

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

In This Issue

11th International Drainage Symposium	1
77th SWCS International Annual Conference	2
Upcoming Events	2
Register for the First Student Professional Development Session	3
2022-2023 Board of Directors	3
Photo Contest Winners Announced	4
Science and Policy News	4
Conservation at the Co-op: August Update	5
New Members	6
Corporate Partners	6

11th International Drainage Symposium

Des Moines, Iowa

August 30–September 2, 2022

www.swcs.org/22IDS

Join Us in Des Moines for the 11th International Drainage Symposium

Join us at the 11th International Drainage Symposium, August 30-September 2, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Solutions to agricultural drainage challenges and opportunities will be the focus of this year's symposium. Two days of sessions will highlight drainage research, practice design, implementation, and policy. The third day of the symposium will feature field tours highlighting some of the innovative drainage work happening in the local area. The symposium will provide an opportunity for the research, agency, industry, and practitioner communities to interact, share experiences, and address emerging issues related to agricultural drainage.

For complete conference details and to register, visit www.swcs.org/22IDS. The online registration cutoff is Friday, August 19.



AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

77th SWCS International Annual Conference

www.swcs.org/22AC

Register for the SWCS Annual Conference Virtual Resources Platform

Did you miss out on attending the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado? To ensure that conservation professionals near and far are able to continue to participate in the SWCS International Annual Conference in some capacity, we are excited to offer a virtual resources platform starting the week of August 22.

This platform will include recordings of all general and symposia sessions, select oral presentations, select poster presentations, sponsor pages, and more! You will not have access to networking events or all in-person agenda items.

Were you registered, but unable to attend in person? Did you attend, but miss select sessions? The virtual resources platform registration is included with the full-conference, in-person registration.

[Register online](#) by **Friday, August 19**. Details will be sent to attendees the week of August 22.



77TH SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNLOCK ACCESS TO THE VIRTUAL RESOURCES PLATFORM



Register online by **Friday, August 19**

Upcoming Events

[11th International Drainage Symposium](#)

Des Moines, Iowa
August 30-September 2, 2022

[Student Professional Development Series:](#)

[Finding a Job](#)

Virtual Event
September 22, 2022

Highlights from Denver

Attendees of the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference had a great time exchanging ideas, networking, and sharing knowledge in Denver, Colorado, earlier this month. Below are a few snapshots from the event!



Ajoy Kumar Saha @Ajoybau · Aug 3

Great experience with Soil Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) 77th Annual Conference in Denver, CO, USA. Had an oral presentation, my research photo exhibit, meet with professors, scientists, researchers, SDSU Alumni. It was great networking. [#SWCS22](#) [#conference](#)

Colby Moorberg @ColbyDigsSoil · Aug 3

My family & I had fun on the [@SWCSNews](#) Denver Conservation Tour today. We learned about native communities in CO & their art, adding green space to a historically redlined neighborhood to reduce heat island impacts (at a brewery!), & managing stormwater & green infra. [#SWCS22](#)

Register for the First Student Professional Development Session

SWCS is partnering with MANRRS and the Soil Health Institute to bring you a new virtual events series for students and early career professionals. **Join us on September 22, 2022, at 6 p.m. EST** to kick off this professional development webinar series to help you prepare for your future career.

The first session topic is on “Finding a Job,” and attendees will

- connect with speakers well-versed in natural resources, education, and agriculture;
- gain exposure to other conservation organizations;
- build their network; and
- earn a certificate of attendance.

RSVP is required for attendance—don’t miss out! [Register today.](#)



Join us!

Learn from experts in the conservation field as they share advice and knowledge on topics such as professional branding, getting into grad school, managing money, and finding a job. These virtual events are for students and early career professionals in natural resources conservation, environmental science, biology, agriculture, soil science, hydrology, and others working toward a more sustainable world.

Thursdays, 6pm EST

- September 22, 2022
- October 20, 2022
- January 26, 2023
- February 23, 2023

Hosted by:



2022-2023 Board of Directors

Following the 77th Annual Conference, SWCS transitioned to the 2022-2023 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](#).

2021-2023 Board of Directors

- Rebecca Power, Chair and At-Large Director
- Christopher Hartley, Vice-Chair and Northeast Region Director
- Jason Weller, Secretary and At-Large Director
- Steve Kadas, Treasurer and Southwest Region Director
- Roger Wolf, North Central Region Director
- Keith Berns, Northwest Region Director
- Amanda Gumbert, Southeast Region Director
- Ellen Gilinsky, At-Large Director
- Jerry Hatfield, At-Large Director

Welcome to Our New North Central Region Director, Roger Wolf!



Roger Wolf is a lifelong native Iowan, current farmer landowner, and President of Wolf Brothers Wildlife Enterprises, LLC headquartered in Osceola, Iowa. He has over 33 years of professional experience working in soil and water conservation. In 2000, he established an Environmental Programs and

Services team at the Iowa Soybean Association. Presently, he serves as the Director of Iowa Soybean Association’s Research Center for Farming Innovation.

Roger strives to advance innovative programming by integrating knowledge development and enhancing cropping systems and resource management with active farmers and collaborators, leading to more resilient agricultural environments. Roger is an active proponent of the One Water Management approach fostering leadership from conservation, agriculture, and the water sector and capitalizing on innovative ways of improving soil health and reducing nutrient loss for more resilient landscapes in Iowa and the Mississippi River Basin. Take a look at Roger’s [full biography here](#).

Photo Contest Winners Announced

Attendees during the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference had the opportunity to vote in the 7th SWCS Annual Photo Contest. The 2022 People's Choice winner was Brian Gibbs with his amazing blazing star and rattlesnake master photo taken in Maynard, Iowa.

The 2022 "Elevating Conservation to New Heights" winner, chosen by a panel of judges, was Nall Inshan Moonilall with his rice paddies (fields) photo taken in Banaue, Ifugao, Philippines. Congratulations to our winners!

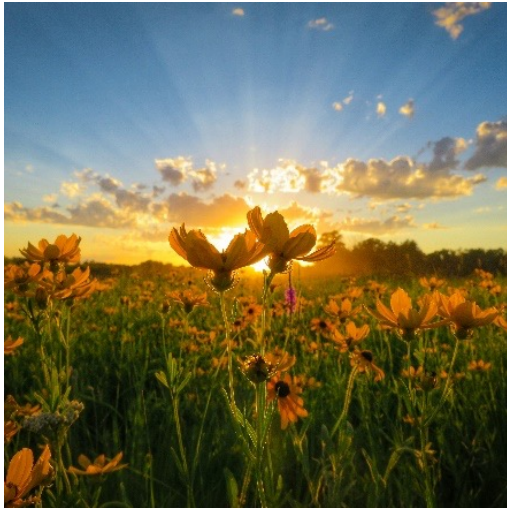


Photo by Brian Gibbs.



Photo by Nall Inshan Moonilall.

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.

- What's in the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) for agriculture?
- New project to increase [water quality practices](#), saving time and money
- [Farm bill](#) season arrives: What's the outlook for 2023?
- USDA to [invest \\$197M](#) in locally led conservation
- A fresh look into [grasslands](#) as carbon sinks
- North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality to launch [water quality](#) pilot project
- [No-till farming](#) study shows benefit to midwestern land values
- The field report: What the historic [climate bill](#) means for farmers and the food system
- Oklahoma water center aims to [conserve water](#) through cover crops
- Study: Less is more when it comes to [chemical fertilizer](#)
- We need to change how we think about [soil](#)
- How the climate deal could [help farmers](#) aid the environment
- [Soil health](#) sustainability helps producers to build for future
- New bill aims to [strengthen research](#) in ag conservation
- Increasing agricultural conservation outreach through [social science](#)

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 at the Co-op: August 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.

Field days are perfect opportunities to bring together like-minded people to share knowledge and experience. That is exactly what happened at a recent field day in Vincent, Iowa—hosted by Truterra/Land O'Lakes and Winfield United—for agricultural retailers and conservation professionals in the public and private sectors. Also in attendance were representatives from Consumer Packaged Good companies, or CPGs—the key investors in carbon asset buying.

Attendees learned about cover crops, soil testing, and relay intercropping, to name a few topics. On cover crops, presenters showed how to properly calibrate sprayer nozzles to ensure targeted application of glyphosate, as well as presented elevator pitches for different cover crop varieties: rye is king, but expect shortages due to cutbacks in Canadian imports and growing demand in the United States; triticale is underutilized and unlike rye, can be grown anywhere in the continental United States; oats are sensitive to cold temperatures but hold great value in foreign markets, like the European Union; barley grows fast and furious and is good for emergency springtime cover or forage; and wheat is the cheapest and can be used in a pinch. While this information is not scientific, it does suggest that growing cover crops for the commercial seed market is an opportunity that many have yet to explore.

On soil testing, attendees learned that Haney Tests require you to put in some work—sampling before planting allows you to check available nutrients and decide if a cover crop is needed, and also how much synthetic fertilizer to apply. More detailed than a standard sample, the Haney Test goes deeper into the soil's biology, and, if paired with regenerative practices, allows you to take credit for gains in organic matter and other indicators of soil health. Scientifically, the Haney Tests require scrutiny because the methods were developed in certain soil types and questions remain about their widespread applicability.

Relay intercropping is where profitability and conservation converge. It is seeding rye into soybeans without terminating, but allowing the rye to produce a seed that can be harvested, before the soybeans enter reproductive mode. By timing it just right, you can run a combine through the beans with the grain table hovering just overhead, in order to catch the rye heads. The rye yield isn't much (about 30 bu/ac), and neither is the cash crop

yield (about 70 bu/ac), but the combined yield of the two is comparable to what a traditionally managed bean field can produce. What is more, the rye needed for next year is sourced directly from the farm. It is even possible to produce a surplus and enter the underserved and scarcity-prone cover crop seed market. This is advanced stuff, but it can be done.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel were also on hand to explain the five principles of soil health and demonstrate the power of conservation via a rainfall simulator. The NRCS presentation was given a general session status, with all attendees present, as opposed to the other presentations that were given to breakout groups. In other words, the science of soil health was given keynote status. Our retailer partners are having great success in demonstrating rainfall simulators at local fairs and festivals. It is affirmation that NRCS outreach strategies on soil health are transferable to private sector conservationists, who are more than capable of educating their clients, friends, and neighbors.

But the best moments came in those in-between times, when attendees commune with one another, share experiences, and exchange knowledge. Cover crop-committed farmers wanting to sell seed commercially must be mindful of using patented seed stock, which requires paying royalties. Cleaning seed for market requires additional equipment that in some cases means dusting off an antique. Belt-driven seed cleaners from the prewar era do the job wonderfully, provided you can find one in good shape. There again is an opportunity ideally suited to a co-op—locally sourced cover crop seed, suited to local conditions, commercially available from your friendly neighborhood co-op. Finally, early adopters of cover crops are indeed feeling chapped by the sudden popularity of their craft, brought on by the rush of middle adopters seeking to cash in on carbon sequestration. But at the end of the day, they are happy to see others getting on board. They did it before it was popular, after all. What is more, it takes years to adapt that system to a farm—to wean the soil of synthetic inputs, bring the earthworms back, and build up soil health so that conservation is not a defensive reaction to something being lost, but rather is an offensive strategy to farm more sustainably, independently, and profitably.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in July!

California/Nevada

Mary Poelman

Illinois

John Nichols Jr

Easton Sarver

Indiana—Hoosier

Aaron Thompson

Kansas

Susan Metzger

North Carolina—North Carolina State University Student Chapter

Andrew Ofstehage

New Mexico

Joshua Gonzalez

Wisconsin

Sarah Young

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

