

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) has a membership of more than 7,000 individuals and business leaders throughout the world. Members of SWCS are educated and trained natural resource conservationists, practicing primarily in the United States and Canada. The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, along with a broad cross-section of other interest groups to explore current issues in natural resource management and planning.

The 2005 annual conference will take place in downtown Rochester, the third largest urban area in the state of New York. This high-tech community has preserved so many links with the past that it claims more sites on the National Registry of Historic Places than any other city its size. Whether you're in the mood for museum hopping or antique shopping, history or mystery, artistry or pageantry...you'll find it at Rochester.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, AND SYMPOSIA

You are invited to submit proposals for oral and poster presentations or to organize a symposium session for the Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) annual conference July 30– August 4, 2005, Rochester, New York.

The conference will focus on four key topics of concern for professionals working to conserve natural resources locally and globally:

- Managing Landscapes for Environmental Quality
- Assessing and Communicating the Effectiveness of Conservation and Environmental Programs
- The Growing Debate Around Water Use
- Consumer Demand and Policy Effects on Agricultural Resources

PROGRAM TOPICS AREAS & SUB-TOPICS

MANAGING LANDSCAPES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Environmental performance is an increasingly important determinant of the commercial viability of agriculture and the acceptance of various land uses. The landscape is expected to function as a filter and reservoir for drinking water, habitat, and corridors to support biodiversity and a sink for sequestering carbon. There is increasing scrutiny of land uses that could impair these functions such as on-site treatment systems, golf courses, aggregate/forest extraction and agricultural production. Designing policies, programs, and practices to manage the impact of land use on the environment is one of the most important and difficult challenges facing policymakers, scientists, educators, providers of technical assistance, and the producers. Sustainable development of our landscapes will require an economic system that supports environmental goals. Papers presented in this theme area will help us understand how this challenge can be met for crop and animal production systems, housing and recreational developments and other land uses. Sub-topics:

- Management practices, technologies and decision tools for soil, water and/or air quality protection
- Quantifying the environmental benefits of management practices and technologies for soil, water, and/or air quality protection
- Environmental performance standards for agricultural production systems
- Methods of evaluating conservation and environmental impact
- Successful application of Environmental Management Systems to various systems
- Strengths and weaknesses of voluntary and regulatory programs for environmental management
- What are the potential economic and social impacts of environmental quality in land use decision making?
- Market-based approaches to environmental management
- Land management tools that recognize and balance the multiple needs of the community
- Watershed and other environmental based planning experiences and practices
- International environmental conventions, including biodiversity, climate change, desertification, and waters
- Other

ASSESSING AND COMMUNICATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

There is growing demand for accountability of both tax dollars spent and the imposition of regulations by government programs. Justifying spending on environmental programs or regulating land use will require demonstration of the benefits and performance of various policies and practices. This is never a simple task but is particularly challenging in the environmental

TIMELINE

September 1, 2004 SWCS begins accepting abstract submissions.

November 29, 2004 Deadline for submitting all abstracts.

January 8, 2005 Final decisions made on acceptance of abstracts and letters of notification to be sent

February 11, 2005 Deadline for presenters in all categories to indicate intent to participate in the annual conference program.

The program committee will carefully review all submissions for their contribution to the four topics. The time available for oral and poster presentations is expanded in response to a growing interest to participate in the program.

Please review the details of the submission process and take part in the 2005 SWCS Annual Conference. It is recommended that submissions be provided through the SWCS website at www.swcs.org/t_what_callforpapers05.htm, but may also be sent by fax to 515-289-1227; mailed to the SWCS office 945 SW Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021; or sent via email to abstract@swcs.org.

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are three ways you can propose to be part of the 2005 conference program.

- 1. Oral Concurrent Presentation:** Present a paper reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.
- 2. Poster Presentation:** Present a poster reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.
- 3. Symposia Session:** Organize a symposium session that provides more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic.

world where natural weather and landscape variability can mask the best of intentions. As demand for conservation and environmental programs continues to grow, a question emerges from policy makers, agencies, interest groups, and the public: How do we measure success? How do we best communicate our success to the public? Sub-topics:

- Monitoring vs. modeling: case studies and practical solutions
- Measuring and reporting economic and social benefits
- Predicting and/or evaluating the environmental benefits of management practices for soil, air, and/or water quality protection
- How do we measure and communicate risk/probability of negative environmental impacts associated with agricultural practices?
- Scales of effective measurement and reporting: field, watershed, eco-region, etc., practice vs. system
- Research: status, gaps, new technologies, and methods
- Adoption of conservation and environmental programs: Success and failure
- Measuring success: what measures or indicators should be used
- Future conservation and environmental policy: A historical assessment
- Determining the sources of evaluation funding
- Alternative strategies for encouraging environmental conservation
- Communication of conservation effectiveness
- Educating the public: How to communicate about conservation and the conservation ethic
- Other

THE GROWING DEBATE AROUND WATER USE

Water will become increasingly more precious as population and economies increase the need for high quantities of water. Farm, industry, and consumer uses will increasingly compete with environmental functions of water in the future. Conservationists will be in the middle of these debates. Papers and symposia are encouraged that will help us address these problems with facts and new ideas to help manage the conflict our communities are experiencing. Sub-topics:

- Water quality and quantity as a natural resource
- Water as a limitation in agriculture, industrial development, population growth or ecological balance
- Water use in different ecosystems - quantifying environmental uses/functions of water
- Carrying capacity of the Great Lakes Basin, including international watershed management experience

Oral Concurrent Presentations

Oral concurrent sessions will take place on Monday and Tuesday during the annual conference. Oral sessions are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned through professional experience with conservation projects, programs, and technologies. Oral concurrent sessions are 90 minutes in length and include reports from four presenters. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes—15 minutes to make the presentation and five minutes for questions.

Please Note: To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display Sunday evening through Tuesday. Presenters will be asked to be at their boards at specific times (to be determined) during which presenters will 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 poster board. Audiovisual equipment is not permitted and tabletop or freestanding displays are not considered posters.

Symposia Sessions

Symposia sessions take place on Monday and Tuesday simultaneously with oral concurrent sessions. 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/presenters. A total of 90 minutes is allotted for each session. Proposals to organize symposia sessions that require two 90-minute sessions may be submitted. Organizers should include as much information as possible, as well as a tentative list of presenters. Sessions integrating research with practice and allowing for interaction with the audience are strongly encouraged.

Please Note: SWCS cannot reimburse travel or any other expenses for symposia organizers or presenters.

Organizers and presenters will be expected to register for the conference at the appropriate fee.

- Water budgets, water balances - current state of the art, impacts of climate change
- Potential for water reclamation and re-use
- Increasing the efficiency of water use in urban and rural communities
- Development of decision-aid tools to assist in water management
- Agricultural/urban influences on water quality
- Decision making processes, techniques, and policy options to manage water allocation
- Water diversion issues, conflicts and opportunities - transwatershed, transboundary
- Successful (and not so successful) water conservation program stories
- Other

CONSUMER DEMAND AND POLICY EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Changing policies, economic conditions, and cultures are changing the type of food produced, where it is produced and how it is produced. Consumer shifts such as designer foods (genetically modified nutraceuticals), subsidized commodity production, and concerns for food safety can have land use impacts. We are encouraging papers and symposia that will help us understand how conservation issues will change as food production demands adjust to meet the world population needs and desires. Sub-topics:

- Alternative crop production
- Impact of trade policy on food production and natural resources
- Impact of climate change on the food supply
- Development of sustainable agricultural systems
- Soil quality in intensive agriculture and non-intensive production systems
- Improving natural resources in intensive and non-intensive production systems
- Development of decision-aid tools for natural resource management
- Cropping decisions based on policy changes
- Community supported agriculture
- Environmental benefits and risks from genetically modified organisms
- Linking food safety and environmental quality
- Linking food quality and environmental quality - a challenge to consumers
- Other

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

All submissions will be accepted **after September 1, 2004**. Submission of proposals is encouraged using our SWCS website form at www.swcs.org/t_what_callforpapers05.htm.

Proposals may also be submitted by email to abstract@swcs.org; by faxing the proposal form to 515-289-1227; or by mailing the proposal to the **Soil and Water Conservation Society, 945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021**.

Please submit no more than three proposals per author.

Information required for oral concurrent sessions and poster presentations include:

- Title of presentation
- Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- Indication of the program topic and sub-topic the presentation addresses
- Presenter and affiliation
- Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
- Abstract of 250 words or less

Information required for proposals to organize a symposium session include:

- Title of session
- Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- Indication of the program topic the presentation addresses (sub-topic not mandatory for symposia sessions)
- Description of topic to be covered (250 words or less)
- Target audience
- Format of session and tentative presenters

Proposals with international experience addressing the program topics areas are encouraged. Proposals from all professional sectors and students are encouraged.

Proposals will be transmitted to reviewers for consideration. All abstracts are reviewed anonymously and are rated individually for content and applicability to the topic under which they are submitted.

SWCS does not reimburse authors for expenses incurred for travel to the conference. Authors 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.

2005 Conference Agenda

Plenary, concurrent sessions and symposia will be held on Monday and Tuesday. Tours and workshops will be offered on Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday. Posters and exhibits will be displayed on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. This new format substantially increases the time available for oral and symposia presentations.

Saturday, July 30 Workshops

Sunday, July 31 Workshops

- Business and Committee Meetings
- Welcome Reception
- Exhibits
- Poster Displays

Monday, August 1 Plenary Session
Oral Concurrent Sessions
Symposia
Exhibits
Poster Displays
Social Night

Tuesday, August 2 Plenary Session
Oral Concurrent Sessions
Symposia
Exhibits
Poster Displays
Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, August 3 Technical Tours
Workshops

NOT A MEMBER OF SWCS?
Contact memberservices@swcs.org or call
515-289-2331 for information.



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SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

CALL for PAPERS

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE | July 30 August 4

Hyatt Regency and Riverside Convention Center | **Rochester, NY**

GREAT LAKES, GREAT CHALLENGES, GREAT OPPORTUNITIES