

## **CONSERVOGRAM**

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

## In This Issue

Join the SWCS Team!	1
76th SWCS International Annual Conference	2
Photo Contest Winners Announced	3
2020-2021 SWCS Annual Report	3
Welcome, 2021-2022 Board of Directors	3
Science and Policy News	4
Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from July	4
New Members	5
Corporate Partners	5

## 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 <a href="https://www.swcs.org/about-us/our-people/">https://www.swcs.org/about-us/our-people/</a>



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Join Give Journal







### **76<sup>th</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference**

Virtual Event July 26-28, 2021 www.swcs.org/21AC





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 program 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**







Chelsea Clifford @DitchOntologist · Jul 26

Gloria Montaño Greene highlights the importance of publicizing negative results (as well as positive ones) in agricultural conservation as well as in science (more broadly)- we need to share what doesn't work so people don't keep trying it. #SWCS21





Linda Prokopy @lprokopy · Jul 28

Loving how many times I'm hearing "social science research tells us..." at @SWCSNews annual conference this year.



OSU-Irrigation @OSU\_Irrigation · Jul 27

At the #SWCS21 conference @JimRichardsonNG of @NatGeo is giving a keynote lecture, talking about the spirit of harvest and the value of water. In the photo below, he wanted to capture water in gold color to represent its value. @swcsnews





#### **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 having 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 <u>agricultural drought</u> rises, says climate report
- Hybrid rye is helping farmers fight 'superweeds' without herbicide
- Will more money get farmers to buy into climatesmart 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.

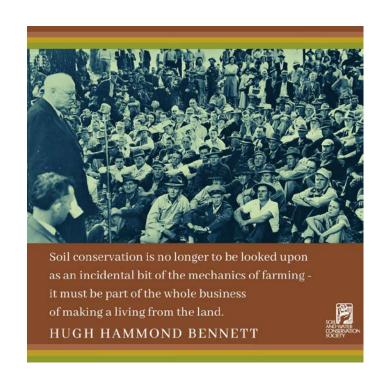
## **Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from July**

# CONSERVATION NEWSBRIEFS

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)

<u>Click here</u> 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**

Please contact <u>memberservices@swcs.org</u> or visit <u>swcs.org/corporatepartner</u> for more details.

## **Platinum**





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