



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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Annual Conference News

71st SWCS International Annual Conference
Galt House Hotel • Louisville, Kentucky
July 24-27, 2016
www.swcs.org/16ac

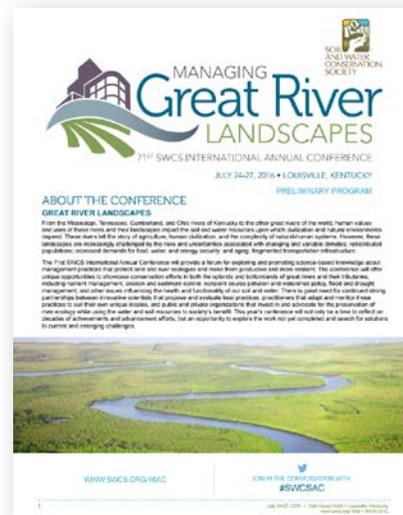
Exploring and Exchanging Ideas to Protect our Most Valuable Natural Resources

Registration for the SWCS Annual Conference is OPEN! Take advantage of the opportunity to learn about the latest research, policies, and practices in natural resource conservation as well as network and connect with the world's leaders in environmental affairs. The conference, held July 24-27, in Louisville, Kentucky, includes workshops, concurrent training sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to raise awareness of recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management.

Register now at www.swcs.org/16ac to receive the \$100 early registration discount.

Preliminary Program Now Available

Want a sneak peek at all the great topics and presentations being offered at this year's Annual Conference? Check out the Preliminary Program [here](#).



945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50023

P: 515-289-2331 | F: 515-289-1227 | pubs@swcs.org

Join Give Journal



Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Do you have an organization or a business or know of one that could benefit from increased exposure to over 400 conservation professionals? If so, please [click here](#) for details on becoming an exhibitor or sponsor of the SWCS Annual Conference.

You may also contact Kim Johnson-Smith at events@swcs.org or call 515-289-2331 ext. 112 to receive further details or to discuss a customized sponsorship package. Exhibitor and sponsor referrals are also greatly appreciated!



Participants attending last year's Annual Conference visit with exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall.

2016 SWCS Student Moderator Program Now Accepting Applications

The Soil and Water Conservation Society offers the Student Moderator Program as an opportunity for full-time student members of SWCS with a major in conservation and/or environmental affairs to experience the SWCS Annual Conference in a hands-on learning capacity. Up to 10 awardees will spend a total of 8-10 hours in a volunteer role as a student moderator at the Annual Conference, in Louisville, Kentucky, assisting the conference organizers during the educational program. Students may be asked to perform functions such as AV support assistance, note taking, or session facilitation (introductions, time-keeping, etc). Students will be free to attend educational sessions of their choice when not volunteering.

In exchange for volunteer hours, the SWCS will cover the cost of conference registration as well as a three night hotel stay at the conference hotel (July 24-27). Students are responsible for their own travel to and from the conference, fees for tours or workshops (if participating), and all meals. Each student moderator will be assigned a roommate for the duration of the conference. Requests to room with a specific individual should be made during the application process. Individual hotel rooms are available; however, they will be at the student's expense.

Only full-time undergraduate and graduate on-campus students are eligible to participate in this program. Student must be a current member of SWCS to participate. Priority will be given to undergraduate students.

For additional information regarding the Student Moderator Program, please visit www.swcs.org/16ac_SMP.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 3, 2016

Meet Steve Kadas, Southwest Region Director



Steve Kadas has been selected to fill the vacant Southwest Region Director position on the SWCS Board of Directors. Steve is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service state resource conservationist from Albuquerque, New Mexico. In that role he is responsible for the state's technical standards and technical specialists.

He began his Soil Conservation Service career as a soil conservationist in his home state of New Mexico in 1987. He spent eight years in Cheyenne, Wyoming, as district conservationist before returning to New Mexico in 2004. Since his return, he has held positions of assistant state conservationist for operations and area conservationist.

Steve has been a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for 28 years and has been chapter president in both Wyoming and New Mexico. He holds a bachelor of science degree in crops and soil science from New Mexico State University.

We look forward to adding Steve's experience and expertise to our Board.

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has announced the availability of up to \$20 million through Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. Applications are due by May 10, 2016. [Click here](#) for details.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) has \$260 million available. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- USDA announced a new initiative from NRCS to improve water quality in the western Lake Erie Basin. [Click here](#) for the full press release. [Click here](#) for the full CEAP report.
- Watch [Drought Matters](#)—a quick video about new research on the impacts of drought on US forests and rangelands.
- As part of World Water Day, the White House hosted a Water Summit to support the federal action plan of the National Drought Resilience Partnership.
- USDA Under Secretary Robert Bonnie unveiled 11 new Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership projects. Read more about the announcement and projects [here](#).

SWCS at the 20th Annual Iowa Envirothon

Several Iowa Chapter members and SWCS Program Coordinator Chrissy Rhodes volunteered at the Iowa Envirothon at Springbrook State Park in Guthrie Center, Iowa, on April 11. The Iowa Chapter is a proud sponsor of the Iowa Envirothon and this year increased their support by 20% for the 20th anniversary of the event. The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental competition. In the field, teams of five students are challenged to sharpen critical thinking skills and work as a team to conduct hands-on investigations and answer written questions concerning environmental issues. SWCS wishes Monday's winners good luck as they move on to compete in the 2016 North American Envirothon in Ontario, Canada, later this summer.

For more information on the Iowa Envirothon, visit www.iowaenvirothon.org. Photos of this year's event can be found [here](#).



SWCS Program Coordinator Chrissy Rhodes leading three teams of students to the Current Issues Station.



Iowa Chapter President Elect Clare Lindahl (far right) and Chapter member Courtney Slagle (far left) with the winning team, the Decorah Ospreys.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from March

Are you up-to-date with news about soil and water conservation research and policy? *Conservation NewsBriefs* is a highly informative e-news brief that delivers the most relevant content to your inbox each and every Thursday. Below are links to some of the most read articles from over the past month:

- [Buffet: Farmers must do more conservation to avoid regulatory stick](#) (KTIC-FM)
- [Regenerating degraded dirt](#) (Chemical and Engineering News)
- [Nitrogen from farm fertilizers remains in soil and could pollute drinking water for decades](#) (Newsweek)
- [Lake Erie phosphorus-reduction targets challenging but achievable](#) (Phys.org)
- [Laser reveals water's secret life in soil](#) (American Society of Agronomy via EurekAlert)

[Click here](#) to sign up and start receiving your weekly *Conservation NewsBriefs* today!

Upcoming Events

[71st SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Louisville, Kentucky
July 24-27, 2016

[North Dakota Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Bismarck, North Dakota
November 28-29, 2016



"Like" the Soil and Water Conservation Society on Facebook to keep up with the latest Society news and conservation current events!



New Members

Welcome members who joined in March!

California/Nevada

Michael Harding

Canada—Manitoba

Melody Caron

Colorado

Jeannine Willett

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—

Southern New England Chapter

Danielle Gallant

Jeremie Wentworth

DC National Capital Chapter

Alyssa Charney

Florida

Wyatt Bastron

Iowa

Lee Gravel

Michigan

Cody Kurzer

Missouri—Show Me

Seth Soman

Nebraska

Dirk Schultz

Ohio—All Ohio

Hannah Lubbers

Jane Sweet

Texas—North Texas

Johanna Pate

Texas—Texas A&M University Student Chapter

McKensy Lane

Corporate Members

Please contact corporate.info@swcs.org for more details.

Gold



Silver



Bronze



From the Leadership

71st SWCS International Annual Conference: A Preview

By Deanna Osmond, Program Planning Committee Co-Chair



Planning for the SWCS Annual Conference is in full swing with over 160 symposium, papers, and posters submitted. The papers represent a range of important topics to conservationists, from protecting water quality to protecting our soil resources.

The focus of this year’s meeting, “Managing Great River Landscapes,” is an appropriate theme as the conference will take place in

Louisville, Kentucky. Four river systems—Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland, and Tennessee—traverse the state, influencing agricultural production, flooding of bottomlands, wetlands, and soil and water resources. Management and conservation practices can affect the hydrology of the streams that feed the rivers as they deliver sediment and nutrient loads downstream. Presentations on diverse conservation strategies will showcase innovations that protect our landscapes. Presenters will provide the latest information on practices and programs that protect working lands, drinking water resources, ecosystem services, and urban areas with their diverse landscapes.

The SWCS Planning Committee is introducing a new structure to the 2016 annual meeting based on feedback from previous years’ attendees. Importantly, this year’s evening kickoff event on Sunday, July 24, will be the Fellows Forum, “Changing River Landscapes: The Past is the Key to the Future,” hosted by the SWCS Kentucky Chapter. Presentations will occur Monday, July 25, through Wednesday, July 27, at noon, adding an additional half-day to the conference. We hope this will allow fewer competing sessions so that participants can attend more presentations. As always, the conference strives to provide its diverse attendees a range of technical and practical sessions. The changes to this year’s conference were made

with our membership in mind; we hope this will give you more access to the many great talks and discussions that will take place at this year’s annual meeting.

Finally, conservation is best when multidisciplinary approaches are used. Practioners and scientists, from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, will provide timely information on policy and practices. It is only through concerted conservation efforts that we will be able to protect our agricultural uplands and bottomlands and make them more resilient as climate changes over the next decades. We will have to use current practices, such as nutrient management, erosion and sediment control, and drought and flood control, as well as new, innovative practices if we are to succeed in protecting our soil and water resources.

