



# 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. Click [here](#) for COVID-19 Organizational Updates.

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

Virtual Event  
July 26–28, 2021  
[www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC)

### Call for Presentations Now Open

The Soil and Water Conservation Society invites the submission of live demos, virtual tours, field days, workshops, oral presentations, symposia, and posters for the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place virtually, July 26-28, 2021.

The Annual Conference Program Planning Committee has identified four special topic areas. These specialty tracks, along with the general conference track, are open for submissions. Special consideration will be given to presentations that cater to the conference theme.

- 3, 2, 1 ... ACTION!
- Adapting Landscapes to Climate Change
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- One World, Connected through Conservation
- 2021 General Conference Theme Submissions

The three-day event will provide the opportunity for attendees around the world to share their conservation stories and bring natural resource management solutions from far and wide into their homes and offices. The virtual event format allows access and inclusivity on a broad scale, and our interactive conference platform provides a robust conference experience with live sessions, Q&A, networking, a virtual exhibit hall, and many other ways to learn, connect, and engage.





**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS  
IS NOW  
OPEN!**

Submit presentations by  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

**There will be no extensions.**

This year’s conference theme, “One World, Connected through Conservation,” encompasses the shared resources on which all life depends while recognizing local-level issues and management. No matter the landscape, collective efforts are required to protect and sustain our soil and water resources. While conservation challenges brought on by universal pressures like climate change may produce wide-ranging effects in our respective corners of the globe, there is commonality in the solutions—collaborations that span sectors and disciplines, practices informed by science, cutting-edge technology, a new era of policy, and, at the center of all this, the individuals working tirelessly to protect and improve our natural resources.

Professionals advancing conservation solutions through research and practice in public and private sectors will present their work, including the latest in soil health, water resources, conservation management, climate change adaptation, social science, and more. Workshops, symposia sessions, and posters will showcase ideas, technologies, and practices, and foster a dialogue around their adoption. Projects presented will include work at the watershed, national, and international scales, emphasizing the global impact of local efforts. Scientists and practitioners will apply the virtual skills they have obtained over the last year by taking attendees into the field and lab through live or prerecorded demonstrations and tours. Recognizing that our goals for the world’s natural resources cannot be realized without justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, conservationists will share insights and advice on projects and partnerships that seek diverse participation and take meaningful action toward creating and supporting systems that value and serve people equitably.

In addition to science and practice presentations, the event will provide a range of opportunities for personal and professional development. Sessions will address effective work habits, partnerships, and communication tools, and the conference will offer certified education credits (CEUs).

Share your research and project solutions with an international audience, learn from experts from around the world, make connections with leading organizations

and agencies, and together, through this conference and its impact, we will build a future for global conservation.

Detailed information regarding the Call for Presentations can be found at [www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC).

### Become a Sponsor!

The virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming a sponsor gives you an affordable opportunity to market your products and services to a key audience and maximize your organization’s exposure. Put your brand in front of those who are directly involved in the decision-making process of purchasing products or those who influence prospective buyers and conservationists.

Sponsors provide the support to hold the event through a virtual platform and are vital to ensuring the success of the SWCS International Annual Conference. Allow us to help connect your organization with our audience of nearly a thousand conservation professionals.

Visit [www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC) for more information to become a sponsor today!



## One World, Connected through CONSERVATION

July 26-28 | Virtual Event  
[www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC) **2021**

## 2020: The Year in Review

This year has been filled with unexpected challenges for all of us, but SWCS, our members, supporters, partners, and friends have proved to be resilient, and together our resiliency is magnified. In 2020 SWCS has had many accomplishments—here are just a few!

1. This year SWCS celebrated its [75th Anniversary](#). We created an onsite historical display, shared artifacts and archives online, and boosted our social media presence and engagement, forging relationships with other leaders in soil and water history and establishing SWCS as a leader in the conservation movement and profession.



2. In the spring, SWCS updated the [Journal of Soil and Water Conservation](#) (JSWC) website to include a responsive design, publish ahead of print capabilities, and new opportunities for online advertising, among other features. The JSWC also published four special topic issues, and published a total of 89 articles.

3. We had the pleasure of continuing our internship program this year, hiring Joe Derry as our first virtual intern! Thank you to internship sponsor [ARCSE](#).



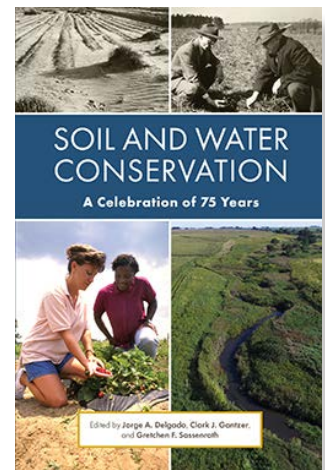
4. In June, the SWCS Science and Policy Committee delivered [a letter](#) to the US House and Senate Agriculture Committees, making the case for conservation technical assistance (CTA) and conservation as a form of infrastructure.
5. Although total membership declined, SWCS gained 233 new members in 2020. (Don't forget to renew your membership and encourage other to [join!](#))
6. This year we streamlined the awards and nomination process, doubling award submissions! Read about our [2020 award winners](#).
7. This summer SWCS recruited [three new Board members](#)—Keith Berns, Ellen Gilinsky, and Jerry Hatfield—who have hit the ground running in their efforts to support our mission.

8. In July SWCS held the [International Annual Conference](#) as a virtual event for the first time. The 75th Annual Conference assembled a diverse, multigenerational conservation community of nearly a thousand researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world to discuss advancements in soil and water research.



9. Throughout the year SWCS launched a series of new swag campaigns, selling merchandise for our community of conservation professionals to enjoy.
10. SWCS officially began [four projects](#) in 2020! (1) The Conservation Practitioner Poll, with funding from the Walton Family Foundation, will allow SWCS and Iowa State University to create a first-of-its-kind survey to conservation practitioners who work hand-in-hand with farmers in the Mississippi River Basin. (2) and (3) SWCS and Truterra began work on two NRCS-funded grants to complete soil health-focused on-farm trials with retailer cooperatives in Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. (4) SWCS will work with NRCS to convene Blue Ribbon Panels to identify, review and evaluate various conservation technologies. We are grateful to all our partners, members and funders who have made this important work possible!

11. In December SWCS published *Soil and Water Conservation: A Celebration of 75 Years*. Decades of published research and in-field experience were distilled into informative chapters that provide perspective on the complex relationships between land managers and the environment in the face of current challenges, such as a changing climate, shrinking water resources, a growing global population, and shifting land uses. Get a [free e-book](#) or [purchase a hardcopy](#) today!





## Gift a Membership this Holiday Season

Have you heard about our great deal on gift memberships? Introduce a friend to the benefits of an SWCS membership with a discounted rate of \$58 for a first-time member. Your gift will not only support local, national, and international soil and water conservation, but will allow the recipient to receive professional education, networking opportunities, and all the other great member benefits you enjoy. Plus, they'll receive an introductory welcome packet, too! Download the [gift membership form](#) and return it by mail with a check to:

Soil and Water Conservation Society  
945 SW Ankeny Rd.  
Ankeny, IA 50023

## 2020 Giving Campaign

The SWCS annual giving campaign kicked-off in October, and donations are rolling in! We appreciate all of the generous gifts we have received so far. When you give to the Society, you are supporting an organization that shares your passion for land stewardship and sustainability, is committed to science, and seeks to continue growing and serving its diverse community of conservation professionals.

Donations can be made online at [swcs.org/give](https://swcs.org/give), or checks can be sent to 945 SW Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA, 50023.

During this anniversary, we want to celebrate all of you who support our mission. [Download](#) one of our giving signs and share why you care on social media! Be sure to tag @SWCSNews or #SWCS75 in your posts. Thank you!



## 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.

- The fight over Joe Biden tapping [Tom Vilsack](#) as agriculture secretary, explained
- These [climate bills](#) could get past Mitch McConnell, 2 senators say
- Bipartisan senators introduce [tree conservation bill](#) as climate solution
- Starbucks joins Dairy Net Zero Initiative to reduce [greenhouse gas](#) emissions
- USDA announces increase to certain incentive payments for [Continuous Conservation Reserve Program](#)
- Investors can now bet on the future of [water prices](#) in California
- Conflicting stories, messages don't help [watersheds](#) or no-till adoption
- Farm groups blast Trump competition rule as favoring [meat giants](#)
- USDA to engage public for input on [water quantity](#) in the West
- Tester, Grassley bill to curb the rising rate of rural [suicides](#) headed to the President's desk
- [Farm worker](#) shortage expected to worsen as industry body says 26,000 workers needed nationwide by March
- [High-tech](#) fixes for the food system could have unintended consequences
- The 2020 Agricultural [Year in Review](#) from Agricultural Economic Insights
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service to reinstate the [Agricultural Labor Survey](#) previously scheduled for October of 2020
- [Deere's](#) farm version of facial recognition is coming to fields in 2021
- Firefighting cattle: Targeted grazing creates [firebreaks](#) in cheatgrass

*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.*

## New Members

Welcome members who joined in November

### International

Mohammad Alomair

### Arizona

Scott Woodall

### California/Nevada

Ryan Cochoit

### Iowa

Hannah Grimm

Sam Hilgersen

### Illinois

Tom Casten

### Indiana—Hoosier

Allen Furrer

Adam Heichelbech

### Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst

#### Student Chapter

Rachel Mehmel

Sarah Traore

### Maryland—Maryland Old Line

Taylor Thomas

### Michigan

Tyler Dobson

Jordan Shedd

### North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter

David Collier

### Oklahoma

Lauren Haygood

### South Dakota

Stacy Turgeon

### Tennessee

Jenna French

### Texas—Texas A&M University Student Chapter

Jodie McVane Reisner

## Corporate Partners

Please contact [memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org) or visit [swcs.org/corporatepartner](http://swcs.org/corporatepartner) for more details.

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



### Bronze

