



# CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## 79th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates



# Registration is Open!

Join us at the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 21-24, 2024, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The conference will assemble a diverse, multigenerational conservation community of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world. The agenda will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices and foster dialogue around their adoption. Cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared through various workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations.

For complete conference details, visit [www.swcs.org/24AC](http://www.swcs.org/24AC). The early registration cutoff is **June 3, 2024**, and the online registration cutoff is **July 3, 2024**.

**Register Today!**

## Seeking Applications for the Student Moderator Program



There is still time to apply for the SWCS Student Moderator Program! Apply today for the opportunity to have a hands-on, behind-the-scenes learning experience at the SWCS International Annual Conference! If you are selected for the program, SWCS will cover your conference registration and three nights' stay at the conference hotel. You will also get an all-access pass to attend any conference activities when not assigned to a breakout session.

The application deadline is **May 1**.

**Apply Today!**

## Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor by May 31

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 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 register to become an exhibitor or sponsor today! The registration deadline is **May 31, 2024**.

## Call for Papers: Special Issue of the JSWC

The *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is seeking submissions for a special topic issue on "Soil Health and Conservation." [Read the full call](#) and submit your research by **August 1, 2024**.

## Order Your Conservation Gear by April 30



SWCS gear is now [available to order](#) for a limited time. In addition to the SWCS classics, a few new designs have been added to our online store, including the winning design from the 2023 Student T-shirt Contest. Sport your gear at the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach on **Wednesday, July 24!**

## Special Cover Crop T-shirt Partnership



For the first time, we're thrilled to announce an exciting partnership between SWCS and the Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC)! We've collaborated to bring you two exclusive t-shirt designs in our Bonfire store. As two organizations deeply committed to promoting conservation practices such as cover crops, we're excited to offer you the opportunity to showcase your cover crop pride!

### About MCCC

The MCCC was formed in 2006 as a diverse group of academics, farmers, government agency representatives, nongovernmental organizations, commodity interests, and the private sector. It works to facilitate the widespread adoption of cover crops across the Midwest through education, network growth, and collective impact.

The MCCC offers a host of free educational products, the most popular being their online Cover Crop Selector Tool,

which provides reliable seeding dates for cover crops across the Midwest based on 30 years of county-specific climate data. For farmers looking to get started with cover crops, the MCCC offers “Cover Crop Recipes” based on your state and cropping system. These are step-by-step guides with low-risk cover crop options from local experts. The MCCC also offers a *Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide* for sale. These are perfect for cover crop enthusiasts and make great field day giveaways.

The MCCC will host in-person “train-the-trainer” events across the Midwest and a virtual cover crop course for educators. Registration for the fall course will begin in late spring. For more information, follow the MCCC on social media, their listserv, or check out their [website](#).

## New Membership Levels

SWCS is excited to share two new membership levels at discounted rates, which will better serve you and add more value and benefits to your membership! Based on your feedback, we created a membership level for early-career professionals and retired professionals at an annual rate of \$75.



### Early Career Member | \$75 annually

Individuals who have graduated from their latest academic program within the last three years. Members are limited to three years at this level.

### Retired Member | \$75 annually

Individuals who are retired from their full-time positions.

Learn more and share this news with your colleagues: [www.swcs.org/join/](http://www.swcs.org/join/)

## New Member Welcome

SWCS headquarters will host a virtual New Member Welcome on Wednesday, **May 3**, from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. CT. This event is to welcome new members who joined after **January 15, 2024**. SWCS Chapter and Community Builder Renee Bouldin and Membership Director Erika Crady will present this welcome via Zoom. They will share tips for making the most of your SWCS membership and connecting with fellow conservationists. Advanced registration is required. New members should check their inboxes for the registration link or email us at [events@swcs.org](mailto:events@swcs.org).

## Enter the Free SWCS Photo Contest



Photo by Darren Newville.

Enter our free photo contest by **May 1** for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon e-gift card, be selected for display during the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference, and have your photo featured 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/24PC](http://www.swcs.org/24PC).

## Upcoming DEI Guidebook for Conservation Professionals

After two years of research, focus groups, information gathering, and writing, “A Conservation Professionals’ Guide to Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Conservation Delivery with Historically Underserved Producers and Communities” is set to officially launch on **April 30!**

This guidebook will serve as a resource for conservation professionals and policymakers to understand the barriers historically underserved communities face in implementing conservation practices and how to equitably address these barriers to provide community-led conservation technical assistance that meets the specific needs of historically underserved producers and communities.

The recommendations in this guidebook came directly from the results of several roundtable discussions with historically underserved producers, nonprofits, and conservation professionals organized and facilitated with project partner [Meridian Institute](#).

You can learn more about the project [here](#) (thank you, USDA NRCS, for the shoutout!). We are excited for everyone to be able to access this resource. Stay tuned on email and social media on April 30 for the link to download the official guidebook!



## SWCS at MANRRS38

In March, SWCS Chapter and Community Builder Renee Bouldin attended the [MANRRS38 Annual Training Conference and Career Expo](#). This event brought together a diverse group of professionals, students, and organizations passionate about advancing diversity and inclusion in agricultural and natural resources fields.

Nearly 2,000 attendees gathered in Chicago to engage in insightful discussions, networking sessions, student competitions, and workshops focused on empowering underrepresented communities in our sector. MANRRS38 provided a platform to exchange ideas, share experiences, and foster meaningful connections. We were especially grateful to share our [student opportunities](#) and the [SWCS Emerging Leaders Program](#) in this space.

As an organization committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, SWCS recognizes the importance of supporting initiatives and organizations like Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) that promote opportunities and representation for all individuals in conservation and agriculture. We're proud to have been a part of this impactful event and look forward to continuing our partnership and efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable environment within our industry!



**SWCS Emerging Leader Makayla Brister (top) and last year's SWCS Student Leader Project Intern Bennie Loyd (bottom) visited the SWCS booth at the Career Expo!**



## Upcoming Events

### [Womens Workshop\\*](#)

Bowling Green, Kentucky  
April 17 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT)

### [EarthWalk\\*](#)

Tyner, North Carolina  
April 17

### [Earth Day Tree Giveaway and More!\\*](#)

Versailles, Kentucky  
April 20 (10 a.m.-12 p.m. CT)

### [Freshwater Farms Reserve Stewardship Work Day\\*](#)

Eureka, California  
April 21 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m. PT)

### [Kegs for Conservation\\*](#)

Belleville, Illinois  
April 24 (7 p.m. CT)

### [Grazing Management Field Day\\*](#)

Dover, Tennessee  
April 25 (3 p.m. CT)

### [SWCS New Member Welcome](#)

Virtual  
May 1 (12:30 p.m. CT)

### [Alabama Chapter SWCS Annual Conference 2024](#)

Foley, Alabama  
May 1-3

### [New Jersey Pine Barrens Field Day\\*](#)

Egg Harbor City, New Jersey  
May 3, 2024 (12 p.m. - 3 p.m. ET)

### [SWCS Headquarters Cleanup Hosted by the Iowa Chapter](#)

Ankeny, Iowa  
May 3 (3 – 5 p.m. CT)

### [Georgia Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Macon, Georgia  
May 9-11

\*[Emerging Leader](#) Hosted Event

## Professional Development Series Season 2 Recap

SWCS, [MANRRS](#), and the [National Association of Conservation Districts](#) have wrapped up the second season of the Professional Development Webinar Series! We are grateful to this season's speakers for participating in these sessions and sharing some wonderful career advice.

- [Time Management](#) — Elizabeth Galbreath, Merck Animal Health; and Ashley Collins, North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
- [Effective Public Speaking](#) — Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for more than 40 years prior to his retirement
- [Combating Imposter Syndrome](#) — Makayla Brister, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Dr. Katherine Dentzman, Iowa State University; Dr. Thomas Easley, Mind Heart for Diversity Consulting; and Dr. Carlos Ortiz, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- [Creating a Personal Mission](#) — Brendon Bell, Syngenta

All eight webinar recordings from seasons one and two are available at [www.swcs.org/studentevents](http://www.swcs.org/studentevents).

## Seeking a SWCS Science and Policy Student Representative

Attention undergraduate and graduate students!

Interested in conservation science policy? Looking for a leadership opportunity that will grow your professional network globally? Apply to be our Science and Policy Committee Student Representative by **April 30, 2024**.

**Apply Today!**

## Trending News in the Last Month

Every week, we email out Conservation News Briefs with some of the trending news in conservation that week. Below are the top four news articles from the past month:

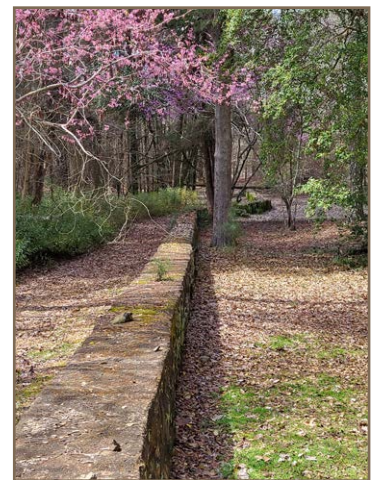
- [National Meeting Held to Advance Agricultural Conservation in the Private Sector](#)
- [Everything You Need to Know About FY2024 Agriculture Appropriations](#)
- [Revealing the Hidden Journey of Water](#)
- [Washington Insiders Now Think We Could Get a First Look at a New Farm Bill as Early as Next Week](#)

If you want to receive the Conservation NewsBriefs, sign up here: <https://multibriefs.com/optin.php?swcs>

## Happy Birthday, Hugh Hammond Bennett!

Monday was SWCS founder Hugh Hammond Bennett's 143rd birthday! He was born on April 15, 1881, in Anson County, North Carolina. Below, you can see a picture of his homeplace, provided by SWCS member Albert Coffey.

Hugh Hammond Bennett is also known as "The Father of Soil Conservation" because of his major contributions to conservation throughout the 1920s and 1930s. In addition to founding SWCS, he also founded what is now called the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is a true inspiration in conservation, and we are so happy to celebrate him with his favorite thing: soil!



"Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil."

- Hugh Hammond Bennett

## New Members

Welcome members who joined in March!

### International

Qaisar Khan  
Muhammad Danish Toor

### Colorado

James Owino

### Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Elizabeth Hubert

### DC—National Capital Chapter

Elisabeth Asher

### Florida

Xue Bai  
Noel Manirakiza

### Iowa

Jeremy Brill  
Rocco D'Antico  
Jose Lopez

### Iowa—Iowa State University Chapter

Courtney Strauser

### Illinois

Samuel Babatunde

### Indiana—Hoosier Chapter

Lily Blain  
Mia Terek

### Kansas

Amy Peterson

### Kentucky—Bluegrass Chapter

Lauren Strong

### Missouri—Show Me Chapter

Christin Byrd

### Nebraska

Javed Iqbal

### New Jersey—Firman E. Bear Chapter

Danielle Dyson

### New York—Empire State Chapter

Dorothy Sheckler

### Ohio

Connie Miller  
Julia Ollom

### South Carolina

Lisa Umutoni

### Virginia

Rebecca Bontrager  
Jenny Templeton

### Washington—Olympic View Chapter

Gagandeep Kaur

## Corporate Partners

Please visit [www.swcs.org/corporatepartner](http://www.swcs.org/corporatepartner) for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver

We are actively looking for a Silver Level sponsor. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact [memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org).

### Bronze

