SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY 2019 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

BRIDGING the DIVIDE:

Uniting Rural and Urban Landscapes for Conservation

74th SWCS International Annual Conference
July 28-31, 2019 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL: www.swcs.org/19AC

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 9, 2019

If you have questions, contact events@swcs.org or call 515-289-2331 x 112

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE IN BRIEF

Sunday, July 28:	Workshops and Society Meetings
Monday, July 29:	Pritchard Lecture, Oral Presentations, Posters, Symposia, Exhibitor and Poster Reception, and Silent Auction
Tuesday, July 30:	Plenary Session, Oral Presentations, Posters, Symposia, and Awards Luncheon
Wednesday, July 31:	Oral Presentations, Symposia, and Conservation Tours

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is seeking oral presentations, posters, symposia, and workshops for the 74th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!

In the northeastern United States, food production has taken different forms over time, and management of soil and water has been accelerated by agricultural and urban dynamics. This rich and varied land use history makes the region a prime location to unite conservation experts to preserve our natural resources.

The 74th SWCS International Annual Conference location is the Wyndham Grand in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, just feet from the point where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio. The hotel sits at the pinnacle of the Golden Triangle, the city's revitalized urban center. Whether you're exploring Point Park, a 36 acre state park that pays homage to the many generations of communities that have occupied the site; seeing one of the nation's first green buildings; or learning about partnerships to scale up conservation on the local level and beyond, the city of Pittsburgh is a perfect setting for new conservation connections and perspectives.

Home to three rivers and 446 bridges, Pittsburgh is known as "The City of Bridges." These bridges play an important role in connecting the valleys, hillsides, river plains, and communities. This city of linkages sets the stage for connections around eight general conservation research and practice topics. Specialty tracks will foster dialogue surrounding unique partnerships in watershed planning and implementation, engagement of the private sector in conservation, and the challenges of adapting the landscape to a changing climate.

Paths to meet current soil and water conservation needs look very different from the solutions that galvanized action after the Dust Bowl, and they will continue to evolve. Come to Pittsburgh and be part of that shared conservation future.

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are several options to present information and research at the 74th SWCS International Annual Conference. All oral presentation and symposia submissions must be received through the online submission system found at www.swcs.org/19AC on or before **January 9, 2019**. Poster submissions must be received on or before **March 6, 2019**.

Oral Presentation

Oral presentations are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes: 15 minutes to make their presentation and 5 minutes for questions. **Submissions under this category are limited to no more than two per author.**

Poster Presentation

Poster presentations report the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience. They entail affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) to a 4′ x 8′ poster board. Poster presenters are expected to be at their posters during all conference refreshment breaks and during the exhibitor and poster reception to answer questions and explain experiences and results.

Symposium

Symposia are scheduled as one or more 90-minute sessions and provide more comprehensive, in-depth coverage of a specific topic that also allows for audience interaction. The sessions are organized by an individual and incorporate multiple presenters, panel discussions, or other formats as determined by the organizer. **Submissions under this category are limited to one per author.**

Workshop

Workshops are designed to enhance professional skills through engagement, hands-on interactive education, and training in selected topics. Workshops may be proposed for a time frame of two to four hours on Sunday afternoon, July 28. To propose a workshop, please utilize the submission form found at www.swcs.org/19AC. Please do NOT use the CMT submission system.

GENERAL NOTES

Abstracts should include the following:

1) A statement of current relevance or need
2) General methods and data analysis information
3) Results or predicted results if the work has not yet been completed
4) Explanation of how the results or outcomes contribute to science and society

Inclusion of tentative or final conclusions will greatly strengthen presentation proposals.

Presentations can only be submitted in one area (oral presentation, symposia, or poster presentation) unless it is explained in the abstract how they will differ.

All presenters and/or organizers (oral, poster, and symposia) who indicate intent to participate in the conference imply agreement to register for the conference at the appropriate fee, attend the conference, and make the presentation in person.

SWCS does not reimburse presenters for expenses incurred for travel to the conference. This includes authors, symposia organizers, and panelists invited to present as part of a symposia.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Submissions are being accepted for three special and eight general topic areas. Abstracts submitted within the general conference track should cater towards the conference theme.

Adapting Landscapes to Climate Change

Weather extremes exacerbated by climate change can strain natural resources and our ability to manage them within urban and rural landscapes. Abstracts in this track should address adaptation methods in a changing climate, and how to better manage our resources in light of climate change threats. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- The current and anticipated impacts of climate change on our natural resources
- Methods and practices for making our landscapes and communities resilient to the resulting weather extremes
- New and improved existing conservation methods and practices to protect our natural resources, small communities, and cities
- Climate data services and decision-making tools for selecting and monitoring adaptation responses

Engaging the Private Sector in Conservation

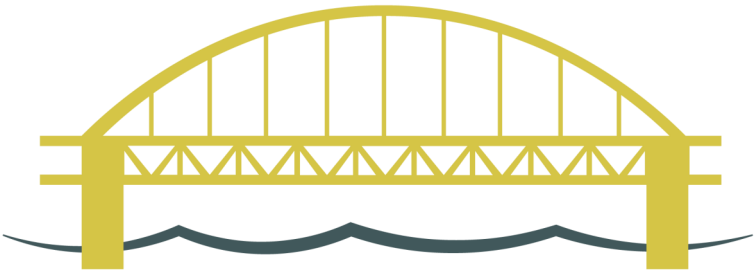
Inclusion of the private sector is needed to increase conservation practice adoption, recruit new stakeholders, reframe the conversation, and raise public awareness of conservation concerns and efforts. By engaging the private sector, sharing successful partnerships and projects, and leveraging new funds and resources, conservation efforts can be multiplied. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Engaging agribusiness retailers and crop consultants to expand on-farm conservation and improve bottom-line results
- Conservation projects and tools being used to meet corporate sustainability goals
- Environmental finance models to enhance conservation application
- Market-driven incentives for conservation practice adoption
- Public/private partnerships for conservation

Watershed Conservation to Unify Urban and Rural Communities

To increase the pace and scale of conservation, watershed -level planning is being used to organize all watershed stakeholders and to address water resource concerns, including water quality and flooding. Watershed planning seeks to facilitate the management of water resources in a more integrated, inclusive, and sustainable manner, and provides a platform for nontraditional, cross-sector partnerships. An example would be a partnership that brings together rural and urban stakeholders, such as farmers collaborating with a municipal water utility to protect a local water body. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Watershed planning and management that address community concerns and resiliency
- Drinking water, source water, water infrastructure, and sustainable water supply
- Nutrient and sediment management to reduce harmful impacts on water bodies in local and downstream communities
- Green infrastructure and stormwater management for commercial businesses and residents in both rural and urban communities
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in water outreach, research, and management



GENERAL TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following eight ongoing areas of emphasis comprise the core work of SWCS to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Please choose one of these focus areas when submitting an abstract. Special consideration will be given to new insights, techniques, or approaches in addressing each of these general topic areas.

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

Adaptive management is an interactive, structured process that allows management to occur despite uncertainty, with the goal of enhancing learning and reducing uncertainty. Adaptive management for soil and water conservation and biodiversity management is appropriate when uncertainty is high but management is possible. Abstracts in this track may include but are not limited to:

- Aspects of water and soil management
- Maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services
- Plant and animal responses to management
- Changes in soil and water quality responses to management action
- Monitoring to inform decision-making
- Scientific and technical advances in targeting conservation and in precision conservation
- Effective use of human capital to increase conservation success

Conservation Economics and Policy

This subject area focuses on economic and related drivers of conservation adoption and maintenance, framed within the nation's conservation and environmental policy goals. It addresses how program and policy design translate policy goals into resource conservation and environmental benefits, as well as economic barriers to conservation that are not being overcome. Abstracts in this track may include but are not limited to:

- All aspects of voluntary or regulatory environmental policy
- Decision support tools for program design and implementation
- Monitoring and assessment of conservation needs
- Evaluation of market-based approaches to natural resource management
- Ethical considerations in conservation policy
- Funding of programs

Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies

In the implementation, planning, management, and development of conservation practices, we rely on models and tools that provide decision support through analysis, visualization, and evaluation. Development of new tools and technologies, results of evaluation, and application experiences all provide valuable information. Topics in this track may include but are not limited to:

- Development and testing of conservation practices
- Quantification of the environmental and conservation effects of best management practices (BMPs) and systems
- Advances in science and technology for predicting and/or evaluating effects of alternative resource management practices and systems (soil, water, nutrient, grazing, manure, pest, plant, and landscape management)
- Decision support tools for conservation planning and implementation
- Biodiversity conservation
- Geographic information systems

Conservation in Organic, Specialty, Small-Scale, or Urban Agriculture

There are great opportunities to implement conservation in organic, specialty, and small-scale agricultural and forest systems. All of these systems require the same resources to maintain productivity as larger scale or conventional enterprises, and collectively, they represent a growing presence and impact on the landscape. Topics submitted in this area could include:

GENERAL TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

- Conservation in small-and medium-scale enterprises; niche market, urban, and specialty-certified systems; unique crops; and alternative and integrated production systems
- Local foods
- Retirement and residential/lifestyle farm and ranch properties with enhanced conservation
- Opportunities for unique enterprises to implement conservation supporting a triple bottom-line of sustainability (people, planet, and profit)

Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement

Outreach, education, and engagement help integrate scientific and quantitative data with qualitative knowledge and social concerns, thereby giving the decision-making process ethical integrity. Achieving success in this area is critical for moving conservation forward in a manner that involves and considers many variables and stakeholders. Abstracts should address:

- Applied research and model programs demonstrating effective methods for engaging decision-makers
- Programs fostering cooperative stakeholder-based decision-making
- Outreach incorporating unique cultural considerations
- Integration of voluntary and regulatory conservation efforts
- Educational needs assessment
- New technologies and methods to reach new and diverse audiences
- Evaluation of the impacts of outreach activities, including technical assistance

Social Sciences Informing Conservation

The human dimensions of soil and water conservation have emerged as a rigorous field that is related to many of the other topics at the conference. Understanding what motivates landowners and land managers to pursue conservation practices is essential. Abstracts in this track could include:

- A focus on sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, and communications, and how they contribute to dialogue
- The use of social sciences to inform critical conservation challenges facing the nation and world

Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management

The use of soil resources is required to provide the food, fiber, and energy needs of a growing world population. Problems of soil and environmental degradation have made the development of technologies and practices for sustainable soil management a high priority. We are seeking presentations that consider:

- Soil health assessment and management
- Soil conservation and management
- Soil survey, assessment, and analysis
- Water and wind erosion prediction and management
- Carbon sequestration and implications of climate change for soil health, conservation, and management

Water Resource Assessment and Management

This area addresses the social, economic, environmental, and technical dimensions of water resource management. Abstracts in this area should disseminate results, information, lessons learned, and/or shared experiences of research, testing, monitoring, and/or evaluation/ demonstration projects on water resource issues. Topics may include:

- International and transboundary water resource management
- Watershed-scale research and planning methods and tools
- Development and implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)
- Water quality, quantity, supply, and conservation
- Irrigation and drainage
- Watershed restoration and targeted watershed management interventions
- Implications of climate change for water resource conservation and management
- Institutional collaborations in water resource management