

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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78th SWCS International Annual Conference

www.swcs.org/23AC

Register for the SWCS Annual Conference Virtual Resources Platform by August 25

Did you miss out on attending the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa? To ensure that conservation professionals near and far are able to continue participating in the conference in some capacity, we are excited to offer a virtual resources platform starting the week of August 28.

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 is included with the full-conference, in-person registration.

[Register online](#) by **Friday, August 25**. Details will be sent to attendees the week of August 28.



78th SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**UNLOCK ACCESS TO THE
VIRTUAL RESOURCES PLATFORM**

REGISTER BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

945 SW Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50023
P: 515-289-2331 | pubs@swcs.org


Join Give Journal



Conference Highlights

Thank you to the over 750 attendees, presenters, sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers who made the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference a huge success! Post-conference and virtual resource platform details will be sent to attendees soon. In the meantime, view photos of the event [here](#).



 **Clare Lindahl** @Clare4soilNH20 · Aug 6
With creativity anything is possible! Thanks for the inspirational kickoff to #SWCS23 Jackie Comito!

 **Kelly Nayara** 🇧🇷 🇺🇸 @kehcoelho · Aug 8
Having the best time at #SWCS23! Also learning and networking. @SWCSNews

 **Elizabeth Hill** @soilnerdbeth · Aug 8
North Dakota was well represented, both in attendance and as award winners at the @SWCSNews conference. So proud of this group of change-makers who make NDSWCS a leader for conservation, outreach, and impact in our state 🌱 #SWCS23

 **Laura Christianson** @IL_DrainDrop · Aug 7
Great #SWCS23 presentation from @isginc1973 about estimating tile slope. Slope matters for #bioreactor design flow rates. Is there an easier way to do this? Thx for bringing your team @brandel_chuck.

 **John McMaine** @SDSUExtWaterMan · Aug 8
@DaleSoilH2O delivered a magnificent and inspiring acceptance speech for the 2023 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award at #SWCS23 I was so enthralled I didn't get a picture! Keep inspiring all of us in @SWCSNews

Get Ready for Conservation Professionals Week

Join SWCS from August 28 through September 4 for Conservation Professionals Week, when we will elevate and celebrate conservationists worldwide! The purpose for this special week is to acknowledge and thank conservation professionals for, and bring awareness and attention to, their incredible work. We will share stories, spotlight members, and showcase all the amazing work conservationists do daily to make this world a better place.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Become a Conservation Ambassador.** We are looking for 10 to 12 individuals who want to collaborate with us to promote conservationists. As a Conservation Ambassador, you will help this week be a success by simply engaging for a few minutes each day on social media and sharing some unique content. We will provide you examples, ideas, photos, and any other support you may need. If you are interested, please get in touch with SWCS Communications Coordinator Emma Harper at emma.harper@swcs.org.
- **Share Your Own Stories.** We want to hear from you! Share your work on social media, tag us, and use the hashtag [#ConservationistsWork](https://twitter.com/ConservationistsWork).
- **Follow SWCS and Engage on Social Media.** If you haven't already, follow us on your favorite social media and like, comment, and share our content!
 - » **Facebook:** [@soilandwaterconservation](https://www.facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation)
 - » **X (Twitter) and Instagram:** [@SWCSNews](https://www.instagram.com/SWCSNews)
 - » **LinkedIn:** [@Soil and Water Conservation Society](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Soil-and-Water-Conservation-Society)

Don't forget, if you need any conservation pictures, check out the [Conservation Media Library](#).

Annual Report for 2022-2023



The [SWCS 2022-2023 Annual Report](#) is now available online. It provides an overview of the past year's efforts and activities to promote natural resource conservation and support conservation professionals. Take a few minutes to read about all the great work you and other members like you accomplished in the last year!

SWCS Goes to Washington (DC)

This past Spring, SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl spent eight weeks living and working in Washington, DC, taking the voices of conservation professionals to the desks of leadership, building collaborations to advance member issues, and bringing back happenings on Capitol Hill to inform those advancing conservation locally.



During her visit, Lindahl gathered information to better define how SWCS can play an effective role in advocacy and policy. In this vein, starting in July, Rachel Owen was brought on as SWCS's senior advisor to consult on advancing recommendations from Lindahl around advocacy and other organization growth.

Additionally, Lindahl worked closely

with the SWCS National Capital Chapter located in Washington, DC, to plan and host three networking socials and one service event, an Earth Day Cleanup in partnership with the Anacostia Watershed Society.

With the farm bill deadline looming and the IRA funds flowing, Lindahl also made a point to expand beyond existing partners in conservation, meeting with congressional leadership.

Lindahl, along with SWCS members, was able to amplify the needs of conservation professionals to meet the demands of new funding during discussions around Conservation Technical Assistance and Technical Service Providers. SWCS members were also able to bring forward science to support the effectiveness of conservation practices on climate change and alert DC of the topics that compel people locally to advance conservation.

While it was only two short months, Lindahl made the most of her time. She met with over 50 leaders in congress, federal agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, foundations, the private sector, and media. She strengthened existing relationships created during last year's visit and created new connections in the conservation community.

Thank You, Bennie!



In June, Bennie Loyd joined the SWCS team for the summer. Bennie has been developing a program for conservation outreach in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he currently attends Southern University, majoring in plant and soil science. He weighed in on special projects, including *A Conservation Professionals' Guide to Diversity, Equitable and Inclusive Conservation Delivery Among the Historically Underserved*. He also assisted staff with improving the headquarters grounds and building ahead of the 78th SWCS International Annual

Conference. Additionally, Bennie attended and assisted staff at the conference earlier this month. We're sorry to see him go, but wish him well as he returns to school!

Welcome, Rachel!



In July, Rachel Owen joined the SWCS staff as a senior advisor, focused on policy, grants, and overall strategy for SWCS. Rachel is a soil scientist who has built a career in policy and social entrepreneurship. Prior to this role, Rachel led government relations for the Agronomy,

Crop, and Soil Science Societies of America. Rachel received a PhD in soil science from the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources, holds an MS in plant science from South Dakota State University, and a dual BS in agronomy and global resource systems from Iowa State University. We are excited to welcome her to the SWCS team!

Upcoming Chapter Events

[SWCS SNEC Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Virtual Event
August 22, 2023

Student Chapter Virtual Training

Are you interested in starting a conservation or environmental club on your campus? SWCS student chapters provide members with opportunities to build community and make an impact on local conservation challenges. Are you already a member or advisor of a club that aligns with SWCS's goals? We now have an official affiliation program, so you can benefit from SWCS opportunities while maintaining your current organization.

Learn more about these options during the "Starting an SWCS Student Chapter Virtual Training" on **Wednesday, September 6 (3 to 4 p.m. CT)**. During the training, SWCS staff will review how you can benefit from being a part of SWCS through a student organization. You do not have to be a member to join this training. We welcome any interested students and potential advisors to learn more about this opportunity and review resources for the 2023-2024 academic year. These resources include

- The 2023-2024 Student Guide with a monthly activity breakdown
- Governance resources with templates, checklists, and forms
- Event planning and engagement opportunities

[Learn more and register.](#)

Upcoming Webinar Series

SWCS hosts several educational webinar series, all of which are free or exclusive to members. [Learn more.](#)

The next session of the **SWCS Members Only Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold** is August 25, at 12 p.m. CT. Participants will resume their discussions of Aldo Leopold's classic work, *A Sand County Almanac*. Registration details will be emailed directly to active members.

The **Conservation Matters** webinar series is returning Thursday, August 24, at 12 p.m. CT. In this webinar, presented by the SWCS Science and Policy Committee, we will explore the role of nutrient and water management in climate-smart soil and water conservation. [Register online](#) and share this opportunity with interested colleagues as well!

Season 2 of the **Student Professional Development Series** kicks off September 20 with Session 5: Time Management. Join leading experts in natural resources, conservation, agriculture, and related STEM sciences as they share insights to help you develop your career. [Learn more and register.](#)

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Following the 78th International Annual Conference, SWCS transitioned to the 2023-2024 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](#).

2023-2024 Board of Directors

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

Welcome New At-Large Director, Leonard Jordan!



Leonard Jordan has spent more than four decades building a portfolio focused on conserving our natural resources. Having worked across the nation, Jordan has worked with several interest groups, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to ensure that our environment is

protected. His passion is to work with the American public, providing assistance that helps improve their lives and bring resilience to rural America.

As Acting Chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Jordan oversaw programs that preserve our natural resources and improve agricultural sustainability through voluntary, private-lands conservation. He led a staff of more than 10,000 employees across the United States.

Jordan served as NRCS' Associate Chief for Conservation 2013 to 2017 where he led the agency's conservation mission area, including all of NRCS' conservation programs.

Jordan served as Regional Conservationist for the East from 2009 to 2011 and Regional Conservationist for the Southeast from 2011 to 2012. This was after the agency split organization of the East region into Northeast and Southeast. In these positions, Jordan provided direction on NRCS programs and activities regionally.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in July!

Colorado

Joshua Mott

Georgia

Amanda Camacho

Iowa

Michael James

Indiana—Hoosier

Hannah Buckner

Mississippi—Mississippi State University Student Chapter

Zachary Simpson

South Carolina

Bhupinder Farmaha

Washington—Olympic View

Heidi Lumpkin

New Conservation Community Members

Welcome community members who joined in July!

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

Alabama

Lauderdale County SWCD

Iowa

Dallas County SWCD

Hancock SWCD

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

