



CONSERVOGRAM

 > The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS Goes to Washington

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl continues to work from Washington, DC, this month. In the last few weeks she has spent time with the local SWCS National Capital Chapter, has attended a variety of conservation events, and continues to advocate for conservation professionals with every networking opportunity. Some of her highlights include:

- Attended a SWCS National Capital Chapter event;
- Went on a field trip to tour Eastern Shore farms;
- Participated in a virtual training workshop, "Climate Change and the CWA 303(d) Opportunities for Progress," hosted by the Environmental Law Institute;
- Presented the Conservation Practitioner Poll during the Ag Conservation Coalition monthly meeting; and
- Spotted that notorious "Capitol Hill fox" on the way to a Waggies (Women in Agriculture) event!

Read all about Clare's activities in her own words through her **exclusive, members-only briefing**. Also, be sure to keep up with her on Twitter at [@Clare4soilnH2O](https://twitter.com/Clare4soilnH2O).



Conservation professionals touring Eastern Shore farms, where perennial grasses are being grown for use as poultry bedding. Photo by Shelby Callaway.

77th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Denver, Colorado
 July 31–August 3, 2022
www.swcs.org/22AC

Student Moderator Applications Due May 20

Applications are being accepted for the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference Student Moderator Program!

If you've ever thought about experiencing the SWCS International Annual Conference in a hands-on, behind-the-scenes learning capacity, this program may be for you! SWCS will select up to 10 full-time student members of SWCS, with a major in conservation and/or environmental affairs, to assist with breakout session moderation and room support. In exchange, SWCS will cover conference registration and three hotel room nights for each participant. In addition, students will be granted an all-access pass to attend conference activities when not assigned to a breakout session.

The application deadline is May 20, 2022. [Click here to read the full program details and apply.](#)

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor by June 1



Be a part of this one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming an exhibitor or sponsor gives you an affordable opportunity to market your products and services to a key audience and maximize your organization's exposure. Put your brand in front of those who are directly involved in the decision-making process of purchasing products or those who influence prospective buyers and conservationists.

Download and review the [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) for full details and to become an exhibitor or sponsor today! Registration deadline is June 1, 2022.

Conservation Photo Contest

Enter our free photo contest by **June 1** for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card from Amazon, be selected for display during the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 31–August 3, 2022, in Denver, Colorado, and on the virtual resources platform following the event, and see your photo on the cover of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*!

We want to see photos that display soil and water conservation and people in action, showcase the beauty of the world's natural resources, and/or inspire conservation professionals working to ensure the future of our natural resources on both private and public lands.

View the photo contest information at www.swcs.org/22PC.



Virtual Student Event Recap

SWCS held our first Virtual Student Event on April 13, 2022, via Zoom. This ongoing series will share professional development, career advice, and networking opportunities for students and early career professionals looking to explore conservation career paths, land an internship, or enter the conservation field.

During the event, How to Ace Your Interview, SWCS staff shared tips on showcasing the applicant's skills and experience during interviews. A recording of the event will be available at www.swcs.org/studentevents.



Conservation at the Co-op: April Update

In November of 2019, our partnership with Truterra was awarded over \$1.5 million in funding by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Through the project, SWCS and Truterra aim to accelerate the adoption of precision nutrient management and soil health practices in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska.

The community of co-op staff around this project grows with each passing season. In the beginning it was a select few, tasked with not only carrying out a grand experiment in building conservation service offerings for their companies, but also to design the project and conduct outreach to their co-workers about what it was and why it was beneficial to participate. In doing so, our co-op conservationists have donated many hundreds of hours to this project and its mission. Such close coordination, in-turn, has led to true collaboration across companies among personnel who work in a highly competitive economic space. This emerging community of professional conservationists is a promising source of optimism.

As this community grows, so too does the communication between its members. At a recent meeting we discussed barriers to co-ops offering conservation services permanently, and we wanted to share with you some highlights of that conversation. One leading barrier is the lack of qualified personnel to employ. Co-ops serve small, rural communities that may not be home to a conservation agronomist or a person with similar training. Another leading barrier is co-op personnel lacking the time and energy to reach out to public conservationists at the nearest agency field office to access training and resources that would build confidence and help them talk to grower-clients about conservation programs, technical assistance, and cost-share opportunities.

These barriers are also opportunities to strengthen the public-private partnership at the heart of this project. Co-op conservationists operate in a unique, influential space between results-driven growers and the services and products they purchase and apply to their land. Yet they are small in number, and they are very busy. The very nature of their work limits their crossing into spaces traditionally occupied by the publicly employed

and public-serving conservation professionals that swell the ranks of SWCS membership and the conservation community at large. SWCS encourages all its members to help us grow this community by making connections with personnel at nearby co-op and agricultural retailer businesses. You could learn a great deal from one another. And please tell us about it if you do!

Science and Policy News

Below you will find a list of some of the latest conservation science and policy news. Links to full articles on the different subjects are included.

- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to accelerate [nutrient pollution reduction](#)
- From seed to soil, [cover crops](#) amplify the benefits to the farm
- Despite drought [Minnesota farmers](#) fared well in 2021
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report charts detail [climate change](#)
- Why is it so expensive to [eat sustainably](#)?
- A regenerative [grazing revolution](#) is taking root in the Mid-Atlantic
- Expanding the “community” in [Community-Supported Agriculture](#)
- New estimation strategy [improves soil carbon](#) sampling in agricultural fields
- \$40 million in federal cash will help fund Michigan [land conservation](#), water quality
- Food, farming and forestry must be transformed to curb [global warming](#), United Nations says
- Scientists hope to deploy a [fleet of drones](#) to see how much carbon the ocean is absorbing
- Cleanups of Great Lakes’ [Areas of Concern](#) will get \$1 billion boost
- Unprecedented [infrastructure investment](#) bodes well for nation’s water, sewer assets
- About half of United States water “[too polluted](#)” for swimming, fishing or drinking, report finds
- [Pumpkin production](#) can benefit from conservation practices

Upcoming Events

[77th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)
Denver, Colorado
July 31-August 3, 2022

The opinions expressed in these articles are meant to keep SWCS members informed of current conservation conversations and do not necessarily represent the views of SWCS.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in March!

Alabama

John Mumber
Mary Rugano

Arkansas—Razorback

Nakanaela Morton

California/Nevada

Jeffrey Mitchell

Colorado

Abigail Clapp
Cassidy Winn

Connecticut/Massachusetts/ Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Colin Duncan
Keith Zaltzberg-Drezdahl
Stacy Minihane

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Kelly Nayara Nascimento Thompson

Kansas

Kinzie Reiss

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Emily Sapp

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst Student Chapter

Heather Parry

Minnesota

Paul Stewart
Andry Ranaivoson

Missouri—University of Missouri Student Chapter

Miguel Salceda

Montana

Dustin Steele

North Dakota

Adam Flaagan

Ohio—All Ohio

Julie Platz

Oklahoma

Luke Arthaud

Oregon

Maxine Walmsley
Tom Hilken
Emma Hackler

Tennessee

Shelby Gleaves

Texas—Texas A&M Student Chapter

Elcio Balota

Wisconsin

Stephanie Egner

Corporate Partners

Please visit www.swcs.org/corporatepartner for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



New Conservation Community Members

Welcome community members who joined in March!

Learn how to become a Conservation Community Member [here](#).

Alabama

Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District