SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Poster Presentation

Posters Accepted through April 30

Extension

Choosing Conservation:
Considering Ecology, Economics, and Ethics

67th International Annual Conference

Ft. Worth, TX [July 22-25, 2012] www.swcs.org/12AC

About the Conference

The 67th International SWCS Annual Conference will be held in Fort Worth, TX. Primary conference dates are July 22-25, 2012. Tours will be on July 25th. The headquarters hotel is the Renaissance Worthington.

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.

The primary focus of training and presentations at the conference 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.

This year, the reception in the Exhibit Hall (with the silent auction, poster presenters, cash bar, and appetizers) will be held on Monday beginning at 5:00 p.m. – immediately following the last set of presentations and symposia sessions for the day. We will be hosting the conference welcome reception on Sunday evening at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. Both events are included with a standard attendee registration.

Conference Exhibitors/Sponsors To Date

- Agri Drain
- Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC)
- EnviroCert
- The Fertilizer Institute
- Grazinglands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)
- MultiView
- Texas Water Development Board
- Truax Company
- USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
- USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

2012 Conference Schedule at a Glance

Saturday, July 21st	SWCS Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, July 22nd	Society meetings, House of Delegates, Leadership Training & Workshops, Fellows Forum, Welcome Reception at BRIT, Soil Quality and ECO Farming Workshop
Monday, July 23rd	Pritchard Lecture (plenary keynote), Symposia and Educational Presentations, Evening Exhibitor & Poster Presentation Reception, MOVIE: Green Fire
Tuesday, July 24th	Plenary, Symposia and Educational Presentations
Wednesday, July 25th	Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable Workshop and Conservation Tours

Detailed schedule available online at www.swcs.org/12ac

Program Topics and Areas of Emphasis

Each year SWCS identifies topics or a theme for special attention at the annual conference. This year, the overarching theme of the conference is:

Choosing Conservation:
Considering Ecology, Economics, and Ethics

Both Hugh Hammond Bennett and Aldo Leopold recognized that effective conservation decision making takes many tools. A shovel, a pen, and a solid handshake were used skillfully by both men to help land managers and lawmakers make sustainable choices for working lands. Leopold was particularly vocal on the need to reunite economics with ecology and ethics. He recognized that each field of inquiry strengthens the study of natural resource conservation and its application on the back forty. Recent movements toward transdisciplinary research and systems approaches mirror Leopold's thinking. The 125th anniversary year of Leopold's birth provides us with an opportunity to take cues from Leopold and Bennett as we consider conservation choices today.

SWCS's mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Through the nine general topic areas presented annually at the meeting, presenters will educate and train attendees on the key topic areas that make up the core of the work of the conservation community.

Presenters have been asked to consider how ecological, economic, and ethical considerations influence natural resource decision making. Presenters intend to integrate these considerations with their own technical disciplines and experience as conservationists.

Symposia sessions, oral and poster presentations will work to address the following questions:

- What are some ecological, economic, or ethical leverage points that have the greatest impact on our ability to achieve conservation goals?
- Can a greater integration of ecological, economic and ethical considerations enhance the resilience of systems in desirable states or transform systems that are in undesirable states?
- How are conservation decisions made when uncertainty is high? How does uncertainty affect conservation choices? How can we improve decision-making when uncertainty is high?
- What are the strengths of current economic approaches that assign value to ecosystem services? Challenges? How can we utilize diverse approaches within the field of economics to strengthen conservation efforts?
- How can conservation achieve maximum cost efficiencies (e.g. targeting, market-based approaches)?
- What are some tools and techniques for successfully incorporating ethical considerations into local conservation practice?
- Are there consistencies in conclusions that scholars and practitioners in the fields of economics, ecology, and ethics have drawn? Irreconcilable differences?
- How are scholars and practitioners in the fields of economics, ecology, and ethics working together to evaluate tradeoffs in conservation decision-making?
- Are there timely opportunities to more effectively incorporate economics, ecology, and ethics into local, state, national, and global decision-making?

Conference Highlights

2012 Keynote Pritchard Lecturer: Curt Meine, Ph.D.
Cultivating Community: Bringing Ecology, Economics, and Ethics Together on the Land

Curt Meine, Ph.D., is a conservation biologist, historian, and writer. He received his bachelor's degree in English and History from DePaul University in Chicago and his graduate degrees in Land Resources from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the last twenty years, Meine has worked on projects involving topics ranging from biodiversity conservation planning, sustainable agriculture, and international development, to crane and wetland conservation, prairie restoration, and development of community-based conservation programs. Meine is a Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Wisconsin, and with the Chicago-based Center for Humans and Nature. He is a Research Associate with the International Crane Foundation and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also active locally as a founding member of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance in Sauk County, Wisconsin. Most recently he has served as the narrator and on-screen guide of the documentary film Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time.

Meine's keynote address will challenge us to consider the connections between the past, present, and future of conservation. In 1939 Aldo Leopold suggested that "The landscape of any farm is the owner's portrait of himself. Conservation implies self-expression in that landscape, rather than blind compliance with economic dogma." In 1947 Hugh Hammond Bennett wrote: "Take care of the land and the land will take care of you."

Join us Monday morning (July 23) for Dr. Meine's perspectives and personal reflections on how Bennett and Leopold's writings and history from the last century can show us how economics, ecology, & ethics can and must come together to advance conservation in the next century.

Technical & Leadership Workshops

The professional development workshops held in conjunction with the SWCS international conference will be eligible for continuing education credits from various certifying organizations. Registration fees vary. Late fees for workshops apply beginning on June 4.

Sunday, July 22

All Day Workshop

Soil Quality and ECO Farming Workshop: A systems approach to enhance agro-ecosystem services
8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Instructors: Rafiq Islam, Randall Reeder, and Jim Hoorman, The Ohio State University; Paul Jasa, U. of Nebraska; Jodi DeJong-Hughes, U. of Minnesota; Don Reicosky, Morris, MN; and David Brandt, Carroll, Ohio

The workshop will be a dual-purpose educational program: (1) A Train-the-Trainer program, mainly for educators and agency people who want to teach soil quality management to farmers and others; and (2) An educational workshop for crop consultants, farmers and anyone else who wants to learn more in-depth about agricultural soil quality and how to improve it. It is supported by a grant from the USDA North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE).

The workshop will include: Soil quality and health; 21st century agriculture; Continuous no-till; Systems approach to no-till, including strip-till in cold climates; Cover crops; Soil quality test kit demo; and ECO farming.

ECO Farming is a concept that leads to enhanced ecosystem services. ECO means: E = Exclusive Long-term No-till (a system that minimally disturbs the soil only for planting and fertilizer application.) C = Continuous Cover means keeping a living and growing crop on the soil during the entire year. O = Operational practices that improve soil and water quality, increase carbon sequestration and improve farm economics.

Fee: There is no charge to attend this workshop, but advance registration is required so materials can be prepared.

Chapter Leader Workshops

Chapter Leader Workshop:
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
All Chapter leaders are invited to attend an exciting workshop planned especially for you. Topics include how to measure your effectiveness as an organization, recruiting leaders to serve on your board, how to effectively use committees, social networking, and legal responsibilities. Plus, we will make time for Chapter success stories.

Fee: $15 ($25 late).

Chapter Leadership 101 Workshop:
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Are you a new Chapter leader, interested in becoming one, or just looking to refresh you knowledge base? If so, this workshop is for you! Budgeting, officer duties, planning, fundraising, basic board responsibilities, and working with headquarters staff are major topics that will cover what you need to become more effective in your duties.

Fee: Free.

Technical Workshops

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
All Sunday workshops are $30 ($45 late).

A. When the Customer Says No!
Organizer: SWCS Professional Development Committee
This workshop is designed to discuss the four major reasons that a customer will say no in a sales call and what to do about it. We'll discover how credibility and empathy produce trust and why that's important. We'll cover the key to understanding buying motives and just how far motherhood and apple pie will take you in selling conservation. And we'll answer the question, "What single value do I take to a customer that can't be purchased anywhere?"
Speakers: Roger Montague, Bayer CropScience

B. LiDAR 101 Workshop
Organizer: SWCS Professional Development Committee
Introduction to Light and Distance Ranging (LiDAR) high resolution elevation data and natural resource applications.
This workshop will provide an introduction to LiDAR data and the use of this new technology in natural resource applications. Examples will be provided of how the data are used to model the terrain surface for visualization and analysis using raster geoprocessing software. This developing technology has high potential for the characterization of subtle terrain features and modeling water flow across the land surface. Participants will also learn how the LiDAR point cloud dataset can be used to study plant communities.
Speakers: Dwain Daniels, USDA NRCS

Exam Review Courses/Exams: CPESC, CESSWI

Review course on Sunday, July 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Exams will be Monday, July 23 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Once again, SWCS will host a full-day Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) Exam Review Course, a Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI) Exam Review Course, and EnviroCert International Exams at the Annual Conference. This year, the review course will be held on Sunday, July 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exams for any EnviroCert International certification program (CPESC, CESSWI, and CPSWQ) will be offered on Monday, July 23 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Your registration fee for either session includes a review workbook with essential information for passing an EnviroCert exam. Whether you're taking the exam or just considering becoming certified in the future, this is a great opportunity to review the principles of erosion and sediment control, hydrology, and urban runoff.

Anyone may participate in the review course, but you must have prior approval from EnviroCert to take an exam. You may also register to just take an exam. Please note, a review committee will need 30 days to evaluate your information and confirm your eligibility to sit for the exam.

For more information about the certification process, visit www.envirocert.org.

Fee: $200 – Exam review course. Includes materials and exam sitting fee. Additional certification fees are required to EnviroCert if you plan to take an exam.
$25 – Exam sitting fee, paid if ONLY taking exam. All other certification fees paid directly to EnviroCert.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Wednesday, July 25

Workshop – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sustainable Ranch Management:
Ranch Assessment and Business Planning Workshop
Organizer: Kristie Maczko, Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable

This ¾ day session is designed to share with conservation professionals, extension personnel, and land managers tools and techniques for combining social, ecological and economic monitoring with standard business planning methods for sustainable ranch management. The workshop will discuss how selected social, ecological, and economic indicators can be used to monitor ecological conditions as well as the socio-economic components of a ranch business plan. The business planning process and the protocols needed to gather necessary monitoring data will be presented. Speakers will provide an overview of sustainable principles at the ranch level, emphasizing integration of economic, social, and economic information provided by indicators. Applications on federal allotments, as well as within the NRCS conservation program and planning context for private lands will be addressed. A section will deal specifically with collection of traditional monitoring data for soils, water, plant, animals, productive capacities, economics, and relevant social, legal, and institutional elements. A framework for evaluation of rangeland ecosystem services in the context of alternative income sources for ranchers and land managers also will be presented. The Wyoming Business Council process for developing a ranch business plan, including all requisite materials, will be featured. By the end of this workshop, participants should be able to assist ranchers in developing a business plan, including monitoring necessary to support sound decision-making for financial and natural resource related aspects of the business.

Fee: $40 ($60 late) if registered for the conference;
$60 ($80 late) if not.

Exhibit/Sponsorship Opportunities

Increase Your Conference Visibility. Be a Sponsor!

Sponsors are vital to ensuring the success of the SWCS Annual Conference.

- Platinum $5,000+: exhibit booth, full-page ad in conference program, and five conference registrations
- Refreshment Break $2,500: recognition at break table and a half-page ad in the conference program.
- Gold $1,500+: exhibit booth, half-page ad in final program, and two conference registrations
- Silver $750+: recognition and one conference registration

If you are interested in a special event sponsorship or supporting a specific opportunity, please contact us to discuss your interests.

Buy an Exhibit Booth, Get Two Registrations

If you're sending two or more people to the conference, have you considered showcasing your agency's successes or your company or organization's products, services or programs in the conference Exhibit Hall? Exhibitors receive recognition in the conference program, two full registrations, booth space, and more – all for $850.

Advertising in Conference Program

This 8.5″x11″ publication is the primary resource for the educational program as well as other activities at the conference. Full-page ads are $1,000 and half-page ads (vertical or horizontal) are $500. Please submit all advertising as a PDF with fonts embedded to dewayne.johnson@swcs.org. The closing date for advertising is June 4, 2012.

Just a Table

If you're already planning on attending, but would like some extra space to showcase the success of your chapter, agency, project, or program at the conference, you can reserve a tabletop space in the exhibit hall for just $100. Tables for SWCS Chapters are just $50.

Break Sponsorship

There will be two hosted refreshment breaks on Monday and one on Tuesday for all registered attendees. Get additional exposure and recognition in the conference program, on the conference website, and on the buffet table at the conference, by sponsoring one or more of these breaks. Cost to sponsor a break is $2,500.

More information for exhibitors and sponsors is available online at www.swcs.org or contact Meredith Foley at meredith.foley@swcs.org or 515-289-2331 x112.

SWCS proudly recognizes its

Gold Level Corporate Members

AGREN
Agri Drain Corporation
PIONEER A DuPont Business
Hickenbottom Inc. Look for the bright orange inlet - Hickenbottom's Trademark
Dow AgroSciences

Silver Level Corporate Members

The Nature Conservancy Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Outdoor Classroom – Educational Tours

All tours will take place on Wednesday, July 25. Departure and return times vary. The tours will give exposure to interesting and informative conservation work happening in the area. Be sure to register early to secure a seat. The SWCS reserves the right to cancel a tour that does not have the minimum number of participants and to change the maximum number of participants. Late fees (an additional $10 per ticket) apply if you register after June 11, so reserve your seat early!

Tour #1

Botanical Research Institute of Texas and Fort Worth Botanic Garden
8:00 a.m. – Noon
Fee: $30/$40 late. Light snack provided

The BRIT portion of the tour will include visiting and discussion on:

- Green "living" roof exhibit on display in atrium, viewing available via camera.
- Herbarium, a worldwide botanical specimen collection. Over 1.5 million items in the collection, all housed on-site.
- Library, a collection of children's books, scientific journals and historical books about conservation & botany. A small rotating display from the collection in the reading room is available for public viewing. Library staff are available to retrieve specific publications for use in the reading room.
- Learning panels displayed throughout the entire building, always available for public viewing, regardless if there are tours being conducted. The one in the atrium has information about the building's "green" LEED certification.

Attendees will also take a self-guided tour of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the oldest botanic garden in Texas. This is a lush 109-acre tapestry of dappled shade and vibrant splashes of color. A peaceful haven nestled in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District, the Garden is home to over 2,500 species of native and exotic plants that flourish in its 23 specialty gardens. Enjoy the classic European design of the famous Rose Garden, where 2000 roses dance in celebration of the diversity and beauty of our national flower. Meander down the enticing paths, past intriguing sculpture and hidden pocket plantings to the heart of the garden. Sheltered benches invite you to sit, relax, breathe, and contemplate. Take time to stroll through the world-renowned Japanese Garden, with its koi-filled pools, dramatic waterfalls, sculpted hillsides, and meticulously crafted stonework. http://www.brit.org/; http://www.fwbg.org/

Tour #2

Burgandy Beef and Sunset Winery Tour
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Fee: $45/$55 late. Includes lunch and wine tasting

In the morning, the Burgandy Beef portion of the tour will include a hayride and discussion with Jon Taggart on how he incorporates conservation practices and land use changes for his successful grass fed beef operation. On the way back we will stop at the country butcher market where they age, cut and package their meat and have one of the best burgers you have ever tried for lunch. Following lunch, the tour will visit the Sunset Winery. You will be greeted by either Birgit or Bruce – the winemakers and owners of Sunset Winery. You will be part of a small group who will have the VIP tour of the winery. The tour will end in one of the winery's tasting venues where you'll taste up to 8 different wines. Wear comfortable shoes for the tour.

Tour #3

Bear Creek Ranch (Dixon Water Foundation)
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Fee: $35/$45 late. Lunch included in tour.

Founded in 1994 by the late Roger Dixon, the 501(c) (3) Foundation promotes healthy watersheds through good landscape management. They support this mission through:

1. Fostering public awareness about healthy living through healthy watersheds.
2. Implementing & demonstrating sustainable land management practices at our four working ranches in North Texas and West Texas by
   – Promoting outreach & education locally through field days, workshops & lectures.
3. Funding annual grant programs that advance our mission throughout key ecosystems in Texas by
   – Funding research on improving water quality & minimizing soil erosion in watersheds, enhancing infiltration, retention & aquifer recharge.
   – Implementing ecologically & financially sustainable land management on rangeland.

The vision for the Dixon Water Foundation ranches is to provide learning and demonstration sites for education, outreach and research on water issues, and implementing a sustainable planned grazing approach by demonstrating how to manage rangeland in an environmentally and economically sound way. Attendees will learn about holistic grazing management plans that are adaptive in nature, taking into account changing environmental circumstances such as drought, weed and brush encroachment and herd size. www.dixonwater.org

Tour #4

Fort Worth Nature Center (A&B) and Stockyard
8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Fee: $20 or $25 depending on choice ($30/$35 late).
Lunch on your own at stockyards.

Stop 1 – **Fort Worth Nature Center**

Break into two groups for trailer tour and bison visit while other group learns about the Nature Center and local fauna and flora.

A) **Bison Feeding Hayride** – Maximum 20 participants – $25 per person

Bison Feeding Hayride: Enjoy an old-fashioned hayride to the bison range where you will get to see the bison up close and personal as staff assist in feeding them range cubes. The tour will also visit the hay barn where you can learn about our bison management practices. During the entire hayride, we will discuss the habitats and native grasses represented at the Nature Center.

B) **Naturalist Led Nature Hike** – Maximum 30 participants $20 per person

Naturalist Led Nature Hike: Join a staff Naturalist on a hike and learn more about the local flora and fauna, and habitats represented at the Nature Center. Participants will tour a stretch of prairie that was part of a prescribed burn in January 2012. This hike will be approximately 1-2 miles in length.

Stop 2 – **Stockyards** – on your own for lunch. Recommend Coopers Barbeque for easy timing for lunch. (Bus to leave for hotel around 1 p.m.).

Symposia Sessions

Title	Organizer
2012 Farm Bill Implications for Conservation	Jimmy Daukas, American Farmland Trust
Advances and Challenges in Monitoring Water at the Field Edge: Methods and Case Studies	Mark Tomer, USDA/ARS
BMP's in the Chesapeake Bay: What is Really There?	Bob Ensor, Howard Soil Conservation District
Choosing the Best Survey Tool - GPS, Optical, or MGIS	Micah Bench, Trimble Navigation, LTD
Community Conservation	Pete Nowak, AgInfomatics, LLC
Conclusions and Conservation Benefits from the National Cropland Assessment	Arnold King, Texas AgriLife Research
Conservation Effects Assessment Project: Accomplishments from USDA-ARS Benchmark Watersheds	John Sadler, USDA-ARS
Conservation Technology Innovations: New Options for the Future	Gregorio Cruz, USDA-NRCS
Deep and Still Waters: Challenges in Aquifer Sustainability	Jean Steiner, USDA-ARS
Discovery Farms: Monitoring Runoff from Real, Working Farms	Mike Daniels, University of Arkansas
Ecological Farming: A Systematic Approach to Increasing Ecological Services and Economic Profit.	James Hoorman, Ohio State University Extension
Embracing Conservation Practices as a Producer - A Panel Discussion	Gretchen Kamps, University of Wisconsin-Platteville Pioneer Farm
Expanding Your Support-Creation of the First Friends of the District Organization	Dale Threatt-Taylor, Wake Soil and Water Conservation District
Food Security: Conservation, Inputs and Technology	Jorge Delgado, USDA-ARS-SPNR
International Grassroots Conservation Success Stories	Theo Dillaha, SWCS International Committee
Lessons from Monitoring and Measurement of Water Quality Projects in Midwestern Agriculture Watersheds	James Daukas, American Farmland Trust
Managing Ag Landscapes for Aquatic Biodiversity	David De Geus, The Nature Conservancy
New Methods and Applications for the Spatial Analysis of Soil Loss	Jamie Ridgely, Agren, Inc.
Odor-Free Manure Management - The Aerobic Revolution!	Wm F. Tooley, The THULE Group of Consultants, Ltd.
Phyto-Aquatic Nutrient Recycling	H. Tony Hartmann, Great Lakes Ag Energy
Pollinator Conservation Grows Up: Lessons Learned from the Field	Cheryl Simmons, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and NRCS
Promoting Conservation Agriculture Cost-Effectively through Performance Guarantees and the BMP CHALLENGE	Thomas Green, Agflex, Inc.
Spinoff Technologies from the CEAP National Cropland Assessment	Arnold King, Texas AgriLife Research
Streamlining Conservation Delivery	Cheryl Simmons, NRCS
The MRBI: Sharing Experiences and Successes	Mike Daniels, University of Arkansas
Toward a Standard for Model Calibration and Validation?	Claire Baffaut, USDA-ARS-CSWQRU

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Attendees wishing to receive Continuing Education Units/ Credits need to designate the certification program for which they are seeking CEUs when they register for the conference. SWCS will arrange for Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits in the Soil and Water Area. Last year you could earn up to 18 CEUs. Additionally we will work with attendees to arrange for credits for: certified, licensed, or professional engineers (PE), agronomists (CPAg), soil scientists and classifiers (CPSS and CPSC), crop consultants (CPCC), foresters, range managers (CPRM), grassland professionals (CGP), professionals in erosion and sediment control (CPESC) and storm water quality (CPSWQ), and others as requested.

Oral Presentations

Concurrent Sessions: Oral Presentations

90-minute symposia and concurrent sessions will take place on Monday and Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

- A basis for decision making on soil conservation in Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada: Considering the evidence
- Adaptive management of ecosystem services in Orinoco Watershed: A regional Assessment
- Adaptive Management of Nutrients - Why, How, and the NRCS Action Plan
- Management Of Drainage Waters: New Practice Standards
- Strategies Targeting American Agricultural Resources Sustainability: A 6-State Study of Energy Coupled with Resource Management
- Sustainable Cropping Systems Using Cover Crops, Native Species Field Borders and Riparian Buffers for Environmental Quality
- Targeting conservation practices through watershed modeling informed by farmer interviews

Agricultural and Conservation Economics

- Assessing the Economic Impact of New Water Quality Regulations
- Bennett, Leopold and the Shadow of James Madison
- Capturing Ag EcoCommerce Values with Strategic Doing and a Shared Governance Model
- Deriving an Economic Value of Soil Organic Matter in a Wheat-Fallow Crop Rotation
- Developing a Comprehensive National Conservation Cost Database
- Economic and Biophysical Impacts of Land Management Practices in Southern Manitoba
- Economics of soil nutrient depletion and its impact on productivity in the Hilly Regions of Nepal
- NRCS Use of the Discount Rate in Conservation Programs and Projects
- Nutrients management in the Danube River Basin
- Sell Versus Burn Crop Residue Management Decisions Using Economic Analysis For Arkansas Wheat-Soybean Double Crop Production Systems
- Systems Approach To Reduce Nitrogen Loss
- The Value of Environmental Benefits from NRCS WRP easements

Biodiversity Conservation and Management

- Conservation of Mangrove ecosystems: Global assessment of climatic impacts
- Soil microbial communities and enzyme activities in soils during historically extreme drought conditions in the USA

Oral Presentations *(continued)*

Conservation in Urban Settings

- Development of an Urban Ecosystem along Eight Miles of the San Antonio River
- Engineering a "Natural" Solution to an Unnatural Challenge, Shoreline Stabilization and Beautification on Town Lake Trail, Austin
- Erosion control through the vetiver system in urban settings in Central Africa
- Great Lakes vacant land potential to participate in biogeochemical capture and storage
- Land use pattern and stream flows in urbanizing watersheds

Conservation Models, Tools and Technologies

- A New Framework to Incorporate Agronomic Systems into Ecological Site Descriptions
- Adaptive hydrologic enforcement of LiDAR-based Digital Elevation Models
- Application of NutrientNet in Chesapeake Bay Watershed as powered by Nutrient Tracking Tool
- Assessment of Riparian Buffers as an Alternative Conservation Practice using the USDA AnnAGNPS Watershed Pollutant Loading Model
- Effect of Topographic Characteristics on Compound Topographic Index for Identification of Gully Channel Initiation Locations
- Enhanced Conservation Efficiencies Through Technology and Lessons Learned
- Modeling the effects of conservation tillage on hydrology and nutrient transport in a Canadian Prairie watershed under frozen soil condition
- NHDPLUS Dataset and Watershed Modeling
- Rapid Response to Historic Drought Impacts on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas
- Using AWM and SPAW for Evaluating Animal Waste Storage Structures

Conservation Policy and Program Design

- A Brief Survey of Ethical Arguments for Soil Conservation
- Evaluating the Environmental Benefits of Rangeland Conservation Practices
- Landscape as an Ecological Service
- Learning from NIFA-CEAP: Changing Conservation Programming
- Legal and Economic Considerations related to NRCS conservation easements
- Successful Water Quality Implementation Projects: the Result of Thorough Watershed Assessments–an Iowa Example
- Toward Integrated Wetland Conservation: A Diagnostic Framework
- Water Conservation: A Stakeholder Approach to Implementing Statewide Initiatives

Outreach, Education and Community Engagement

- Chapter 1 – Needs Assessment Survey of Urban Gardeners and Farmers on Urban Soil Contamination Topics
- Emergency Conservation recovery in the New Madrid Floodway
- Evaluation of Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency and State Water Policy in Arkansas
- Soil Health Impacts on Human Health Concerns: Some Linkages.
- The Impact of Nutrient Management Planning in Arkansas
- Watershed Based Program Design and Implementation

Soil Resource Assessment and Management

- Assessment of Polluting Potential of Major soil types within Lake Huron tributaries
- Effect of pinyon and juniper slash on sediment production following a prescribed cut-and-limb treatment in central Nevada
- Estimation of soil water evaporative loss after tillage operation using stable isotope technique
- Examining plant nutrient recovery efficiencies in the United States, 1996-2010
- NuGIS: a Nutrient Use Geographic Information System for the U.S.
- Precision Fall and Summer Seeded Cover Crop Impact on Corn Yield and Soil Quality
- Regional Assessment of Short-term Impacts of Corn Stover Removal for Bioenergy on Soil Quality and Crop Production
- The Impact of 2011 Induced Levee Breaches on Agricultural Lands of Mississippi River Valley
- Vertical Tillage Effects on Corn Yield, Disease and Pathogens, and Soil Properties
- Wind Erosion of Organic Soils

Water Resource Assessment and Management

- A GIS index approach to prioritize water quality monitoring of CAFOs in North Carolina
- Management of creek pastures to protect and improve water quality
- Agronomic, Economic and Institutional Factors Influencing Spatial Variability of Water Use in the Irrigation District 014-Rio Colorado, Mexico
- Assessing the effects of nutrient enrichment on agricultural stream ecology: Regional implications for nutrient criteria development
- Complexity of Agricultural and Human Interactions on Water Quality and Quantity in the Mississippi Delta
- Effects of retired lands on water quality in southern Minnesota agricultural watersheds
- Estimating Flood Damages Averted from NRCS Watershed Projects
- Large-Scale Restoration of Disturbed Wetlands on Florida Agricultural Lands
- Paired Watershed Studies in the Jordan Lake Watershed: A Regulated System in North Carolina
- Physicochemical Properties of Soils and some Water Sources on the Western Flank of Mount Cameroon
- Potential for Improving Agriculture's Water Use Efficiency in Northwest Mexico: The Mexicali Agricultural Valley
- Red River Basin: Water Quality Assessment of Subsurface Drainage in Salinized Soils
- Retrospective analysis of periodically-collected suspended-sediment data in the United States
- The Effects of 2011 Ohio and Mississippi River Valley Flooding on Cairo, Illinois Area
- The effects of groundwater withdrawals from the Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer on surface water quality in northwestern Mississippi
- The Lake Macatawa Water Quality Project
- The NRCS/USACE Partnership Handbook: A Field Guide to Working Together Toward Shared Goals
- The use of models to manage for water availability and nutrient transport in an agricultural landscape
- Using conservation tillage to increase yield and water use efficiency of corn and cotton under deficit irrigation
- Water As A Crop - Helping Landowners Find Value Meeting Society's Water Resource Needs

Poster Presentations

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

Poster presenters are expected to be present with their posters at the Monday evening poster reception.

- Sustainability Standards: How much do they contribute to conservation?
- Sustainable ranch management: Integrating resource monitoring and business planning
- Will Taller Cuttings Help Mitigate the Negative Impacts of Spring Flooding on Willow Transplants used in Bio-Engineering and Restoration?

Agricultural and Conservation Economics

- Assessing the Cost of Environmental Compliance on Dairies in the San Joaquin Valley, California

Biodiversity Conservation and Management

- Increasing the Availability of Local Ecotype Milkweed (Asclepias spp.) Seed for Monarch Butterfly Habitat Conservation
- Promoting Agricultural Sustainability through Beneficial Insect Hedgerows: Restoring Pollination and Pest Control Services on Farms in California's Central Valley, Phase II
- Pyrosequencing Reveals Bacteria Carried in Different Wind Eroded Sediments
- Soil Resources Area Affects Herbivore Health
- Virginia Quail Management Assistance Program Facilitating Diverse Habitat Development

Conservation Models, Tools and Technologies

- A New Nitrogen Index to Assess Sustainability of Cropping Systems of Andean Regions of South America
- Assessment of Sampling Methods for Carbon Credit Monitoring
- Cultivar Plant Release of 'Windbreaker' Big Sacaton by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center
- Development and Testing of Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Specifications for Six Regions of the U.S.
- Monitoring Edge-of-Field Surface-Water Runoff: a Three-State Pilot Project to Promote and Evaluate a Simple, Inexpensive, and Reliable Gauge
- Nitrous oxide emissions as a function of N application to bioenergy feedstocks
- Phytoremediation Database: A tool to assist in remediation and rehabilitation of contaminated sites
- Potentials of Aerial Cropping For Rehabilitation of Degraded Land In South Western Nigeria
- Using Rare Earth Element (REE) Tracers to Identify Preferential Micro-Sites of Post-Fire Aeolian Erosion

Outreach, Education and Community Engagement

- Arkansas Discovery Farms: Row Crop Production
- Enabling Locals in Sierra Leone, Africa to Attain a Healthy Future Through Sustaining Long-Term Water Quality
- PLANTS Database information as tools in conservation planning.

Soil Resource Assessment and Management

- Effect of Tillage and Integrated Nutrient Management on Soil Properties and Yield of Hybrid Maize
- Evidence towards sediment accumulation characteristics of slotted pipes as best management practices on agricultural landscapes
- High-resolution soil erosion modelling with a LiDAR-derived DEM for a small Lake Huron coastal watershed in Ontario
- Peat properties and carbon stock in Jambi Province, Indonesia

Water Resource Assessment and Management

- Arkansas Discovery Farms Program: An overview of the runoff, water quality monitoring efforts on livestock production farms
- Impacts of intensive potato production on soil erosion: a watershed evaluation based on a long-term monitoring system
- Mancos River Rapid Watershed Assessment and Locally Led Conservation
- Monitoring Water Wells in Middle Tennessee with Down Well Camera
- Sediment Loading Measurements in the Lake Macatawa Watershed
- Summary of geological and hydrodynamic performance studies for Aguanaval and Chupaderos aquifers
- The NRCS/USACE Partnership Handbook: A Field Guide to Working Together Toward Shared Goals
- Variations in precipitation between 1970 and 2009 in the Canadian River watershed in New Mexico and Texas: Implications regarding the use of Lake Meredith and the Ogallala Aquifer as water supplies
- Water table response to precipitation events based on depth to groundwater and vegetation

Note: Additional posters submitted after the early deadline are still in review and may not be on this list. Poster submissions accepted through April 30, 2012.

Events, Meetings & Luncheons

State of the Society/House of Delegates/Regional Meetings

Sunday, July 22 – Noon

The annual SWCS State of the Society meeting will include President Bill Boyer's State of the Society address, the Annual Report from Executive Director Jim Gulliford, the House of Delegates session, and (a change this year) the regional meetings. The regional meetings (historically held during breakfast or lunch) will provide conference attendees an opportunity to meet with others from their region for a roundtable discussion on local events and issues.
This 90-minute session is open to all conference attendees.

Student Members Information Session and Discussion

Sunday, July 22 – 1:30 p.m.

Join your student colleagues and Andrew Paxson, Student Director for SWCS, for a conversation with a panel of guest speakers from various conservation disciplines. Speakers will provide information about each of their respective agencies and disciplines during the interactive discussion. They will also give advice on how you can match your education to the needs of the conservation industry. Following the panel, attendees will have a roundtable session focused on student chapter membership and activities, how to start a student chapter, professional networking and more. Attendance is encouraged for student members, student chapter advisors, and those wishing to start a new student chapter.

New Members/First Timers Orientation

Sunday, July 22 – 6:00 p.m.

If you are a new member or are attending the Soil and Water Conservation Society annual conference for the first time, be sure to attend this orientation. This is a great opportunity to meet others and discuss the conference with a few "experienced" board members and others about sessions, schedules, symposia, and networking opportunities.

Exhibitor Reception & Poster Presentations

Monday, July 23 – 5:00 p.m.

This is your best opportunity to visit with the authors presenting their posters at the meeting, make connections with potential business associates, reconnect with your colleagues, and meet vendors showcasing their newest technology, programs, and products.

6th Annual Conservation Innovation Grants Showcase

In an effort to provide information on cutting-edge conservation projects, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will once again host a CIG Showcase at the SWCS Annual Meeting.

This year, there will be one 90-minute CIG Symposium Session providing an overview of recent program successes and a panel discussion with several project managers and program staff. There will also be more than 20 oral and poster presentations from successful CIG projects distributed throughout educational sessions at the conference. Look for these special opportunities to learn about projects from across the United States that have made significant contributions to the body of knowledge and experience needed to efficiently and effectively address natural resource concerns.

Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies through pilot projects and field demonstrations. The projects and field demonstrations are made possible by awarding competitive grants to State and local governments, non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. For more information on the Conservation Innovation Grants Program, contact Gregorio Cruz, CIG Program Manager, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, (202) 720-8071, or gregorio.cruz@wdc.usda.gov

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

Monday, July 23 – 7:15 p.m.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film provocatively examines Leopold's thinking, renewing his idea of a land ethic for a population facing 21st century ecological challenges. Leopold's biographer, conservation biologist Dr. Curt Meine, serves as the film's on-screen guide. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

The film also features commentary and insight from some of today's most recognized and credible scholars and conservation leaders, including three of Aldo Leopold's children–Nina, Carl, and Estella, Leopold scholars, noted environmental writers, scientists, humanities experts, public policy leaders, business leaders, and leaders of non-profit groups inspired by Leopold.

Early Bird Sessions:

Tuesday, July 24 - 7:30 a.m.

2012 Census of Agriculture
Renee Picanso, USDA/NASS

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is gearing up to conduct the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and figures about American Agriculture and is used by everyone who provides services to farmers and rural communities. Questionnaires will be mailed in late December 2012 and due back in February 2013. The support and assistance of all involved in agriculture is needed to ensure that the Census coverage is complete and accurate.

Lessons Learned from NIFA CEAP Watersheds
Deanna Osmond, North Carolina State University and additional speakers

As part of the overall Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), 13 agricultural watershed projects were funded jointly by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The projects, conducted from 2004 to 2011, were to evaluate the effects of cropland and pastureland conservation practices on spatial and temporal trends in water quality at the watershed scale, as well as social and economic factors that influence implementation and maintenance of practices. The recent synthesis of lessons learned about implementing conservation practices to protect water quality will be presented and discussed relative to agencies and organizations incorporation of these lessons.

Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, July 24 – Noon

The Awards Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, July 24, beginning at noon. All Conference attendees are encouraged to attend the Awards luncheon. Luncheon tickets are not included in the registration fee. These tickets may be purchased separately on the registration form or onsite, if available.
Tickets: $45/$55 late

Register Online at www.swcs.org/12ac

Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference and Exposition

*Required

Name (please print)*_____

Company/Organization _____

Address* _____

City _____ State/Province* _____ Zip/Postal Code* _____ Country* _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email*_____

Physical or Dietary restrictions? **Yes** **No** If yes, please indicate: _____

1. Registration Join today! Include a SWCS Conservationist level membership ($80) and save on registration.

	Early Rate thru June 11	Regular Rate June 12 - July 13	July 14 and after	ONE DAY RATE (Sun, Mon, or Tues)	
◯ SWCS Member	◯ $385.00	◯ $430.00	◯ $475.00	◯ $200.00	◯ Sun.
◯ Non Member	◯ $495.00	◯ $545.00	◯ $600.00	◯ $280.00 incl. membership	◯ Mon.
◯ Register & Join SWCS**	◯ $465.00	◯ $510.00	◯ $555.00		◯ Tues.
◯ Senior (Retired)	◯ $240.00	◯ $265.00	◯ $290.00	◯ $150.00	
◯ Full Time Student‡	◯ $125.00	◯ $125.00	◯ $125.00	◯ $65.00 – no membership	

Student scholarships available. Please contact events@swcs.org for details.

**Rate includes a 12 month SWCS membership and immediate savings of at least $30! ‡Rate includes 12-month student membership or membership extension.

The following events are included with registration.

Please indicate your intent to participate

◯ State of the Society Meeting (Sun. noon)
◯ Student Member Session (Sun. 1:30 p.m.)
◯ Fellows Forum (Sun. 4:00 p.m.)
◯ New Members/First Timers Orientation (Sun. 6:00 p.m.)
◯ Sunday Evening Welcome Reception (Sun. 6:30 p.m.)
◯ Monday Evening Movie (Mon. 7:15 p.m.)

Registration Total $_____

2. Workshops (late fees apply beginning on June 12)

Sunday

◯ Soil Quality and ECO Farming Workshop — $0/$0 late = $_____
◯ Chapter Leader Workshop — $15/$25 late = $_____
◯ Chapter Leader 101 — $0/$0 late = $_____
◯ Technical Workshop A — Customer Says No — $30/$45 late = $_____
◯ Technical Workshop B — LiDAR — $30/$45 late = $_____

Wednesday

◯ Sustainable Ranch Management: Ranch Assessment and Business Planning (Registered for SWCS conference) — $40/$60 - if registered for conference $_____; $60/$80 - if not $_____

Workshops Total $_____

3. EnviroCert Review Courses (includes exam sitting fee)

Conference Registration Not Required.

◯ CPESC Exam Review Course — $200 = $_____
◯ CESSWI Exam Review Course — $200 = $_____
◯ Exam sitting fee ONLY for ANY EnviroCert Exam — $25 = $_____

EnviroCert Review Total $_____

4. CEUs

◯ CEUs (No charge. Please designate certification program._____)

5. Tours (late fees apply beginning on June 12) - Please purchase tickets for yourself and guests as necessary.

◯ Tour #1 — BRIT/ Botanic Garden — $30/$40 late x ___ = $_____
◯ Tour #2 — Burgandy Beef and Sunset Winery — $45/$55 late x ___ = $_____
◯ Tour #3 — Bear Creek Ranch — $35/$45 late x ___ = $_____
◯ Tour #4 — Fort Worth Nature Center
4A — Bison Feeding Hayride — $25/$35 late x ___ = $_____
4B — Naturalist Led Nature Hike — $20/$30 late x ___ = $_____

Technical Tours $_____

6. Special Events Tickets (late fees apply beginning on June 12) These events (except for the Welcome Reception) are not included with conference registration. Please purchase tickets for yourself and guests as necessary.

◯ Guest tickets for Welcome Reception (Sunday) — $10/$15 late x ___ = $_____
◯ Guest tickets for Exhibit/Poster Reception (Monday) — $10/$15 late x ___ = $_____
◯ Awards Lunch — $45/$55 late x ___ = $_____

Total Special Event $_____

7. Contribution — Additional Contribution to Support SWCS Program Development Fund $_____

Registration Total $_____

Registration

Register and pay online at:
www.swcs.org OR return completed form and payment to:
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Attn: **2012 Registration**
945 SW Ankeny Road
Ankeny, IA 50023
Fax to (**515) 289-1227**

Method of Payment

Choose One

Payment must accompany registration.

◯ Check – All checks should be payable to SWCS in US funds

$_____Check #_____

◯ Charge $_____
to: ◯ MasterCard ◯ Visa ◯ American Express

Credit Card Information

(if paying with credit card)

Name on card

_____

Card billing address

_____

_____

Card # _____

Exp_____

Phone number

_____

Signature

_____

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

945 SW Ankeny Road
Ankeny, IA 50023

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit #XXXX

Registration Information

The conference registration fee covers one participant. Please use the appropriate area on the registration form to purchase additional tickets for guests to attend the Welcome Reception or other special events. Register online at www.swcs.org or return the completed registration form along with the appropriate fees to:

Soil and Water Conservation Society
ATTN: 2012 Registration
945 SW Ankeny Rd.
Ankeny, IA 50023
or fax to (515) 289-1227

Questions? Call 1-800-THE SOIL (843-7645)

Payments for conference fees, tours, meal functions, and activities must accompany registration and will be accepted in U.S. funds only – credit card (MasterCard, VISA, or American Express) or check. Cancellation of conference registration, tours, meal functions, or activities must be received in writing no later than June 11, 2012 to receive a full refund. Cancellations received in writing June 12 through July 13 are subject to a processing fee of $75 per registration. No refunds will be made for conference registrations, workshops, tours, meal functions, or activities July 14, 2012, or after. This policy will be followed due to commitments made to service providers.

Special Needs

Please indicate on the registration form any physical or dietary special needs. The Soil and Water Conservation Society is committed to meeting the needs of persons covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Tickets, Workshops, Tours, Meals

Tours, special meal functions, and workshops will be handled on a reserved ticket basis only and must accompany a conference registration. Fees for these functions should be added to the conference registration. Tickets will be sold at the conference based on availability, but it is best to purchase as early as possible to guarantee participation. Tours, special meal functions, and workshops may be cancelled without sufficient participation. Refunds for cancelled activities will be given after the conclusion of the annual conference.

All tours organized by SWCS are subject to minimum and maximum capacity controls. SWCS reserves the right to cancel if minimum registrations are not reached or for other reasons beyond our control. Maximums may also be adjusted, so reserve your space early. If a tour is cancelled or tour minimums are not met, the options will be to exchange the ticket(s) for another tour or take a full refund. (Appropriate state and local taxes apply).

Accommodations/ Getting There

The Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel

200 Main Street · Fort Worth, Texas 76102 USA
Conference Room Rate: $119/night (plus taxes)
Reserve your rooms through the SWCS website at www.swcs.org/12ac.

The Worthington is located in Downtown Fort Worth, just 17 miles to the Dallas/ Fort Worth (DFW) International Airport. This stylish, contemporary hotel overlooks historic Sundance Square, a 16-block area brimming with shops, restaurants, theaters, galleries, and clubs. The hotel's well-equipped health club features an indoor pool, outdoor sundeck, spa tub, sauna, and massage services. At the popular martini bar, signature drinks are prepared tableside. Guest rooms provide signature bedding, including down comforters and thick mattresses with separate pillowtops. Desks come with upholstered chairs, and high-speed Internet access is available.

Please Stay at the Renaissance!!

The 2012 Conference is a full program, and almost all of the educational sessions, symposia, networking, receptions, and workshops take place at the hotel. By staying at the conference hotel, you will have a better overall conference experience, easy access to events throughout the day, the option of returning to your room during breaks, relaxing at evening receptions, and lots of soft seating areas for networking with other attendees during the week. Every room in the SWCS Block is at the federal per diem rate ($119). The Society has guaranteed this block of rooms which, if unfilled, will require us to reimburse the hotel if they are unused. Reimbursement to the hotel this year will mean higher registration fees for next year.

Directions to the Renaissance Worthington

Driving directions and maps are available on the SWCS website.

1800-835