and methodology, new programs for enforcement and education, and similar subjects of interest in urban settings. Topics may include but are not limited to: land use and community planning and zoning, farmland and open-space protection; integrated urban watershed management and planning; urban storm water management and planning; erosion and sediment control systems; systems to improve water quality; innovations in conservation designs and education; low impact development.

Conservation Tools and Technologies

In the implementation, planning, management, and development of conservation practices, we rely on tools that provide decision support through analysis, visualization, and evaluation. Development of new tools and technologies, evaluation results, and application experiences all can provide information of value to share. Topics may include but are not limited to: development and testing of conservation practices and systems; quantification of the environmental and conservation effects of best management practices (BMPs) and systems; advances in science and technology for predicting and/or evaluating environmental and conservation effects of alternative resource management practices and systems (soil, water, nutrient, grazing, manure, pest, plant and landscape management); decision support tools for conservation planning and implementation; biodiversity conservation; geographic information systems.

Soil Resources and Management

The use of soil resources is required to provide the food, fiber, and energy needs of a growing world population. Problems of soil and environmental degradation have made the development of technologies and practices for sustainable soil management a high priority. Papers are invited that present research results, experiences, demonstration projects, simulation models, or other knowledge and information regarding soil resource management that enhance production while protecting our soil, water and air resources. Topics may include but are not limited to: soil conservation and management; soil quality; soil survey, assessment, and analysis; soil quality assessment and management; cover crops; water and wind erosion prediction and management; carbon sequestration; implications of climate change for soil conservation and management. Authors submitting in this area should choose from one of the following soil-related categories:

Soil Resource Assessment: resource assessment, including presentations dealing with spatial/temporal variability of soil properties and processes, soil survey and analysis, and soil quality.

Soil Resource Management and Conservation: resource management impacts on carbon sequestration, erosion processes, and the implications of climate and land-use changes on soil resources.

Water Resources and Management

This area addresses the social, economic, environmental, and technical dimensions of water resources management. Presentations in this area should serve to disseminate results, information, lessons learned, and/or shared experiences of research, testing, monitoring, and/or evaluation/demonstration projects on water resources issues. Topics may include but are not limited to: watershed management and restoration; integrated watershed management; water quantity and supply; water quality; irrigation and drainage; water conservation; watershed-scale research methods and tools; watershed-scale planning methods and tools; development and implementation of TMDLs; implications for biodiversity conservation; targeting water management interventions; risk management in water resource management; implications of climate change for water resource conservation and management.