CONSERVOGRAM  The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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The Soil and Water Conservation Society and COVID-19

As COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives, at work and at home, we want to let you know your professional society is thinking of you and your families. As staff are working remotely, please use email to connect with SWCS at this time.

Join the SWCS Team!

Work with us to advance the science and art of natural resource conservation! We are hiring for three remote staff positions:

- Communications Coordinator,
- Special Projects and Partnership Director, and
- Chapter and Community Builder.

Please share with friends and others who may be interested in joining our team. Applications are due August 27. Learn more at https://www.swcs.org/about-us/our-people/
SWCS would like to extend our most sincere thank you to the sponsors, presenters, session organizers, volunteers, and participants who made the virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference a success! There is a tremendous amount of time and energy that goes into planning behind the scenes that makes this conference possible. We truly could not have brought our participants such a quality program without the help of all involved.

The 2021 virtual conference brought together more than 745 conservationists, representing 4 countries and 45 states. The conference included a workshop, 131 oral presentations and symposia, and 45 poster presentations. This year’s specialty topics included 3, 2, 1 ... ACTION!; Adapting Landscapes to Climate Change; Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and One World, Connected through Conservation.

Annual Conference Twitter Highlights

Enjoying an informative panel on “Climate Change Mitigation and the Role of Working Lands” with Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Gloria Montaño Greene, Radhika Fox, and moderator Jerry Hatfield. #SWCS21

Matching for this morning’s @SWCSNews Annual Conference General Session with @DrSoilH2O! Tune in to #SWCS21! Been so inspired by our conservation professionals this week!

Yes, loved it when Dr. Jacobs-Young called for more social science research in the soil and water conservation arena!!! Excellent panel at #SWCS21
Photo Contest Winners Announced

Attendees during the virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference had the opportunity to vote in the 6th SWCS Annual Photo Contest. The 2021 People’s Choice winner was Chanda Cooper with her wildflower photo taken in Bishopville, South Carolina.

The 2021 “One World, Connected through Conservation” winner, chosen by a panel of judges, was Jean McGuire with her constructed wetland photo taken in Bureau County, Illinois. Congratulations, contest winners!

South Carolina corn and soybean grower Aubrey Cooper planted wildflower seeds along a field border last spring. These wildflowers—including cosmos, pictured here—provided a pollinator haven in an otherwise monotonous landscape of corn and soybeans.

This constructed wetland was built to break down the nitrate in the water that into it from nearby agricultural drainage tiles. It is surrounded by native pollinator plants to support the local bees and butterflies.

2020-2021 SWCS Annual Report

The 2020-2021 SWCS Annual Report is now available online. To conserve resources, the report is not printed and mailed, but is accessible as a PDF download from the SWCS website. Please enjoy reading about the Society’s accomplishments over the last fiscal year, including celebration of the organization’s 75th Anniversary, our first virtual annual conference, several grant-funded projects to support on-the-ground conservation practice implementation, and publication of a collection of essays addressing the past, present, and future of conservation work. Also included are chapter highlights, Journal of Soil and Water Conservation achievements, and a financial report. Our accomplishments are the product of our members’ dedication to conservation efforts both locally and internationally.

Welcome, 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Following the 76th Annual Conference, SWCS transitioned to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. Each of the Society’s five regions is represented by one elected director. Four at-large directors also currently serve on the Board. For additional Board member photos and bios, visit the SWCS website.

2021-2022 Board of Directors

- Dale Threatt-Taylor, Chair and Southeast Region Director
- Rebecca Power, Vice-Chair and North Central Region Director
- Jane Hardisty, Secretary and At-Large Director
- Steve Kadas, Treasurer and Southwest Region Director
- Christopher Hartley, Northeast Region Director
- Keith Berns, Northwest Region Director
- Ellen Gilinsky, At-Large Director
- Jerry Hatfield, At-Large Director
- Jason Weller, At-Large Director
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.

- **Grazing cattle** can reduce agriculture’s carbon footprint
- Over 160,000 miles of **rivers** are at risk of losing their free-flowing status due to dams
- As drought continues, US senators Thune, Klobuchar call on USDA to provide additional **haying options** for livestock producers
- United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first part of its 6th major **assessment report**
- Gulf of Mexico ‘**dead zone**’ larger than normal, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says
- Full Senate approves USDA Undersecretary **Moffitt**
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) ordered to **update rules** on oil spill-fighting chemicals
- As globe warms, risk of **agricultural drought** rises, says climate report
- **Hybrid rye** is helping farmers fight ‘superweeds’ without herbicide
- Will more money get farmers to buy into **climate-smart ag**?
- **Wisconsin initiative** measures environmental, financial impact of conservation
- Biden **30 by 30** conservation plan draws controversy
- Water conservation: A **dairy farmer’s** perspective
- Edge of field practices can help food and ag companies meet **sustainability goals**
- Future of nature conservation lies in identifying where **science and policy** can make the most difference

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.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from July

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 the past month:

- **Improving soil health starts with farmer-researcher collaboration** (Phys.org)
- **New study measures how nitrogen is managed in agriculture around the world** (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science)
- **Amid a megadrought, federal water shortage limits loom for the Colorado River** (NPR)
- **Constructed wetlands are best protection for agricultural runoff into waterways** (University of Kansas via ScienceDaily)

Click here to sign up and start receiving your weekly Conservation NewsBriefs today!
New Members

Welcome members who joined in July

Alabama
Frank Cochran

Arizona
Cora Thomas

California/Nevada
Patricia Hickey

Iowa
Casey Judge
John Wiley

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter
Hongli Feng

Kansas
Austin Funk

Michigan
Emily Haluda

Missouri—Show Me
Lauren Maul

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter
Jennifer Fear

North Dakota
Aaron Larsen
Beckie Phillips
Kim Toth

Nebraska
Julie Peterson

Oregon
Cheyanne Rico

South Dakota
Gabi Bolwerk
Lindsey Otto-Hanson

Wisconsin
Sharon Dolan

Corporate Partners

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WATER ROCKS!